
Information for Oil and Gas Licence Holders

January 2020

As manager of the seabed out to 12 nautical miles and renewable energy rights within the Economic Zone (out to 200 nautical miles) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, The Crown Estate works closely with the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) to permit the development of offshore energy projects and the coexistence of offshore industries. The way in which The Crown Estate interacts and works with the OGA is outlined below.

The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate is a specialist real estate business with a portfolio that includes commercial property in central London (e.g. Regent Street), retail destinations across the country (e.g. Rushden Lakes in Northamptonshire, Fosse Park in Leicester) and management of the seabed around England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Set up by an Act of Parliament as an independent commercial business, we return all our profit to Treasury for the benefit of the nation. We are tasked by Parliament to grow income return and the underlying value of the business.

For more information about The Crown Estate please view our website at www.thecrownestate.co.uk

Energy, Minerals and Infrastructure

The Crown Estate has rights and responsibilities to the seabed out to the 12 nautical mile limit and the rights to renewable energy and other activities listed below out to the continental shelf. International law and UK legislation including the Energy Act 2004 and the Energy Act 2008 permit The Crown Estate to grant rights to:

- use the natural resources (excluding oil, coal and gas) of the sea bed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland which includes rights to dredge marine minerals;
- generate electricity from wind, waves and the tide of the sea bed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland which includes rights to develop offshore wind farms; and
- transport and store natural gas and carbon dioxide on the sea bed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland which includes carbon capture store.

Role of The Crown Estate in Offshore Renewable Energy

The Crown Estate's role in offshore renewable energy is outlined in a document provided in the Energy, Minerals and Infrastructure section of our website. The link to this document is: <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/1771/ei-the-crown-estate-role-in-offshore-renewable-energy.pdf>

The Crown Estate offshore wind information

The Crown Estate's offshore wind website provides details of its offshore wind portfolio, including details of all current projects from pre-planning to operational use (provided as "Offshore Wind Project Listing" under "Useful documents"):
<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/what-we-do/on-the-seabed/energy/>

It is recommended that oil and gas licensees initially attempt to contact the offshore renewable developers directly and relevant contacts in the OGA to discuss any potential spatial conflicts.

Offshore wind electricity map

The offshore wind electricity map highlights the location of each of the offshore wind farms leased by The Crown Estate. The map also shows the estimated total electricity being generated, as well as the contribution from each wind farm.

The link to the offshore wind electricity map is: <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/our-places/asset-map/#tab-2>

Data exchange arrangements between the OGA and The Crown Estate

The OGA and The Crown Estate have an information sharing agreement that seeks to ensure early visibility of existing and future oil and gas licences by the OGA, and other assets, including leases from The Crown Estate for renewable energy projects. The purpose of this is to identify any actual or potential spatial conflicts at the earliest opportunity.

The Crown Estate shares information with the OGA in confidence under a data sharing agreement. There are also regular meetings between The Crown Estate and the OGA to discuss existing/new/future spatial conflicts between The Crown Estate assets and the OGA licences.

Obtaining rights for the installation of oil and gas infrastructure from The Crown Estate

Installation of oil and gas infrastructure (including subsea platforms and pipeline infrastructure) located within the territorial limit (12nm) require the agreement of The Crown Estate. An example of our standard terms for a pipeline agreement is available at: https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/1765/pipeline_heads_of_terms.pdf

Contacting the Crown Estate

Parties seeking to develop install oil and gas infrastructure on the seabed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland should contact The Crown Estate and we can explain the process to grant seabed rights. The email address is: oilandgasenquiries@thecrownestate.co.uk

General enquiries to The Crown Estate can be made using the following guidance: <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/contact/>