

Community newsletter
August 2026

Hornsea 4 Offshore Wind Farm



Welcome



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Development
Project Director

Welcome to our latest community newsletter for Hornsea 4, an offshore wind farm which Ørsted is proposing to develop in the North Sea, approximately 69 km off Flamborough Head on the Yorkshire coast.

Since we published our last newsletter in October 2024, Ørsted announced in May 2025 that it was going to discontinue Hornsea 4 in its previous form. The decision was driven by many factors, mainly higher costs, higher interest rates and higher risk to construct and operate the wind farm at that time. Given these considerations, the decision was taken to pause construction of the wind farm.

However, since then, our team has worked hard at exploring how it might be possible to reconfigure the project to be able to bring it forward in the future. Many of the aspects of the project that are necessary to deliver the project in the future are still active such as the sea bed rights, grid connection agreement and Development Consent Order. Our team most recently have been reconsidering the project design parameters and evaluating options for future development.

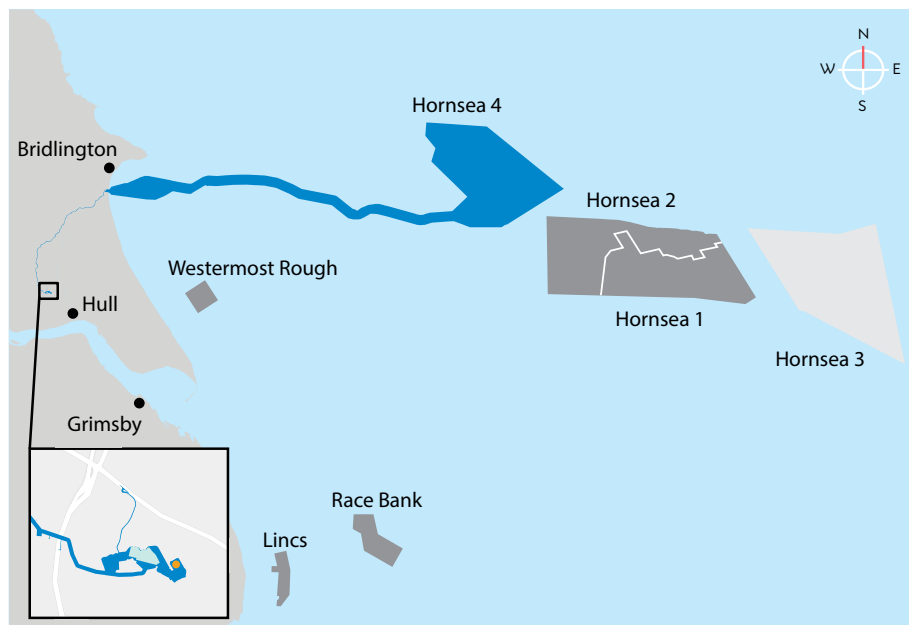
This newsletter provides you with an update on the work we have been doing to bring this project back, so we can continue to support the UK's ambition to deliver clean, affordable and home-grown electricity.

About Hornsea 4

Hornsea 4 is Ørsted's fourth project in the Hornsea Zone.

The wind farm will be located to the west of Hornsea 2. Hornsea 1 (1.2 GW) and Hornsea 2 (1.3 GW) are now both fully operational, and Hornsea 3 (2.9 GW) is under construction.

Hornsea 4, expected to be another gigawatt scale project, will be the 'final piece of the puzzle', completing the Hornsea Zone. It would provide enough power for over a million UK homes and create thousands of jobs during the construction and operation of the wind farm.



-  Hornsea 4 DCO Consent Limit
-  Onshore Substation
-  Creyke Beck Grid Connection

-  Existing operational Ørsted offshore wind farms
-  Ørsted offshore wind farms under construction



Project updates

Seabed rights and future development

We're delighted to share that Hornsea 4 has now entered its seabed lease – an important milestone in the continued development of the project.

A seabed lease is a legally binding agreement granting a developer the exclusive rights to use a designated area of the ocean floor to construct, operate and maintain an offshore wind farm. These leases are administered by The Crown Estate.

We were clear when we discontinued the project in 2025 that our intention was to bring it back to market at a suitable time. This agreement marks an important step towards reaching that goal, allowing us to continue to progress with a project that will support the UK's ambition to deliver clean, affordable and home-grown electricity.

Grid reform

The UK is going through a significant grid connection reform with the aim of ensuring that the projects that are "ready to build" and "needed" by the energy system are prioritised and given grid connection dates as soon as possible. This is a necessary but highly complex process.

Hornsea 4 is in a good position given it meets the "readiness" criteria (through its seabed rights and development consent). It also meets the "needed" criteria, as offshore wind is designated as a core strategic technology by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) critical to meeting the Government's Clean Power 2030 targets.

Whilst Hornsea 4 already has a signed grid connection with NESO, the connection reform process means there is uncertainty surrounding the exact connection date the project will be offered. Further certainty about this is expected to be provided later this year allowing us to firm up the construction schedule for Hornsea 4.

Contracts for Difference

Once we have certainty on a grid connection date and have firmed up the project concept, we will be looking to secure a Contract for Difference (CfD) from the UK government. The CfD is a mechanism providing revenue stability for a 20-year period, giving developers and investors the confidence to invest the billions of pounds necessary to construct and operate the wind farm. Hornsea 4 will be eligible to participate in bidding for a CfD from 2027 onwards (from Allocation Round 9).

Delivering seabird compensation measures

As part of our Development Consent Order commitment, Ørsted is bringing forward a number of measures aimed at protecting and enhancing seabird habitats.

Specifically, we are delivering ecological compensation measures for guillemots and kittiwakes, two gull species whose population could potentially be impacted by the wind farm.

Seabird Restoration Project

We will be delivering the Seabird Restoration Project in the Channel Islands to compensate for any potential impacts to guillemot from Hornsea 4.

Guillemots are a dark brown and white seabird that live at sea, only coming ashore to nest. Their populations are declining in the UK as a result of climate change and prey shortages.

Guillemot populations found in the Channel Islands are part of the *albionis* species, the same as those



Credit: Alderney Wildlife Trust

found in the North Sea. This suggests that guillemot from North Sea colonies, where the Hornsea 4 offshore wind farm will be located, likely migrate through or disperse to the Channel Islands.

The aim of the Seabird Restoration Project is to eradicate non-native, invasive, predatory rats on the islands to boost the population of breeding guillemots.

Kittiwake artificial nesting structure

As part of the compensation measures for both Hornsea 3 and 4, Ørsted has finished work on an artificial nesting structure in Hartlepool which could be home to more than 1,000 kittiwakes.

The nesting site is made up of one tower about 35 ft high and four cabin-like buildings. The nests themselves are around 9 ft off the ground, protecting the seabirds from any predators.

The artificial nesting structures currently include around 100 3D-printed artificial kittiwakes, in the hope that this will attract more of the real-life species.

The birds which choose to nest at the site will be monitored and observed for the duration of the projects.

While the primary focus is on protecting the common guillemot, the programme is also expected to bring wider benefits to the ecosystem - boosting populations of other seabirds such as puffin, Manx shearwater, storm petrel, and razorbill.

Work on the project will start this October and is likely to run for up to 35 years, the same lifespan as Hornsea 4.



Recent site visits

The project team has continued to visit the Hornsea 4 area to better understand the local environment.

During a recent visit, the team travelled from Fraisthorpe beach along the proposed cable route to the onshore substation and compound sites. They were then joined by colleagues from East Riding of Yorkshire Council at the proposed onshore substation location near Cottingham.

The team, accompanied by Natural England colleagues, saw for themselves the scale and range of birds Ørsted will be protecting as part of its Seabird Restoration Project during a visit to the RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs.





Contact us

We will be working with communities and other key stakeholders to **keep you informed of the project as it progresses.**

We aim to provide regular communications through a variety of means, including this newsletter, to provide useful and timely information as well as responding to enquiries.

We value your feedback and are here to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to reach out to us through the following channels:



Ruth Fox
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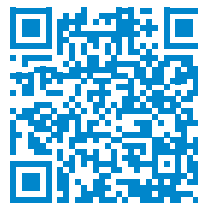
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