Addendum to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

NISA

North Irish Sea Array

Volume 8: Introductory Appendices

Appendix A6.2
Rehabilitation Schedule

Statkraft

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Rehabilitation Schedule

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NISA
North Irish Sea Array

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North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd (NISA, hereafter referred to as 'the Developer') has been considering the Request for Further Information (RFI) issued by An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) as well as the third-party submissions received following public consultation. At An Coimisiún Pleanála's behest, the Developer has also continued to consult with stakeholders in respect of the 2024 planning application throughout 2024-2026. The Developer has refined elements of the design to respond to the third-party submissions, the continued public and stakeholder consultation and the RFI. Amendments are therefore required to the Rehabilitation Schedule submitted with the 2024 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in Appendix 6.2. Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A1.2 in the Addendum to the EIAR.

For the purposes of clarity, this document shall be read in conjunction with the Chapter 6 submitted as part of the 2024 EIAR. Additional guidance on the reading of the document is provided in the RFI Report prepared alongside the EIAR Addendum Report.

For the purposes of clarity, any cross reference to a chapter, section, table, image, figure or appendix within this document is to another location within the Addendum to the EIAR unless explicitly stated otherwise. Any cross reference to anything included in the 2024 EIAR will be clearly labelled as such.

Text in bold is only used throughout this document to indicate where changes are required, and why they are required. Text in italics illustrates section(s) of the 2024 EIAR which are deleted, or quotations from other documents (as explicitly stated). Replacement text is in normal font. Where text has been replaced in normal font, bold text shall be used to indicate no further changes to this section (where relevant).

The sections relevant to Appendix A6.2 in the RFI are included below.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Document
1 (b)	The scientific information provided as part of the planning application documentation should be based on up-to-date survey reports and data. Accordingly, the applicant is requested to confirm/provide justification/verification that the information submitted in support of the planning application remains relevant and appropriate at the point of submitting further information or to update same as required.	Since submission of the application in 2024 and additional post-submission offshore survey effort, an updated and more extensive geophysical survey was conducted in 2024 indicating an alternative foundation installation technique could be utilised which would reduce environmental impacts and address key points in the RFI. This extensive geophysical survey was used to create a 3D ground model of the sub-seabed in 2025 and to further inform foundation feasibility assessments, since the 2024 EIAR. The analysis of this additional survey data ascertained that monopiles could be removed as a foundation design concept for WTGs and OSP and that installation of jackets with suction buckets for the WTGs and OSP would be suitable. Therefore, minor updates are required to section 2.2 of Appendix 6.2

1. Introduction

1.1 North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm

There are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.1 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.2 Overview of the proposed development

There are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.2 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.3. Requirement for a Rehabilitation Schedule

There are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.3 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2. Rehabilitation Schedule

2.1 Scope

2.1.1 Area

There are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 2.1.1 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.1.2 Duration

There are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 2.1.2 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.2 Proposed Programme of Rehabilitation

Since the 2024 EIAR, monopiles have been removed as a foundation option for the WTGs and the OSP, and replaced by jackets on suction bucket foundations (SBJs) for the WTG, and SBJ or drilled pin piles for the OSP. Therefore, the following text from 2.2 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR shall be deleted:

"2. Piled foundations will be cut approximately 2m below the seabed and removed, with due consideration made of likely changes in seabed level across the array area (it is not thought to be reasonably practicable to remove entire piles from the seabed, as this may cause damage to the seabed environment, but endeavors will be made to ensure that the sections of pile that remain in the seabed are fully buried and made safe to ensure they do not become to stop protrusions and hazards)".

And replaced with:

2. Foundations (be it suction buckets or pin piles) will be cut approximately 2m below the seabed and removed, with due consideration made of likely changes in seabed level across the array area (it is not thought to be reasonably practicable to remove the entire sub-surface portion of the foundations from the seabed, as this may cause damage to the seabed environment, but endeavors will be made to ensure that the sections of pile or suction bucket that remain in the seabed are fully buried and made safe to ensure they do not become to stop protrusions and hazards).

In addition, only ducting for the landfall HDD will be placed in a borehole which will traverse below the intertidal area; there will be no direct seabed disturbance in the intertidal area. Export cables will be installed in a trench in the nearshore zone, and the offshore extents of the cable

corridor. Therefore, a change is required to bullet point 5, and an additional bullet point will be added to Section 2.2 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

For clarity, the following text from Section 2.2 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR will be deleted.

"*5. In the intertidal area, the export cables will be left in place in the seabed with the cable ends cut, sealed and securely buried"*

And replaced with the following:

5.The landfall HDD ducting will be left in-situ, as its removal would not be reasonably practical and any efforts to do so would cause damage to the intertidal area and shoreline.

6.In the nearshore area of the export cable corridor (i.e. water depths < 10m), the export cables will be left in place in the seabed and should the portion of cable within the HDD ducting be removed, any exposed cable ends will be cut, sealed and securely buried.

There are no other changes required to this section. Please Refer to Section 2.2 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.3 Schedule for Implementation

There are no changes to this section. Please refer to section 2.3 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.4 Estimated Costs

There are no changes to this section. Please refer to section 2.4 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.5 Authorisations

There are no changes to this section. Please refer to section 2.5 of Appendix 6.2 of the 2024 EIAR.