

# Norfolk Vanguard

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who is Vattenfall?

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Vattenfall is a Swedish state owned energy company operating in northern Europe. We generate electricity, produce heat and distribute both through local networks.

Vattenfall operates four offshore wind farms in UK waters and four onshore schemes. By 2017, including projects currently being built, we will be operating nearly 1GW of installed capacity (operational wind farms).

Further information about Vattenfall can be found on our website, [www.vattenfall.co.uk](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk)

### 2. What is Vattenfall proposing to do off the coast of Norfolk?

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We are proposing to develop two new offshore wind farms in the North Sea, off the coast of Norfolk, which will have a combined target capacity of 3.6GW.

The two separate wind farms are called Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas.

**We are currently working on Norfolk Vanguard, which has a target capacity 1.8GW of renewable electricity and the project website contains further information about these proposals. This is enough to meet the equivalent electricity demand of around 1.3 million UK households.**

The remaining capacity (1.8GW) will be developed at a later stage. This later project will be called Norfolk Boreas and will be the subject of a separate planning application. Further information on this will be announced in due course.

The proposed wind farms of Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas have been named after two ships commanded by Lord Nelson during his career. Born in Norfolk in 1758, Lord Nelson went on to become a leading figure in British naval history.

### 3. What stage are you at?

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We are still at the early stages of developing the Norfolk Vanguard project and intend to engage with local communities in the Norfolk area whilst we undertake surveys and investigations to help us develop a more detailed wind farm proposal.

Once we have undertaken some further work we will provide this information to local people and seek their views during a period of consultation later this year. We will then take this information away and develop the proposals further before undertaking a period of formal consultation in 2017.

**4. How will local communities, landowners, businesses and interest groups be consulted about the wind farm and electricity transmission network proposals?**

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We will maintain a dialogue with communities throughout the development, construction and operation phases of our projects. Vattenfall is committed to **early, effective and engaging** communication with the local communities where we operate.

Due to the size of this project, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). NSIPs include the kinds of large scale facilities that support the everyday life of the country, such as major transport routes, major gas pipelines, water reservoirs and sewage treatment plants, power stations, power lines and wind farms. They require development consent under formal and strict procedures outlined in The Planning Act 2008 and need to demonstrate extensive consultation with local communities and statutory organisations prior to submitting an application.

**5. Will this project have an adverse impact on the local environment (on and offshore), including fishing, marine and maritime industries?**

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With appropriate siting and continual consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of offshore wind farms should have minimal impact on the local area. Any wind farm that receives consent will have gone through a rigorous planning procedure and in-depth consultation with interested bodies regarding potential impacts.

Vattenfall is undertaking a number of environmental surveys of the marine wildlife in the wind farm area. These include bird and marine mammal surveys, seabed surveys of marine animals and fish surveys. We use this data to undertake environmental impact assessments to fully understand the effects of our project and any mitigation required. We will discuss the findings of these surveys when information from them is available.

**6. How and where will the project be connected to the Grid?**

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Vattenfall is currently working with National Grid to understand the most economic, efficient and co-ordinated way of connecting these projects to the grid. How the connection will be made has not yet been decided. Once this is known, we will consult local stakeholders on the proposed grid connection point and possible routes to the shore.

We will ensure that information relating to the Grid connection is updated on the project website regularly.

## **7. How will this scheme benefit local communities in Norfolk?**

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The industry trade body, RenewableUK, says that more than 70,000 jobs will be created in the UK renewables industry within the next decade<sup>1</sup>. Projects such as Norfolk Vanguard will contribute to the growth of an economically important industry.

We will be able to provide some detail about specific local benefits for Norfolk after completing our assessment of the impact of the wind farm on the local economy. We are convinced, based on our experience elsewhere, that Norfolk can expect significant benefit from this scheme.

## **8. The site has some fishing interests, as well as major shipping and ferry routes passing through or near to it. Will the wind farm force them to be moved?**

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In line with standard offshore practice, we are working on the presumption that vessels not involved in wind farm-related activities should remain 500m away from each turbine/work site during construction and commissioning.

Once the cables are installed and any exclusion areas around hazards are removed, fishing can continue within the area of the wind farm.

With regard to shipping, the site has been selected to avoid potential conflicts with major shipping routes. We are undertaking extensive consultation as part of the development of this project and other projects in this part of the North Sea. Any mitigation required as a result of the development of this scheme will be discussed in detail with the relevant statutory authorities and other stakeholders during the development process.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.renewableuk.com/en/news/press-releases.cfm/74-increase-in-uk-jobs-in-wind-and-marine-energy>