RWE npower renewables

TRITON KNOLL OFFSHORE WIND FARM UPDATE

2011 Autumn/Winter

RWE npower renewables' North Hoyle Offshore Wind Farm. This photo is not intended to represent the appearance, size or scale of the proposed Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm.

RWE npower renewables has concluded its formal consultation for Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm and is preparing to submit an application for development consent.

BACKGROUND

RWE npower renewables, one of the UK's most experienced wind farm developers, is proposing to build an offshore wind farm approximately 20.5 miles (33 kilometres) off the coast of Lincolnshire and 28.5 miles (46 kilometres) off the coast of north Norfolk.

If the offshore wind farm is granted consent to go ahead, it could produce up to 1,200 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity. This could provide enough renewable electricity to meet the average consumption of approximately 850,000 homes each year[1].

Earlier this year, we announced that the development of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm was being split into two separate packages following the decision by National Grid to review the wind farm's onshore connection location. The connection location is the point at which the offshore wind farm is connected to the national electricity network. The wind farm will require a new electricity substation to be constructed in the vicinity of the connection location.

The two packages are:

- Package 1 – the offshore wind farm site itself and all elements within its offshore site boundary
- Package 2 – the electrical system required to connect the offshore wind farm to the National Grid.

This summer, we consulted local communities, local authorities, regulatory bodies and other organisations on our plans for the offshore elements of the wind farm (Package 1).

Following this consultation we have been analysing the responses received and carrying out additional work as required. We are now finalising our plans and putting together our application for development consent for Package 1.

CONSULTATION UPDATE

Our formal consultation for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm was held from 1 June to 12 July 2011. The consultation was carried out in line with our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC explained how we would consult with local communities and is available on our website.

During the consultation, we held five public exhibitions at different locations along the north Norfolk, Lincolnshire and East Riding of Yorkshire coasts. These exhibitions outlined our initial plans for the offshore elements of the project (Package 1).

We asked members of the public and local communities for their feedback. The findings of the public consultation are being recorded in a consultation report which will be submitted alongside our application for consent to build the wind farm.

The report will explain how the feedback we received has been considered in finalising our plans for the offshore elements of the wind farm.

A non-technical summary of the consultation report will be produced and distributed to local communities once the application has been submitted and accepted for examination.

At the same time as consulting with local communities, we also consulted on the project with local planning authorities and statutory bodies, organisations such as Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation. Feedback from this consultation is also being fed into the application and will be documented in the consultation report.

Approximately 82% of people who completed a feedback form at our public exhibitions said they were in support of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm.

More statistics from the consultation will be presented in the consultation report which will be available on our website once the application for development consent has been successfully submitted.

KEY STATISTICS

Attendance:
431 people attended the five public exhibitions

Consultation duration:
The consultation ran for 42 days

Feedback received from members of the public:
177 responses to the consultation were received from members of the public:

- 163 responses comprised completed feedback forms
- 23 responses were provided as letters or emails.

Other feedback received:
Feedback was also received from elected members, including councillors, MPs and MEPs; local authorities; parish councils; and statutory and non-statutory consultees

WEBSITE

www.npower-renewables.com/tritonknoll

RWE npower renewables' staff talking to members of the public.

NEXT STEPS

We are now preparing to submit the application for development consent to build all the elements within Package 1. This will consist of:

- construction of up to 333 offshore wind turbines
- construction of up to five offshore monitoring stations. The stations collect information such as wind speeds and wind direction
- construction of up to eight offshore electricity substations and cables buried in the sea bed to link the wind turbines and the offshore substations.

The feedback we have received on the project has helped us shape the design and development of the wind farm.

We anticipate that the application for development consent will be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) in the coming months. The IPC will examine the project in detail. Following this examination, the IPC will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who will make a final decision on the application. If permission is granted for the project, it will be awarded in the form of a Development Consent Order (DCO).

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED FROM NOW ON?

We will update local communities once the application has been accepted by the IPC. Following acceptance, the application will be available to view on the RWE npower renewables project website and on the IPC's website at http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk.

At this time, members of the public will be able to register with the IPC and give their views about the project to the IPC. More information on the process can be found on the IPC's website.

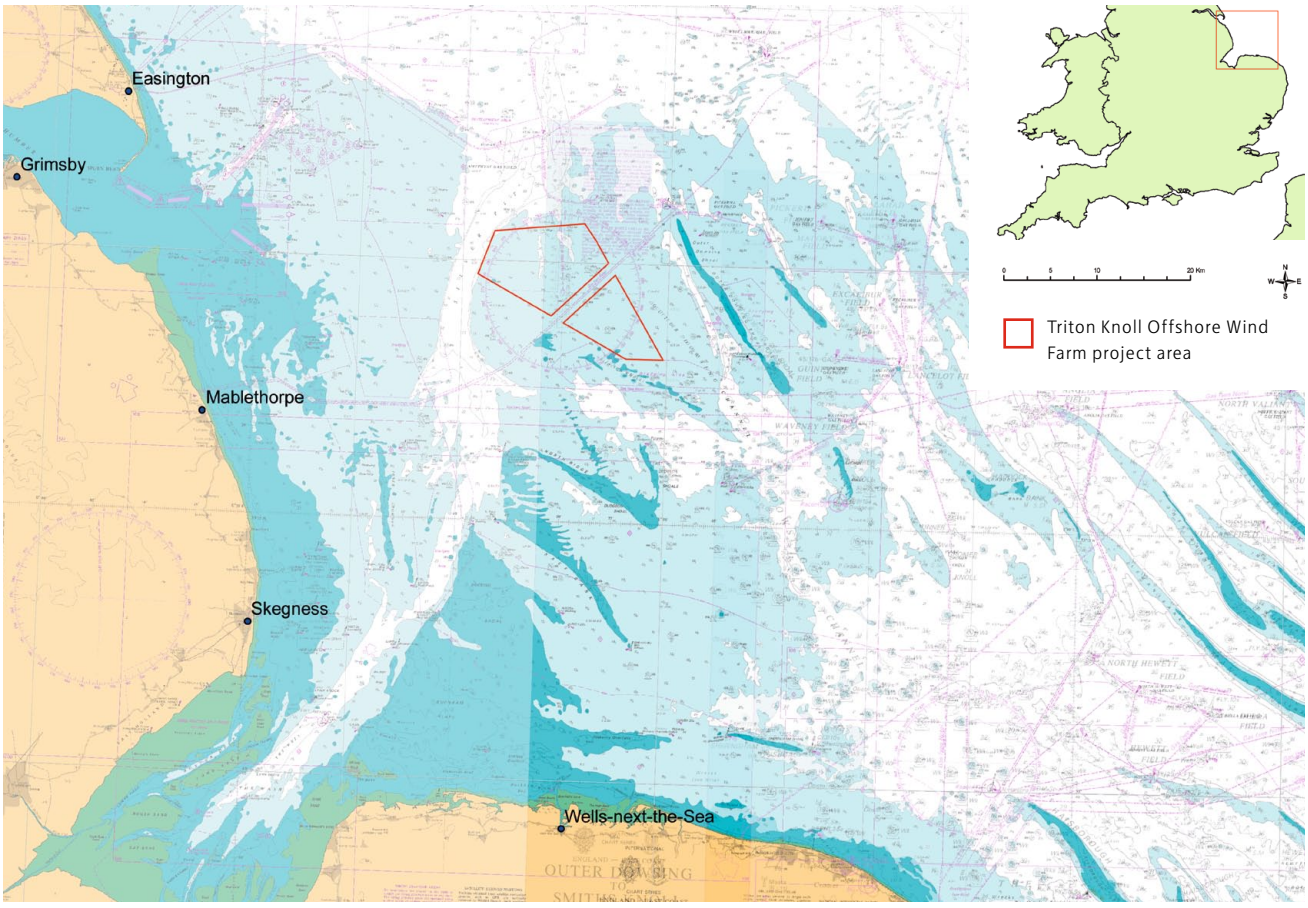
The IPC will take all relevant feedback into account when examining the application and in making its recommendation on the application.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

During construction and operation, offshore wind farms create jobs and support economic activity.

Previously, we have found that local businesses are often well placed to secure some of the contracts.

So far, during assessments for Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm, we have already placed contracts with vessel operators around the wind farm site that exceed £3 million.



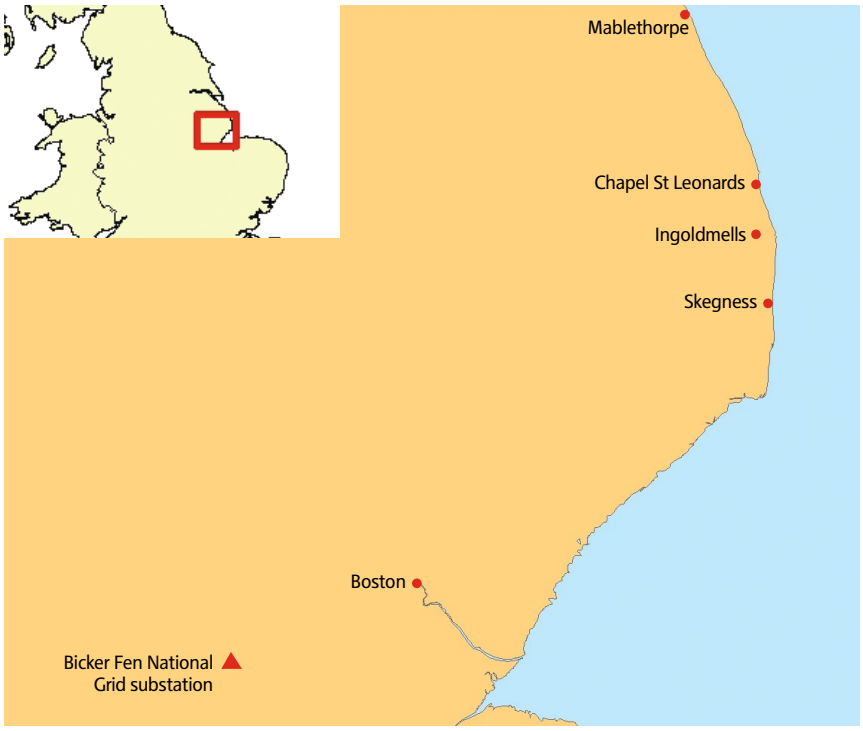
THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

In 2009, National Grid offered us a grid connection agreement to connect Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm to the electricity network in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire. RWE npower renewables then consulted local communities, non-statutory groups and statutory bodies to help identify the most suitable location for the wind farm substation within this area.

However, in December 2010, we were informed by National Grid that they would be undertaking a strategic review of grid connections across the east coast, which included the connection location for Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm. Given that this could result in a change to our connection location, all work on the electrical system was put on hold until the strategic review had been completed.

We have worked closely with National Grid over the course of this year on the strategic review. The review has concluded that the most appropriate location for Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm to connect to the existing grid network is at Bicker Fen. This is illustrated in the map.



Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm's proposed onshore connection location. © British Crown and SeaZone Solutions Limited. All rights reserved. Data Licence 052003.002

NEXT STEPS

We will be undertaking technical studies to evaluate options for the electrical system to carry the power from the offshore wind farm to the proposed connection location. Although we have not yet finalised what the electrical system will comprise, it is likely to include an electrical substation in the vicinity of the connection location and a means of transferring the power from the wind farm to the onshore substation.

We will also commence environmental and engineering studies to find the best potential sites and routes for the electrical infrastructure. This will include consultation with statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, relevant local authority departments and Natural England. Our assessments will consider environmental factors such as flood risk, noise and landscape as well as other factors such as land ownership and existing land use. It is anticipated that the findings of these studies will be available by early summer.

Once we have evaluated the different options, we will carry out consultation with public bodies and local communities. We will then use the results of this consultation to inform our final planning application for the electrical system (Package 2). This application will be separate to that of the offshore wind farm (Package 1).

FOOTNOTES

[1] Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4700 kWh. This figure is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimates and projections from the UK Statistics Authority. Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using wind speeds monitored in the local area and correlating to a modelled reference node. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site based on 195 turbines each of rated capacity 6.15 MW. The energy capture predicted and hence derived homes equivalent or emissions savings figures may change as further data are gathered.

If you would like this newsletter in larger print, or an alternative format, please contact us on: 01793 474173

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