



# **Assistant Planner to Principal Planner (Energy Projects) Career Grade Posts**

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# We are hiring Career Grade Planners

We are looking for proactive and motivated people to work as part of the team in assessing, managing, and delivering Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), seeking to achieve the best possible outcomes for East Suffolk taking into account relevant legislation, policies, and procedures of the Council.

NSIPs are treated separately from normal local authority planning because of their size and importance to wider communities. They are projects of certain types (for us, nuclear, offshore wind, solar, interconnectors, and grid reinforcement), over a certain size, which are considered by the government to be so big and nationally important that permission to build them needs to be given at a national level, by the responsible government minister.

Ultimate decision-making on NSIPs is done through the Secretary of State of Energy Security and Net Zero. Ed Miliband, as current Secretary of State, has made it clear the government is going full steam ahead in speedy consenting of new energy infrastructure and wants to turn the UK into a global clean energy superpower.

In the three months since the Labour party formed a new government, it has removed an almost decade-long block on onshore windfarms, consented four of the UK's largest solar farms, and established the government electricity generation company GB Energy to help invest up to £8bn in low-carbon power. The Government's commitment to a Net-Zero United Kingdom by 2050 will require significant changes to the energy sector and result in numerous energy projects in Suffolk, and a lot of work for the team.

Why does this matter to East Suffolk? It is estimated with all the offshore wind, nuclear and other energy development that is in place and proposed, approximately 30% of the UK's electricity will come through East Suffolk. East Suffolk Council is the local planning authority and is an important voice in the NSIP consenting process, from the earliest pre-application stages, through consenting, onto seeing the projects being delivered. East Suffolk is home to many in-track energy projects, with more anticipated to come forward. The post holder will be working at the forefront of the transition to Net Zero, for a uniquely positioned local authority.

# Career progression and development

The current vacancy provides the opportunity to progress with support from an **Assistant Planner** all the way through to a **Principal Planner** subject to gaining the necessary qualifications and experience. Successful candidates would be placed at an appropriate position on the career grade path reflective of their current qualifications and experience.



The **Assistant Planner** role provides an opportunity for you to attain a planning post-graduate qualification providing access to progress to Planner level and to become a full member of the RTPI.

If you have a first degree in geography, social sciences, or a related subject (other disciplines will also often be considered) this is an exciting opportunity to take forward your existing knowledge, skills, and interests and embark on a career as a planner. For appointment as Planner, with a recognised qualification (to degree level or equivalent) in related discipline, as well as experience of working in planning in either the public or private sector, you will have knowledge of current planning working practices, development design, planning law, and regulations.

For the **Senior Planner** and **Principal Planner** positions the post holder requires full MRTPI membership, greater knowledge, and experience and there will be a requirement to either provide mentoring or management responsibilities dependent on the post. These posts also provide the exciting opportunity to lead on behalf of the Council on NSIPs.

The career grade system provides a clear path to progression in post. This is a great time to build a career as a planner working in the energy infrastructure consenting sphere, at a local authority uniquely positioned at the heart of the Net Zero transition.

We're supportive of continuing professional development, including supporting you finding training courses to develop your planning knowledge and keep you up to date on NSIP best practice.

# Meet the Team

The team currently comprises the Energy Projects Manager, two Senior Planners, a Coordinator, and a Transport Lead.

As of April 2024, the Energy Projects team is now a new service area – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning. The Service sits adjacent to the Development Management, Policy and Building Control service.

We work closely with in-house specialists; with an established and growing Specialist Services team covering landscape and arboriculture, design and heritage, ecology, and more. This therefore represents one of the most exciting planning opportunities in the country where you will perform a key role in helping to deliver outstanding planning outcomes that achieve the right balance between meeting growth ambitions, contributing to the country's Net Zero targets, and respecting the district's outstanding natural and built environment.



