

The East Angle

East Anglia Offshore Windfarm Projects

Winter 2024

Creating a cleaner,
greener future
for everyone



Welcome to the latest edition of The East Angle

I was delighted to be in Lowestoft in September to confirm our commitment to the town as the long-term home for our UK offshore wind operations.

Our new investment of £8m to develop another Operations and Maintenance base, which will have the capacity for 100 people, came as the chairman of our parent company, Iberdrola, told the Prime Minister it was doubling its investment in the UK to £24bn in the next four years.

More good news came in the government's renewable energy auction with East Anglia THREE and East Anglia TWO winning contracts.



Sir Keir Starmer went on to describe our £4bn East Anglia TWO offshore windfarm off the Suffolk coast, which will produce almost 1GW of clean energy for the UK, as "an important project" that the UK "needs to replicate again and again."

Our East Anglia ONE team have also been highly commended for Offshore Wind Operational Project of the Year at the Global Offshore Wind Awards.

Developing our people is as important to us as developing windfarms generating homegrown green energy.

This issue tells the story of much personal and professional development, from students shaping their careers from internships, graduates building their careers within our worldwide business, career changers re-training to join offshore wind, to staff already with us changing direction to new roles within the industry they love.

As part of our early career programme 325 positions are being offered across ScottishPower, including opportunities in East Anglia to support offshore wind.

No business can function without its people and we have huge pride in ours, all working together to power a cleaner and greener future for all.

Ross Ovens
Offshore Development & Operations
Managing Director



Double auction win for East Anglia windfarms

Our East Anglia TWO and East Anglia THREE windfarms were awarded contracts in the Government's annual auction round.

The new contracts will support more than 1,000MW of clean, green electricity across the two projects – enough to power more than one million homes – and were won in the sixth allocation round (AR6) of the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme.

Keith Anderson, CEO of ScottishPower said: "This auction's success shows this tried and tested investment mechanism, replicated globally, delivers exactly the scale of action needed, with billions of pounds to be pumped into the British economy replacing aging, polluting infrastructure. Now the Government and GB Energy should focus efforts on supporting new green technologies to unleash their potential, replicate offshore wind's success and deliver on their ambition of making Britain a clean energy global superpower."

Doubling UK investment to £24bn in the next four years

We met with Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer in October to confirm a doubling of our UK investment to £24bn by 2028, after investing more than £30bn in the last 15 years.

Iberdrola's new plan includes East Anglia THREE and East Anglia TWO and onshore wind, solar PV, and battery projects to support the UK's transition to Net Zero.

The Prime Minister said: "Working people up and down the country will reap the benefits of Iberdrola's crucial investments in our green energy sector. Iberdrola choosing the UK as its largest location for investment is a major boost for our economy, and a clear vote of confidence in this government's ambitious clean energy mission and relentless drive for growth. We are creating the conditions for businesses to thrive."



Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer with Iberdrola Chairman Ignacio Galan

Iberdrola Chairman Ignacio Galán said: "This is a vote of confidence in the UK's clear and stable policies and is a major boost to the economy and the path towards green energy security and Net Zero. The benefits of electrification in terms of energy security, industrial development, jobs and decarbonisation are shared ambitions of the UK and Iberdrola."

Lowestoft: The heart and home of our UK offshore wind operations for next 30 years

Choosing Lowestoft to build the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base for East Anglia THREE confirms our commitment to invest in the area for at least the next three decades.

The site on Trinity Road is just a stone's throw from where East Anglia ONE's team of more than 100 people is based, expanding our footprint in our 'home of offshore wind.'

We are investing £8m in developing the site, currently occupied by RJ Pryce, which is moving to a nearby location, to support the delivery of our offshore wind projects in the east of England.

The move is part of our parent company Iberdrola's pledge to double its investment in the UK to £24bn by 2028.

Lowestoft MP Jess Asato said: "ScottishPower's decision to establish Lowestoft as a long-term hub for its UK offshore wind operations is a game-changer for our town, bringing significant economic opportunities.

"With a multi-million-pound investment, this project will not only support our windfarms, but also create local jobs, boosting employment in green energy. This investment is a key step toward regenerating Lowestoft and positioning it as a leader in the clean energy industry, ensuring long-term benefits for Lowestoft."

Our commitment comes as the construction of East Anglia THREE offshore windfarm – the second biggest offshore windfarm in the world and ScottishPower Renewables' (SPR) first high-voltage direct current (HVDC) offshore wind connection – reaches crucial milestones:



(L-R) Jess Asato MP, Ross Ovens, East Suffolk Council Leader Caroline Topping, Stowen Managing Director for Renewables Kieron Ford, Mayor of Lowestoft, Cllr Nasima Begum, Stuart Pryce, EEEGR chair Kevin Keable, Joan Pryce, East Coast Energy Training Academy Director Rachel Bunn

- ▶ **The four 400kV electricity transformers that will convert the clean green energy for transmission to more than one million homes arrived safely onsite at the Onshore Converter Station site at Bramford.**
- ▶ **The 323 tonnes/463MVA transformers – which are 9.6m long, 4.1m wide and 4.3m tall – were transported under police escort from the port of Ipswich on four consecutive Sundays on a dedicated route agreed with local authorities and the police.**
- ▶ **More than 1 million hours have been worked on the project so far.**
- ▶ **Giant reels of underground cable that will carry the green energy from landfall at Bawdsey to the National Grid at Bramford are arriving ready for installation.**





Charlie Jordan, CEO of SPR, said: "Our continued commitment and investment in Lowestoft highlights the town's role as a powerhouse for the clean energy industry within the East of England region and we're here to stay.

"We're operating, building and developing windfarms that will power cleaner and greener lives for millions of people – and deliver huge environmental and economic benefits – for decades to come. This is a brilliant boost for the town and the wider East Anglia region and confirms its status as the home and heart of our offshore wind operations in the UK."

Ross Ovens, SPR's Managing Director for Offshore Development and Operations, added: "It's really exciting that, six years after we put a spade in the ground and built our EA ONE base in Lowestoft, we're now increasing our footprint, presence and investment in the town.

"That doesn't just support ScottishPower's offshore wind projects and pipeline, it will make a long and lasting difference for local people and communities. We're proud to help drive the regeneration of the town and help write the next chapter in Lowestoft's story – creating a cleaner, greener, brighter and better future."

East Anglia THREE

 <p>Could power the equivalent of over 1.3 million homes</p>	 <p>95 wind turbines</p>	 <p>305km² windfarm area</p>	 <p>Up to 1,400 Megawatts</p>
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Onshore Converter Station site update

Work is continuing at East Anglia THREE's Onshore Converter Station with the four 400kV transformers now on site and under construction

With all the structures of the converter hall, control and storage buildings in place, work is underway inside for cable containment, HVAC ducting, lighting and the formation of internal walls.

Outside, the alternating current switch yard is taking shape with all foundation work complete. Concrete bases are in place, and the team are in the process of installing steel pillars for the equipment to sit on.

The next phase will focus on the arrival of all mechanical and electrical equipment from auxiliary transformers, switches, control and protection equipment and converter modules.

Scott Mabon, our Onshore Converter Station Works Manager, helps oversee all site-based works of Principal Contractor Siemens Energy and its sub-contractors.

"We are essentially at the end of civils work now and we're onto the building services installation. The containment and cable ducting work has started, and it will continue with fire suppression systems installation, CCTV and security. The steelwork is going up in the alternating current and direct current yards and then we will start installing the mechanical and electrical equipment in the converter and control buildings towards the end of the year," he said.

"The permanent road access was partially constructed for the delivery of the transformers, this along with the remaining groundworks, will be completed once everything else is up out of the ground.

"As time goes on, our team on the ground will increase with our commissioning team joining us on site as work progresses."



One of the four transformer units arrives at our Bramford site in June

Underground cables to be laid for 2026 green power

Giant reels of underground cable that will carry East Anglia THREE's green energy from landfall at Bawdsey to connect to the National Grid at Bramford are arriving ready for installation.

Made in a factory that runs on 100% green electricity next to a ferry terminal in Sweden, the cables will arrive at Ipswich where they will be stored until needed.

To prepare for installation, 37km of ducts were installed at the same time as East Anglia ONE's cables were laid six years ago. The ducts will be proved and cleaned ready for the cables to be pulled through.

The East Anglia THREE team and its contractor NKT, which has designed, manufactured and will install the onshore cables, have been working to maintain the project's schedule for installation of the two electrical and up to three fibre optic buried cables.

Temporary haul roads and jointing bays where the cable sections will be connected are being created.

Temporary fencing has been carried out along the cable corridor. Specially coded signs to ensure works lorries take the designated routes for all the access points and holding areas are on the highway networks.

To enable offshore work to start, an unexploded ordnance campaign by Hughes Subsea is ongoing and expected to be completed by next spring.

East Anglia THREE is expected to become fully operational by the end of 2026, helping power a cleaner and greener future for all.

Connecting to the National Grid

Ongoing work at Bramford is creating the infrastructure for the connection where green electricity generated by East Anglia THREE will join the National Grid to be taken to homes and businesses across the country.

Troughs where the East Anglia THREE cables will be laid were created when East Anglia ONE's cables were buried. They will connect to the Onshore Converter Station ready for when the windfarm becomes operational.

Niall Armstrong, Electricity Transmission Execution Manager, said: "It really is a mammoth engineering task.

"The onshore works are well progressed, and contractors are busy manufacturing specialist equipment for the offshore windfarm installation."

The clean energy created by East Anglia THREE's 95 turbines is taken by a network of cables that link the turbines to the offshore converter station, where the current is transformed to carry the electricity to shore via subsea export cables.

In May, the first phase of topside fabrication for the offshore converter station was completed and it sailed from Romania to Norway for the next phase of electrical equipment installation.

The electricity travels more than 180km from the windfarm to the Onshore Converter Station at Bramford, where it connects to the National Grid, completing the journey from power to plug.

New vessel bound for East Anglia THREE

A new hybrid service operations vessel (SOV) has been commissioned for long-term charter at East Anglia THREE.

North Star, which has a base in Lowestoft, has secured a contract with our main contractor Siemens Gamesa to build the SOV which is set to become the eighth hybrid offshore ship of the organisation's renewables fleet.

The SOV will be used as a floating warehouse, hotel and transport to accommodate up to 60 Siemens Gamesa wind technicians as they work offshore maintaining the 95 turbines at East Anglia THREE.

Pedro Fernandez, East Anglia THREE Project Director said: "It's fantastic to have North Star on board for East Anglia THREE and playing a major role in powering a clean energy future for us all.

"This is a great example of the opportunities windfarms like ours can create for local supply chains and underlines the East of England's position as a global centre of excellence for the offshore wind industry.

"We look forward to seeing the new vessel take shape over the next couple of years and getting to work on the windfarm once commissioned."

Andrew Viles, Siemens Gamesa's Head of Operations for Northern Europe, said: "We are pleased that North Star will be building a new SOV to support the East Anglia THREE offshore windfarm project. This agreement continues to highlight our focus and commitment to providing high-performing and long-term offshore service logistics solutions to our operations and customers."

North Star Chief Operating Officer Robert Catchpole, who is based at the firm's Lowestoft facility, said: "This marks our first SOV contract in the southern North Sea, which will be serviced by our talented operational team stationed strategically in the region to provide dedicated support throughout this new long-term partnership.

"It also presents a wealth of prospects for both our seasoned seafarers and aspiring crew members, while opening up additional opportunities for our local supply chain."

SPR, North Star and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy launched a competition in October for members of the public to choose a name for the new ship with a link to the rich maritime heritage of the local community in East Anglia and Lowestoft.

The winner, which will be announced later this year, will be invited on board for a tour of one of North Star's existing SOV's and will be presented with a special scale model of the new ship bearing its new name.

East Anglia ONE in TV focus

BBC Politics East paid an early morning visit to the East Anglia ONE base at Lowestoft to film operations and interview team members in a special focus on renewable energy and the need to treble the industry workforce to more than 100,000 by 2030 and a pipeline that means investment, jobs and opportunities for decades to come.

With the background of vessels being loaded with equipment to sail to the windfarm, presenter Ben Schofield interviewed apprentice Bailey Woolston and colleagues who work on and offshore on the windfarm.



Ben Schofield (middle) interviewed apprentice Bailey Woolston (right)

SPR cycle helmets making wheel difference

Teenagers benefiting from a new BMX cycling track in their village are being kept safe by a donation of helmets from SPR.

The group from Bramford Wheels campaigned for a purpose-built circuit, which has replaced the earth mounds they previously used instead of a track.

Their petition calling for a new state-of-the-art route gained more than 300 signatures before it was presented to Bramford Parish Council, which approved the £90,000 funding for the project.

Edward Rees, Community Liaison Officer for East Anglia THREE said:

“Following our partnership with Suffolk County Council last year in funding a Bikeability course at Phoenix St Peter Academy in Lowestoft, this year East Anglia THREE provided a grant towards the provision of cycling helmets for Bramford Wheels.

“The cycling club is local to the East Anglia THREE onshore converter station site at Bramford and we were delighted to help support the club in time for the opening of their new BMX park back in the spring.”

Archaeology

More than 50 people joined us at an open day to hear more about our archaeological mitigation work at the sites of East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO.

Stakeholders showed a keen interest in the process of archaeology and learned more about the work we are doing, its duration and the traffic movements.

Contractors MOLA-Wessex were present showing various archaeological finds from other projects, while attendees also got the chance to try out an interactive VR headset showing archaeological sites.

Reecia Cullen, Community Liaison officer for East Anglia ONE North and TWO said:

“We know from our archaeological focus at East Anglia ONE that without our important work, key finds for our heritage and social history would never have been discovered.

“The protection and preservation of ecology, the environment and heritage are at the forefront of all our minds during all our projects.”



Monitors will ensure safe offshore construction

These offshore devices are equipped with a sensor suite to measure wind speed and direction, wave height and direction, currents and much more to ensure the safe offshore construction of East Anglia THREE.

Our contractor Partrac assembled two AXYS Technologies Inc Watchkeepers TM, designed for metocean monitoring, at Lowestoft's SMS Group to remain on site until completion in 2026 for safe and sustainable operations.



Ecology and environment

Fourth bird hotel to be built

Planning permission has been granted for our fourth kittiwake hotel at the port of Lowestoft.

The artificial nesting structure will help provide a valuable nesting habitat for the local kittiwake population, associated with the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area.

Kittiwakes are on the UK conservation 'red list' and numbers have declined by 40% globally since the 1970s.

Built as part of the development of our East Anglia Hub windfarms, the structure will be made of reinforced concrete, with a modular wall design that mimics a cliff face, akin to a kittiwake's natural habitat.

The location of the outer harbour wall means birds can nest well away from any properties.

SLR Consulting has secured planning permission on behalf of SPR, with the approved structure installed next to three existing hotels at the port, which opened in February 2023.

The Lowestoft port was originally selected to host the hotels due to its secure location and proximity to existing kittiwake colonies, which have colonised areas around the port for many years.

We hope to see lots of guests arrive when the structure is installed later this year.



Did you know? News from across ScottishPower Renewables

- ▶ The Visitor Centre at our Whitelee Onshore Windfarm has just celebrated its 15th anniversary. It opened in September 2009 with the aim of bringing energy and education together. Since then, its interactive exhibition, learning hub and café has become a popular attraction. The centre hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including an education project for children from primary through to university age, with more than 62,000 people visiting each year.
- ▶ ScottishPower Renewables Onshore Development Managing Director, Gillian Noble, has been appointed to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Onshore Wind Taskforce. Chaired by the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP and Matthieu Hue, CEO of EDF Renewables, the taskforce brings together key players from the Government, industry, regulatory bodies, the financial sector and other organisations to concentrate on increased deployment of onshore wind to meet the aims of net zero, decarbonisation and wider goals.
- ▶ We received full planning permission for our Hollandmey energy project, combining solar, energy storage, and wind energy on one site in Caithness, Scotland. The project, just eight kilometres south of John o' Groats, will host ten wind turbines with a total capacity of 50MW, plus a 15MW solar development and a 15MW battery energy storage system. In addition, developers will restore 168 hectares of peatland habitat to its original state for plants and animals to enjoy.



The big interview

Nick Williams – Execution Manager, East Anglia THREE

“I guess you could say that I’ve progressed my career through the lens of East Anglia.”

With childhood holidays spent at his grandparents’ home in Norfolk, Nick Williams’ first job as a graduate saw him help to select the location of East Anglia ONE within the East Anglia zone.

Several years later he had joined the SPR team and become the Foundations Design Manager for the wind turbine foundations, and later Foundations Deputy Package Manager.

Now the Execution Manager of East Anglia THREE, the father of two is responsible for delivering the windfarm on time, to budget and with the appropriate quality, health and safety standards.

“Essentially, I project manage the windfarm side of the development, so all the assets up to the offshore converter station.

“My responsibility is the turbines, foundations, cables, transportation, installation and manufacturing. These assets are split into four different packages, with large, specialist teams working on each.

“The challenges are managing the interfaces between these packages and the interface with the transmission asset, managing big contracts, the programme, costs, quality, people – everything a project manager must do.”

Growing up in Buckinghamshire, Nick, who now lives in Surrey, went to university in Cambridge, leaving with a master’s degree in civil engineering.

“I was inspired by the green agenda and the challenges of climate change in my fourth year.

“I didn’t know anything about offshore wind before I started researching it and had no idea it would become such a huge successful industry – with the UK leading the world.

“I joined Noble Denton, which has since become part of DNVGL and was lucky to be given project management responsibilities quite early, initially for engineering studies for East Anglia ONE and other SPR projects, including St Brieuc and Argyll Array; and later, for offshore installation work, replacing inter-array cables for the Thanet Offshore Windfarm.”

Nick joined SPR 11 years ago as a senior structural engineer, working his way up to Foundations Deputy Package Manager on East Anglia ONE, managing the design, supply and fabrication of 42 of the windfarm foundations, before re-locating to St Brieuc windfarm to take on the Foundations Package Manager role for the full scope.

“It’s kind of fitting that I’ve come back to work on East Anglia THREE after my French ‘holiday’ on St Brieuc.

“The attraction of the role is the breadth of new challenges I face. I’ve worked for years in foundations, but in this I’m covering the whole electrical, mechanical and structural system and all these parts must work together in an integrated way. The complexities and enormity of the project pose challenges that are very motivating.

“We used to talk about East Anglia ONE turbines being the same diameter as the London Eye, but these are even greater than that – it is hard to conceive.”

Nick’s link to East Anglia goes back to his childhood, spending his holidays enjoying the Norfolk Broads, where his 102-year-old grandmother still lives nearby in South Walsham.

“My grandfather was always into sailing. He had boats at Heigham Sound, near to Hickling broad. We have a family bungalow there, which my grandfather was given as a 17-year-old on his birthday by an aunt. It’s a thatched building with a boathouse and I grew up going every holiday, so I have a strong connection to the area and its wind resource!

“Who knows, when I’m retiring in 30 years I could be there tending to old wooden boats.”

Q&A

Q What career did you plan when you were a student?

A I was always into maths, physics and art and originally wanted to be an architect, it was a vague plan though, there was no laser focus. I did what I was good at and enjoyed, and that led me to engineering.

Q How do you switch off?

A I love playing football. I support Manchester United and coach my son’s football team. I also have an allotment, play the guitar and sing in a rock-covers band. We’ve got our first paid gig coming up and I’m also hoping to do my first open mic night soon. I think you could say I switch on to switch off!

Q What would you tell your teenage self?

A Follow what you are interested in and what you are good at. It’s pretty simple really, don’t conform to the ideas or plans others might have for you. I was fortunate as I never had that pressure I saw others put under – I was just left to my own devices. I’m not sure I would have done anything different really.

Q What inspires you?

A It’s what I can see. Massive structures, nature and I think the connections between people. I get my energy from working with colleagues, feeding off the buzz in the office and solving problems in a positive way. I also take inspiration in knowing we are completely transforming the way the world works, progressing to a better way of living.

Our people

EAI's Jovita invited to reception with the PM

Jovita Beeston, our first ever offshore wind apprentice, has attended a special reception at 10 Downing Street at the request of the Prime Minister.

The 21-year-old from Acle, who was recently appointed as a Balance of Plant Technician after finishing her studies, was invited as part of a group of young people starting out in STEM careers within the energy sector.

Jovita was one of a select few invited through the iconic black door to meet Sir Keir Starmer.

She said: "After being able to witness Sir Keir's speech, everyone was given an opportunity to socialise and network. The atmosphere was buzzing with energy and the whole room was full of people discussing a wide range of topics."

"It gave me the chance to engage and learn from individuals and I felt honoured to be part of such a vibrant and inclusive gathering where I met so many interesting people."

Jovita started her career with SPR in 2020 as an apprentice on East Anglia ONE. She now holds a permanent position based out of our Operations and Maintenance base in Lowestoft.



Jovita, centre, with graduate apprentice Aimee Dickson, left, and graduate Jenny Cifuentes, right.

Graduate Joe returns to base



Joe Whitley

Award-winning graduate Joe Whitley has begun a new role in the Operations and Maintenance team after finishing our two-year scheme.

Joe, from Ipswich, concluded his graduate scheme in Berlin where he spent five months working in the engineering management team on the Windanker project.

He has now taken a role in the operations engineering technical management team after spending eight months in the team during his graduate scheme and really enjoying the work.

“ He said: “I am lucky to have been able to find a permanent role back in operations and maintenance. My role is based in London, but I will be working closely with East Anglia ONE and East Anglia THREE, so will spend a lot of time on site in Lowestoft, which was part of the appeal for me. I enjoy working in different environments with a wide range of colleagues. I am fortunate to have found a position which enables me to work on local projects.” ”

Joe graduated from the University of East Anglia before joining our graduate scheme and last year was presented with The East of England Energy Group's (EEEGR's) Rising Star award during its end of year awards.

Building careers



Jim Rijks

Career opportunities from East Anglia to Australia

A place on our year-long Master scholarship six years ago led engineer Jim Rijks on a career journey throughout Europe and Asia and, now, to Australia as engineering manager on Iberdrola's flagship windfarm.

After graduating with a Master's in engineering and environmental management from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, Jim joined our two-year Graduate Development Programme sampling different roles, including at the Operations and Maintenance base at East Anglia ONE, before joining the engineering technical management team on offshore wind developments across Europe.

"I was very fortunate because a gap became available for supporting our portfolio of projects in Taiwan, so I spent four months there last year, which was a phenomenal experience.

"I came back here for a short time and then in August, when an opportunity to work in Melbourne on our Aurora Green windfarm, came along – I had to take it."

Aurora Green is Iberdrola's first offshore windfarm off the coast of Gippsland in Victoria and could generate up to 3,000 MW of clean energy.

"As engineering manager, I'm responsible for the overall technical coordination, supporting activities across all disciplines from offshore turbines and foundations to the grid connection onshore. It's my job to define and implement robust and cost-effective engineering strategies. I'm looking forward to the next few years as we see how it develops. It's a really exciting opportunity."

Jim was born in The Netherlands, but lived in Norfolk for 12 years.

"The Master's gave me a great foundation for the work environment and my career. Throughout it we had a year-long group project set by industry, supported by very experienced and technical people, which meant we had endless opportunities to develop both technical and commercial skills.

"I've always been bullish that I want to do something I enjoy and if you are only putting 50% effort in then it's not the job or career for you. I've never felt this way with SPR, I've always wanted to give it my all, and more.

"The scholarship is a tested process, and it's opened up so many doors for me and taken me to where I am today."

No two days are ever the same in Mike's new control room role

Mike Tacon spent more than a decade working with helicopters before taking the step into offshore wind in his hometown as one of the first members of East Anglia ONE's operations and maintenance base team.

As warehouse coordinator, he brought a wealth of experience of stores and transporting dangerous goods safely from heliports serving the North Sea oil and gas industry.

Now, after five years keeping in order all the goods, tools, spare parts, food and everything needed to keep the 102-turbine windfarm running, he is nine months into training for another crucial role in the team – a windfarm controller.

He has swapped East Anglia ONE's warehouse for its control room, the nerve centre of windfarm operations. The control room is where data and information are received about the output of the wind turbine generators and maintenance and repair work, and vessel activity are monitored.

It will take Mike three years to build the experience and qualifications with training courses and on-the-job support from his mentor, Troy Vallis-Allen, who also transferred to offshore wind from a long oil and gas career.

With a marine coordinator's qualification under his belt, Mike is now building the necessary electrical skills and experience.

"Windfarm controller is a dual role. The marine coordinator side involves logistics of the boats, loading of passengers and cargo, regulations, marine traffic, emergency responses. The other role is about high voltage and transfer of control.

"I love it. No two days are ever the same."



Mike Tacon

Students' access to global experts helps shape careers

Two sixth formers have a clearer vision of their future after researching a real-life industry project for ScottishPower Renewables talking to experts across the world.

Aspiring engineers Ben Cooper and Reuben Warnes' "eyes were opened" to the offshore renewable energy sector during a month's paid internship investigating how digital technology could address offshore wind challenges.

Working closely with Jack Brooke, Engineering Systems Lead for SPR's parent company, Iberdrola, the 17-year-olds interviewed and met people across the global business, technology companies and academics, including at Cambridge University.

Based in Lowestoft, they identified challenges, from construction to safety, and potential improvements, from industry professionals working across the world.

They interviewed teams developing digital initiatives in Iberdrola, and outside, to see where available technologies could facilitate change, addressing offshore wind issues.

Then they proposed strategies for how technology like digital twins and digitalisation could be used, which they presented at the end of their internship.

Jack designed the project especially for the interns. "The complexity of our industry and the amount of data that we generate and how we could improve how it is organised was a project they could approach with me putting them in touch with people across our global business, technology companies, people doing sensor technology and academics."

Reuben, from Lowestoft Sixth Form College, and Ben, from East Norfolk Sixth Form College, Gorleston, spent a week at East Anglia ONE's Operations and Maintenance base, Lowestoft and three weeks at SPR's construction office in nearby OrbisEnergy.



Ben Cooper

Reuben, studying A levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry, and Ben, studying A levels in Chemistry, Maths and BTEC engineering, applied for the Ogden Trust Coastal Energy Summer Internship to learn more about the renewable energy industry expanding on their doorstep.

Reuben discovered roles he didn't know existed as well learning about the complex process of generating renewable energy offshore and transporting it onshore.

"I live in Lowestoft close to the windfarms. The offshore energy sector is big and growing here and is a viable industry for me to go into as a career.

"There is so much information from the windfarms. For example, safety is uppermost in priorities for everyone and everywhere on site and we looked at making it easier to manage all the information.

"I got so much out of the internship, especially team skills by working with someone I didn't know before and meeting people from all across the industry."

Ben said: "I could see myself in the offshore wind industry in the future. It is such a growing sector. I was surprised how complex an offshore windfarm is behind the scenes. Communicating and managing data from different sources is a big challenge.

"Everyone was willing to help us, friendly, welcoming and made time for us."

Now in their final year, Reuben plans to study engineering at university while Ben hopes for a degree apprenticeship.



Reuben Warnes



Suffolk Show enjoyed by all



The East Anglia Hub team once again enjoyed two days of community fun at the Suffolk Show.

The annual event at Trinity Park in Ipswich is always a great opportunity for us to engage with families, share information about our projects and to talk about how renewable energy is hugely impacting the east of England.

Our corner stand by the Grand Ring was, as usual, a hive of activity.

Our electric buzz wire game attracted a queue of visitors who came back time and time again to see if they could complete the course without setting off the buzzer, while our virtual reality headsets resulted in some amazed faces.

Children and their families also enjoyed our giveaways of bamboo sunglasses, pens and this newsletter, and there was even something for our four-legged friends in the form of some fluorescent dog collars.

The Mad Science duo – Daniel Phillips and Michael Whitaker – were also back with a range of interactive workshops and two live sustainability shows.

Joanna Young, Senior Stakeholder Manager said: “It’s always a great couple of days as we can bring together key members of our stakeholder, land and consent teams with our construction team at East Anglia THREE and our Operations and Maintenance team based at East Anglia ONE.



“It gives visitors the chance to come and chat to us in an informal environment while enjoying the wide range of activities on the stand. This year in particular we were extremely busy, the weather was great and we really enjoyed seeing the faces of children who were perhaps being introduced to offshore wind for the first time.”

Your stakeholder team

If you would like to find out more about our work in East Anglia, please visit: spreastanglia.co.uk

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