



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO (“THE SECRETARY OF STATE”) UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION ASSETS OF OSSIAN OFFSHORE WIND FARM

1. By email to the Secretary of State received on 13 September 2024 (“the Direction Request”), Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in him under section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that the offshore transmission infrastructure for the Ossian Offshore Wind Farm be treated as development for which development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is required.
2. The Secretary of State notes that the Direction Request anticipates the offshore transmission infrastructure as being comprised of High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Cables in a Cable Corridor, connecting from the Scottish Offshore Transmission Infrastructure through English offshore waters (i.e., the English Renewable Energy Zone, or REZ) and inshore waters to Landfall on the coast of Lincolnshire, totalling a cable corridor of approximately 400km, in the English REZ and English inshore waters up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) (“the Proposed Development”).
3. The Secretary of State also notes that the Proposed Development, together with the Offshore Wind Farm Array, Scottish Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure form the principal elements of The Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Project (“the Proposed Project”).
4. Noting the above, the Secretary of State is satisfied that:
 - a) The Proposed Development is in the field of energy and forms part of a proposed project in the field of energy;
 - b) The Proposed Development will be wholly within waters adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea and in the Renewable Energy Zone (not including any part of the Renewable Energy Zone in relation to which the Scottish Ministers have functions) when completed;
 - c) The Proposed Development does not fall within the existing definition of a “nationally significant infrastructure project” and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008; and
 - d) The Applicant’s request constitutes a “qualifying request” in accordance with section 35ZA(11) of the Planning Act 2008.
5. Having considered the details of the Applicant’s proposals as set out in the Direction Request, the Secretary of State is of the view that the Proposed

Development is nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

6. The Secretary of State has taken the decision within the primary deadline, as required by sections 35A(2) and (5) of the Planning Act 2008, and issues this Direction accordingly under sections 35(1) and 35ZA of the Planning Act 2008.
7. THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that the Proposed Development is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.
8. The Secretary of State further directs in accordance with sections 35ZA(3)(b) and (5) of the Planning Act 2008 that National Policy Statements (NPSs) EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 will apply in relation to any application for development consent under this Direction so far as these NPSs are relevant to the application.
9. This Direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to the Proposed Development.

Signed by

REDACTED

David Wagstaff OBE

Deputy Director - Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

10 October 2024

ANNEX

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the Proposed Development is of national significance and that the Direction should be issued because:

- The Proposed Development is necessary to enable the construction of the Proposed Project and is necessary for the connection to the National Grid of the generation assets of the Proposed Project (if consented). The Proposed Development on current projections, would be capable of delivering up to approximately 4GW of renewable electricity and up to 400MW of power for wider grid network purposes.
- The Proposed Development and the project of which it forms part of will play an important role in enabling an energy system that meets the UK's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and the Government's objectives to create a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for consumers.
- By progressing the Proposed Development through the Planning Act 2008 development consent process, it would provide the certainty of a single, unified consenting process and fixed timescales and will remove the need to apply for separate consents from the Marine Management Organisation.