

Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is Vattenfall?

Vattenfall is a Swedish state owned energy company operating in northern Europe. We generate electricity, produce heat and distribute both through local networks. Vattenfall operates four offshore wind farms in UK waters and four onshore schemes. By 2017, including projects currently being built, we will be operating nearly 1GW of installed capacity (operational wind farms). Further information about Vattenfall can be found on our website, www.vattenfall.co.uk

2. What is Vattenfall proposing to do off the coast of Norfolk?

We are proposing to develop two new offshore wind farms in the North Sea, off the coast of Norfolk, which will have a combined target capacity of 3.6GW. The two separate wind farms are called Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas. We are currently working on Norfolk Vanguard which has a target capacity 1.8GW of renewable electricity, enough to meet the equivalent electricity demand of around 1.3 million UK households. The project website contains further information about these proposals.

The remaining capacity (1.8GW) will be developed at a later stage. This later project will be called Norfolk Boreas and will be the subject of a separate planning application. Further information on this will be announced in due course.

The proposed wind farms of Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas have been named after two ships commanded by Lord Nelson during his career. Born in Norfolk in 1758, Lord Nelson went on to become a leading figure in British naval history.

3. What is Vattenfall proposing to do onshore?

Vattenfall has accepted National Grid's connection offer for Norfolk Vanguard based on an onshore connection point at the existing 400kV Necton National Grid Substation.

Vattenfall is committed to using underground cables to bring power from the landfall to the existing grid network; this has the benefit of avoiding the landscape and visual impacts

associated with overhead lines. We are now consulting with communities on the best location for all the onshore infrastructure required; this includes the substation for Norfolk Vanguard, the cable route, the cable relay station (required if AC export cables are used) and landfall.

We will ensure that information relating to the grid connection is updated on the project website regularly.

4. What stage are you at?

In October 2016, we submitted a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion to the Planning Inspectorate. Norfolk Vanguard is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and so an EIA is required as part of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008. A scoping request seeks the views of a range of consultees about the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment, and the detail of any submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

We are also seeking the views of local people about both the onshore and offshore parts of our proposal. We are holding seven Public Information Days around Norfolk. More information about the programme can be viewed [here](#).

You can view the Norfolk Vanguard related Planning Inspectorate material [here](#).

5. How will local communities, landowners, businesses and interest groups be consulted about the wind farm and electricity transmission network proposals?

We will maintain a dialogue with communities throughout the development, construction and operation phases of our projects. Vattenfall is committed to early, effective and engaging communication with the local communities where we operate. Due to the size of this project, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). NSIPs include the kinds of large scale facilities that support the everyday life of the country, such as major transport routes, major gas pipelines, water reservoirs and sewage treatment plants, power stations, power lines and wind farms. They require development consent under formal and strict procedures outlined in The Planning Act 2008 and need to demonstrate extensive consultation with local communities and statutory organisations prior to submitting an application.

In October we are holding seven Public Information Days around Norfolk. More information about the engagement programme can be viewed [here](#).

6. I own land in one of the search areas, when will you speak to me?

If you need to speak to someone about land-related issues, Consents Solutions, land agents based in Norfolk, have been engaged to liaise with all landowners and occupiers to discuss route alignments, survey access, land use and landowner concerns and ultimately

agree consents for all land-based infrastructure once a preferred route is selected. The primary contact will be Bob McCarthy (bobmccarthy@consentssolutions.com, 07787 783517)

Ardent Management will complete a process of Land Referencing to identify all landowners and occupiers. Initial contact will be via letter with an accompanying form, it is important that landowners and occupiers provide details of all known interested parties to ensure they continue to be engaged and consulted throughout the project.

Landowner specific events will also be held in 2017 once preferred route alignment has been identified. Details of these events will be communicated to landowners to provide the opportunity to understand more about the project, participate in the consultation process and provide feedback.

7. If my land is affected what will be required?

At the landfall site on the coast, we will require an area for jointing sub-marine cables from the offshore generators to land cables. If we use AC export cables, a cable relay station will be required close to the landfall. A Norfolk Vanguard substation, close to the existing 400kV Necton National Grid Substation will also be required.

Cable easements from the coast to this substation will be needed for the underground cables.

Construction methodology is not known at this early stage, but more details will be released once a route is known and landowner discussions have taken place.

8. Will this project have an adverse impact on the local environment (on and offshore), including fishing, marine and maritime industries?

With appropriate siting and continued consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of offshore wind farms should have minimal impact on the local area. Any wind farm that receives consent will have gone through a rigorous planning procedure and in-depth consultation with interested bodies regarding potential impacts. Vattenfall is undertaking a number of environmental surveys of the marine wildlife in the wind farm area. These include bird and marine mammal surveys and seabed surveys of marine animals. We use this data to undertake environmental impact assessments to fully understand the effects of our project and any mitigation required. We will discuss the findings of these surveys when information from them is available.

9. How will this scheme benefit the Norfolk economy?

The industry trade body, RenewableUK, says that more than 70,000 jobs will be created in the UK renewables industry within the next decadeⁱ. Projects such as Norfolk Vanguard

will contribute to the growth of an economically important industry. We will be able to provide some detail about specific local benefits for Norfolk after completing our assessment of the impact of the wind farm on the local economy. We are convinced, based on our experience elsewhere, that Norfolk can expect significant benefit from this scheme.

Local businesses can register their interest in the scheme [here](#)

10. What will you offer on community benefit?

As a leading energy company, Vattenfall is guided by principles of sustainable development. This means we actively seek opportunities for our investments to create wider benefits and particularly to deliver solutions for people living in the areas we operate. Norfolk is a unique place with its own identity and priorities. We'd like the local experts, people who live, work and play here, to tell us what is important for Norfolk's future – its environment, people and economy. We are excited to begin a conversation with local people and stakeholders, which over the next months and years gives us a chance to explore together opportunities for bringing meaningful, lasting benefit to the local area.

11. The site has some fishing interests, as well as major shipping and ferry routes passing through or near to it. Will the wind farm force them to be moved?

In line with standard offshore practice, we are working on the presumption that vessels not involved in wind farm-related activities should remain 500m away from each turbine/work site during construction and commissioning. Once the cables are installed and any exclusion areas around hazards are removed, it is expected that fishing can continue within the area of the wind farm. With regard to shipping, the site has been selected to avoid potential conflicts with major shipping routes. We are undertaking extensive consultation as part of the development of this project and other projects in this part of the North Sea. Any mitigation required as a result of the development of this scheme will be discussed in detail with the relevant statutory authorities and other stakeholders during the development process.

ⁱ <http://www.renewableuk.com/en/news/press-releases.cfm/74-increase-in-uk-jobs-in-wind-and-marineenergy>