

## In this issue...

Sustainability  
award winners



Galoper signs up to  
Essex County Council  
Green Skills Pledge



Galoper celebrates  
apprentices' success



## Welcome

Ben Donald | General Manager



**Hello and welcome to the winter edition of the Galoper newsletter. My name is Ben Donald, and towards the end of 2023 I took over as General Manager here at Galoper.**

I have worked in the offshore renewables industry for six years now and am really excited about leading the Galoper team in Harwich.

It's been yet another busy year for Galoper, ensuring we completed all our planned work offshore to maintain and service the turbines.

2023 saw unusual weather patterns and increased lightning in the wind farm which has delayed our servicing work, but meant we have met our

generation targets, owing to the available wind. We completed some large, (hopefully) one-off jobs as well. This included the replacement of a major component on one of our turbines, using a jack up barge, and inspecting our offshore substation which meant switching off large sections of the wind farm for this work to take place safely.

Although the tasks are sometimes challenging, we continue to work safely as a team looking after one another in what can be a hazardous job. We also continue to be conscious to protect the environment in which we work and are always looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprint. I'm pleased to say in early 2024 we will be installing a solar array on our building roof and using an electric vehicle for our work-related journeys. A great start to what we hope to be another successful year.

# Six years of Galloper Wind Farm

Galloper Offshore Wind Farm first began generating power in November 2017. Now, its 56 turbines located in the southern North Sea generate green energy to power up to 444,000 average UK household a year. Six years on, we're looking back at what was involved in the construction.

Following development consent award, the construction of Galloper began with onshore works in late 2015. Connecting the offshore export cables to a new substation in Suffolk by Sizewell B power station, to then feed the power into the national transmission network. Offshore construction of the wind farm and offshore substation got underway in the summer of 2016.

Many contractors were involved in the construction such as:

- **Siemens Gamesa** – turbine manufacturers and installers. Siemens used the Port of Great Yarmouth as a pre-assembly site for blades and turbines and now support RWE with the ongoing service and maintenance jobs over the operational lifetime of the project resulting in full time role job creation.
- **Petrofac and Alstom / GE** - jointly delivered the contract for the manufacturing, installation and commissioning of the offshore (Petrofac) and onshore (Alstom / GE) substations. The Galloper project provided employment for ten Petrofac employees and supported the creation of around 25 new sub-contractor employee jobs.

First power was generated by the wind farm in November 2017 and the wind farm became fully operational in March 2018.

An operations and maintenance base in Harwich now supports the ongoing operation of the wind farm. Harwich was chosen as the ideal location for the base because of its distance from the wind farm; existing port infrastructure; numerous local suppliers and contractors, and excellent transport links both nationally and internationally.

The construction of the permanent operations and maintenance building and surrounding infrastructure was consented in September 2018, with work beginning onsite in November 2018. Construction work was completed on budget and on schedule in late 2019. The team fully relocated from temporary facilities into their new home, in early 2020.

The base includes a control room for managing and monitoring the wind farm, a purpose-built pontoon for the crew transfer vessels, plus warehousing and office facilities, and a gym.

Three key suppliers were awarded contracts for the operations and maintenance base including:

- Ipswich based **R G Carter** for the construction of the operations and maintenance building
- Ipswich based **Jackson Civil Engineering Group**, for the construction of the access road to the building
- **Farrans Construction**, for the fabrication and installation of the pontoon.

**The construction of the base and pontoon created around 120 local jobs. The long-term operations and maintenance of the wind farm is bringing significant employment, now providing 60 full time roles, and investment benefits to Tendring, the wider Essex area and along the East coast as well as elsewhere in the UK.**



Turbine blade installation



Turbine construction



Cable laying



## Galloper awarded top spot at Global Wind Awards



# Sustainability award winners

The team at Galloper have been awarded the Environment and Sustainability award at the 2023 Renewables UK Global Offshore Wind Awards. This comes in recognition of many initiatives we've taken at site to reduce our carbon emissions and care for our environment.

