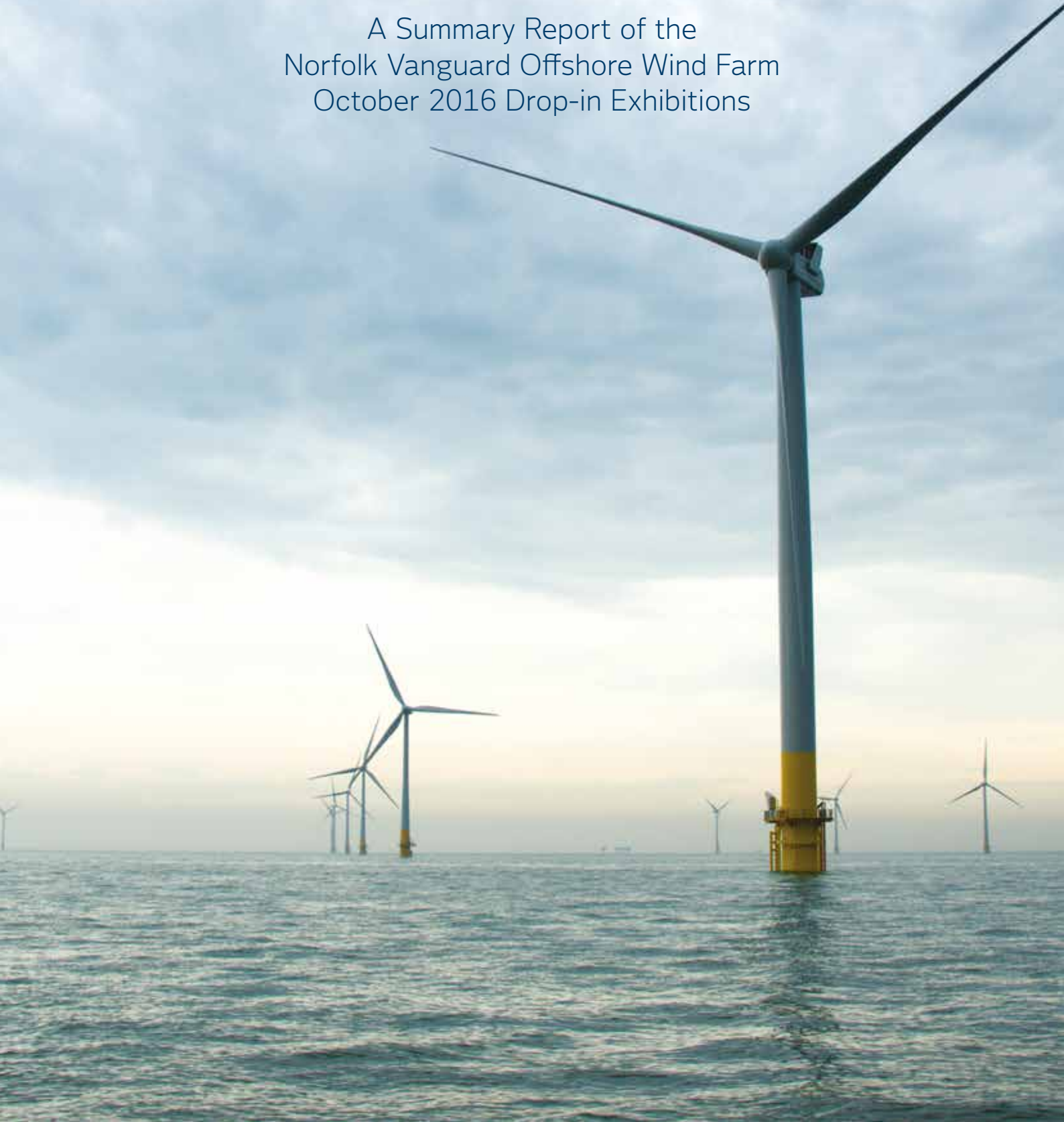




HEARING YOUR VIEWS

A Summary Report of the
Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm
October 2016 Drop-in Exhibitions

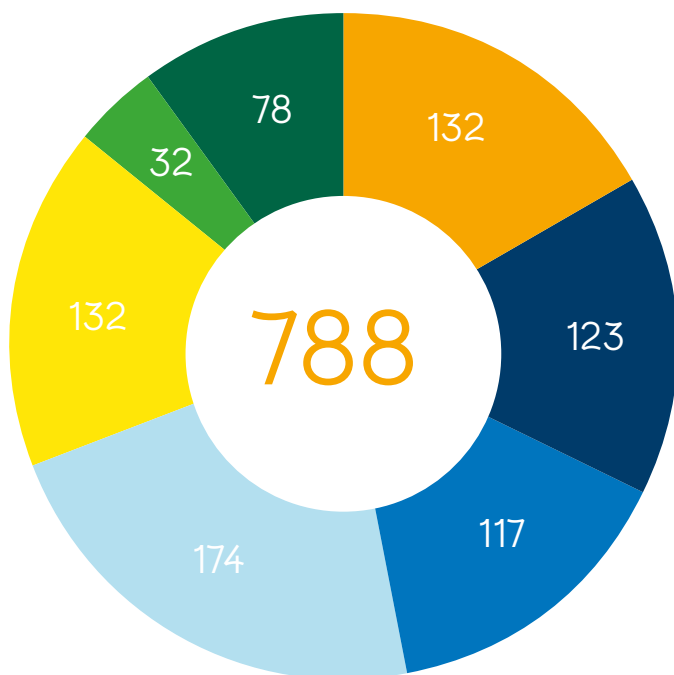


INTRODUCTION

Thank you to all those who came to meet us at drop-in events in October 2016 to find out about our proposals for Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm. We enjoyed the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and appreciate the time you spent talking to us, reflecting on the material presented, and giving us your feedback.

Drop-in event attendance

■ Aylsham
 ■ Happisburgh
 ■ Dereham
 ■ Necton
■ North Walsham
 ■ Great Yarmouth
 ■ Norwich



The graph above shows 788 people signed into the October Drop in Events.

Some 780 people came along, many stayed with us for an hour or more, reading, talking with us and writing comments. 105 people completed feedback forms – at the exhibitions, or returning them by freepost, or online. In addition many people made notes on flipchart paper at the event. As a result we have a wealth of insights, observations and opinions to work with. Whether enthusiastic about renewable energy generally or not, many of you provided valuable local knowledge to inform our early decision making. A report with all the feedback prompted by the first round of drop-ins is available at [link: bit.ly/NVdocs](http://bit.ly/NVdocs).

Most who answered our question on how they had heard about the drop-ins, referred to the newsletter delivered to over 35,500 households. We genuinely want you to help shape this project so please come back to the next round of events (see later) and encourage new people to come along as well.

WHY DROP-INS?

These informal, open-to-all events allowed us to introduce ourselves and the Norfolk Vanguard project at a very early stage in its development and begin to build relationships with people interested in the project who can help us shape it.

We presented information on:

- Vattenfall
- The Norfolk Vanguard project – capable of generating enough electricity for 1.3 Million homes/ year¹,
- The development consent process overseen by the Planning Inspectorate (PI), that all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects² must follow
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – a sequence of tasks designed to assess a project’s possible environmental, social and economic effects, determine how to avoid or reduce negative effects, and identify opportunities for positive impacts.
- Offshore and onshore development – finding the most appropriate locations for works.

Norfolk Vanguard team-members, including technical and environmental experts were on hand at the drop-in events to answer questions and explain the material, maps and early stage digital animation on display. We posed questions to encourage local participants to inform and influence our thinking. All the printed materials are available still [link: bit.ly/NVdocs](http://bit.ly/NVdocs) and it’s not too late to comment.

We are delighted with the feedback participants gave us. We received wide-ranging and detailed responses that our engineers and environmental consultants have used to shape the project design and the next phase of environmental assessment. At the same time the Planning Inspectorate coordinated responses to the same information as presented in our [Scoping Report: bit.ly/NVScoping](http://bit.ly/NVScoping) from consultees like Norfolk County Council, Parish Councils, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England and more than 20 others.

In the next pages, we give you a snapshot of the range of views and comments we gathered, both at the events, with comments written on flip charts, and from 105 completed feedback forms.

