

Wells Harbour dredging progress on schedule

The dredging project at Wells-next-the-Sea is on schedule, with more than half the work completed.

Activity in the outer jetty area at Buxton's Bight was completed in mid-December. Dredging work progressed on to the access and main channels at the end of the month.

Preparatory piling, and the jetty and pontoon installation, is due to begin early this year. This work is expected to take just over a month when the services for the

pontoons will be installed. These services include water, electricity and lighting.

The capital dredging work to deepen the channel started just after Christmas. The deepened channel and new facilities should be fully operational by the end of March.

For further information about the Wells Harbour channel-deepening project, please contact the project owners, Wells Harbour Commissioners at harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk.



An aerial of the dredger "Kari Hege" in operation at Wells. Photo courtesy of Mike Page.

Establishing the marine operations

Planning for the establishment of the Sheringham Shoal marine operational organisation, based in Wells-next-the-Sea, is now well underway.

The key role for this organisation will be to provide vessels for personnel transfer during the wind farm construction process, which will begin by May this year, and then for the longer-term operation and maintenance phase.

All the procedures in relation to the personnel transfer operations are scheduled to be in place ready for the first vessel to leave the harbour around

April. Prior to that, a Marine & Logistics Co-ordinator will be required and a job vacancy for this position will be advertised shortly in local publications, and on www.scira.co.uk.

Activity out of the Wells-next-the-Sea base will continue to increase as work on the wind farm site intensifies, peaking around mid-2011. From that time the harbour traffic will gradually stabilise until only those vessels needed for operation and maintenance will be active.

A tender to supply those vessels required for the construction phase will

be issued to vessel owners and brokers shortly. A decision on whether the same vessels will be used for operation and maintenance will be finalised during the tender process. Companies tendering for the vessels contract will need to be approved, as a minimum, by Achilles (www.achilles.com), or similar supplier qualification systems, which will include all relevant requirements such as ISO 9001-2000 certification.

Expressions of interest for the vessel tender can also be registered via the website.

Offshore substations underway in Hartlepool

Work has started on the two 1000 tonne offshore substations being produced for the wind farm.

Offshore construction specialist Heerema will fabricate and load out two substation platform topsides from its yard in Hartlepool, County Durham, following the award of a contract by AREVA T&D UK.

By securing this latest contract, Heerema will safeguard employment at its Hartlepool facility, which employs around 1000 people, with additional supply-chain jobs created for other companies in the North East region and further afield.

Each of the Sheringham Shoal substations will be 30.5 metres long, 17.7 metres wide and 16 metres high.

They are scheduled to sail out from Hartlepool in the last quarter of 2010 with installation at the wind farm due for early 2011.

They will be installed by Norwegian offshore support company Master Marine utilising the construction vessel Service Jack 2 that is currently under manufacture at the Drydocks World yard in Indonesia.



Computer-generated image of one of the wind farm's two offshore substations.

Onshore substation site preparation complete

After six months of work, the site preparation for the Salle substation is now complete and building works are progressing.



The substation at Salle starting to take shape.

The concrete for the gas insulated switchgear building was finished late last year, as well as the installation of the reactor bunds and foundations. The structural steel was delivered to site in December and construction is underway.

Once the substation building is completed, and the internal cladding and other works finalised, the final steps will be the installation of the cables and equipment. The substation is on schedule for completion by October.

Foundation fabrication starts

The first monopile foundation of the 90 in total will be installed offshore around May this year.

These giant structures, as well as the transition pieces which join the turbines to them, are now being fabricated by tubular structure specialist, the Sif Group, at their plant in Roermond, the Netherlands, on a sub-contract to the main foundation contractor, MT Højgaard. Once completed, the monopiles will be transported to Kats, Vlissingen, Netherlands for storage before installation. The transition pieces will be transported to Belgium and the Hoboken plant of offshore foundation pioneer, Smulders for outfitting.

Each foundation is made to individual specifications and will be between 50 and 55 metres long, with a 5m diameter and weighing from 400 to 600 tonnes.

Contractor MT Højgaard will use the "Svanen", its purpose made self powered heavy-duty floating crane, to drive foundation piles 32-36 metres into the seabed and mount the yellow-painted transition pieces on top, in preparation for the installation of the two substations and 88 wind turbines in 2011.



Floating crane, the "Svanen" will install the foundations.

Helping fund community activities in Wells-next-the-Sea

The Sheringham Shoal project has recently supported two very different community-related activities in Wells-next-the-Sea.

Four officers from the Wells Neighbourhood Policing Team were able to attend a one-day Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) marine survival course at Lowestoft College with funding provided by the project.

Police Constable Jason Pegden said they were grateful for the support as the future vessel activity off the North Norfolk coast, with not only Sheringham Shoal but also other planned wind farms, means it will be useful for them to be trained and prepared if their assistance is required offshore.

The project also provided some funding to the organisers of the annual Wells Christmas Tide event, to help make the procession a reality and enable the lantern workshops, which involved two full days work by parents, children and helpers, to produce magnificent lanterns using willow and tissue paper.

A candle was placed inside each lantern and lit just before the procession from the Church to meet Father Christmas at Wells Quay.

Christmas Tide Committee Member Cathy Gates said: "The atmosphere was fantastic – events such as these are so very important to isolated rural communities such as ours."



These colourful lanterns were made by parents, children and helpers in preparation for the annual Wells Christmas Tide procession, with funding assistance from the wind farm.

Questions from the community

Why are the two Norwegian owner companies investing in the UK?

Offshore wind in the UK is one of the world's most promising renewable energy markets. Both Statoil and Statkraft have an international

approach to business. With around 33% of the European wind resource, and the UK government's clear ambitions to build a green power market, the UK is important to both owners' renewable energy business strategies.



Owners Statoil and Statkraft have other wind energy interests including Statoil's floating turbine project, Hywind and Statkraft's onshore wind farm, Alltwalis in Wales.

Will the wind turbines have flashing lights like lighthouses?

The wind farm turbines will be marked with lights to help with ship and vessel navigation. However these lights will be far less visible than lighthouse beams. The lights are more likely to resemble those that you see on buoys to direct marine traffic.

Can someone from the project present to my community group?

Members of the project team have recently been the guest speakers at events held by the Sheringham 41 Club and the North Norfolk Business Forum. If your organisation would like to hear from the project, please contact Nigel Tompkins at New Ideas for Business on nigel@ni4b.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.

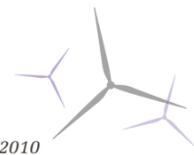


Sheringham Shoal

by Scira Offshore Energy

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NEWSLETTER



Announcing Fund for community initiatives

The owners of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm are pleased to announce the establishment of the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, a fund that will provide grants to North Norfolk community groups, including schools and NGOs, seeking financial assistance for projects or initiatives that meet key criteria.

Beginning this year and building up to an annual amount of £100,000 from 2012, the fund will provide grants for projects or initiatives that focus on renewable energy, marine environment and safety, sustainability, or education in these areas.

The Fund will be managed by the Norfolk Community Foundation with the involvement of community representatives as trustees. The guidelines for applicants will be finalised once the trustees have been appointed.

More details about how to apply for a grant will be published in the next edition of this newsletter and via the Norfolk Community Foundation - www.norfolkfoundation.com.



The Sheringham Shoal Community Fund will provide grants to North Norfolk groups for initiatives meeting key criteria.

More than halfway with cable installation

Work on the 22.6 kilometre onshore cable connecting the wind farm to the new substation at Salle is now more than halfway complete.

There are two final horizontal directional drillings to be carried out, underneath the Poppy Line and at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, where ducting is to be installed. The majority of the other trenching and ducting work has now finished.

The horizontal directional drilling technique, which prevents the need for excavation, has been used to cross under roads as well as rivers, woods and other landmarks. It has been used at

Weybourne to install ducting where the export cables will come to shore.

Open trenching was used at a number of other road crossings, but this is now complete and there will be no more road closures.

Cable-pulling and cable-jointing is progressing along the route so there will be cable transport vehicles in operation for the next few months. The final part of the project – mitigation measures, including reinstatement and backfilling of topsoil, hedge-planting and landscaping – will begin in late summer.

The whole onshore cable project is on schedule to be completed by September.



The cable will be installed underneath the Poppy Line Railway using horizontal directional drilling.

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