

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010, PART 4 MARINE LICENSING

### LICENCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION OR IMPROVEMENT OF WORKS IN THE SCOTTISH MARINE AREA AND THE DEPOSIT OF SUBSTANCES OR OBJECTS IN THE SCOTTISH MARINE AREA

Licence Number: MS-00011510

The Scottish Ministers (hereinafter referred to as "the Licensing Authority") hereby grant a marine licence authorising:

**Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited**  
**Atria One 144 Morrison Street**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH3 8EX**

#### **Under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010,**

- 1) To construct, alter or improve any Works within the Scottish marine area in or over the sea, or on or under the seabed; and
- 2) To deposit any substance or object (except for dredge spoil) within the Scottish marine area, either in the sea or on or under the seabed,

as required in the execution of the Works (including construction, operation and maintenance) described in Part 2 of this licence. This licence is subject to the conditions detailed in Part 3 of this licence.

This licence remains in force from **16 December 2025** to **31 December 2071** or until the Works have been decommissioned in accordance with an approved Decommissioning Programme prior to this date and for which a separate marine licence is required.

Signed:

Toni-Marie McGinn

For and on behalf of the Licensing Authority

Date of issue: 15 December 2025

## 1. PART 1 – GENERAL

### 1.1 Interpretation

In this licence, unless otherwise stated, terms are as defined in sections 1, 64 and 157 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and,

- 1) **“the 2010 Act”** means the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010;
- 2) **“the Application”** means the application letter, marine licence applications, the Environmental Impact Assessment report and the Habitats Regulations Appraisal report submitted to the Licensing Authority by the Licensee on 16 March 2018, the addendum of additional information relating to ornithology subsequently submitted on 26 July 2018 and the section 36 variation application and supporting documentation submitted to the Licencing Authority by the Licensee on 8 January 2019, and the marine licence variation letter dated 26 November 2025, to construct and operate the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm;
- 3) **“CAA”** means Civil Aviation Authority;
- 4) **“CaP”** means Cable Plan;
- 5) **“CMS”** means Construction Method Statement;
- 6) **“Commencement of the Works”** means the date on which the first vessel arrives on the Site) to begin carrying on any Licensed Activities in connection with the construction of the Works;
- 7) **“Completion of the Works”** means the date on which the Works have been installed in full, or the Works have been deemed complete by the Licensing Authority, whichever occurs first;
- 8) **“Contractor Reports”** means reports detailing that the name and address of any agents, contractors or subcontractors appointed to carry out any part, or all, of the Licensed Activities;
- 9) **“Decommissioning of the Works”** means removal of the Works from the seabed, demolishing or dismantling the Works;
- 10) **“DP”** means Decommissioning Programme;
- 11) **“Decommissioning Programme”** means the programme for decommissioning the Works, to be submitted by the Licensee to the Licensing Authority under section 105(2) of the Energy Act 2004 (as amended);
- 12) **“DGC”** means Defence Geographic Centre;
- 13) **“DSFB”** means District Salmon Fishery Board;
- 14) **“EMP”** means Environmental Management Plan;
- 15) **“ERCoP”** means Emergency Response Co-operation Plan;
- 16) **“F-Gas Regulation”** means Regulation No 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases;
- 17) **“Final Commissioning of the Works”** means the date on which the last wind turbine generator constructed forming the Works has supplied electricity on a commercial basis to the National Grid, or such earlier date as the Licensing Authority deems the Works to be complete;
- 18) **“FTRAG”** means Forth and Tay Regional Advisory Group or any successor group for the purpose of advising the Licensing Authority on research, monitoring and mitigation programmes for, but not limited to, ornithology, marine mammals, diadromous and commercial fish;
- 19) **“IALA”** means International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities;
- 20) **“Licensable Marine Activities”** means any activity or activities listed in section 21 of the 2010 Act
- 21) **“Licensed Activity”** means any activity or activities which is authorised under this licence

- 22) **“the Licensee”** means Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited having its registered office at Atria One 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX and registered in Scotland having its registered company number as SC356223;
- 23) **“LMP”** means Lighting and Marking Plan;
- 24) **“MCA”** means Maritime and Coastguard Agency;
- 25) **“MHWS”** means mean high water springs;
- 26) **“MMO”** means Marine Mammal Observer;
- 27) **“MOD”** means Ministry of Defence;
- 28) **“NLB”** means Northern Lighthouse Board;
- 29) **“NSP”** means Navigational Safety Plan;
- 30) **“Noise Registry”** means the marine noise registry developed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (“DEFRA”) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (“JNCC”) to record human activities in UK seas that produce loud low to medium frequency (10Hz-10kHz) impulsive noise;
- 31) **“OCNS list”** means the definitive ranked list of registered products held by the Offshore Chemical Notification Scheme, as assessed for use by the offshore oil and gas industry under the Offshore Chemicals Regulations 2002 (as amended);
- 32) **“OMP”** means Operation and Maintenance Programme;
- 33) **“OSPAR”** means the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic;
- 34) **“PEMP”** means Project Environmental Monitoring Programme;
- 35) **“PS”** means Piling Strategy;
- 36) **“RSPB Scotland”** means Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland;
- 37) **“RTC”** means River Tweed Commission;
- 38) **“SEPA”** means the Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- 39) **“SFF”** means Scottish Fishermen’s Federation;
- 40) **“SNH”** means Scottish Natural Heritage;
- 41) **“the Site”** means the total area extending to 105km<sup>2</sup> as shown delineated in red in Figure 1 in Part 4 of this licence;
- 42) **“the Works”** means the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm as described in Part 2 of this licence or any part thereof;
- 43) **“TAR”** means Transportation Audit Report;
- 44) **“UKHO”** means United Kingdom Hydrographic Office;
- 45) **“Vessel Reports”** means reports detailing the operators, vessels and vehicles engaging in the Licensed Activities;
- 46) **“VMP”** means the Vessel Management Plan;
- 47) **“WDC”** means Whale and Dolphin Conservation; and
- 48) **“WTG”** means Wind Turbine Generators.

All geographical co-ordinates contained within this licence are in latitude and longitude format World Geodetic System 84.

