

Vanguard West, East & Boreas Offshore Wind Farms

Newsletter

Project Update

Dear Neighbours,

As spring unfolds and we build towards another exciting summer on the Vanguard West, East & Boreas projects, we're pleased to share our latest newsletter with updates on construction progress and our work out and about in the community.

In this issue, you'll hear about us joining forces with friends and colleagues for a beach clean, our sponsorship and participation with Norwich Science Festival—where we had some great chats with curious young visitors—and an inside look at our Ogden Trust internship projects scheduled for summer 2025.

We'll also update you on the latest from the Community Fund and the awards presented back in February, as well as introducing the next installment in our Protecting Habitats series, this time focusing on the innovative technique of Horizontal Directional Drilling.

Finally, we'll bring you the latest on our construction progress and outline details for the upcoming series of Public Information drop-in events. These events are a fantastic chance to meet our team in person and learn more about the wind farm projects and any construction works planned in your area.

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement. We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to connecting with you in the coming months.

Best regards,

Denise Hone

Stakeholder Engagement Manager



Out & About In Norfolk



Beach Clean Team

In February we were delighted to join colleagues, friends and members of the public from Great Yarmouth and the surrounding area for a beach clean, organised by EastWind. In total we collectively removed over 93kg of rubbish from the beach - filling 10 bin bags! Fortunately we were blessed with some sunny bright weather which always makes the job a little easier.



RWE's beach clean team pictured above:

back (l-r): Niko Mwanza, Denise Hone, Will Sealey, Sam Cook. Front (l-r): Our special superstar helper Edith and Maria Carmona.



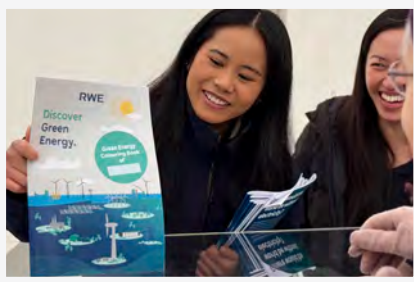
Inspiring the Future Workforce

March was an incredibly active month for our team, engaging directly with over 700 students from primary school to university level.

- Senior Stakeholder Manager Denise and Skills Liaison Officer Sam conducted mock interviews for Engineering undergraduates as part of UEA's Select Programme
- CLO Will, Year in Industry students Niko and Holly, and Sam represented us at the Festival of Knowledge, which welcomed over 6,000 high school students from across Norfolk
- The team delivered an Everfi primary school programme at Cobholm Primary Academy in Great Yarmouth
- Our 3DW programme was presented to college students at the Marine Sector Council conference, held at Norwich City Football Club



Out & About In Norfolk



Norwich Science Festival

The RWE team had a great time in the Explorium marquee during the Norwich Science Festival 2025! We were thrilled to meet thousands of visitors—from enthusiastic families to curious young explorers—all buzzing with energy and keen to learn about our work in renewables and wind power.

Our team loved sparking fun, hands-on chats about everything from offshore wind to cutting-edge clean tech.

It was amazing to see so many bright minds, both big and small, diving into our displays and joining in on the conversations about a greener future.

A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by. We're already excited for the next chance to mix science with fun and keep the conversation on sustainable energy rolling!

Mini COP 2025

We are very excited to announce our inaugural Mini COP event at this year's Royal Norfolk Show. Together with the RNAA and Norfolk primary schools, we will be launching an education programme for Years 4-6 aimed at driving sustainability forward in Norfolk schools and reducing carbon footprints across our communities. Watch this space for more information or look out for us at the Royal Norfolk Show in June!

Ogden Trust Coastal Energy Internship

For the seventh year running, the Norfolk projects will welcome Ogden Trust Coastal students for 20-day internships later this summer. This year, RWE has designed two exciting projects for those interested in renewables and wind energy—one focusing on sustainable ports and the other on engaging and inspiring the future wind energy workforce.

For more information about the internships, eligibility and how to apply, check out [The Ogden Trust website](#).



Community Fund Discovery Round 1 & Panel

The Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone Community Fund has awarded its first round of grants, supporting 11 local initiatives focused on sustainability and community resilience. This marks a significant milestone in the Fund’s mission to support local communities.

Launched in 2024, the Fund’s initial ‘Discovery Phase’ allocated £100,000 to projects tackling local challenges such as energy efficiency, environmental awareness and social wellbeing. Successful applicants include projects to install solar panels on community buildings in Swanton Morley and Bawdeswell, improve energy use in essential facilities like foodbanks and launch nature clubs to help children engage with their environment. Other funded initiatives support skills development and promote social inclusion.

The decision-making process is led by a panel (pictured on the right) of local residents, ensuring that funding aligns with community priorities. Panel member Rex Warner MBE emphasised the importance of local input: “The community panel gives us the opportunity to listen, understand challenges and opportunities in the area, and direct funding to projects that truly matter.”

In addition to awarding grants, the Discovery Phase has been vital in helping the panel, investment stewards Norfolk Community Foundation, and developer RWE understand what support is most needed in rural Norfolk. The findings from this round—along with insights gained through early dialogue and community workshops during the fund’s development—will now be used to shape the next phase. Future investments will continue to prioritise sustainability, wellbeing, and long-term local impact.

This first wave of funding reflects the potential for renewable energy developments to help deliver wider social and environmental benefits and transformative impact beyond clean electricity. By aligning investment with the values and needs of local people, the Fund is helping build stronger, more resilient communities that are actively shaping their future.

For more information about the first round fund recipients, and updates on future funding opportunities, please visit the [Norfolk Community Foundation website](#) and [register for project e-news](#).





Construction

Progress on the ground

The project construction team has been diligently working throughout the winter, making excellent progress on the construction of the onshore cable route.



Almost all of the temporary access points (example shown above) have been installed along the cable route. They will be in place until all cables are installed, then removed and land reinstated.



The weather over the winter months was not ideal for mainline ducting but the Murphy team continued work on Horizontal Directional Drills. The laydown area for an HDD is pictured above. You can read more about this process on page 8.

Reinstatement of Land

This photograph below, taken last year, shows an example of our reinstatement works completed along the cable route, this site located close to the onshore substation near Necton.

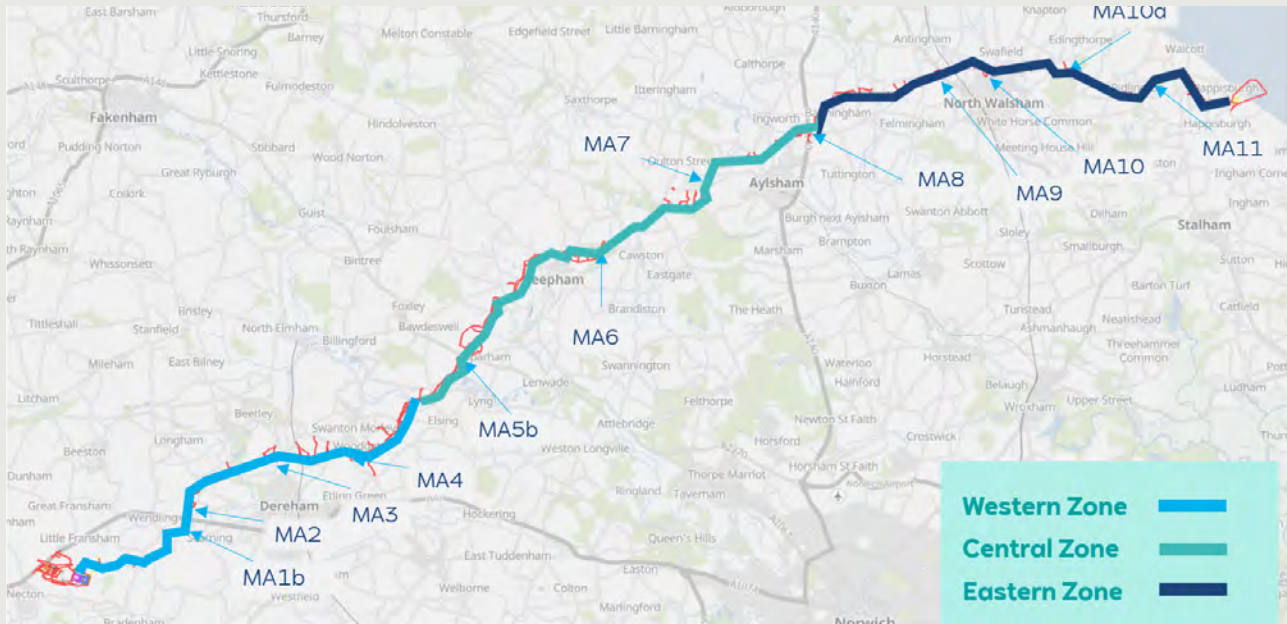
Murphy and RWE have received positive feedback from landowners, who have praised the condition of the reinstated land.

Although the land remains unusable for farmers until the cables are pulled through the ducts, non-food crops have been planted on the reinstated land to preserve soil conditions



Construction

Progress on the ground



Onshore Cable

- As of March 2025, 55% of Horizontal Directional Drillings (HDD) are now complete. 92% in western zone, 36% in central zone and 41% in eastern zone.
- 86% of all access points created for the project, with remaining 14% all in central and eastern zones. In February, 6 more were completed.
- 94% of devegetation works have been completed across the whole route. The remainder will coincide with planned road closures, further minimising disruption.

Onshore Substation

- Drainage, landscaping and fencing works continue at the Onshore Substation site at Necton.
- Main civils works are expected to begin in the next few months. The Community Liaison team will share more detailed information about these works in the next few weeks.
- Preparations are being made for lighting to be erected at the new compound in coming weeks. Careful management, in the form of positioning and timers, will minimise disturbance to nearby communities when dark.

The compound that is visible from the A47 has almost been fully demolished. The temporary facilities that were once here have been relocated to the end of the new permanent access road, near to where the converter halls will be sited.



This is the new construction compound - just north of the converter hall platforms and south of Necton Woods. Once all projects are completed, this land will be part of the extensive replanting programme around the buildings.





Protecting Habitats

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)

It has taken many years to finalise a strategy and a route for the onshore cabling aspects of the Vanguard West, East & Boreas projects. This is a process which requires careful planning and weighing up of the pros and cons of certain routes versus others.

Some of the main considerations, other than potential impacts on local communities caused by the construction process, are those regarding potential harm to wildlife and ecology, as there is often a requirement to fell trees and clear vegetation in order to install the cable.

While we have done as much as possible to avoid construction impacts on sensitive features or habitats (including micro-siting its works sites along the route to reduce the footprint on the landscape) we are also using the construction technique of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to install underground ducting, through which the cable can be pulled, to essentially 'bypass' these features.

More than 45 HDDs will be completed on this project, the longest of which extends over 400m in length below the ground. This drilling technology is similar to tunnelling but is used for the installation of much smaller utility ducting, rather than roads or rail lines. Like tunnelling though, it involves cutting a pathway through the ground using a rotating cutting head, in the case of HDD, fixed to the end of steel rods.

The cutting face is lubricated using a fluid known as bentonite. Bentonite is, importantly, an inert compound so it presents no risk of pollution to the environment or groundwater as part of the drilling process and is essential as an aid to the progress of the drilling head.

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is an excellent solution in scenarios where landscape features render open trenching for cable installation impractical or unfeasible. It enables the circumvention of environmentally sensitive areas, thereby minimising potential ecological impacts and eliminating the need for complex mitigation measures that would otherwise be necessary.

If there are other ecology topics you'd like us to cover in the next newsletter, please get in touch!



Protecting habitats

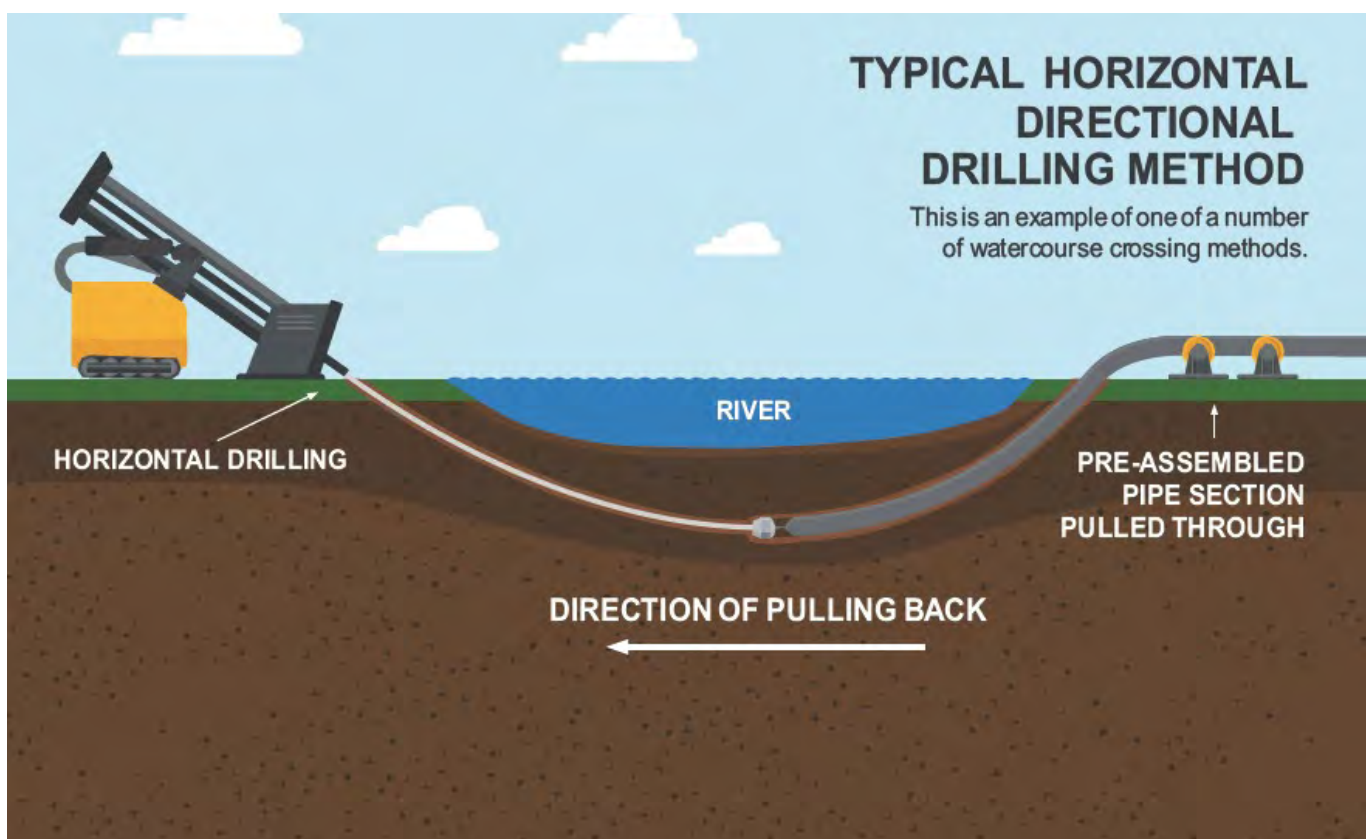
HDD

We have used HDD in numerous scenarios along the cable route to good effect. It has been used to drill under woodlands and trees occupied by bats at various locations (thus removing the need to fell any of these trees). In these cases, the HDD drill depth is designed to ensure no harm is caused to any of the tree roots.

HDD has also been used to drill beneath minor watercourses and major rivers that intersect the cable route, eliminating the need to place infrastructure within the water, as the cable passes several metres below the riverbed. All works, of course, have been carried out with the necessary consents granted by the relevant regulatory authorities.

This technique has also been used to duct the cable route beneath roads and hedgerows, thereby avoiding traffic disruption on key routes and the removal of vegetation that is important for bird populations and field enclosure. While this technique incurs a higher cost compared to open trenching, we consider it a worthwhile investment to complete the works in accordance with best practices and available technologies.

In areas of particularly rich biodiversity, such as the more rural parts of the Norfolk countryside through which the cable route passes, we consider it a necessary measure to mitigate potential impacts on the local environment and its surrounding communities.



Public Information Events

Dates for your diary



Information and materials shared at the drop-in events are also published on the Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone 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 Norfolk Zone 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
Tuesday 13th May 16:00-17:00	Swanton Morley Village Hall, Mann's Lane NR20 4NP	Cable ducting installation and general project updates.	Link
Tuesday 27th May 09:00-12:00	Antingham Village Hall Church Lane NR28 0NJ	Mainline ducting and general project updates.	Link
Tuesday 10th June 10:00-14:00	Witton & Ridlington Village Hall NR28 9TU	Mainline ducting and general project updates.	Link
Thursday 19th June 10:00-14:00	Swafeld Village Hall The Street, Swafeld NR28 0RJ	Mainline ducting and general project updates.	Link
Thursday 3rd July 16:00-19:00	Happisburgh Pavilion Blacksmiths Lane NR12 0QY	Landfall works, mainline ducting and general project progress.	Link
Wednesday 23rd July 16:00-19:00	Necton Community Centre, Tuns Road PE37 8EH	Progress at the onshore substation site and general project updates.	Link



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

Informing & Involving

Feedback

We are always open to suggestions for content in our future newsletters. Your feedback helps us ensure that we are providing the information that matters most to you. If there are specific topics you'd like us to cover, please don't hesitate to let us know. We value your input and look forward to making our newsletters more useful and engaging for everyone.

Stay Connected

New-look website

We're thrilled to unveil our new-look website, refreshed and ready for 2025! The updated site offers a more user-friendly experience, streamlined navigation, and enhanced features to keep you informed about our progress. Whether you're looking for detailed updates, the interactive map or information about events, our revamped website has everything you need in one place. Visit www.nowzone.co.uk

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