

# Second round faces shipping traffic jam

The UK Department of Transport (DfT) has fired a warning shot across the bows of the offshore wind industry in a report that shows a number of second round projects will face significant navigational clashes with shipping.

The dramatic evidence has been circulated to developers and was recently quoted by the Department of Trade and Industry's Richard Mellish during a meeting with the industry on Regional Environmental Assessments (REAs) for second round wind farms.

The DfT commissioned Anatec UK Limited to draw up charts showing the estimated merchant ship density in the sea areas of first and second round offshore

sites. The studies show many of the project locations have been carefully selected to avoid high shipping densities.

The massive Thames Estuary scheme London Array, for example, lies almost exclusively in waters where shipping densities are at the bottom end of the measurement scale with less than 25 ships per year.

However for others,

notably National Wind Power's Triton Knoll project, Total's Westermost Rough, DONG's Walney and Warwick Energy's Thanet, the study shows shipping densities are far higher.

For Triton Knoll, the Anatec data shows a big chunk of the south-western part of the proposed wind farm lies in a main shipping channel where more

than 1500 ships per year would be expected. In fact, most of the site has shipping densities of more than 150 ships per year.

A developer told reNews that some of the successful second round bidders would have used shipping surveys from Anatec as part of their application scoping. Others had also already identified navigation as one of the big hurdles

facing their projects. Nevertheless, the report highlights that for a few developers navigational use of the sea may well stand immovably in the way of ambitions to realise the full scale of original plans.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has issued a plea to second round developers to carry out early and thorough consultation on navigational issues.

## Ontario throws open door to developers

The Canadian province of Ontario this week invited developers to bring forward wind farm plans for crown lands and waters as part of a push to increase renewable energy generation.

Ontario Natural Resources Minister

David Ramsay said the province was hoping to source around 3000MW of wind power in the coming years to address shortfalls as coal-fired generation goes off-line.

The minister added that the province was also "exploring ways to

expand waterpower". It is unclear if that refers to hydro or marine renewables, or both. Full details of that proposal are expected in due course.

Ramsay said the most viable locations for wind projects would be

on the north shore of Lake Superior and offshore on Ontario's seabed holdings in the Great Lakes. Other onshore areas were also being considered.

Ramsay said the first turbines could start producing power as soon as next year.



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