

TRITON KNOLL OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Latest Update

Following recent offshore site investigations and a recent project review, RWE npower renewables are announcing a revision to the plans for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm project.

Work on the site design and the identification of new site constraints at the proposed location of the offshore wind farm has resulted in the project team deciding to progress the development with a reduced capacity. The new capacity will range between 600 and 900 megawatts, rather than the maximum of 1,200 megawatts, and could ensure enough energy to power the equivalent domestic needs of between 550,000 and 800,000 average UK households.¹

The project team have been working hard to optimise the project to ensure the efficiency of the site is maximised whilst the average cost of the energy is minimised.

More detailed design work on the onshore infrastructure has also taken place as part of the project review. This has resulted in significant reductions to the required onshore footprint of Triton Knoll. The new design reduces the footprint for the onshore substation by more than 50% and by 40% for the intermediate electrical compound.

Project changes:

	Previous Parameters	Updated Parameters
Installed capacity	Up to 1,200MW	Between 600-900MW
Average number of homes supplied	850,000	Between 550,000 and 800,000
Offshore wind farm site area	135 km ²	119.5 km ²
Maximum size of the onshore substation	20 hectares	8.6 hectares
	49.4 acres	21.3 Acres
	28 football pitches ²	12 football pitches ²
Maximum size of the electrical compound	3 hectares	1.8 hectares
	7.25 acres	4.4 acres
	Just over 4 football pitches ²	2.5 football pitches ²

Work is still progressing on developing the electrical infrastructure and RWE npower renewables will continue to undertake rigorous review and optimisation of the project as it progresses.

Before any planning application is submitted, local communities will have further opportunity to have their say during consultation which is anticipated to take place during 2014.

Triton Knoll could represent billions of pounds of investment in clean green energy infrastructure. It is anticipated that a substantial proportion of all the contracts associated with the construction of Triton Knoll would be awarded to UK companies. RWE is currently constructing a 576MW wind farm off the coast of North Wales called Gwynt y Môr. A recent study has concluded that this project has supported an average of 2100 jobs during the 2 year construction period³. We could expect to see similar outcome, relative to the size and scale of Triton Knoll, during the projects construction phase. Over 90% of construction contracts let for Gwynt y Môr have been won by UK based companies (517 out of 561).

Although Triton Knoll is still in the development phase, over £18 million has already been invested in the UK as a result of this project with £1.75 million spent in the East Coast of England.

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1. Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using long term wind speeds calculated by meteorological models seeded with historical weather data obtained from satellite, surface-based and airborne measurement systems. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site ranging from 100 to 150 turbines, each with a rated capacity of 6 MW. The energy capture predicted and hence derived homes equivalent or emissions savings figures may change as further data are gathered.

Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4500 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.

2. "Based on an average sized football pitch of 115 x 75 yards, or 1.782 acres per pitch."

3. "Job creation figure taken from 'Gwynt y Môr Supply Chain Impacts Study' A report by Regeneris Consulting (2013)."