

Vanguard West, East & Boreas Offshore Wind Farms Newsletter

September 2025

Project Update

Hello Neighbours,

As summer turns to autumn, there's plenty of exciting progress to share from the Vanguard West, East and Boreas Offshore Wind Farms, both out on site and across our Norfolk communities.

In this edition, we take a look back at some of the highlights from recent months, including local careers events and school visits helping to spark young people's interest in the world of offshore wind. We also share the fantastic success of Mini COP 25, which brought pupils together at the Royal Norfolk Show to learn, pledge and take action on climate change.

Our Community Fund is starting to make a real difference, with a second round of funding now open and projects like Eves Hill Veg Co. in Aylsham already putting their grant to brilliant use. You'll also meet our newest Year in Industry student and hear how our Agricultural Liaison Officers are supporting landowners and farmers along the onshore route.

There's more on construction progress at Necton, a fact sheet about our offshore UXO safety investigations and details of upcoming Public Information Events where you can meet the team and find out what's happening next.

Thank you, as always, for your continued interest in our projects, we hope you enjoy reading the latest news.

Best regards,

Denise Hone

Stakeholder Engagement Manager



Out & About In Norfolk

Click here
to find out more
about careers
at RWE



Offshore Wind Carousel

In July, we joined our colleagues from Murphy and the Norfolk & Suffolk Careers Hub at the Orbis Energy Centre in Lowestoft for a careers event designed to inspire the next generation to consider a future in offshore wind

The session brought together Year 10 students from local schools alongside wind developers and other industry partners, creating a valuable opportunity for young people to learn more about the range of roles within the sector.

Through conversations and interactive activities, pupils were able to explore the diverse career pathways available and gain a

better understanding of the skills, training and experiences that can lead to exciting opportunities within offshore wind.

One of the highlights of the day was the popular 'Spaghetti and Marshmallow Challenge', which saw students working in teams to design and build model turbine structures. The activity encouraged teamwork, creativity and problem-solving, while introducing some of the real world engineering concepts behind wind turbine design.

Did you know what we do schools visits? This summer we also stopped off at Litcham High School to do a presentation during Assembly and a Careers Talk for 120 pupils.



It was so interesting to hear about all the job roles! I don't want to go to University so it was good to hear about the options I might have.

Year 9 Pupil, Litcham High

Out & About In Norfolk



Launch of Mini COP at the Royal Norfolk Show

Norfolk primary schools joined forces in a pioneering new education initiative tackling climate change and celebrating sustainability. Powered by RWE, Mini COP helps children explore climate issues, apply classroom learning to real world action and culminates in a student-led summit.

The very first event, Mini COP25, launched at the Royal Norfolk Show on Thursday 26 June in partnership with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia and the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association (RNAA). Twenty-five schools gathered for workshops, pledges and presentations, giving young people a platform to share ideas on building a greener future.

Ahead of the event, schools completed a survey on their sustainability efforts. Results revealed impressive activities in Norfolk schools:

- **100% of schools have recycling bins**
- **75% run Eco Councils**
- **63% grow food in school allotments**
- **81% promote reuse of pre-loved items**
- **56% use rainwater butts**

The findings highlight the leadership already being shown in Norfolk classrooms, while also identifying areas where more support is needed. Just 44% of schools currently track waste or water use, and only 19% measure their carbon footprint. Mini COP aims to close these gaps through year-round collaboration, resources and practical support.

On the day, students made pledges, explored climate science with experts, and presented creative projects, from posters to flags representing their school's climate mission. RWE also committed to gifting every participating school a water butt – a direct response to the survey findings.

Denise Hone, Senior Stakeholder Manager at RWE, said: “Mini COP has shown just how much energy, passion and insight Norfolk’s young people bring to the conversation about climate change. This is just the beginning.”

If your school or class would be interested in finding out more about the Mini COP initiative, please contact our Skills Officer:

Sam Cook: norfolk@rwe.com



Community Fund

Open for Applications

RWE's Norfolk Offshore Wind Farms Community Fund has opened a second discovery round of applications, offering a further £90,000 to support local projects that bring communities closer to nature, strengthen climate resilience and champion sustainable transport.

Stewarded by the Norfolk Community Foundation on behalf of RWE, this next phase of discovery funding will again provide grants of up to £10,000 for initiatives taking place in or benefiting parishes located along the onshore cable route of the three offshore wind projects under development. The aim of the discovery funding is to help Norfolk Community Foundation, and the fund community panel to build a better understanding of the specific needs, challenges and opportunities for communities living nearest to the onshore infrastructure of the wind farm projects.

At the heart of the Fund is the Community Panel, a group of local residents with deep knowledge of the area. Their role is pivotal, setting priorities and making decisions to ensure that funding directly supports projects that matter most to their communities.

Following the first successful discovery round earlier this year, the Fund has been refined with input from both applicants and the Panel. This feedback has sharpened the focus on two key themes - green spaces and sustainable transport - reflecting local priorities and ensuring funding can have the greatest possible impact.



Helen Lindsay, member of the Norfolk Community Panel, said: "When I applied to be a panel member for the RWE community fund, I didn't realise how many fantastic local projects could be supported. We've helped to reduce heating costs for village halls, increased access to green spaces and funded projects that teach others how to grow vegetables. It's great to see how even modest amounts of funding can make such a difference to local communities, encourage sustainability and bring people together to share and improve our environment."

Katy Woodington, RWE Community Investment Lead, added: "The Norfolk Offshore Wind Farms Community Fund is about much more than financial support, it's about local empowerment. By listening to community voices and learning from the first round, we're making sure this Fund directly supports the ambitions and needs of Norfolk's residents."

Since launching in 2024, the Fund has already awarded grants to 11 community projects, supporting vibrant, resilient, and sustainable communities across Norfolk.

For a full list of awards and more details about the Norfolk Offshore Wind Farms Community Fund, visit the Norfolk Community Foundation website:

**Click here to visit the
Community Fund
Webpage**

<https://norfolkwind.me/CommunityFund>

Community Fund Focus

Eves Hill Veg Co, Aylsham

Community Liaison Officer Will Sealey writes about his visit to Eves Hill this summer.



In August, I had the pleasure of spending time at Eves Hill Veg Co., one of the very first groups to receive support from the Norfolk Offshore Wind Farms Community Fund, as part of the first Discovery Round of funding. Hannah and Tom, who lead the project, were welcoming hosts despite the blazing sunshine, showing our group around the garden and telling us all about their experience of developing this wonderful project.

Eves Hill Veg Co. is a community market garden in Aylsham, Norfolk, established in 2016. They began with just half an acre of land, but thanks to the Community Fund and other fundraising efforts, they have been able to double the site to a full acre. This expansion has created more space for food production and for local people to connect with the project.

Despite its modest size, the site is impressively productive. Fresh vegetables are supplied through their weekly veg bag scheme as well as to local restaurants, farm shops and bakeries. Alongside the harvest, Hannah and Tom prioritise soil health and biodiversity, encouraging pollinators, birds and wildlife to thrive on the site. Their approach makes Eves Hill much more than a market garden - it's a hub for sustainable living.

Eves Hill isn't just about growing food, it's also about growing people. They provide volunteering opportunities, accredited training and the only paid market gardening traineeship in East Anglia. Many who have started here have gone on to run their own gardens or join other community food projects. Practical support, such as help with travel or childcare, makes it possible for more people to take part.

I was also delighted to be presented with my own chilli plant to take home and it's now thriving on my windowsill. A cheerful reminder of a wonderful visit and the impact of community-led growing.

To find out more about the Eves Hill Veg Co project visit their website: <https://eveshillvegco.com/>





Inspiring the Future Workforce Year in Industry

We'd like to take a moment to say a huge thank you to last year's Year in Industry students, Nkosinathi 'Niko' Mwanza and Holly Walker. Both made a real impact during their time with us. Niko through his work with the Community Liaison team and Holly in the O&M team. Their hard work, enthusiasm and professionalism were greatly valued and we wish them the very best as they continue the next steps of their studies and careers.

At the same time, it's a pleasure to welcome our new Year in Industry student. Isabelle (Izzy) Harrison will be supporting the Environment and Onshore Consents workstream.

Izzy recently completed her Environmental Science degree at the University of Exeter and is finishing her Masters in Energy Engineering with Environmental Management at UEA. She is based in Sheringham and enjoys tennis, dog walks and reading.

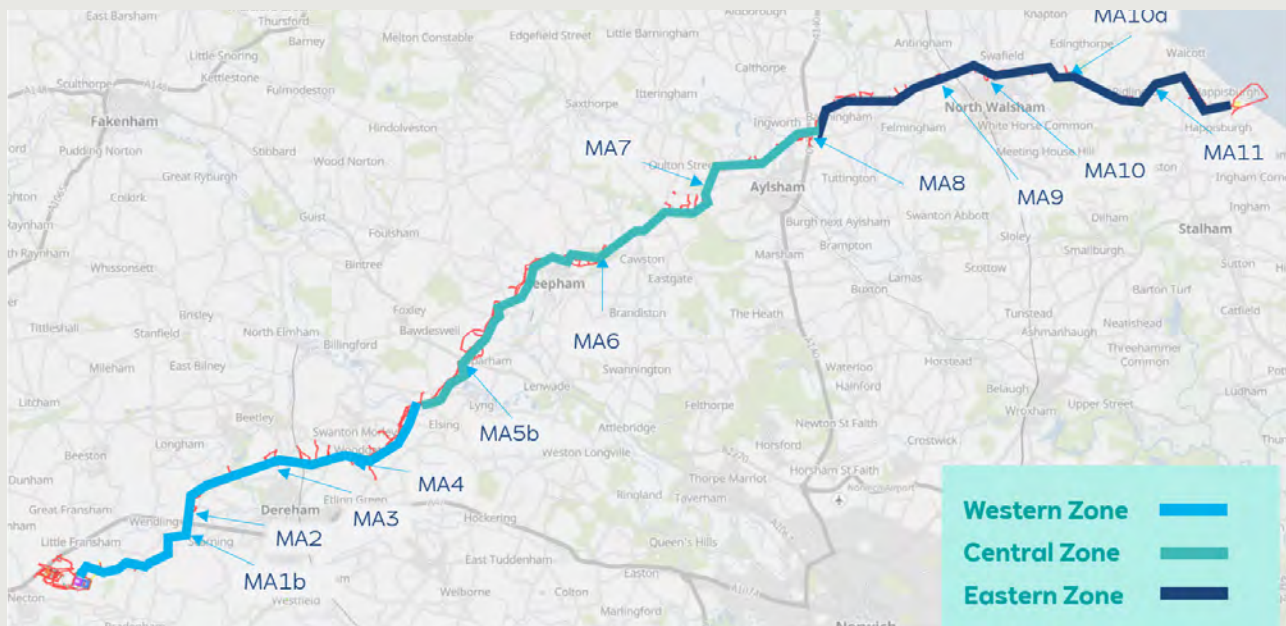
We're delighted to have them on board and look forward to the year ahead. Welcome to the team, Izzy!



As part of her first week on the job, Izzy recently visited Poppyland Radio in Northrepps near Cromer, an organisation that we enjoyed a brilliantly collaborative partnership with over the past few years. The Poppyland team have always been very supportive to our students and often provide broadcast and media experiences, helping to build confidence and communication skills. We share a similar commitment to inspiring the future workforce and creating learning opportunities. Thank you for having us, Poppyland! Find out more and listen live here: www.poppylandradio.co.uk

Construction

Progress on the ground



- » **Ducting almost complete and only two HDDs (Horizontal Drills) remain.**
- » **All access points have now been installed along entire cable route.**
- » **In August, the project surpassed 1 million working hours.**

Converter Stations

Construction & Cladding

Progress continues to go well at the construction site for the onshore converter stations near Necton. In the coming months, we will begin the next phase of works, the erection of the steel framework that will form the exterior of the converter station buildings. This marks an important milestone in the build programme, as the structures start to take shape above ground.

The design and colours for the converter station exteriors were selected following extensive public engagement, with local residents providing valuable input through surveys to help ensure the buildings blend as sensitively as possible with the surrounding landscape.

To share more information about the upcoming construction activities, expected timescales and what local residents can expect to see happening on site, we are hosting a Public Information session on **Thursday 23rd October 2025 at Necton Village Hall from 11:00 to 14:00.**

Members of the project team will be available to talk through the next phase of work and answer any questions. For those unable to attend during the day, we will also be at Scarning Village Hall from 16:30 to 19:00 the same day. All materials and plans displayed at the sessions will also be available to view on the project website following the events.



Our Work with Residents & Businesses

Delivering projects in a rural setting

As part of RWE's commitment to providing green, sustainable energy to the UK, we take our responsibilities to the local communities we work with very seriously. We believe true sustainability is about more than clean energy, it's also about supporting those directly impacted by the works, the communities living and working close to our project infrastructure and delivering our offshore wind projects.

This is why, on projects such as Vanguard West, Vanguard East and Boreas, where the cable route passes through numerous rural and agricultural holdings, we employ a team of Agricultural Liaison Officers (ALOs) to communicate with landowners and agree plans for land which may be affected.

ALOs working on the projects generally come from an agricultural background and therefore understand the concerns of tenants, graziers and farmers. Their main role is to ensure that project requirements are communicated to those directly impacted by the works, whilst acknowledging existing farming practices and the concerns of those managing the land, finding practical solutions that protect the landowner while also allowing the project to progress. We understand that these matters go beyond financial concerns and include recognising the value of landowners and the essential role that farming and agriculture play in the community.

On our projects, Agricultural Liaison Officers (ALOs) are one of the first people affected landowners meet. They play an important role, bridging the gap between those directly impacted by the projects and the contractors working on the ground, translating the requirements of both parties, striving to reach a mutually agreeable position whereby landowners feel heard and

construction can continue. The ALO plays a crucial role, before, during and after construction.

During construction, ALOs keep in regular contact, updating farmers on progress and making sure any concerns are quickly addressed. Once the work is finished, they oversee the reinstatement of the land so it is returned in good condition and ready to be farmed again.

Their job is to ensure the project moves forward smoothly, whilst giving landowners confidence that their concerns are heard at project level, at every step of the construction process.

Alongside the work of the Agricultural Liaison Officers, RWE and contractor teams follow strict biosecurity measures to protect farmland during construction. These steps are designed to prevent the spread of plant diseases and invasive species, which can cause real problems for farmers. In practice, this means making sure machinery is cleaned before it moves between fields, that soil from one field isn't taken to another and that any topsoil removed is carefully stored and then returned to the same place it came from. Even something as simple as dipping boots in disinfectant helps protect the health of the land.

These precautions might appear minor, but together they reassure farmers that their land is being cared for responsibly and with the long term in mind. Supporting local communities and protecting livelihoods during construction is an essential part of RWE's commitment to delivering truly sustainable energy for the future.



Keeping our Projects & Seas Safe

What are UXO investigations?

What is UXO?

UXO stands for Unexploded Ordnance. These are military munitions such as old bombs, mines or shells, that were dropped or discarded during past conflicts but never exploded. Because of the North Sea's extensive war history, it's not unusual for offshore development projects to come across items that might need further investigation. However, most of these objects usually turn out to be harmless debris such as scrap metal, fishing gear or natural seabed features.

Why is this relevant to these projects?

As part of preparations for the construction of the Vanguard West, East and Boreas Offshore Wind Farms off the Norfolk coast, RWE was granted licences to investigate 636 unidentified objects on the seabed within our consented project areas. These are sometimes referred to as Potential Unexploded Ordnance (pUXO), but in practice most prove to be harmless.

We have now completed the first phase of investigations for Vanguard West and the Vanguard East investigation is planned for 2026. Using Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), our team inspected hundreds of objects and identified six items of interest that will require further consideration.

What happens if UXOs are confirmed?

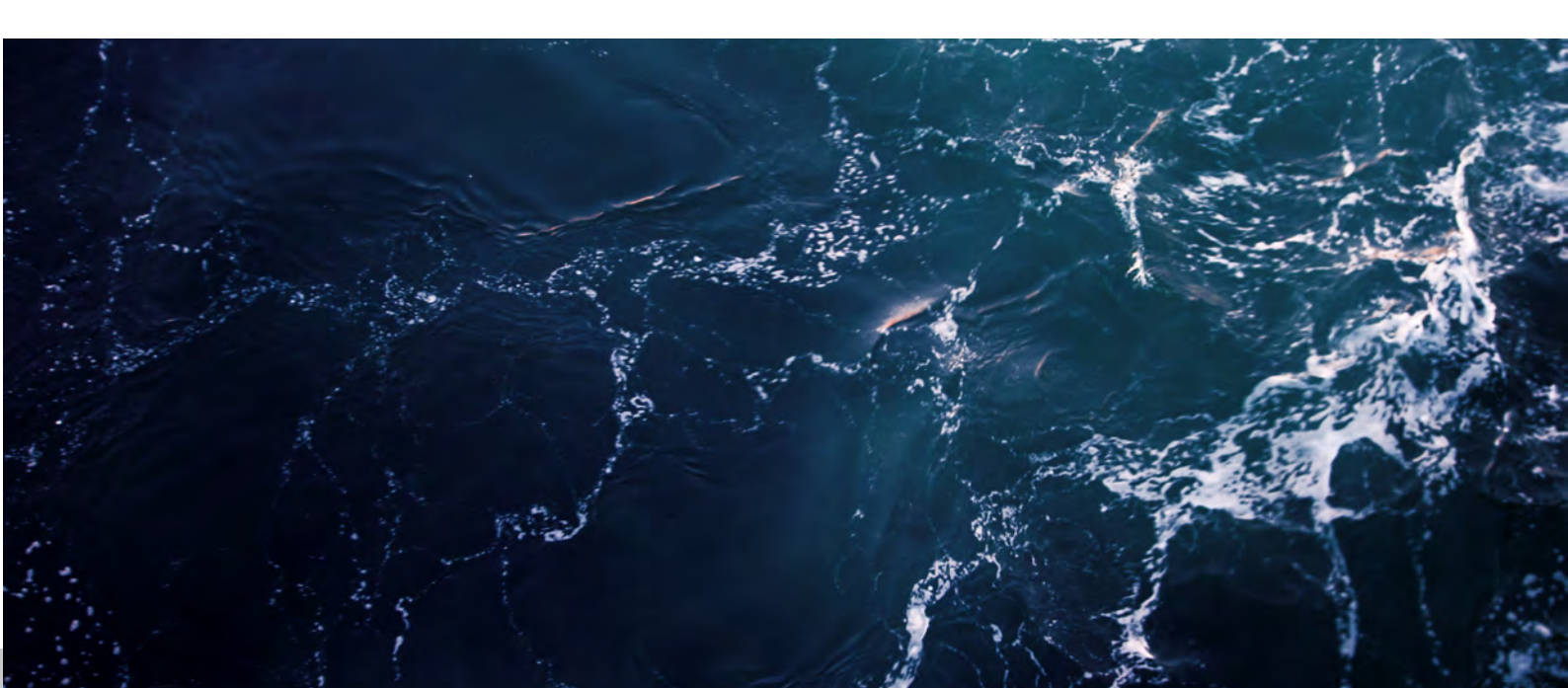
If any objects are confirmed as UXOs, our first approach will be to avoid them altogether by re-routing cables. If clearance is unavoidable, we will always use the least disruptive method available. RWE is committed to reducing noise in the marine environment where possible and by following the latest UK Government guidance (January, 2025) the preferred clearance technique is known as 'low order,' which disables the charge without a full detonation. Only if this is not possible would a controlled detonation be considered, and this would be subject to a separate marine licence application. We will now proceed with an application to clear the confirmed UXO which will take place in 2026.

Why are these investigations necessary?

The main reason for this work is safety. Before construction begins, we need to ensure that both the wind farm area and cable route are safe for everyone working at sea, as well as for other marine users such as fishing vessels. Clearing or avoiding UXOs today reduces the risk of accidental incidents in the future.

How will sensitive habitats be protected?

Some of the identified objects are located near sensitive and important marine habitats. Where feasible, cable routes will be adjusted to avoid these areas. If clearance cannot be avoided, strict safety and environmental procedures will be followed in line with all licensed marine development and construction activities. Every effort will be made to minimise potential impacts.



Public Information Events

Dates for your diary



Information and materials shared at the drop-in events are also published on the Vanguard West, East & Boreas website. You can visit the relevant page by clicking [HERE](#)

Information about upcoming works in your area

Public information drop-in events invite local residents and members of the public to come along and meet with the project team, who will be on hand to share and discuss the latest project updates. Key topics vary from area to area, depending on the nature of the construction works happening in the vicinity, but team members are always happy to discuss any aspect of the projects. Dates and locations for the next series of events can be found below.

Date & Time	Location	Key Topics	Poster
Thursday 23rd October 11:00-14:00	Necton Community Centre, Tuns Road PE37 8EH	Construction of converter stations.	Link
Thursday 23rd October 16:30-19:00	Scarning Village Hall Dereham Road Scarning NR19 2PF	Access point removal, reinstatement and abnormal loads.	Link

Following these events in October, we'll be hosting a new series of Public Information Days over the winter at locations along the onshore cable route. Venue arrangements are currently being finalised and full details will be shared in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on the project website for updates, or ensure you're subscribed to our e-newsletter by registering via this link: <https://norfolkwind.me/Enews>



Careers at RWE

Join the energy mix

RWE in the UK is full of opportunity. With various locations across the country, where exciting and inspiring work is happening – now is the time to join us to help shape the future of energy.

Ambitious goals, passion and dedication outline the way that we work. Across our companies in the UK, we strive for a common goal – to provide a sustainable future. Find out more about careers at RWE: uk.rwe.com/career

Suppliers

STEP Programme

Find out more about the STEP programme and our approach to offshore wind supplier engagement by registering on the STEP webpage: norfolkwind.me/STEP

Stay Connected

How to contact us



Visit the Norfolk Zone [website](#)



Would you prefer a video call with one of our project team? Book a 15 min slot [here](#)



Get project news straight into your inbox by signing up for e-newsletters [here](#)



Send us an email and one of the project team will respond to you: norfolk@rwe.com



Do you need to report something to us urgently? Call **0800 019 3517**

