

New outer harbour completed

Construction work has finished on a new outer harbour in Wells, which will be the operation and maintenance base for Sheringham Shoal.

The jetty and 165m of pontoons have been built in a specially-dredged area known as Buxton's Bight, about a mile away from the main harbour.

The inventive project was devised to improve tidal access to Wells and has included seven months of capital dredging work. It has been years in the planning and was the key factor in the decision to base the wind farm operations in the town.

The structural work on the jetty and pontoons was completed early in March, while mains electricity and water services were connected at the end of the month.

The outer harbour is now open for berthing by commercial operators.

The first Scira vessel, which will transport construction workers and wind farm service technicians to the wind farm site, is due to arrive at the new pontoons this month, following the award of the contract to local firm, Safety Boat Services.

They also won the contract to transport environmental consultants and individuals

to the site to undertake mammal surveys during the piling operations as well as for general inspection visits.

A further tender for the additional crew transfer boats required later in the year will be issued on the website.

Harbour authorities hope this development will welcome a prosperous future for North Norfolk.

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



The new pontoons and jetty at Buxton's Bight - the steelwork and piling have been coloured to blend with the background and the banks, made from dredged sand, will have vegetation and look more natural over time.

Project office and information point to open in Staithe Street, Wells

A project office and information point is planned to open in the main street of Wells to provide a centre for construction and operational coordination as well as general enquiries.

The project office will be the base for the Marine & Logistics Coordinator - once appointed - and Scira project team members.

It will provide a central location to disseminate information on the construction activities and updates on the operation and maintenance progress, as well as provide assistance to anyone with specific enquiries about the wind farm.

Work on the fit-out of the shop, at 18 Staithe Street, will begin this month in readiness for a May opening.

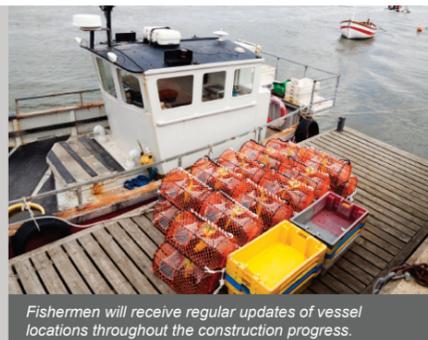


Staithe Street, Wells will be the location of the project office during construction.

Fishermen briefings held

Briefing meetings with fishermen were held in both Wells and Sheringham in February to explain the wind farm installation programme, liaise on vessel routes and establish ongoing communications which will include notices of daily activity posted in the Staithe Street shop front premises and a dedicated Information for Fishermen page on the website.

Fishermen with specific concerns can either contact Fishing Liaison Officer Alan Cooper on mobile 07774103123 or fax 01328 853701 or Project Contact Bjørn Solheim on mobile +47 9796 8651 or email bjarso@statoil.com.



Fishermen will receive regular updates of vessel locations throughout the construction progress.

Onshore works progress

The installation of the 22.6 kilometres of onshore cable ducts is now complete including all the horizontal directional drilling under key landmarks and road crossings.

The last section to be drilled was underneath Kelling Heath Holiday Park and despite some unexpected delays due to tough ground conditions, that work is now also finished.

The remainder of the onshore connection work is progressing to plan and will mean slow moving and heavy vehicles in the area for a few more months.

Work on the Salle substation has continued on schedule since the last edition of the Newsletter, with the building frame and cladding now complete, the installation of building services and internal finishes underway, and the reactor and 132kV equipment foundations ready for mechanical installation. The site infrastructure and mechanical and electrical installation work will be carried out in the coming months.

The project is on time to be ready for full commissioning by November this year.



The new substation at Salle is taking shape.

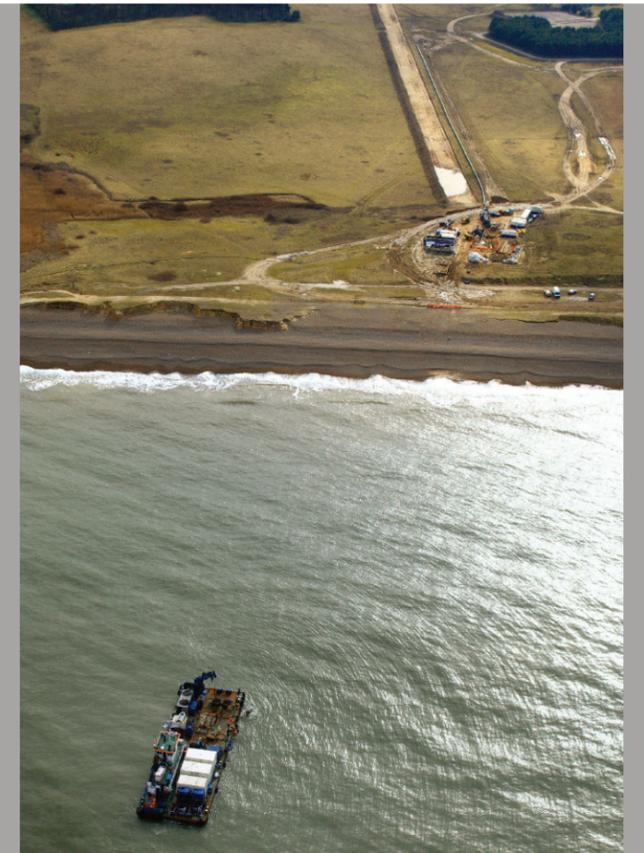
Offshore cables under production

The installation of the export cable from the wind farm to shore is due to commence in August and production of all the cables is well underway.

Norwegian global cable experts, Nexans are producing the offshore cables at their manufacturing plant in Halden, south of Oslo. The fibre optical elements are being produced in Rognan, in the northern part of Norway. Both the power and optical cables will be bundled together into one unit.

There will be two long export cables carrying the power from the wind farm to landfall - one 23 kilometres and one 21 kilometres in length, with a weight of 77 kilograms per metre. That's a total weight of 3,388 tonnes!

Installation of the infield cables, connecting the wind turbines to each other and to the offshore substations, will begin in October. There will be two different types of infield cables: type one (27 kilograms per metre) has a total length of 26 kilometres and will connect the turbines closest to the substations. The second type is lighter (18 kilograms per metre), has a total length of 56 kilometres and will connect the turbines further out. Both will be cut to length during the installation.



View from above Weybourne

This is an aerial photo of the "MCS Ailsa" carrying out the horizontal directional drilling work at Weybourne, where the wind farm export cables will come to shore.

The contractor Volker Infra, subcontractor to Visser and Smit Marine Contracting Ltd, drilled two ducts for the cables that will be installed later this year.

The operation took longer than anticipated due to unfavourable weather conditions and other unforeseen conditions, but it is now complete.



Substation taking shape in Hartlepool

The first of two huge offshore substations is taking shape at the Hereema plant in Hartlepool. Both substations will weigh around 1000 tonnes each and are due for installation early next year.

Questions from the community

How can I apply for a funding grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund announced in the last Newsletter?

Applications for funding grants from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund are now open to North Norfolk community groups, including schools and voluntary groups. The Fund will support community-based activities, charities, educational institutions and good causes that contribute to reducing climate change; have a marine environment or safety focus; promote environmental sustainability or the benefits of renewable energy, or contribute to education or increased employment opportunities in these areas.

A standard application form can be downloaded from www.norfolkfoundation.com or www.scira.co.uk. To be eligible for the first meeting of the Grants panel, this needs to be completed by early May and returned to the Norfolk Community Foundation, St James Mill, Whitefriars, Norwich NR3 1SH

Once an application is received it takes around four weeks to process and make the necessary assessments for submission to the Grants panel, which will meet every four months to select the successful applications. The first meeting is in June.

Any queries about the process can be directed to the Foundation on email: info@norfolkfoundation.com or telephone: 01603 623958.

How can my business get involved?

An online supplier database has been developed to enable local businesses to register their interest with the project. The electronic form can be found on www.scira.co.uk, under Contact. This will be the initial reference point for project team members looking for local assistance.



Grant applications are now open for the Community Fund which will support environmental and other initiatives in North Norfolk.

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

Local villages benefit from environmental grants

The restoration of the village pond and surrounding area at Plumstead has been completed with funding assistance from the wind farm project while Weybourne will benefit from new low energy lighting.

The pond work was an initiative of the Parish Council to provide a haven for wildlife and a tranquil and environmentally friendly area for villagers and others to enjoy. It will be officially opened in June.

Weybourne village, via its local Council, applied for funding to replace eight of its 35 street lamps on concrete bases with new systems which will incorporate steel columns and energy efficient lights.

Councillor Michael Houghton who initiated the funding approach said that the Council had in the past asked its electrical contractor TT Jones for advice

on any cost reduction or energy savings possible in relation to the village lighting.

"The reply has always been that it would not be possible using our current lanterns," Councillor Houghton said.

The current sox lights, that emit a dull yellow light, and their concrete bases, will be replaced by "Arc" compact-fluorescent lights and a five-metre galvanised steel "Metro" column.

"These eight new lights will put us on the path to gradually replacing all the old systems with new energy and cost efficient ones," he said.

The £10,000 funding was provided by Scira Offshore Energy as part of its aim to support local projects with a renewable energy or environmental focus

in villages along the onshore cable route. Weybourne beach is the site where the wind farm's export cable comes to shore.

The project has recently launched a Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, managed by the Norfolk Community Foundation, to deal with ongoing funding requests.



The rejuvenated Plumstead village pond.

Contact details and more information

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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



The massive rock installation vessel "Nordnes" lays scour protection on the seabed in preparation for the arrival of the foundations.

Offshore construction begins with rock placement work

Construction work on the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm site began last month (March) with the arrival of the 164m "Nordnes" vessel, to place rocks at selected foundation locations in preparation for the start of the installation of the giant monopile structures this month.

Using a precision technique, the "Nordnes" has begun work placing 3 to 9 inch filter rocks in a 'donut' shape around the site of 77 of the 90 foundation locations to reduce the likelihood of scour and protect the cables when they are installed.

Scour protection is needed for wind turbine foundations, as well as other types of marine structures, due to changes in water flow patterns that may cause a lowering of the seabed immediately surrounding them.

Variations in the condition of the seabed at the Sheringham Shoal foundation locations mean it is only needed at those sites where erosion is most likely.

Dutch company Van Oord has been contracted to carry out the first phase filter layer work, which will be completed by early June.

After the foundations have been installed, a second phase of scour protection will be required in which larger rocks will be placed in the same pattern to act as armour to the filter layer.

Foundations arrive this month

The scour protection work will prepare the site for the installation of the first foundation at the end of April.

Each foundation is made to individual specifications depending on where it will be installed. They are between 50 and 55 metres long, with a 4.2-5.2m diameter and weighing from 400 to 600 tonnes.

The foundations are now being fabricated in the Netherlands ready for transportation direct to the site.

New project website launched

The Sheringham Shoal project now has a new website at www.scira.co.uk.

TrickyWeb Design (www.trickyweb.co.uk) is an established North Norfolk company providing professional internet services including web design, e-commerce, hosting and database design for a range of local clients including Beans Boats at Morston, The Country Fair Office, Jex Farm, Stiffkey Red Lion as well as others from further afield such as Cambridge University Farm and Total Sports Travel.

Stop Press

31 March, 2010 - Agreements have been signed between Scira, Ministry of Defence, the Crown Estate and other Greater Wash wind farm developers which will solve the issue of interference with defence radar systems. The government and developers will jointly finance a new wind farm resilient radar at Trimingham. This means that Scira now fulfils all the MOD's consent conditions for Sheringham Shoal.

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