



# Sheringham Shoal Extension Project and Dudgeon Extension Project

## Introduction

Welcome to the latest community newsletter for the Sheringham Shoal (SEP) and Dudgeon (DEP) Extension Projects. SEP and DEP will be located approximately 14 kilometres (8.7 miles) and 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) respectively from the North Norfolk coast.

SEP and DEP will double the capacity of the existing Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon offshore wind farms, providing renewable energy to power an additional 785,000 UK homes and making a significant contribution to the UK's decarbonisation goals.

In this edition, we update you on the final changes we have made to SEP and DEP and how you will be able to have your say as the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has now been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

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## DCO Application Update

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- Equinor recently submitted an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate for SEP and DEP, on 5 September 2022. The Planning Inspectorate act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
- Our DCO application was accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 3 October 2022.
- You can find out more about how you can engage with our proposals for SEP and DEP throughout the forthcoming examination process in this newsletter.
- We will continue to engage with local authorities, parish councils, and the local community to ensure that you are kept up to date with the proposals during the examination period.
- You can register interest in the SEP and DEP projects on the projects' website: <https://sepanddep.commonplace.is/>.

If you have any questions regarding SEP and DEP, please contact us via the details provided at the end of this newsletter.

## How has your feedback changed the project?

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During our consultation process, Equinor has been committed to holding a genuine and meaningful dialogue with communities who may be impacted by SEP and DEP. This has included engagement with residents, landowners and local businesses within the project consultation area. We have also consulted with a wide range of technical consultees, including statutory and local nature conservation groups, heritage groups and local authorities.

Since 2019 we have welcomed over 2,960 visitors to our virtual exhibitions, 370 members of the community to our public information events and have received over 720 responses to our consultation. Thank you to all those that participated in our consultation.

## **Protection of the Cromer Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).**

We have selected a landfall option at Weybourne to avoid impacts to the Cromer Chalk Beds MCZ. Following technical assessments, it was concluded that as the chalk reef is sufficiently close to shore at Weybourne, the planned trenchless crossing technique for works at landfall will be used to drill under the chalk beds and therefore avoid damaging the sensitive features.

## **Size of onshore cable corridor.**

The width of the onshore cable corridor has been reduced from 200 metres to 60 metres, reducing local impacts. In order to increase flexibility, a wider corridor of 100 metres has been maintained for trenchless crossings at locations such as main rivers and woodland.

## **Biodiversity net gain.**

The project team has actively engaged with local communities and nature conservation bodies to deliver an increase in biodiversity through enhancements to local wildlife habitats.

## **Limiting the impact of the Projects on traffic and transport.**

We have undertaken a comprehensive assessment of traffic and transport impacts. A Construction Traffic Management Plan has been produced to accompany the DCO application. This document sets out our measures to address potential adverse impacts.

