



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 ONSHORE TRANSMISSION ASSETS OF OSSIAN OFFSHORE WIND
FARM**

1. By letter to the Secretary of State received on 26 April 2024, Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Limited ("the Applicant") formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in her under section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008") to direct that the onshore transmission infrastructure for the Ossian Offshore Wind Farm, as defined in the definition of "Proposed Development" set out in paragraph 3.1.7 of the Direction request (the "Proposed Development"), be treated as development for which development consent under the PA 2008 is required.
2. The Secretary of State notes that the Direction request of 26 April 2024 relates to —
 - a. The construction and operation of onshore transmission infrastructure comprising export HVDC transmission cables within a cable corridor to the converter station(s) approximately 60km in length, up to two HVDC converter stations and export HVAC transmission cables within a cable corridor from the converter station(s) to the National Grid substation; and/or
 - b. The construction and operation of onshore transmission infrastructure comprising export HVDC transmission cables within a cable corridor approximately 15km in length to the converter station(s), up to two HVDC converter stations, and HVAC transmission cables within a cable corridor from the converter station(s) to the National Grid substation.
3. The Secretary of State notes further that Lincolnshire County Council as well as South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council acting through the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership support the request.
4. The Secretary of State is satisfied that:
 - a. The Proposed Development is a project in the field of energy and forms part of a project in the field of energy.
 - b. The Proposed Development will be wholly within England when completed;
 - c. The Proposed Development and the project of which it forms part 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 PA 2008; and
 - d. The Applicant's request constitutes a "qualifying request" in accordance with section 35ZA(11) of the PA 2008.
5. Having considered the details of the Applicant's proposals as set out in the request of 26 April 2024, the Secretary of State is of the view that both the Proposed Development

and the project of which it forms part are nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

6. The Secretary of State has taken the decision within the conditions as required by sections 35A(2) and (5) of the PA 2008, and issues this Direction accordingly under sections 35(1) and 35ZA of the PA 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 PA 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 the National Policy Statements 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

John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
23 May 2024

ANNEX

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the Direction should be issued because—

- The Proposed Development and the Project of which it forms part are of national significance, as the Proposed Development is necessary for the connection to the National Grid of the generation assets of the Ossian Offshore Wind Farm (if consented) plus additional capacity generated by other projects, and hence the delivery, on current projections, of up to approximately 4GW of renewable electricity.
- The Proposed Development and the Project of which it forms part 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.