## 1.2 Contacts

All correspondence or communications relating to this licence should be addressed to:

Marine Scotland  
Licensing Operations Team  
Marine Laboratory  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

Email: [MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)

## 1.3 Other authorisations and consents

The Licensee is deemed to have satisfied itself that there are no barriers or restrictions, legal or otherwise, to the carrying on of the Licensed Activities in connection with the Works. The issuing of this licence does not absolve the Licensee from obtaining such other authorisations and consents, which may be required under statute.

## 1.4 Variation, suspension, revocation and transfer

Under section 30(1) of Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) the Licensing Authority may by notice vary, suspend or revoke this licence, if it appears to the Licensing Authority that there has been a breach of any of its provisions or for any such other reason that appears to be relevant to the Licensing Authority under section 30(2) or (3) of the 2010 Act.

Under section 30(7) of the 2010 Act, on an application made by a licensee, the Licensing Authority may vary a licence if satisfied that the variation being applied for is not material.

Under section 30(8) of the 2010 Act, on an application made by the Licensee, the Licensing Authority may transfer this licence from the Licensee to another person.

Under the 2010 Act variations, suspensions, revocations and transfers of licences are subject to the procedures set out in section 31 of the 2010 Act.

## 1.5 Breach of requirement for, or conditions of, licence

Under section 39 of the 2010 Act, it is an offence to carry on a licensable marine activity without a marine licence and it is also an offence to fail to comply with any condition of a marine licence.

## 1.6 Defences: actions taken in an emergency

Under section 40 of the 2010 Act, it is a defence for a person charged with an offence under section 39(1) of the 2010 Act in relation to any activity to prove that:

- (a) the activity was carried out for the purpose of saving life, or for the purpose of securing the safety of a vessel, aircraft or marine structure, and
- (b) that the person took steps within a reasonable time to inform the Licensing Authority of the matters set out in section 40(2) of the 2010 Act.

### **1.7 Offences relating to information**

Under section 42 of the 2010 Act, it is an offence for a person to make a statement which is false or misleading in a material way, knowing the statement to be false or misleading or being reckless as to whether the statement is false or misleading, or to intentionally fail to disclose any material information for the purpose of procuring the issue, variation or transfer of a marine licence or for the purpose of complying with, or purporting to comply with, any obligation imposed by either Part 4 of the 2010 Act or the provisions of this licence.

### **1.8 Appeals**

Under Regulation 3(1) of the Marine Licensing Appeals (Scotland) Regulations 2011 a person who has applied for a marine licence may by summary application appeal to the sheriff of any sheriffdom against a decision taken by the Licensing Authority under section 29(1) of the 2010 Act.

## 2. PART 2 – THE WORKS

### 2.1 Description of the Works

An offshore energy generating station at the Site, located in the outer Firth of Forth, approximately 15.5km east of Fife Ness as shown in Figure 1 comprised of:

1. No more than 54, three-bladed horizontal axis Wind Turbine Generators (“WTG”), comprised of fiberglass and steel, each with:
  - a. a maximum rotor tip height of 208m (measured from LAT);
  - b. a maximum rotor diameter of 167m;
  - c. a maximum hub height of 126m (measured from LAT);
  - d. a minimum blade tip clearance of 36m (measured from LAT);
  - e. blade width of up to 5.5m; and
  - f. a minimum spacing of 800m.
2. No more than 54 jacket foundations and ancillary equipment.
3. No more than 140km of inter-array cabling.
4. No more than four interconnectors between the two OSPs.
5. A meteorological mast.
6. Scour and cable protection.

All as described in the Application.

### 2.2 Location of the Works

The Works are located at the Site being the area bounded by joining the following points:

56° 15.271' N 002° 09.898' W	56° 12.721' N 002° 09.255' W
56° 12.752' N 002° 13.998' W	56° 12.766' N 002° 16.293' W
56° 15.479' N 002° 19.628' W	56° 15.827' N 002° 20.055' W
56° 17.430' N 002° 20.232' W	56° 19.752' N 002° 17.826' W
56° 20.312' N 002° 16.518' W	56° 20.171' N 002° 14.910' W

### 2.3 Substances and Objects

This licence authorises the deposit of the undernoted substances and objects required in connection with the Works, subject to the maximum amounts as specified below:

#### PERMANENT DEPOSITS

Quantities detailed below are indicative only.

Steel/Iron	120,000 tonnes
Silt	90,000m <sup>3</sup>
Sand	90,000m <sup>3</sup>
Stone/Rock/Gravel ( <i>quantity includes the total scour protection for the array cables, interconnector cables and jacket legs, made up of stone or rock or concrete</i> )	197,861m <sup>3</sup>
Cable, inter-array	140,000m (140km)
Interconnector Cables	10km
Grout	13,000m <sup>3</sup>

### **3. PART 3 – CONDITIONS**

#### **3.1 General Conditions**

##### **3.1.1 Compliance with the Application and approved plans**

The Licensee must at all times construct, operate and maintain the Works in accordance with this licence, the Application, the section 36 consent and the plans and programmes approved by the Licensing Authority.

**Reason: To ensure compliance with the marine licence, the Application and the approved plans and programmes.**

##### **3.1.2 Licence conditions binding other parties**

All conditions attached to this licence bind any person who for the time being owns, occupies or enjoys any use of the Works for which this licence has been granted in relation to those Licensed Activities authorised under item 5 in section 21(1) of the 2010 Act whether or not this licence has been transferred to that person.

**Reason: To safeguard the obligations of the licence, in accordance with s.29(5) of the 2010 Act.**

##### **3.1.3 Vessels, vehicles, agents, contractors and sub-contractors**

The Licensee must ensure that at least five days prior to its engagement in the Licensed Activities, the name and function of any vessel, agent, contractor or subcontractor appointed to engage in the Works and, where applicable, the master's name, vessel type, vessel IMO number and vessel owner or operating company are fully detailed in the Vessel Report. The Licensee must make the Vessel Reports and the Contractor Reports available on the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited webpage: <https://nngoffshorewind.com/>.

Any changes to the supplied details must be uploaded to the Vessel Report and the Contractor Report and the Licensing Authority must be notified, in writing, prior to any vessel, agent, contractor or sub-contractor which has not yet been notified to the Licensing Authority engaging in the Licensed Activities.

Only those vessels, agents, contractors or sub-contractors detailed in the Vessel Report are permitted to carry out any part of the Works.

The Licensee must satisfy itself that any masters of vessels or vehicle operators, agents, contractors or sub-contractors are aware of the extent of the Licensed Activities and the conditions of this licence.

All masters of vessels or vehicle operators, agents, contractors and sub-contractors permitted to engage in the Works must abide by the conditions of this licence.

The Licensee must give a copy of this licence, and any subsequent variations made to this licence in accordance with section 30 of the 2010 Act, to the masters of any vessels, vehicle operators, agents, contractors or sub-contractors permitted to engage in the Works and must ensure that the licence and any such variations are read and understood by those persons.

**Reason: To ensure all parties involved in the Works are aware of the licence and its conditions to reduce the risk of a breach of the licence, in accordance with s.39(1)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.1.4 Force Majeure**

Should the Licensee or any of its agents, contractors or sub-contractors, by any reason of *force majeure* deposit anywhere in the marine environment any substance or object, then the Licensee must notify the Licensing Authority of the full details of the circumstances of the deposit within 48 hours of the incident occurring (failing which as soon as reasonably practicable after that period of 48 hours has elapsed).

*Force majeure* may be deemed to apply when, due to stress of weather or any other cause, the master of a vessel or vehicle operator determines that it is necessary to deposit the substance or object other than at the Site because the safety of human life or, as the case may be, the vessel, vehicle or marine structure is threatened. Under Annex II, Article 7 of the OSPAR, the Licensing Authority is obliged to immediately report force majeure incidents to the OSPAR Commission.

**Reason: To provide a defence for the Master to protect himself and his crew in bad weather conditions, in accordance with s.40 of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.1.5 Material alterations to the licence application**

If, after the granting of the licence, any information upon which the granting of this licence was based has altered in any material respect, the Licensee must notify the Licensing Authority of this fact in writing as soon as is practicable.

**Reason: To ensure that the Works are carried out in accordance with the Application documentation, in accordance with s.29(2)(a) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.1.6 Submission of plans and specification of studies and surveys to the Licensing Authority**

The Licensee must submit plans and the details and specifications of all studies and surveys that are required to be undertaken under this licence in relation to the Works, in writing, to the Licensing Authority for its written approval. Commencement of the studies or surveys and implementation of plans must not occur until the Licensing Authority has given its written approval to the Licensee.

Plans or the specification of studies and surveys prepared pursuant to another consent or licence relating to the Works by the Licensee or by a third party may also be used to satisfy the requirements of this licence.

**Reason: To ensure that the Licensing Authority is kept informed of the progress of the Works, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.1.7 Submission of reports and notifications to the Licensing Authority

The Licensee must submit all reports and notifications to the Licensing Authority, in writing, as are required under this licence within the time periods specified in this licence. Where it would appear to the Licensee that there may be a delay in the submission of the reports or notifications to the Licensing Authority, then the Licensee must advise the Licensing Authority of this fact as soon as is practicable and no later than the time by which those reports or notifications ought to have been submitted to the Licensing Authority under the terms of this licence.

The reports must include executive summaries, assessments and conclusions and any data will, subject to any rules permitting non-disclosure, be made publically available by the Licensing Authority or by any such party appointed at its discretion.

Reports prepared pursuant to another consent or licence relating to the Works by the Licensee or by a third party may also be used to satisfy the requirements of this licence.

Such reports will include, but not be limited to a Transportation Audit Report ("TAR"), the Noise Registry, Marine Mammal Observer ("MMO") records and all appropriate reports as stipulated with the Project Environmental Monitoring Programme ("PEMP").

**Reason: To ensure that all reports and notifications are submitted within a reasonable timescale after the licence is granted, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.1.8 Chemical usage

The Licensee must seek prior written approval from the Licensing Authority for any chemicals in an open system which are to be utilised in the construction, operation and maintenance of the Works. Requests for approval must be submitted in writing to the Licensing Authority no later than one month prior to its intended use or such other period as agreed by the Licensing Authority. The Licensee must ensure that no chemicals are used in an open system without the prior written approval of the Licensing Authority.

If the proposed chemical is on the OCNS list, the approval request must include the chemical name, volume or quantity to be used, the OCNS list grouping or rank and the proposed frequency of use.

If the proposed chemical is not on the OCNS list, the approval request must include details of chemical to be used, including safety data sheet, depth and current at the Site, quantities or volumes and the proposed frequency of use.

The Licensee must notify the Licensing Authority of the types of chemicals to be used in a closed containment system prior to use.

The Licensee should take all practicable steps to avoid leakages from a closed containment system into the Scottish marine area. Any such leakages must be reported to the Licensing Authority as soon as practicable.

**Reason: To minimise the environmental impact in the event of a release through the use of authorised chemicals in the interest of protecting the environment, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.1.9 Fluorinated greenhouse gases

The Licensee must ensure that all equipment to be utilised in the Works which contains fluorinated greenhouse gases (hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and other greenhouse gases that contain fluorine, listed in Annex I of Regulation No 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (“F-Gas Regulation”) or mixtures containing any of those substances) must take precautions to prevent the unintentional release (‘leakage’) of those gases. The Licensee must take all measures which are technically and economically feasible to minimise leakage of fluorinated greenhouse gases.

Where leakage of fluorinated greenhouse gases is detected, the Licensee must ensure that the equipment is repaired without undue delay.

The Licensee must ensure that all equipment to be utilised in the Works that contains fluorinated greenhouse gases in quantities of 5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent or more and not contained in foams is checked for leakage in accordance with Article 4 of the F-Gas Regulation. Records of these checks must be kept in accordance with Article 6 of the F-Gas Regulation. These records must be submitted to the Licensing Authority annually and immediately in the event of discovery of leakage.

Where the equipment is subject to checks for leakage under Article 4(1) of the F-Gas Regulation and leakage in the equipment has been repaired, the Licensee must ensure that the equipment is checked by a suitably certified person within one calendar month after the repair to verify that the repair has been effective. In such event, the Licensing Authority must be informed of the date of discovery, date of repair and date of inspection.

**Reason: To ensure compliance of the Works with the F-Gas Regulation and the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.1.10 Environmental protection

The Licensee must ensure that all reasonable, appropriate and practicable steps are taken at all times to avoid or minimise any damage to the Scottish marine area caused as a result of the undertaking of the Licensed Activities.

The Licensee must ensure that all personnel adhere to the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code where appropriate during all construction, operation and maintenance activities authorised under this licence.

The Licensee must ensure that any debris or waste material placed below mean high water springs (“MHWS”) level during the construction of the Works is removed from the Site, unless agreed otherwise by the Licensing Authority, as soon as is reasonably practicable, for disposal at a location above the MHWS level, approved by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (“SEPA”) or such other relevant authority if disposal is to take place outwith Scotland.

The Licensee must ensure that, where practicable, all substances and objects deposited during the Works are inert (or appropriately coated or protected so as to be rendered inert) and do not contain toxic elements which may be harmful to the marine environment, the living resources which it supports or human health.

The Licensee must ensure that the risk of transferring marine non-native species to and from the Site is kept to a minimum by ensuring appropriate bio-fouling management practices are implemented during the construction, operation and maintenance of the Works.

The Licensee must ensure that if oil based drilling muds are utilised they must be contained within a zero discharge system. Any drill cuttings associated with the use of water-based drilling muds situated within the Site need not be removed from the seabed.

**Reason:** *To ensure environmental impacts are minimised, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.*

### **3.1.11 Availability of the licence for inspection**

The Licensee must ensure that copies of this licence and any subsequent amendments or variations are available for inspection at any reasonable time by any person authorised by the Licensing Authority at:

- a. the premises of the Licensee;
- b. the premises of any agent, contractor or sub-contractor acting on behalf of the Licensee;
- c. any onshore premises directly associated with the Works; and
- d. aboard any vessels permitted to engage in the Works.

**Reason:** *To ensure the licence is available for the purpose of inspection, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.*

### **3.1.12 Inspection of the Works**

Any persons authorised by the Licensing Authority must be permitted to inspect the Works. The Licensee must, as far as reasonably practicable, on being given reasonable notice by the Licensing Authority (of at least 72 hours), provide transportation to and from the Site for any persons authorised by the Licensing Authority to inspect the Works.

**Reason:** *To ensure access to the Works for the purpose of inspection, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.*

### **3.1.13 Emergencies**

If governmental assistance is required (including UK governmental assistance or the assistance of any UK devolved government) to deal with any emergency arising from:

- a. the failure to mark and light the Works as required by this licence;
- b. the maintenance of the Works; or
- c. the drifting or wreck of the Works,

to include the broadcast of navigational warnings, then the Licensee is liable for any expenses incurred in securing such assistance.

**Reason:** *To ensure Licensee is aware of financial liabilities, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.*

### **3.1.14 Earlier marine licence**

Should the Licensee proceed to undertake the Works under the authority of this licence, all Works authorised under the previous marine licence in favour of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited, dated 10 October 2014 (licence number 04579/14/0), and 4 June 2019 (licence number 0201877/19/0) are not permitted.

**Reason: To ensure Licensed Activities are in accordance with the environmental assessments and application, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2 Conditions specific to the Works**

#### **3.2.1 Conditions applicable to all phases of the Works**

##### **3.2.1.1 Incident Reporting**

In the event of any breach of health and safety or environmental obligations relating to the Works during the period of this Licence, the Licensee must provide written notification of the nature and timing of the incident to the Licensing Authority within 24 hours of the incident occurring. Confirmation of remedial measures taken and/or to be taken to rectify the breach must be provided, in writing, to the Licensing Authority within a period of time to be agreed by the Licensing Authority.

**Reason: To keep the Licensing Authority informed of any such incidents which may be in the public interest, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of 2010 Act.**

##### **3.2.1.2 Bunding and storage facilities**

The Licensee must ensure suitable bunding and storage facilities are employed to prevent the release of fuel oils and lubricating fluids associated with the Works and associated equipment into the marine environment.

**Reason: To ensure pollution prevention is undertaken, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

##### **3.2.1.3 Decommissioning**

There must be no Commencement of the Works unless a Decommissioning Programme ("DP") has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Licensing Authority. The DP must outline measures for the decommissioning of the Works, restoration of the sea bed and will include without limitation, proposals for the removal of the Works, the management and timing of the works and, environmental management provisions.

The Works must be decommissioned in accordance with the approved DP, unless otherwise agreed in writing in advance with the Licensing Authority.

This licence does not permit the Decommissioning of the Works, for which a separate marine licence is required.

**Reason: To ensure that decommissioning is carried out according to the approved Decommissioning Programme under an appropriate licence, in accordance with s.29(3)(d) of the 2010 Act**

### **3.2.2 Prior to the Commencement of the Works**

#### **3.2.2.1 Commencement date of the Works**

The Licensee must, prior to and no less than one calendar month before the Commencement of the Works, notify the Licensing Authority, in writing, of the Commencement of the Works authorised under this licence.

**Reason: To inform the Licensing Authority of the commencement date of the Works, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

#### **3.2.2.2 Charting requirements**

The Licensee must, prior to the Commencement of the Works, provide the positions and maximum heights of any WTG and construction equipment to the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office ("UKHO"), for nautical charting purposes, and to the Defence Geographic Centre ("DGC"), for aviation purposes.

**Reason: To reduce the navigational risk to other legitimate users of the sea, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

#### **3.2.2.3 Monitoring of Marine Mammals**

Prior to the Commencement of the Works, the Licensee must appoint an MMO. When appointed, the MMO must, as a minimum, maintain a record of any sightings of marine mammals and maintain a record of the action taken to avoid any disturbance being caused to marine mammals during noisy activities. The Licensee must provide the Licensing Authority with the MMO records no later than six months following Commencement of the Works, and thenceforth at such other periods as agreed with the Licensing Authority.

**Reason: To ensure environmental impacts are minimised, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

#### **3.2.2.4 Noise Registry**

The Licensee must complete and submit a proposed activity form in the online Noise Registry for all aspects of the Works that will produce loud, low to medium frequency (10Hz-10kHz) impulsive noise no later than seven days prior to Commencement of the Works. If any aspects of the Works differ from the proposed activity form in the online Noise Registry, the Licensee must complete and submit a new proposed activity form no later than seven days prior to Commencement of the Works.

**Reason: To ensure compliance with reporting requirements on marine noise, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

#### **3.2.2.5 Navigation and Charting**

The Licensee must, no later than one calendar month prior to Commencement of the Works, notify the UKHO of the proposed works to facilitate the promulgation of maritime safety

information and updating of admiralty charts and publications through the national Notice to Mariners system.

The Licensee must, no later than one calendar month prior to Commencement of the Works, ensure that local mariner's organisations and local fishermen's organisations and HM Coastguard are made fully aware of the Works through local Notice to Mariners or by any other appropriate means.

The Licensee must ensure that details of the Licensed Activities are promulgated in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin, no later than one calendar month prior to the Commencement of the Works to inform the commercial fishing industry of the vessel routes and the timing and location of the construction activities.

The Licensee must, no later than eight weeks prior to the Commencement of the Works, complete an "Application for Statutory Sanction to Alter/Exhibit" form and submit this to the Northern Lighthouse Board ("NLB") for the necessary sanction to be granted.

**Reason: To reduce the navigational risk to other legitimate users of the sea, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2.2.6 Third Party Certification or Verification**

The Licensee must no later than three calendar months (or such other period as agreed with the Licensing Authority) prior to the Commencement of the Works, provide the Licensing Authority with Third Party Certification or Verification (or a suitable alternative as agreed in writing with the Licensing Authority) for the lifespan of the Works.

**Reason: To provide independent certification or verification of the technology, materials or equipment, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2.2.7 Emergency Response Co-operation Plan**

The Licensee must, no later than six months prior to the Commencement of the Works, submit an Emergency Response Co-operation Plan ("ERCoP") for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Works in writing, to the Licensing Authority for its written approval.

Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency ("MCA") and the NLB and any other navigational advisors or organisations as may be required at the discretion of the Licensing Authority. Commencement of the Works may not take place until such approval is granted.

The ERCoP should follow the template and guidance as found on the MCA website. The ERCoP must be developed in discussion with the MCA.

**Reason: For emergency response planning for the Works and requirements for search and rescue helicopter operations in and around the Works in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.2.2.8 Construction Method Statement

The Licensee must, no later than six months prior to the Commencement of the Works, submit a Construction Method Statement (“CMS”), in writing, to the Licensing Authority for its written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with Scottish Natural Heritage (“SNH”), SEPA, MCA, NLB, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (“RSPB”) Scotland, Forth Ports, Angus Council, Dundee City Council, East Lothian Council, Fife Council, Scottish Borders Council and any such other advisors or organisations as may be required at the discretion of the Licensing Authority. Commencement of the Works may not take place until such approval is granted.

The CMS must include, but not be limited to:

- a. Details of the commencement dates, duration and phasing for the key elements of construction, the working areas, the construction procedures and good working practices for installing the Works.
- b. Details of the roles and responsibilities, chain of command and contact details of company personnel, any contractors or sub-contractors involved during the construction of the Works.
- c. Details of how the construction related mitigation steps proposed in the Application are to be delivered.

The CMS must adhere to the construction methods assessed in the Application. The CMS also must, so far as is reasonably practicable, be consistent with a Design Statement, the Environmental Management Plan (“EMP”), Vessel Management Plan (“VMP”), a Navigational Safety Plan (“NSP”), the Piling Strategy (“PS”), the Cable Plan (“CaP”) and the Lighting and Marking Plan (“LMP”).

**Reason: To ensure the appropriate construction management of the Works, taking into account mitigation measures to protect the environment and other users of the marine area in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.2.2.9 Cable Plan

The Licensee must, no later than six months prior to the Commencement of the Works, submit a CaP, in writing, to the Licensing Authority for its written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with SNH, MCA, Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (“SFF”) and any such other advisors or organisations as may be required at the discretion of the Licensing Authority. Commencement of the Works may not take place until such approval is granted. The CaP must be in accordance with the Application.

The CaP must include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. The vessel types, location, duration and cable laying techniques for the interconnector and inter array cables;
- b. The results of monitoring or data collection work (including geophysical, geotechnical and benthic surveys) which will help inform cable routing;
- c. Technical specification of interconnector and inter array cables, including a desk based assessment of attenuation of electro-magnetic field strengths and shielding;
- d. A burial risk assessment to ascertain burial depths and where necessary alternative protection measures;
- e. Methodologies for surveys (e.g. over trawl) of the interconnector and inter array cables through the operational life of the wind farm where mechanical protection of cables laid on the sea bed is deployed; and

- f. Methodologies for interconnector and inter array cable inspection with measures to address and report to the Licensing Authority any exposure of interconnector or inter array cables.

Any licensed cable protection must ensure existing and future safe navigation is not compromised. The Licensing Authority will accept a maximum of 5% reduction in surrounding depth referenced to Chart Datum. Any greater reduction in depth must be agreed in writing by the Licensing Authority.

**Reason: To ensure all environmental and navigational issues are considered for the location and construction of the inter array cables in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2.2.10 Piling Strategy**

The Licensee must, no later than six months prior to the Commencement of the Works, submit a PS, in writing, to the Licensing Authority for its written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with SNH, the River Tweed Commission ("RTC"), Whale and Dolphin Conservation ("WDC"), Scottish Borders Council and any such other advisors as may be required at the discretion of the Licensing Authority. Commencement of the Works may not take place until such approval is granted.

The PS must include, but not be limited to:

- a. Details of expected noise levels from pile-drilling/driving in order to inform point d below;
- b. Full details of the proposed method and anticipated duration of piling to be carried out at all locations;
- c. Details of soft-start piling procedures and anticipated maximum piling energy required at each pile location; and
- d. Details of any mitigation such as Passive Acoustic Monitoring, MMO, use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices and monitoring to be employed during pile-driving, as agreed by the Licensing Authority.

The PS must be in accordance with the Application and must also reflect any monitoring or data collection carried out after submission of the Application.

The PS must demonstrate how the exposure to and/or the effects of underwater noise have been mitigated in respect to harbour porpoise, minke whale, bottlenose dolphin, harbour seal, grey seal, Atlantic salmon and sea trout.

The PS must, so far as is reasonably practicable, be consistent with the EMP, the PEMP and the CMS.

**Reason: To mitigate the underwater noise impacts arising from piling activity in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2.2.11 Environmental Management Plan**

The Licensee must, no later than six months prior to the Commencement of the Works, submit an EMP, in writing, to the Licensing Authority for its written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with SNH, SEPA, RSPB Scotland, WDC, RTC, Tay District Salmon Fishery Board ("DSFB"), Esk DSFB, Forth DSFB, Fisheries Management Scotland and any such other advisors or organisations as may be required at

the discretion of the Licensing Authority. Commencement of the Works may not take place until such approval is granted.

The EMP must provide the over-arching framework for on-site environmental management during the phases of Works as follows:

- a. All construction as required to be undertaken before the Completion of the Works; and
- b. The operational lifespan of the Works from the Completion of the Works until the cessation of electricity generation.

The EMP must be in accordance with the Application insofar as it relates to environmental management measures. The EMP must set out the roles, responsibilities and chain of command for the company personnel, any contractors or sub-contractors in respect of environmental management for the protection of environmental interests during the construction and operation of the Works. It must address, but not be limited to, the following over-arching requirements for environmental management during construction:

- a. Mitigation measures to prevent significant adverse impacts to environmental interests, as identified in the Application and pre-consent and pre-construction monitoring or data collection, and include the relevant parts of the CMS (refer to condition 3.2.2.8);
- b. A pollution prevention and control method statement, including contingency plans;
- c. Management measures to prevent the introduction of invasive non-native marine species;
- d. A site waste management plan (dealing with all aspects of waste produced during the construction period), including details of contingency planning in the event of accidental release of materials which could cause harm to the environment. Wherever possible the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle should be encouraged; and
- e. The reporting mechanisms that will be used to provide the Licensing Authority and relevant stakeholders with regular updates on construction activity, including any environmental issues that have been encountered and how these have been addressed.

The EMP must be regularly reviewed by the Licensee and the Licensing Authority or FTRAG, at intervals agreed by the Licensing Authority. Reviews must include, but not be limited to, the reviews of updated information on construction methods and operations of the Works and updated working practices.

The EMP must be informed, so far as is reasonably practicable, by the baseline monitoring or data collection undertaken as part of the Application and the PEMP.

**Reason:** *To ensure that all construction and operation activities are carried out in a manner that minimises their impact on the environment, and that mitigation measures contained in the Application, or as otherwise agreed, are fully implemented in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.*

### **3.2.2.12 Vessel Management Plan**

The Licensee must, no later than six months prior to the Commencement of the Works, submit a VMP, in writing, to the Licensing Authority for its written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Licensing Authority with SNH, WDC, FP, MCA, NLB, SFF and any such other advisors or organisations as may be required at the discretion of the Licensing Authority. Commencement of the Works may not take place until such approval is granted.

The VMP must include, but not be limited to, the following details:

- a. The number, types and specification of vessels required;
- b. The manner in which vessel management will be coordinated, particularly during construction but also during operation; and
- c. Location of working port(s), the routes of passage, the frequency with which vessels will be required to transit between port(s) and the site and indicative vessel transit corridors proposed to be used during construction and operation of the Works.

The confirmed individual vessel details must be notified to the Licensing Authority in writing no later than 14 days prior to the Commencement of the Works, and thereafter, any changes to the details supplied must be notified to the Licensing Authority, as soon as practicable, prior to any such change being implemented in the construction or operation of the Works.

The VMP must, so far as is reasonably practicable, be consistent with the CMS, the EMP, the PEMP, the NSP, and an LMP.

**Reason: To mitigate the navigational risk to other legitimate users of the sea in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2.2.13 Development Specification and Layout Plan**

The Licensee must, no later than six months prior to the Commencement of the Development, submit a Development Specification and Layout Plan (“DSLPL”), in writing, to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval. Such approval may only be granted following consultation by the Scottish Ministers with the MCA, NLB, SNH, the Ministry of Defence (“MOD”), Civil Aviation Authority (“CAA”), Chamber of Shipping (“CoS”), SNH, Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (“SFF”), Angus Council, Dundee City Council, East Lothian Council, Fife Council, Scottish Borders Council, and any such other advisors or organisations as may be required at the discretion of the Scottish Ministers.

The DSLPL must include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. A plan showing the location of each individual WTG (subject to any required micro-siting), including information on WTG spacing, WTG identification/numbering, location of the substation platforms, seabed conditions, bathymetry, confirmed foundation type for each WTG and any key constraints recorded on the site;
- b. A list of latitude and longitude co-ordinates accurate to three decimal places of minutes of arc for each WTG. This should also be provided as a Geographic Information System (“GIS”) shape file using WGS84 format;
- c. A table or diagram of each WTG dimensions including - height to blade tip (measured above Lowest Astronomical Tide (“LAT”)) to the highest point, height to hub (measured above LAT to the centreline of the generator shaft), rotor diameter and maximum rotation speed;
- d. The generating output of each WTG used on the site (Figure 1) and a confirmed generating output for the site overall;
- e. The finishes for each WTG (see condition 20 on WTG lighting and marking); and
- f. The length and proposed arrangements on the seabed of all interconnector and inter-array cables.

**Reason: To confirm the final Licensed Activity specification and layout in accordance with the Application, and with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.2.3 During the construction of the Works

#### 3.2.3.1 Transportation Audit Report

The Licensee must submit to the Licensing Authority a detailed TAR for each calendar month during the construction phase of the Works. The TAR must be submitted within 14 days of the end of each calendar month.

The TAR must include the nature and quantity of all substances and objects deposited and materials used in construction (as described in Part 2 of this licence) in that calendar month. Alterations and updates can be made in the following month's TAR. Where appropriate, nil returns must be provided.

If the Licensee becomes aware of any substances, objects or materials on the TAR that are missing, or becomes aware that an accidental deposit has occurred, the Licensee must notify the Licensing Authority as soon as practicable. The Licensee must undertake such survey as directed by the Licensing Authority to locate the substances, objects and materials. If the Licensing Authority is of the view that any accidental deposits have occurred and should be removed, then the materials must be removed by the Licensee as soon as is practicable and at the Licensee's expense.

**Reason: To confirm that the deposits made were in accordance with the application documentation, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act and that any accidental deposits are recovered or charted appropriately in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

#### 3.2.3.2 Navigational Safety

The Licensee must notify the UKHO of the progress of the construction of the Works to facilitate the promulgation of maritime safety information and updating of admiralty charts and publications through the national Notice to Mariners system.

The Licensee must ensure that progress of the Works is promulgated regularly in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin to inform the commercial fishing industry of the vessel routes and the timing and location of the construction activities.

The Licensee must in the case of damage to, or destruction or decay of, the Works, notify the Licensing Authority, in writing, as soon as reasonably practicable, following such damage, destruction or decay. The Licensee must carry out any remedial action as required by the Licensing Authority, following consultation with the MCA, the NLB or any such advisers as required by the Licensing Authority.

The Licensee must ensure that any vessels permitted to engage in the construction of the Works are marked in accordance with the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea whilst under way, and in accordance with the UK Standard Marking Schedule for Offshore Installations if the vessel is secured to the seabed.

The Licensee must ensure that no radio beacon or radar beacon operating in the marine frequency bands is installed or used on the Works without the prior written approval of the Office of Communications ("OfCom").

The Licensee must ensure that navigable depth is not altered by more than 5% referenced to Chart Datum unless otherwise agreed, in writing, with the Licensing Authority in consultation with the MCA and NLB.

**Reason: To reduce the navigational risk to other legitimate users of the sea, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2.3.3 Markings, lighting and signals of the Works**

The Licensee must ensure that the Works are marked and lit in accordance with an approved LMP at all times. The LMP and any subsequent amendments must be approved by the Licensing Authority following consultation with the NLB, MCA, Civil Aviation Authority (“CAA”) and the Ministry of Defence (“MOD”). The display of unauthorised marks or lights is prohibited.

The Licensee must ensure that the Works are marked and lit in accordance with International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (“IALA”) Recommendation O-139.

Unless otherwise approved by the Licensing Authority, the LMP must include but not be limited to:

- a. the lighting requirements of the MCA, NLB, CAA and MOD;
- b. that the boundary WTG, where they are more than 900m apart, must be lit with a single 2000 candela, red aviation light, flashing Morse ‘W’ in unison with all other boundary WTG;
- c. that all other WTG must be fitted with a fixed single red 200 candela aviation light for Search and Rescue (“SAR”) purposes; and
- d. that all WTG aviation lights should be compatible with night vision imaging systems.

**Reason: To ensure safe appropriate marking and lighting of the offshore Works, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.**

### **3.2.4 Conditions upon Completion of the Works**

#### **3.2.4.1 Date of Completion of the Works**

The Licensee must, no later than one calendar month following the Completion of the Works, notify the Licensing Authority, in writing, of the date of Completion of the Works.

**Reason: To inform the Licensing Authority of the Completion of the Works, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

#### **3.2.4.2 Nature and quantity of substances and objects deposited and materials used in construction**

The Licensee must, no later than one calendar month following the Completion of the Works submit a final audit report, in writing, to the Licensing Authority stating the nature and quantity of all substances, objects placed below MHWS and all materials used in construction within the Scottish marine area under the authority of this licence.

**Reason: To confirm that the deposits made were in accordance with the Application and in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

#### **3.2.4.3 Noise Registry Close Out**

The Licensee must complete and submit a close-out report for all aspects of the Works that produced loud, low to medium frequency (10Hz-10kHz) impulsive noise in the online Noise Registry no later than 12 weeks from the Completion of the Works.

**Reason: To ensure compliance with reporting requirements on marine noise, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.**

#### **3.2.4.4 Navigational Safety**

The Licensee must notify the UKHO of the Completion of the Works to facilitate the promulgation of maritime safety information and updating of admiralty charts and publications through the national Notice to Mariners system.

The Licensee must, within one month of the Completion of the Works, provide the “as-built” positions and maximum heights of all WTG, along with any sub-sea infrastructure, to the UKHO for aviation and nautical charting purposes.

The Licensee must, as per the requirements of the MCA’s MGN 543 and supplementary updates, complete post-installation hydrographic surveys of the Site or subsections thereof, to the International Hydrographic Organization Order 1a survey standard. On completion of these surveys, the data and a corresponding report of survey must be supplied to the UKHO, with notification to the MCA hydrography manager and the Licensing Authority.

The Licensee must ensure that local mariners, fishermen’s organisations and HM Coastguard, in this case the National Maritime Coastguard Centre are made fully aware of the Completion of the Works.

The Licensee must ensure that the Completion of the Works is promulgated in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin to inform the commercial fishing industry.

The Licensee must, where any damage, destruction or decay is caused to the Works, notify the Licensing Authority, in writing, of such damage, destruction or decay as soon as reasonably practicable following such damage, destruction or decay. The Licensee must carry out any remedial action which the Licensing Authority advises the Licensee, in writing, as requiring to be taken, which may include a requirement to display aids to navigation, following consultation by the Licensing Authority with the MCA, the NLB or any such advisers as required.

The Licensee must ensure that the WTG are actively monitored during the operation and maintenance phases. The Licensee must ensure that a contingency plan is in place to respond to any reported catastrophic failures which may result in the WTG, or part(s) thereof, breaking loose and becoming a buoyant hazard. This contingency plan should include the transmission of local radio navigation warnings.

The Licensee must ensure that no radio beacon or radar beacon operating in the marine frequency bands is installed or used on the Works without the prior written approval of the OfCom.

The Licensee must not exhibit, alter or discontinue navigational lighting of the Works without the statutory sanction of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses. An 'Application for Statutory Sanction to Exhibit/Discontinue' form must be completed by the Licensee as fully as possible and returned to the NLB for the necessary sanction to be granted prior to exhibiting, altering or discontinuing navigational lighting.

**Reason: To reduce the navigational risk to other legitimate users of the sea, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### **3.2.4.5 Markings, lighting and signals of the Works**

The Licensee must ensure that the Works are marked and lit in accordance with an approved LMP at all times. The LMP and any subsequent amendments must be approved by the Licensing Authority following consultation with the NLB, MCA, CAA and the MOD. The display of unauthorised marks or lights is prohibited.

The Licensee must ensure that the Works are marked and lit in accordance with IALA Recommendation O-139.

Unless otherwise approved by the Licensing Authority, the LMP must include:

1. the lighting requirements of the MCA, NLB, CAA and MOD;
2. that the boundary WTG, where they are more than 900m apart, must be lit with a single 2000 candela, red aviation light, flashing Morse 'W' in unison with all other boundary WTG;
3. that all other WTG must be fitted with a fixed single red 200 candela aviation light for SAR purposes; and
4. that all WTG aviation lights should be compatible with night vision imaging systems.

**Reason: To ensure safe appropriate marking and lighting of the offshore Works, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.**

### 3.2.4.6 Operation and Maintenance of the Works

The Licensee must operate and maintain the Works in accordance with an approved OMP.

The Operation and Maintenance Programme (“OMP”) and any subsequent amendments must be approved by the Licensing Authority.

The Licensing Authority must be notified at least three calendar months or such other period as agreed by the Licensing Authority in advance of any maintenance of the Works not included in the OMP and involving licensable marine activities not covered under this licence.

**Reason:** *To ensure compliance with the approved OMP to prevent decay of the Works and to ensure that any maintenance work is carried out under an appropriate licence in accordance with s.29(3)(b) of the 2010 Act.*

### 3.2.4.7 Restoration of the Site to its original condition

The Licensee must take all reasonable, appropriate and practicable steps at the end of the operational life of the Works to restore the Site to its original pre-construction condition, or to as close to its original condition as is reasonably practicable, in accordance with the PEMP and the DP and to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.

Should the Works be discontinued prior to expiry date of this marine licence, the Licensee must inform the Licencing Authority in writing of the discontinuation of the Works.

A separate marine licence will be required for the removal of Works.

**Reason:** *To mitigate the effects of the activity on the Site, in accordance with s.29(3)(e) of the 2010 Act.*

### 3.2.4.8 Charting requirements

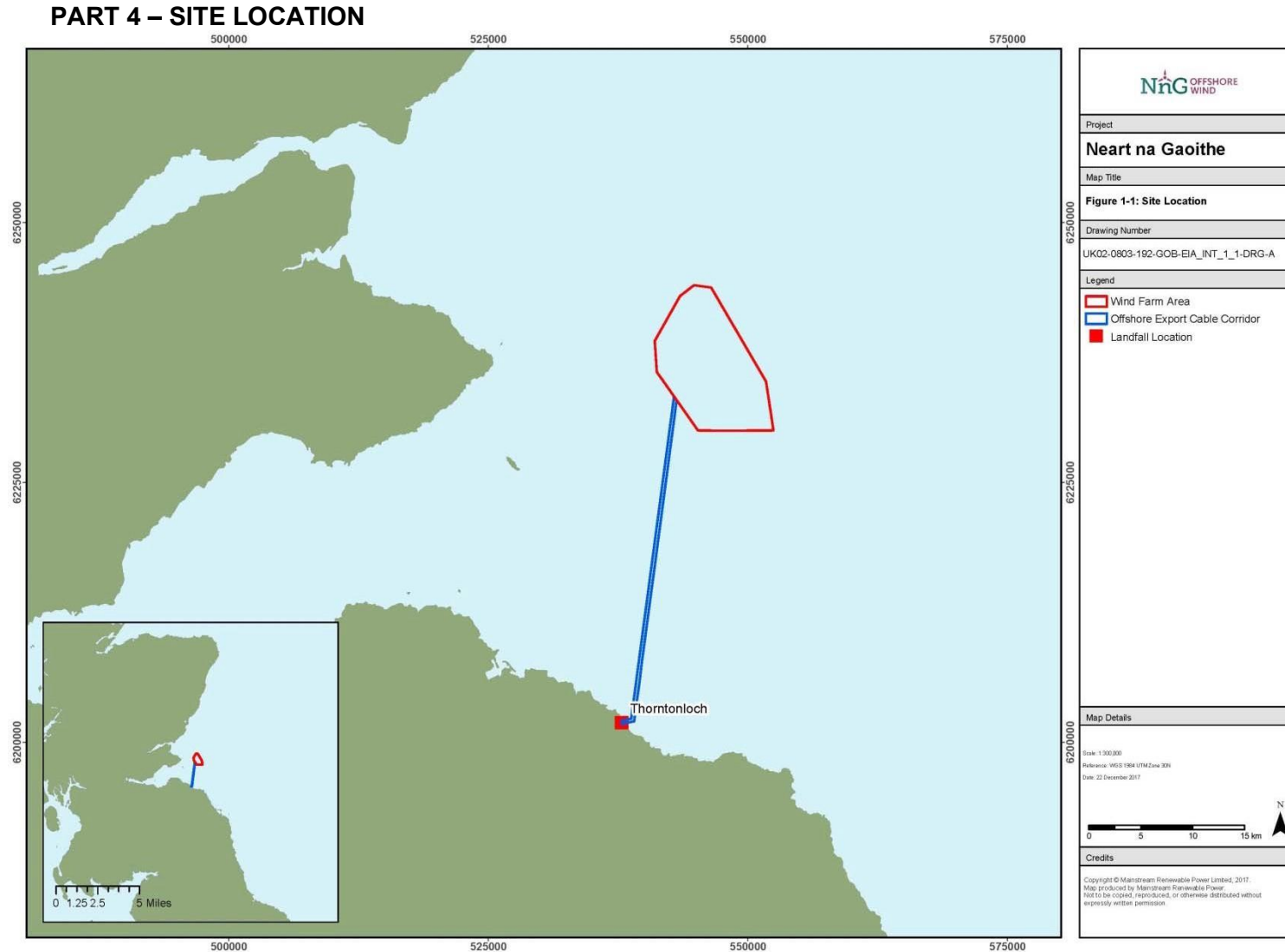
The Licensee must, within one month of the final Completion of the Works, provide the coordinates accurate to three decimal places of minutes of arc for each WTG, position and maximum heights of the WTG to UKHO and the DGC for nautical charting and aviation purposes.

**Reason:** *To reduce the navigational risk to other legitimate users of the sea, in accordance with s.29(2)(b) of the 2010 Act.*

### 3.2.4.9 Final Commissioning of the Works

The Licensee must, no more than one calendar month following the Final Commissioning of the Works, notify the Licensing Authority, in writing, of the date of the Final Commissioning of the Works.

**Reason:** *To inform the Licensing Authority of the Final Commissioning of the works, in accordance with s.29(3)(c) of the 2010 Act.*



**Figure 1 – Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Site and Cable corridor to shore near Thorntonloch, East Lothian**