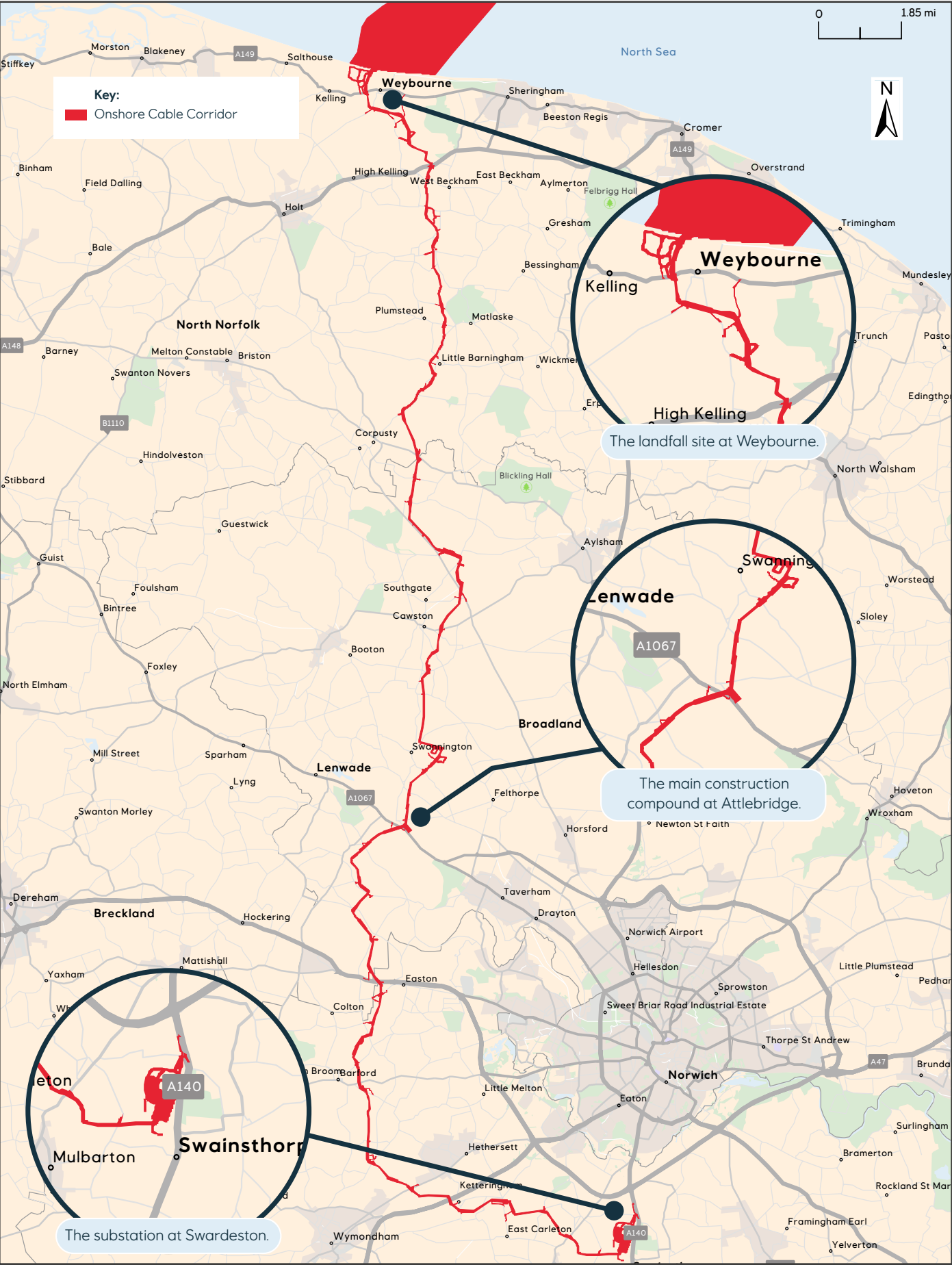
These measures include:

- Trenchless crossings of all A and B roads and 20 other local roads;
- Construction of a haul road along the cable route to reduce the number of access points and Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements on the local road network;
- Repositioning of numerous construction access locations to meet stakeholder and landowner requests, thus avoiding impacts to the local environment and ensuring road safety.

## **Avoidance of woodland and protected sites.**

We have committed to cross all woodland habitats using trenchless crossing techniques. This will significantly reduce the impact on these habitats. In addition to this commitment, we will be avoiding protected sites where possible. This includes the trenchless crossing of the River Wensum, Spring Beck, River Tud, River Yare and the River Tiffy. We have also refined the cable corridor to exclude key ecological features such as ponds and trees with bat roost potential.

# Onshore project area:



## Register your interest and comment on the application



With this newsletter, we are notifying you of how you can continue to have your say now that the DCO application has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

The forthcoming formal examination process will be managed by the Planning Inspectorate and individuals wishing to get involved will need to follow the prescribed process described below.

