

WWII bomb and cannon found on site

A 250lb air-dropped German WWII bomb, an old iron cannon and other items were found during an unexploded ordnances (UXO) survey of the wind farm site.

The survey - commissioned as part of the pre-construction preparations – aimed to identify magnetic targets at the wind farm site and along the cable corridor. It was carried out by EMU Ltd. using the vessel “RV Discovery”, which soft towed four magnetometers and one side-scan sonar approximately 3-5m above the seabed.

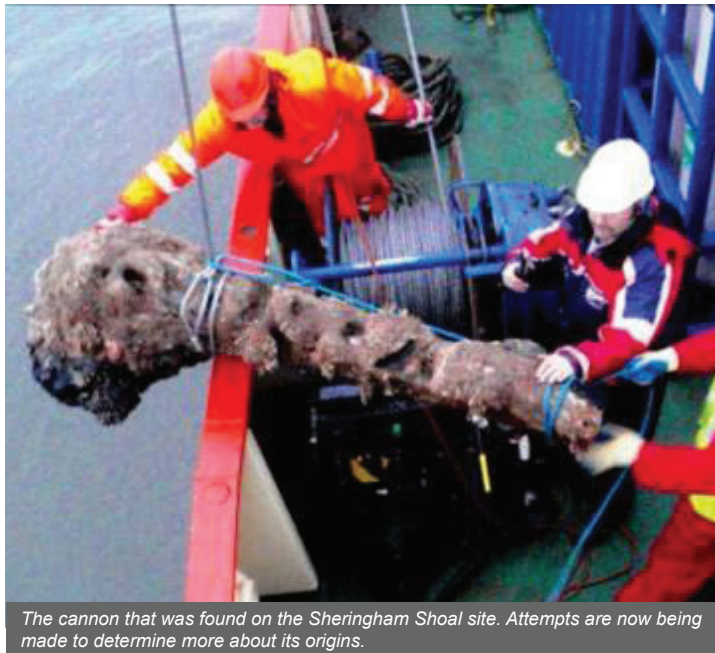
The survey covered around 44 square kilometres and took almost four months - longer than anticipated due to the precise technical specification, which was much greater than has been used for previous surveys of this type.

After the initial survey was complete, a total of 52 objects that could have interfered with the cable routing or foundation locations, were inspected to verify their nature and determine if they were unexploded ordnances. While most of the targets were debris or geological concentrations, several anchors were found, as well as the unexploded bomb and cannon.

The bomb, identified by a copper ring on its front end, was found at one of the foundation locations in the north-west of the site. Disposal experts have safely detonated the bomb with explosives.

The discovery of the iron cannon was notified to the receiver of wreck, the “coroner of the seas” who has started attempts to establish its age, naval significance and legal owners. The cannon will be stored in fresh water for up to a year and, if a legal owner cannot be found, it could become the property of the Crown or handed back to Scira depending on its historical value.

Project Director Rune Rønvik said safety is a priority during construction and the discovery of the bomb fully justified the use of such a technically precise survey, despite the additional time it required.



The cannon that was found on the Sheringham Shoal site. Attempts are now being made to determine more about its origins.



One of the reactors arriving at the Salle substation.

Two reactors arrive at Salle substation

The two 63 tonne reactors for the new substation under construction at Salle, near Cawston, have arrived and their build is in progress.

Fabricated in Turkey by contractor AREVA T&D, the 60MVA reactors are both 8 metres long and 4 metres high, so required special transportation by Abnormal Load Engineering Ltd. from the docks at Avonmouth in Bristol.

The main mechanical and electrical erection will continue throughout the coming months while work on the rest of the substation is on track for completion and commissioning by the end of this year. This includes the substation building with its gas insulated switchgear hall and low voltage, control cubicle and other annex rooms; the external foundations with reactors and underground services, and the installation of the 132kV cable.

Onshore cable almost complete

The installation of the 22.6km cable from landfall at Weybourne to the new substation is almost complete, with the heavy road transport that locals will have become used to these past few months finishing up by the end of next month.

At the landfall end of the cable, where the power will come to shore, the concrete structure for the joint bay has been completed and is ready for the connection of the onshore and offshore cables.

The final works, the reinstatement of the cable corridor by subsoil treatment, the backfilling of topsoil and landscaping, will begin once the cable testing has been successfully completed.

Work opportunities with Sheringham Shoal

There will be both offshore and onshore job opportunities with the project's operation and maintenance organisation.

For at least the coming five years, the bulk of the employees required will be via Siemens, who will operate the turbines on contract to Scira. Recruitment for the first of these positions began in June with the remainder being recruited around October this year. See box for details.

Additional offshore requirements will include the skippers and crew to run the six personnel vessels. These positions will be required from early next year. However at this stage, until the vessel contracts are awarded, it is not known whether they will be provided by the successful contractor or through Scira. Individuals with knowledge of local seas and conditions should be at a distinct advantage.

For the administrative side of the business, a total of 10 positions will be recruited locally and need to be in place by January 2011. These jobs include three marine coordinators, IT, finance and control, HSE, production and technology and administration.

Recruitment for these positions will begin after the summer with advertisements placed in the local press and on www.scira.co.uk. CVs received to date will also be considered.

Employees will be based either at the office and information point in Staithe Street or the proposed operational base at Egmore, which is to be constructed once planning approval has been granted.

Becoming a wind turbine technician

Siemens has advertised for its first batch of wind turbine technicians and they will be recruiting around 30 more towards the end of the year. Advertisements for the vacancies will be in the local press, websites and job centre, and then the company will view CVs and prescreen applicants via telephone interviews.

Suitable applicants will be invited to centres in the Norfolk area where one-day assessments will be held. By March 2011 all the offers of employment will be made followed by contract signings and relevant medical and reference checks on potential candidates. The successful candidates will undergo intensive training at Siemens Newcastle and then on-the-job training at existing wind farms around the UK.

They will begin work on the Sheringham Shoal project from April next year.

People interested in registering to become a trainee wind turbine service technician can email their CV to Nia Ogara at Siemens, wind.recruitment.swp.gb@siemens.com. All CVs received to date will be considered.



Siemens will recruit around 40 wind turbine technicians for the wind farm

Contract for feeder barge signed

A contract has been signed by Scira and the Wells Harbour Commissioners for the provision of a service vessel to carry spare parts and other equipment from Wells quayside to the wind farm work boats at the new outer harbour.

The contract with MeerCat Workboats Ltd, a Portsmouth based shipyard, is for the supply of a 14-metre shallow draft feeder barge with exacting specifications. These include the need for

a minimum operating draft of 560mm, with a loaded draft of 750mm with 10-tonnes on deck. Also, as the vessel will be required to operate at night and in a rural environment, it will be designed with additional soundproofing.

Work is now underway on the vessel which is due to be delivered by the end of the year.

First community grants announced



Norfolk Ornithologists Association is one of three beneficiaries of the first grant round.

The first grants have been awarded by the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund and will assist three local community groups in their environmental endeavours.

The Mason Trust, organisers of the Climate Run being held at Holkham Estate in September, will receive funds to help stage the event for young people which aims to raise awareness about the impact of climate change in Norfolk and other parts of the world.

Funds have also been approved for the Norfolk Ornithologists Association to help with analysis of birdwatching data gathered over the past five

years as part of a seabird monitoring scheme covering bird sightings and a range of other factors such as flight direction, wind, tide and time of day.

Finally Unity Wind Ltd, a cooperative non-profit venture, will receive a grant towards undertaking a traffic and noise survey that is needed before they can apply for planning permission for a proposed community wind farm in North Walsham.

The next round of grants will be awarded later in the year with applications open from September 1 and awards granted in December. For details visit www.norfolkfoundation.com.

Staithe Street office open for enquiries

The office and information point at 18 Staithe Street in Wells-next-the-Sea is now open Monday to Friday from 9.30 until 5pm and Saturdays from 9am until noon for public enquiries.

Kay Reeve, who grew up in Wells, attended Alderman Peel High School and now lives in Fakenham, has been appointed to run the office and

information point, with support from existing project team members.

The premises will be the focal point for the project during construction because as well as its role as a public information point, Scira personnel and visitors will report there for safety briefings before setting off for trips offshore to the wind farm site.



Kay Reeve is managing the information point in Wells-next-the-Sea



The "Kirkspray", one of the personnel transport vessels working from the new outer harbour.

Questions from the community

How many vessels will use the new harbour at Wells?

The first Scira contracts for the provision of vessels were awarded to local company, Safety Boat Services, in March. The "MV Kirkspray" has been commissioned to take Scira personnel offshore to the "Svanen" foundation installation vessel. The "MV Observer" will be used for the transportation of environmental contractors to the wind farm site to undertake mammal surveys during the piling operation, as well as for general inspection visits.

The fast crew boats "Valhalla of Whitstable" and "Valkyrie of Whitstable"

will also operate out of Wells having been contracted by MT Højgaard for the transport of their personnel to the "Svanen". These vessels will operate until the foundation installation is complete.

Early next year a further five personnel transfer vessels will be needed to transport crew for the turbine installation work. One feeder vessel taking heavy equipment and materials from Wells main harbour to and from the new outer harbour will be operational from January next year.

If you would like a question answered in the next Newsletter, please email info@scira.co.uk

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The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is owned equally by Statoil and Statkraft through the joint venture company, Scira Offshore Energy Limited. Statoil is the operator for the project during the development phase and Scira will be the operator of the wind farm when completed.



Sheringham Shoal

by Scira Offshore Energy

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NEWSLETTER



First foundations installed

The first foundations for the 317MW Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm have now been installed on the wind farm site by the twin-hulled heavy lift vessel "Svanen".

For the next nine months, the "Svanen", which rises to 100m above water level, will continue to install the remaining 89 foundations in preparation for the installation of the two substations and 88 wind turbines in 2011.

Each foundation consists of a tubular steel monopile, driven 32-36 metres into the seabed, and a bright-yellow transition piece mounted on top. The monopiles are between 44 and 61m long and weigh from 375 to 530 tonnes while the transition pieces are 22m high and weigh about 200 tonnes each.

Contractor MT Højgaard is managing the overall foundation engineering, fabrication and installation process.

The first monopile and the transition piece were brought to the site from the

Netherlands on the 87m "Toisa Sonata". The foundations will continue to arrive in a sequential order, and be installed in a pre-determined pattern, each one having been designed and fabricated specifically for its installation site.

The "Nordnes" is completing its rock placement process to ensure scour protection is in place at the foundation locations where it is needed prior to the start of their installation.

Project Director Rune Rønvik said that this is a major milestone marking the culmination of many years planning. "The licence for the wind farm site was granted in 2004 and so it is a great achievement to now be at the stage where we are starting a continuous process to install the 90 required foundations.

"Local people will start to notice a lot more activity offshore, and also in the operational base at Wells-next-the-Sea, as the installation progresses over the coming months," he added.



A total of 90 foundations will be installed on site.

Photo: Mike Page



The Svanen and the first installed foundation.

Giant floating crane to install foundations

Contractor MT Højgaard will use the "Svanen", its self-powered heavy-duty floating crane, to raise the monopiles vertically and, using a pile hammer, drive them into the seabed. The transition pieces will then be lifted into place. Although originally designed for assembling prefabricated bridges, this vessel is at home in wind farms, and will provide a stable platform to position and

pile the huge foundations, each around 500 tonnes, on which the wind turbines and offshore substations will stand.

Length:	103m
Height above water:	100m
Lifting height above deck:	76m
Sailing speed:	7 knots
Lifting capacity:	8700 tonnes

Marine mammals monitored

Marine mammals, such as the common and grey seal and the harbour porpoise, will be monitored throughout the foundation piling operation by observers onboard the aptly named "MV Observer" as part of licence requirements.

Special monitoring equipment will

be used to study the behaviour and movements of mammals and record any changes.

The observers are in contact with the team on the "Svanen" who will also ensure no animals are in the vicinity prior to the start of any piling operations.



Marine mammals such as the common seal will be monitored during the monopile installation.

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