



Ørsted
Community
Newsletter

September
2023

Hornsea 4
Offshore
Wind Farm

Introduction

Welcome to the latest community newsletter for Hornsea 4, a new offshore wind farm which Ørsted is proposing to develop in the North Sea, approximately 69 km off Flamborough Head on the Yorkshire Coast.

In this latest edition, we have an exciting update to share with you regarding the project: we can now confirm that our planning application – known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) - to develop Hornsea 4 was granted consent by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero on 12 July 2023.

This follows a thorough 21-month application process and examination. We would like to thank all our local stakeholders who have engaged with the project to date.

A message from our new Project Director, Jamie Baldwin:

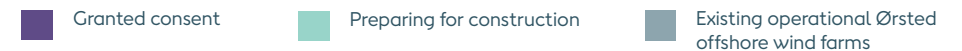
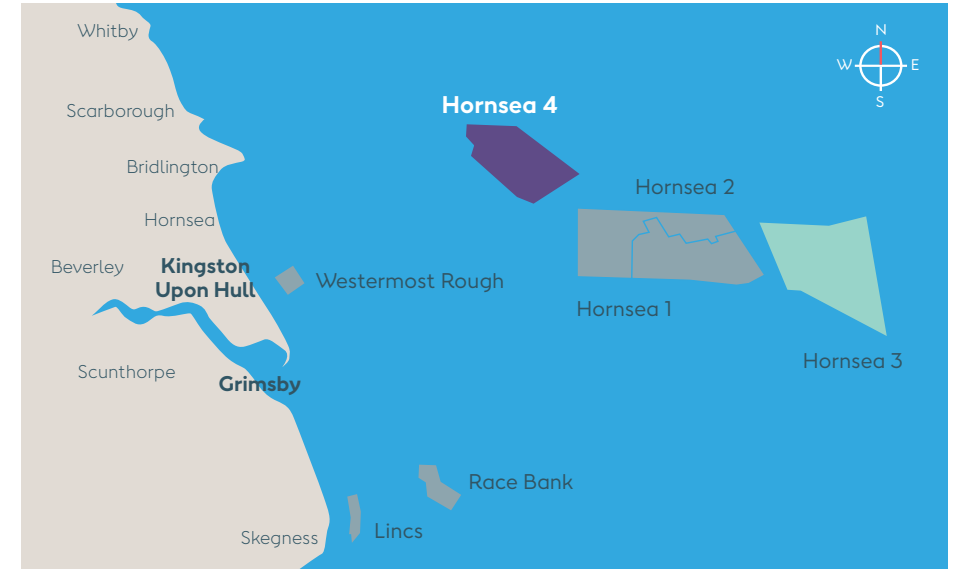


"I am delighted with the Secretary of State's decision to grant consent for us to develop Hornsea 4. It's a major milestone not just for the project but also for the UK's drive towards net zero and more homegrown renewable energy. I'm really proud of the team here at Ørsted that has contributed to securing the DCO. I'd also like to thank all the local communities and stakeholders that have taken the time to engage with us on the way.

"We are now reviewing the full detail of the Development Consent Order and will continue to work closely with stakeholders and local communities as we look to take Hornsea 4 forward sensitively and sustainably."

About Hornsea 4

Hornsea 4 is Ørsted's fourth project in the Hornsea Zone. It will be located to the west of Hornsea 1 (now fully operational), Hornsea 2 (now fully operational), and Hornsea 3 (preparing for construction).



Hornsea 4 includes an offshore array area of up to 468 km² where up to 180 wind turbines could be located.



If built out to full capacity, Hornsea 4 could provide enough power to meet the average daily need of well over one million UK homes.¹



Hornsea 4 will also deliver thousands of high-quality jobs and billions of pounds of investment into the UK's offshore wind supply chain.

¹Whilst at this stage it is not possible to state the capacity of Hornsea 4, the wind farm is expected to have a similar number of turbines to Hornsea One, which has 174 turbines and will generate enough clean electricity to power over 1 million homes.

Project Updates

Ground Investigations

After an exciting six-month journey filled with design, meticulous planning, and engaging discussions with our stakeholders, we have now commenced the Hornsea 4 Onshore Ground Investigation (GI) campaign! This initiative kicked off in mid-August with the drilling of our first borehole, marking the beginning of a series of 28 boreholes to be explored. We are also digging 56 trial pits, each measuring 3 metres deep, approximately 1.5 metres in length and 0.5 metres wide.

an extensive review of the thermal properties of soils. This detailed examination is a crucial component, as it plays a pivotal role in shaping the cable design itself.

Conducting a thorough ground investigation is a critical step before launching any major civil engineering project. This process uncovers vital information about what's beneath the earth's surface. This information helps us to create a design that's not just appropriate but also practical and efficient.

The data we gather during this process helps us deal with potential issues like pollution, faults in the ground, objects blocking our way below, soft soil, and underground water. Understanding these ground-related constraints also reduces the chances of delays during the construction phase.

Last month's commencement of the Hornsea 4 GI represented a positive milestone for the project and is a great example of different teams working together in a collaborative manner. With an emphasis on transparency and a willingness to tackle challenges head-on, various teams such as project management, technical experts, land specialists, environmental experts, archaeologists, and safety personnel have joined forces.

The GI works span the length of the 39 km onshore cable route and is estimated to finish between 15th-22nd September 2023. Beyond the feat of boreholes and trial pits, we are diving deeper into the details, conducting

Compensation Measures

In securing the project consent earlier this Summer, we now know we will be delivering our plans to ensure the proposed offshore wind farm protects local seabird populations in the North Sea. Specifically, we are committing to a number of compensation and enhancement measures for Kittiwake and Guillemot seabirds.

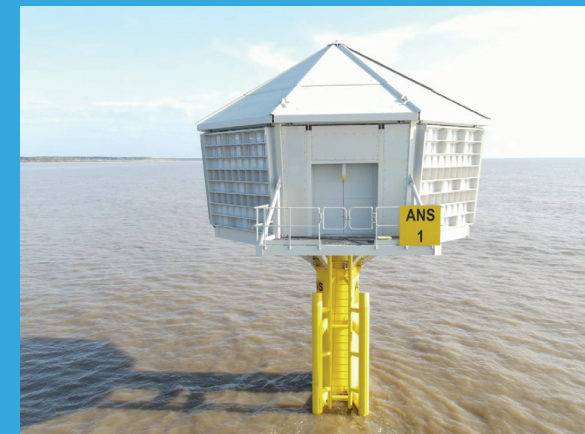
This follows the conclusion made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero that an adverse effect on the integrity of the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA) cannot be excluded beyond all reasonable scientific doubt. The required compensation measures were assessed through the examination process, enabling the Secretary of State to be confident that all our proposed measures are securable and deliverable.

We will be providing nesting spaces for at least 750 pairs of kittiwake. Our plan for this is to construct an artificial nesting structure (ANS) either onshore or out a sea.

For guillemot, we will pursue the management or removal of predators, such as invasive brown and black rats, from existing guillemot colonies with linkages to the UK's National Site Network. We will also pursue our bycatch measure which will reduce the chances

of guillemot being unintentionally caught by fishing activities. These options will be delivered as a package to increase the confidence that our measures will be effective in compensating for potential impacts to guillemot.

The timetable for all our compensation measures will be managed to ensure that these are implemented before any adverse effect occurs. We will continue to work collaboratively with partner organisations in the design and implementation plans for all our compensation measures, and will provide updates on our webpage. You can find a link to our website on the back page of this newsletter.



Artificial nesting structure in Minsmere for Hornsea 3 compensation measures.

Community Updates

Wilder Humber

We are delighted to share that we have partnered with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to launch Wilder Humber – an ambitious five-year programme seeking to restore marine habitats and species throughout the Humber Estuary.

In efforts to reverse major decline of various habitats - which includes sand dunes, saltmarsh, seagrass and native oysters - the Wilder Humber programme is seeking to provide restoration of all these habitats to maximise conservation and biodiversity benefits across the estuary.

The aim of this programme will be to restore nearly 40 hectares of protected habitats and rebuild the Humber's lost native oyster population. Restoring seagrass at Spurn Point, another key target area, will be the focus of 30 hectares of this programme.

We will also work with local communities through public events, school engagement visits and volunteering initiatives, to provide opportunities to learn more about this restoration journey and contribute to wildlife conservation in the Humber Estuary.

We are looking forward to working with the local community as well as the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trusts to deliver this important and beneficial programme to the Humber Estuary!

For more information, please visit the **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust website**.

Seed bag making at our East Coast Hub

One aim of the Wilder Humber programme is to restore lost seagrass meadows in the Humber Estuary. To date, a pilot scheme has been completed whereby four hectares of seagrass has been successfully planted, with ambitions to plant further hectares.

Back in February, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust hosted a drop-in session at our East Coast Hub in Grimsby, where our colleagues volunteered to help the Trust's team to make seagrass seed bags. Our volunteers made more than 1,000 seed bags across the day! The seed bags were then planted off Spurn Point.

Faye McGinn, Seagrass Lead for Hornsea 4, said:

"The Trust have to make a total of 40,000 seed bags every year for two planting seasons, which is a huge job. We were overwhelmed with the response of our team, who supported with this time-consuming task, learning a bit about the project and the importance of sea grass in the process."

Andy Jayes, Native Oyster and Seagrass Restoration Officer for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said:

"Seagrass is a fantastic blue carbon store and is amazing for biodiversity, feeding and acting as a protective area for nursery fish, which in turn supports predatory fish too. Days like these are absolutely vital. We do not physically have the time to make all the seed bags we need, so the help of volunteers is really important. It also helps us to engage with people and spread the word about the importance of what we do."



Visiting The Deep

In July, Hornsea 4 funded two primary schools from the East Riding of Yorkshire to visit The Deep, one of the UK's largest aquariums in Hull. The visits saw 120 children aged between 4 and 11 enjoy the aquarium, see the seagrass exhibition and take part in the seagrass activity education classes. The seagrass exhibition is an integral element of our seagrass restoration project, developed in collaboration with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, which is described on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

volunteering opportunities to contribute to wildlife conservation in the Humber estuary and thanks to The Deep in providing support with this.

One school provided us with delightful feedback, 'You have given our children a truly wonderful gift: to see our youngest learners enraptured and enthralled by the sights, sounds and discoveries of The Deep is beyond priceless, to see them come alive like this was a powerful moment in a lot of young lives.

For our older children, being able to see the scope and possibilities of science in the wider world has helped light fires and ignite curiosity. One child in particular is proud of the fact that he read every single information sign and said that his "head was now full".

We all, adults included, are also much more knowledgeable about seagrass than before!

Ørsted is committed to working with local communities to tell the story of the restoration journey through community events, school engagement visits and

The Driffield Show

Our UK Land & Property team enjoyed a day out representing the project at the Driffield Show on 19th July. They were also joined by our agents from Dalcour Maclaren as well as our East Coast Hub Community Engagement Officer, Harriet Farmery.

In true Yorkshire style, the rain didn't put people off and we had some constructive discussions with landowners, key stakeholders and local residents. It was great to hear so many positive comments on the work Ørsted is doing both on the East Coast and globally, and to answer any questions people may have regarding Hornsea 4.



Meet the team



Thomas Grey
Land and Property Manager

As the Land and Property Manager for Hornsea 4, I am responsible for liaising with landowners that are directly impacted by our proposed onshore works. I also ensure that we have acquired the appropriate rights to construct the project as well as coordinating land access for surveys.



Bruce Milne
Onshore Environment Manager

As Onshore Environment Manager, I play an important role supporting the sustainable development and construction of Hornsea 4. I'm excited to fulfil the role, working in partnership with engineering colleagues and external stakeholders to deliver a project that not only minimises environmental impacts, but conveys a net positive legacy for nature and society.



Natalie Bown
Consents Manager

As Consents Manager for Hornsea 4, I am responsible for the day-to-day management of the consents plan and programme as we build the windfarm. I am looking forward to working across the whole project in order to ensure compliance with our consent requirements and licence conditions, enabling Hornsea 4 to be successfully delivered in a way that minimises our impact on the environment.



Katie Swale
Offshore Environment Manager

As Offshore Environment Manager for Hornsea 4, I will be leading on the delivery of the offshore elements of the project from an environmental consenting perspective. I look forward to working with the wider Hornsea 4 Team, key statutory bodies and all external stakeholders in the delivery of the next stage of the project.

Next steps

Indicative Construction Schedule:

We are currently working towards the following construction schedule for Hornsea 4, which is detailed below. Please note that the timing of construction work is indicative only at this stage and will be dependent on the Hornsea 4 project successfully passing a Final Investment Decision.

2024



Onshore survey activity at the substation location and along the onshore cable route is likely to increase as we move into 2024 until the start of construction. This will involve non-intrusive survey work such as habitat surveys, as well as intrusive works such as archaeological trenching and trial pits. We will be working closely with all our landowners along the cable route and at the onshore substation to ensure these works take into consideration all our onshore stakeholders.

2025



Pre-construction site enabling works are likely to commence in the first half of 2025 and will include a new site access from the A1069, a temporary access track to the onshore substation, the stripping of top soil at the substation site and the erection of security fencing around the onshore substation site and associated temporary substation construction compound.

The start of actual construction works at the onshore substation, close to the existing National Grid Creyke Beck substation, is likely to start no earlier than the second half of 2025.



Offshore construction will start later, and the intention is that Hornsea 4 is fully operational by the end of the decade.

Contact us

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



Send us an email:

contact@hornseaprojectfour.co.uk



Contact our Community Liaison Officer, Andrew Acum, on:

andrew.acum@mercury-group.co.uk or 07939 005 719



Visit our website:

hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four



Visit our digital engagement platform:

tinyurl.com/how04map



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