

Site investigation off Redcar

Why is the jack-up vessel here?

The jack-up vessel located just off the coast between Redcar and Marske-by-the-Sea is carrying out borehole surveys on behalf of Sofia Offshore Wind Farm. The surveys are required for the project to finalise its plans for construction, which is due to start onshore in 2021. The data collected will inform both the design of the export cable and the installation methodology.

Offshore construction will get underway in 2023.

Who/what is Sofia Offshore Wind Farm?

Sofia is a wind farm being developed 195 kilometres off the North East coast on the shallow central area of the North Sea known as the Dogger Bank. The power being generated by the wind farm will be brought to shore by an export cable that will land between Redcar and Marske-by-the-Sea. Buried onshore cables will carry the power 7 kilometres to a new converter station due to be built near the village of Lazenby on a site adjacent to the Wilton Complex. The power will enter the national grid at the existing National Grid substation located in Lackenby, Teesside.

It is being developed by leading renewable energy company, innogy SE and, with a generating capacity of up to 1.4 gigawatts, will be one of the world's largest offshore wind farms. The project represents a £3 billion investment into renewable energy infrastructure and a welcome boost for the UK economy.

How long will the vessel be here?

It takes around two days to position the vessel and carry out each borehole, with a total of ten boreholes to be undertaken. The work is expected to take less than three weeks so, weather permitting, the jack-up vessel will be gone by the end of July.

Do you need permission for the vessel to be here?

Yes. Sofia has received a Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation which allows the work to be carried out.

What about fishermen who normally fish here?

In advance of and during the course of the site investigation surveys, Sofia has engaged with local fishermen so they are aware of the timing and locations of the surveys. They will be reimbursed for removal of their fishing gear from the area. For safety reasons, Sofia has engaged a guard vessel (Margaret Mary) to be on site where possible to ensure vessels are within a safe distance of the jack-up vessel. The Fisheries Liaison Officer for the site investigation work is Precision Marine Survey Limited (PMSL) - <http://www.precisionmarine.co.uk/>

How are they working safely given the COVID-19 situation?

The health of the survey teams is top priority during the current COVID-19 situation so Sofia and service provider Fugro worked closely to ensure compliance with Government guidelines and corporate policy in relation to the health, safety and welfare of employees. Safety measures have been put in place meaning we are able to carry out our survey operations and maintain the construction schedule for this significant project.

How can I find out more about the wind farm?

To find out more about Sofia Offshore Wind Farm visit: www.sofiawindfarm.com

Or to contact the Sofia team you can email: comms_sofia@innogy.com or telephone: **03301 229670**