¹Number of homes equivalent: This is calculated using the most recent statistics from the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 4,155kWh: <http://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEExplained>

²<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

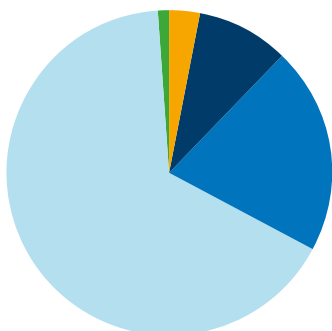
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

NOTE: THE DATA ILLUSTRATED IN THE FOLLOWING PIE CHARTS IS FROM 105 COMPLETED FEEDBACK FORMS.

From our conversations with people attending the drop-ins we detect sentiments similar to the majority of the UK³ population, namely a general support for home-grown, green energy and for offshore wind in particular.

How concerned are you about the effect of climate change / global warming on the lives of the next generation?

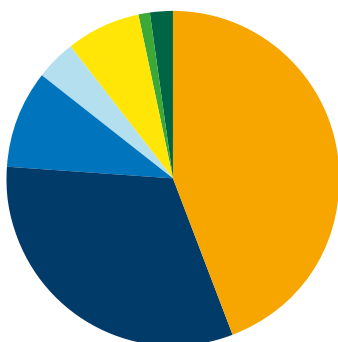
- 3% Not at all concerned
- 8% Not very concerned
- 22% Fairly concerned
- 65% Very concerned
- 0% Don't know
- 2% No response



Responses to the feedback forms support this, for example: of the people who responded to the question "to what extent do you agree or disagree it is important to develop the southern North Sea, to grow industries like renewable energy that bring local and national benefits?" just over three quarters declared themselves supportive or strongly supportive.

It is important to develop the southern North Sea, to grow industries like renewable energy that bring local and national benefits

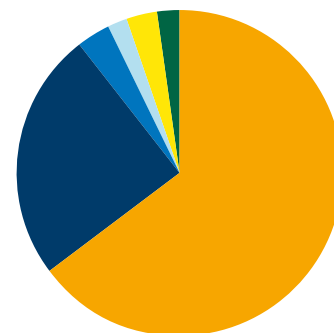
- 42% Strongly agree
- 33% Tend to agree
- 10% Neither agree or disagree
- 4% Tend to disagree
- 7% Strongly disagree
- 1% Don't know
- 3% No response



In clarifying their answers, we heard about people's expectations regarding the benefits of a project like Norfolk Vanguard, for example: **"This is an opportunity for Norfolk to place itself on the forefront of renewable energy."** **"Helps bring jobs, money etc into the area."**

Developing home-grown, affordable renewable energy is important to reduce our dependence on imported energy

- 64% Strongly agree
- 25% Tend to agree
- 3% Neither agree or disagree
- 2% Tend to disagree
- 3% Strongly disagree
- 0% Don't know
- 3% No response



"Renewables in North Sea is clean energy that also helps protect fish stocks....", Others expressed cautious support, for example **"We need to build a portfolio of renewable energy sources and decrease dependence on fossil fuels, and particularly gas, which is fast becoming our primary single source. I do have concerns about the impact on our sea life and would appreciate your application covering evidence into this impact and what you would do to mitigate."** While for others, concerns about the location and possible impact of onshore works is important **"...the countryside is slowly being eroded by the huge substations that have to be erected inland to support the proposed electricity thereby destroying many aspects of rural life"**.



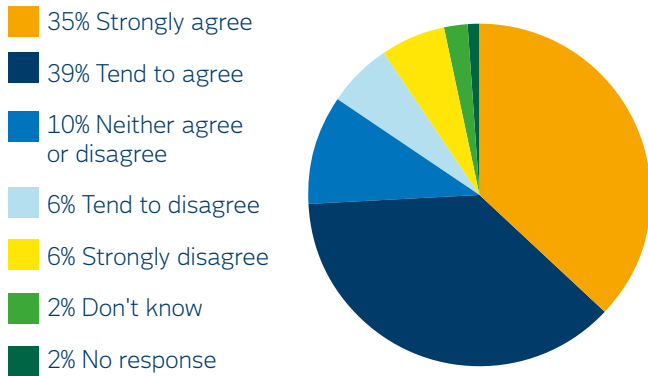
Aylsham 18th October 2016

³Dept. for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy "Energy and Climate Change Public Attitude Tracker. Wave 19" https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/563236/Summary_of_key_findings_BEIS_Public_Attitudes_Tracker_-_wave_19.pdf

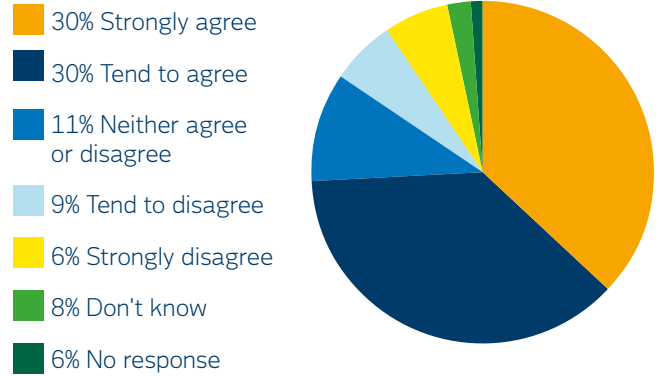
CONFIDENCE IN HOW WE DELIVER THE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT PROCESS

Participants expressed more caution about the process of consulting with local communities and stakeholders, and our delivery of the EIA. We hope that showing you, including at our next drop-ins in March, how we respond to the feedback we receive will raise confidence levels and encourage participation.

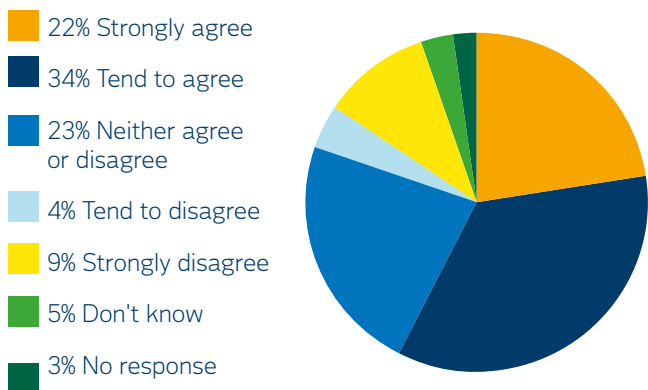
The Development Consent Process and timeline outlined provide ample opportunity for local people and stakeholders to help shape project proposals



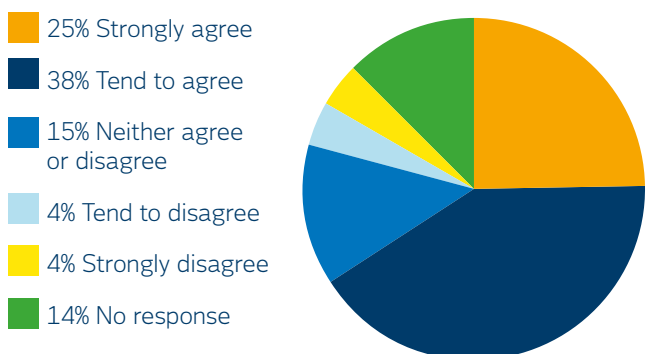
The correct combination of environmental, physical, technical, commercial and social factors are considered in the onshore site selection process



I am reassured that the Environmental Impact Assessments will lead to the best possible environmental solutions being developed for Norfolk Vanguard



The correct combination of environmental, physical, technical, commercial and social factors are considered in the offshore site selection process



THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

As far as the offshore element of the windfarm is concerned, participants expressed views and a desire to know about how the project might impact fish and fishing, migratory birds and sea mammals, as well as shipping.

Participants told us of their experience of coastal erosion issues all along the coast where cables might make landfall. Several wondered whether, in undertaking necessary works, there might be an opportunity for Vattenfall to contribute to efforts to defend against and/or mitigate for shoreline instability. For many, making landfall near Bacton, and locating any necessary infrastructure near existing industrial infrastructure seemed the best option.

Others expressed concern that landfall in this area would require offshore cables to transect the Marine Conservation Zone and potentially cause damage to the chalk reef. Several participants urged us to be aware of the remarkable prehistoric "Happisburgh footprint", recently encountered in coastal cliffs, towards the southern half of our search area. People reminded us too of the importance of tourism within the search area, and coastal zones in particular.

ONSHORE

Participants provided many comments regarding wildlife inland too, including valuable information about sensitive and ecologically significant habitats. People noted archaeological and heritage sites we should avoid impacting. Others, landowners and members of the farming community in particular, including some who have recently experienced working with other offshore wind developer(s), expressed concerns about ground conditions, matters relating to flooding and hydrology and the potential for disruption associated with burying cables underground. Valued amenities within the search area were highlighted, including paths, particular vistas and tranquil surroundings that people enjoy and want to protect.

Together, these contributions resulted in eleven pages of typed notes relating to constraints and opportunities highly relevant to our ongoing environmental assessments, and which inform our evolving design for the Norfolk Vanguard project.

EXPLORING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bringing value and opportunities to the area was a section of the drop-ins which raised considerable public response. Many ideas were put forward, a significant proportion relating to local education, skills, training, job prospects, raising aspirations, as here: ***“Opportunity for young people to be employed in a growth business and to bring benefits to our local community.”***

Other suggestions were about local services: ***“Support for initiatives that deal with rural isolation would be valuable - e.g. community transport, village hall amenities ...”*** ***“Could your cable network be added to in order to support broadband to the area?”*** and local infrastructure, such as help with specific local road access issues within the substation search area, or on a larger scale, bringing investment to one or more ports within Norfolk.



Ormonde offshore wind farm during construction



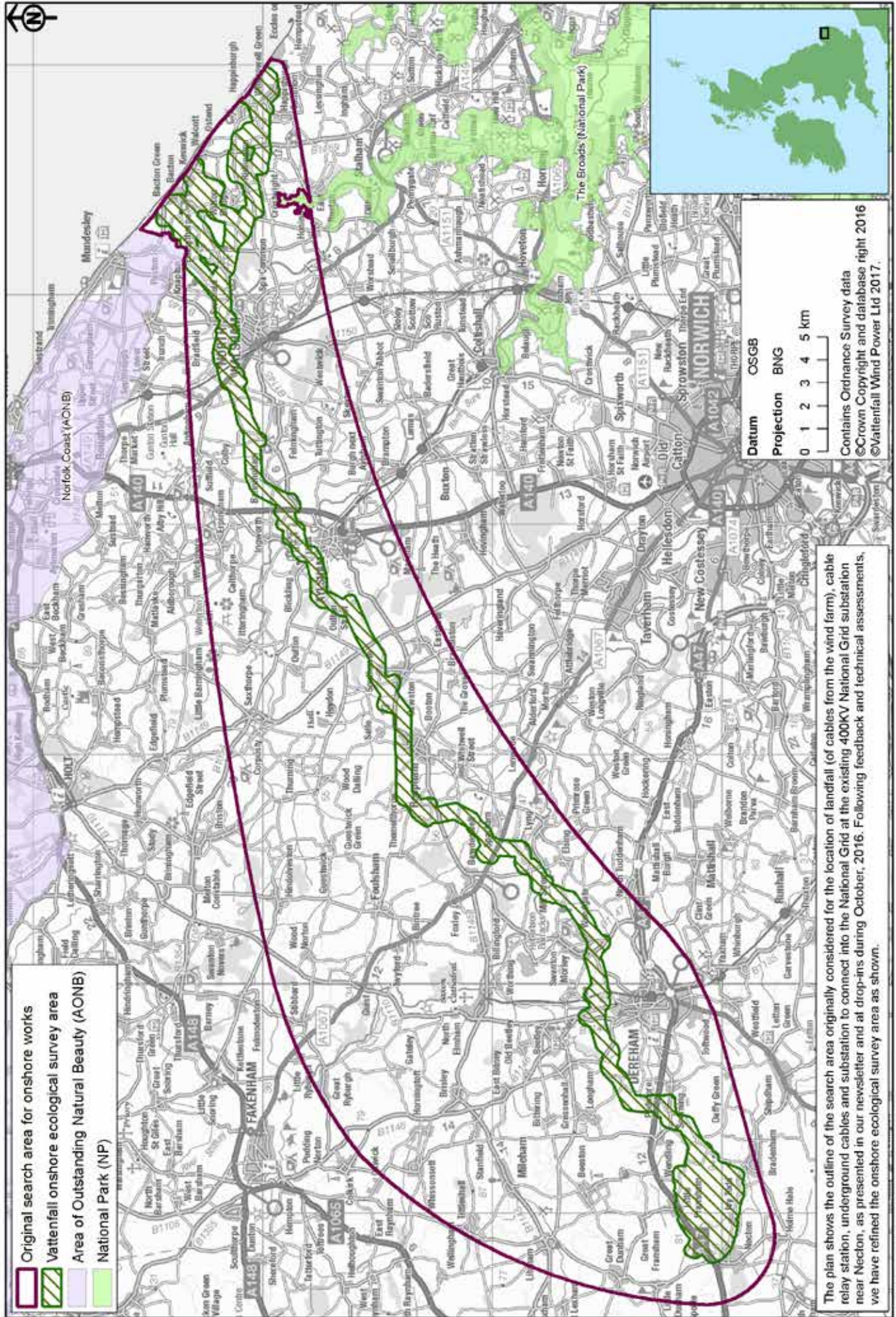
Mark, like all the staff working on the operations & maintenance of our Kent cluster of offshore wind farms, lives locally



