



N O R T H F A L L S

Offshore Wind Farm

Addendum to the Needs Case and Projects Benefits Statement

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Glossary of Acronyms

CCA	Climate Change Act 2008
CCC	Climate Change Committee
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
DESNZ	Department for Energy and Net Zero
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
GW	Gigawatt
UK	United Kingdom

Glossary of Terminology

The 'Applicant'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited
The Project or 'North Falls'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent is a metric measure that is used to compare emissions from various greenhouse gases (GHGs) on the basis of their global warming potential by converting amounts of other GHGs to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 The purpose of this Addendum to the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement **[9.51, Rev 0]** is to provide an update in respect of the following Government publications which have been published since the application for a Development Consent Order (the 'DCO Application') in relation to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (herein 'North Falls' or the 'Project') was submitted:

- The Seventh Carbon Budget published by the Climate Change Committee (26 February 2025) (CCC 2025);
- Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A New Era of Clean Electricity published by DESNZ (13 December 2024) (DESNZ 2024); and
- Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030 published by National Energy System Operator (NESO) (5 November 2024) (NESO 2024).

1.1.2 This Addendum should be read alongside the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement **[REP2-004]**.

2. SEVENTH CARBON BUDGET

2.1.1 The UK's Climate Change Act (2008) (CCA 2008) sets the framework for domestic action to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. The CCA 2008 requires the Government to propose regular, legally binding milestones on the way to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions, known as carbon budgets.

2.1.2 The Seventh Carbon Budget was published on 26 February 2025 by the Climate Change Committee (CCC), following the Sixth Carbon Budget as the most recent active legislated carbon budget (given effect via the Carbon

Budget Order 2021). The CCC is required to advise the Government on the levels within the budget. Parliament must then agree each carbon budget for it to be set into law.

2.1.3 The Sixth Carbon Budget was referred to in the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement **[REP2-004]**. Particular points in the Seventh Carbon Budget that the Applicant wishes to highlight are set out below.

2.1.4 The Seventh Carbon Budget establishes the target carbon emissions which must be met between 2038 and 2042 to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This level is 535 MtCO₂e, which in comparison to previous budgets, is shown in Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 The Seven UK Carbon Budgets

CARBON BUDGET	CARBON BUDGET LEVEL	REDUCTION BELOW 1990 LEVEL
1 st Carbon Budget (2008 - 2012)	3,018 MtCO ₂ e	26%
2 nd Carbon Budget (2013 - 2017)	2,782 MtCO ₂ e	32%
3 rd Carbon Budget (2018 - 2022)	2,544 MtCO ₂ e	38%
4 th Carbon Budget (2023 - 2027)	1,950 MtCO ₂ e	52%
5 th Carbon Budget (2028 - 2032)	1,725 MtCO ₂ e	58%
6 th Carbon Budget (2033 - 2037)	965 MtCO ₂ e	77%
7 th Carbon Budget (2038 - 2042)	535 MtCO ₂ e	87%

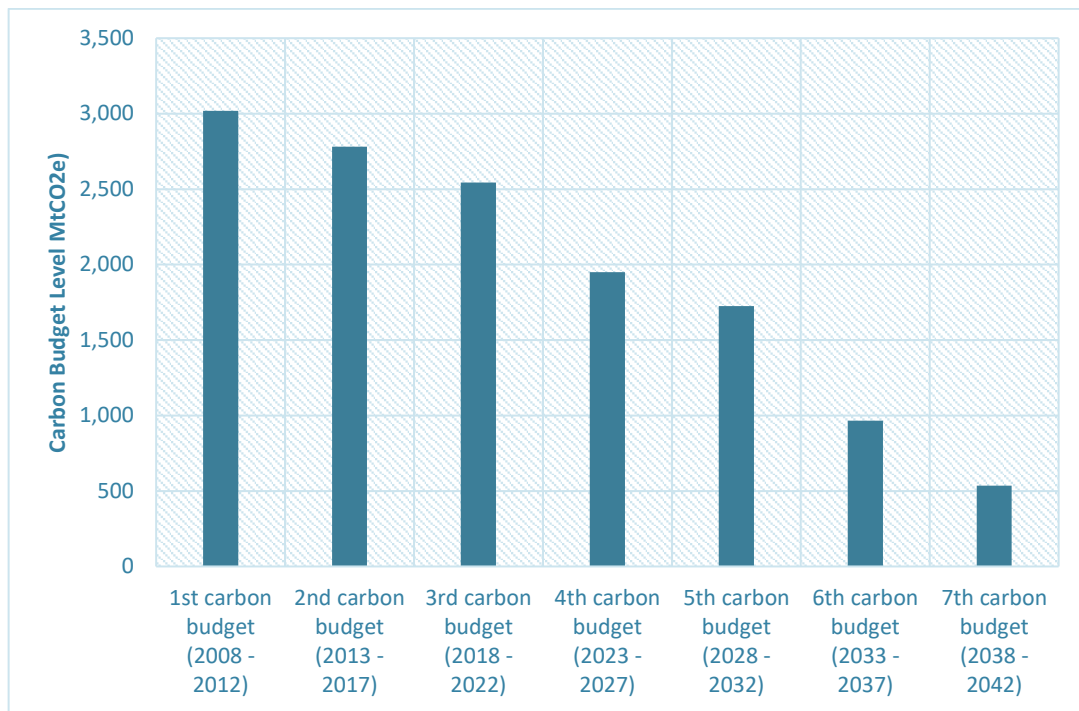


Figure 2.1 The Seven Carbon Budgets up to 2042. The UK is currently in the Fourth Carbon Budget Period (2023 to 2027).

- 2.1.5 As part of the Seventh Carbon Budget, the role of the offshore wind sector and the construction industry are both the focus of action to contribute to meeting these targets.
- 2.1.6 The Climate Change Committee (CCC) publishes annual progress reports on the UK's progress against GHG emissions reduction targets to 2050. The most recently published report '*Progress in reducing emissions 2024 Report to Parliament*' (CCC 2024) highlights that annual installations of offshore wind will need to at least treble to get the UK on track to meet its 2030 emissions targets. Furthermore, achieving at least 50 GW of total operational capacity for offshore wind by 2030 will now require more than 5 GW to be added each year on average; at least 0.5 GW more than the average annual deployment rate listed in the Sixth Carbon Budget. This places even greater emphasis on the importance and urgency of new offshore wind generation projects such as North Falls. If renewable energy projects, such as North Falls, are delayed this could jeopardise the UK's ability to meet the Seventh Carbon Budget as

required by the 2050 target set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended).

3. CLEAN POWER 2030

3.1 Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030 (NESO 2024)

- 3.1.1 In August 2024 the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) commissioned National Energy System Operator (NESO) to provide independent advice on the pathway towards the 2030 ambition, with expert analysis of the location and type of new investment and infrastructure needed to deliver it. The 'Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030' report was submitted to Government by NESO on 5 November 2024. The key messages in their advice were the following:

"1) Clean Power is a huge challenge but is achievable for Great Britain by 2030.

2) Clean power will require doing things differently. It will only be achieved with bold action and sustained momentum, across every area and every step of the way between now and 2030.

3) Achieving clean power by 2030 will put Great Britain in a strong position."

- 3.1.2 As part of the second key message, offshore wind plays a major role as NESO sets a goal of contracting as much offshore wind capacity in the next one to two years as in the last six years combined. This shows the speed of delivery of offshore wind capacity that is required to meet the 2030 target. In this report, NESO sets out pathways for how Great Britain can reach a clean power system by 2030 and NESO identifies offshore wind as the "*bedrock of the system, providing over half of Great Britain's generation*".

- 3.1.3 The report identifies that electricity demand and system flexibility is a core element of a clean power system and notes that:

“Significant growth in offshore wind (from 15 GW in 2023 to 43-50 GW in 2030), onshore wind (14 GW to 27 GW), solar (15 GW to 47 GW) and battery storage (5 GW to 22 GW) is needed to displace gas, to meet growing demand and to replace retiring plants.”

3.2 Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (DESNZ 2024)

- 3.2.1 The Clean Power Action Plan was published by the UK Government DESNZ on 13 December 2024. The Plan sets out the approach the Government will take to deliver a power system of at least 95% clean power sources by 2030. A clean power system will be heavily supported by offshore wind, as the UK Government states that *“offshore wind has a particularly important role as the backbone of the clean power system”*.

- 3.2.2 The Government’s ambitious targets for clean energy capacity in 2030 are stated as the following:

“We have high ambition. This means 43-50 GW of offshore wind, 27-29 GW of onshore wind, 45-47 GW of solar power, significantly reducing our fossil-fuel dependency. These will be complemented by flexible capacity, including 23-27 GW of battery capacity, 4-6 GW of long-duration energy storage, and development of flexibility technologies including gas, carbon capture utilisation & storage, hydrogen and substantial opportunities for consumer-led flexibility.”

- 3.2.3 The goal of 43-50 GW of offshore wind capacity in 2030 will require a nearly three-fold increase of offshore wind developments, as displayed in Table 1 of the Plan, which has been extracted in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Offshore Wind Deployment Figures as Displayed in Table 1 of the Clean Power Plan

Technology	Current Installed Capacity	NESO 'Further Flex and Renewables' Scenario	NESO 'New Dispatch' Scenario	DESNZ 'Clean Power Capacity Range'
Offshore Wind	14.8 GW	51 W	43 W	43 – 50 GW

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 This Addendum provides an update to the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement **[REP2-004]** in the context of the Seventh Carbon Budget published by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) on the 26 February 2025 and other relevant Government guidance.
- 4.1.2 The Seventh Carbon Budget shows there is an urgent need for new, low carbon energy generation in order to achieve the UK's carbon emissions targets. It strengthens the need for new low carbon generation which North Falls would contribute positively to in the form of approximately 1GW of additional generating capacity.
- 4.1.3 The Project can benefit the UK by contributing to a net zero future. NESO's advice to Government and the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (DESNZ 2024) highlight the importance of deploying offshore wind as the foundation of the clean power system.
- 4.1.4 Together, these documents demonstrate the need to accelerate additional offshore wind generating capacity without delay, and re-affirms the need for North Falls.

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NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm



HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited

A joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.

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