



# Marine Management Organisation Marine Licence

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## 1 Introduction

This is a licence granted by the Marine Management Organisation on behalf of the Secretary of State to authorise the licence holder to carry on activities for which a licence is required under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

### 1.1 Licence number

The licence number for this licence is L/2014/00375/5

### 1.2 Licence holder

The licence holder is the person or organisation set out below:

Name / company name	National Grid NSN Link Limited
Company registration number (if applicable)	08082344
Address	35 Homer Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QJ
Contact within company	Andrew Craig
Position within company (if applicable). State if company officer or director	Project Engineer

### 1.3 Licence date

Version	5
Licence start date	01 December 2014
Licence end date	01 December 2114
Date of original issue	01 December 2014
Date of variation issue	07 December 2018

### 1.4 Licence validity

This version of this licence is valid from the licence start date to the licence end date.

This version of this licence supersedes any earlier version of this licence. Any activity commenced under a previous version of this licence and which is also a licensed activity authorised by section 4 of this version of this licence may continue in accordance with the licence conditions in section 5 of this version of this licence.

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## 2 General

### 2.1 Interpretation

In this licence, terms are as defined in section 115 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Interpretation Act 1978 unless otherwise stated.

- "licensed activity" means any activity set out in section 4 of this licence.
- "licence holder" means the person(s) or organisation(s) named in section 1 above to whom this licence is granted.
- "MMO" means the Marine Management Organisation.
- "mean high water springs" means the average of high water heights occurring at the time of spring tides.
- "sea bed" or "seabed" means the ground under the sea.
- "the 2009 Act" means the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
- All times shall be taken to be the time on any given day.
- All geographical co-ordinates contained within this licence are in WGS84 format (latitude and longitude degrees and minutes to four decimal places) unless stated otherwise.

### 2.2 Contacts

Except where otherwise indicated, the main point of contact with the MMO and the address for email and postal returns and correspondence shall be:

**Marine Management Organisation**

**Lancaster House**

**Hampshire Court**

**Newcastle upon Tyne**

**NE4 7YH**

**Tel:0300 123 1032**

**Fax:0191 376 2681**

**Email:marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk**

Any references to any local MMO officer shall be the relevant officer in the area(s) located at:

**Marine Management Organisation**

**Neville House**

**Central Riverside**

**Bell Street**

**North Shields**

**NE30 1LJ**

**Tel: 0191 257 4520**  
**Fax: 0191 257 1595**  
**Email: [northshields@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:northshields@marinemanagement.org.uk)**

## **3 Project overview**

### **3.1 Project title**

North Sea Network Link Interconnector

### **3.2 Project description**

National Grid NSN Link Limited (NGNSNLL) and Statnett SF (SSF) are jointly developing an electrical high-voltage direct current (HVDC) interconnector between Norway and the United Kingdom. This is a major international electricity project that will facilitate the cross-border trading of electricity between the two countries and is referred to as the North Sea Link (NSL) project. The link will enable power to flow in either direction at different times, depending on the supply and demand in each country. The route runs from Hylene, in southwest Norway, to the Cambois Beach, Blyth in northeast England. The interconnector has a planned capacity of up to 1,400 MW.

### **3.3 Related marine licences**

L/2012/00113/2 - Removals (including grab samples).

L/2013/00388 - Removals (grab samples).

## 4 Licensed activities

This section sets out the licensed activities. The licensed activities are authorised to be carried on only in accordance with the activity details below and with the licence conditions as set out in section 5 of this licence.

Site 1 - Cable Route Corridor (inshore up to 12nm)	
Site location	Refer to Licence Schedule 1 for co-ordinates.
Activity 1.1 - Installation and operation of HVDC submarine interconnector cables and fibre optic cable	
Activity type	Construction of new works
Activity location	A 500 Meter (m) cable installation corridor located between mean high water springs (MHWS) at Cambois beach, Blyth, Northumberland, and the English territorial 12 nautical mile (nm) limit.  Refer to Licence Schedule 1 for cable route co-ordinates within 12nm.
Description	The installation of two HVDC mass impregnated (MI) submarine cables between Cambois Beach, Blyth, Northumberland to 12 nm limit in UK waters. This will transmit approximately 1.4 giga watts (GW) using a bipole system (+550 kv and -500 kv). The cables will be installed separately (between 20 m and 50 m apart).
Methodology	A pre-lay grapnel run will be followed by cable installation in two trenches (for each cable) within the consented cable corridor by means of: - Jet trenchers; and - Mechanical trenchers. The marine cables will be buried to a depth of between 1-2 m by a jetting machine for 80-90% of the cable route. In the intertidal zone the marine cable will be installed by a mechanical trenching machine with tacked excavators. Two trenches will be constructed using a conventional excavator and rollers will be used in the base of the trench to pull the cable along it. The trench will be approximately 1-2 m wide. Mechanical trenching may also be used in the stiff clay or coarse cobble rich gravel found along short sections of the route.
Programme of works	Construction of the North Sea Network Link Interconnector cable will commence between 2018 and 2019 with precise timings to be agreed with the MMO under condition 5.2.5.

Site 2 - Cable Protection (inshore and offshore cable corridor)	
Site location	Cable protection will be located along the cable route, refer to Licence Schedule 2 for cable route co-ordinates (both within and outwith 12nm).
Activity 2.1 - Rock Armour / Concrete Mattressing	
Activity type	Construction of new works
Activity location	Cable protection will be located along the cable route and will be defined following installation of the cable.
Description	In areas where minimum depths cannot be achieved due to hard sediments or at crossings with existing cables or pipelines, rock placement and/or mattressing will be used to protect the cables.
Methodology	The total length of rock protection within English waters is 56 km per cable, with a total footprint of 116 km <sup>2</sup> per cable. In areas where cable burial is not possible (for example in areas of hard ground or where it is not possible to achieve sufficient cable burial) the cable will be protected by installation of rock placement or mattressing/armouring.
Programme of works	Construction of the North Sea Network Link Interconnector cable will commence between 2018 and 2019 with precise timings to be agreed with the MMO under condition 5.2.5.

## **5 Licence conditions**

### **5.1 General conditions**

#### **5.1.1 Notification of commencement**

The licence holder must notify the MMO prior to the commencement of the first instance of any licensed activity. This notice must be received by the MMO no less than five working days before the commencement of that licensed activity.

#### **5.1.2 Licence conditions binding other parties**

Where provisions under section 71(5) of the 2009 Act apply, all conditions attached to this licence apply to any person who for the time being owns, occupies or enjoys any use of the licensed activities for which this licence has been granted.

#### **5.1.3 Agents / contractors / sub-contractors**

The licence holder must notify the MMO in writing of any agents, contractors or sub-contractors that will carry on any licensed activity listed in section 4 of this licence on behalf of the licence holder. Such notification must be received by the MMO no less than 24 hours before the commencement of the licensed activity.

The licence holder must ensure that a copy of this licence and any subsequent revisions or amendments has been provided to, read and understood by any agents, contractors or sub-contractors that will carry on any licensed activity listed in section 4 of this licence on behalf of the licence holder.

#### **5.1.4 Vessels**

The licence holder must notify the MMO in writing of any vessel being used to carry on any licensed activity listed in section 4 of this licence on behalf of the licence holder. Such notification must be received by the MMO no less than 24 hours before the commencement of the licensed activity. Notification must include the master's name, vessel type, vessel IMO number and vessel owner or operating company.

The licence holder must ensure that a copy of this licence and any subsequent revisions or amendments has been read and understood by the masters of any vessel being used to carry on any licensed activity listed in section 4 of this licence, and that a copy of this licence is held on board any such vessel.

#### **5.1.5 Changes to this licence**

Should the licence holder become aware that any of the information on which the granting of this licence was based has changed or is likely to change, they must notify the MMO at the earliest opportunity. Failure to do so may render this licence invalid and may lead to enforcement action.



## 5.2 Project specific conditions

This section sets out project specific conditions relating to the licensed activities as set out in section 4 of this licence.

Project Specific Conditions	
Pre-Works Conditions	
5.2.1	<p>The Source Data Receipt Team at the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2DN (email: <a href="mailto:hdcfiles@ukho.gov.uk">hdcfiles@ukho.gov.uk</a>; Tel 01823 337900) must be notified of the commencement of licensed activities at least <b>2 weeks</b> prior to the commencement of licensed activities. Copies of this notification must be provided to the MMO licensing team and MMO Coastal Office.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To reduce navigational risk by ensuring nautical charts are updated and ensure the provision of information to mariners.</i></p>
5.2.2	<p>The Humber Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, HM Coastguard must be provided with a timetable of works no less than <b>10 working days</b> prior to the first instance that the licenced activity is due to start.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure safe navigation at sea.</i></p>
5.2.3	<p>The works must not encroach on any recognised anchorage, either charted or noted in nautical publications, within the marine licence consented area.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure navigations safety.</i></p>
5.2.4	<p>A pre-installation route survey must be undertaken to confirm the location and extent of any Annex 1 reef habitat identified in the previous survey works undertaken to inform the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The survey specification must be submitted to the MMO, for approval, no less than <b>4 months</b> prior to the commencement of survey works, unless otherwise agreed by the MMO. The survey must not be undertaken until the specification has</p>

been approved by the MMO. The results of the survey must be submitted to the MMO no less than **4 months** prior to the commencement of licensed activities, unless otherwise agreed by the MMO and include an assessment of the potential to micro-site the cable to avoid any Annex I habitats identified.

Licensed activities must not commence until the MMO has provided written approval of the pre-construction benthic monitoring reports.

Reason:

*To ensure that Annex I habitat will not be subject to an unassessed impact as a result of the licensed activities.*

#### 5.2.5

A detailed cable laying methodology plan must be submitted at least **4 months** prior to the commencement of licensed activities. The plan must include;

- Technical specification;
- Location and timings;
- Timings and duration of intertidal works;
- Burial risk assessment to ascertain burial depth;
- Installation techniques;
- Cable laying technique (including details of clumping of disused cables);
- Cable protection plan;
- Installation machinery failure contingency plan; and
- Transport management plan.

Licensed activities must not commence until the MMO has provided written approval of the Cable Burial Management and Installation Plan.

The licence holder must submit an updated Cable Burial Management and Installation Plan once final locations and designs of cable protection are known. The cable protection plan must be updated to include:

- Location of protection sites;
- Size / grade of rock to be used;
- Footprint / tonnage / volume to be used;

- Contingency tonnage / volume to be used;
- Method of delivery to the seabed;
- Assessment of impact; and
- Decommissioning plans.

This updated plan must be submitted at least **4 weeks prior to the commencement of cable protection works.**

Installation of rock protection must not commence until the MMO has provided written approval of the Cable Burial Management and Installation Plan. Further updated plans must be submitted for approval should the location and design of rock protection change.

Reason:

*To ensure the methodology follows best practice and is within the limits assessed in the application to reduce environmental and navigational impacts.*

**5.2.6** A Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) must be submitted for approval by the MMO at least **4 months** prior to the commencement of licensed activities. The MPCP must:

- Outline procedures to be implemented in the event of spills and collision incidents (including oil and chemical spills);
- Take into account existing plans for all operations, including offshore installations, which may influence the MPCP; and
- Detail practices used to refuel vessels at sea.

Reason:

*To minimise the risk of pollution incident occurring by adopting best practice techniques.*

**5.2.7** A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) must be prepared in consultation with Historic England to detail archaeological assessment and mitigation works necessary to inform the detailed delivery of the project. The WSI must be agreed with the MMO, in consultation with Historic England, **4 months** prior to the commencement of any survey work commissioned to aid delivery of the project, unless otherwise agreed by the MMO. The WSI must include:

- An Archaeological Reporting protocol for the prompt reporting and recording of archaeological remains encountered, or suspected, during all phases of construction, operation and decommissioning. This must be set out in accordance with The Crown Estate Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries Offshore Renewable Projects (2010);
- Responsibilities of the licence holder and archaeological consultant;
- Details of contractors and curators (national and local);
- Archaeological analysis and reporting of survey data and investigation;
- Delivery of mitigation including use of archaeological construction exclusion zones in agreement with the MMO; and
- Conservation, publication and archiving duties for archaeological material.

