



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Safety Zone Statement

Document Reference: 7.23
Volume: 7
APFP Regulation: 6(1)(b)(ii)
Date: July 2024
Revision: 0



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Project Reference: EN010119

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| Project | North Falls Offshore Wind Farm |
| Document Title | Safety Zone Statement |
| Document Reference | 7.23 |
| APFP Regulation | 6(1)(b)(ii) |
| Supplier | Royal HaskoningDHV |
| Supplier Document ID | PB9244-RHD-ZZ-OF-RP-OF-0285 |

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| Revision | Date | Status/Reason for Issue | Originator | Checked | Approved |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 0 | July 2024 | Submission | RHDHV | NFOW | NFOW |
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Glossary of Acronyms

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| AIS | Automatic Identification System |
| The APFP regulations | Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure regulations |
| DCO | Development Consent Order |
| DESNZ | Department for Energy Security & Net Zero |
| ES | Environmental Statement |
| MMO | Marine Management Organization |
| MCA | Maritime and Coastguard Agency |
| MRCC | Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre |
| MW | Megawatt |
| km | Kilometres |
| km ² | Square Kilometres |
| NFOW | North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited |
| NRA | Navigational Risk Assessment |
| NSIP | Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project |
| OCP | Offshore Converter Platform |
| OREI | Offshore Renewable Energy Installation |
| OSP | Offshore Substation Platform |
| WTG | Wind Turbine Generator |

Glossary of Terminology

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Array area | The offshore wind farm area, within which the wind turbine generators, array cables, platform interconnector cable, offshore substation platform(s) and/or offshore converter platform will be located. |
| Array cables | The offshore wind farm area, within which the wind turbine generators, array cables, platform interconnector cables, offshore substation platform(s) and/or offshore converter platform will be located. |
| offshore converter platform | Should an offshore connection to a third party High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable be selected, an offshore converter platform would be required. This is a fixed structure located within the array area, containing HVAC and HVDC electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbine generators, increase the voltage to a more suitable level for export and convert the HVAC power generated by the wind turbine generators into HVDC power for export to shore via a third party HVDC interconnector cable. |
| Offshore export cables | The cables which bring electricity from the offshore substation platform(s) to the landfall, as well as auxiliary cables. |
| Offshore substation platform | Fixed structure(s) located within the array area, containing HVAC electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbine generators and increase the voltage to a more suitable level for export to shore via offshore export cables. |
| Platform interconnector cable | Cable connecting the offshore substation platforms (OSP); or the OSP and offshore converter platform (OCP) |
| Safety zones | A marine zone outlined for the purposes of safety around a possibly hazardous installation or works / construction area |
| The Applicant | North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (NFOW). |
| The Project Or 'North Falls' | North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure. |
| Wind turbine generator (WTG) | Power generating device that is driven by the kinetic energy of the wind. |

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1. North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (NFOW), hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant', is planning to develop the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'the Project') with up to 57 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), two offshore platforms (two Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) or one OSP and one Offshore Converter Platform (OCP)). The array area would be located approximately 40 kilometres (km) off the East Anglia coast, covering an area of approximately 95 square kilometres (km²).
2. As the export capacity will exceed 100 Mega Watts (MW), the Project is deemed to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and therefore the Applicant is submitting an application to the Secretary of State under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction and operation of the Project.
3. Further information on the location and design of the Project is set out in the accompanying Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 5, Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7).
4. This Safety Zone Statement is submitted by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) pursuant to Regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations).

1.2 Legislative Context

5. The process for applying to the Secretary of State (for Energy and Climate Change) for a safety zone to be established around an Offshore Renewable Energy Installation (OREI) is set out in Section 95 and Schedule 16 of the Energy Act 2004. The provisions apply to waters in or adjacent to Great Britain between the mean low water mark and the seaward limits of the territorial sea and to waters in the UK Renewable Energy Zone.
6. The Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Applications Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (the 2007 Regulations) were introduced in August 2007 clarifying the process for applying for a safety zone and advertising such applications. Guidelines accompanying the 2007 Regulations were also published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (now Department Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)) to assist applicants in the process of making an application for safety zones.
7. The provision for safety zones applies to all OREI, including those which have already been consented and includes those which:
 - Are used (or will be used or, in the case of decommissioning, have been used) for purposes connected with the production of energy from water or winds;
 - Permanently rest on, or are permanently attached to, the bed of the waters; and

- Are not connected with dry land by a permanent structure providing access at all times for all purposes.
8. The safety zone provision does not cover non surfacing piercing infrastructure such as export cables, interconnector, inter-platform or inter-array cables, or parts thereof, located outside an approved safety zone.

1.3 Objectives

9. In satisfying the requirements of Regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the APFP Regulations, this Safety Zone Statement sets out the Applicant's current intentions relating to the requirements for safety zones at the Project during the construction and operational phases and correspondingly the basis of an application that will be made under the provisions of the Energy Act 2004 and the 2007 Regulations.
10. The safety zone application (the Application) will provide all of the information required by Regulation 3 of the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007. In accordance with Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, the Application will be made to the DESNZ which is the decision maker on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in the case of safety zones relating to NSIPs.
11. The Application will be made once the final number and precise location of the OREI has been determined.
12. The Statement does not currently address in detail any safety zone requirements relating to the decommissioning phase. If, following consultation with DESNZ and other relevant bodies such as the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), a safety zone is deemed to be advisable for the decommissioning of the Project, a further safety zone application would be made at the relevant time.
13. This Statement addresses the following:
- Need for safety zones for the Project; and
 - Scope of the proposed safety zone application (the Application).

2 The need for safety zones for the Project

14. The Applicant's intention is to make an application for safety zones around the WTGs and offshore electrical platforms in the event that consent is granted for the Project. The current, anticipated need for safety zones at the Project array area is set out in ES Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (Document Reference: 3.1.17), accompanying the application for a DCO. The safety zone need is supplemented by the detailed marine Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA). This assessment is set out in ES Appendix 15.1 Navigational Risk Assessment (Document Reference: 3.3.16).
15. For the construction phase, 500 metre safety zones have been considered by the NRA as being an essential mitigation. Specifically, during the construction phase, 500 metre safety zones will be established at locations in which construction activity is currently taking place and evidenced by the presence of

a construction vessel. A 50metre safety zone around each OREI where construction works are complete but prior to the overall wind farm being commissioned and operational may also be necessary.

16. For normal operations during the operational phase, the NRA does not currently identify any specific need for safety zones to be established around the OREI. However, an application would be made for safety zones of up to 500 metres to be employed where major maintenance is underway on any surface piercing OREI structures during the operational phase.
17. With regard to the decommissioning phase of the Project, as noted above, it is anticipated that an application for safety zones would not include any specific provisions for the decommissioning phase. Rather it is expected that the need for safety zones at that stage would be subject to appropriate risk assessment and consultation with the statutory authorities. A separate application would be made prior to decommissioning where necessary.
18. It is noted that the anticipated provisions for safety zones for the Project align with the standard definitions set out in the 2007 Regulations.
19. In summary, the Applicant anticipates that an application for safety zones would be made to DESNZ incorporating some or all of the following provisions:
 - Construction phase – 500 metre safety zones around active construction works and evidenced by the presence of a construction vessel;
 - Construction phase – 50 metre safety zones around partially or fully completed structures prior to the overall wind farm commissioning;
 - Operational phase – a 500 metres safety zone around the site of major maintenance works; and
 - Decommissioning – no safety zones currently proposed; a separate application would be made prior to decommissioning where considered necessary.
20. The final scope and form of the Safety Zone Application will be decided following completion of the detailed design of the Project but prior to the start of construction works; currently the earliest date an application would be submitted would be one year prior to offshore construction commencing which is anticipated to begin in 2030. The final Application would be developed through further risk assessment and in consultation with relevant statutory authorities, and in line with the 2007 Regulations and accompanying guidance notes.

3 Scope of the safety zone Application for the Project

3.1 Scope of the DCO application

21. The application for the Project seeks consent for the following offshore works, as conditioned in the DMLs in the draft DCO (Document Reference: 6.1) and repeated in the following paragraphs.

Work No. 1—

- (a) *an offshore wind turbine generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 100 megawatts comprising up to 57 wind turbine generators each fixed to the seabed by one of the following foundation types: monopile, mono suction bucket, gravity based system, multi-leg pin pile jacket, multi-leg suction bucket jacket or multi-leg gravity based system jacket;*
- (b) *a network of cables between the wind turbine generators and between the wind turbine generators and Work No 2, including one or more cable crossings;*

and associated development within the meaning of section 115(2) of the 2008 Act comprising—

Work No. 2—

- (a) *up to two offshore substation platforms each fixed to the seabed by one of the following foundation types: monopile, gravity based system, multi-leg pin pile jacket or a multi-leg suction bucket jacket and a platform interconnector cable including one or more cable crossings; or*
- (b) *up to one offshore converter platform fixed to the seabed by one of the following foundation types: monopile, gravity base system, multi-leg pin pile jacket or a multi-leg suction bucket jacket.*

Work No. 3—up to two cable circuits between Work No. 2 and Work No. 4A, including one or more cable crossings;

Work No. 4A—up to two cable circuits and associated ducting between Work No. 3 and Work No. 4B including up to three drilling exit pits for trenchless installation techniques, one or more cable crossings and a temporary work area for vessels to carry out anchoring and positioning.

3.2 Scope of the safety zone application

22. A formal safety zone Application is normally expected to be made following award of the main development consent (in this case the granting of the DCO by the Secretary of State). The guidance on safety zone applications notes that,

following award of consent, a developer will normally have taken decisions on a range of important technical issues such as foundation type and the locations of the installations which will make up an array, thereby ensuring that decisions about safety zones, and particularly how a safety zone notice should be drawn up, can be taken on the basis of firm and up to date information. The application is to be made to DESNZ with notice of application served on the Navigation Safety Branch of the MCA, Trinity House and other relevant stakeholders.

23. In the case of the Project, the application for safety zones would be made following completion of the detailed design work but prior to the start of the construction works. The earliest date an application would be submitted is anticipated to be one year prior to offshore construction, subject to progression of the design and procurement process.
24. In relation to the information requirements of an application, Regulation 3 sets out what should be included within a written application for safety zones in respect of an offshore generating station. The requirements are set out as follows:
 - 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 substation housing connection equipment;
 - Where the zone is sought in respect of more than one relevant OREI, the proposed or existing distance between such installations;
 - 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 Automatic Identification System (AIS) 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 OREI is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned, as the case may be.
25. The safety zone application for the Project will contain the information required by Part 2, Regulation 3 of the 2007 Regulations as set out above. An application will be made for the standard safety zones which may comprise the following:
- A 500 metre radius around individual OREI and their foundations whilst work is being performed as indicated by the presence of construction vessels;
 - A 500 metre radius around all major maintenance works being undertaken around the WTGs and their foundations, and
 - A 50 metre radius around individual OREI and associated foundation structures prior to commissioning of the wind farm, whether they be complete or incomplete.
26. Regulation 4 of the 2007 Regulations also require an application to be publicised by notice in a prescribed manner and copies of the notice must be sent to the harbour masters of ports whose users are, in the opinion of the applicant, likely to be affected by the application; to the MCA Headquarters plus the Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) responsible for operations in the waters in which the safety zone is proposed or located; and to the local office of the Marine Management Organization (MMO) which is responsible for operations in the waters in which the safety zone is proposed or located.
27. In addition, the guidelines on the 2007 Regulations advise that applicants undertake early consultation with “interested parties” on their intention to make an application for safety zones. DESNZ will consult with a range of organisations upon receipt of an application.
28. The Applicant will take note of the prescribed publicity and notification requirements in preparing the Application. The Applicant has already undertaken early consultation in preparing the current application for a DCO, consulting with shipping operators, fishermen and recreational interest groups as well as statutory agencies such as the MCA and Trinity House. Once the final design details of the Project are available, the Applicant will conduct further consultation with regard to safety zones if required, prior to making an application to DESNZ.



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm



HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited

A joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.

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