

Applies to: Offshore Wind Generation	Guidelines for Sailing and Fishing Activities within the Greater Gabbard Wind Farm	WI-GRGB-SHE-004-297
Prepared by: O. Nutt	Uncontrolled if printed	Rev:1.3

Approved by: Stephen Rose	Issue Date: May 2013	Review Date: May 2016
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1. Aim of this document

The aim of this document is to guide GGOWL with respect to any vessel operators or owners wishing to fish or sail within the boundaries of the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind farm. This document applies for both the Inner Gabbard array and Galloper arrays.

The objective to provide set guidelines to leisure sailors and fishermen to allow safe access to the wind farm for vessels and the GGOWL transfer vessels operating on a daily basis within the site.

The risks for not co-ordinating vessel movements could lead to injury to persons and damage to vessels.

Up to 15 transfer vessels currently operate within the wind farm every day. They range in size from 14m to 24 m and transit at speeds of up to 28 knots. All wind farm vessels are equipped with AIS and radars.

Survey vessels are also currently operating within the wind farm.

Further information including call signs etc is available in a communication document from the Lowestoft Control Centre.

2. Safety Zones

For any vessel owner or operator wishing to sail or fish in the wind farm then they must first be aware that there are safety zones in operation within the wind farm. There are 140 turbines, 2 offshore substations and 2 met masts that make up the wind farm. Subsea cables that have been laid to up to 2m burial depth are laid between the foundations in loops back to the offshore sub-station.

Within the wind farm there is one met mast with a 200m Safety Zone. All other structures on the site have an Operational 50m Safety Zone around them.

Information on current Safety Zones is shown on the chart **figure 1**

Any works requiring a Safety Zone around them, including but not limited to; Jack up operations, sea bed surveys and bunkering operations will be communicated to the interested parties via a Notice to Mariners.

Information on any new Safety Zones or changes to the current zones can be obtained from the Lowestoft Control Centre (LCC); The LCC is manned 24 hrs a day and 7 days a week. The LCC is contactable on **01502 524001** or **01502 524003 – Lowestoft.marinecontrol@sse.com**

The wind farm is out of mobile phone range so contact can be made to one of the transfer vessels when working within the wind farm on VHF channel 16. Once contact is made the LCC can speak direct via channel 6. The LCC does **not** monitor VHF channel 16.

LCC maintains a listening watch on the following channel **CH P6 Frequency 162.50000**

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3. Requirements to fish within wind farm.

If a vessel wishes to access and fish within the wind farm, they are requested to follow these guidelines;

- Maintain any Safety Zones in force. LCC uses AIS, Closed Circuit Television Cameras and Guard vessels as required to monitor the Safety Zones.
- It is requested that prior to accessing the wind farm the fishing vessel shall call the LCC and inform them of the vessels desired movements.
- Fishing vessels operating in the wind farm shall agree a working VHF channel with the LCC prior to entry and maintain a watch on this channel while working in the site.
- Upon shooting of any fishing gear such as long lines, pots and any other static gear, the fishing vessel will relay the positions of the dahns and any other marker buoys to the LCC.
- It's preferred that no surface gear is used in the wind farm, due to the risk of snagging the structures, but if this does happen regular updates on dahn positions is requested to be relayed to the LCC.
- Where fitted AIS is fitted it shall be switched on at all times when in the wind farm.
- Full fishing marks shall be flown at all times and the fishing gear marked appropriately with visible dahns or marker buoys.

All of these above guidelines are to ensure the safety of both the fishing vessels, their fishing gear and the transfer vessels to ensure the risk of any collision is minimised and no fishing gear is ran through or cut away.

4. Sailing Vessels

If a vessel wishes to sail around or within the wind farm, they are requested to follow these guidelines;

- Maintain any Safety Zones in force. LCC uses AIS, Closed Circuit Television Cameras and Guard vessels as required to monitor the Safety Zones.
- It is requested that prior to accessing the wind farm the sailing vessel shall call the LCC and inform them of the vessels desired movements.
- Where fitted AIS is fitted it shall be switched on at all times when in the wind farm.
- In event of any difficulties then please contact the LCC or the MCA who can render support.

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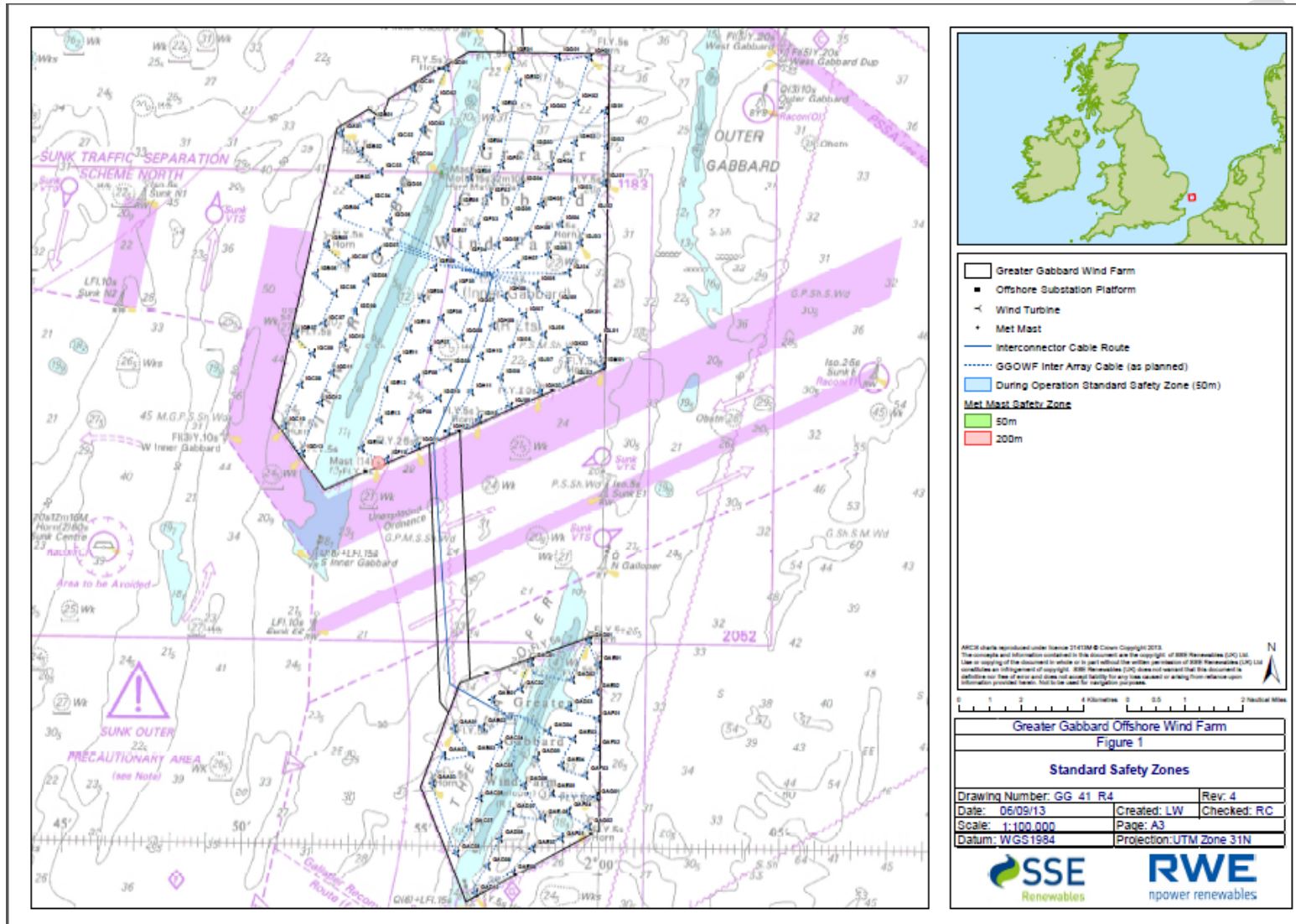


Figure 1: Chart showing safety zones