Licensed activities must not commence until the MMO has provided written approval of the WSI.

Reason:

*To ensure the integrity of archaeologically important items is not compromised.*

#### 5.2.8

The licence holder must ensure that a notice to mariners is issued at least **10 working days** prior to the commencement of the cable protection activities advising of the start date of each licensed activity and the expected vessel routes from the local construction ports to the relevant location.

A copy of the notification must be sent to the MMO within **24 hours** of the notification being sent.

Reason:

*To ensure other vessels in the vicinity can safely plan and conduct their passage.*

#### Conditions During Works

#### 5.2.9

Bunding/storage facilities must be installed to contain and prevent the release of fuels, oils and chemicals associated with plant, refuelling and construction equipment into the marine environment. Secondary containment must be used for a capacity of not less than 110% of the containers storage capacity.

Reason:

	<i>To prevent marine pollution incidents by adopting best practice.</i>
<b>5.2.10</b>	<p>All rock material used for cable protection works must be from a recognised source, free from contaminants and contains minimal fines.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To prevent pollution by material that may come from a polluted area or potentially change the chemical balance of the environment in which it is placed.</i></p>
<b>5.2.11</b>	<p>Only coatings and treatments can be used that are suitable for use in the marine environment.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure hazardous chemicals that may be toxic, persistent or bioaccumulative are not released into the marine environment.</i></p>
<b>5.2.12</b>	<p>Any oil, fuel or chemical spill within the marine environment must be reported to the MMO Marine Pollution Response Team within 12 hours or in line with the approved marine pollution contingency plan.</p> <p>Within office hours: 0300 200 2024. Outside office hours: 07770 977 825. At all times if other numbers are unavailable: 0345 051 8486. dispersants@marinemanagement.org.uk</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure that any spills are appropriately recorded and managed to minimise the risk to sensitive receptors and the marine environment.</i></p>
<b>5.2.13</b>	<p>All dropped objects must be reported to the MMO using the Dropped Object Procedure Form as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of the undertaker becoming aware of an incident. On receipt of the Dropped Object Procedure Form, the MMO may require relevant surveys to be carried out by the undertaker (such as side scan</p>

	<p>sonar) if reasonable to do so and the MMO may require obstructions to be removed from the seabed at the undertaker's expense if reasonable to do so.</p> <p>Reason: To ensure items are not lost overboard during transit that may cause a risk to navigation or the environment.</p>
<b>5.2.14</b>	<p>Cable protection activities (including clumping of disused cables) must not compromise existing and future safe navigation. A maximum of 5% reduction in surrounding depth referenced to Chart Datum is permitted but depth reduction must not compromise safe navigation.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure navigational safety.</i></p>
<b>5.2.15</b>	<p>Precautions must be taken to minimise disturbance to intertidal areas. Access routes must be well marked and the routes utilised to minimise damage to the foreshore.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure the integrity of the site is maintained</i></p>
<b>5.2.16</b>	<p>No licensed activities shall take place between <b>1 October to 31 March</b> of any given calendar year within the Northumberland Shore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), unless otherwise agreed in writing by the MMO.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To avoid disturbance to overwintering birds at Creswell and Newbiggin Shores Site of Special Scientific Interest and Northumbrian Coast Special Protection Areas.</i></p>
<b>5.2.17</b>	<p>Construction works in the intertidal area must be restricted to the designated working area approved under condition 5.2.5 within which all construction activity and plant vehicle movement will take place.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To minimise damage to habitat at Creswell and Newbiggin Shores SSSI and Northumbrian Coast Special Protections Areas (SPAs).</i></p>

