

# Summer O&M Campaign Success

Another busy year draws to an end for Equinor's operations in the Greater Wash!

Throughout 2023 a significant amount of planned, preventative and corrective maintenance has been completed at both Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, both of which are operated by Equinor. A lot of the work is, by nature, routine, such as annual servicing of the wind turbines, but as offshore wind farms continue to mature, more of the work is of a non-routine/specialist nature.

These additional works require support from specialist contractors

and, in most cases, additional vessels provision. On top of the scheduled maintenance programme, both wind farms have completed three separate campaigns using jack up vessels, one of which lasted for 45 days. Through these campaigns, a total of 16 major components have been exchanged. The main component exchanges at the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm were the largest project the site has seen since the original offshore construction works were completed in 2018.

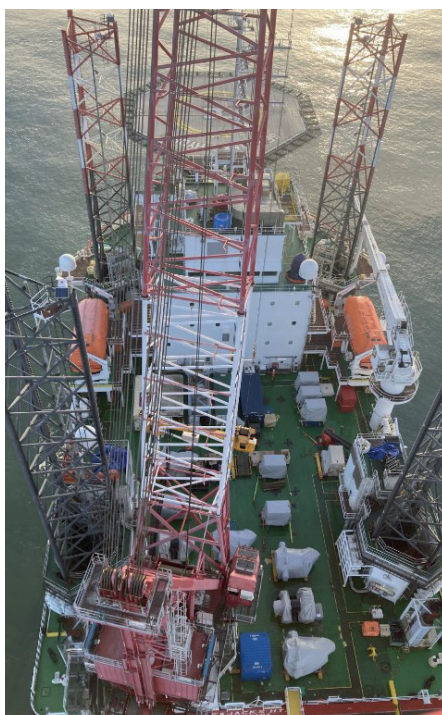
The teams at the Great Yarmouth Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Hub have worked incredibly hard to deliver all these activities safely and efficiently, and this important maintenance work at both offshore wind farms has required significant engagement with the supply chain.

Colin Galer, the Plant Manager of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm, is very pleased with the support that Equinor receives from local suppliers, saying:

*"A strong focus on the local supply chain is key for us and we are continuing to mature our understanding of, and engagement with, suppliers here in Norfolk and Suffolk."*

*"This year alone, Equinor has worked with many local companies; to name just a few, vessels have been chartered from Tidal Transit and Seajacks, inspection services have been provided by Certex and Stowen, and Yarmouth Rewinds has provided motor and generator repair services."*

*"With a dedicated and committed team, and competent contractors on our doorstep, I believe we have a winning recipe for the continued safe and reliable operations at our sites"* ■



■ Undertaking turbine maintenance using jack-up vessels □

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# Decision Awaited – Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension Projects

The Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension Projects have now completed the examination phase of the planning process.

The examination lasted six months, finishing on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. During this time stakeholders were able to have their say on the projects, and various aspects were addressed, including environmental and socio-economic impacts. Thank you to all those who engaged during the examination. The Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero will decide whether to grant the consent, with the announcement expected in Q1/2024.

The Extension Projects would generate energy to power the equivalent of 785,000 homes if constructed. Combined with the existing projects, the wind farms would



The route of the proposed onshore cable corridor through Norfolk

generate enough energy for over 1.4 million homes.

If the Extension Projects are successful in achieving consent, the community will be consulted on a benefit fund to complement the existing wind farms' funds which have already awarded over £1 million to projects in Norfolk

## Great Yarmouth 'greening' project for Summer Interns

The group project for the Ogden Trust 2023 Summer Interns ([www.ogdentrust.com](http://www.ogdentrust.com)) in Norfolk was to investigate the sustainability of Equinor's Great Yarmouth O&M Hub with the aim of identifying any 'greening' improvements which could be made.

### Welcome...



Chris Hosea

Chris Hosea, Plant Manager, Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm  
Chris Hosea has been appointed as the Plant Manager of the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm, operated by Equinor, joining Colin Galer, the Plant Manager of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm.

Chris joins the organisation from Siemens Gamesa where he spent over six years as an Operations and Area Manager in both the UK and Benelux countries, running multiple offshore wind farms. Commenting on his new role, he said:

*"The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm is an important source of the UK's renewable energy. Its 67 wind turbines power over 430,000 UK homes, and the maintenance of this offshore infrastructure is vital in ensuring the wind farm's output performance."*

*"With the maintenance here at Dudgeon being provided by the teams of technicians who live and work from the Esvagt Njord Service Offshore Vessel (SOV), I am sure my experience of running wind farms using SOVs and Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) will be very useful"*



The Great Yarmouth O&M Hub

*"We believe our report is a useful document because it highlights key areas of sustainability within the organisation, proposing ideas that could be implemented to reduce environmental impact," said Intern Martha Eaton.*

The Interns discovered that some practical first steps had already been implemented, highlighting the O&M Hub's good waste reduction and disposal arrangements.

Susan Falch-Lovesey, Equinor's Norfolk Stakeholder Manager, congratulated the Interns on their project report, saying: *"They really have done a great job, and we will now explore further the biodiversity ideas and joint activity over reducing carbon emissions with our supply chain"*

## Contributing to The Crown Estate's Marine Data Exchange

For the last few years Equinor Operations and Maintenance Engineer Richard Sykes has been contributing to a number of pieces of work for the Crown Estate, which manages the seabed, principally the delivery of survey data from both the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, into their fledgling database, the Marine Data Exchange (MDE).



Richard Sykes

He has also assisted in the development of the new version of their MDE software which is now fully operational.

In preparation for the Crown Estate's 10th anniversary celebration of the MDE, Richard was asked to contribute to the MDE Impact Report, and he is now featured in the Conversations with Industry section of the report

## Opportunities for UK Graduates



Thomasina Bowyer-Bower

An interview with Thomasina Bowyer-Bower, a graduate of Edinburgh University who joined the Equinor Graduate Scheme working in SSU (Safety, Security & Sustainability) in Norway.

*"A real benefit of the graduate programme has been the opportunity to see the company from so many perspectives, in terms of both business areas and locations. In Norway, to date, I have spent eight months in Stavanger and a similar amount of time in Oslo; I have also spent six months in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil as well as visiting a number of Equinor's onshore and offshore sites."*

*"The Equinor Graduate Scheme has catapulted me into making a positive difference early on in my career"*

## From the Norfolk Stakeholder Manager's diary



Susan Falch-Lovesey

Equinor's Norfolk Stakeholder Manager Susan Falch-Lovesey has maintained a busy schedule of activities and visits over the last 6 months as can be seen from the following extracts from her diary.

**July 2023: Ogden Trust Summer Internship** – Working with Ogden Trust ([www.ogdentrust.com](http://www.ogdentrust.com)), Equinor hosted three interns at the Great Yarmouth O&M Hub during July 2023, with Susan organising and supporting a range of innovative projects, activities and visits during the 20 day programme.

**August 2023: Visit to Trondheim Research and Sustainability facility**



A visit to the Equinor's global research and sustainability facility at Rotvoll in Trondheim, Norway gave Susan an overview of the research portfolio relating to offshore wind sustainability and, in particular, the projects which are likely to lead to developments that will be implemented here in Norfolk.

**October 2023: Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) AGM and Conference**  
Supported by colleagues Jason Sparks and Nigel Tompkins, Susan gave an 'Equinor in the East of England' presentation to NALC members from over 50 Parish Councils at their Annual General Meeting and Conference in Norwich on 4 October. It was followed by a lively and wide-ranging Q&A session chaired by NALC President Pro. Tim O'Riordan.

There will be further extracts from Susan's diary in future editions of this newsletter



## Community Funds Update

### Strong STEM support in Norfolk

The Dudgeon Community Fund has continued to provide strong support for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiatives in Norfolk throughout 2023, with its Schools STEM Programme making 11 new grants for projects to be delivered during the 2023/24 academic year.


It has also worked closely with the Royal Norfolk Agriculture Association (RNAA) supporting two events – the Norfolk & Suffolk Skills and Careers Festival and the new STEMM Village (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine) at the Royal Norfolk Show – which have helped introduce thousands of young people to the career opportunities arising from studying STEM subjects.

Equinor's Ross McMillan visited the STEMM Village on the first day of the Royal Norfolk Show. In a recent interview he said:

*"The Dudgeon STEM Programme aims to inspire students to consider a future STEM career, either through employment or further education, and I believe that its grants and activities during 2023 have fulfilled that aim."*


In 2024, applications to the Dudgeon Community Fund will be considered in January, April and September. Full details about making an application can be found at [www.norfolkfoundation.com](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com) 



 Ross McMillan at the Royal Norfolk Show with Sheringham High School students


### Grants for renewable energy projects in North Norfolk



 Battery storage at Wells-next-the-Sea Sailing Club

Renewable energy initiatives in North Norfolk featured strongly in the grants awarded in May 2023 by the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, with four organisations receiving support for their projects.

These included solar panels and a battery storage system for Wells-next-the-Sea Sailing Club and the new-build village hall in Wighton, LED lights to replace existing floodlights at Cromer Tennis Club and helping fund the cost of an energy audit at Mundesley Junior and Infant Schools.

Grant applications to the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund are considered at the panel meetings in May and November each year. Visit [www.norfolkfoundation.com](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com) for full details 

### Contact details and more information:

Equinor is the operator of both the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, and the Operations and Maintenance base for each wind farm is located at:

50 South Denes Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 3PR | +44(0)1493 841700

Sheringham Shoal is owned by Equinor, Equitix and Green Investment Group through Scira Offshore Energy Limited.

[www.sheringhamshoal.co.uk](http://www.sheringhamshoal.co.uk)

[info@sheringhamshoal.co.uk](mailto:info@sheringhamshoal.co.uk)

Dudgeon is owned by Equinor, Masdar and China Resources through Dudgeon Offshore Wind Limited.

[www.dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk](http://www.dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk)

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