

Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm

Consultation Report

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Miles more windfarm cables could be buried in Norfolk

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One of Vattenfall's windfarms, at Kentish Flats. Pic: Robin Dawe/ Perfectly Clear Marketing

The developer behind another huge windfarm proposed off the coast of Norfolk has revealed its intention to bury miles of cables beneath the county.

Vattenfall, which wants to build the Norfolk Vanguard wind farm about 30 miles east of Great Yarmouth, has revealed its early plans for the scheme.

The Swedish company is seeking to bury about 30 miles of transmission cable underground, coming ashore at a point between Bacton and Eccles-on-Sea.

The cables would then continue to a substation at Necton, passing North Walsham, Aylsham and Dereham en route.

Public consultation has been launched over the best route for those cables and infrastructure such as a cable relay station and project substation.

The company has sent more than 20,000 newsletters to people in north Norfolk and is holding public information events.

Ruari Lean, Vattenfall's senior project manager for the Norfolk Vanguard proposal, said: "We are at the early stages of developing Norfolk Vanguard.

"There will be lots of opportunity for local people to shape how the offshore wind farm, including the onshore infrastructure, will look. We want to hear from as many people as possible this month and in the future.

"We hope, though, that people will agree with us that undergrounding the 50km onshore cable route is the right decision as it minimises the wind farm's impact."

The company will need to secure consent from the Planning Inspectorate, which has the final say on the scheme.

Vattenfall says its target is for Norfolk Vanguard to generate 1.8 gigawatts. With a sister project - Norfolk Boreas - expected to start its planning process early next year, that could power the equivalent of 2.6 million homes.

It comes as another winfarm developer began its own consultation over what would be the world's biggest windfarm.

Danish company DONG Energy is consulting over the route of the cables which would come from the Hornsea Project Three farm, which would be built in the North Sea, almost 80 miles from the coast.

The company is exploring whether the cables could go through north Norfolk, Broadland and south Norfolk, to connect to the national grid substation near Norwich.

Business bosses have previously hailed the region as being at the forefront of renewable energy, with rich potential for the industry to bring new jobs in harbour towns such as Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

Where to have your say

Vattenfall has organised seven public information days, where people can have their say on the proposals.

They will take place at:

Aylsham Town Hall, Market Place, Aylsham. Tuesday, October 18 from 2pm until 6.30pm.

Happisburgh Wenn Evans Community Centre, Blacksmiths Lane, Happisburgh. Wednesday, October 19 from 2pm until 6.30pm.

Dereham Memorial Hall, Norwich Street, Dereham. Thursday, October 20 from 2pm until 6.30pm.

Necton Village Hall, Tuns Road, Necton. Friday, October 21 from 2pm until 6.30pm.

North Walsham Community Centre, New Road, North Walsham. Saturday, October 22 from 11am until 4pm.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth. Friday, October 28. From 2pm until 6.30pm.

Norwich City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich. Saturday, October 29. From 11am until 4pm.

Further information is available at <http://norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk>