



Community newsletter

Issue 4 | Construction newsletter | July 2016

Galoper Offshore Wind Farm begins to take shape



Welcome to our fourth community newsletter for Galoper Wind Farm Ltd (GWFL). The offshore wind farm continues to progress well and our new construction coordination base is now open in Lowestoft. We are delighted to hear about the projects our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty fund is supporting and we

are very much looking forward to receiving applications for the Leiston and Sizewell community fund which will provide another £85,000 to initiatives in the local area.

More information on both of these funds is inside. Finally, the Galoper team is gearing up for our East Anglian Air Ambulance sportive, which we hope will be a great event for a great cause.

We hope you find this newsletter a useful update. As always, if you have any queries at all please get in touch with the team using the contact details on the back page.

Toby Edmonds,
GWFL Project Director



East Anglian
Air Ambulance

Galoper Sportive! Cycle ride and walk to raise money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance

The Galoper project team will be raising money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, the 365-day-a-year helicopter emergency medical service covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Around 60 members of the Galoper team, including project partners and contractors, will be cycling 60 miles or walking 18 miles along the east coast on 20th July. As well as enjoying some stunning scenery the group will be rewarded with a well-earned BBQ when they arrive at the wind farm construction coordination base in Lowestoft, the final stop for the charity sportive.

Whether cycling or walking, the team are hoping for good weather on the Suffolk coast and to raise lots of money for this excellent cause. You can donate via the Just Giving page:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/GaloperWindFarm

Find out more

Friday 22nd July 10am – 2pm
Leiston Library, Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER



Galopper base opens for business in Lowestoft

Galopper's new Offshore Construction Coordination Base (OCCB) officially opened at the OGN facility at the Associated British Ports base in Lowestoft in June and is set to be a very busy project 'hub' throughout the construction of the wind farm.

We talked to Andy Mee (pictured right in the photos below), Galopper's Offshore Site Manager, to find out a bit more about his role and about what the OCCB means for Lowestoft.

Q. Can you tell us what is the OCCB is for?

A. The base is where the management and coordination of all the offshore works associated with the wind farm takes place. From here, we look after all the vessels working offshore and the transfer of personnel to and from the wind farm site during construction, we issue permits to work out at the site and we make sure all activities are safe. Our emergency response teams are here. It's also our marine coordination centre, actively tracking all the vessels 24/7 via radio communications. We will be here until the wind farm commences operations in March 2018, and then we'll return the base to its original condition.

Q. How many Galopper team members are based at the OCCB?

A. For now, there's six of us, but this will grow steadily throughout the rest of 2016 as the construction ramps up and we get ready for a very busy 2017. We anticipate by then we'll have 12 to 15 Galopper personnel here, as well as a team of support staff bringing us to 40 or 50 in total. Next year, the office facilities at the base will be used by our various project contractors as well, so there could be around 150 staff here in total. The base will also be used as a transit port to the wind farm site with personnel going offshore on vessels and then returning here in the evening. When that starts, we could have up to 200 people moving through the site on a daily basis.

Q. Many young people in the area might be keen to get into the renewables sector - would you have any advice for them?

A. There's some fantastic resources out there for young people including the recently launched Icanbea website (www.icanbea.org) which we have a profile on. There's lots of useful information about careers in a range of sectors. Also, I'm delighted to say that we have welcomed two local Lowestoft College students, Felicity and Joel, to the OCCB as part of our first ever Galopper Internship run in partnership with our main contractor, James Fisher. Galopper and James Fisher will each host one of the students as part of the East Coast Energy Internship program, a partnership between The Ogden Trust, The Royal Academy of Engineering and Suffolk County Council in association with Waveney District Council.

Q. What does the base mean for the local area in general?

A. With the sheer number of personnel that are going to be working at the base or transiting through it out to the wind farm, it can only be positive for businesses in Lowestoft and the surrounding area. We will be using local accommodation, the shops and restaurants, and public transport. I expect the base being here will bring a good boost to the town's economy, with potentially up to 200 people a day using local services.





Offshore activity – the latest

Following initial investigations, we have disposed of a number of unexploded ordnance on the seabed, which you can read about to the right. We have opened our Offshore Construction Coordination Base in Lowestoft and our key personnel are now in place to manage and support the offshore construction process. Soon we will be starting to install the cables that bring the energy generated by the wind farm to the shore, and work will start on the turbine foundations in August.

Wartime ordnance disposal at Galloper

Last month, the Galloper team began a programme of disposal of items identified by specialists as unexploded wartime ordnance, found on the seabed where the Galloper Wind Farm will be built. The bombs were identified between four and 26 nautical miles off the coast during surveys undertaken ahead of the offshore construction starting this summer.

Galloper's Project Director, Toby Edmonds, said: "Finding wartime ordnance is not a surprise given the history of the area we are working in. Although we are here to build the wind farm, we also support the removal of wartime ordnance we find."

Q. What sort of activities do you expect to be happening day to day?

A. We will certainly see a large number of crew transfer vessels going out to the wind farm site – we have capacity for up to 16 vessels here. They will be coming and going on a daily basis, travelling out early in the morning at around 7am and returning late in the evening, close to 7pm. What people won't see are large cranes or any HGVs.

Q. How long have you been involved with the Galloper project?

A. I've been on the Galloper team since September 2015 and have been gearing up for the opening of the base and the construction kick-off. Before that, I worked on the Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm in north Wales, which is the second largest operating offshore wind farm in the world and another fantastic project that RWE constructed on behalf of that project's partners. I've also worked on Greater Gabbard, which Galloper is an extension to.

Q. Galloper has a Safety First ethos – how does that work in practice?

A. All activity is very well planned and coordinated as you would expect. Our day begins with an 8.30am call with all our vessels offshore to get an update on what's happened in the last 24 hours and to make plans for the next 24 including discussing any Health and Safety matters. Then there's a further call at 11am. Anyone working for the project has a Site Safety Induction. In fact our focus isn't just on safety but also the wellbeing and general fitness of our team. Later in the year we will even have our 'fitness pod' installed, which people on base can use to check their weight, height, blood pressure and cholesterol!

Q. Finally, talking of fitness, how is the base getting involved in the Galloper Sportive at the end of July?

A. The base will be used for the grand finale. We'll be welcoming all the cyclists and walkers at the end of their long journeys. I expect they'll be grateful of our brand new shower facilities by then!

For information on jobs available at the base please visit: www.galloperwindfarm.com/procurement-jobs/jobs

This page will be kept updated as opportunities become available.

Wind farm construction update: onshore

Since our last update, the onshore construction work has continued at a fast pace. On Sizewell beach we have completed the two drills from the land to the beach and inserted a duct pipe into each drill hole ready for two offshore cables to be installed into the pipes. The beach has been restored to its original condition but will be excavated again to allow the first of the two offshore cables to be delivered by sea and pulled through one of the pipes to the field above. The cabling activity at the beach will be very visible for a short period during August, as we use a large vessel close to shore to support the installation. As usual, whilst we carry out our work the beach will remain open and the single designated construction area will be clearly signposted and secured.



After this operation, the beach will be restored. The next excavation will be in 2017 to install the final offshore export cable. We would like to thank all the local residents and beach users who have been fantastic in understanding the difficulty in working in such an environment and helping us achieve the crucial part of the works.

At the onshore construction site the civil engineering works are, despite the very wet weather, well established and getting ready for the installation of the electrical equipment that will enable the Galloper Wind Farm to be connected to the UK national grid system.

Normal working hours will be 7am to 7pm, from Monday to Saturday, for the majority of the 18 month construction period, however we will be applying to Suffolk Coastal District Council for an extension to the working hours. This is likely to include a request for 24/7 working from approximately 19th August to 27th August, and Sunday working throughout August and part of September. The extension, if granted, will allow flexibility during this intense and important project period, particularly around the cable installation, which, due to the nature of the work, has to be undertaken when weather and tidal conditions are calm.



Getting connected

Work is well underway to connect the wind farm to the national grid. National Grid's contractor's cabins are in place on the substation site and a trackway to one of the overhead line pylons will shortly be installed. From the middle of this month, scaffolding will be erected over the Sandy Lane bridleway to support the lowering of the existing overhead lines while modifications are made to one of the pylons to provide a connection to the UK 400kV network. Following the modifications, the overhead lines will be raised back into position. This work will not affect Sizewell Gap and there are no planned power outages for consumers.



Exciting progress with Galloper Wind Farm Fund projects

We are pleased to provide an update on progress made so far with the first projects to benefit from the £187,000 Galloper Wind Farm Fund (GWFF).

Five local projects were selected by the panel of representatives including Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Leiston Town Council, as announced in our last newsletter.

The GWFF supports projects that contribute to the appearance, setting, conservation, amenity, accessibility and enjoyment of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the area defined as within a 5km radius of Sizewell (the location of the Galloper substation).

Two projects are already making early progress thanks to the Fund - the Sensory Garden at Leiston Abbey and the Thorpeness Heritage Walk. You can read more about the Sensory Garden below.



Sensory Garden, Leiston Abbey

Jonathan Hodgson of the Pro Corda Trust says:

“In collaboration with local leading garden designer and landscaper Frederic Whyte and Leiston Abbey, we developed the idea of creating a garden at the Abbey that could double up as a music performance space and a sensory retreat for our young people with additional needs - especially those with autism - but that also complements the heritage and history of the Abbey and its place within Suffolk.

Frederic has designed a space which encapsulated all of these aspects using Suffolk crafts and materials and it appeared at this year's Chelsea Flower Show (and on the BBC!). The garden (pictured) included trees and plants native to the UK, sensory features such as a gentle water feature, subtle hues in the flowers and flint work at the rear, and was created to stimulate but not over-stimulate.

The GWFF has contributed to the trees, which have now been re-planted at Leiston Abbey. We are very grateful to Galloper for helping to make this possible.”

Applications open for £85,000 Leiston and Sizewell Community Fund

Applications are invited by EDF Energy and Galloper Wind Farm Ltd for an additional community fund of £85,000 which will be awarded over a seven year period.

The fund, which is administered by EDF Energy's Sizewell B power station on behalf of Galloper Wind Farm, focuses on the Leiston and Sizewell areas and will consider applications from local groups and organisations. Awards will be allocated by a committee of representatives from Sizewell B, Galloper and Community Action Suffolk.

Christine Abraham Director of Community Services from Community Action Suffolk said:

“The announcement of this new grant programme is fantastic news for local community groups and organisations in the Leiston area. There is already inspiring work happening in and around the town, and I look forward to seeing the range of new activities that will be delivered with the support of this funding.”

Find out about the criteria for the fund and how to apply by going to the news section of our website, where you can also download an application form: www.galloperwindfarm.com/news



Galopper diary update

May

- Community drop-in sessions and Local Liaison Committee meeting held
- Councillor Richard Smith visited the onshore site

May/June

- Onshore substation structure takes shape and beach works progress
- Offshore Construction Coordination Base office opens in Lowestoft



July

- Project team takes part in the East Anglian Air Ambulance Galopper Sportive
- Galopper welcomes its first interns to the Offshore Construction Coordination Base as part of the East Coast Energy Internship scheme

Information stand at Leiston Library



📅 Friday 22nd July, 10am – 2pm

📍 Leiston Library, Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER

We look forward to meeting you.

Get in touch

This newsletter is the fourth of our regular construction updates for the local community as the wind farm project progresses. You can also find out more about Galopper Offshore Wind Farm on our website. If you have any questions about or during the construction process, please feel free to get in touch.

🖥️ www.galopperwindfarm.com

✉️ info@galopperwindfarm.com

☎️ 0845 078 2941 (during office hours)

For out-of-hours enquiries, please contact the RWE Innogy UK Wind Control Centre on 0845 078 2922 and choose OPTION 3 for normal operations or OPTION 1 for emergencies.

