

Lincs Wind Farm project history



The Lincs wind farm is one of a series of Centrica renewable projects offshore in the Greater Wash, one of three strategic areas designated by the UK Government in 2002 for offshore wind farm development.

Two projects, Lynn and Inner Dowsing wind farms, became fully operational in March 2009, and two proposed projects, Docking Shoal and Race Bank, were submitted for consent in December 2008 and January 2009 respectively. (Race Bank was subsequently awarded consent and Docking Shoal was refused.)

Centrica Energy was awarded an Agreement for Lease from The Crown Estate for the Lincs project in 2003. An application for consent was submitted to the Government in January 2007 and approval was granted in October 2008. In October 2009, the Centrica board gave final investment approval, and onshore construction began in 2010.

Off the coast of Skegness

Lincs is situated 8 kilometres (5 miles) off the coast of Skegness next to the Lynn and Inner Dowsing wind farms and comprises 75 3.6MW turbines, giving a capacity of 270MW. Lincs has a consented capacity of 250MW. The additional 20MW (six turbines) has been constructed in the footprint of the Lynn and Inner Dowsing wind farm development but connected to the Lincs transmission system. The six turbines and their

associated infrastructure were previously consented parts of the Lynn and Inner Dowsing projects but were not built because of grid capacity restrictions onshore.

In May 2010, Centrica applied for new consents to construct the six additional Lynn and Inner Dowsing turbines at the same time as the main Lincs project.

The full Environmental Summary that accompanied the consent application for the six Lynn and Inner Dowsing turbines, as well as the non-technical summary of that document, can be downloaded from the Lincs section of this website.

The Environmental Summary has been advertised in public notices and has been displayed in public buildings in Lincolnshire and North Norfolk.

50% equity sale

In December 2009, Centrica announced the sale of a 50% equity stake in the Lincs project to DONG Energy and Siemens Project Ventures.

Centrica continues to lead the development and construction of the Lincs wind farm and will be the operator, drawing on experience gained from its three earlier offshore wind farms - Barrow Offshore Wind and Lynn and Inner Dowsing wind farms.



The consent for Lincs was based on a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, which addressed such issues as marine ecology and ornithology, shipping and navigation, socio-economic effects, commercial fishing and coastal processes.

A non-technical summary outlining the outcome of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Lincs site can be downloaded from the Centrica Renewables website.

The wind farm, when complete in 2013, will be capable of meeting the annual electricity needs of 200,000 households and will reduce harmful carbon emissions.

Environmental assessments

When assessing consent applications, Ministers are required to consider the impact of projects. To help this process for Lincs, Centrica carried out an Environmental Impact Assessment and submitted an environmental report with the consent application in January 2007.

The report was considered by key stakeholders and was subject to public scrutiny. Stakeholders' comments were taken into account by the consenting authorities prior to reaching the decision to award consent.

Grid connection

Following a feasibility study into possible grid connections in October 2005, Centrica received and accepted a grid connection offer from National Grid at Walpole in West Norfolk. Export cables for Lincs have been buried in the seabed and then, once onshore, buried underground to Walpole. Although burying onshore cables was a more expensive option, it prevented the visual impact of pylons and overhead power lines. An extension to the substation was required to transform the power from 132kV to 400kV before being delivered into the national electricity network.

Onshore works

The Lincs onshore works have involved laying two underground 132kV cables from the landfall point to the east of the mouth of the River Nene to the Walpole

substation and building a new substation adjacent to the existing one at Walpole St Peter. Some initial work on the Walpole substation site was done to provide improved safety for traffic entering and leaving the site. Then the main construction works were carried out from March 2010 and completed by August 2011.

Siemens Transmission & Distribution Limited was appointed by Centrica as the main contractor for the onshore works. For details of Lincs onshore construction, download the pdf document from the Lincs section of the Centrica Renewables website.

Public consultation

Public opinion research was carried out for the Lincs project to support the application for consent. This showed nearly 85% in support of the development. The Lincs Public Opinion Report is available in the Lincs section on the Centrica Renewables website.

Centrica is committed to keeping members of the public in the region informed of developments. Annually, since 2005, public exhibitions have been mounted and publicised in Skegness, King's Lynn and Hunstanton, where members of the development team were on hand to explain the projects and to answer questions.

Find out more about Centrica Renewables' projects at www.centrica.com/renewables

KEY FACTS

- 75 Siemens 3.6MW turbines to be installed in 10-15m (32-50 feet) of water.
- Total capacity of 270MW.
- Underground cables between the turbines and the shore.
- Offshore substation and connection to the existing National Grid substation at Walpole in West Norfolk.
- A designed operational life of 20 years, after which the turbines can be decommissioned or new turbines installed.
- Zero carbon emissions from power generation.

SIEMENS

DONG
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