**Philip Ridley**  
Head of Nationally Significant  
Infrastructure Planning



**Naomi Goold**  
Energy Projects Manager



**Grahame Stuteley**  
Senior Planner



**Bethany Rance**  
Senior Planner



**Emma Devereux**  
Coordinator



**Carolyn Barnes**  
Transport Lead

# The Projects

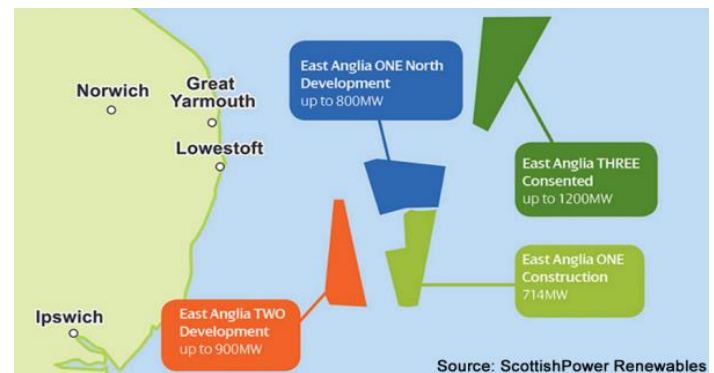
The Energy Projects team engages with multiple NSIPs, at all stages of the development consent process.

**Sizewell C:** consented in 2022, Sizewell C will be a 3.2-gigawatt power station generating low-carbon electricity for around 6 million homes. It will be one of Europe's largest construction projects for the estimate 9–12-year build time. The team is now working on delivering the project, through determining discharge of requirement applications, associated TCPA applications, and ensuring all obligations committed to by the developer are delivered.



Digital rendering of Sizewell C

**Offshore Wind:** Over the last decade there have been a number of offshore wind projects consented off our coastline (Gallopier, Greater Gabbard, East Anglia One, East Anglia One North, East Anglia Two and East Anglia Three) in addition to two further seeking consent in the form of North Falls and Five Estuaries. We're therefore currently working on both the delivery and consenting of offshore wind projects.



Map of East Anglia Offshore Windfarms

**Grid Reinforcement:** With the amount of consented and planned electricity generation in East Suffolk, it is necessary to reinforce the electricity transmission system. We're working on a range of reinforcement projects, including [Sea Link](#), a connection between the Suffolk Coast and Kent and onshore transmission network reinforcement schemes including [Norwich to Tilbury](#) and Bramford to Twinstead.

**Offshore Hybrid Assets:** These are a new generation of subsea technology which links clusters of offshore wind farms to multiple countries, formerly known as multi-purpose interconnectors. We have two of these projects; [LionLink](#), and [Nautilus](#) both proposing to come ashore within

# Why work for us?

The local planning authority is an important actor and voice in the NSIP and development consent process, one of the few stakeholders involved in all stages of the consenting and delivery processes. East Suffolk Council is uniquely positioned geographically as host to multiple planned and consented NSIPs and has established the Service to best engage with these projects, to be a voice for the district, its communities, and the environment. Net Zero is the target, the government direction of travel for the industry is clear, and East Suffolk Council has a big part to play to positively influence its delivery.

This role offers the post holder the opportunity to have a direct positive influence on shaping the future of the district and its towns, villages, communities, and the environment, at a pivotal time in the transition to Net Zero and transformation of the energy system.

East Suffolk Council is an exciting place to work, delivering essential local services and making a real difference to a quarter of a million people across East Suffolk.

East Suffolk Council is a great place to work and there are lots of benefits our employees can access. To find out more about why we are so proud of East Suffolk Council, [take a look at our video and hear why our employees think it is such a great place to work \(YouTube\)](#).

In addition to the rural and urban diversity of East Suffolk itself, the district is close to the large urban centres of both Norwich and Ipswich, with rail services providing access to the Council's offices by train. [We might be 'on the edge' but we can be accessed easily from a wide area \(jpg\)](#) and offer flexible and remote working in a dynamic team.



## To find out more:

If you think you might have what it takes to be successful in this role, even if you don't meet all of the essential requirements, we want to hear from you and look forward to having the opportunity to consider your application.

If you'd like more information or a conversation about this post, please reach out to Naomi Hayes (Energy Projects Manager) at **Naomi.Hayes@eastsuffolk.gov.uk** or Bethany Rance (Senior Planner, Energy Projects) at **Bethany.Rance@eastsuffolk.gov.uk** 01394 444543.

To see more of what the team does, explore: [National infrastructure and energy projects » East Suffolk Council](#)

**Closing date:** 1.00pm, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Interview date:** w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

**To apply,** Please click here to view the advert and complete the online application.