The DCO application documents are available to view on the Planning Inspectorate's website via: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sheringham-and-dudgeon-extension-projects/?ipcsection=docs>

Any representations (giving notice of any interest in, or objection to, the DCO application) must be made on the Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form, which is accessible on their website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sheringham-and-dudgeon-extension-projects/?ipcsection=overview>

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notice 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination, provides further guidance on how to register and make a relevant representation

and can be accessed via the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-2-how-to-register-to-participate-in-an-examination/>

All details about application acceptance are on our project website. From 14 October 2022, individuals wishing to make a representation will have 30 days to do so. The deadline for submitting a representation is 11.59pm on 14 November 2022.

### Examination

Following the Relevant Representation Period, the Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority and interested parties will be invited to attend a preliminary meeting (the date will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate).

Typically, the pre-examination period lasts approximately three months, after which the formal examination begins, which lasts for a predefined period of 6 months.

After the examination stage, the Planning Inspectorate have three months to prepare a report, including a recommendation for the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Secretary of State then has a further three months to grant or refuse development consent for SEP and DEP.



## Equinor in the community

Equinor is a long-term partner for Norfolk and has been an active member of the community for over a decade through the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon wind farms which it operates off the coast of Norfolk.

Both wind farms have established community funds which provide grants to Norfolk community groups, including schools and NGOs, seeking financial assistance for their projects and initiatives. Since 2010, the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Community Funds have awarded a combined total of over £1.6 million to such projects.

The Sheringham Shoal Community Fund receives an annual donation of £100,000 from the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm, and its grants focus on projects associated with:

- Marine environment and marine safety
- Renewable energy and climate change reduction
- Assisting the sustainability of North Norfolk communities
- Promoting environmental sensitivity and sustainability
- Education and employment



Nigel Middleton, Hawk and Owl Trust Warden, with the Nipper

North Norfolk's Hawk and Owl Trust is a registered charity which is on an innovative journey to carbon neutrality. Its recent grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund for an electric off-road vehicle, replacing a petrol powered one, took the total value of the grants awarded by the Fund since it was established to over £1million. This milestone will be celebrated later this year with a reception at the Hawk and Owl Trust's Visitor Centre for all those organisations which have been recipients of these grants.

Since 2013 a Bursary Scheme to help young people from lower income families in Norfolk to study engineering at one of four Norfolk colleges has also been available through the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund.



Assisting community sustainability - Norfolk's first outdoor eco-gym received a grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund (image courtesy of North Walsham Play)

Education is the main thrust of the Dudgeon Community Fund, which uses its £100,000 per annum donation from the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiatives which are designed to inspire the next generation of scientists, innovators and inventors from pupils in school years 8-13 in Norfolk.

Its latest grant awards for projects to be delivered in the 2022/23 academic year include:

- An in-school engineering hub
- Engineering and medical imaging
- A British Science Week programme
- A carbon literacy initiative
- A robotics competition

As a result of the educational partnership across Norfolk, students from at least 24 schools and colleges are likely to benefit from the latest Dudgeon Community Fund STEM grant awards.

During 2020, both Community Funds provided grant funding to the Norfolk Community Foundation's COVID-19 initiatives, and last year funding was made available to support Norfolk's 'every child on-line' initiative.

## Contact us

You can get in touch with our community relations team at any time by any of the methods below:

- Email: **[Info@sepanddep.co.uk](mailto:Info@sepanddep.co.uk)**
- Freephone: 0808 1963 673
- Freepost: FREEPOST DUDGEON AND SHERINGHAM EXT
- Visit our website: **<https://sepanddep.commonplace.is/>**
- We have a dedicated Community Liaison Officer, Nigel Tompkins, who can be contacted on [nigel@ni4b.co.uk](mailto:nigel@ni4b.co.uk) or 01263 822427

Should you require this document in large print, audio or braille then please contact us using the details provided.

This document was sent in compliance with GDPR regulations. Your personal data will be stored in compliance with GDPR by Equinor and will not be shared with third parties. Your details may however be passed on to the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that our consultation is sufficient and in line with the planning process. We are available to answer any questions regarding GDPR compliance through the contact details above.

