ScottishPower Renewables

The East Angle

East Anglia Offshore Windfarm Projects

Summer 2025

Creating a cleaner,
greener future
for everyone

Welcome to the latest edition of The East Angle

Already this year, great momentum has been building within ScottishPower Renewables. A huge number of projects and initiatives have reached new milestones, new partnerships have been forged, and East Anglia continues to be at the heart of our offshore wind operations.

Last month, the team completed the installation of the first monopile foundation for our East Anglia THREE windfarm (EA3), taking us one step closer to operations, and providing a stunning photo opportunity, which you can see from the wonderful team image featured on the opposite page.

I am continuing to engage with leaders and suppliers to champion the region. In April, I spoke at Parliament with the East of England Energy Group (EEEGR), emphasising the importance of Lowestoft as the home and heart of our offshore operations. It also provided an opportunity to highlight the incredible expertise and ecosystem of supply chain partners across the region who are helping us deliver on our ambitions.

In November, we officially signed two Contracts for Difference (CfDs) with the Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC), paving the way for the delivery of more than 1,000MW of new clean, green generating capacity, while supporting the local supply chain with investment and awards.

SPR is continuing to support our local community more widely through a number of exciting initiatives such as working with schools and local organisations. Hopefully we will see some of you at this years' Suffolk Show too, where you can come and meet the team and take part in some fun interactive activities.

This issue is packed with great stories about the milestones achieved in recent months.

Scott Mabon discusses the dramatic changes that have been taking place at the EA3 converter station site, including the beginning of the onshore cable pull, to connect the power of offshore wind to the grid.

Esmee Thornton talks more about her role as operations manager with Siemens Gamsea and the East Anglia ONE (EA1) hub.

Alexander Pretty describes the developments of a fleet of Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) and the amazing implications on future operations.

And finally, let me congratulate **Steve Hodger** on his new appointment, taking on the role of Head of Operations & Maintenance for UK Offshore, which will see him take on a vital role in the running of our projects for years to come.

A huge thanks to all our teams working hard across all our East Anglia projects, and I look forward to seeing continued pace and delivery throughout 2025.

Ross Ovens
Offshore Development & Operations Managing Director

ScottishPower Renewables

Steve Hodger has been appointed Head of Operations & Maintenance for UK Offshore

Steve's got a head for O&M

Steve Hodger's new role as Head of Operations & Maintenance for UK Offshore is an exciting position which includes oversight of East Anglia ONE (EA1), West of Duddon Sands (WoDS) and soon East Anglia THREE (EA3) upon completion next year.

A familiar face to many in SPR, Steve has served as principal site manager for EA1 since 2018, where he has led an exceptional team running our Lowestoft base and the offshore windfarm itself.

Prior to this he worked in several offshore wind operational and site management roles, having made the switch to renewables from a career in offshore oil and gas in 2009.

Congratulations and we wish all the best to Steve and the wider O&M team as we look to take on the running of our biggest projects yet in the coming years.

First foundations in place at SPR's biggest-ever offshore windfarm

The SPR offshore team next to the first EA3 monopile, after the successful foundation installation

The offshore construction programme for our biggest ever renewables project is officially underway with the installation of the first foundation at the £4 billion EA3 offshore windfarm.

Standing at 83.89 metres tall, 10.6metres in diameter and weighing 1,800 tonnes, the monopile also represents a new offshore wind industry record – becoming the largest installed to date from a jack-up vessel in Europe.

The monopile – manufactured by Joint Venture Navantia Seanergies Windar Renovables (JVNW) – was installed by the Seaway Ventus jack-up installation vessel in mid-April, and was followed shortly by the project's second foundation.

These are the first of 95 monopiles manufactured for the 1.4GW windfarm – the biggest in the ScottishPower and Iberdrola portfolios. JVNW is fabricating 45 of the 95 foundations for the project, with the remaining 50 being manufactured by Haizea.

Each will be between 67 and 85 metres in length, up to 10.6 metres in diameter and weigh between 1,200 and 1,800 tonnes.

The first pair of transition pieces produced by Windar Renovables have also been installed, with each 20 metres in height, 8 metres in diameter and weighing more than 400 tonnes.

The 95 transition pieces will support 14.7MW Siemens Gamesa turbines that will generate a total of 1,400MW of clean energy – enough to power the equivalent of more than 1.3 million homes.

Charlie Jordan, ScottishPower Renewables CEO, said:

"The installation of our first EA3 foundation is a real wow moment for both ScottishPower and Iberdrola. It represents a mammoth feat of engineering, skill and a huge amount of work. We're talking an incredible 1,800 tonnes of steel, safely and securely lifted and then precisely placed in the exact spot in an area the size of almost 43,000 football pitches. We've never built anything of this scale before!

"EA3 will be the biggest-ever windfarm across the whole of the Iberdrola group and one of the largest in the world when it comes into operation. To visibly see it starting to take shape in the North Sea is a real milestone moment and definitely something to be proud of.

"This project is a fantastic example of how we're generating more secure, green electricity for the UK; investing in the country's clean energy future; and supporting jobs and opportunities for decades to come."

Seaway7 is installing all of the EA3 monopiles and transition pieces. To achieve this, the Seaway Ventus jack-up vessel has been fitted with a custom-built mission equipment spread that was designed, fabricated, and installed in under two years to meet the project schedule and performance requirements.

Lloyd Duthie, Seaway7 Vice President UK, Ireland & Asia, said: **"We are proud to have successfully installed the first foundation for EA3. This achievement comes after two years of preparation, resulting in Seaway Ventus installing the largest monopile from a jack-up vessel in Europe. It really is testament to the scale of engineering that can be achieved together with partners across the supply chain. We look forward to progressing this significant multi-year construction project, encompassing foundation and inner-array cable installation, with ScottishPower Renewables to deliver a substantial contribution to the UK's renewable energy ambitions.**

The installation of all 95 foundations is expected to be completed by early 2026.

EA3 converter station takes shape

We spoke to Scott Mabon, who works as Client Representative onsite at the EA3 Bramford converter station site.

Scott plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the Siemens principal contracting teams, design and engineering, health and safety – not to mention the SPR team – are all working in lockstep to deliver construction to the agreed specification and timescales.

This year has been marked with significant milestones for the EA3 onshore converter station site. While previous months have been primarily focussed on completing ground and civil engineering works – in some of the worst winter storms and flooding on record for the region – this spring has seen the emergence of the fundamental physical infrastructure which transforms the Bramford site from one of construction to an engineering marvel.

Several milestone works are underway. The step-up Alternating Current (AC) transformers to be used to supply the grid are now in place and have completed their pre-commissioning checks, which allows for the full commissioning works to progress. Scott explains that: "the checks were a key milestone for the project. With them being successful, it's a huge investment for the project to move forwards." The transformers are being built-in with noise enclosures, and one is already completed, with two to follow.

Electrical works and equipment install are also coming into the converter station, along with building services like lighting, HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning) systems, fire detection systems and small power. In the main hall, cleaning is a major focus prior to the converter module install itself.

> **"The converter station needs to be a clean environment before running, but with construction, this is an issue. When the converter station is finished it will be a sealed building held at positive pressure to keep a sterile environment. So we're starting now, creating a temporary air lock system and running the air handling system to keep mud and dust out."**

Looking outside

While lots has been happening inside the converter station, there have been major works outside too. Preparations have been made for the cables from the converter station to go into position at the Bramford National Grid substation for onward network distribution. The majority of the civil engineering works on both Bramford sites have been completed. In the AC and DC yards, steelwork has gone up with equipment and cabling installed. "We're really starting to look like a converter station now," Scott notes.

Scott is also keenly monitoring one of the first major cable pulls of the project, as onshore works begin to pull the export cable to the site, which will come from the EA3 windfarm into the converter station. "These are the Direct Current (DC) cables which will transport the energy generated from the windfarm into useable power for the grid," Scott explains.

The dividends are clear to see. Scott says, "I've spent a long time working in the empty converter hall, but now you can see things coming out of the ground. Now you can really get it."

The components being installed in the AC switchyard

And there is plenty still to come. In late spring, the module installation is planned, another major project milestone. The roads are being finished and the commissioning and final civil works are on the horizon.

