

LICENCE/CONSENT VARIATION – VALIDATION OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (“AA”)

Licensee/Developer Name: Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Company Number: SC278869) (“the Company”).

Site Details: European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre located approximately two kilometres east of Blackdog, Aberdeenshire (“the Development”).

Date of existing Licence/Consent: Section 36 consent dated 26 March 2013 (“the Existing s.36 Consent”) and marine licence issued on 15 August 2014, which was last varied on 18 March 2019 (licence number 04309/19/0).

Date of existing AA: 26 February 2013

Summary of proposed Variation Application.

To extend the duration of the Existing s.36 Consent from 22 to 25 years (excluding decommissioning) to 25 July 2043, in order to align with the design life of the wind farm assets (“the Variation Application”).

The Company has confirmed the turbines have a structural design life of 25 years, which indicates that the turbines do not require additional maintenance in excess of manufacturers’ recommendation over this time period.

If consent is granted for the Variation Application, the Scottish Ministers will vary the marine licence in respect of the Development, in accordance with section 30(3)(d) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to ensure that the marine licence and the Existing s.36 Consent are consistent.

Summary of consultation responses – in relation to European protected sites.

Scottish National Heritage advised that it had no objection to the Variation Application and confirmed that it would not result in any additional impacts to the environmental receptors of concern.

Aberdeenshire Council confirmed that the survey work would remain relevant and would not become outdated or erroneous as a result of the three-year time extension and that the appropriate mitigation measure would be adhered to throughout the duration of the s.36 consent.

Summary of other information in relation to European protected sites (MSS responses, external reports).

Not applicable – No advice from MSS was sought.

Conclusion - Consideration of whether AA completed for the February 2013 decision for the Existing s.36 Consent is still valid.

The Variation Application will have no greater impacts on the Special Protection Areas (“SPAs”) or Special Areas of Conservation (“SACs”) than what was previously assessed in the AA completed in February 2013.

No consultation responses or representations have been received which would invalidate the conclusions or alter the outcome of the AA dated 26 February 2013 in respect of the Existing s.36 Consent which was granted for the Development on 26 March 2013 and the marine licence issued on 15 August 2014, which was last varied on 18 March 2019 (licence number 04309/19/0).

Name	Assessor or Approver	Date
Nikoleta Papanastasouli	Assessor	30/07/2019
Kerry Bell	Approver	01/08/2019