These include:

- Cutting carbon emissions from crew transfer vessels through efficient planning and coordination, emissions have dropped by roughly 25% from 2022.
- A new transit route to our north field which avoids a Special Protected Area for Red Throated Divers, a species of bird with breeding areas off the UK coast. This new path avoids disturbance to these populations.
- Our pontoon has been specially designed with screens and strict guidance regarding lights to avoid disturbing populations of waterfowl visiting the Bathside Bay area.
- We have replaced our diesel Ford Ranger pick-up truck with an electric vehicles. This reduces our emissions when our teams are commuting to work or local events saving roughly 231g CO<sub>2</sub> per km.
- It is good practice that marine engine oil from crew transfer vessels is regularly changed to keep vessels in good order. Until recently, this waste oil was stored in a bund and collected with bilge water, contaminating the batch, consequently the waste oil would require further refining in order to be recycled. Galloper has updated site practices and invested in a new storage tank to ensure that marine oil and bilge water are collected and stored separately. This means that waste oil from site can be recycled for other uses without the need for further refining.

We're also always keen to get involved with our local community and invest in a greener environment close to the areas we operate. We are proud of the achievements our funding has provided, such as:

- The Big Green Internet project aims to plant 150 miles of wildlife corridors, creating a network of interconnected woodlands running from the North Sea to Epping Forest. Galloper continues to support the tree planting scheme and provided funding for biodegradable, organic tree guards to be used along the route's 60,000 tree corridor. In 2024 the Galloper team will be supporting the project again, providing funding and manpower to plant hedgerow whips in Tendring.
- Galloper has been a proud member of the Essex Wildlife trust since 2019. As a Platinum Member, the Galloper team will support various initiatives including participating in volunteer days at local nature reserves and parks. Essex Wildlife Trust has more than 37,000 members, manages and protects over 8,400 acres of land on 87 nature reserves, two nature parks and runs 11 visitor centres. Our annual membership helps fund projects across the county to protect wildlife and habitats.

- The team at Galloper has undertaken many beach cleaning initiatives in 2022 and 2023. Most recently participating in the Great British Spring Clean, litter picking along Harwich and Dovercourt beaches committing to collect at least one bag of rubbish each, which was easily overachieved. Galloper was proud to be a part, clearing up our local environment.

The Galloper Wind Farm Fund which aims to contribute to the appearance, setting, conservation, amenity, accessibility and enjoyment of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB and the area defined as within a 5-kilometre radius of Sizewell (the location of the Galloper substation) has also focused on local environmental projects.

A total of £187,000 is available over 17 years. In 2023 the funding supported environmental and social projects such as:

- A wildflower meadow at the Long Shop Museum in Leiston.
- Erection of a swift tower for nesting chambers.
- A sensory garden at Leiston Abbey.

It has long been a part of our belief that we should reflect the work we do in creating a sustainable future through the way we conduct our operations and with environmental and social objectives. We are very proud to have our efforts recognised and will always look forward to improving on our successes.

Conor Nicholson, who collected the award on the night said:

**“It’s a great feeling to have the team’s hard work recognised. A number of Galloper colleagues have been involved with many sustainability initiatives, showing just how much pride we take in our work, creating a better future for us all. We’ve been able to make real impact in reducing our carbon footprint and aiding our local environment. We’ll now look to continue building on this success throughout Galloper’s lifetime.”**



Galloper Wind Farm representative **Conor Nicholson** with host **Nish Kumar** and Award sponsor representatives from **BlueFloat Energy**

# Galopper signs up to Essex County Council Green Skills Pledge

Galopper Wind Farm is proud to announce we have signed up to the Essex County Council's Green Skills Pledge to help the transition to net zero and upskill the workforce with green skills.

Green skills are a combination of knowledge, experience, values, attitudes and abilities that support carbon reduction and resource efficiency to increase climate resilience and enhance natural assets.

Essex County Council's Green Skills Pledge aims to provide support in several ways, such as joining up resources, collaborating on green initiatives, sharing best practices in green skills development and contributing to the public debate on climate change. These skills are relevant to all areas of the economy, not just offshore wind, which is why it is crucial to address the green skills gap, together.

Galopper Wind Farm has always been committed to developing green skills, particularly in the younger generations, which we take an active role in delivering through our engagement with schools and our work experience and apprenticeship programmes. Signing the Green Skills Pledge will allow us to share knowledge, experience and best practices with others in a range of sectors.

To learn more about the Green Skills Pledge visit [www.essexopportunities.co.uk/essex-green-skills-pledge](http://www.essexopportunities.co.uk/essex-green-skills-pledge).



“

**We believe in cultivating a workforce that not only meets the demands of our industry but also champions sustainability. This pledge underlines our dedication to fostering expertise, supporting our employees, and driving positive change in the fight against climate change. We are eager to collaborate, share knowledge and ultimately shape a greener future.**

Ben Donald | General Manager at Galopper Offshore Wind Farm



Eve Dupuy



Morgan Read and Rosie Underhill



George Webb

## Galopper celebrates apprentices' success

We're very proud of all our apprentices at Galopper. Our first cohort, taken onboard in 2019 have come to the end of their programme and moved on to begin their careers in the offshore wind industry as turbine technicians.

Rosie, Eve and Thomas have worked hard on their studies at college and joined the teams at site gaining experience in various roles over the last four years. Although joining shortly before some unprecedented times, navigating their entrance to the workforce through COVID, they have found their footing in one of the UK's fastest growing sectors. Their perseverance has paid off and we're delighted that they've found new roles to continue their career development.

Rosie has joined Galopper as a fully qualified Wind Turbine Technician while Eve has joined a Service Operation Vessel (SOV) at Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm, another RWE site. Thomas has transferred the skills he's learnt here to join Lamborghini Motorsport Division Squadra Corse, we wish him all the best.

**“After completing my apprenticeship I have been able to appreciate all the skills I have learnt and been confident to put them to use on challenging tasks. Throughout the four years I have gained knowledge and skills to create a foundation in the industry, this coupled with the knowledge and experience handed down from working at site has been invaluable for my development. I am uncertain where my career**

**will take me but I do know there are lots of opportunities and adventures out there in this industry.” - Rosie**

We wish them all the best of luck in their future and their careers. We're very proud of what they have achieved.

Our current apprentices Morgan and George continue with their course, Morgan is now in his third and final year, working on site at Galopper assisting the team in maintaining the wind farm, developing his on the job skills and putting the lessons he's learnt into practice. George has entered his second year of the specialist course at the Llandrillo College in north Wales, supported by RWE, gaining all the relevant knowledge and skills to pursue his career as a wind turbine technician.

**“The RWE apprenticeship has taught me valuable, technical skills offshore and provided a supportive environment to learn the skills needed for the industry. The offshore role is exciting and very rewarding, giving me hands on practical experience. Coming to the end of my apprenticeship, I hope to gain a full-time technician role so I can progress my knowledge and skills further.” - Morgan**



# Solar panel installation

In line with our recent sustainability efforts, Galloper has contracted DPL to install solar panels on the roof of our operations and maintenance base. The electricity these panels will provide will be used to power the support operations at site. This aids us further in creating green electricity sustainably; allowing our control room and support functions at site to operate while reducing additional power demand from the national grid during peak sunlight hours.

274 modules will be installed to cover 535.7m<sup>2</sup> and will provide roughly 40% of our yearly electricity demand. We're looking forward to seeing it installed early 2024.

“

Since the construction of our operations and maintenance base in 2019 we have been looking to reduce our overall electrical usage and source our own power from solar. I'm glad to say we're now in a position to do so with this current design and we can go forward supporting our operations in a more sustainable way.

Dale Windle, manager of the sustainability group on site



## Get in touch

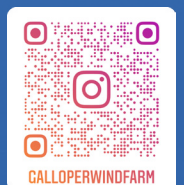


[www.galloperwindfarm.com](http://www.galloperwindfarm.com)

[galloperwindfarm@rwe.com](mailto:galloperwindfarm@rwe.com)

01973 896 593 (9:00-16:00)

[instagram.com/galloperwindfarm](https://www.instagram.com/galloperwindfarm)



Galloper Wind Farm is owned by RWE Renewables (25%), Siemens' financing arm, Siemens Financial Services (25%), Equitix (25%), ESB (12.5%) and a fund established by Sumitomo Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and Development Bank of Japan (12.5%). RWE Renewables has led the development and construction of Galloper Wind Farm and its ongoing operation on behalf of the project partners.