5.2.18	<p>No cable protection works are to occur within Coquet to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure Coquet to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone is not impacted by cable protection works.</i></p>
5.2.19	<p>Following construction, the restoration of intertidal habitat by backfilling must be undertaken.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure habitat damage or loss is minimised to Creswell and Newbiggin Shores SSSI and Northumbrian Coast SPAs.</i></p>
Post-Works Conditions	
5.2.20	<p>All equipment, temporary structures and waste and/or debris associated with licensed activities must be removed within <b>5 working days</b> upon completion of licensed activities.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To prevent the accumulation of unlicensed debris and potential environmental damage, safety and navigational issues associated with such materials and debris.</i></p>
5.2.21	<p>The Source Data Receipt Team at the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2DN (email: <a href="mailto:hdcfiles@ukho.gov.uk">hdcfiles@ukho.gov.uk</a>; Tel 01823 337900) must be notified within <b>2 weeks</b> of the completion of construction. Copies of this notification must be provided to the MMO licensing team and MMO Coastal Office within <b>5 working day</b> of the notification being sent.</p> <p>Reason: <i>To reduce navigational risk by ensuring nautical charts are updated and ensure the provision of information to mariners.</i></p>
5.2.22	<p>Within <b>6 weeks</b> of completion of the licensed activities unless otherwise agreed with the MMO, the licence holder must submit International Hydrographic Office (IHO1A) approved sonar or Multi Beam Echo Sounder survey data to the MMO, UKHO and Kingfisher confirming the final clearance depths over the protected cables and clumped disused cables. Once this data has been assessed, if any area is identified as a possible danger to navigation it may require marking with aids to navigation at the licence holder's expense, unless otherwise agreed with the MMO.</p>

	<p>Reason:  <i>To ensure safety of navigation of other sea users and to ensure that nautical charts are kept up to date in relation to cable burial depths and volumes of rock protection.</i></p>
<b>5.2.23</b>	<p>Within <b>3 months</b> of completion of licensed activities, an 'as built' plan must be submitted to the MMO for approval, unless otherwise agreed. The 'as built' plan must include the following, unless otherwise agreed by the MMO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the location of the cable as laid with specific details of the locations of buried and surface-laid cables;</li> <li>- the location and quantity of rock protection or rock mattresses used in these works;</li> <li>- an assessment of the snagging risk to the fisheries industry; and</li> <li>- suggested mitigation measures for new cable exposures.</li> </ul> <p>Reason:  <i>To minimise the risk to wider environmental sensitivities, navigation and potential effects on affecting ship compasses and other navigating systems.</i></p>
<b>5.2.24</b>	<p>A written decommissioning plan must be submitted to the MMO for approval no less than <b>6 months</b> prior to the expiration of this marine licence or no less than 6 months prior to when decommissioning is due to commence, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>Reason:  <i>To ensure that any potential impacts of decommissioning activities can be assessed.</i></p>
<b>5.2.25</b>	<p>Where new exposures of cables are identified which represent a possible risk to navigation / fisheries, the licence holder must issue a notice to mariners and notify Kingfisher advising of the locations of the exposure.</p> <p>A copy of the notification must be sent to the MMO within 24 hours of the notification being sent.</p> <p>Reason:  <i>To ensure other vessels in the vicinity can safely plan and conduct their passage.</i></p>



<b>5.2.26</b>	<p>Where new exposures of cables are identified mitigation measures must be put in place to reduce the risk to navigation and fisheries until remedial works are concluded</p> <p>Reason: <i>To ensure other vessels in the vicinity can safely plan and conduct their passage.</i></p>
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## **6 Compliance and enforcement**

This licence and its terms and conditions are issued under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Any breach of the licence terms and conditions may lead to enforcement action being taken. This can include variation, revocation or suspension of the licence, the issuing of an enforcement notice, or criminal proceedings, which may carry a maximum penalty of an unlimited fine and / or a term of imprisonment of up to two years.

Your attention is drawn to Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, in particular sections 65, 85 and 89 which set out offences, and also to sections 86, 87 and 109 which concern defences. The MMO's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy can be found on our website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compliance-and-enforcement-strategy>).