

A photograph of a seal resting on a sandy beach. The seal is the central focus, looking towards the camera. The background shows waves crashing onto the shore, creating a bokeh effect with bright, out-of-focus light spots. The overall scene is bright and natural.

Orsted

Community
Newsletter

February 2025

Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm

Introduction

Welcome to the latest community newsletter for Hornsea 3. As the world's largest offshore wind farm, with a capacity of 2.9 GW, Hornsea 3 will generate enough green energy to power more than 3 million UK homes, strengthening the UK's energy security. This £8.5 billion project will not only contribute to cleaner energy but also boost the local and national economy through investment in the supply chain and job creation.

In this edition, we're excited to share updates on abnormal load movements, our innovative Project Soil initiative, and our involvement with the Considerate Constructor Scheme. You'll also discover new ways to get involved in our community outreach programs and meet Oly Sherwood, one of our dedicated Health and Safety Apprentices.

Thank you for reading, and as always, feel free to reach out with any questions or feedback - we'd love to hear from you!

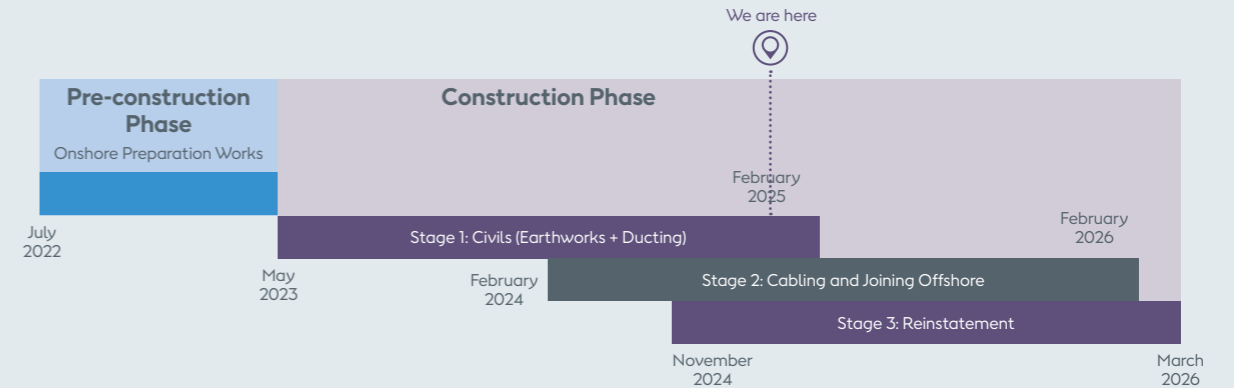


Jason Ledden
Senior Project Director,
Hornsea 3



Project updates

The timeline below provides an overview of where we are with our onshore cable installation works against the wider construction programme.



Cable Installation

Progress continues on the installation of underground ducting and cables for the Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm:

- Ducting:** Ducting is the process of installing protective plastic casings (ducts) underground to create a secure pathway for electrical cables. These ducts help shield the cables from external damage and reduce the risk of overheating by using a specialist insulating material. To install the ducting, trenches are excavated, the ducts are laid in place, and the trenches are then backfilled. So far, this work has been completed in 49 out of 72 zones.
- Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD):** HDD is a trenchless method used to install underground ducts with minimal surface disruption. This technique is particularly useful for placing ducting under roads, rivers, woodland, and railway lines, eliminating the need for open-trench excavation. In total, approximately 95 HDDs are planned for the project. To date, 15 complex (large-scale) HDDs and 50 simple (smaller-scale) HDDs have been completed along the route.
- Joint Bays:** Joint bays are underground enclosures where cable sections are connected (jointed) to form a continuous electrical circuit. They are typically positioned every 1 to 1.2 km,

depending on factors such as cable length, road access, topography, soil type, and other physical constraints like rivers and roads. These joint bays provide a controlled environment where specialist teams will securely connect and insulate the cables. So far, 24 joint bays have been completed.

Full Marks from the Considerate Construction Scheme

On 17 January, our site was visited by assessors from the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to raising standards and fostering responsible practices in construction. We are delighted to announce that our site achieved a perfect score of 45/45, reflecting excellence in the three key assessment areas: Respecting the Community, Caring for the Environment, and Valuing the Workforce.

The assessors praised our site's immaculate presentation, with regular litter picks, welfare checks, and signage promoting corporate values. Our strong community engagement was also highlighted, including goodwill works, collaboration with local schools and colleges, and clear updates through notice boards and social media.

This recognition is a testament to our team's hard work and dedication to excellence. Achieving full marks reinforces our commitment to setting industry-leading standards in construction.

Abnormal Load Movements

Some of the equipment required to construct Hornsea 3 is so heavy that transporting it requires specialised vehicles and police escorts. These movements, which require weeks of logistical planning, are known as 'abnormal loads.'

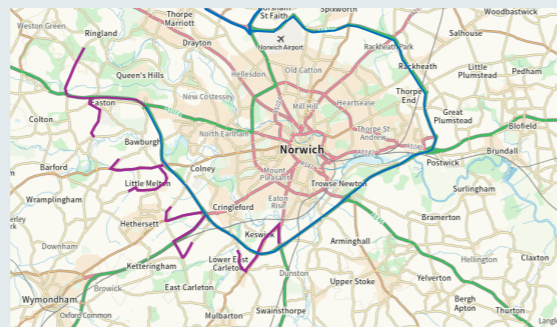
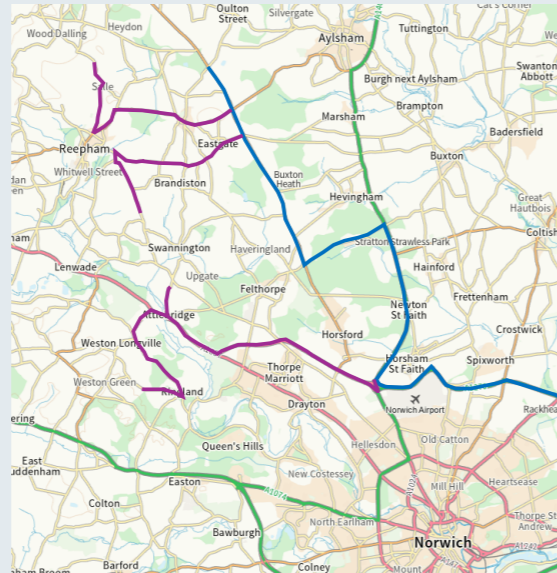
The first phase of these movements was from the Port of Boston, Lincolnshire to our compound in Oulton and is planned to finish by late 2025. The second phase began in July 2024 between our compound in Oulton to points along the cable route north of Heydon. These finished in January.

In February, the next phase started from our compound in Oulton to points along the cable route south of Heydon. These are expected to finish by the end of the year.

There will be approximately four movements over two days each week (Monday to Friday). However, the number of deliveries each day may vary. The routes have been carefully identified to avoid weak bridges and comply with height and other restrictions. Local councils, the police and highway authorities have agreed the routes are suitable.

The routes the abnormal loads will take are shown on the maps. The blue route is the main route, that includes sections of the A1270 and A47 around Norwich, which will be used throughout the whole period of movements. The purple routes will be used for shorter periods of time.

We work with our hauliers and Norfolk Police to minimise disruption to local communities. The police escort's assistance with traffic management has been indispensable. Although it is difficult to know exactly what time the abnormal loads will travel through certain places, we try to avoid rush hour and school drop-off and pick-up times. We will update stakeholders and local communities on these routes in due course.



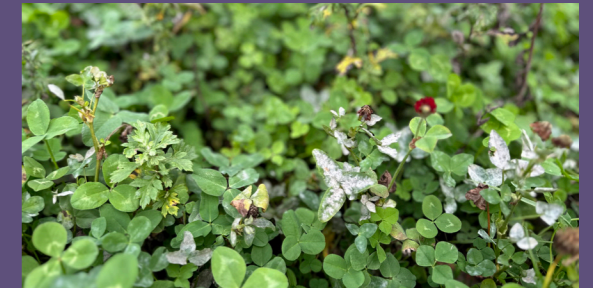
- Road to be used for abnormal load movements February - late 2025
- Roads to be used for shorter periods of time at points between February - late 2025

Project Soil

We are focused on making sure the construction of Hornsea 3 is done responsibly, in a way that enhances biodiversity.

Our initiative, Project Soil, focuses on managing soil displaced during the Hornsea 3 cable installation works to minimise our impact. We are committed to reinstatement – the process of restoring a construction site to its original condition after work is completed.

One key activity involves removing topsoil to lay the electricity cables. This soil is temporarily stored in bunds (banks or mounds of earth) along the construction strip during the installation phase and is returned during reinstatement. Traditionally, these bunds are planted with grass seed to prevent soil erosion caused by wind and weather.



Project Soil takes this a step further. By changing how these bunds are managed, we aim to preserve soil quality and promote biodiversity. Instead of grass seed, we use a diverse mix of species, including deep-rooting plants to improve soil structure, legumes to enrich nitrogen levels, and flowering species to attract pollinators. This approach not only prevents soil erosion but also enhances soil health and supports ecosystems.

The National Institute of Agricultural Biodiversity (NIAB), in partnership with the Morley Agricultural Foundation, has conducted trials to identify the most effective seed mixes. The trials, which began in May 2023, assess biodiversity, soil protection, and nutrient retention. Early results are being used to develop seasonal seed mixes, which have now been applied to nearly all 55 km of soil bunds along the Hornsea 3 cable route. Insights from these trials will help refine our methods for future projects.

We are also collaborating with our global sustainability team to use cutting-edge AI technology for monitoring insect numbers and species around the soil bunds. This allows us to quantify the impact of species-rich seed mixes on insect populations.

Through Project Soil, Ørsted is reinforcing its commitment to both renewable energy and sustainable practices, ensuring environmental and agricultural benefits during the construction of Hornsea 3.



Day in the life - Olly Sherwood, Health and Safety Apprentice

My name is Olly Sherwood, and I'm a 21-year-old Health and Safety apprentice with VolkerFitzpatrick – the Hornsea 3 principal contractor responsible for the installation of the onshore cables. As a lifelong Norfolk resident and Norwich City FC fan, I'm thrilled to be working on such a significant project like Hornsea 3 right in my back garden!

My mornings often start with updating our health and safety trackers, ensuring all close calls and incident data are logged accurately. This might sound routine, but it's vital for keeping our team informed and proactive. Once the administrative tasks are complete, I grab my gear and head out to the site.

On site, my job is all about people. I check in with the teams, making sure they have what they need to stay safe and comfortable while they're on site. Whether it's double-checking Personal Protection Equipment, reviewing site setups, or just having a chat, I enjoy being hands-on and contributing to a safer working environment.

One of the most exciting parts of my day is seeing the tangible progress we're making on the project. Knowing that we're part of creating a renewable energy source is incredibly rewarding.

Since transitioning to Health and Safety from an administrative role, I've been constantly learning, whether it's from shadowing experienced team members or tackling new challenges. This apprenticeship has shown me how valuable on-the-job learning can be, and I'm proud to be part of such a supportive and friendly team.

No two days are the same, and that's what keeps me passionate about what I do. Working on the Hornsea 3 project isn't just a job, it's a chance to grow, contribute, and make a real difference in my community.



Giving back to the community

Getting out in the community

Over the past few months, our team has continued getting out and about, engaging with residents, students, and organisations through various events.

Archaeology Event (21 November)

It was great to welcome nearly 300 people to our educational event at Cawston Village Hall where we showcased archaeological finds uncovered during the Hornsea 3 works. These exciting discoveries included prehistoric stone tools, Roman pottery and medieval metalwork. Visitors engaged with archaeologists, explored historical periods through interactive displays, and younger attendees from Reepham High and Cawston Primary School enjoyed hands-on activities like a simulated 'Dig Pit'. This was a fantastic and unique opportunity for us all to connect with Norfolk's rich history and learn about our past.



Careers Days at Local Schools (13 and 14 December)

Around 500 students from Years 7–12 joined us at Gresham College's career day where we showcased how our work combines technology, sustainability, and construction alongside other STEM-focused businesses. Students had the opportunity to explore the innovative aspects of Hornsea 3 and learn how renewable energy projects are shaping the future.

We also ran several workshops at Reepham High School, giving students the chance to learn about the project and explore careers in construction. The workshops included a Q&A session, where students could ask questions and gain valuable insights into the industry. We also conducted mock interviews to help students practice key professional skills and build confidence. In the evening, we joined the school's careers event, engaging with students of all ages and their parents to discuss opportunities and answer further questions about the project and construction careers.

Cawston Pop-Up Stand (4 December)

We were pleased to hold a pop-up stand at All Things Nice in Cawston to provide the local community with an accessible opportunity to learn more about the Hornsea 3 project. It was great to speak to visitors and answer their questions. We look forward to hosting more of these at other locations along the cable route so keep an eye out on the Hornsea 3 website for future pop-up stands.

Contact us

If you'd like to get in touch or follow the latest updates regarding Hornsea 3 and the wider Ørsted UK team, please visit our website or follow us on social media.



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