



F I V E



ESTUARIES


OFFSHORE WIND FARM

FIVE ESTUARIES

OFFSHORE WIND FARM

SAFETY ZONE STATEMENT

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DEFINITION OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
DCO	Development Consent Order
ES	Environmental Statement
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
VE OWFL	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
Galloper	Galloper Offshore Wind Farm
MW	Megawatts
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
OREI	Offshore Renewable Energy Installations
2007 Regulations	Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007
Secretary of State	Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document reporting the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and produced in accordance with the EIA Directive as transposed into United Kingdom (UK) law by the EIA Regulations.
Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA)	A document which assesses the overall impact to shipping and navigation of a proposed Offshore Renewable Energy Installation (OREI) based upon Formal Risk Assessment (FSA).
Offshore Renewable Energy Installation (OREI)	As defined by Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 654 (Merchant and Fishing) Safety of Navigation: Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs) – Guidance on UK Navigational Practice, Safety and Emergency Response (Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), 2021). For the purposes of this report and in keeping with the consistency of the Environmental Impact Assessment, OREI can mean offshore wind turbines and the associated electrical infrastructure such as offshore substations.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) has submitted an application to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State, for a Development Consent Order for the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (herein referred to as VE) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.2 VE is the proposed extension to the operational Galloper Offshore Wind Farm. The project includes provision for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm located approximately 37 kilometres off the coast of Suffolk at its closest point in the southern North Sea; including up to 79 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure making landfall at Sandy Point between Frinton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea, the installation of underground cables, and the construction of an electrical substation and associated infrastructure near to the existing Lawford Substation to the west of Little Bromley in order to connect the development to National Grid's proposed East Anglia Connection Node substation, which would be located nearby. All onshore connection infrastructure would be located in the administrative area of Tendring District Council, within Essex County Council. VE will have an overall capacity of greater than 100 Megawatts (MW) and therefore constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Section 15 (3) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.3 This Safety Zone Statement has been prepared in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) which requires the applicant for a development consent order (DCO), for the construction of an offshore generating station, to provide a statement as to whether an application will be made for safety zones.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 1.2.1 This Safety Zone Statement outlines the legislative requirements relating to an application for safety zones for Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (**OREI**), under section 95 of the Energy Act 2004 (**2004 Act**), the need for safety zones for the Project and the scope of the proposed safety zone application.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.3.1 The safety zone application will be made once the final number and precise location of the OREI have been determined, including the wind turbine generators and offshore substation platform(s). An application for safety zones is likely to be made before offshore foundation installation commences, likely to be 2028/29.



- 1.3.2 The safety zone application to be made by the Applicant will provide all of the information required by paragraph 3 of schedule 16 to the 2004 Act and regulation 3 of the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (**2007 Regulations**) as set out in section 3 below.
- 1.3.3 In accordance with section 95 of the 2004 Act, the application will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the **Secretary of State**).



2 SCOPE OF FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM DCO APPLICATION

2.1.1 The Five Estuaries draft DCO seeks consent for the following works, as set out in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the draft DCO (Application Document 3.1) and repeated below:

Work No. 1:

- a. *an offshore wind turbine generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 100 megawatts, comprising up to 79 wind turbine generators each fixed to the seabed by a foundation, and further comprising (b) and (c) below;*
- b. *a network of subsea inter-array cables, including cable crossings and cable protection; and*
- c. *floating buoys.*

and associated development within the meaning of section 115(2) (development for which development consent may be granted) of the 2008 Act comprising—

Work No. 2: Electrical export works comprising:

- a. *up to two offshore substation platforms each fixed to the seabed by a foundation;*
- b. *up to two subsea cable circuits between the offshore platforms forming Work No.2(a) including cable crossings and cable protection; and*
- c. *up to two subsea cable circuits between Work No. 2(a) and Work No. 3, cable protection and cable crossings*

Work No. 2A: *Sheet piling works and creation of pits for trenchless installation techniques, including installation of up to two cable ducts, installation and use of temporary construction working areas, cable installation vessel anchoring and works to allow vessels to remain in place at low tide.*

Work No. 3: *Installation of up to two subsea cable circuits between Work No. 2 and Work No. 4, including up to two cable ducts, cable protection and cable crossings and further including;*

- a. *sheet piling works including creation of pits for trenchless installation techniques, trenchless installation technique works including the creation of entrance and exit pits; and*
- b. *installation and use of temporary construction working areas, cable installation vessel anchoring, works to allow vessels to remain in place at low tide and laydown area.*

Work No. 3: *Installation of up to two subsea cable circuits between Work No. 2 and Work No. 4, including up to two cable ducts, cable protection and cable crossings and further including;*

- a. *sheet piling works including creation of pits for trenchless installation techniques, trenchless installation technique works including the creation of entrance and exit pits; and*
- b. *installation and use of temporary construction working areas, cable installation vessel anchoring and laydown area.*



Work Nos. 1, 2, 2A and 3 are to be constructed seaward of MHWS within the area delineated by the co-ordinates shown on the offshore order limits and co-ordinates plan and listed in Table 1 of Schedule 17 (offshore co-ordinates), and within the area for each Work No. as shown on the works plan



3 SAFETY ZONE STATEMENT

3.1 SAFETY ZONE STATEMENT

3.1.1 In accordance with section 95 of the 2004 Act, the safety zone application will be made to the Secretary of State. Pursuant to section 95(2) of the 2004 Act, the purposes for which the Secretary of State may consider it appropriate to issue a safety zone notice are for the purposes of securing the safety of:-

- > the OREI or its construction, extension or decommissioning,
- > other installations in the vicinity of the installation or the place where it is to be constructed or extended
- > individuals in or on the installation or other installations in that vicinity; or
- > vessels in that vicinity or individuals on such vessels.

3.1.2 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004 and regulation 3 of the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (**2007 Regulations**) require that the following information should be included within a written application for safety zones in respect of an offshore generating station:

- > a map showing:
 - > the place where the relevant renewable energy installation is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned; and
 - > the waters in relation to which any declaration applied for will establish a safety zone;
- > a description of the installation and its proposed or existing location and dimensions (including an explanation of how much of it is (or is expected to be) visible above the water line and how much below it), supported by drawings;
- > a description of how the installation operates (or is to operate);
- > a description of the location (or proposed location) of:
 - > any electric line used (or proposed to be used) for the conveyance of electricity to or from the installation;
 - > any connection to such an electric line;
 - > a description of the location (or proposed location) of any offshore sub-station housing connection equipment;
 - > where the zone is sought in respect of more than one relevant renewable energy installation, the proposed or existing distances between such installations; and
 - > details of any navigational marking that has been specified for use with an installation of the description in question by a general lighthouse authority;
- > whether the zone relates to the construction, extension, operation or decommissioning of the relevant renewable energy installation;



- > whether the applicant seeks the declaration of a standard safety zone, or if not, what dimensions are sought for the zone;
- > a description of those works or operations in respect of which the zone is being applied for and their estimated date and duration;
- > whether the applicant proposes that the area of the zone will vary and any factors or determinations by reference to which the applicant proposes that such variation may take place;
- > whether the zone relates to major maintenance works in respect of a relevant renewable energy installation which has become operational;
- > a statement setting out what steps, if any, the applicant proposes to take to monitor vessels and activities within the zone;
- > except where the Secretary of State has notified the applicant that it is not required, an up-to-date shipping traffic survey for the waters comprising the zone; and
- > an assessment of the extent to which navigation might be possible or should be restricted, and whether restrictions would cause navigational problems, within or near waters where the relevant renewable energy installation is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned, as the case may be.

3.1.3 The Applicant's safety zone application will contain the prescribed information identified above.

3.1.4 The Applicant intends to apply for the following safety zones:

Table 3.1: Safety zones application summary

Potential safety zone	Details
Construction	Up to 500m around each wind turbine generator foundation or offshore substation platform whilst under construction.
Commissioning	Up to 50m around each wind turbine generator foundation or offshore substation platform where construction has finished but where some work may be ongoing prior to commercial operations commencing, e.g. pre-commissioning testing.
Major maintenance works* during operations	Up to 500m when major maintenance is in progress (e.g. involving the use of a jack-up vessel or similar)

*"Major maintenance works" is defined in regulation 2 of the 2007 Regulations as '*works relating to any renewable energy installation which has become operational, requiring the attachment to, or anchoring next to, such an installation of a self-elevating platform, jack-up barge, crane barge or other maintenance vessel*'



- 3.1.5 Further information on the need for safety zones for the Project is set out in the Shipping and Navigation Chapter of the Environmental Statement (Volume 6, Part 2, Chapter 9, Shipping and Navigation) and the Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) (Volume 6, Part 9, Annex 9.10 Navigational Risk Assessment).
- 3.1.6 During construction, safety zones will be sought for the protection of the Project as an OREI and during both construction, commissioning and major maintenance works, safety zones will be sought for the protection of individuals working on the OREI and vessels related to the works and operating within the vicinity of the works.
- 3.1.7 In relation to decommissioning, it is not anticipated that an application for safety zones would include specific provision for the decommissioning of the Project. The need for any safety zones at the decommissioning stage would be subject to appropriate risk assessment and consultation with the statutory authorities at that stage, and (if required) a further safety zone application would be submitted for the decommissioning works at the relevant time.
- 3.1.8 The Applicant considers that the purposes for which a safety zone will be sought are within the purposes set out in section 95(2) of the 2004 Act and that there is a robust case a safety zone notice to be issued by the Secretary of State in respect of the Project.



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