

25 April 2025

Hornsea Four offshore wind farm – update on ongoing and upcoming onshore surveys

Dear Parish Council,

We are writing to you in relation to Hornsea Project Four ('Hornsea Four'), a new offshore wind farm to be located approximately 69 km offshore the East Riding of Yorkshire. The project will involve the construction of onshore underground cables connecting to a new onshore substation and connection to the electricity transmission network at the existing National Grid Creyke Beck substation.

Ongoing and upcoming onshore surveys

We last wrote to you in October 2024 to provide an update on Hornsea Four and share our latest community newsletter. Since then, we have been continuing our preparation works and the project is working towards making Final Investment Decision (FID). Following this, we expect to start the main onshore construction works in 2026.

Ahead of any works taking place, we are currently and will be continuing to carry out onshore surveys along the onshore cable route. These will be a mix of intrusive and non-intrusive surveys and will provide valuable information to further develop our knowledge of the area and to help inform our final project designs.

As a parish council who may have an interest in the project and the onshore surveys, we have included two tables below, which outline the intrusive and non-intrusive surveys currently taking place, indicative dates for upcoming surveys and what each activity involves. All surveys are taking place along the entire onshore cable route, which spans from the landfall area, north of Barmston, to the onshore substation area, near Creyke Beck.

Ongoing and upcoming intrusive surveys

Please note, impact to land during these surveys is minimal, and all land will be reinstated back to its previous condition following each activity. Following completion of each activity, no equipment will be left in place.

Activity	Dates for surveys	What is involved
Window Sampling	From 14 th April until mid-August 2025	<p>An intrusive method of site investigation using a small, tracked machine which collects soil samples to a depth of 2 metres.</p> <p>A sample is required to be taken every 100m or in each individual land parcel dependent on frequency of testing needing to be utilised by the project.</p>
Boreholes	From 22 nd April until mid-August 2025	<p>An intrusive method of site investigation using a mid-sized, tracked rotary boring machine which collects soil samples to depths between 12m and 20m.</p> <p>Land sampling will be taking place at approximately 70 Horizontal Directional Drilling locations along the onshore cable route. This number will be refined through ongoing project design.</p>
Trial holes on Services	From 22 nd April until mid-August 2025	An intrusive method of site investigation using a small excavator to expose existing services, such as gas, electrical and water. This is to confirm their exact locations and depths, with two trial holes to be carried out on each identified service.
Trial holes on Land Drainage	From 14 th April until mid-August 2025	An intrusive method of site investigation using a small excavator to expose critical points within existing land drainage systems to confirm their exact locations, depths and outfalls.
Ground Investigation and Archaeology Trenching	From 7 th April until July 2025	Investigations requiring the excavation of trial trenching at multiple sites and the recording of any finds.

Ongoing and upcoming non-intrusive surveys

Activity	Dates for surveys	What is involved
Non-Intrusive Surveys	From 31 st March until mid-August 2025	<p>Primarily 'observational' surveys, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing overhead cables to obtain the relevant documentation and certificates. • Traditional topographical surveys (i.e. review of land features) • Drone aerial topographical surveys including video and still photography recording • Access to all land for collection of information including photographing and reviewing ditches, hedge rows and any other features • Hydrographical surveys of watercourses
Ecology Surveys	From 7 th April until mid-August 2025	<p>A number of non-intrusive ecological surveys along the whole onshore cable route, including for bats, great crested newts, otters, badgers, water voles, breeding bird and invasive non-native species. This also includes pre-work ecological checks, which involves an ecologists visiting the site before the surveys taking place.</p> <p>Ecologists may need to be at particular survey locations at varying hours throughout the day (e.g. before sunrise).</p>

What to expect

All surveys are expected to cause minimal disruption and are being held in locations that would not be noticeable for the wider community. Where access is required onto private land, this has been agreed in advance between individual landowners and the project's land consultants, Dalcour Maclaren.

When the surveys are taking place, you might expect to see members of the team on site during the day. For intrusive works, there may also be

some low-level noise from onsite machinery during working hours. For all surveys the working hours are between 7am and 6pm – other than for potential visits to site at earlier times for the non-intrusive, ecological surveys.

Please note that all our works are subject to site and weather conditions and all the dates in this letter are subject to change. If you have any questions about these surveys or any information about Hornsea Four, please get in touch with our community relations team using the details below.

Further details about Ørsted and the project

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy. Ørsted develops, constructs, and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants.

Hornsea Project Four received development consent in July 2023 and has more recently received its contract for difference (CfD) award from the UK Government in September 2024. The project is now focussed on moving towards taking an FID.

Get in touch

We're committed to keeping you informed about our work. We want to be a good neighbour and try to minimise the impacts of our work on the community. If you'd like to get in touch, please email us at contact@hornseaprojectfour.co.uk or call us on 0808 281 8596.

We will be subsequently providing more regular updates ahead of and during our onshore and offshore works for the project, including providing advanced warning of works for local communities and wider interested parties.

Yours sincerely
Hornsea 4 Community Relations Team

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