

PRECONSTRUCTION EVENTS A SUCCESS

DONG Energy would like to welcome you to our third community Newsletter covering all the latest news and information on our demonstration project at Gunfleet Sands. This project will enable us to install and pilot two new next generation wind turbines and assess how well they operate. The construction of these turbines will also provide training opportunities for some of our team members and engineers from other projects to gain experience working on them.

As well as constructing the two new turbines we will also need to capture the energy they generate, so we will put in place an export cable which will be buried offshore and bring the power generated to land, where the cable will remain buried and continue to the metering substation adjacent to the Waterglade Retail Park.



PRECONSTRUCTION INFORMATION EVENTS

Our project team came to visit you in June to talk to you about what will be happening during the construction period of our Gunfleet Sands Demonstration project. We were kindly hosted by the Greensward Café on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th of June and Morrisons supermarket made room for us in their foyer from Friday to Sunday of the same weekend.

We had over 150 of you come and chat with us at the café where we discussed the route the onshore cable will be taking and how the laying of the cable would happen. Many of you were interested in the offshore cable route and the process of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) under the beach and sea defences. We also talked to you about the turbines themselves, their foundations and how they are put in place.

Our team at Morrisons supermarket, located on the Waterglade Retail Park, close to the site of the onshore substation, spoke to hundreds of you over the three days. They gave out many leaflets and encouraged everyone to pop along to the main event to find out more. Thank you to all of you who took the time to talk with us at either of our event locations; we hope you found it useful.

YOUR FEEDBACK FROM THE EVENTS

Those of you who attended the main information event at the Greensward Café were given a feedback form to let us know your views on renewable energy, wind power and the Gunfleet Sands Offshore Windfarm. Thirty eight percent of you completed the form which gave us a snapshot of your views and opinions.

The completed forms showed us that understanding of climate change, support for renewable energy and offshore wind technology is very strong in the area. A high number of you also supported offshore wind power off the Essex coast.

Nearly two thirds of you felt that Gunfleet Sands has benefited your community, with 40% feeling the project had benefited tourism by attracting visitors to the area, and 58% feeling it had created jobs and supported local businesses. An overwhelming 90% of you were in support of this demonstration project – thank you!

You also found our events really useful, with the vast majority of people feeling they were able to access the information they needed, had their questions successfully answered and were better able to understand the project.

PROVISIONAL PROJECT TIMELINE



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

As with all construction work our timetable is our best planned estimate for when we are expecting various sections of the work to take place. We have already begun the onshore cable installation and expect to have that completed by the end of November. We will shortly be commencing the HDD works. During our initial investigations for these works we have found minor traces of asbestos, which will be removed and safely disposed of prior to commencement of the HDD works. We will be installing the foundations for the two new wind turbines which should be in position by mid-October, with the onshore substation work completed by the end of November. During October and November we will be laying the offshore cable and will begin erecting the turbines towards the end of December, ready for generating first power early next year.

We will do our best to keep you informed as the work progresses and give you prior notice if work is going to be carried out by your home or your businesses. As always we will do everything we can during this construction period to keep any disturbance to you at a minimum, however if you do have any problems please do let us know.

THE OFFSHORE CABLE DUCT

For approximately two weeks, starting the 28th August, there will be HDPE pipe duct welding works on a section of the beach leading from Lion's Point at Jaywick towards the boundary of the Clacton-on-Sea golf course. During this period, access to this section of the beach, as indicated in the map (in green and red) will be restricted for health and safety reasons.

This welding is necessary to produce a single duct, approximately 800 metres long, which is then pulled out to sea. The duct is then installed under the beach by a specialist HDD team, to enable the safe and efficient installation of the offshore cable back to land.



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