

Protecting the local environment



Thorn Back Ray
One of the species found in the Solway

The environment in which we work is very important to us and we've committed to a comprehensive programme of environmental surveys at Robin Rigg in order to monitor wildlife in the Solway Firth before, during and after construction of the wind farm.

Now that construction is fully underway, we're carrying out a series of surveys to monitor the impact of the project on fish, and marine mammals and organisms.'

When we install the first four foundations in daylight, we're going to perform additional checks, including onshore and offshore observation and undertake underwater noise monitoring.

The surveys will be analysed and presented to the Robin Rigg Monitoring Group, which is chaired by the Scottish Government. Key environmental stakeholders, such as Natural England and the RSPB, are also members of this group.

Robin Rigg Community Fund

Starting in 2009, there will be a fund in place to help support local communities around the Solway Firth to undertake sustainable projects. E.ON has committed £1m over the next 10 years and details of who can apply and how this fund is being administered will be available later this year.

Disclaimer: The views or opinions presented in this document are solely those of E.ON UK and do not necessarily represent those of the Solway Firth Partnership.



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Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm

Project and community update from E.ON UK

Foundations in place at Robin Rigg



Above: The MV Resolution

Since our last update in Tidelines, our construction team has started installation work offshore during January using the massive, six legged installation vessel, the MV Resolution.

Eight complete sets of wind turbine foundations were installed and the MV Resolution will return in August to carry out further work.

Meanwhile, the latest batches of foundations are in place at the Port of Workington and installation works have now recommenced with the Lisa which returned to site last month to successfully complete 'jacking' trials.

Onshore, the construction team has been busy ensuring that all the technical works and equipment are in place and ready to feed the electricity produced by the wind farm in to the local electricity distribution system.

At the Port of Barrow, two large offshore transformer platforms have been fitted out ready for transport out to the Solway Firth later this summer. These platforms will feature substations that will charge up the power produced by the turbines before sending them to shore.

At Seaton, near Workington 2km of onshore cable has been laid from the shoreline to the new onshore substation which is rapidly nearing completion. The operations base has also started to take shape with the local contractor Thomas Armstrong readying the building for fit out in preparation for use by the team in the near future.

But it's not just construction works that the team have been progressing, the Robin Rigg operations team is eagerly awaiting the delivery of a 45-foot catamaran, which has been specially designed to transfer engineers on to the turbines in the Solway Firth.

Pupils from Ewanrigg junior school named the new vessel the 'Solway Spirit' as part

of an education day organised by E.ON. Steve Johnson, an E.ON wind farm engineer based at the Port of Workington, said: "It was a fantastic opportunity to talk to some local people about Robin Rigg and give them an opportunity to ask questions about wind farms and why we need clean, renewable energy". The three winning children and their families will be invited to the official launch of the 'Solway Spirit' at the Port of Workington this summer.

There's still quite a bit of work to be done, including putting the turbines into place. More vessels will be arriving this summer to install the power cables, to build the wind turbines themselves, and to help ongoing construction of what will be one of the largest offshore wind farms in Europe.



Left: Pupils from Ewanrigg junior school look over the boat plans with Steve Johnson of E.ON.



Above: Artists impression of the ops building at Port of Workington

Working with the community

We're committed to being a good neighbour to the communities in which we operate. In addition to investing in the local economy, we work closely with schools and charitable organisations to educate, support and engage with our communities across the UK.

And many of our people also come from the local community. At Robin Rigg, 22 out of the 27 new members of the operations team are Cumbrians. In total, more than 40 long-term jobs will be created and many more jobs will be supported throughout the operations and maintenance phase of the project.

We also want to give local businesses the opportunity to benefit from the construction of the wind farm. In association with the West Cumbria Development Agency (WCDA) and the Scottish Enterprise, we've organised a series of 'meet the buyer' days, which will give local suppliers the opportunity to explore potential contract opportunities for the supply of products and services to the E.ON business and to learn about the prequalification process.

The operation and maintenance of Robin Rigg will inject in excess of £2.5m into the Port of Workington over the coming years. Colin Sharpe, Business Development Manager from the Port, said: "E.ON's presence on site is testament to their commitment to partnering for the long-term prosperity of business while cultivating sustainable benefits for other stakeholders. Their support of local communities has already had a very positive impact".

Supporting the community

The Maryport lifeboat, E.ON Spirit of Maryport, was launched on Saturday 24th May with the help of a £50,000 donation from E.ON, we also helped to fund a wind turbine at Netherhall school in Maryport which will vastly reduce the cost of electricity at the school.

Speaking at a special opening ceremony for the Netherhall School Turbine, Headteacher David Sibbit said: "The youngsters who are here know that it's their world in the future. They know that resources like oil and coal aren't going to last but the wind is probably going to blow forever."

The brake on the turbine was released by Tony Jenkin-Jones, one of E.ON's community relations executives. As he watched the blades start to turn, Tony said: "It's our pleasure to support projects like this, which are about educating the next generation and providing something for the local community."

Ian Johnson, senior project manager at Robin Rigg, said: "This is a great link between what we're doing in the Solway and how people can play their part in the community. We're really pleased to be able to work together on this." The wind turbine is one of the largest built at any school in Cumbria, and is expected to save the emission of almost three tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, any surplus energy produced during the summer may be fed back into the national grid.

Robin Rigg is helping E.ON fight Climate Change whilst keeping our lights on

Why is it important? There has been a 0.7°C increase in global temperatures since the beginning of the last century, and with the atmospheric CO₂ concentration already at a level not seen on Earth for at least 740,000 years, the reality of climate change is undeniable. We're already on a path that will lead to at least a 2°C increase this century. Experts predict that this is a crucial tipping point beyond which some of the most extreme impacts will occur.

Climate Change is at the heart of E.ON's Changing Energy strategy. Our target is to reduce the carbon intensity of our generation – or the amount of carbon we emit for every unit of electricity we produce - 10% by 2012, having already reduced it by 10% since 1990. Our renewable energy business is a world leader and already has an impressive portfolio of 21 operational onshore and offshore wind farms in the

UK, together with one of the UK's largest dedicated biomass power stations at Steven's Croft in Lockerbie. Four of our wind farms are located in Cumbria, and we also own and operate a combined heat and power plant in Workington. In addition, when Robin Rigg is operational it will be one of the largest offshore wind farms in the UK.

The Cumbrian wind farms are at Askam, Lowca, Oldside and Siddick. Each of our sites runs between seven and nine turbines and, in total, can generate enough renewable electricity to supply over 11,000 homes. Once construction is finished, and Robin Rigg is fully operational, E.ON will be generating enough renewable energy for a further 117,000 homes from Cumbria alone. And, while E.ON is helping keep the lights on in over 127,000 homes, these five sites in Cumbria will displace the emission of over 220,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

