



New UK Operations and Maintenance Hub established in Great Yarmouth

By bringing together its Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Operation and Maintenance (O&M) activities into one purpose-designed building, Equinor has created its first UK O&M Hub on the quayside of the river harbour in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

The new structure captures synergies from a combined control room, office and warehouse, with the sophisticated control room being the ‘heart’ of the O&M Hub. This manages all the logistics for both offshore wind farms, as well as the Hywind Park, which comprises 5 floating wind turbines off the coast of Peterhead in Scotland.

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm had previously been operated from a base in Egmere, close to the port town of Wells-next-the-Sea in North Norfolk, from where

the turbine technicians would travel to and from the wind farm on crew transfer vessels (CTVs).

The Great Yarmouth O&M Hub enables both wind farms to be serviced by the ‘Esvagt Njord’ Service Operations Vessel (SOV), which has been providing a highly successful service to the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm since 2016. This greatly reduces ‘no sail days’ and results in a more effective wind farm maintenance regime with fewer logistical problems.

The vessel, which provides 58 cabins to accommodate the vessel crew and the wind farm maintenance technicians, now spends two weeks at the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon wind farm sites before returning to Great Yarmouth for a crew change and stock replenishment.

Karl Butler, Manager O&M, Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm says:

“The new operating model, centred on SOV operations, provides greater access to our turbines offshore by reducing the impact of both weather and tidal restrictions, which ultimately means more time offshore and increased efficiency.

“Currently, over 100 people are employed by the two businesses at the Equinor O&M Hub in Great Yarmouth, the only offshore wind base in Norfolk, and our plans for future growth over the coming years will see this number continue to rise.” □



■ Esvagt Njord, Service Operations Vessel (SOV)

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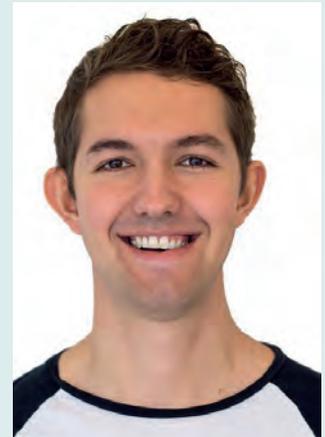
Developing skills and creating opportunities

It is vitally important that the wind industry invest in the skills development and training of young people, they will become our colleagues of the future.

The Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Community Funds have supported Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) programmes for over 10 years and, in addition to this, Equinor have several international programmes that aim to attract young people to the energy industry and support their development – paving the way to a global energy career.

This month we will be joined by a graduate from the UK through Equinor’s Corporate Graduate Programme. This graduate will be supporting the work of our Norfolk developments and other UK wind projects, while graduates from other countries such as Norway also gain experience in Norfolk working at Equinor’s operational wind farms, alongside our Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Wind Farm colleagues.

Equinor’s Corporate Graduate Programme gives graduates from approximately 25 countries the



■ *Siri Faremo Hauvik and Wessel Jan Tonnis Keijer, are both participating in Equinor’s corporate graduate programme*

opportunity to work in Norway, the UK, the USA, Canada and Brazil - an international kick-start to their careers. Every year the company hires approximately 150 graduates globally to join the two-year development programme, and these graduates are considered permanent employees from day one.

A tailored programme is provided to ensure the graduates have the tools to help solve one of the biggest challenges of the time – the energy transition to Net Zero.

Equinor’s 2023 Graduate positions will be posted in August. To find out more go to:

www.equinor.com/careers/graduates □

Welcome Sue Falch-Lovesey, Norfolk Stakeholder Manager

Sue Falch-Lovesey has been appointed as Equinor’s Norfolk Stakeholder Manager and, supported by Community Liaison Officer Nigel Tompkins, she will work with statutory, business, education and community stakeholders across Norfolk.

She said: *“The community liaison work I have undertaken in Norfolk over the last five years has been a great introduction to renewable energy and the offshore wind industry.*

“As the operator of two highly successful offshore wind farms off the coast of Norfolk, as well as being the developer of a proposed Extension project for each



■ *Nigel Tompkins with Sue Falch-Lovesey*

of these wind farms, Equinor already has established relationships with many Norfolk stakeholders. I am looking forward to building on these relationships as well as establishing new ones.” □

Developing the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension Projects...

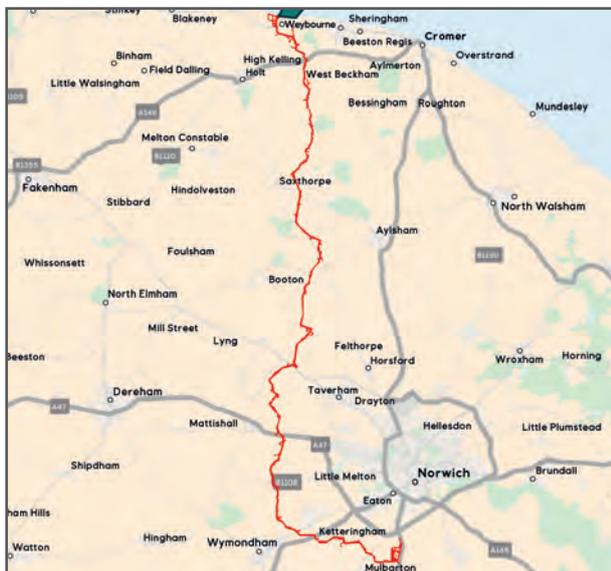
Despite the many restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, work has been able to continue progressing the development of the Sheringham Shoal Extension Project (SEP) and the Dudgeon Extension Project (DEP). Currently the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for both projects is scheduled to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) during Summer 2022.

Following the success of the Public Information Days held in March 2022, community engagement will continue over the months leading up to the DCO application, with further project update meetings being scheduled with officers and members of Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk and Broadland Council and North Norfolk District Council. Further presentations to, and discussions with, coastal parish councils and those along the onshore cable corridor are also being planned, and it is hoped that the majority of these will be face-to-face sessions.

Project Director Kari-Hege Mørk said:

"I am very pleased with the support and positive response we have received from the wider Norfolk community to the webinars and virtual stakeholder forums that we have been able to facilitate to undertake much of the community consultation and engagement associated with these projects over the last two years. However, it is really good to be able to be out and about in Norfolk once again, and we are all looking forward to meeting many local groups and residents over the next few months".

The energy strategy recently announced by the UK government calls for the development of sufficient offshore wind farms to produce enough renewable energy to power every home in the country by 2030. The existing Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms already provide power for around 710,000 UK homes, and the construction of SEP and DEP will power a further 785,000 UK homes ■



■ The route of the proposed onshore cable corridor through Norfolk

Public Information Days success

A series of face-to-face Public Information Days gave members of many communities across Norfolk a long-awaited opportunity to meet the SEP and DEP project team during early March 2022.

The events, which were held in Sheringham, Aylsham, Weston Longville and Swardeston, were attended by 357 visitors, including 36 students and 8 teachers, all of whom were keen to learn how the projects had developed over the two years since the COVID-19 pandemic brought face-to-face gatherings to an abrupt halt.

"The project discussions at these four events were wide ranging with topics including the Offshore Transmission Network Review, the onshore cable corridor, ecology, construction traffic, the locations of landfall and the construction compounds, to name but a few," said Jan Trønningdsdal, Equinor's Stakeholder Manager for the SEP and DEP projects ■



■ Aylsham Public Information Day

Community Funds Update

Every Child Online...



In the early weeks of 2021, when it became clear that schools would be closed to most young people for many weeks as

a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced that Norfolk's schools and academies would need to supply around 6,000 computer and IT devices in order to ensure that Norfolk's young people could have the technology for successful home learning.

To help reach that target, the Dudgeon Community Fund awarded all of its 2021 grant funding to the Every Child Online programme, which was launched by Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Community Foundation to ensure that these devices were made available to those who needed them.

The Dudgeon Community Fund will reopen during Spring 2022 to receive applications for grants from its STEM Programme which has been designed to inspire the next generation of scientists, innovators and inventors from pupils in school years 8-13 within the local Norfolk area www.norfolkfoundation.com

New grant awards for North Norfolk

As a result of a grant awarded by the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund in November 2021, Kickstart Norfolk has taken delivery of 10 new Super Soco CUX electric mopeds as part of its strategic move to replace all its petrol mopeds and scooters with a fully electric fleet by 2026.

The organisation is a charity set up to provide an alternative transport service to assist individuals, particularly those living in rural areas such as North Norfolk, to attend education and training or to look for, start or maintain employment.

Other North Norfolk projects awarded grants at the November grants panel meeting included the installation of an air source heating system in the community hall run by Colby and Banningham Parish Council; the purchase and development of a range of resources to enable Sheringham Museum to create virtual and physical education displays; the conversion of conventional street lighting to LED lighting by



■ Sheringham Museum at The Mo

Raynham Parish Council and the installation of CCTV on West Runton beach to enable it to be remotely monitored by Cromer Coastwatch station.

Further grant applications will be considered at the May 2022 grants panel meeting www.norfolkfoundation.com

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
info@sheringhamshoal.co.uk

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

www.dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk
info@dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk