

A person is water skiing on a blue ocean, wearing a black helmet, a blue and black wetsuit, and a green and white life vest. They are holding an orange handle connected to a rope. In the background, several white offshore wind turbines are visible against a clear blue sky.

Ørsted

Community
Newsletter

November 2024

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 is set to play a key role in 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’ll provide updates on key project developments, including construction progress and the installation of the landfall cable. You’ll also learn about our community outreach efforts and meet one of our Onshore Cable Package Managers, Mel Vila Flores.

Thanks for reading and please do get in touch if you have any questions.

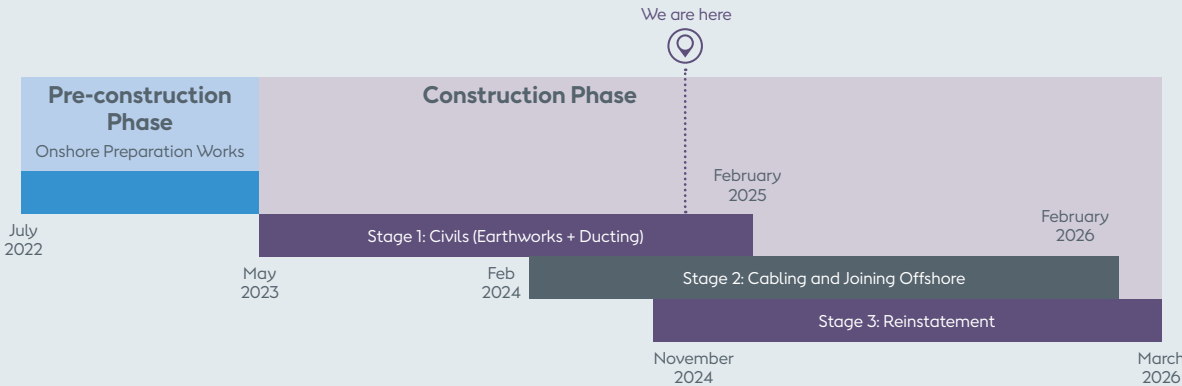


Jason Ledden
Senior Project Director,
Hornsea 3



Project updates

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



Since our August 2024 newsletter, we are pleased to announce that the reinstatement of land has commenced in the North Norfolk area. This important milestone marks the restoration of land following our onshore cable installation activities, as we fulfil our commitment to return the land to its original state. For example, when we excavate trenches to bury cables, we will cover them neatly with the original soil. We will replant vegetation, and restore everything to the way it was, removing any trace that we were ever there.

Meanwhile, we continue to make progress in the southern section of our onshore cable route by removing the top layer of soil in preparation for installing temporary access roads for our project vehicles. Our teams are working diligently to ensure safety and minimise disruption to the local community.

Landfall cable

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is playing a key role in the Hornsea 3 project, particularly at the landfall site in Weybourne, Norfolk, where the offshore cables connect to the onshore cables. HDD is a construction method that involves drilling tunnels under the ground or seabed, so that a duct and cable can be pulled through. The technique causes minimal surface disruption, making it ideal for sensitive areas like beaches or where sea defences are present.

HDD is being used to install the cable ducts that will house the cables that will carry electricity from the offshore wind farm to land. Due to challenging weather conditions this year, including over 70% weather-related downtime during August and September, only two of the four ducts are expected to be installed before Christmas. While a winter shutdown is being considered, some onshore activities will continue during this period, and work on the remaining two HDD ducts is expected to resume in early 2025.

Ørsted Secures Contracts for Hornsea 3 and Hornsea 4 Offshore Wind Farms in UK

Ørsted has won two major contracts as part of the country's latest renewable energy initiative. The UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) awarded Ørsted contracts for difference (CfDs) for a 1,080 MW share of the Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm, as well as 2,400 MW for the Hornsea 4 Offshore Wind Farm.

CfD auctions are the UK government's scheme to incentivise investments in renewable energy. CfDs are 15-year contracts between the government and renewable energy developers that sets a guaranteed price per megawatt hour of electricity generated. The contract protects consumers and investors from market volatility and price fluctuations for electricity.



Project Collaboration Update

Our team has been collaborating closely with RWE, the developer of the Vanguard East and West offshore wind farms, particularly in the Reepham and Cawston regions where our cable routes intersect. We have regular meetings to share information and updates on each other's projects. We are working together diligently to try to reduce the impact of our work on the local community and environment.

In September our Community Relations Team was pleased to attend RWE's community event at Cawston Village Hall. In October, we also had a productive joint meeting with both RWE and Equinor, another developer delivering Dogger Bank Wind Farm, to continue building strong partnerships.



Community Fund

The Hornsea 3 Community Fund, which is a fundamental part of Ørsted's community engagement framework, offers £700,000 annually for projects in Norfolk and Suffolk. Administered by GrantScape, a grant-making charity that specialises in administering community funds, the program supports local initiatives focused on environmental, social, and community development. The fund is split into three pots: the main Community Fund of £500,000 (awarded through two funding rounds each year), an annual Skills Fund of £100,000, and an annual Legacy Fund of £100,000.

As part of the first round of funding, the Hornsea 3 Community Fund has provided support to several local organisations, such as Marine and Wildlife Rescue, which received £2,180 for its Seal Pup Coastal Welfare Monitoring Project.

This funding will assist the group in carrying out essential winter checks on grey seal pups along the Norfolk coast. Dan Goldsmith, Chairman of Marine & Wildlife Rescue, said: "We are extremely grateful and incredibly pleased to receive the grant to enable us to assist with vital winter checks for grey seal pups along the coast in Norfolk".

Skills Fund

The Hornsea 3 Community Fund recently announced its first Skills Fund grants, which were awarded to six organisations in Norfolk and Suffolk to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and training. Projects funded include coding and robotics sessions, football-themed maths festivals, and conservation awareness programs. Successful applicants, such as Norwich City Community Sports Foundation and Crea Norfolk CIC will deliver engaging educational activities to inspire young people.



Legacy Fund

The Legacy Fund specifically focuses on supporting one capital green project each year with an allocation of £100,000. It prioritises sustainability by funding initiatives that deliver positive environmental impacts and promote "Inspired by Green" practices. This may include efforts in carbon reduction or enhancing local biodiversity. The goal is to leave a lasting benefit for the community while promoting environmental responsibility. The next round of applications is open until 27 November 2024, with funding decisions expected in March 2025.

For more information on eligibility and application criteria, visit GrantScape's website: <https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/hornsea-3-community-fund>

Day in the life – Mel Vila Flores

My name is Mel, and I am the Onshore Cable Package Manager for Hornsea 3 offshore wind farm. I have been with Ørsted for four years, contributing to various offshore wind projects both in the UK and internationally. With over 13 years of experience in the offshore wind industry, I bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to my role.

On Hornsea 3, I am responsible for the installation of the 53km of onshore cables that are necessary to transfer the electricity generated offshore to the National Grid.

My role often involves extensive travel to meet with contractors, stakeholders, and internal colleagues who are instrumental in delivering this project. I take great pleasure in visiting our sites to witness the progress and engage with the teams constructing the project. The size and scale of working on what will be the largest offshore wind farm in the world, producing much needed green energy, fills everyone involved with the project with immense pride.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and taking long walks with my dog. During the summer holidays, I love travelling around the UK, Europe, and beyond.



Giving back to the community

Local school engagement

We are committed to engaging with our local community, especially with young people. Recent events that we have hosted include a career day at Reepham High School on 13 November, where we connected with students and shared insights about the exciting opportunities within the renewable energy sector. Additionally, we participated in Gresham's Careers Day on 14 November, providing valuable information and guidance to students exploring their future career paths.

Ørsted charity drive for Cawston Village Hall's Christmas Fair

Ørsted recently held a charity drive to support families and individuals facing financial insecurity in the Norfolk community. The drive received overwhelming support with donations including children's toys, canned food, rice, pasta, beans, art supplies, toiletries, blankets, towels, and even pet food. The donations were delivered to the Cawston Village Hall on 2 November, and we hope the support brings relief to families and individuals in the local area.



Upcoming events

Showcasing Norfolk's past

We are excited to invite you to an event that we are hosting to showcase the archaeology and historical artefacts that have been discovered as part of the onshore cable installation works for Hornsea 3. Norfolk is rich in history and the items we have found during the installation of the project infrastructure has helped provide a deeper understanding of our past and how our ancestors lived in the local area. We wanted to take this opportunity to share these findings and offer the community an insight into the fascinating world of archaeology.

The event will be held on 21 November from 1pm – 6:30pm at Cawston Village Hall, High Street, Cawston NR10 4BW. We hope to see you there!

Pop-up stand

Getting out into local communities is very important to us, so we're hosting another pop-up stand to give people the opportunity to come and talk to us about Hornsea 3. From 11am – 2pm on 4 December, we will be at All Things Nice in Cawston, to talk to you about the project and answer any questions you may have.

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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