"That's the next big piece," says Scott. **"Making sure that everything is working, that no cable has been forgotten, that all snagging and aesthetic details are considered. I'm really looking forward to seeing that".**

Energy Secretary visits East Anglia ONE

Above: Ed Miliband visits the control centre at the EA1 Operations and Maintenance Base, with Jess Asato, MP for Lowestoft. Right: SPR UK Offshore MD Ross Ovens and the Energy Secretary discuss SPR's efforts in the region.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband stopped off at our offshore wind base in Lowestoft earlier this year to hear about SPR's multi-billion projects in the region and the positive impact they are having.

The January visit to the EA1 base alongside local MP Jess Asato saw him tour the facility with the operations team, chat to staff and apprentices and discuss the new EA3 operations and maintenance (O&M) building which will be built on a neighbouring site, significantly expanding SPR's employment in East Anglia.

While EA1 is in operation, a further two projects are moving forward in the form of East Anglia THREE and TWO.

Once in operation, the windfarms – which represent overall investment of more than £10 billion – will collectively produce enough clean, green electricity to power the equivalent of more than three million homes, support thousands of jobs across the supply chain and deliver long-lasting benefits for towns like Lowestoft and beyond.

Mr Miliband is the second member of the Labour Cabinet to visit the facility, after Rachel Reeves – now Chancellor of the Exchequer – toured the site in March 2024.

His visit came just days before the Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) Committee also stopped in town.

Committee Chair Bill Esterson MP and members including Claire Young MP, Luke Murphy MP, and Wera Hobhouse MP toured the Port of Lowestoft and visited Sizewell C as well as the EA1 base as part of a two-day visit to the region.

Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero Mr Miliband said: **"Our mission to become a clean energy superpower is about attracting investment into local communities, creating new jobs and delivering energy security for families and businesses.**

"This investment is a huge vote of confidence in our mission, supporting economic growth in the region and supporting a new era of clean electricity.

"It shows that this unstoppable clean energy transition is underway, delivering our Plan for Change to rebuild Britain as part of a decade of national renewal."

Jess Asato, MP for Lowestoft, said: **"Lowestoft is at the heart of the UK's clean energy revolution, and the visit by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero further cements our town as a leader in offshore wind and the broader energy transition.**

"With ScottishPower's expansion and Associated British Ports' £35 million investment in the fully operational Lowestoft Eastern Energy Facility, our town is attracting major businesses and creating thousands of high-quality, well-paid jobs in green energy.

"Labour is committed to ensuring that Lowestoft and the surrounding region benefit from these opportunities by investing in training and infrastructure, helping to revive our coastal community. This investment will provide young people with the skills and career opportunities they need to stay and thrive here, securing a brighter future for all.

"This is the beginning of a new chapter – one that will see Lowestoft play a pivotal role in turning the UK into a clean energy superpower and driving long-term prosperity."

SPR's Ross Ovens added: **"It was fantastic to welcome the Energy Secretary to Lowestoft – the home and heart of ScottishPower's offshore wind operations in the UK – and celebrate the town's role as a clean energy powerhouse for the offshore wind industry.**

"Our projects are a huge part of the town's – and the wider East Anglia region's – renewables success. It was great to have the opportunity to highlight the investment, the jobs and the growth we will deliver for local people and businesses as we build the green generation for a clean energy future."

£1bn+ contract will see EA2 blades built in Hull

The turbine blades for the EA2 offshore windfarm will be built in Hull after a turbine supply agreement with Siemens Gamesa worth more than £1 billion was signed.

The agreement will see Siemens Gamesa supply 64 of its flagship SG 14-236 DD offshore wind turbines, which have a rotor diameter of 236 metres – almost as tall as the observation deck at the Shard.

The 115m long blades will be manufactured at Siemens Gamesa's blade factory in Hull, which now employs around 1,300 people after recruiting more than 600 new employees over the last 12 months.

Welcoming the announcement, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said: **"Our mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower will fire up our industrial heartlands and break down barriers to growth in our hard-working towns and cities.**

"It will strengthen our national security - protecting our children and grandchildren from the climate crisis, and impact this will have on their future prosperity.

"By acting decisively and early, the UK has an opportunity to lead the world in the industries of the future — working in partnership with businesses like ScottishPower and Siemens Energy — creating real energy security, cutting energy bills and building jobs and supply chains in the UK."

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband described the investment as **"a huge vote of confidence in the UK's growing renewables sector and will power our clean energy future – supporting skilled jobs and green growth in Hull and beyond."**

Commenting on the contract announcement, SPR CEO Charlie Jordan added: **"This contract shows the positive impact our East Anglia offshore wind projects are making not just in the East of England, but in communities and regions right across the UK to create a cleaner, greener and better future.**

"We're delivering for the UK supply chain – ensuring the order books provide the stability and confidence for industry to innovate and expand, as we're seeing Siemens Gamesa do at its Hull blade factory. We're delivering for the economy – with billions of pounds being invested and supporting jobs and growth. And we're delivering for consumers by bringing more green energy on to the grid – enough to power the equivalent of one million homes – and helping bring down customer bills.

"Doing more of this at pace is what will help Britain become a clean energy superpower – and we're ready to play our part."

Siemens Gamesa is the fully-owned wind business of Siemens Energy with more than 6,000 employees in the UK. UK and Ireland Vice President for Siemens Energy and Siemens Gamesa Darren Davidson said:

"The UK is the first leading industrial country to simultaneously phase out coal power and be a leader in offshore wind. If we're to achieve our net zero targets, it's mission critical this momentum is maintained. As well as delivering the blades to power the UK's energy transition, our factory in Hull is acting as a catalyst for economic growth and green jobs across the region."

Contracts for Difference signing

In November we signed Contracts for Difference with the Low Carbon Contracts Company, following our success in Auction Round 6. These contracts cover more than 1,000MW of new clean, green generating capacity across our East Anglia TWO and THREE offshore projects.

This capacity will secure enough electricity to power the equivalent of more than one million homes and support the signing of billions of pounds in investment and supply chain awards.

Our Managing Director for Offshore Development and Operations Ross Ovens said: **"It's fantastic to reach this milestone for so much renewable generation, and especially pleasing to see offshore wind leading the charge towards a cleaner and greener future."**

Great Yarmouth's Port of Power for EA2

We have signed a reservation agreement with Peel Ports Group Great Yarmouth to serve as the pre-assembly port for our EA2 offshore windfarm.

This site will facilitate the assembly of Siemens Gamesa turbine components and sections, right on EA2's doorstep, forming the 64 turbines that will be installed in the southern North Sea by 2028.

Richard Goffin, Port Director, Peel Ports Group said: **"We're very proud that ScottishPower Renewables has once again chosen Great Yarmouth to support this huge project, having previously worked together on the East Anglia ONE development.**

"This continued partnership reflects confidence in our port's capabilities, facilities and team. Great Yarmouth has proved itself to be an outstanding base for the growing offshore renewables market, not just in the southern North Sea but extending further afield, including the North Sea."

EA2 will have the capacity to generate up to 960MW of green electricity – enough to power the equivalent of almost one million homes.

Taylor Woodrow onboard for EA2 work

Watford-based Taylor Woodrow has joined the roster of supply chain partners secured to deliver EA2.

The contract will see the construction company deliver the civil engineering works for the project's onshore substation, which will include highway improvement works as well as landscaping and screening.

It is expected to support around 80 jobs during the duration of the contract.

Phil Skegg, Managing Director of Taylor Woodrow, said: **"Being part of the ScottishPower Renewables supply chain family is a great reward for our own team and builds on the successful work being done with other partners to provide vital infrastructure for the UK.**

"As a business it is excellent to be partnering with an organisation with such vision and I know our people are excited to be part of what will be a prestigious development."

The big interview

Esmee Thornton
Siemens Gamesa Operations Manager, East Anglia ONE

Q&A

Q What fuels your passion for the industry?

A "I'm excited about what we are part of, about the positive impact that SPR's offshore windfarms have, generating clean electricity for people and the planet, while delivering long-term skilled jobs for decades to come. EA1 generates enough clean energy to power the equivalent of 700,000 homes, after all!"

Q What advice would you give someone who is thinking about career opportunities in offshore wind?

A "I wish more people knew about the variety of opportunities in offshore wind, it's not only technical and engineering roles, there is a huge variety of skills which go into helping a windfarm function. If you want to be a lawyer, why not be a lawyer in wind!"

Q What are you working on right now that excites you?

A "I love the variety of my days, I can be supporting the local community in one moment, to contributing models that influence international designs in the next."

After more than a decade in the industry, Esmee Thornton is still pushing the envelope of what's possible for the wind industry in her current role as Operations Manager at East Anglia ONE for Siemens Gamesa.

She oversees the day-to-day delivery and maintenance of the operational EA1 windfarm and also supports the long-term planning and modelling of future ScottishPower Renewables offshore developments. Esmee is based in the beating heart of EA1 – the windfarm O&M base, where she holds a unique position acting as a liaison between Siemens Gamesa and SPR, working with external contractors to support the delivery of key projects.

"I love what I do, and I'm glad that I do it," Esmee expressed, though she will be the first to admit that her particular career path wasn't one that she ever expected. She had an academic focus, studying geophysics for her undergraduate degree. During this course of study, she did a year in industry with Gardline Geosurvey, and took a working trip to survey the base of a windfarm. At that moment the world of offshore wind opened up. "I thought, I want to do something around this", Esmee said. This led to continuing with a Master's degree in energy engineering at the University of East Anglia, on scholarship coincidentally from ScottishPower.

Staying in East Anglia after her studies was really important to Esmee, and she worked hard to build up a strong and varied portfolio of work within the renewable energy sector.

As part of the ScottishPower scholarship scheme, Esmee spoke at an East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) event, and this opened the door to the industry. She managed the events and marketing for the group, building a connected network in the local area which continues to this day; she is the elected vice-chair of the Eastwind Offshore Cluster with EEEGR. And if her job wasn't busy enough, Esmee still finds time to visit schools and provide insights into offshore wind for students to build the pipeline of the next generation of industry talent.

Esmee believes that there is a place for everyone in the industry, too.

> **"I wish more people knew about the breadth of opportunities in wind and I am passionate about breaking misconceptions,"** Esmee said. One thing that becomes obvious from speaking to Esmee is the fantastic energy and culture that exists at the EA1 Hub in Lowestoft. **"There is a place for anyone in this industry"**, she concludes.

In other news

WoDS turns 10

Our West of Duddon Sands (WoDS) offshore windfarm is celebrating a decade! Our first offshore windfarm in UK waters was brought to life in 2014, 108 turbines powering the equivalent of around 340,000 homes each year.

WoDS marked investment of over £1 billion, supported 1000 jobs during peak construction and created 40 long-term skilled jobs at its operations and maintenance base in Barrow-in-Furness.

WoDS was one of the UK's early offshore projects. Its 3.6MW turbines paved the way for projects like East Anglia THREE, that's set to install turbines generating 14.7MW.

A view of the West of Duddon Sands windfarm

Cancer Research UK partnership

Our very own CEO Charlie Jordan completed the London Marathon in April, raising over £10,000 for CRUK

Over the last decade we have raised a massive £40 million for Cancer Research UK's mission to beat cancer. Thanks to our amazing employees, customers and suppliers who raised money as part of our partnership, we are helping more people live longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

Fourth kittiwake hotel opens just in time for bird breeding season

At the Port of Lowestoft, the fourth kittiwake hotel – a project spearheaded by SPR to provide new breeding habitats for the birds – has been finalised by local company RMI Renewables, ready just in time for its seasonal residents.

These specially-designed structures, developed in collaboration with Vattenfall (now RWE) back in 2023, serve as nesting habitats for black-legged kittiwakes. Originally created as part of environmental mitigations for offshore windfarms, the three Lowestoft kittiwake hotels were the first of their kind in the UK, providing homes for around 360 breeding pairs. The newest hotel should provide an additional 120 nesting spaces for breeding pairs for years to come.

RMI Renewables, a Lowestoft-based company known for delivering turnkey solutions in the renewables, marine and industrial sectors, stepped up to deliver. Despite facing various challenges including time, logistical and environmental constraints, the team fabricated and installed the kittiwake hotel, delivering the project to its full completion on 13th February 2025 - just in time for the birds' spring arrival.

Managing Director of RMI Renewables Richard Eldrige said: **"It has had such a positive outcome for everyone, not only for ScottishPower Renewables but for us too. We look forward to working on more projects like this, utilising our expertise in the manufacture, delivery and maintenance of bird nesting structures."**

Supporting a greener future

An update on ecology efforts in East Anglia

It's been a busy few months across our East Anglia projects, with several important milestones achieved. Work has progressed on the preparation of key planning documents (Requirement Discharge Documents), including ecological plans and environmental management plans to satisfy the Development Consent Order (DCO) for East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and EA2.

Supporting this ongoing work is Sean Carter, our Environmental Consultant for all East Anglia projects. Sean has recently taken on full responsibility for the environmental aspects of EA3, EA1N and EA2, and his role covers a wide range of environmental considerations – from waste, pollution and noise management to landscaping and ecology.

He works closely with both management and site teams, supporting daily planning and ensuring environmental risks are managed effectively. His time is split between site visits and office-based work, where he's heavily involved in long-term environmental planning. This includes the development of documentation that will shape outcomes years in advance – particularly when it comes to ecological benefits and landscape design.

Laying the groundwork for a greener future

As part of our commitment to early and proactive environmental planning, ecological mitigation works are already underway across EA1N and EA2 ahead of major construction.

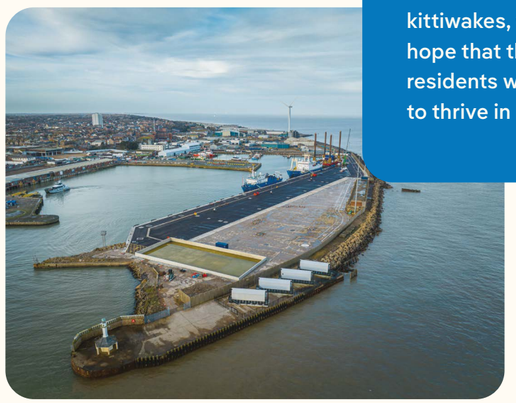
Ecologists have been carrying out regular bird nesting checks, with mitigation works carefully timed to avoid disruption. A specific area of land has been enhanced for turtle doves, with targeted reseeding to improve habitat quality. Additionally, a new artificial badger sett has been installed to support the species.

Shaping a sustainable legacy

Looking ahead, onshore construction on EA2 is scheduled to begin later this year. Teams are preparing for a ramp-up, with environmental planning continuing to play a critical role in readiness and risk management. Meanwhile, EA3 onshore construction is progressing towards completion by the end of the year, after which the focus will shift to reinstatement and landscaping to ensure strong ecological outcomes post-construction.

As the East Anglia projects evolve, Sean and his team continue to progress all the environmental work running alongside each project. These are key enabling efforts – shaping sustainable outcomes, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring each site delivers lasting value for both people and nature.

The new hotel is ready to accommodate the kittiwakes, with the hope that these coastal residents will continue to thrive in Lowestoft.



An innovative insight into cutting-edge seabed surveying

As a Lead Project Manager at SPR, Alex Pretty oversees a variety of major projects that fall outside the regular O&M activities. Managing the team of project managers across the UK, Alex also works as part of a Global O&M Major Projects team supporting other windfarms in the EU. His work aims to ensure efficient execution of complex scopes, which could range from major component exchanges, to end-of-warranty inspections, or seabed surveys.

A recent example of this innovation in action has been the introduction of Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) from XOcean into some critical seabed surveys works. These surveys are required to evaluate the seabed for any seabed objects (for example boulders or debris) that could impact safe placement of a jack-up vessel to the seabed, which are used for major component exchange activities during O&M.

Traditionally, pre jack-up seabed surveys required crewed vessels to sail survey lines with multiple offshore personnel onboard, acquiring the survey data, processing it, and then following the offshore works delivering a report of the findings.

At EA1 until 2023, these surveys have exclusively been acquired using conventional vessels. However, in late 2023, a trial took place using XOcean's USV, aiming to prove that a fully remote operation was possible at the operational windfarm site with no survey personnel offshore. The trial included high resolution multi-beam echo sounder (MBES) acquisition, with the USV running survey lines autonomously while being monitored closely from onshore by the XOcean team, and with the survey data being transmitted back in real time using the USV's Starlink system.