Saltmarsh at the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm landfall immediately after cable laying 2009 - before



Saltmarsh at the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm landfall showing recovery 2012 - after



NEXT STEPS

A transcript of all feed-back form responses, and notes made by participants at the drop-in exhibitions is recorded in a full report of the drop-in events, available [link: bit.ly/NVdocs](http://bit.ly/NVdocs).

The contributions of local people and stakeholders have been considered in detail by our the Norfolk Vanguard project team.

This input has allowed us to identify a refined search area for environmental surveying to further investigate options where we propose to locate landfall (of cables from the wind farm), cable relay station, underground cables and substation to connect into the National Grid at the existing 400kV National Grid substation near Necton. This is shown on the map (p6).

The map also shows the original search area (red) we presented in our Scoping report and at the first round of drop-in events.

We are currently writing to those who own / occupy land within the revised search area to seek their permission to undertake non-intrusive surveys on their land. From February, you may see ecologists taking photographs and noting habitats and species. The assessments they make provide information relating to local biodiversity and help us become more aware of ecological constraints at an early stage, so that the development can be designed to limit or avoid harm to protected species such as newts, badgers, reptiles and birds. The information gained will be included in an Environmental Impact Assessment, a key component of the Norfolk Vanguard Development Consent Order Application.

A second round of drop-in exhibitions is being planned for March. We have brought these forward in response to the obvious local appetite for involvement in shaping the project. The purpose of these will be to:

- Explain in detail how the feedback received to date has helped us focus our investigations
- Respond to other concerns and ideas raised
- Seek views on the proposals and options we are currently investigating
- Introduce Norfolk Vanguard's sister project, Norfolk Boreas

At Drop-ins 2, we plan to present information in a greater variety of ways, reducing reliance on written material.

For example, we were asked about the potential visual impact and noise disturbance of key features of the onshore works. We are preparing materials that will illustrate the possible effects and ways they can be minimized.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please come and meet us at the next round of drop-ins. As well as seeking your feedback on our refined search area, and showing you more how your feedback has helped to shape that, we will respond to your specific requests for more information. For example, many asked about noise and vibration, and there will be more visual aids to help you understand what some of the works might look like, and techniques that can help minimize impacts.

Location	Date
Dereham	20 th March
Norwich	21 st March
Aylsham	22 nd March
Happisburgh	23 rd March
Necton	24 th March
North Walsham	25 th March
Great Yarmouth	31 st March
Bacton	1 st April

THANK YOU

Thank you again, for the welcome to your communities and your interest in the project. We look forward to working with you again over the coming months. Please remember that the Development Consent Order Application will not be submitted until 2018, so there still are plenty of opportunities for you to express your views.

EXPECTED TIMELINE

Scoping and early engagement including drop-ins for local people to meet the project team and share early feedback
October 2016

Reporting back to the community, and writing to landowners to gain pedestrian access for noting habitats and species.
January 2017

In response to significant local interest local drop-ins 2 are being brought forward to March.
March 2017

Develop and publish a Statement of Community Consultation (detailing how local communities will be involved in the formal or statutory consultation for the project)
Summer 2017

Vattenfall makes an application for Development Consent Order for the Norfolk Vanguard OWF
Summer 2018

Norfolk Vanguard team review feedback and determine refined onshore search areas for ecological surveying
November 2016 – January 2017

Deliver feedback and project update
May 2017

Consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which will outline the initial results of our research and assessments, as well as an updated project design. Further local drop-ins will be held at this stage.

Followed by feedback to communities and consultees
November 2017

Secretary of State decision on the application expected
Mid 2019