

Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

January 2019

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four>

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Section 1 – General Project Questions

What is Hornsea Project Four?

Hornsea Project Four is an offshore wind farm which Ørsted is proposing to develop in the North Sea, approximately 65 km off the Flamborough Head on the Yorkshire Coast. The project is currently in the pre-application phase for a Development Consent Order (DCO), the major consent required to allow the development to proceed.

Who is the developer?

Hornsea Project Four is being developed by Ørsted (formerly DONG Energy). Headquartered in Denmark, Ørsted is the global leader in offshore wind power with over 25 years of experience developing, constructing and operating offshore wind farms. Our vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy. Over the last decade, we have undergone a truly green transformation, halving our CO₂ emissions and focusing our activities on renewable sources of energy. By deploying renewable energy resources at scale, we want to revolutionise the way the world is powered and reduce the negative effects of climate change, which is currently one of the biggest threats facing the world.

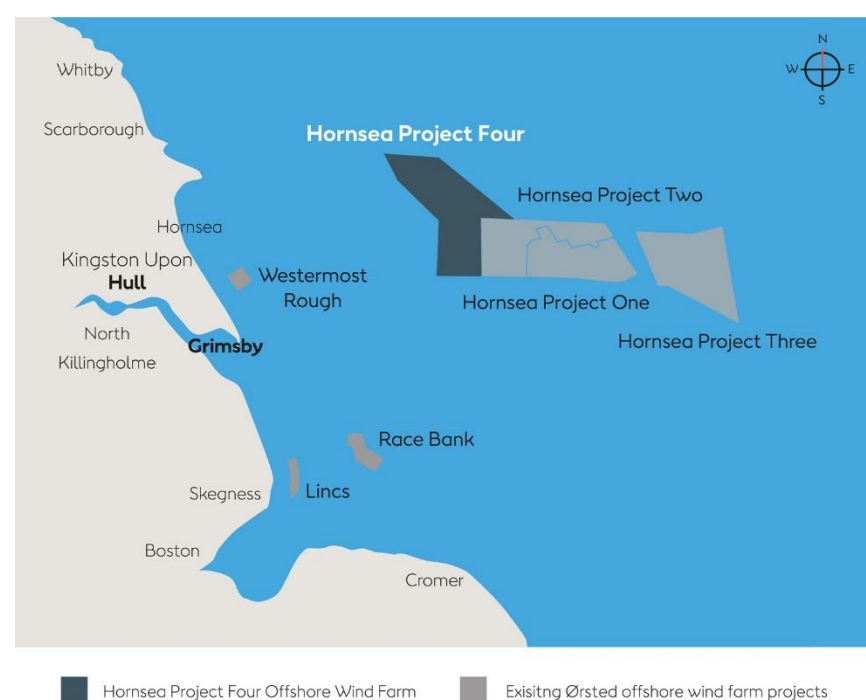
Is this your only project / what have you done here previously?

Over the past 25 years we have established our company as a global leader in offshore wind with a 25 per cent market share. The UK is our largest market with ten offshore wind farms already operating and a further three under construction.

Locally, we have one operational offshore wind farm situated off the Yorkshire coast – Westernmost Rough. A further four projects, including Hornsea Project Four, are either under construction or in development, all of which are part of the Hornsea area.

Ørsted is currently constructing Hornsea Project One and is in preconstruction with Hornsea Project Two, while we have recently submitted an application for a Development Consents Order (DCO) for Hornsea Project Three. We are now also developing the fourth project in the Hornsea Zone, Hornsea Project Four.

Figure 1: Map to show Hornsea Area and other existing Ørsted projects off the East Coast.



Why is the UK building / supporting offshore wind farms?

The Climate Change Act 2008, legally committed the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, compared to the 1990 level¹. Over the next couple of decades, much of the UK's existing generating plants are set to close and the UK urgently needs to replace large volumes of its existing electricity infrastructure with low carbon generation. As an island nation, with relatively shallow waters and high wind speeds, the UK has an abundant natural wind resource, and offshore wind power has the potential to contribute significantly towards this low carbon transition.

The cost of UK offshore wind power has fallen significantly in recent years. This achievement is marked by the record low 'strike price'² for our Hornsea Project Two Offshore Wind Farm, which at £57.50 per megawatt hour is 50% lower than the previous auction round just two years ago, and the lowest-ever price for offshore wind in the UK. These auction results are further evidence of the huge progress the offshore wind industry has made in substantially cutting costs through innovation and creating thousands of UK jobs. The UK is moving from being powered by polluting fossil fuels to clean energy and offshore wind has the potential to become the backbone of our future energy system.

How big is Hornsea Project Four?

We are investigating an offshore generating area for the project of up to 846km², where up to 180 turbines will be located. To put it into perspective, this area is roughly eleven and a half times the size of Hull and is located approximately 65 km off the Flamborough Head on the Yorkshire Coast.

¹ Climate Change Act 2008. Available online: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/pdfs/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf

² The 'strike price' is a price for electricity which reflects the cost of investing in a particular low carbon technology. This is compared against the 'reference price' – a measure of the average market price for electricity in the GB market and the difference between the two is paid to the generator.

What is the capacity of Hornsea Project Four?

As the project is still at an early stage in the development process, we are unable to state its generating capacity as this has not been defined. We can confirm that Hornsea Project Four will comprise of up to a maximum of 180 offshore wind turbines. However, due to the rapid and continuous advancements in turbine technology that the offshore wind farm industry has witnessed over the past 5-10 years, we are currently unable to confirm which turbine model would be used in the construction of the project should it receive a Development Consent Order (DCO) as more turbines are likely to materialise over the coming years.

In offshore wind, innovation has played a huge part in helping the technology become an integral part of the UK's renewable energy mix. Bigger wind farms using larger turbines have pushed the industry forward. Only ten years ago, the largest offshore turbine was 3.6 MW. To put this into perspective, the new MHI Vestas 8 MW turbines are 195 metres tall – taller than the Humber Bridge (156m) and more than twice the height of the 3.6 MW turbine; more are entering the market at the time of writing. As we do not know which turbine model will be available to us during construction, we cannot definitively state what the project's capacity will be. However, we will assess the maximum foreseeable parameters that up to 180 wind turbines would possess.

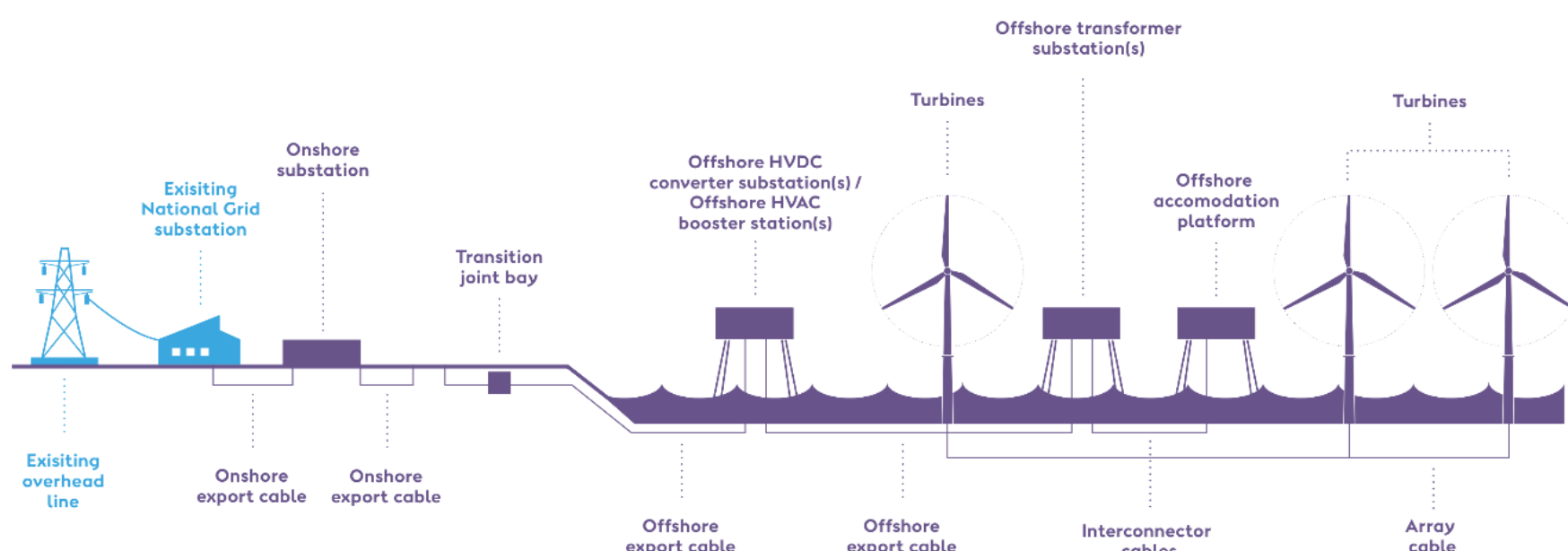
How many homes will be powered by Hornsea Project Four?

Whilst at this stage it is not possible to state the capacity of the Hornsea Project Four, the wind farm is expected to have a similar number of turbines to Hornsea Project One, which has 174 turbines and will generate enough clean energy to power more than 1 million UK homes. Although the turbines for Hornsea Project Four may be larger than those used on Hornsea Project One, we can say that the project anticipates it will generate enough electricity to power well over 1 million UK homes.

What will Hornsea Project Four consist of?

Below is a graphic which shows the typical components of an offshore wind farm. When developing the plans for Hornsea Project Four we will be looking into the different options associated with each of these components.

Main components of an offshore wind farm



What stage is Hornsea Project Four at now?

We are now developing a fourth (and last) project in the Hornsea area: Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm. The Project is in the pre-application stage for a DCO and has a great deal of consultation and consent assessment work ahead.

Hornsea Project Four is defined as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a capacity of over 100MW. The planning process for NSIPs is set out by the Planning Act 2008. In accordance with this planning regime, the process is focused on consulting with a range of stakeholders and the community early on to enable plans to evolve iteratively in response to feedback. As the developer, we will provide more information on the Project and plans for its development to then allow you time to comment on these plans. Your views and input on Hornsea Project Four are important to us and will help us to identify key areas of concern for the Project which can then be incorporated into the final design where possible.

Key Project Milestones

Past

September 2018

We published our **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)** which sets out how we will consult the local community, residents, businesses, organisations and visitors to the area about our proposal for the offshore wind farm. The document also provides background to the project, details

where further information can be obtained or viewed, explains how comments on the proposal can be made, and sets out how the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will progress. The document can be viewed in full [here](#).

October 2018

We submitted our request for an EIA Scoping Opinion in the form of a **Scoping Report** (and a request letter under regulation 6 and regulation 8 of the Planning Act 2008) to the Planning Inspectorate. A full copy of the report can be found on our website here:

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/News/2018/10/Scoping-Report-now-available>

October 2018

We held our first set of local information events across East Riding of Yorkshire where the local community found out more about the project, viewed our early plans and to provided initial feedback which has helped to shape our proposal.

The first round of events took place on:

- Monday 22 October, Foston on the Wolds Village Hall, Main Street, Foston on the Wolds, YO25 8BJ
- Thursday 25 October, Barmston and Fraisthorpe Village Hall, Sands Lane, Barmston, YO25 8PG
- Friday 26 October, Leconfield Village Hall, Miles Lane, Leconfield, HU17 7NW
- Saturday 27 October, Woodmansey Village Hall, Long Lane, Beverley, HU17 0RN

A further round of events will be held in Summer 2019 and advertised nearer the time when more information is available to present and seek feedback upon.

November 2018

We received a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-project-four-offshore-wind-farm-generating-stations/?ipcsection=docs>

December 2018

Hornsea Project Four published a Consultation Summary Report which provides an overview of feedback received following our local information events in October 2018. The report also explains the next steps for the project and the opportunities for you and your community to engage in the project as it evolves.

The December 2018 Consultation Summary Report can be viewed / downloaded for our website here: <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/en/Hornsea-Project-Four/Documents-Library>

Future

Consultation timeline



When could construction of Hornsea Project Four start?

If granted planning permission, construction for Hornsea Project Four could commence as early as 2021, with the wind farm becoming operational from as early as 2025.³

Will the offshore wind farm be visible from the coast?

The nearest wind turbines would be situated approximately 65 km offshore from the Flamborough Head and it is possible that the turbines and their blades will be visible from the coastline given they will be large structures which will not fall entirely below the horizon formed by the curvature of the earth. However, this is very much dependent on factors such as the time of day, the atmospheric/ meteorological conditions and whether any lighting is to be used on the wind turbines. That the wind turbines may be visible will not necessarily equate to visual 'significance', this being influenced by the sensitivity of viewers, and the magnitude of visual change, which at long distances is likely to be very small. As the project progresses more information will become available as to the anticipated likely significance of any visual effects due to the wind turbines, and where effects are anticipated to be significant further detail will be provided.

How wide will the final onshore cable corridor be?

As part of our DCO application, the project will apply for an 80 m onshore cable corridor, of which 20 m will be used for temporary working areas. Once the cables are installed, the land will be reinstated. It would not be possible to place any type of construction (i.e. buildings) or deep-rooted trees above the cables in case we needed to perform maintenance in the future. However, it would be possible to continue to farm over the cables.

Where could the onshore substation be located?

A new onshore substation will be required near to the existing Creyke Beck National Grid substation. This substation will convert and connect the export cables that originate from the landfall and transport the electricity to Creyke Beck. Orsted has been continually refining the area it is considering for an Onshore Substation – this process started last year and has involved our own site feasibility and selection process, as well as being influenced by the views and considerations of local people and statutory organisations such as parish councils, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) and the local Highways Authority. We started with a broad search area around Creyke Beck substation – where we have a grid connection agreement with National Grid and refined this area down to the search area submitted in the EIA scoping report. <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/News/2018/10/Scoping-Report-now-available>

We are currently in the process of refining this search area further, based on feedback we received at our local information events in October 2018, and further consultation with statutory organisations. The proposed substation option(s) will be presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in summer 2019 for you to comment on.

What will construction of the onshore substation involve?

Construction of the onshore substation would involve groundworks to clear and prepare the site, and to establish suitable foundations for the electrical plant and control building. These groundworks, together with the construction of the building and the perimeter fence, would take around three years.

Additionally, as the onshore substation layout progresses, the visual effects will be assessed and, where significant effects are anticipated, these will be mitigated (for example by landscaping and tree planting). Any mitigation will be developed in consultation with local stakeholders such as East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the local community.

How will the project impact traffic locally?

The impacts of Hornsea Project Four on local traffic and transport will be assessed as part of our EIA. The construction traffic routing strategy will be developed with approval from East Riding of Yorkshire Council and supported by an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. Construction traffic flows will be produced based on professional experience, evidence from past projects and baseline traffic information. The flows will provide the anticipated number of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements associated with onshore construction works for the project. Trips generated by onsite staff will also be considered. Further, we will be using a mixture of open cut trenching and Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to install the onshore cables. Using HDD technology enables us to dig underneath roads without damaging the infrastructure above ground. By using HDD under major roads, we would avoid closures and can minimise the potential impact on traffic.

How will the project impact drainage locally?

We will be enlisting the services of drainage consultants and working with landowners to ensure that drainage is maintained. We have also committed to selecting a landfall site that avoids the Barmston Main Drain.

³All dates are indicative and subject to change

Section 2 – The Planning Process

What is the planning process for an offshore wind farm?

As the proposed generating capacity of Hornsea Project Four exceeds 100 megawatts (MW), the project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)⁴, and must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008.

Who will you consult?

Under the Planning Act 2008, a developer is required to carry out consultation on their proposed application before submission, and must take any responses received into account, adjusting their project as appropriate. This consultation includes;

- Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Environment Agency and Natural England, host and neighbouring authorities and any landowners affected by the project (under Section 42);
- Consultation with the local community in the vicinity of the proposed project (under Section 47);
- General public consultation on the project (under Section 48).

Who decides whether to grant planning permission?

If the DCO application is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will then coordinate the examination of our application with an independent Examining Authority panel, who will in turn make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Decisions on DCO applications will be made in accordance with the National Policy Statement (NPS) for energy (amongst others), which sets out the need for new energy infrastructure. The SoS will then review and comment on this before deciding on whether to grant a DCO.

More information on the planning process, including guidance notes can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:
[www.https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/)

What is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

The purpose of the EIA process is to inform the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate of the likely significant effects associated with the development during its construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning.

It considers environmental, social and economic aspects, and includes the following steps:

- 1 Gathering environmental information
- 2 Providing information about the development
- 3 Assessing significant environmental effects of the project
- 4 Proposing ways of **reducing, avoiding and mitigating** any significant adverse effects.

What is the proportionate approach to an Environmental Impact Assessment?

Our proportionate approach to EIA means that it should be undertaken and presented in a manner that would satisfy both legal and consenting requirements whilst being suitably brief and providing an adequate assessment of the likely significant effects.

The benefits of delivering a proportionate EIA, as defined by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2017), are to:

- Drive collaborative action and understanding across the EIA community;
- Focus assessments so their findings are accessible to all stakeholders
- Reduce uncertainty and risk within project consenting
- Save time and costs for developers, consenting authorities and consultees
- Allow more time to be spent exploring the delivery of environmental improvements

More information on our proportionate approach to EIA and the tools which we have used to achieve it can be found in the Hornsea Project Four Scoping Report, available to view on our website: <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/News/2018/10/Scoping-Report-now-available>

⁴ Any energy project over 100 MW.

Section 5 – Landowner Specific Questions

What legislation covers these works?

As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the project will be applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO). This process is governed by the Planning Act 2008 and governs the necessary planning and compulsory purchase powers for the project.

How will you engage with landowners along the route?

We start engagement with landowners at an early stage to seek their feedback on our plans and to enable us to feed their comments back into the design process. Throughout the development phase our appointed Land Agents, Dalcour Maclaren, will offer face-to-face meetings with landowners along the route. At every meeting, the feedback given by landowners will be recorded and fed back into the design process.

In addition, we will also make ourselves available by:

- Inviting landowners to our local information events.
- Writing to landowners as part of our formal consultation.
- Hosting/attending meetings with relevant local organisations and land agents to seek feedback on the scheme and provide updates.

Will I receive any compensation for having the cables through my land?

Yes, we will compensate landowners who are directly affected by the cable through their land. Compensation is paid for the freehold depreciation of the land affected by the easement and for all reasonable and substantiated losses arising from the construction of the project. All compensations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

I don't want to agree any terms with you, so what will you do then?

We would like to work with landowners as much as possible to resolve any concerns that you may have and reach an agreement by negotiation. However, where we cannot reach an agreement, we will be seeking compulsory acquisition powers within our DCO application so that we can acquire any necessary land rights for the project to be developed.

Who should I be speaking to from Ørsted about my land and any questions that I have?

For any **landowner specific questions**, please contact our Land Agents, Dalcour Maclaren

Email: HOW4@dalcourmaclaren.com

Land Agent dedicated project phone line: 01623 709291

[NOTE: For non-landowner related queries please see contact details on the project website <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four>]

Section 6 – Our Consultation

Where can I view your latest plans?

You can view the most up to date Project information on our website <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four>

Hornsea Project Four published its Scoping Report in October 2018, which presents an initial review of the potential issues associated with construction, operation and maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of the Project.

The full Scoping Report can be viewed / downloaded from our website here: <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/News/2018/10/Scoping-Report-now-available>

In December 2018, Hornsea Project Four also published a Consultation Summary Report which provides an overview of all the views expressed at the October events that were recorded. The report also explains the next steps for the project and the opportunities for you and your community to engage in the project as it evolves.

The December 2018 Consultation Summary Report can be viewed / downloaded for our website here: <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/en/Hornsea-Project-Four/Documents-Library>

How will you keep local communities informed?

During the consultation period, the Project will produce bi-annual newsletters to keep local communities informed as our plans progress. If you would like to sign up to receive copies of our newsletter, you can register your interest in the Project on our website (<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four>) or by contacting us directly.

Email: contact@hornseaprojectfour.co.uk

Freephone Line: 0808 169 3030

Thank you for your attendance at our first set of local information events in October 2018. We will be holding additional events in Summer 2019 following the publication of our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). During the consultation, all consultation materials will be available to access via our project website and are also available to view at our multiple community access points, which are also listed on the website. We will also be using local media to advertise the consultation.

Will I be able to comment on your plans?

We will continue to consult with local communities, local authorities, utility companies, environmental and other statutory and non-statutory bodies to help shape our proposal in the lead up to submission of our DCO application.

We are encouraging people to look at our Commitments Register, which is the most effective way for you to input into the project design. The Commitments Register has been designed to reduce impacts that are important to you, your local area and the environment.

Please take a minute to access our website <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/Hornsea-Project-Four/Have-your-say> and see what we have already committed to.

Our next set of events will be held in Summer 2019 following the publication of our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). We value your opinion and strongly encourage anyone with an interest, who wants to comment on our plans to attend these events and make their views known to the project. In the meantime, you can also contact us directly through any of our official communication channels (see below).

Will my views be considered?

Yes. Your views are important to us and this pre-application consultation is your opportunity to influence our proposal. After each round of consultation events, we will carefully consider all the feedback received at that point in time and will summarise the key findings in a Consultation Summary Report, which will be available on our website (December 2018 edition can be found here – <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/en/Hornsea-Project-Four/Documents-Library>).

No decisions will be made until detailed studies and public consultations have been carried out. This is a staged process and there will be another opportunity for a formal round of consultation (in addition to our October 2018 local information events) and we will return to the area to present the findings of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and consult on these in advance of the application being finalised for submission. The Planning Act 2008 encourages a consultation driven application process where comments regarding our proposal are documented and addressed where possible. At the end of the consultation period, we will prepare and submit a Consultation Report alongside our DCO application, which will explain how we consulted, provide a summary of all the feedback we received and explain how your comments have influenced our plans.

Can I speak directly to members of the team?

For any general enquiries, please contact our dedicated community liaison team:

Email: contact@hornseaprojectfour.co.uk

Freephone Line: 0808 169 3030

Section 7 – Local engagement and benefits

What is the socioeconomic impact?

As part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we will assess the potential socio-economic benefits associated with the scheme. The positive and negative aspects of the project will be communicated in the Environmental Statement which accompanies the application for the Development Consent Order (DCO).

Will there be local job opportunities?

Over the last 10 years, Ørsted has built up close relationships with a wide variety of suppliers from across the UK who have helped us to deliver our projects whilst also delivering economic value, through job creation and local investment to the UK. We look forward to continuing these collaborative partnerships for HOW04 with the relevant Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and business groups to understand what can be supplied locally. Typically, we also hold supply chain events nearer to the construction phase with principal contractors and will advertise these events locally.

Note: Construction of an offshore wind farm typically lasts 3-4 years, with operations and Maintenance lasting more than 20 years.

Will there be a Community Benefit Fund for Hornsea Project Four?

We have established voluntary Community Benefit Funds (CBFs) for a number of our projects, which are currently under construction. These funds can make a valuable contribution to the local area, by supporting projects such as community building improvements and recreation facilities, conservation and wildlife projects etc. Hornsea Project Four will review the interactions of the project, as the proposal is refined and consider an appropriate way to feed benefits back into the local community. Any decision to establish a CBF for Hornsea Project Four would be made post financial investment decision (FID), when the Project has been given the green light to go ahead.

Section 8 – Our contact details

How can I contact the project?

We want to hear your thoughts throughout our consultation period for Hornsea Project Four. You can get in touch by using any of our communication lines listed below:



Send us an email:
contact@hornseaprojectfour.co.uk



Call our Freephone information line:
0808 169 3030



Visit our website:
www.hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four



Send us a letter:
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm
c/o Humphrey Laidlaw
Ørsted UK
5 Howick Place
Victoria
London
SW1P 1WG



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