

MORGAN OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT: GENERATION ASSETS

Safety zone statement

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Image of an offshore wind farm

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Applicant	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Major maintenance works	Defined by 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.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project	The Morgan Offshore Wind Project is comprised of both the generation assets and offshore and onshore transmission assets and associated activities.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets	This is the name given to the Morgan Generation Assets project as a whole (includes all infrastructure and activities associated with the project construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning).

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
2007 Regulations	Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Applications Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007
APFP Regulations	Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009
DCO	Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Units

Unit	Description
km	Kilometres
m	metres
nm	Nautical miles

1 Safety zone statement

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 Regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) requires an applicant seeking consent for an offshore generating station to submit a statement accompanying its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) confirming whether applications will be made for safety zones. This Safety Zone Statement has been prepared in accordance with the APFP Regulations.

1.1.1.2 This statement outlines the legislative requirements relating to applications for safety zones for offshore wind turbines under section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, the approach that will be taken by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant) to the safety zone application (undertaken post DCO application) and the scope of the works for which the DCO is being sought. The use of safety zones (and advisory clearance distances) is a measure adopted as part of the Morgan Generation Assets to help ensure navigational safety and minimise risk to vessels.

1.1.1.3 The safety zone application will provide the information required by paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004 and Regulation 3 of the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Applications Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (the 2007 Regulations). In accordance with Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, following the award of the DCO the safety zone application will be made to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

1.1.1.4 The safety zone application will be made once the final number of wind turbines and precise location of the infrastructure has been determined. An application for safety zones is likely to be made during 2025.

1.2 Safety Zone Statement

1.2.1.1 The Applicant is proposing to develop the Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets (hereafter Morgan Generation Assets). The Morgan Generation Assets will be located within English waters approximately 22.22 km from the Isle of Man and 37.13 km from the northwest coast of England (when measured from MHWS). The Morgan Generation Assets will consist of up to 96 wind turbines with an overall capacity greater than 100 Megawatts and, therefore, constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 15(3B) of the Planning Act 2008. Such projects require a DCO to be granted by the relevant Secretary of State, in this case the Secretary of State for DESNZ.

1.2.1.2 The Order Limits for the Morgan Generation Assets are shown in Figure 1.1: Order limits and grid coordinates plan.

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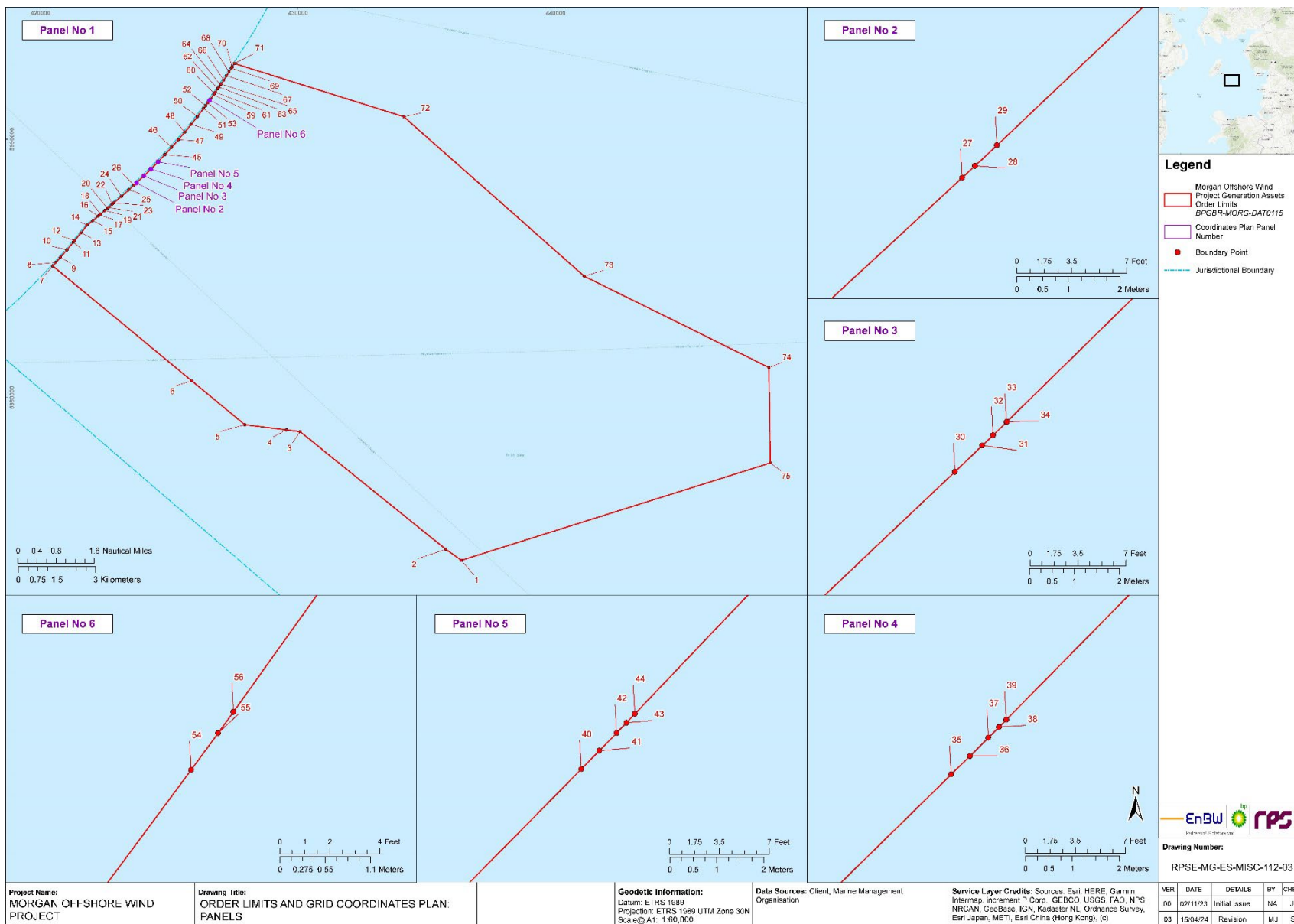


Figure 1.1: Order limits and grid coordinates plan

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- 1.2.1.3 Regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the APFP Regulations requires the applicant for a DCO for an offshore generating station, to provide a statement as to whether an application will be made for safety zones in respect of that offshore generating station.
- 1.2.1.4 The Applicant intends to apply for a standard 500 m safety zone, as per the definition in Regulation 2 of the 2007 Regulations, around all infrastructure that is actively under construction.
- 1.2.1.5 The Applicant will apply for safety zones of 50 m around incomplete structures not undergoing active construction activities (and therefore the 500 m safety zone has lapsed as there is no longer a construction vessel on site), such as installed foundations without wind turbines or where construction works are completed but the Morgan Generation Assets have not yet been commissioned.
- 1.2.1.6 The Applicant will also apply for rolling advisory exclusion zones of 500 m to be present around vessels installing inter-array cables, interconnector cables.
- 1.2.1.7 Temporary restrictions to fishing activity and/or anchoring, will also be required in areas where full cable burial to target depth has not yet been achieved and/or surface-laid cable exists (prior to cover by external cable protection).
- 1.2.1.8 During the operations and maintenance phase, the Applicant may apply for a 500 m safety zone for infrastructure undergoing major maintenance works (for example a blade replacement). This is in order to ensure the safety of the wind turbines, offshore substations, the individuals working thereon, the wind farm related vessels and other vessels navigating in the area whilst works take place. "Major maintenance works" are defined by 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.
- 1.2.1.9 The Applicant does not intend to apply for safety zones during the operational phase of the Project (except for major maintenance activities as stated above).
- 1.2.1.10 Guard vessels will be used during the construction and the operations and maintenance phases of the Morgan Offshore Wind Project as necessary.

1.3 Scope of Morgan Generation Assets DCO application

- 1.3.1.1 The Morgan Generation Assets DCO seeks consent for the following works, as set out in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the draft DCO (Document Reference C.1) and repeated below:
- Work No 1—
 - (a) *An offshore wind generating station with electrical output capacity of over 100MW comprising up to 96 wind turbine generators; and*
 - (b) *A network of subsea inter-array cables between the wind turbine generators including cable crossings and cable protection;*
 - Work No. 2— up to four offshore substation platforms; and
 - Work No 3—A network of subsea interconnector cables between the offshore substation platforms including cable crossings and protection.
- 1.3.1.2 All of these works are relevant to this Safety Zone Statement.

1.4 Safety Zone Application

- 1.4.1.1 In accordance with Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, the safety zone application will be made to the Secretary of State for DESNZ
- 1.4.1.2 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004 requires that the following information should be included within a written application for safety zones in respect of an offshore generating station:
- (a) a map showing:
 - i. the place where the relevant renewable energy installation is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned; and
 - ii. the waters in relation to which any declaration applied for will establish a safety zone;
 - (b) 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;
 - (c) a description of how the installation operates (or is to operate);
 - (d) a description of the location (or proposed location) of:
 - i. any electric line used (or proposed to be used) for the conveyance of electricity to or from the installation;
 - ii. any connection to such an electric line;
 - iii. a description of the location (or proposed location) of any offshore sub-station housing connection equipment;
 - iv. where the zone is sought in respect of more than one relevant renewable energy installation, the proposed or existing distances between such installations; and
 - v. details of any navigational marking that has been specified for use with an installation of the description in question by a general lighthouse authority;
 - (e) whether the zone relates to the construction, extension, operation or decommissioning of the relevant renewable energy installation;
 - (f) whether the applicant seeks the declaration of a standard safety zone, or if not, what dimensions are sought for the zone;
 - (g) a description of those works or operations in respect of which the zone is being applied for and their estimated date and duration;
 - (h) 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;
 - (i) whether the zone relates to major maintenance works in respect of a relevant renewable energy installation which has become operational;
 - (j) a statement setting out what steps, if any, the applicant proposes to take to monitor vessels and activities within the zone;
 - (k) 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

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- (l) 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.

1.4.1.3 The Applicant's safety zone application will contain the information required by Paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004 in respect of the zones described in section 3 (above).

1.4.1.4 In addition to the above information, Regulation 3 of the 2007 Regulations requires the following to be provided as part of the application:

(a) For any proposed renewable energy installation:

- i. A description of the installation and its proposed location and dimensions supported by drawings;
- ii. A description of how the installation will operate;
- iii. A description of the location of:
 - 1. Any electric line; and
 - 2. Any connection to such an electric line;
- iv. The location of any offshore substation housing connection equipment; and
- v. Details of any navigational markers.

(b) In relation to the proposed safety zone:

- i. Whether the zone relates to the construction, operation or decommissioning or the proposed installation;
- ii. Whether the applicant seeks a declaration of a standard safety zone, or if not, what dimensions are sought for that zone;
- iii. A description of those works or operations in respect of which the zone is being applied for;
- iv. Whether the applicant proposes the zone will vary and the details of that variance;
- v. Whether the zone relates to major maintenance works once the installation has become operational;
- vi. What steps the applicant will take to monitor vessels and activities within the zone; and
- vii. Unless it is not required, an up to date shipping traffic survey for the waters comprising the zone; and

(c) An assessment of the extent to which navigation might be possible or should be restricted and whether restrictions would cause navigational problems near where the proposed installation is to be constructed.

1.4.1.5 Pursuant to section 95(2) of the Energy Act 2004, the purposes for which the Secretary of State may consider it appropriate to issue such a notice are for the purposes of securing the safety of:

- (a) the renewable energy installation or its construction, extension or decommissioning;
- (b) other installations in the vicinity of the installation or the place where it is to be constructed or extended;

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- (c) individuals in or on the installation or other installations in that vicinity; or
- (d) vessels in that vicinity or individuals on such vessels.

1.4.1.6 Any safety zone application will be publicised in accordance with regulation 4 of the 2007 Regulations, including copies of the notice being issued to:

- (a) the harbour masters of ports whose users are in the opinion of the applicant likely to be affected by the application;
- (b) the sector office of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency which is responsible for operations in the waters in which the safety zone is proposed or located; and
- (c) the local office of the Marine and Fisheries Agency which is responsible for operations in the waters in which the safety zone is proposed or located;

1.4.1.7 At this time, the Applicant considers that a robust case can be made in its application for the issue of a notice securing safety zones for the purposes set out. During construction, zones will be sought for protection of the project as a renewable energy installation. During both construction and major maintenance, safety zones will be sought for the protection of individuals working on the installation and vessels both related to the works and operating within the vicinity of works.

1.5 Conclusion

1.5.1.1 The application for the necessary safety zone(s) for the Morgan Generation Assets will be made to the Secretary of State once the final layout of offshore infrastructure is decided. If it is considered appropriate to do so, the Secretary of State may issue a notice declaring that such areas as are specified or described in the notice are to be safety zones.