



Sofia Offshore Wind Farm

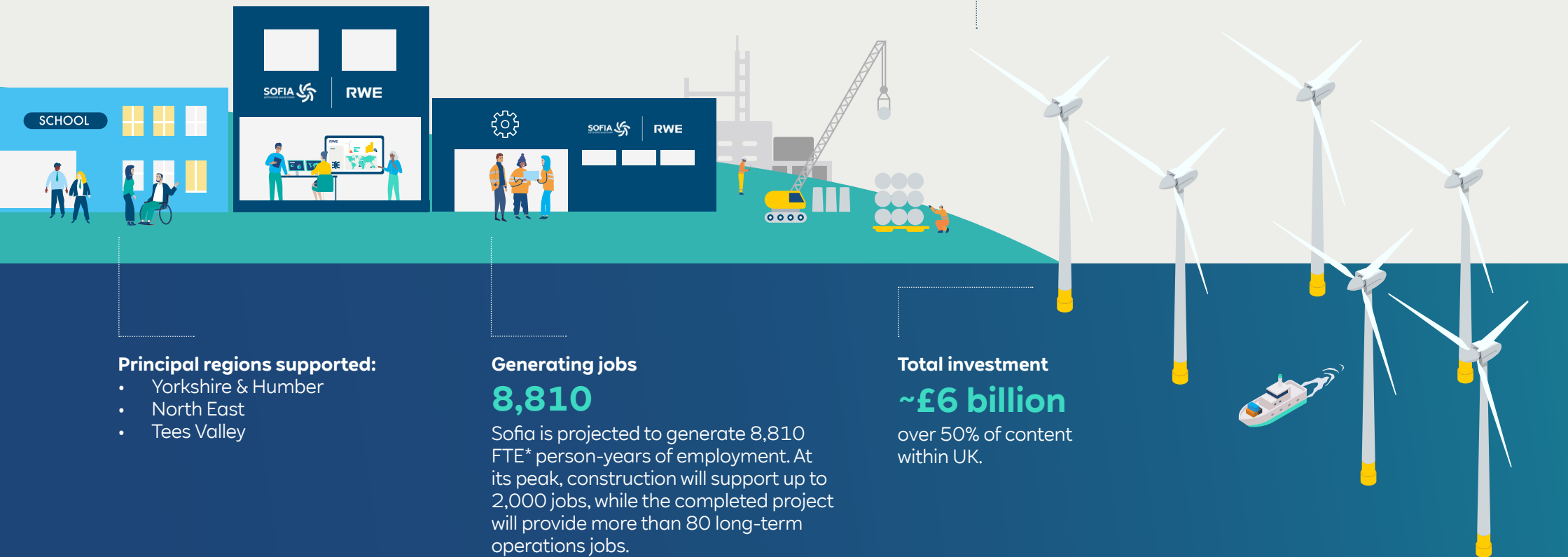
Boosting growth & employment

Driving regional & national growth

£760 million

Sofia is projected to contribute around £760 million in GVA* to the UK economy, of which up to £181 million will be in Yorkshire and Humber regions and £62 million in the North East.

*Gross Value Added



Principal regions supported:

- Yorkshire & Humber
- North East
- Tees Valley

Generating jobs

8,810

Sofia is projected to generate 8,810 FTE* person-years of employment. At its peak, construction will support up to 2,000 jobs, while the completed project will provide more than 80 long-term operations jobs.

*Full Time Employment

Total investment

~£6 billion

over 50% of content within UK.

Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Powers Economic Growth

RWE commissioned Wavehill to assess the socio-economic impacts of its multi-billion-pound investment in the development, construction, and operation of the Sofia Offshore Wind Farm. The study evaluates economic and employment outcomes from primary contractors and their supply chains.

Located 195 km off England's northeast coast on Dogger Bank, the Sofia Offshore Wind Farm is a 1.4 GW project currently under construction and set to become one of the UK's largest offshore wind farms. Owned by RWE, Sofia features 100 Siemens Gamesa turbines, each 252 m tall with 14 MW capacity. This £6.08 billion project, with landfall near Marske-by-the-Sea and Redcar in Tees Valley, is expected to provide a significant boost to both the regional and national economy.



Economic & Social Contribution

Investment: Of the £6.08 billion project cost, £3.09 billion is allocated to development and construction, forming the basis of this study.

Economic Impact: The construction phase is projected to generate £760 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) for the UK, including £181 million for Yorkshire and Humber (primarily turbine blade supply and installation) and £62 million for the North East (largely onshore cable works).

Legacy Benefits: Sofia fosters short and medium-term opportunities while delivering long-term gains in skills, infrastructure, and innovation, supporting the scalability of renewable energy projects.

Workforce Development: Investments in skills development and training are addressing the offshore wind sector's needs, creating a skilled workforce and ensuring future industry growth.

Sector Leadership: Sofia exemplifies how renewable energy projects can deliver economic, social, and environmental benefits to local and national communities.

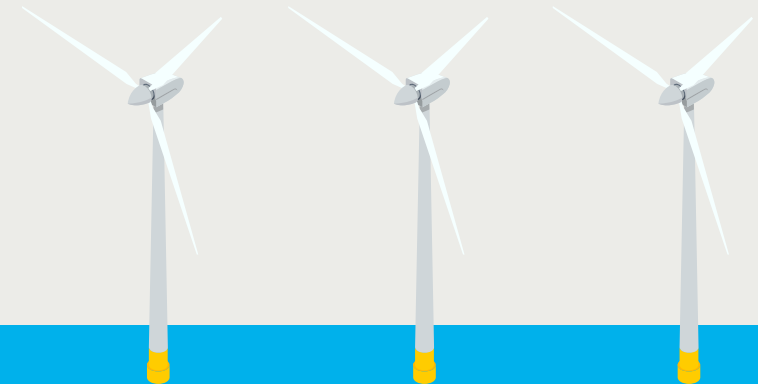


Generating jobs

Employment Creation: Sofia is projected to generate 8,810 full-time equivalent (FTE) person-years of work across the UK, including 1,600 in Yorkshire and Humber and 490 in the North East. That's equivalent to ~2000 jobs during the peak of construction, and ~80 long term, skilled operational jobs.

Extended Impact: Additional GVA is expected through indirect employment and contracts facilitated by skills development and investment from Sofia.

Apprenticeships: RWE's apprenticeship programs, including those for T-Level students, focus on diverse and inclusive recruitment, ensuring a pipeline of skilled technicians. Tier 1 contractors have also launched apprenticeship programs for hands-on experience during construction.





Benefitting Communities

Educational Outreach: Sofia engaged with over 80 educational institutions, including 30 primary schools, 42 secondary schools, five colleges, and two universities, to promote STEM careers in renewables.

Teacher Training: The Champions for Wind initiative trained educators in STEM and other subjects to raise awareness of offshore wind career opportunities.

Student Engagement: Sofia reached over 12,700 students through direct outreach and provided apprenticeships to support careers in offshore wind.

University Partnerships: Memorandums of Understanding with Teesside and Newcastle universities support career development for graduates in engineering, maths, and social sciences.

Community Initiatives: The £150,000 Construction Fund supports local projects in mental health, sustainability, and infrastructure. Sponsorships include beach clean-ups, community festivals, and charity events.



Developing the Supply Chain

Skills Investment: Contractors have invested in workforce upskilling, including:

- Blade Production: Specialist training at SGRE's Hull facility for larger turbine blades.
- EHS Training: General safety and compliance training at Van Oord and Jones Bros.

Infrastructure and Equipment: Significant upgrades include:

- Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy's (SGRE) Hull blade factory producing blades for 100 14 MW turbines, 40% of which are recyclable.
- GE's Stafford High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) facility manufacturing key components, supporting over 1,000 workers.
- Upgrades at the Port of Blyth, which partnered with Energy Central Campus to develop a future clean energy workforce.
- Modernisation of the Port of Tyne to support Sofia's construction.

Regional Partnerships: RWE's Supplier Transparency Engagement Programme (STEP) initiative and collaboration with industry bodies have enabled local businesses to bid for and secure contracts, boosting both short- and long-term economic activity.

Find out more
about our Sofia Project:

