

Aiming to reduce the cost of energy

An interview with Jason Halsey, Power Plant Manager



Jason being interviewed in Wind Farm Place reception.

Having decided to leave the international automotive industry and change the direction of his career, Sheringham Shoal's recently appointed Power Plant Manager Jason Halsey gained an MBA before joining the offshore wind industry in 2009. Initially working as a Site Manager for Vestas, he then joined Dong Energy as Head of Operations (Offshore Wind), where for three years he was responsible for 120 employees working across five operational offshore wind farms and two in the Prepare for Operations phase of construction.

His arrival at the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm in July 2013 came six months into the transition phase from construction to serious operations, and Jason is very clear about his role, saying:

"I am here to produce power, and to produce power efficiently, whilst ensuring that the highest standards of health and safety are always maintained. The offshore wind industry has to reduce the cost of its energy production; this means we need greater turbine availability, especially on windy days, to achieve significant improvement in power production."

Analytical condition based monitoring is being considered in order that the Operations and Maintenance Engineers can 'get to know' each of the 88 Sheringham Shoal wind turbines, and this knowledge would enable offshore power plant maintenance to be planned on a predictive, rather than a reactive, basis.

Jason explained: *"If planned maintenance takes place on low wind days, the sea conditions are calmer, more work gets done and the loss of energy production during maintenance is minimised."*

He continued: *"The Sheringham Shoal team has responded really well to the changes that are being introduced. We are currently recruiting four additional staff, and I am greatly encouraged that we are able to identify and attract the right skills locally here in Norfolk. I also believe our engagement with pupils and students at all levels of education will play an important role in the continuing development of local skills that are appropriate to the operation of offshore wind farms."*

"The offshore wind industry has to reduce the cost of its energy production; this means we need greater turbine availability, especially on windy days, to achieve significant improvement in power production."

The interview ended with Jason saying: *"A little earlier you asked me about my hopes and aspirations for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm and its employees, contractors and suppliers. I want to build a set of well-defined KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) that will ensure we maintain our HSE culture, whilst reducing costs and building technical expertise in the operation of offshore wind farms."*

Sheringham Shoal team continues to expand

Meet...

Tom James, Senior Engineer

On secondment from parent company Statoil, Tom joined the Sheringham Shoal team at Wind Farm Place in May this year. Following two years working as part of the Sheringham Shoal construction team, Tom has joined the operations unit and his first task has been working with the Marine Coordination team to further develop marine operations and logistics. Tom said "Offshore wind can become vital



Accountant Malcolm Wesby with F&C Manager Tim Hardy.

for ensuring a low carbon energy mix in the decades ahead, but that future is reliant on us delivering as an industry today. That's an exciting place to be; we can influence our destiny and shape the future for the better."

and...

Malcolm Wesby – who works in Accounts and Finances

Norfolk born and bred, Malcolm has just joined the Sheringham Shoal team to provide support with the ongoing development of a financial analysis function.



Senior Engineer Tom James.

Further recruitment...

Four new positions have been created to support the efficient maintenance and safe operation of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm.

Two Operations and Maintenance Engineers will focus on the planning of all maintenance activities including routine annual servicing of turbines, and reactive fault-fixing. This is a complex job given the logistics of organising technicians with the relevant skill levels for the task, plus necessary spare parts and tools, whilst taking into account weather conditions.

The other two new positions are Site Representatives, who will work back to back spending 50% of their time offshore monitoring safe work on site. HSE Manager Adam Blake said, "It is our priority to ensure safe and efficient execution of work on site at all times. The recruitment of our new Site Representatives means that we will establish optimal links between onshore planning and offshore execution." Job offers have now been accepted by local Norfolk based candidates, and the new team members will join the team in October or November.

Diary dates 2013

- 22nd October – Careers and Opportunities Fair at the University of East Anglia
- 24th October – Year 11 Assembly at Hellesdon High School
- 1st November – COAST Film Making Workshop at the Mo in Sheringham
- 8th November – General School Assembly at Alderman Peel High School
- 11th November – Energy Industry Career & Curriculum Conference at the John Innes Centre, Norwich
- 14th November – Careers Convention at Alderman Peel High School
- 28th November – OPITO Energise your Future Exhibition at the Norfolk Showground
- 4th December – Assembly at Burnham Market Primary School



Tia Elizabeth.

Welcome ... Tia Elizabeth

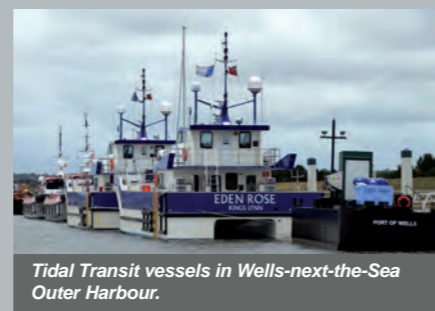
Tia Elizabeth, Tidal Transit's latest personnel transfer vessel has recently started work servicing the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm. She arrived in the UK on 1 September 2013, having successfully completed sea trials following her launch from the shipyard in Southern Spain.

She joins her sister vessels *Eden Rose* and *Ginny Louise* working on the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm.

Eden Rose has been on charter with Scira since May 2012, initially transporting construction workers building the wind farm to site, and since its completion she has been transporting technicians for scheduled maintenance activities.

Around Easter this year, the sea swell caused by the rough March and April weather conditions also resulted in *Ginny Louise* being called into service.

This highlighted the advantages of the use of Tidal Transit's rugged high specification vessels in the notoriously unpredictable southern North Sea; further trials then followed over the summer months, the success of which have resulted in a new contract for *Tia Elizabeth*.



Tidal Transit vessels in Wells-next-the-Sea Outer Harbour.

Education Initiatives



Year 9 students from Alderman Peel High School at the Outer Harbour in Wells-next-the-Sea.

Alderman Peel High School Year 9 Maths Field Trip

On July 18th Sarah Saunders, Head of Maths at Alderman Peel High School, organised a maths field trip for Year 9 students.

Sarah's focus was to anchor her students' learning into the real world around them. Around 80 students spent the day in Wells and at Holkham Hall, with pencils and calculators at the ready, completing a detailed workbook with questions based on their planned route. They were joined

by Sheringham Shoal's Kay Reeve at the Outer Harbour who gave them some information on the wind farm and hosted a question and answer session. Alastair Ogle, Headteacher of Alderman Peel High School, said, "It's so valuable for students to learn through practical aspects of the world around them, understanding that the subjects we teach all have a practical application in all jobs and careers, and we are very pleased to partner with local businesses who support this real life learning."

Fakenham Academy

Year 8 North Norfolk Landscape Project

During the summer term of 2013, Colin Bye, Head of Humanities and Geography at Fakenham Academy Norfolk, worked closely with talented A Level student Catherine Thorpe at Fakenham College to develop a five lesson plan for Year 8 geography students called the North Norfolk Landscape Project.

Mapped to the curriculum, the purpose of the project was to enable students to understand the different features of the North Norfolk landscape, and understand how physical and human processes have interacted and changed this landscape. Rolled out to the whole of Year 8, and supported in class by Catherine and fellow

year 13 students Chloe Holland and Angus Wilkes, around 150 students completed lessons producing posters depicting their views on their local landscape. With input from Scira about the wind farm, the Year 8 students have been able to learn about the geology, climate and economic activity in their local area. Enthused about the outcomes, Colin Bye said, "This was an excellent opportunity for our students to display initiative and independence in their learning, all the way from planning, to the support of teaching and work in class. I am proud of the work of our A level Geography students in developing teaching approaches and resources in partnership with Scira. The sense of achievement displayed by our Year 8 students through the application and enjoyment of their learning was fantastic."



Fakenham Academy A Level students Angus Wilkes, Catherine Thorpe and Chloe Holland.

Bursary scheme for Engineering Students

The Sheringham Shoal Bursary scheme for students who wish to study the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering at one of three Norfolk colleges is now in its second year.

Recipient Jevan Harrod, a Holkham resident and former Alderman Peel High School student, is now in his second year at the College of West Anglia in King's Lynn. Jevan chose to study this course as he would like to qualify for a job locally in the burgeoning offshore wind industry or its supply chain. Enthusiastic about the opportunities offered by his course, Jevan said, "The first year of my course allowed me to study a wide range of engineering basics like how a battery or a camera functions, and also gain hands on experience in practical applications like welding. Now I am working on my second year project, studying energy transfer through creating a thermoelectric effect using Peltier plates. Receiving the Sheringham Shoal bursary meant that I could pay for my transport costs to college."



Jevan Harrod in the engineering workshop at the College of West Anglia.

The Sheringham Shoal Community Fund

Since its establishment in 2010, the Sheringham Shoal Community fund has made grant awards totalling around £180,000 to various community groups, charities and schools in North Norfolk.

The fund criteria relate to renewable energy, marine environment and safety, sustainability, or education in these areas. The fund is operated by Norfolk Community Foundation, and a panel made up of local representatives from the community, business and education sectors, sits twice a year to consider applications and award grants. Panel meetings happen in May and November.

Case Study 1

Changing lives and perspectives at the Sea and Bird Rescue Trust



A seal pup being rescued from a North Norfolk beach.

The Sea and Bird Rescue Trust (SBRT) is a purpose build wildlife rehabilitation centre based in the North Norfolk coastal village of Ridlington.

Earlier this year SBRT received a grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, which it is using to help provide specialised training to up to 24 young people with learning and other problems in the field of wildlife rescue work, specifically with seals and seabirds and raptors.

Four young people and 2 young adults started on the programme in June 2013, just at the beginning of the Common Seal breeding programme. Seal pups wean from their mothers when they are around 3 weeks old, and if they are going to get into problems it is usually when they are 4 or 5 weeks old. This is when SBRT swings into action to help what the general public refer to as 'abandoned' pups.

These young people have been trained to be able to assess and understand all the signs of a sick seal needing hospital care; this also involves the expertise to capture the animal and prepare it for safe transportation to the rehabilitation centre when it can receive food, medication and be prepared for release back into the wild.

Beverley Cosse, SBRT Trustee Chairman said: "This is only a small part of the work that the grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund will support; it has already given us the chance to change lives and perspectives."

Case Study 2

Sea Palling Rescue Centre

In May 2013, the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund panel awarded the Palling Volunteer Rescue Service funding to provide a junior crew for the Sea Palling Voluntary Lifeboat.

Paul Dale – Sea Palling Lifeboat Coxswain, said, "Receiving the support from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has been fantastic because it has enabled us to do something that we have planned for a few years but we haven't been able to put in place because of funding. The extra resource has made the Junior Crew a reality and given 5 young people so far the chance to learn new skills, take part in lifeboat activities, and give something back to their local community"



Sea Palling Lifeboat Junior crew – (R-L) Katie Moore, Eric Pike, Jack Clarke, Ben Parker and Annamarie Mann. Photo by Becky Ingham, Sea Palling Lifeboat.

Contact details and more information

Scira Offshore Energy Limited
Wind Farm Place, Edgar Road,
Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6EJ

T: 01328 824370
E: info@scira.co.uk
W: www.scira.co.uk

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is owned equally by Statoil and Statkraft through the joint venture company, Scira Offshore Energy Limited, the wind farm operator.

Questions from the community

Are helicopters used to transport workers to and from the Wind Farm?

Helicopters are not currently in use on the wind farm. Transfer of personnel is made by purpose built wind farm vessels operating from the Outer Harbour at Wells-next-the-Sea.

Does Scira offer guided tours by boat of the Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm?

Currently we do not offer tours of the wind farm site; as the operator of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm our current focus is on establishing the optimal maintenance programme to ensure the efficiency of the plant. It may be in the future that there will be a facility for tourists to visit the site and see the turbines up close.

Does Scira offer apprenticeships?

Our long term goal is to set up an apprenticeship scheme at Sheringham Shoal. However currently we are still developing the core organisation and systems required for optimal operation of the plant. As soon as we are ready to implement an apprenticeship scheme we will publish full details.

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