

PROGRAMME

DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAMME

Project	East Anglia Offshore Wind ZE Meteorological Mast		
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REVISION SUMMARY

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1	12.11.2025	GoBe Consultants	Colin MacPherson	Catherine Sibley

DESCRIPTION OF REVISIONS

Rev	Page	Section	Reason for issue	Description
1	All	All	Issued for Use	For issue to consultees.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BEIS	Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy
BMAPA	British Marine Aggregate Producers Association
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
DP	Decommissioning Programme
EAOW	East Anglia Offshore Wind
EAOWL	East Anglia Offshore Wind Limited
EAZ	East Anglia Zone
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
OREIs	Offshore Renewable Energy Installations
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
RTK	Real-Time Kinematic
SoS	Secretary of State
UK	United Kingdom
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
ZE	Zone East

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1. INTRODUCTION

East Anglia Offshore Wind (EAOW) ZE is a Meteorological Mast (hereafter referred to as ‘met mast’) that was developed by East Anglia Offshore Wind Limited (EAOWL) as a joint venture between Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) and Vattenfall. The EAOW ZE met mast is a temporary structure that was utilised to gather critical meteorological data to inform Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and subsequently the design and construction of developments in the East Anglia Zone (EAZ)¹. The ZE met mast was constructed alongside another met mast called EAOW 1B, which is now decommissioned.

The EAOW ZE met mast is situated within the EAZ, located approximately 14 km from the closest point off the coastline at Suffolk, south-East England (see Figure 1-1).

Construction and installation of the met masts was conducted under Marine Licence reference L/2012/00046/3 in 2013. The Marine Licence was subject to a variation in August 2015 (L/2012/00046/11) to install two Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) base stations. These were required for the collection of scientific data for design amendments to foundation installations for the EA ONE Offshore Windfarm since December 2017. The RTK base stations were demobilised in May 2018. The Marine Licence allowed for an operational lifetime of 15 years. Therefore, the met mast must be decommissioned prior to the end of 2028.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAMME

EAOWL received notice under Section 105(2) of the Energy Act 2004 on the 26th August 2025. This notice requires that EAOWL prepare and submit a Decommissioning Programme (DP) to the Secretary of State (SoS) of Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) no later than 31st December 2025. This DP has been produced to outline the steps which will be taken to decommission the met mast in line with the Decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations guidance² and fulfil requirements of the Section 105 Notice.

EAOWL will submit a Marine Licence application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to decommission the met mast. The met mast will then be decommissioned following determination of the Marine Licence to conduct the works. As per the met masts original Licence, the met mast will be decommissioned prior to 2028. It is anticipated that the works will take approximately 4 weeks to complete. However, the programme will be confirmed during the decommissioning works Marine Licence process.

1.2 DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The structure of this DP is outlined in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 Document structure

Section	Overview
Section 1 – Introduction	Introduction to the DP.
Section 2 – Site Characteristics	Relevant background information including site characteristics.
Section 3 – Description of the Components to be Decommissioned	Brief description of the met mast components to be decommissioned.
Section 4 – Description of Proposed Decommissioning Measures	The overview of how the decommissioning process will take place, including options considered, guiding principles and the proposed methodology.
Section 5 - Consultation	Outline of the consultation being undertaken in accordance with the Section 105(2) Notice.

¹ The EAZ is in the North Sea off the east coast of East Anglia. It is one of nine offshore zones belonging to The Crown Estate which formed part of the third licence round for UK offshore wind farms.

² [Decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations under the Energy Act 2004: guidance notes for industry](#)

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Section	Overview
Section 6 – Financial Cost	Outline of the costs associated with decommissioning of the met mast.
Section 7 – Post-decommissioning Monitoring, Maintenance and Management	Details of the post-decommissioning monitoring/activities that will be required, following decommissioning.
Section 8 – Project Management and Verifications	Information relating to steps that will be taken in order to confirms that the seabed has been left as intended following decommissioning.

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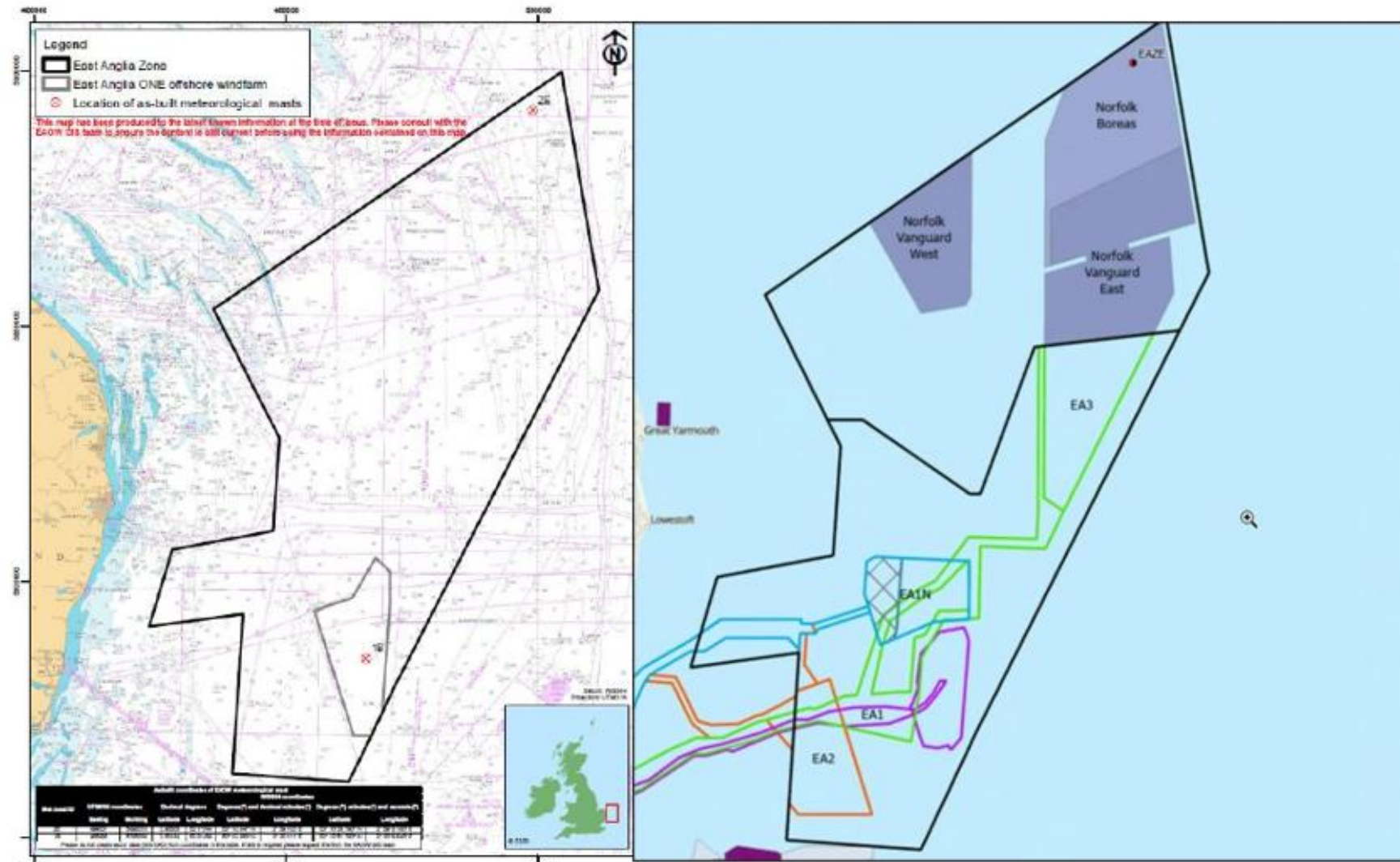


Figure 1-1 EAZ and EAOW ZE meteorological mast location

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2. SITE CHARACTERISTICS

As described in the application to construct the met mast EAOWL undertook geotechnical surveys in 2011 including acoustic ground discrimination system and side-scan sonar data to determine the offshore physical environment³. Due to the ground conditions, the site is unlikely to have high levels of disturbed nutrients and contaminants.

In regard to the biological environment, the mast is situated within an area of limited ecological interest. Habitat modelling of the area; ascertained to be Slightly Gravelly Sand with white catworm (*Nephtys cirrose*) and bristle worm (*Spiophanes bombyx*) being the key characterising taxa of the faunal community. The site offers low risk of reef features due to its lower faunal abundance. However, the 2011 survey identified areas of Sabellaria (*S. Spinulosa*) within the EAZ but was not present at the site of the met mast site or known to be within close proximity. Desktop studies indicate that the fish and shellfish, ornithological and marine mammal species are representative of the wider southern North Sea area.

Regarding the offshore human environment, the mast is located within the EAZ and close proximity to operational windfarms including Norfolk Boreas, Norfolk Vanguard (both in the pre-construction phase) and EA THREE (currently under construction). Due to the met mast being a discrete structure, comprising of a singular monopile, the met mast does not affect/impact upon fishing activities within the surrounding area.

A review of the baseline will be undertaken as part of the decommissioning works Marine Licence application.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPONENTS TO BE DECOMMISSIONED

The components of the met mast to be decommissioned are as detailed in Table 3-1. An illustration of the met mast is presented in Figure 3-1.

Table 3-1 Components of EAOW ZE met mast

Component	Parameter	Dimensions
Lattice Tower (LT)	Lift weight (mT)	43
	Overall dimensions (m)	3.9 x 4.3 x 83
	Connect detail	Bolted
	Height	+105.0 m Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)
Transition Piece (TP)	Lift weight (excludes equipment and ancillaries) (mT)	Primary steel - 87 Secondary – 40
	Overall Dimensions	3.75 OD (Bottom) x 20.6 m
	Grouted Connection (m ³)	7.5
	Interference Level (Including LT and TP)	+18.2 m LAT
Monopile	Weight (mT)	616
	Diameter at top (m) (Tapering from 6.0 m above mudline)	3.2
	Diameter at bottom (Tip) (m)	6
	Length (m)	74.5
	Water depth	-42.9 m LAT
	Penetration	-70.1 m LAT

³ ScottishPower Renewables and Vattenfall (2011) East Anglia Offshore Wind: Meteorological masts Marine Licence application

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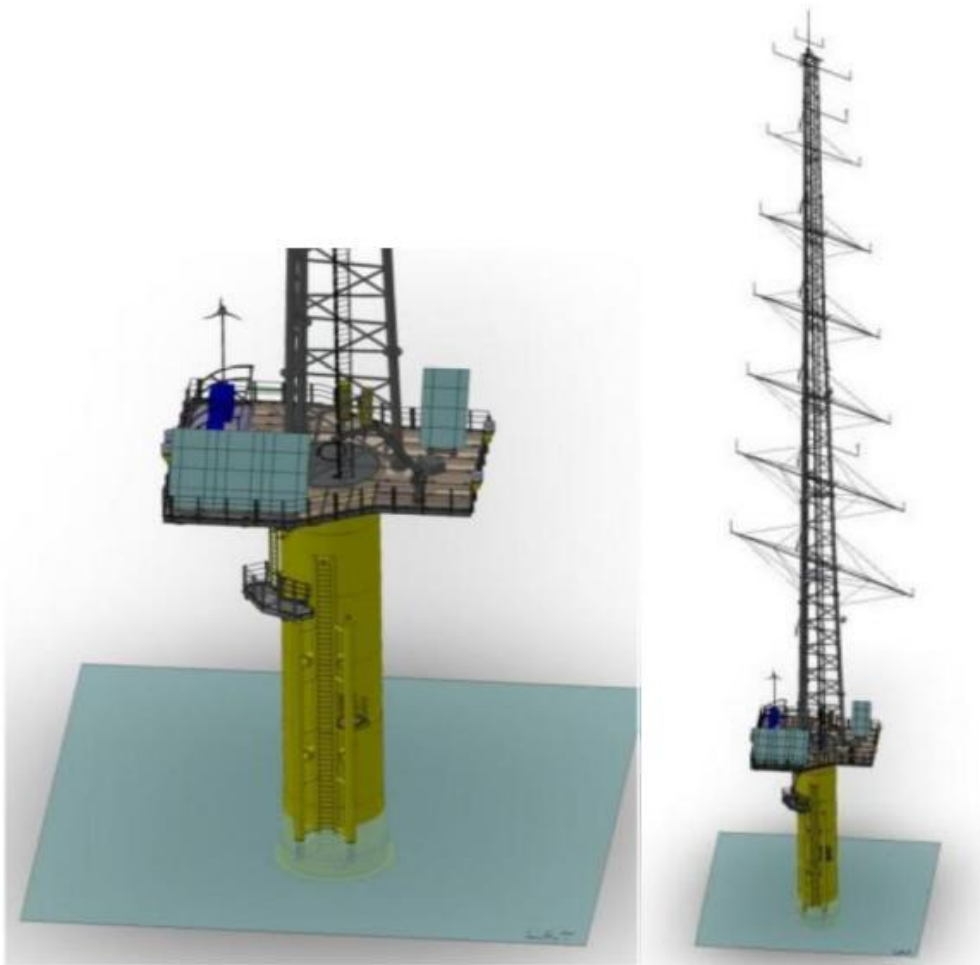


Figure 3-1 Illustration of a met mast demonstrating the individual components

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING MEASURES

The proposed decommissioning measures set out in the following section aim to adhere to the following key UK and International legislation and guidance notes:

- Decommissioning of Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs) under the Energy Act 2004: Guidance notes for Industry (BEIS, 2019)⁴;
- Guidelines and Standards for the Removal of Offshore Installations and Structures on the Continental Shelf and in the Exclusive Economic Zone, International Maritime Organisation (IMO), 19th October 1989;
- Guidance Notes for Industry: Decommissioning of Offshore Installations and Pipelines under the Petroleum Act 1998, DECC;
- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) guidance documents on offshore windfarms;
- Environmental Liability Directive;
- Guidelines for Environmental Risk Assessment and Management, Defra, September 2002; and
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982.

Other legislation, policy and guidance notes of relevance includes the following:

⁴ [Decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations under the Energy Act 2004: guidance notes for industry](#)

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- Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005;
- Coastal Protection Act 1949;
- Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;
- The Water Resources Act 1991;
- Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive);
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010;
- The disposal or recovery of waste on land, principally under Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, other legislation relating to the carriage and transfer of waste and, where appropriate, the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005;
- London Convention 1972 and the 1996 Protocol, relating to the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes;
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007;
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 which implements the EC Directive 92/43/EEC in the United Kingdom (if there is potential to disturb European Protected Species);
- Appropriate Health and Safety Regulations;
- MGN 654 and its annexes for OREIs - Guidance on UK Navigational Practice, Safety and Emergency Response; in particular, Annex 4 which addresses risk mitigation for all phases of the project including decommissioning, and Annex 5 which addresses the Search and Rescue considerations;
- UK Marine Policy Statement; and
- East Inshore/Offshore Marine Plans.

4.1 DECOMMISSIONING OPTIONS

The EAOW ZE Meteorological Mast is a temporary mast constructed under Marine Licence (L/2012/00046/13). The Marine Licence was granted under the condition that the mast is to remain operational for 15 years and to be decommissioned as per Section 105 and associated Decommissioning Programme. In addition to the requirement to decommission the mast, the most favourable option is to return the site to as close to the baseline conditions as reasonably possible. As the design life for the structure was intended to be 15 years, there is no safe method by which the foundation can be reused. However, EAOW has considered alternative options for decommissioning in the following sections.

4.1.1 Planned Integration

EAOWL has liaised with other offshore windfarm developers and offshore transmission owners in the vicinity of the met mast for synergies or economies of scale through decommissioning facilities at the same time. No opportunities were identified as no other infrastructure within the vicinity of the met mast are planned to be decommissioned at the same time.

4.1.2 Decommissioning and Construction of a New Met Mast

No requirement for a met mast has been identified at this time. Should there be a requirements in the future, construction would be subject to the necessary Marine Licence being granted.

4.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In considering the proposed DP EAOWL have considered the principles described in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Guiding principles

Guiding principles	Comments
No harm to people	EAOWL is committed to adhering to the highest standards for health and safety throughout the lifecycle of the project. EAOWL seek to promote safe practices and minimise risk in the development and implementation of decommissioning solutions.
Consider the rights and needs of legitimate users of the sea	EAOWL respects the rights and needs of other users of the sea. Decommissioning activities will seek to minimise the impact on stakeholders and emphasis will be placed on clear, open communication.

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Guiding principles	Comments
Minimise environmental impact	A Marine Licence including supporting assessments will be applied for to conduct the decommissioning works. This will include any relevant mitigations required to minimise the environmental impact of the works.
Promote sustainable development	In decommissioning, EAOWL will seek to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, future generations do not suffer from a diminished environment or from a compromised ability to make use of marine resources.
Adhere to the 'Polluter Pays' principle	EAOWL's decommissioning and waste management provisions acknowledge our responsibility to incur the costs associated with our impact on the environment.
Maximise re-use of materials	EAOWL is committed to maximising the re-use of waste materials and pays full regard to the 'waste hierarchy'.
Ensure commercial viability	In order that commercial viability is maintained, the best available technique not entailing excessive cost decommissioning solutions will be sought.
Ensure practical integrity	Solutions that are necessary to achieve one or more of the above objectives must be practicable.

Considering the UK's commitments under the UNCLOS; IMO standards and OSPAR, EAOWL's starting assumption in establishing the decommissioning requirements has been complete removal of all offshore components to shore for reuse, recycling or incineration with energy recovery or disposal at a licensed site.

4.3 PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING METHODOLOGY

A summary of the proposed decommissioning measures for the met mast are outlined in Table 4-2 below.

Table 4-2 Summary of proposed decommissioning measures

Component	Proposed decommissioning measures
Lattice tower	Complete removal and taken onshore for recycling or disposal at an appropriate facility.
Transition piece	Complete removal and taken onshore for recycling or disposal at an appropriate facility.
Monopiles	Removal of monopile cut at a depth of approximately 1 to 2 m below the scour protection level.

EAOWL is committed to restoring the site of the met mast to as far as is reasonably practicable and, in the manner, agreed with the relevant authorities and stakeholders. Consistent with the decommissioning provisions detailed above, the key restoration work will relate to ensuring that the monopile is cut 1 - 2 m below the scour protection and made safe and adequately covered.

A survey will be undertaken to ensure that all project debris which has been identified for removal has been removed. The survey will enable identification and recovery of any debris located on the seabed which may have arisen from activities related to the decommissioning process and which may pose a risk to navigation or fishing gear.

Detailed construction methodologies will be outlined and assessed as part of the Marine Licence application to conduct the decommissioning works.

5. CONSULTATION

As detailed under the EAOW ZE Section 105(2) Notice, EAOW ZE are required to carry out consultation specified in the notice before submitting a DP to DESNZ for approval. The Section 105 notice sets out the following bodies:

- Marine Management Organisation;
- Natural England;
- Chamber of Shipping;
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency;
- Royal Yachting Association;

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- Trinity House;
- National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation;
- Conservation Agency;
- Relevant Harbour Authorities (Port of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Port Authority, Sizewell C Harbour Authority);
- Relevant Inshore Fisheries;
- Environment Agency; and
- British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA).

In addition, and in accordance with the DESNZ guidance (BEIS, 2019), EAOWL offered other interested parties i.e. Non-section 105 consultees the opportunity to consult on this DP. These parties were identified as follows:

- Historic England;
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO);
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC);
- The Crown Estate; and
- RWE.

Letters have been issued to the relevant consultees alongside a copy of the DP. In addition, the DP was hosted on the EA website, and a Public Notice was published in a local newspaper (The East Anglia Daily Times) to allow members of the public to provide comment. Consultee responses will be addressed within the subsequent revision of this DP following the consultation period required by the DESNZ guidance (BEIS, 2019).

6. FINANCIAL COST

A detailed cost estimate for decommissioning works will be submitted for approval by DESNZ in line with the requirements set out in the DESNZ guidance (BEIS, 2019).

7. POST DECOMMISSIONING MONITORING, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Given that EAOWL will cut the monopile to 1 to 2 m below the scour protection level, a post-decommissioning monitoring survey will be undertaken immediately following post removal. This measure will be undertaken to identify and mitigate any risks to commercial fishing, navigation, or other users of the sea. The requirement for future monitoring, timing, the extent, and approach taken will be determined based on the scale of the remaining infrastructure, the risk of exposure and the risk to other marine users following the initial post decommissioning survey and the supporting assessment of the decommissioning works Marine Licence application.

8. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND VERIFICATIONS

Following decommissioning works, a EAOWL Decommissioning Report will be submitted to the appropriate regulatory authorities, within four months of completion. In accordance with the DESNZ guidance (BEIS, 2019) the decommissioning report will include:

- Evidence (e.g., photographic evidence of infrastructure out of the water, or survey footage of the seabed) that decommissioning has been undertaken in accordance with the DP;
- Independent verification that decommissioning took place in accordance with the approved DP and the assessed impacts on the environment. Should there be any variations from the approved DP, a statement will be provided with reasoning;
- Any surveys which may be required to enable the identification and subsequent recovery of any debris located on the seabed which may have arisen from the owner's/developer's activities, and which may pose a risk to navigation, other users of the sea or the marine environment. These should cover the site and an appropriate buffer zone to allow a comparison with the environment prior to construction;
- A compliance statement setting out how relevant regulations (environment, health, and safety) have been complied with together with any instances of non-compliance);

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- A cost breakdown to enable DESNZ to understand the actual cost of decommissioning compared to the predicted cost and to gain a better understanding of the potential accuracy of new DP's.