Building on the success of this initial project, the capacity was expanded in 2024, increasing from one location to perform six survey locations. Significantly, this time around it involved introducing a towed Side Scan Sonar (SSS) acquisition to the scope. This innovative capability was new for the USV system and adds significant additional complexity to an uncrewed offshore operation. The SSS is not mounted directly to the hull of the USV operating on the ocean surface, but towed a distance behind the USV at a depth closer to the seabed.

The two projects have now proven the ability of USV systems to operate successfully and most importantly, safely at our operational windfarms, and their usage can offer a number of benefits.

USVs can reduce fuel consumption significantly compared to traditional vessels. Depending on the type of the vessel used for comparison, this could cut CO^2 emissions on the project up to an impressive 95%; enhance health and safety by eliminating the risks of having offshore personnel; and can be more cost-effective.

Given the unplanned nature of jack-up operations during O&M in particular, having a flexible and efficient survey solution that can be quickly mobilised to a site can be a game-changer for certain projects.

Beyond seabed surveys, Alex and his team have been managing several key projects, including the end-of-warranty phase for EA1 turbines. This involves a comprehensive suite of inspections, including turbine walkdowns, borescoping of major components, and drone-based inspections of the turbine blades.
A major jack-up campaign is also in the pipeline for this year, alongside a complex crane coating campaign at EA1 which is set to conclude this year after over 50% was completed in 2024.

With continued advancements in remote technologies, and further to the success of the operations at EA1, we can only hope to see more use cases for uncrewed vessel technology realised at SPR projects in the future, which might include Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) deployed from USVs for subsea inspection works, or drones deployed from USVs for aerial inspection.

For now, this has been an exciting few months for the East Anglia-based team, with more insights to follow from these campaigns.

What's next in wind?

Roseanne McKee and the SPR team discuss empowering the next generation of professionals at the Festival of Knowledge event

In March, Roseanne McKee, Supply Chain Manager at SPR was joined by George Browne, an offshore wind technician apprentice, and SPR graduate Holly Barlow at the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce Festival of Knowledge event, speaking to secondary school students from schools across the Norfolk, Norwich, Cambridge and Suffolk areas about the value of a career in offshore wind.

Nearly 4,300 students attended over the two-day event, which was focussed not just on jobs in the renewable energy sector, but about bringing opportunity to the region as a whole.

"Our job was to engage with the students, give them an insight into offshore wind, and encourage them to consider the wind industry for their future career," Roseanne said.

But what does managing the supply chain strategy have to do with students? **"Essentially, what I do is manage our commitments from the supply chain plan – and a big part of that is supporting the growth and development of East Anglia. People and jobs are a key part of that."** Roseanne explained. There is a huge skills gap in the industry that Roseanne and her team are proactively looking to help solve – as well as some common misconceptions that events like this are helpful in dispelling.

"It's not just engineering or technical roles that are out there," she continued. Though Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) roles are vitally important, **"there is a place for anyone in wind."** Events like the Festival of Knowledge are key for the supply chain vision, as they help to make offshore wind relatable in new ways. Having George and Holly on the stand was a big part of the successful engagement. **"The students really related to George as he is young, he's like them, he's from the region,"** Roseanne said.

Roseanne McKee and Holly Barlow at the Festival of Knowledge event in March

Holly was able to talk about coming into the company as a graduate mechanical and electrical engineer, as a woman in STEM, and the growth culture that SPR fosters, allowing her to train, develop, and even travel the world. There was a great variety of students represented at the Festival of Knowledge. As well as the geographical spread of schools, the team spoke to special educational needs (SEN) students, homeschool students, and support teachers about the opportunities with SPR.

"Community work like this is so important to show that everyone has a role to play." Roseanne concludes. And there's more to come; SPR is looking at other ways of activating opportunity in education. Whether that's grant funding to allow less-funded schools to get access to scientific equipment, hosting workshops, or attending events, it's all about creating chances for students to grow and understand the wealth of opportunity that's here for them.

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