SHERINGHAM SHOAL & DUDGEON

Offshore Wind Farms

Preparing to Extend...

In April 2024 the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension Offshore Wind Farms (SSDE) received a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, but before construction of the Extensions can commence there are many planning conditions which have to be fulfilled.

Over the last six months, this has involved significant offshore and onshore activity.

Two surveys have taken place offshore. The first was an Unexploded Ordinance Survey (UXO) along the seabed export cable corridor from the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon offshore fields to Weybourne on the coast of North Norfolk, where the cables will make landfall.



Weybourne Hope cable landfall

This was followed by a series of seabed investigative borehole surveys around the locations within the wind farm fields where the installation of up to 54 wind turbine generators is planned.

Onshore, Headland Archaeology has been undertaking trial trenching archaeology investigations in various fields along the cable corridor route from Weybourne to Swainsthorpe, south of Norwich. This work follows on from the walk-over geophysical surveys and metal detecting that took place during last year.



The route of the onshore cable corridor

SSDE and Dalcour McLaren are currently working closely with the onshore cable corridor landowners and their land agents to arrange access for civil engineering company VolkerFitzpatrick to undertake a series of pre-construction surveys which will provide important data to inform the detailed construction project plan.

Commenting on progress, SSDE's Project Director Simon Franey said: *"I appreciate that many stakeholders are keen to know when construction will start, and once these preparatory works have been completed next year we should be in a much better position to share a realistic construction time line."*

He added: *" My colleagues and I are grateful for everyone's patience around Norfolk as we plan our construction activities."* □

VolkerFitzpatrick to undertake early onshore works

VolkerFitzpatrick Limited has been awarded an early involvement contract for the civils works on the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extensions project relating to the onshore export cable.

The contract includes engineering services and surveys in the near term, with the contract for cable installation to be progressed at a later stage once a future construction date is confirmed. Surveys will commence along the cable route in Q3/4 2026 and continue into 2027.

Early collaboration with VolkerFitzpatrick will draw on local experience, apply lessons learned, and help minimise disruption during future construction.

Announcements regarding local supply chain engagement will be made at a later stage as details become available. □

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Work – trying it out for size and fit!

One size does not fit all when it comes to jobs and careers, so how do today's young people know what career path is going to be the one for them?

Freed from essays, assignments and exams, summertime work experience can be a great 'taster' opportunity for those puzzling about their futures.

At the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, the operations and maintenance teams based at Equinor's Great Yarmouth Hub have worked hard this summer to provide meaningful work experiences. They have welcomed local students studying T-Level engineering, offered Year 10 students their first taste of the workplace and supported a pioneering industry wide support programme led by East Wind.

This is in addition to the work undertaken with EEEGR (East of England Energy Group), with grant support from the Dudgeon Community Fund, participating in its Coastal Energy Internship Programme which has facilitated 40 student placements across the East Anglia regional supply chain.



EastWind T-Level engineers get a taste of life offshore

Equinor's Norfolk Stakeholder Manager Sophie Skipp has been greatly impressed by the work experience outcomes that she has recently witnessed, saying:

"It never ceases to amaze me how quickly these young people develop when given project briefs centred around real-world tasks and challenges. Time and time again they demonstrate creativity, enthusiasm and ability way beyond what anyone, including themselves, expected." ☐

News in brief...

People First Award

The Global Offshore Wind Awards 2026 will be held in London in October to celebrate innovation, leadership and excellence across the offshore wind sector, and Sophie Skipp has been shortlisted in the People First category for her work at Sheringham Shoal, Dudgeon and SSDE Offshore Wind Farms.

The 14 award categories will recognise excellence across People, Projects and Priorities.

Congratulations and Good Luck Sophie! ☐

Windscape at Sheringham Museum

Windscape at Sheringham Museum is the Visitor Centre for the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, and during July and August 2026 it welcomed a record 5623 visitors.

Have you visited yet? If not, Windscape remains open for the 2026 visitor season until Saturday 31 October.



Full details can be found at www.sheringhamuseum.co.uk ☐

Energy savings in North Norfolk hubs

Grants from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund for renewable energy efficiency initiatives are helping community hubs and sports clubs across North Norfolk to survive in these times of increasing oil, gas and electricity charges.

North Norfolk consists of seven market towns and over 100 small, rural villages, many of whose village halls, community centres and sports-clubs are vital hubs of village life.

Usually these are small charitable organisations supported by teams of volunteers and funded through venue hire charges, community events and individual donations. It's no wonder that rising heating and lighting costs have put such a strain on their finances since the pandemic years.

Since 2021 over £230,000 has been granted to assist 21 organisations to implement their energy efficiency projects. These have included the installation of solar photo voltaic systems, often supported by battery storage, the replacement of traditional central heating boilers with air source heat pumps and the introduction of LEDS to replace inefficient fluorescent strip lighting. All alongside building insulation improvements, including warming-up the playing greens of an indoor bowls club!

Are these energy efficiency initiatives making a difference? Nigel Ely, from Wells-next-the-Sea Sailing Club, says:



Wells Sailing Club is saving energy (Image courtesy of Wells Sailing Club)

"Since the installation of our solar panels and batteries in June 2023 with the help of a grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, we have seen a noticeable reduction in our electricity usage and associated costs. These savings have been particularly valuable in helping us manage rising operational costs." □

From the Norfolk Stakeholder Manager's Diary



Sophie Skipp

During the 2026 Spring and Summer months, Sophie Skipp has continued to be out and about in the Norfolk community as these extracts from her diary confirm:

"The summer months keep everyone at the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms busy with key maintenance work. This is the ideal time for local teenagers to gain valuable work experience alongside our team. I've set projects to students from Lynn Grove Academy and East Norfolk Sixth Form, representing the next generation of renewable energy enthusiasts.

"A particular highlight was seeing the impact of 10 East Wind T Level placement students' visit to our home-away-from-home vessel, the Esvagt Njord. I'm proud to be part of our industry wide support of young people.

"Whilst my job is looking toward the future it was a privilege to touch our past on archaeology sites along the planned SSDE cable route. To hold artefacts from thousands of years ago as they are carefully removed from farmland made me consider the lasting responsibility to Norfolk.

"It's important to see our plans from the ground with the ecology teams, ensuring project stakeholders without a voice are considered.

"The noisiest day of 2026 had to be welcoming the 1st Mulbarton Cubs to Sheringham Museum to build wind turbines with a view of the wind farm. These inquisitive 8-11 year olds explored our Deep History Coast whilst setting their own ambitions. Meeting offshore technician Warren blew them away in a specially recorded tour of a wind turbine."

Sophie Skipp will be sharing further news of her activities in future editions of these newsletters. She can be contacted at: *gm_ssde@equinor.com* □

Community Funds Update

Coming to the rescue of Norfolk's seals!

With the success of the breeding colonies of common and grey seals along the Norfolk coast has come an additional workload for Marine and Wildlife Rescue in rescuing sick and injured animals, often entangled with sea debris now littering the North Sea.

During the breeding season, the charity typically receives up to 9 or 10 seal rescue calls each week. If the seal is to stand a good chance of recovery, there is usually just a small window of opportunity to catch the animal and transport it to a specialist care centre such as the Seal Rescue Centre in Hunstanton or the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital at East Winch.

Now, thanks to a grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, Marine and Wildlife Rescue has been able to commission the manufacture of a purpose-designed trailer to transport injured seals from where they are washed up on North Norfolk beaches to one of these care and rehabilitation centres.



More seals – more rescues! (Image courtesy of Marine and Wildlife Rescue)

Thanking the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, Charity Trustee Dan Goldsmith said:

"The trailer will arrive in early 2027, and it will help to maximise welfare, particularly for the larger seals, whilst in transit to the rehabilitation facility."

'In the driving seat' – for STEM learning

Thanks to a grant from the Dudgeon Community Fund, September saw budding engineers from Norfolk's schools 'in the driving seat' of electric kit cars on the Hethel Test Track, home of world renowned Lotus Cars.

They were taking part in a series of youth racing events held by STEM based charity Greenpower, whose education programme gives students the opportunity to design, build and race their own electric kit cars, bringing engineering to life through practical, hands-on learning.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Dudgeon Community Fund has backed the Greenpower initiative, making grants to Norfolk schools to help them buy an age-appropriate Greenpower electric car kit and by providing grant funding for team challenge events at Hethel.

Sophie Skipp, Equinor's Norfolk Stakeholder Manager, said:



Greenpower Hethel Heat (image courtesy of Spacesuit and Greenpower)

"It's great to see so many young people from across Norfolk taking on the Greenpower challenge, and to see that work pays off on the track."

If your organisation is seeking funding support for a community project or a STEM initiative, visit ***www.norfolkfoundation.com*** to learn how to apply for a Sheringham Shoal or Dudgeon Community Fund grant.

Contact details and more information:

The Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms are operated by Equinor from its Greater Wash Operations and Maintenance Hub located at:

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