

Subject	Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited (NnGOWL) Seabed Preparation Marine Licence Variation Request - MS-00009267		
To	Marine Scotland Operations and Licensing Team (MS-LOT)		
Cc	David Sweenie (NnGOWL); Sarah MacNab (Poseidon)		
From	Claire Gilchrist (NnGOWL)	Date	07 JUL 2022

## 1 Introduction

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited (NnGOWL) Seabed Preparation Marine Licence is due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The Licence covers boulder clearance work required for offshore wind turbine locations and cable pre-lay grapnel runs required for inter-array cable routes, along with other supporting seabed preparation works.

This note has been prepared for issue to the Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) to support a request to extend the Marine Licence until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, to cover until the completion of construction works at Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm. NnGOWL is also requesting to increase the expected number of boulders moved from approximately 50,000 to 60,000.

Based on the existing duration of this licence, since December 2019, and the minimal increase in additional works which may be required for boulder clearance, the activity is not considered to have potential to cause harm to the environment, human health or to interfere with other uses of the sea, and this is considered by NnGOWL to be a non-material variation. There are no changes in the methodology or footprints outlined in the initial licence application supporting documentation.

## 2 Requirement for Variation

The final activity in the construction period for Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm, is the completion of inter-array cables. A pre-lay grapnel run will be carried out on each cable route and therefore may be required up until the completion of the last cable installation.

Additionally, although the boulder clearance campaign has been completed, it is possible that if any micro-siting of foundations is required, that additional clearance is required. This increase is expected to be minimal as a buffer area around each location has already been cleared.

To date, the total number of boulders moved on the export cable is approximately 28,000. The total number on inter-array cable corridors is approximately 13,000 and the total numbers across the wind turbine locations is 13,500. Therefore, the total number of boulders moved throughout the total campaign is 54,500. At the time of the initial Marine Licence application, it was estimated that approximately 50,000 boulders be required to be moved. If micro-siting is required, there is potential that this may increase to approximately 60,000 by the end of the campaign.

*Table 1 Variation Required to MS - 00009267*

DESCRIPTION	VARIATION
Expiry date of Marine Licence	From 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024
Estimated number of boulders moved	From approximately 50,000 to 60,000 boulders

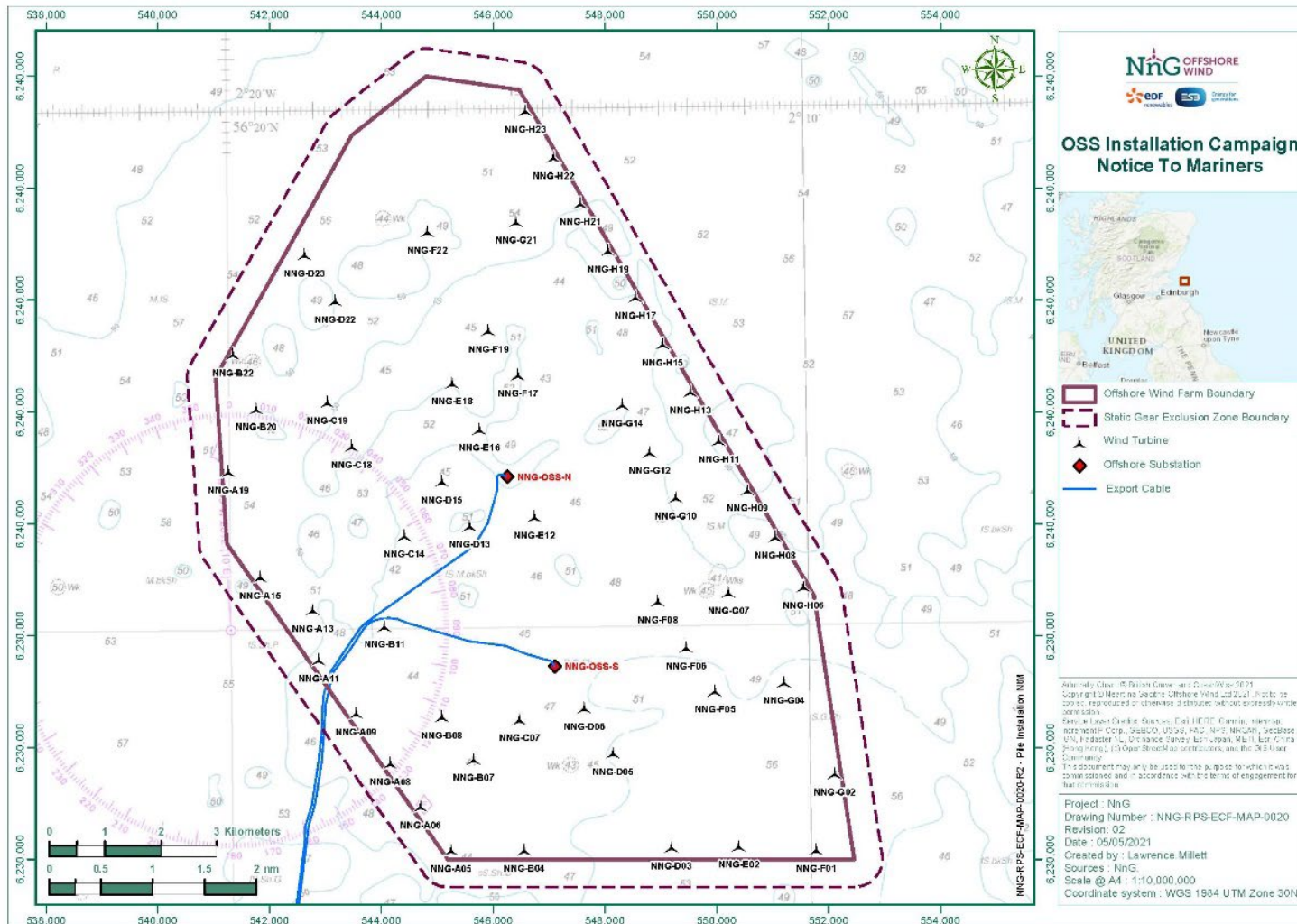


Figure 1 – Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm