DBS Offshore Wind

Spring 2025

Keeping you informed

Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

Community Newsletter

Welcome

We're excited to share the latest updates about the DBS (Dogger Bank South) offshore wind farms and the work we are doing as they continue to progress through the planning process.

In this edition, we are pleased to report that the Development Consent Order Examination is well underway with the first hearings addressing key topics already completed. We are also pleased that the proposed changes to the projects' onshore and offshore designs have been accepted into the Examination.

Work continues on the ground this year. In April, we will embark on a new phase of archaeological exploration along our onshore cable corridor, and offshore site investigations will start in the area of DBS East to investigate the seabed conditions.

We report on the success of our schools engagement programme in 2024 and cover plans to expand the programme in 2025 to engage hundreds more students.

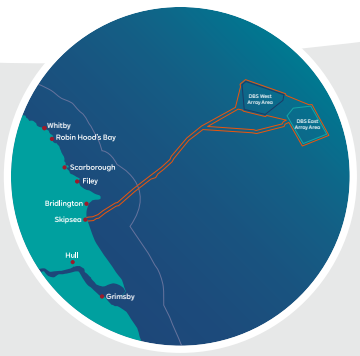
If you have any questions about the DBS projects, then please do get in touch with the team by email: dbs@rwe.com; phone: **0800 254 5459** or by post: **FREEPOST DBSOWF**.

Colin McAllister
Development Project Lead

Rassim Hariz
Project Director

Fast facts

DBS offshore wind farms



DBS is two projects:

DBS East

DBS West

Located over 100km off the north east coast of England.

Combined capacity of 3GW

Enough electricity for around 3 million typical UK homes*

*Calculation based on 2021 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,509 kWh, based on latest statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021, Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2021).

RWE MASDAR

Development Consent Order: update

The Development Consent Order Examination started on January 14, 2025, following the conclusion of the Preliminary Meeting that discussed the Examination process.

Hearings have commenced to address specific topics raised by stakeholders during the consultation phase. The first set of hearings took place virtually in January 2025, with additional hearings scheduled for April and June. Dates for the upcoming hearings will be available on both the Planning Inspectorate and DBS websites.

After each hearing, we and other stakeholders will prepare detailed responses to any questions requiring more information than provided during the session. All written responses will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website.

The Examination will close on July 14, 2025. After that, the Examining Authority will have up to three months to draft a report and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The SoS will then have up to three months more to review the report and issue a consent decision.

To view any documents related to the application or listen to recordings of the Examination hearings, please visit the Planning Inspectorate website:

https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010125

Timeline showing DCO application process

June 2024:
DCO submission

July 2024:
DCO Acceptance

Pre-examination
- Interested Parties register and submit a Relevant Representation
- Preliminary Meeting

January 2025:
Examination begins

Recommendation

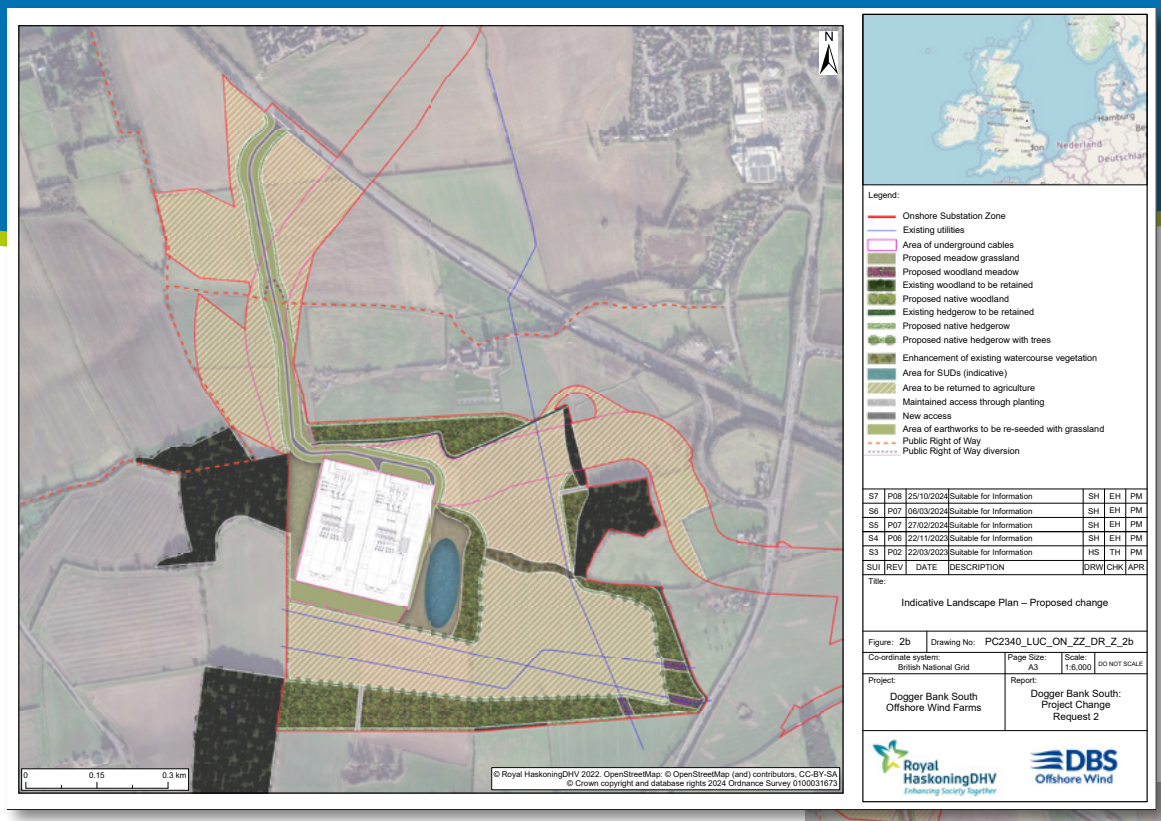
Winter 2025: Decision made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Post Decision

The Triton Knoll offshore wind farm operated by RWE. (Not intended to represent the size or scale of the DBS offshore wind farms).

Design changes accepted into Examination

We are pleased to announce that the proposed design changes for our onshore and offshore infrastructure have been accepted into the Examination process.



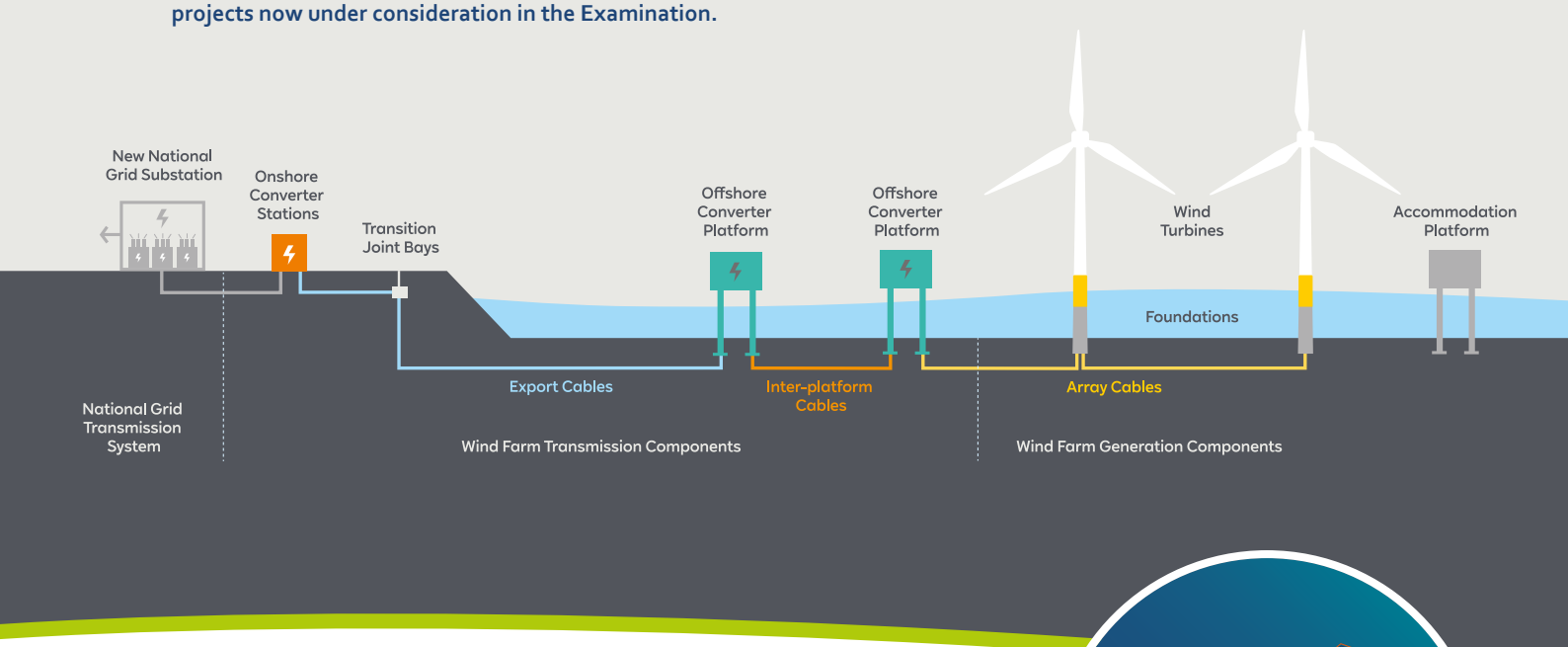
Map showing the layout of the refined, smaller substation zone accommodating the two onshore converter stations. This is the design under consideration in the Examination.

Onshore Changes:

- The revised designs significantly reduce the size of the onshore converter stations, halving the required land area.
- Offshore cables will now pass under the beach at landfall in Skipsea, removing the potential for cable exit pits in the intertidal area.

Map showing the original layout for the substation zone accommodating the two onshore converter stations. This design will not be taken forward.

Illustration showing the refined infrastructure for the DBS projects now under consideration in the Examination.



Offshore Changes:

- We've reduced the number of offshore platforms from eight to three and have reduced the associated cables.

Colin McAllister, DBS Development Project Lead said:

"We are pleased the design changes have been accepted into the Examination process. Achieving such a refined level of design at such an early stage is rare in offshore wind development. It was made possible by our close collaboration with NESO (National Energy System Operator) resulting in a firm grid connection offer, and our discussions with key equipment suppliers.

"These changes will result in positive environmental benefits compared to the original plans including less land for the onshore converter stations and reducing disturbance to the Dogger Bank sandbank, its benthic communities, and marine life compared to the original plans."

For more details, please visit: www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk

Archaeological trial trenching (2024).

Onshore archaeology update

In April, we will begin the next phase of onshore archaeological trial trenching.

This work will help us learn more about the historic and prehistoric environment along sections of the onshore export cable corridor, including areas south of Skipsea, Nunkeeling, Long Riston, and north of Beverley.

The project involves excavating around 285 shallow trenches, each approximately 50 meters long, on agricultural land. Once the trenching is complete, we will work with heritage stakeholders and the Local Liaison Committee to determine the best way to share the findings with the community. We will keep our project-specific archaeology web page up to date with any key findings.
www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk/archaeology

Local Liaison Committee meetings

In January, the latest Local Liaison Committee meeting took place online. It was attended by representatives from the parish councils along the proposed onshore export cable route and members of the DBS project team.

The meeting was well attended and served as an opportunity to share updates on the projects' progress, address questions from community attendees and discuss effective ways to communicate information to the wider community.

Offshore site investigations for DBS East

Starting in April, we will begin offshore site investigations over 122km offshore in the area that would host the DBS East offshore infrastructure. These geotechnical and geophysical investigations are similar to those conducted last year for DBS West.

The purpose of these investigations is to obtain a detailed and accurate understanding of the subsea ground conditions where the turbine foundations and other offshore infrastructure will be located. This information will help our engineers design the most effective foundations for each structure.

Skills and education

RWE virtual work experience

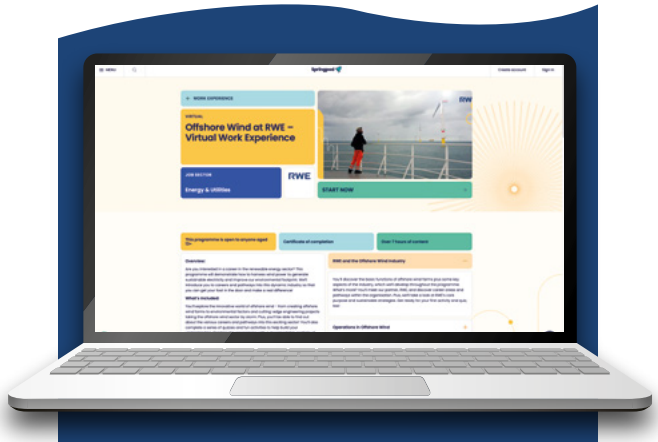
In 2024, RWE launched a free, interactive offshore wind learning programme in collaboration with SpringPod.

This online platform offers students aged 13 and above a comprehensive introduction to the offshore wind industry.

The programme highlights potential career opportunities and outlines pathways to help individuals enter this dynamic sector. It includes six modules covering topics such as general industry knowledge, operations, the environment and innovation.

With over seven hours of content, students can complete the course at their own pace. Upon finishing, participants receive a certificate, which can bolster applications for jobs, apprenticeships and UCAS personal statements.

https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/offshore-wind-at-rwe-virtual-work-experience/WEXP-00249



Start your work experience journey!

Use the QR code to be taken straight to the programme.

Colliderfest 2025

DBS was delighted to support Colliderfest, the Humber Science Festival on 15 and 16 March 2025 at the University of Hull.

This exciting four-day event was perfect for families, primary school children and youth groups, coinciding with the start of National STEM week. We were delighted to run our 'Supergrid Wind Turbine' activity and welcomed lots of interested learners to our stand.

Colliderfest inspired, entertained and informed primary-aged students, encouraging their interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths (STEM) and the arts. The event highlighted the exciting opportunities available in STEM careers and was a captivating experience.

We were delighted to be a part of it!

To find out more, please visit https://colliderfest.co.uk/

Skills and education

Events

In late 2024, we participated in two major STEM events in the region as part of our skills engagement programme: Humber STEM and The Big Bang on Location.

Our Education Specialist, Mike Cargill (UKSTEM), led engaging and interactive activities focusing on conservation, teamwork, and technology.

Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. At Humber STEM, all participants reported learning something new, feeling encouraged to further explore STEM subjects, particularly as they approach their GCSEs, and having a thoroughly enjoyable day.

"Offshore wind is a really hidden career and children and young people don't know it is there. It's really important to come to events ... where we can engage with young people and get them to understand what we do in the offshore wind industry." Mike Cargill, DBS, Education Specialist.

Primary Schools Engagement Programme

The DBS Primary Schools Engagement Programme focuses on working with the local community along the planned onshore export cable route, which stretches from landfall at Skipsea to the onshore converter stations near Beverley.

Our goal is to increase awareness of the offshore wind sector and its diverse career opportunities by offering fun and engaging STEM activities for children aged 9 to 11.

So far, we've conducted STEM workshops at eight primary schools, reaching 324 children. Each participating school has received a STEM kit full of practical resources that teachers can use for three different lessons. Teachers also have access to instructional videos to help them effectively use the kits in future lessons.

In 2025, we plan to repeat the programme to inspire and engage hundreds more young students to explore STEM subjects.

Feedback from teachers:

- *"The best STEM activity we've ever had in school!"*
- *"Thank you so much for the fabulous STEM session for my Y5 class last week. The children enjoyed all elements of their project and I felt that they gained a lot of knowledge and developed their skills."*
- *"A great range of resources which will help to develop our STEM clubs."*

For more information about the work we are doing to develop skills and learning and to access videos and downloadable resources for use in schools or at home, please visit our skills and learning page:

https://doggerbanksouth.co.uk/community-jobs-and-benefits/skills-and-learning/

DBS Offshore Wind

Further information

For more information on the projects, please visit our website at www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk

Contact us:
Email: dbs@rwe.com
Telephone: 0800 254 5459
Website: www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk
Post: FREEPOST DBSOWF