



RWE

Robin Rigg Newsletter

Spring 2021

Together

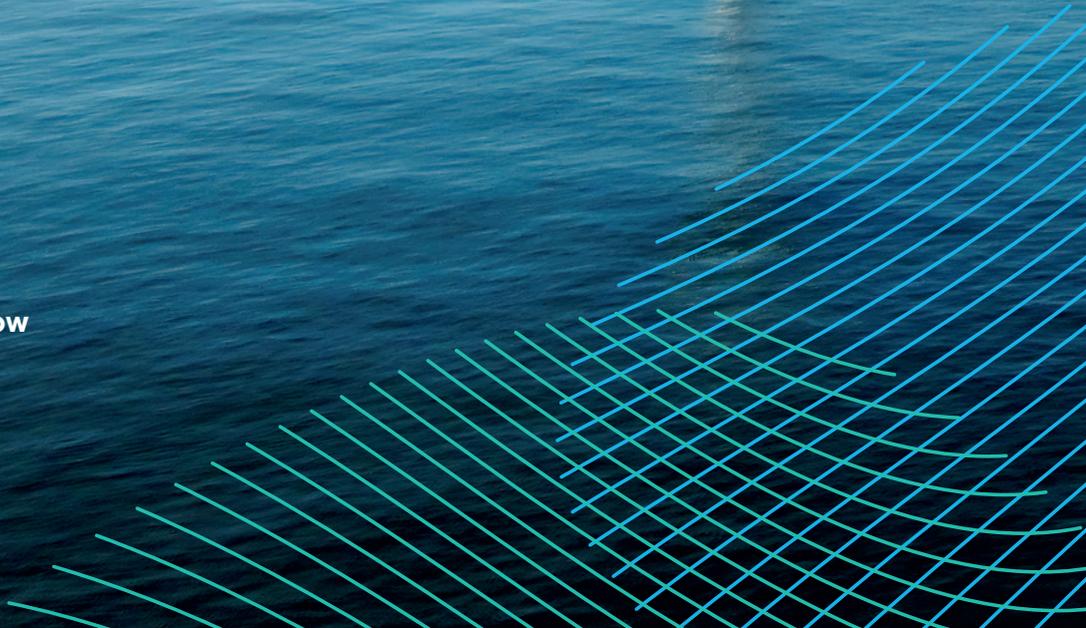
Positive outlook despite
difficult times

Secured

Successful annual turbine
maintenance

Successful

Virtual REACT Science Show



A Corona-coaster of a Year!



“ Since the last newsletter in early 2020, it truly has been a year that none of us could ever have imagined.

I was walking on the Scottish side of the Solway Firth, on Sandyhills beach, looking out at the windfarm as news of the pandemic was starting to escalate. Ironically, my journal entry from that day reads: “sometimes you just need a different perspective on things”. Never a more true thought as we have all dealt with some very hard times these past 12 months and

we have learned what is most important to us. For me, personally and professionally, this is my people.

From the outset of the pandemic, the UK Government defined the renewables industry as nationally critical infrastructure which means that the operations team here on Robin Rigg are classified as key workers and have continued to work throughout the year to keep the plant generating electricity.

Following the announcement of the first lockdown phase, the Robin Rigg management team developed an operational plan that prioritised to the critical tasks necessary to keep the windfarm operating at its optimum against the balance of minimising the number of people and time necessary to be spent on site.

In order to maintain the turbines, the technicians have to travel out to the windfarm on small vessels, and although they look quite mighty in their size from shore, it's surprising how small an offshore wind turbine is in places so ensuring social distancing

was a difficult exercise. As was enforcing the hand washing regime on a turbine that has no running water. In a normal year, during our peak maintenance campaign, when the weather is favourable we are joined by contractors from all over the UK and beyond. We had to decide whether it was prudent to bring people into the area when the regional NHS was under severe pressure. These were just some of the issues we had to contend with and plan around to ensure that we could keep the turbines operating but still keep everyone as safe as possible.

As always, my team pulled together, supporting each other, their local community and supporting me. Team members reaching out to others who were having hard times.

Coronavirus control measures will be necessary at Robin Rigg for the foreseeable future, but we're looking ahead with positivity. In spite of the pandemic, 2020 was an incredibly successful year and for RWE Renewables.

I would like to say a massive thank you to my team working to keep Robin Rigg operational in really difficult circumstances. Given time, I have no doubt we will look back on 2020 and collectively question what actually happened but also I will look back, wearing rose tinted spectacles, and my enduring memory will be how my team pulled together. Even though we were physically separated, in many ways we have never been closer.

Stay safe, and look after yourselves.

Kerry McCole
Robin Rigg General Manager



RWE Offshore Portfolio success

RWE is delighted to have been successful in the UK Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 by The Crown Estate when the successful bidders were announced in February 2021.

We were awarded two adjacent sites on Dogger Bank, 110 kilometres from the North East coast of England.

These two sites have a total potential capacity of 3 gigawatts and are close to RWE's Sofia offshore wind development project which reinforces our position as a leading player in offshore wind and demonstrates our commitment to helping deliver the UK's ambition to grow offshore wind capacity to 40 gigawatts by 2030.

40

The UK's ambition is to increase offshore wind capacity to 40 gigawatts by 2030



Blade Maintenance and Repair 2021

Several key maintenance projects run each year at Robin Rigg and IRATA access to the blades is a key element.

Leading edge erosion over the length of the blade, though mainly focused closer to the tip end, is the key aspect of blade maintenance that regularly requires attention.

In order to prepare for blade repair season, the project management team ensures all members of the maintenance working party are comfortable and familiar with the expected work area and all associated procedures, including emergency procedures. To that end, we carried out an emergency exercise scenario in February 2021.

Rescue Scenario

Two team members are working on the blade when suddenly one of them requires to be evacuated from the blade to a waiting crew transfer vessel for medical assistance.

1 The exercise is split into two parts:
Part 1: Rescue of the casualty from the blade – this is done with a two man team using a live casualty to simulate a cut away IRATA rescue.

2 **Part 2:** Using a dummy as the casualty, a support team is dispatched (making three rescuers and one casualty) to the turbine to assist in a stretcher rescue from the transition platform to the waiting crew transfer vessel, following site procedures and using standard rescue equipment that is found on the vessel for day-to-day operations for all technicians on site.



- Exercise completed on the 22 February 2021 on turbine H06 prior to the start of the 2021 blade repair campaign expected to begin in March 2021.

- All maintenance teams expecting to be working on Robin Rigg during 2021 will be briefed on the success of the emergency exercise with key learning points discussed and documented in order to improve understanding of safety procedures.

Science Show goes virtual

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual REACT Foundation's Science Show was delivered virtually in 2020 straight into classrooms, making it possible for many more schools across Cumbria to participate for the first time.

Supported by RWE's Robin Rigg for the last 11 years, the free Science Show was streamed via a virtual platform to ensure students did not miss out on the popular and inspiring annual event which in the past has seen up to 7,500 young people taking part each year.



The charity inspires young people across Cumbria to enjoy science and engineering and runs an extensive, targeted programme of events including ICanToo programmes with local schools and a midweek REACTioneers evening club for young children in the community which was last year visited by Princess Anne.

For more information visit:
www.reactfoundation.org.uk



"The Science Show was amazing! The children thoroughly enjoyed it and we then spent the rest of the morning investigating bubbles and balloons using the worksheets provided. We had a full session of hands on practical science which the children loved! It is definitely the most enjoyable thing we have done as a class this year! I loved that straight after the show we could carry out our own experiments. The children were buzzing!" Mrs Smart, Year 6 Teacher, Silloth School

"I want to say a massive thank you to this year's sponsors RWE and the University of Cumbria. Both organisations have been long term supporters and I was delighted that they shared our desire to try and deliver our annual science shows in spite of the constraints posed by the COVID situation. Whilst not quite the same as the theatre style events we have run for over ten years, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and kept the flame of excitement and inspiration lit in our young Cumbrian scientists and engineers until we hopefully return to normal service at the earliest opportunity. The silver lining from the situation was that we were able to extend the offer to the whole of Cumbria and not just the West as we traditionally do so the numbers experiencing the event increased. A real positive to take from a difficult period for schools and students."
Pete Woolaghan, Chairman of The REACT Foundation

Robin Rigg Community Fund

Administered by the Solway Partnership, the Robin Rigg Community Fund is available to community groups and organisations in the eligible Solway area undertaking activities that contribute to the reduction of the effects of climate change or otherwise benefit the local community.

Despite the difficulties caused by Covid-19 some of the Robin Rigg Community Funded Projects have been able to get going in 2020. Catch up with the progress of two of the projects below.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Resource and information services for blind or partially sighted people and their family carers in West Cumbria are delighted to have received a grant from Robin Rigg Community Fund. The monies enable them to provide vital activities that improve the quality of life for blind or partially sighted people and their family carers

have been in the following ways: Improving physical access to our support centre, thus increasing the number of visitors able to access face-to-face support; increase the support provided via our telephone befriending service and increase our provision of information on specialist independent living as well as provision of specialist equipment and enable our home support worker to make home visits to house-bound visually impaired people.

Auchencairn village

The money from the Robin Rigg fund will be used towards developing the Link Park community garden within Auchencairn

village as there is a desire within the village to develop our green areas, to teach the children about local nature and to grow food locally. A 5-acre site has been donated to the community for rewilding and planting trees. We are keen to grow these from locally sourced seeds and saplings. The Link Park has developed into a multi-functional open space playing a key role in the cultural and social well-being of the community. We aim to build on the huge success of the green spaces that Robin Rigg has been instrumental in helping us create over the last few years.

For further information on the fund and how to apply for funding visit:
www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk