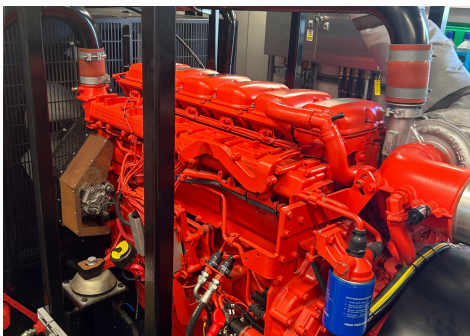


# A DAY IN THE LIFE... Offshore wind

We spoke to Gavin, one of our Offshore Technicians, about the work he undertakes on offshore windfarms ensuring the emergency generators on the substations are always at the ready for critical operations.



## Take us through a typical offshore substation maintenance job

Many of the windfarms in the UK are off the coast of Great Yarmouth/Lowestoft so often I can join a crew transfer vessel or service operation vessel from a local port. We often set sail first thing in the morning or in the evening and travel overnight to the windfarm.

Prior to boarding the offshore substation I will organise all the tools, equipment, and spares I will need for the job.

Once onboard the substation, we receive a platform induction and after this I can start work on the generator.

These generators are for emergency standby power so don't have the level of use of standard power generators. Nevertheless, everything is checked meticulously. Filters and components are inspected and then cleaned or replaced, new seals are fitted throughout. Fuel and oil samples are taken for laboratory analysis to provide an insight of the internal condition of the engine to aid preventative maintenance and finally the generator is fully tested.

If any faults are found, I might need to spend the night on the crew transfer vessel before reboarding the offshore substation the next day to complete the job. If additional work is required, my report to the customer includes these recommendations.

**"Luckily I don't get seasick but the boats are fantastic"**

## Are there any challenges?

You have to be organised and fairly fit for this job. With tools, replacement parts, PPE and day bag, there is a lot to take to the substations - and not forgetting all the climbing gear to safely ascend the ladders up the monopile to the substation itself.

Fortunately there's not been an occasion when I've been stranded on a substation, but they're all kitted out for emergency stays in case. Most of the time I stay on one of the service operation vessels supporting the windfarms. The facilities are great onboard those and really they're really stable vessels so seasickness tends not to be a problem.