Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm

Offshore Transmission Development Area

Marine Protected Areas Screening Report – Volume 3

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Term	Definition
Applicant	Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, the legal entity submitting a Marine Licence application for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area.
Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm (or the Bellrock Project)	An offshore wind farm capable of exporting up to 1.8 GW of renewable energy to the National Electricity Transmission System. The Wind Farm Development Area is located 120 km east of Stonehaven, and will connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed SSEN Transmission Hurlie substation, west of Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire. The Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm comprises of the following Development Areas: ▪ Wind Farm Development Area; ▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and ▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area.
Bellrock OfTDA Whole Project Assessment	Assessment of potential interactions between the Bellrock OfTDA impacts which overlap with the WFDA and OnTDA impacts, and how these interactions may influence the magnitude of impacts and the significance of effects identified for the Offshore Transmission Development Area.
Cable Protection	Protective measure to minimise the effects of scour and hazards along the interconnector and offshore export cables, and protecting these cables at infrastructure crossing points.
Construction works	Works to install the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure as authorised by the Offshore Transmission Development Area Marine Licence, such as: ▪ Pre-installation surveys (intrusive and/or non-intrusive); ▪ Offshore substation/offshore reactive compensation station installation and associated vessel activities; fixed foundation installation; scour protection installation; topside lifting, installation and integration; offshore lifting operations and testing and commissioning; ▪ Offshore export cable installation and associated vessel activities, landfall installation (seaward of Mean High Water Springs), cable lay and burial, installation of cable crossings, cable installation at offshore substation/offshore reactive compensation station, installation of terminations at the offshore substation/offshore reactive compensation station, installation of subsea joints, post-lay burial and cable protection installation; ▪ Final commissioning following cable connections and snagging; and ▪ Post-installation surveys.
Decommissioning	The process of removing, dismantling, or otherwise making safe of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure at the end of its operational life, in accordance with the relevant regulatory requirements and an approved decommissioning strategy.

Term	Definition
Development Area	For consenting purposes, the area for which separate consents and/or Marine Licences will be sought by the Applicant, comprising: ▪ Wind Farm Development Area; ▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and ▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area.
High Voltage Alternating Current	An electrical power transmission system that uses alternating current (AC) at high voltages to transmit electricity efficiently over long distances. HVAC infrastructure includes HVAC offshore export cables, offshore substation(s) and offshore reactive compensation station(s) to collect, transform and transmit electricity to the National Electricity Transmission System.
High Voltage Direct Current	An electrical power transmission system that uses direct current (DC) at high voltages to transmit electricity efficiently over long distances. HVDC infrastructure includes HVDC export cables, and a converter station to convert electricity between direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC) and to collect, transform and transmit electricity for transmission to the National Electricity Transmission System.
Hurlie substation	SSEN Transmission's substation, which will receive renewable electricity from the Bellrock Project's onshore substation and allow supply of renewable electricity to the National Electricity Transmission System.
Interconnector cable	Armoured cable containing electrical and fibre optic cores which link two or more offshore substations.
Landfall	The area in which the offshore export cables come ashore and transition between the offshore export cables and the onshore export cables. For the purpose of the Offshore Transmission Development Area, the landfall includes the area seaward of Mean High Water Springs.
Mean High Water Springs	The average over a year of the heights of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours (once every fortnight) when the range of the tide is greatest.
Mean Low Water Springs	The average over a year of the heights of two successive low waters during those periods of 24 hours (once every fortnight) when the range of the tide is greatest.
National Electricity Transmission System	The high-voltage electricity power transmission network serving Great Britain which receives electricity from generators (such as offshore wind farms) and transmits that electricity to anywhere on the National Electricity Transmission System to satisfy demand.
Offshore export cable	Armoured cable containing electrical and fibre optic cores between the offshore substation(s), offshore reactive compensation station(s) and the transition joint bay(s).
Offshore export cable corridor	The section of the Offshore Transmission Development Area within which the offshore export cable route will be located.

Term	Definition
Offshore reactive compensation station	A fixed bottom substructure offshore platform located within the offshore export cable corridor that accommodates reactive compensation equipment used to control reactive power flows and maintain acceptable voltage levels in the high voltage alternating current transmission system.
Offshore substation	A fixed bottom substructure offshore platform which houses electrical equipment such as transformers, switchgear, and protection and control systems, enabling the wind farm's renewable electricity to be received via inter-array cables and exported via the offshore export cables.
Offshore Transmission Development Area	The boundary within which the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned seaward of Mean High Water Springs (and overlaps the whole of the Wind Farm Development Area and partially overlaps with the Onshore Development Area at landfall).
Offshore Transmission Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the Offshore Transmission Development Area including fixed bottom offshore substation(s), fixed bottom offshore reactive compensation station(s) and associated scour protection; interconnector cable(s) and associated cable protection; landfall (seaward of Mean High Water Springs), and offshore export cables and associated cable protection (including activities associated with the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning).
Onshore Transmission Development Area	The boundary within which the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned (and partially overlaps with the Offshore Transmission Development Area at the landfall).
Onshore Transmission Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the Onshore Transmission Development Area including transition joint bay(s); onshore export cables; onshore substation; temporary construction compounds; temporary working areas; environmental mitigation areas; drainage/irrigation infrastructure; access works; and any other associated infrastructure (including activities associated with the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning).
Operational life	The expected operational life of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure from the Commercial Operation Date to the first component of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure being decommissioned.
Ramp-up	Ramp-up follows on from the soft start piling procedure. It comprises a specified minimum period of piling, starting at the highest low-energy blow level achieves in the soft start and gradually increasing in hammer energy. The maximum hammer energy required (operational power for that specific pile) must not be reached within the ramp-up period.
Scour protection	Protective material positioned around fixed substructures to avoid sediment being eroded as a result of the flow of water.
Screening Boundary	The area considered at the screening stage within which the relevant Development Area and its associated infrastructure is expected to be developed.

Term	Definition
Soft start	The procedure used to commence piling at a low hammer energy. The soft start procedure consists of low-energy blows which are followed by the ramp-up procedure.
Trenchless technique	A subsurface construction method, such as horizontal directional drilling, used to install ducts and offshore export cables with no surface excavation between the entry and exit points.
Wind Farm Development Area	The boundary within which the Wind Farm Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned.
Wind Farm Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the Wind Farm Development Area including wind turbine generators; floating substructures, station keeping systems and associated scour protection; inter-array cables and associated cable protection; subsea cable hubs; and ancillary infrastructure including buoys (including activities associated with the Wind Farm Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning).

Glossary of Abbreviations

Term	Definition
COLREGs	Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
D&R	Demonstration and Research
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MU	Management Unit
ncMPA	Nature Conservation MPA
nm	Nautical miles
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OfRCS	Offshore reactive compensations stations
OfSS	Offshore substation
OfTDA	Offshore Transmission Development Area
OnTDA	Onshore Transmission Development Area
SSC	suspended sediment concentrations
UWN	Underwater noise
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
WFDA	Wind Farm Development Area
ZoI	Zone of Influence

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1 Introduction

1. This **Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Screening Report** presents a preliminary screening assessment of the potential for the construction, operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure to affect MPAs in Scottish waters. The screening assessment identifies relevant MPAs and determines whether the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is capable of affecting any MPA other than insignificantly, in order to inform the scope of any MPA assessment that may be required to support the future Bellrock OfTDA Marine Licence Application. The MPA Assessment process consists of two stages, the first of which is the initial screening stage (Stage 1) which is presented in this **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report**, with further detail on the methodology presented in **Section 4.1**. Where Stage 1 screening identifies MPAs that could be affected other than insignificantly, these will be taken forward for further consideration in the main assessment (Stage 2), the methodology for which is presented in **Section 4.2**.

1.1 Bellrock Project Overview

2. The Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm (the Bellrock Project) is a proposed floating offshore wind farm, which will generate and transmit renewable electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission's proposed Hurlie substation in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The Bellrock Project comprises the following three Development Areas for which separate consents and/or licences will be sought by Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant):

- The Bellrock OfTDA within which the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned. The Bellrock OfTDA overlaps the whole of the Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area (WFDA) and partially overlaps with the Bellrock Onshore Transmission Development Area (OnTDA). The Bellrock OfTDA extends seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS);
- The Bellrock WFDA within which the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned. The Bellrock WFDA is located 120 km east of Stonehaven (116 km southeast of Peterhead), Aberdeenshire and covers an area of 280 km^2; and
- The Bellrock OnTDA, within which the Bellrock Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned (and overlaps partially with the Bellrock OfTDA). The Bellrock OnTDA extends landward of Mean Low Water Springs at landfall to the proposed Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission Hurlie substation.

3. This **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report** considers the Bellrock OfTDA only. A detailed description of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is provided in **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**. As an overview, the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure includes:

- **Offshore substation(s) (OfSS(s)):** up to six fixed bottom substructure OfSS(s), all located within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA;
- **Interconnector cable(s):** up to five high voltage alternating current interconnector cable(s), each approximately 25 km in length, all located within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA, with associated cable protection where required;
- **Offshore export cables:** two to six offshore export cables (either high voltage alternating current or high voltage direct current), each approximately 170 km in length, with associated cable protection where required;
- **Offshore reactive compensation station(s) (OfRCS(s)):** up to two fixed bottom substructure OfRCS(s), located at least 39 km from the Scottish coastline (not required should a high voltage direct current electrical design be adopted);
- **Scour protection:** for the OfSS(s) and the OfRCS(s) where required;
- **Landfall:** up to six ducts installed by a trenchless technique, and offshore export cables installed below MHWS at Cowie, Aberdeenshire; and
- Ancillary infrastructure including buoys.

4. This **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report** considers all infrastructure and associated activities for the Bellrock OfTDA seaward of MHWS. The Applicant will hold a seabed lease for the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure for up to 60 years, with the Wind Farm Infrastructure having an operational life of up to 35 years. It is anticipated that the operational life of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be up to 40 years to allow for seasonal construction and decommissioning of the Wind Farm Infrastructure.

5. All stages, construction (including site preparation[1]), O&M and decommissioning, of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure have been considered in this **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report**.

[1] For the purposes of this Bellrock MPA Screening Report, site preparation is assessed under construction works.

2 Legislative and Policy Context

2.1 Marine Protected Areas in Scotland

6. MPAs in Scottish waters are designated under two principal legislative frameworks; the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, which applies within Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles (nm)), and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, which applies within Scottish offshore waters, between 12 and 200 nm. Together, these acts establish the statutory basis for the designation and management of MPAs in Scottish waters.

7. Three types of MPAs are designated in Scottish waters (Scottish Government, 2025):

- Nature Conservation MPAs (ncMPAs) may be designated where the Scottish Ministers consider it desirable to do so for the purposes of conserving marine flora and fauna, marine habitats or types of such habitat, and features of geological or geomorphological interest;
- Demonstration and Research (D&R) MPAs may be designated for the purposes of demonstrating sustainable methods of marine management or exploitation, or undertaking research into such methods; and
- Historic MPAs may be designated for the purpose of preserving marine historic assets of national importance, including assets that are known or reasonably believed to be located within the proposed area.

8. Together, these three categories of MPAs form the MPA network in Scottish waters and provide the basis for considering potential effects on MPAs as required under Section 83 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and Section 126 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Further detail on the statutory assessment requirements is provided in **Section 2.2**.

2.2 Statutory Assessment Requirements

9. Under Section 83 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, where a public authority is determining an application for authorisation of an act that is capable of affecting, other than insignificantly, a protected feature of a ncMPA, a stated purpose for a D&R MPA, a marine historic asset in a Historic MPA, or any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature in a ncMPA or on which the stated purpose for a D&R MPA depends (in whole or in part), the authority must consider whether there is a significant risk that the act would hinder the achievement of the stated conservation objectives for an ncMPA, the stated purpose for a D&R MPA, or the stated preservation objectives for a Historic MPA.

10. Where the public authority considers that there is, or may be, a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the stated objectives/purpose for an MPA, it is required to notify the Scottish Ministers and NatureScot (or Historic Environment Scotland), and to take account of any relevant advice or guidance provided, prior to determining the application.

11. In accordance with Section 83(4) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, the public authority must not grant authorisation for the proposed act unless either:

- It is satisfied that there is no significant risk of the act hindering the achievement of the stated conservation objectives of the ncMPA, the stated purpose for the D&R MPA, or the stated preservation objectives for the Historic MPA; or
- Where such a conclusion cannot be reached, it is satisfied that:
  - There are no alternative means of proceeding with the act which would create a substantially lower risk of hindering the achievement of the relevant objectives/purpose;
  - The benefit to the public of proceeding with the act clearly outweighs the risk of damage to the environment (or the marine historic asset) that will be created by proceeding with it; and
  - In relation to an ncMPA or a D&R MPA, measures of equivalent environmental benefit will be undertaken, or arrangements made for the undertaking of such measures, in relation to the damage which the act will, or is likely to, have in or on the MPA.

12. For completeness, it is noted that equivalent statutory duties are set out under Section 126 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, which applies to ncMPAs designated in Scottish offshore waters between 12 and 200 nm from the coast. The decision-making tests under Section 126 are materially equivalent to those set out in Section 83 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, requiring consideration of whether an act would pose a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the objectives/purpose of an MPA, and, where such risk cannot be excluded, the application of tests relating to alternatives, public benefit, and measures of equivalent environmental benefit.

3 Consultation

13. A Scoping Information Package for the Bellrock OfTDA was provided to the Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT), Marine Directorate Science Evidence Data and Digital, Marine Directorate Marine Analytical Unit, NatureScot and Aberdeenshire Council in May 2026. The Scoping Information Package provided an overview of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary[2] and the associated Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, as well as information on the key potential impacts, and proposed assessment methodologies.

14. Whilst consultation was primarily undertaken to inform **the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**, information relevant to the proposed MPA assessment approach, including the MPA screening methodology and initial identification of MPAs was also presented to consultees. Feedback received through this process has been used to inform the preparation of this **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report**.

15. A summary of the consultation undertaken through the Scoping Information Package relevant to the MPA assessment is presented in **Table 3.1**.

[2] For the purposes of this **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report (Volume 3)**, the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary refers to the same spatial boundary as the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Boundary presented in the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

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Table 3.1 Consultation Relevant to MPAs

Consultee	Date/Document	Comment	How Comment is Addressed
NatureScot	12 June 2026 Formal response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package	It is NatureScot's understanding that the OfTDA Screening Boundary will not directly overlap with any ncMPA but will be adjacent to the Firth of Forth Banks Complex ncMPA.	Noted.
NatureScot	12 June 2026 Formal response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package	It would have been useful to include maps that show the location of the OfTDA Screening Boundary as well as ncMPA, Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest for relevant ecological receptors. NatureScot note that connectivity with designated sites is discussed further in slide-packs covering marine mammals, ornithology and physical processes; however, the benthic ecology slides do not appear to make reference to nearby ncMPAs. In relation to MPA screening, NatureScot would expect further narrative and explanation to be provided in the Scoping Report.	Figures showing the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and the ncMPAs are shown in **Appendix A: Figures.** Narrative is provided throughout this **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report.**
NatureScot	12 June 2026 Formal response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package	NatureScot advise - as the Firth of Forth Banks Complex ncMPA adjoins the boundary of the Bellrock OfTDA and overlaps with the study area for a number of receptor assessments, NatureScot agree that at this stage all features / species should be screened in for further assessment. NatureScot will continue to liaise with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) throughout the consenting process to provide joint advice with respect to the offshore ncMPAs when required.	Figures showing the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and the ncMPAs are shown in **Appendix A: Figures**. **Section 5.3.1** presents the screening assessment for benthic and geodiversity features of ncMPAs, including the Firth of Forth Banks Complex ncMPA. The shelf banks and mounds feature is proposed to be screened out of further assessment due to the absence of direct overlap or overlap with the precautionary 10 km zone of influence (ZoI). The Quaternary of Scotland – moraines feature is also proposed to be screened out, as it is not considered sensitive to increases in suspended sediment concentrations (SSCs) or sediment deposition, and any changes to tidal current flow associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure would be negligible and highly localised. The ocean quahog *Arctica islandica* aggregations and offshore subtidal sands and gravels features are preliminarily screened in for further assessment, with connectivity to be reviewed following completion of site selection and definition of the Bellrock OfTDA.

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4 Assessment Methodology

4.1 Stage 1: Screening

16. Screening was undertaken to identify MPAs with the potential to be affected by the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and to determine whether the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is capable of affecting any MPA other than insignificantly.

17. The screening process considered the potential for connectivity and impact pathways between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and MPAs in Scottish waters, taking account of the protected features, stated purposes, or marine historic assets of the relevant MPA designations. Screening was undertaken with reference to the activities and impact pathways associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.

18. Identification of relevant MPAs was informed by consideration of potential source-pathway-receptor relationships and ecological connectivity between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and protected features, stated purposes, and marine historic assets protected by the relevant MPA designations.

19. ncMPAs were screened with consideration of the potential effects on protected benthic and geodiversity features, fish and shellfish features, marine mammal features, and ornithological features. In line with the scoping advice provided by NatureScot for the Bellrock WFDA (Scottish Government, 2024), connectivity with ncMPAs was identified where the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure has the potential to affect the protected feature within the ncMPA boundary. Feature specific ZoIs, informed by relevant impact pathways, were applied where relevant to support identification of relevant ncMPAs. The applied ZoIs are described in **Section 5.3**.

20. D&R MPAs and Historic MPAs were screened with consideration of whether any plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship existed between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the stated purpose of the designation or the marine historic asset protected by the designation.

21. MPAs were screened out from further assessment where no plausible impact pathway or connectivity with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure was identified, or where the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure was not considered capable of affecting the MPA other than insignificantly. MPAs for which potential impact pathways could not be excluded were screened in and will be taken forward for Stage 2 main assessment (**Section 4.2**).

22. The Stage 1 screening has been undertaken based on the project information available at the time of writing. Where additional project-specific information or technical studies become available (e.g. underwater noise (UWN) modelling), the screening process and conclusions will be reviewed and updated as appropriate as part of the iterative process. The Applicant will consult with MD-LOT, NatureScot, and Historic Environment Scotland, where relevant, in relation to any revised screening conclusions and the resulting scope of any Stage 2 main assessment.

4.2 Stage 2: Main Assessment

23. The main assessment (if required) will be presented as a standalone document submitted alongside the Bellrock OfTDA Environmental Impact Assessment Report and will consider in greater detail the potential effects of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure on MPAs screened into the assessment.

24. The main assessment stage will focus on determining whether there is a significant risk of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure hindering the achievement of:

- The stated conservation objectives for the ncMPA;
- The stated purpose for the D&R MPA; or
- The stated preservation objectives for the Historic MPA.

25. As with the Stage 1 screening process described in **Section 4.1**, the assessment will consider factors including the nature, scale, timing, duration, and spatial extent of the potential impacts associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, alongside the sensitivity of the relevant protected features, stated purposes, or marine historic assets.

26. The Bellrock OfTDA Whole Project Assessment will also follow the general methodology set out in **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report**, which will consider how the interactions between the Bellrock OfTDA and the Bellrock WFDA and OnTDA may influence the magnitude and significance of effects identified for relevant MPA receptors.

27. The Bellrock OfTDA Cumulative Effects Assessment will follow the general methodology set out in **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**. The Cumulative Effects Assessment will assess the impacts identified through the Bellrock OfTDA Whole Project Assessment together with impacts from other reasonably foreseeable plans and projects, with conceptual, spatial, and/or temporal overlap, to determine the potential for cumulative impacts and associated cumulative effects on MPA receptors.

5 Marine Protected Area Screening Assessment

5.1 Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Areas

28. This section presents the results of the Stage 1 screening assessment for D&R MPAs, undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 4.1**. One D&R MPA is currently designated in Scottish waters, the Fair Isle D&R MPA. The Fair Isle D&R MPA is located approximately 260 km to the north of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (**Figure A.1** in **Appendix A**).

29. Given the substantial separation distance between the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and the Fair Isle D&R MPA, no plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship is identified between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the stated purpose of the designation. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is therefore not considered capable of affecting the Fair Isle D&R MPA other than insignificantly, and the site has been **screened out** of further assessment.

5.2 Historic Marine Protected Areas

30. This section presents the results of the Stage 1 screening assessment for Historic MPAs, undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 4.1**. There are currently 27 Historic MPAs designated in Scottish waters. The closest Historic MPA to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, approximately 120 km to the southwest, is the Campania Historic MPA (**Figure A.2** in **Appendix A**), which protects the wreck of the Campania, a former Cunard liner converted in 1914 for use as a fleet air arm carrier, which sank in 1918 (Historic Environment Scotland, 2015).

31. A further group of 17 Historic MPAs is located in the Orkney Islands, approximately 200 km north of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. The remaining Historic MPAs are distributed along the west coast of Scotland.

32. Given the nature of Historic MPAs as discrete, location-specific marine historic assets and the substantial separation distances between the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and all Historic MPAs, no plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship is identified. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is therefore not capable of affecting, other than insignificantly, the Historic MPAs and all sites are **screened out** of further assessment.

5.3 Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas

33. This section presents the results of the Stage 1 screening assessment for ncMPAs, undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 4.1**. The screening conclusions may be reviewed and updated where additional project-specific information becomes available, including the results of technical studies such as UWN modelling.

5.3.1 Benthic and Geodiversity Features

34. A precautionary 10 km ZoI was applied to identify connectivity between the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and ncMPAs designated for benthic and geodiversity features. Most potential impacts on benthic and geodiversity receptors are expected to be localised and largely confined to the footprint of seabed contacting infrastructure and the immediate surrounding area within the Bellrock OfTDA. However, some impacts associated with the construction (and decommissioning) and, to a lesser extent, the O&M of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, including increases in SSCs and sediment deposition, remobilisation of existing contaminated sediments, and changes to physical processes, have the potential to extend over a wider area. The 10 km ZoI was therefore applied on a precautionary basis to capture these more wide-ranging impacts.

35. Application of the 10 km ZoI identified a single ncMPA designated for benthic and geodiversity features with potential connectivity to the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, the Firth of Forth Banks Complex ncMPA. The screening assessment for this ncMPA is presented in **Section 5.3.1.1**.

5.3.1.1 Firth of Forth Banks Complex Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area

36. The Firth of Forth Banks Complex ncMPA comprises three discrete areas: Berwick Bank, Scalp and Wee Bankie, and Montrose Bank (see **Figure A.3** in **Appendix A**). The ncMPA is designated for the following protected features (JNCC, 2024):

- Ocean quahog aggregations;
- Offshore subtidal sands and gravels;
- Quaternary of Scotland – moraines; and
- Shelf banks and mounds.

37. There is no direct spatial overlap between the Firth of Forth Banks Complex ncMPA and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. The boundary of the Montrose Bank component of the ncMPA is contiguous with the southern boundary of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, and a small portion of the Scalp and Wee Bankie component lies within the 10 km ZoI. However, the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is broadly defined at this stage to provide flexibility during the site selection process. Following completion of site selection, the OfTDA Screening Boundary will be refined to the Bellrock OfTDA. It is anticipated that this refinement process will increase the separation distance between the Bellrock OfTDA and the ncMPA. The Berwick Bank component is located outside of the ZoI and is therefore not considered further.

38. The shelf banks and mounds protected feature is located outside of the ZoI and is therefore not considered to have connectivity with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. As such, no plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship is identified for this feature, and it has been **screened out** of further assessment.

39. Geodatabase of Marine features adjacent to Scotland data (NatureScot and JNCC, 2026) indicate the presence of ocean quahog aggregations within the portion of the ncMPA overlapping with the ZoI. In addition, suitable habitat for ocean quahog is understood to occur throughout the ncMPA (JNCC, 2018). Geodatabase of Marine features adjacent to Scotland data also indicates the ubiquitous presence of offshore subtidal sands and gravels across the ncMPA and wider offshore marine environment (NatureScot and JNCC, 2026). Whilst no direct physical interaction with either protected feature of the ncMPA is anticipated, there is potential for impacts such as increases in SSCs and sediment deposition, and remobilisation of existing contaminated sediments[3]. On this basis, a plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship cannot be excluded for these features.

40. The moraines representative of the Quaternary of Scotland protected feature overlap with the ZoI, primarily within the Scalp and Wee Bankie component of the ncMPA. However, the Feature Activity Sensitivity Tool (2026) indicates that moraines are not sensitive to pressures associated with increases in SSCs and deposition. Whilst the Feature Activity Sensitivity Tool identifies medium sensitivity to change in tidal current flow, any hydrodynamic changes arising from Offshore Transmission Infrastructure would be highly localised and confined to the vicinity of the infrastructure. Consequently, no plausible pathway for significant hydrodynamic alteration affecting the moraines feature has been identified and the feature has been **screened out** from further assessment.

41. In conclusion, the ocean quahog aggregations and the offshore subtidal sands and gravels protected features have been **screened in** for further consideration within the main assessment due to the potential for impacts associated with increased SSCs and sediment deposition, and remobilisation of existing contaminated sediments[3]. This conclusion is preliminary and will be reviewed following completion of the offshore export cable corridor site selection process, when the Bellrock OfTDA is refined from the current OfTDA Screening Boundary and the refined ZoI can be considered.

5.3.2 Fish and Shellfish Features

42. A 60 km ZoI was applied to identify connectivity between the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and ncMPAs designated for fish and shellfish[4] features. The ZoI was informed by UWN modelling undertaken for the **Bellrock WFDA Environmental Impact Assessment Report** (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026), which included assessment of piling activities associated with the installation of both the Wind Farm Infrastructure and Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

[3] The impact 'remobilisation of existing contaminated sediments' is currently screened in on a precautionary basis. However, if sediment contamination analysis shows that contaminant levels are below relevant thresholds this impact will be screened out.

[4] Ocean quahog aggregations are considered within the benthic and geodiversity features assessment due to their association with benthic ecological processes, rather than within the fish and shellfish features assessment.

(OfSS(s) only). The UWN modelling identified a maximum impact range of 60 km for stationary fish receptors, based on Popper et al. (2014).

43. Application of the 60 km ZoI identified a single ncMPA designated for fish and shellfish features with potential connectivity to the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, the Turbot Bank ncMPA. The screening assessment for this ncMPA is presented in **Section 5.3.2.1**.

5.3.2.1 Turbot Bank Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area

44. The Turbot Bank ncMPA is located to the northeast of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (**Figure A.4** in **Appendix A**). The ncMPA is designated for Sandeel (*Ammodytes marinus*/*A. tobianus*).

45. There is no direct spatial overlap between the Turbot Bank ncMPA and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, with the ncMPA located approximately 20 km from the closest point of the OfTDA Screening Boundary. As a result of this separation distance, most potential impacts associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, including physical disturbance of seabed habitats, permanent habitat loss, electromagnetic fields, thermal emissions, and other impacts with relatively localised ZoIs, are not considered relevant due to the absence of connectivity with the protected feature of the ncMPA. Similarly, impacts associated with increases in SSCs and sediment deposition are not considered capable of affecting the protected feature due to the separation distance between the OfTDA Screening Boundary and the ncMPA.

46. At this separation distance, UWN and vibration associated with piling activities represents the only plausible impact pathway requiring consideration. The precautionary 60 km ZoI was based on the hearing sensitivity of the most sensitive fish receptors (Group 3 (as defined by Popper et al., 2014)). However, sandeel do not possess a swim bladder and are therefore considered to have a low hearing sensitivity (Group 1 (as defined by Popper et al., 2014)), with sensitivity limited to particle motion rather than sound pressure.

47. The Bellrock WFDA UWN modelling (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026) identified a maximum recoverable injury range of 1.6 km for stationary fish receptors without swim bladders during sequential piling of three OfSS driven piles (located within the Bellrock OfTDA where it overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA). This is consistent with published evidence presented by Thomsen et al. (2015) and Miller et al. (2016), which indicates that particle motion levels capable of resulting in adverse effects on fish species without swim bladders, such as sandeel, are generally limited to distances of around 1 km from the source.

48. On this basis, no plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship is identified between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the protected sandeel feature of the Turbot Bank ncMPA. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is therefore not considered capable of affecting the protected feature of the ncMPA other than insignificantly, and the ncMPA is **screened out** of further assessment.

5.3.3 Marine Mammal Features

49. The marine mammal protected features of ncMPAs in Scottish waters comprise Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus* and minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*.

50. Due to the highly mobile nature of marine mammals, screening connectivity was undertaken based on species-specific Management Units (MUs) (as defined by the Inter-agency Marine Mammal Working Group, 2023), which are used to present broad population ranges for cetacean species. The relevant MU for both Risso's dolphin and minke whale is the Celtic and Greater North Sea MU (please see **Plate 5.1**) (Inter-agency Marine Mammal Working Group, 2023)). All ncMPAs designated for marine mammal features fall within this MU.

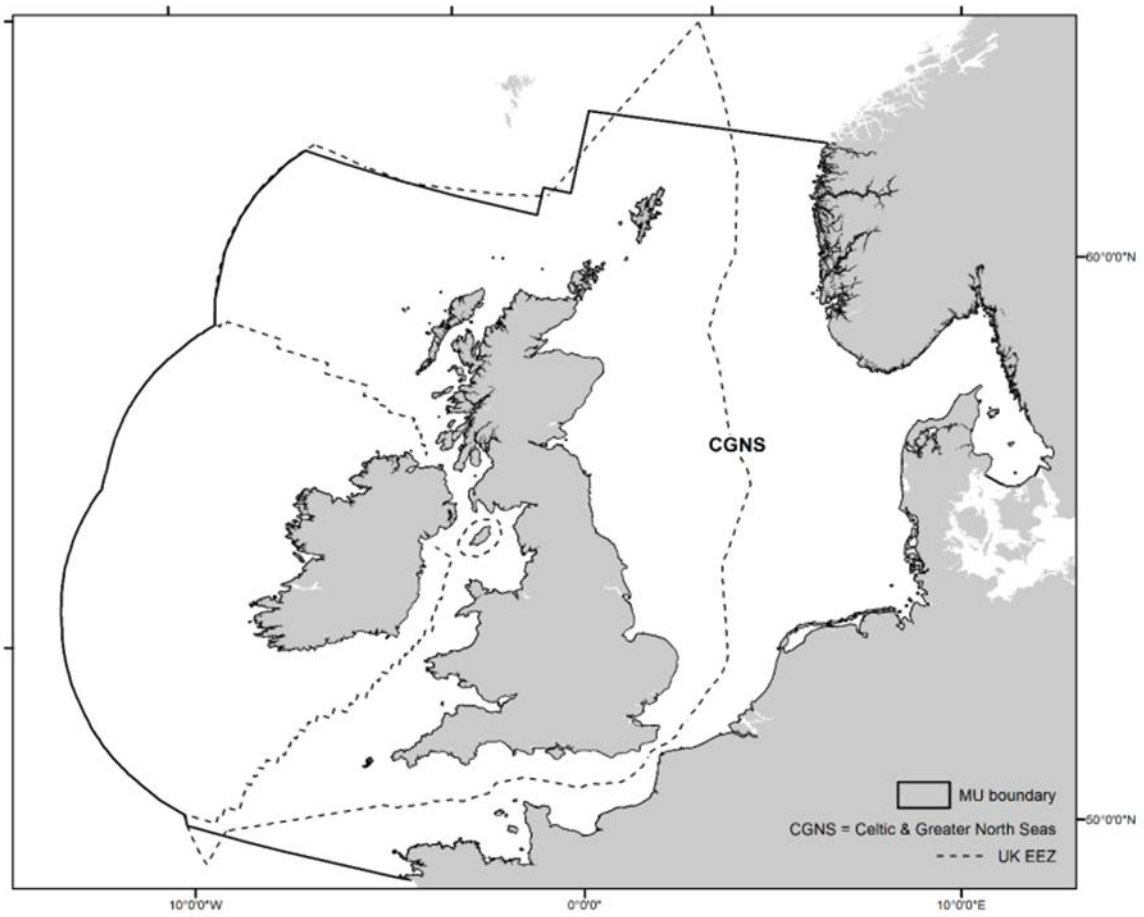
51. Three ncMPAs designated for marine mammal features were identified within the Celtic and Greater North Sea MU (**Figure A.5** in **Appendix A**):

- North-East Lewis ncMPA (Risso's dolphin);
- Sea of the Hebrides ncMPA (minke whale); and
- Southern Trench ncMPA (minke whale).

52. Given the substantial separation distances between the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and the North-East Lewis ncMPA (approximately 265 km (straight-line distance)) and Sea of the Hebrides ncMPA (approximately 230 km (straight-line distance)) and their location on the west coast of Scotland, no plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship was identified between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and these ncMPAs. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is therefore not considered capable of affecting the protected features of these ncMPAs other than insignificantly, and both ncMPAs are **screened out** of further assessment.

53. The screening assessment for the Southern Trench ncMPA is presented in **Section 5.3.3.1**.

Plate 5.1: Celtic and Greater North Sea Management Unit for Risso's Dolphin and Minke Whale



5.3.3.1 Southern Trench Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area

54. The Southern Trench ncMPA is in Scottish inshore waters, extending along the coastline between Peterhead and Buckie, and located approximately 20 km from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary at its closest point. The ncMPA is designated for the following protected features:

- Burrowed mud;
- Fronts;
- Minke whale;
- Quaternary of Scotland – subglacial tunnel valleys and moraines;
- Shelf deeps; and
- Submarine mass movement.

55. As the Southern Trench is located beyond the ZoI for benthic and geodiversity features (See **Section 5.3.1** for details), minke whale is the only protected feature considered further.

56. There is no direct spatial overlap between the Southern Trench ncMPA and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Furthermore, the current OfTDA Screening Boundary has been broadly defined to allow flexibility during the offshore export cable corridor site selection process. Following completion of this process, the OfTDA Screening Boundary will be refined to define the Bellrock OfTDA. Due to the lack of spatial overlap, impacts with relatively localised or spatially constrained ZoIs, such as entanglement in subsea infrastructure and electromagnetic fields from energised subsea cables, are not considered capable of affecting the minke whale feature of the ncMPA.

57. Project vessels may transit through the Southern Trench ncMPA en route to the Bellrock OfTDA and therefore vessel presence, vessel noise, and collision risk are identified as potential impacts. However, the ncMPA is already subject to existing vessel activity associated with ports and harbours along the Moray Firth coastline, including Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Gardenstown, Banff, and Buckie. Furthermore, where practicable, and where compliance with the Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) is maintained, vessels would follow agreed indicative transit corridors between the Bellrock OfTDA and the relevant ports, thereby concentrating vessel movements within established corridors and minimising vessel activity outside these corridors. Vessel operations would also follow the requirements of the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2017a) and the associated Guide to Best Practice for Watching Marine Wildlife (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2017b) to reduce the risk of disturbance and collision with marine mammals. As such, vessel related impacts are not considered capable of affecting the minke whale feature of the ncMPA other than insignificantly and have therefore been **screened out** of further assessment.

58. UWN associated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance and impact piling activities are identified as potential impacts. UWN modelling undertaken for the Bellrock WFDA (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026) indicated that impact ranges associated with piling of the OfSS(s) (all of which will be located within the Bellrock OfTDA where it overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA) do not overlap with the Southern Trench ncMPA. Predicted Permanent Threshold Shift impact ranges for minke whale were 0.06 km based on peak sound pressure level (SPL_{peak}) and 25 km based on cumulative sound exposure level (SEL_{cum}), incorporating soft start and ramp-up procedures. In addition, application of the precautionary harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* dose response function, and harbour porpoise effective deterrent range, as proxies for minke whale behavioural disturbance, indicated no overlap between the ncMPA and the 140 dB re 1 μPa^2s contour or the 20 km effective deterrent range (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026). As such, UWN impacts associated with piling of the Bellrock OfSS(s) are **screened out** of further assessment.

59. UWN modelling has not yet been undertaken for potential piling associated with the installation of the OfRCS(s) or for UXO clearance activities associated with the Bellrock OfTDA. Therefore, on a precautionary basis, the following potential impacts are **screened in** for further consideration in the main assessment:

- UWN during UXO clearance within the Bellrock OfTDA; and
- UWN during impact piling for fixed bottom substructures (OfRCS(s) only).

60. These screening conclusions will be reviewed and updated as further project-specific information and modelling outputs become available. The Applicant will consult with the MD-LOT and NatureScot, where relevant, in relation to any revised screening conclusions and the resulting scope of any Stage 2 main assessment.

5.3.4 Ornithological Features

61. ncMPAs designated for ornithological features in Scottish waters are designated for black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*. Throughout Scottish waters there are a total of five ncMPAs that have black guillemot as a protected feature (**Figure A.6** in **Appendix A**), these are:

- East Caithness Cliffs ncMPA;
- Fetlar to Haroldswick ncMPA;
- Monach Isles ncMPA;
- Papa Westray ncMPA; and
- Small Isles ncMPA.

62. The closest of these ncMPAs to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is the East Caithness Cliffs ncMPA, located approximately 150 km to the northwest. The Monach Isles and Small Isles ncMPAs are located 330 km and 240 km respectively from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary on the west coast of Scotland, whilst the Papa Westray ncMPA is located 250 km from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary on the Orkney Islands, and the Fetlar to Haroldswick ncMPA is located 380 km from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary on the Shetland Isles. Woodward et al. (2019) identified a mean maximum foraging range for black guillemot of 4.8 km ± 4.3 km. On this basis, black guillemot associated with these ncMPAs are unlikely to forage within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. In addition, the maximum ZoI associated with potential impacts arising from the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is 2 km from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary.

63. Consequently, no plausible source-pathway-receptor relationship is identified between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the black guillemot feature of the East Caithness Cliffs ncMPA (and by default the remaining four ncMPAs). The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is therefore not considered capable of affecting the protected feature of these ncMPAs other than insignificantly, and all five ncMPAs are **screened out** of further assessment.

5.4 Summary of MPAs Screened In and Out

64. A summary of the Stage 1 screening assessment undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 4.1** is presented in **Table 5.1**. The table summarises the screening conclusions presented in **Section 5** of this **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report**, including the protected features considered, the screening outcome, and any impact pathways **screened in** for further assessment.

Table 5.1: Summary of MPAs Screened In and Out of Further Consideration in the Main Assessment

MPA Name	Relevant Protected Feature	Screening Conclusion	Impact Pathway(s) Screened In	Main Assessment Required
Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Areas				
Fair Isle	N/A	Screened out	N/A	No
Historic Marine Protected Areas				
Campania	Campania wreck	Screened out	N/A	No
Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas				
East Caithness Cliffs	Black guillemot	Screened out	N/A	No
Fetlar to Haroldswick	Black guillemot	Screened out	N/A	No
Firth of Forth Banks Complex	Ocean quahog	**Screened in**	**Increased SSCs and sediment deposition**	**Yes**
	Offshore subtidal sands and gravels		**Remobilisation of existing contaminated sediments**[3]	
	Quaternary of Scotland – moraines	Screened out	N/A	No
	Shelf banks and mounds	Screened out	N/A	No
Monach Isles	Black guillemot	Screened out	N/A	No
North-East Lewis	Risso's dolphin	Screened out	N/A	No
Papa Westray	Black guillemot	Screened out	N/A	No
Sea of the Hebrides	Minke whale	Screened out	N/A	No
Small Isles	Black guillemot	Screened out	N/A	No
Southern Trench	Minke whale	**Screened in**	**UWN during UXO clearance**	**Yes**
			UWN during impact piling for fixed bottom substructures (OfRCS(s) only)	
Turbot Bank	Sandeel	Screened out	N/A	No

6 Conclusions

65. This **Bellrock OfTDA MPA Screening Report** presents the Stage 1 screening assessment undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 4.1**. The screening assessment considered D&R MPAs, Historic MPAs, and ncMPAs.

66. The preliminary conclusions of the screening assessment identify the following ncMPAs as requiring further assessment:

- Firth of Forth Banks Complex ncMPA:
    - Ocean quahog aggregations; and
    - Offshore subtidal sands and gravels.
- Southern Trench ncMPA:
    - Minke whale.

67. These screening conclusions are preliminary and will be reviewed and updated as additional project-specific information becomes available, including following completion of site selection and refinement of the OfTDA Screening Boundary to the Bellrock OfTDA, and completion of UWN modelling for potential OfRCS(s) piling activities.

7 Screening Questions for Consultees

68. The following questions are posed to consultees to help them frame and focus their response to the MPA screening exercise, which will in turn inform the Report to Inform the MPA Assessment:

- Do you agree with the MPAs screened in?
- Do you agree with the approach to UWN modelling, and the thresholds to be used?
- Do you agree that, following refinement of the Bellrock OfTDA, if a ZoI does not overlap with an MPA or receptor it can be screened out of further assessment?
- Do you agree the Applicant can use low order impact ranges for UXO clearance to determine connectivity with MPAs?
- Do you have any other matters or information sources that you wish to present?

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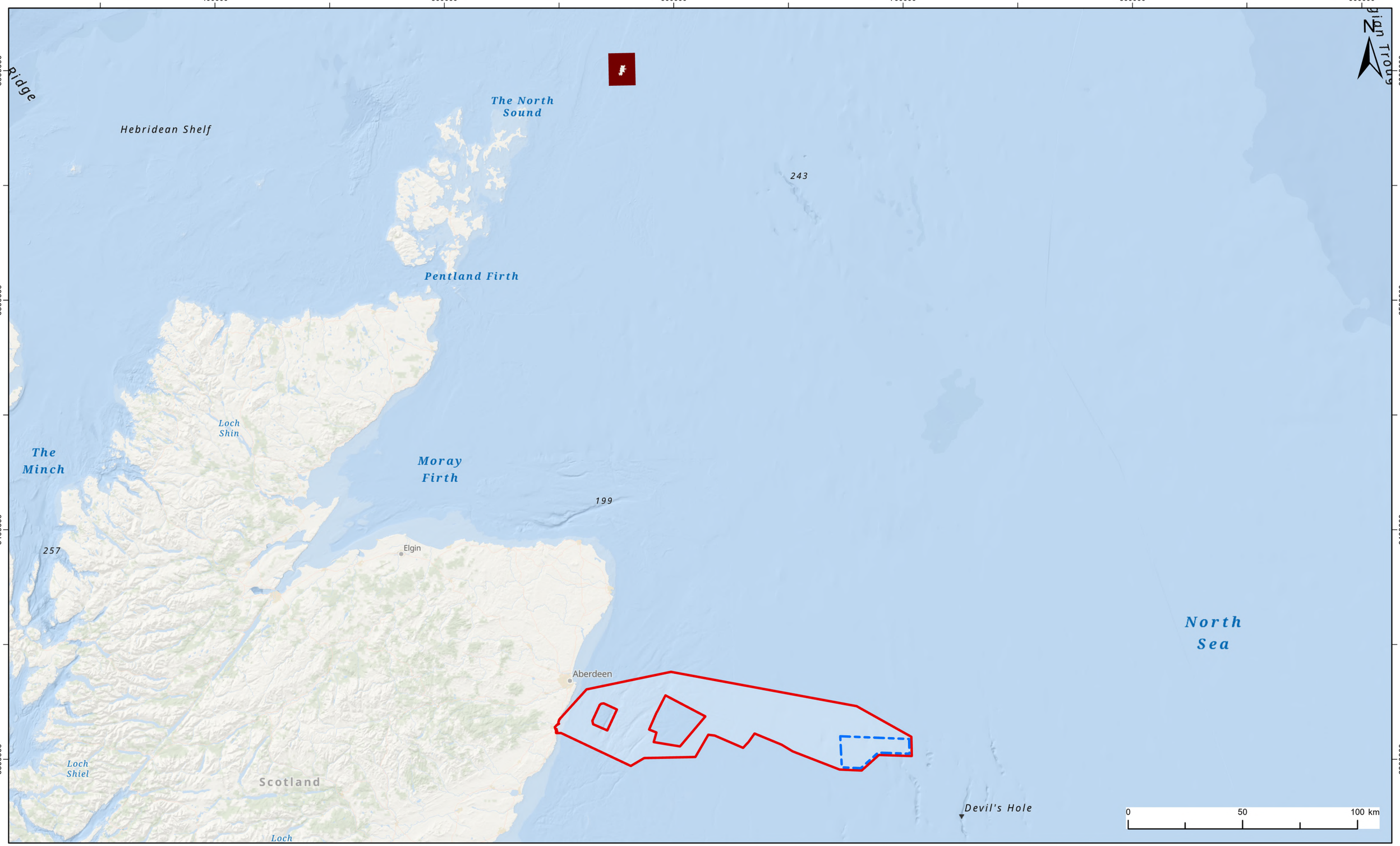
Appendix A: Figures



Legend:

- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) Screening Boundary
- Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
- Fair Isle D&R Marine Protected Area

REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
1	18/05/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N

Source:

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GEBCO, National Geographic, NOAA, and the GIS User Community, OceanWise, Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue, © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026.

Scale @ A3

1:1,500,000

Figure Title:

Location of the Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area Considered in the Screening Assessment in Relation to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary

Project: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA)

Report: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area MPA Screening Report

Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0226

Figure A.1

200000 300000 400000 500000 600000 700000 800000 900000

6600000 6500000 6400000 6300000 6200000

N

Trough

Hebridean Shelf

The North Sound

243

Pentland Firth

Loch Shin

The Minch

Moray Firth

199

257

Elgin

North Sea

Aberdeen

Loch Shiel

Scotland

Devil's Hole

Loch Tay

Dundee

Perth

85

Firth of Lorn

Loch Awe

Firth of Forth

Stirling

Falkirk

Edinburgh

Greenock

Glasgow

Sound of Jura

Inner Seas off the West Coast of

Kilmarnock

Firth of Clyde

106

Hawick

0 50 100 km

North Sea

UNITED KINGDOM

Legend:

- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) Screening Boundary
- Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
- Campania Historic Marine Protected Area
- Remaining Historic Marine Protected Areas

REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
1	18/05/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N

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Scale @ A3

1:2,000,000

Figure Title:

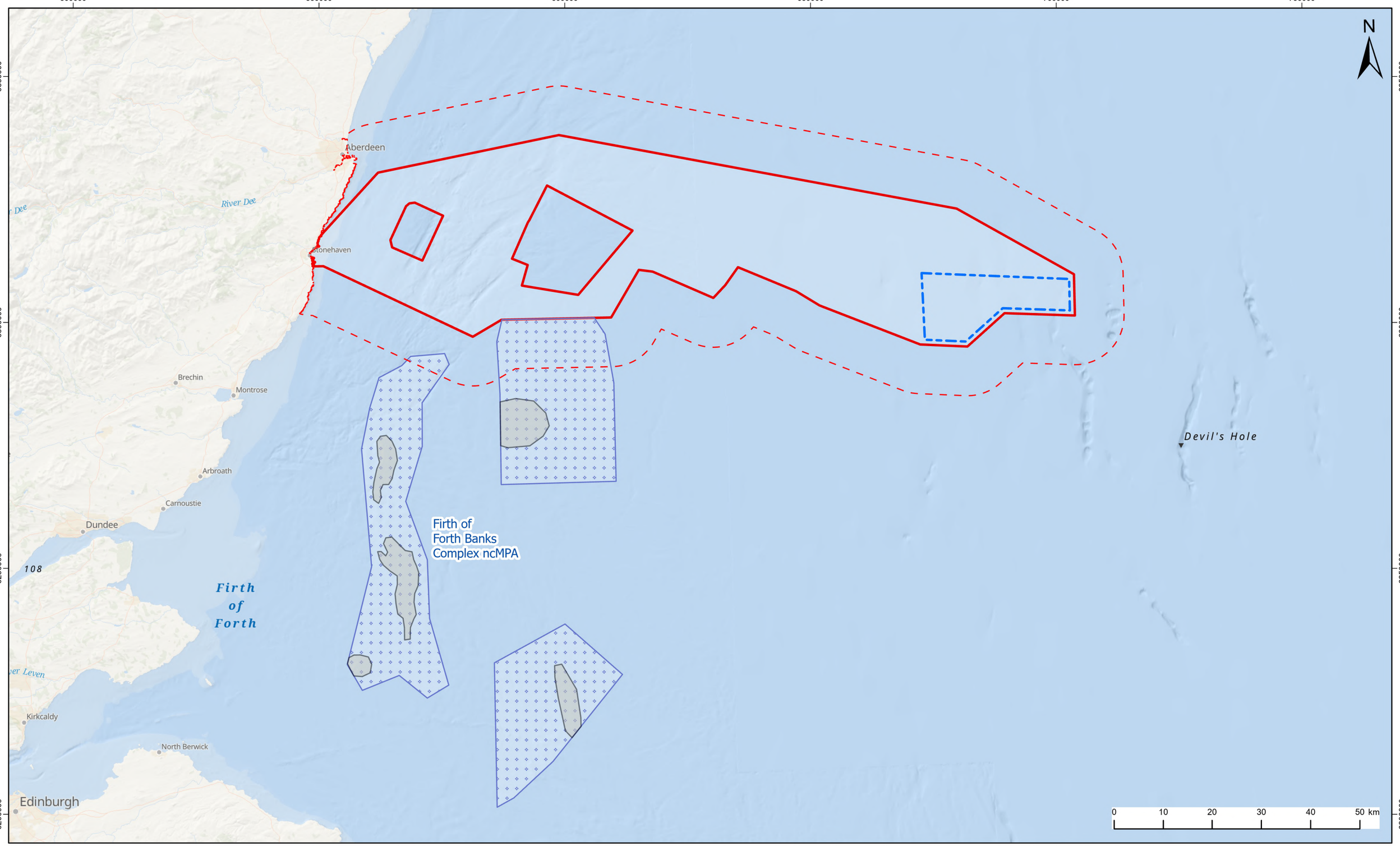
Location of Historic Marine Protected Areas Considered in the Screening Assessment in Relation to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary

Project: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA)

Report: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area MPA Screening Report

Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0227

Figure A.2



Legend:

- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) Screening Boundary
- Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
- 10 km Zone of Influence Screening Buffer
- Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (ncMPA)
- Shelf Banks and Mounds (Protected Feature)

REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
1	18/05/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N

Source:

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GEBCO, National Geographic, NOAA, and the GIS User Community, OceanWise, Esri, Garmin, NaturalVue, © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026.

Scale @ A3

1:700,000

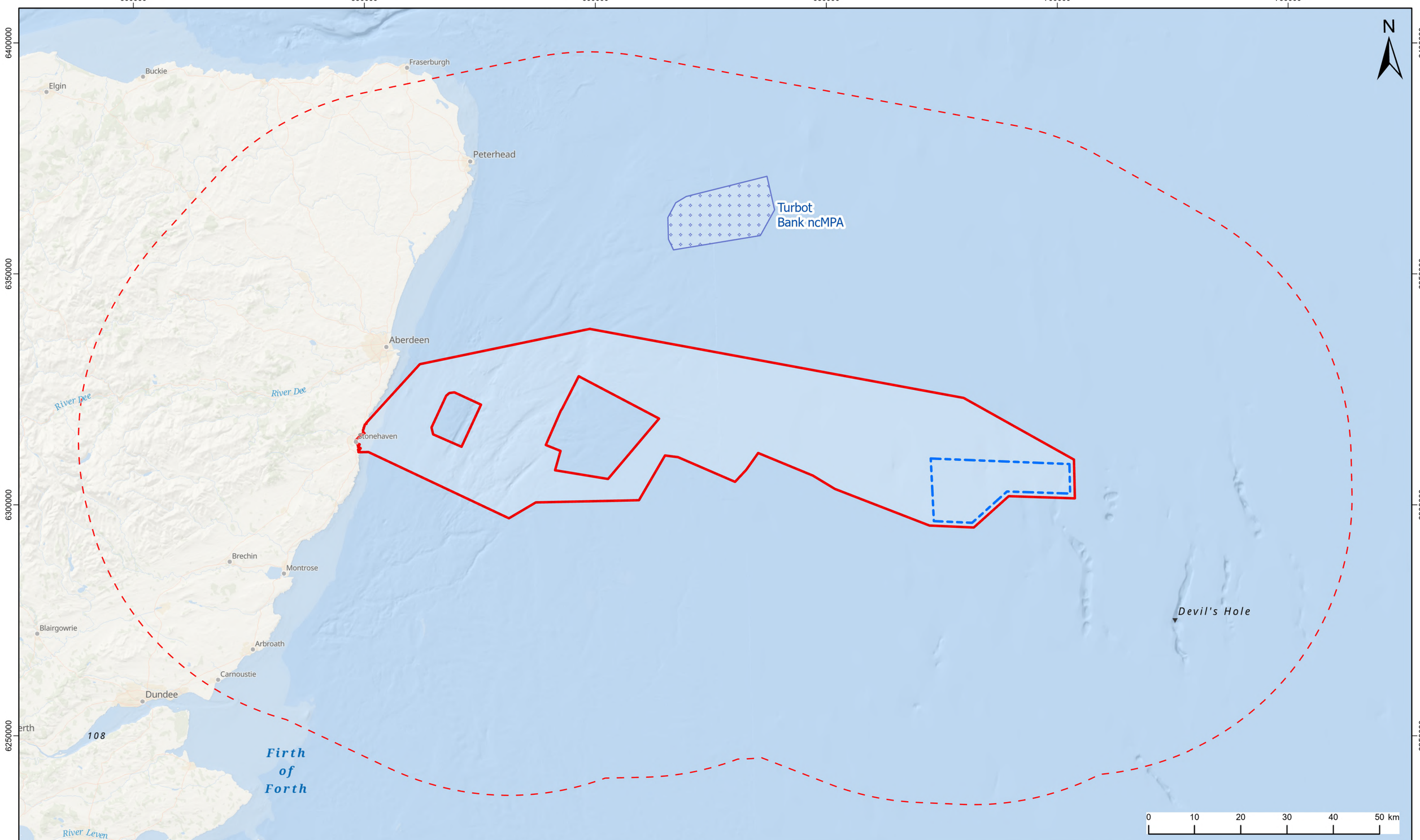
Figure Title: **Location of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas Considered in the Benthic and Geodiversity Features Screening Assessment in Relation to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary**

Project: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA)

Report: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area MPA Screening Report

Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0228

Figure A.3



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Legend:

- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) Screening Boundary
- Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
- 60 km Zone of Influence Screening Buffer
- Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (ncMPA)

REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
1	18/05/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N

Source:

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Scale @ A3

1:750,000

Figure Title:

Location of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas Considered in the Fish and Shellfish Features Screening Assessment in Relation to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary

Project:

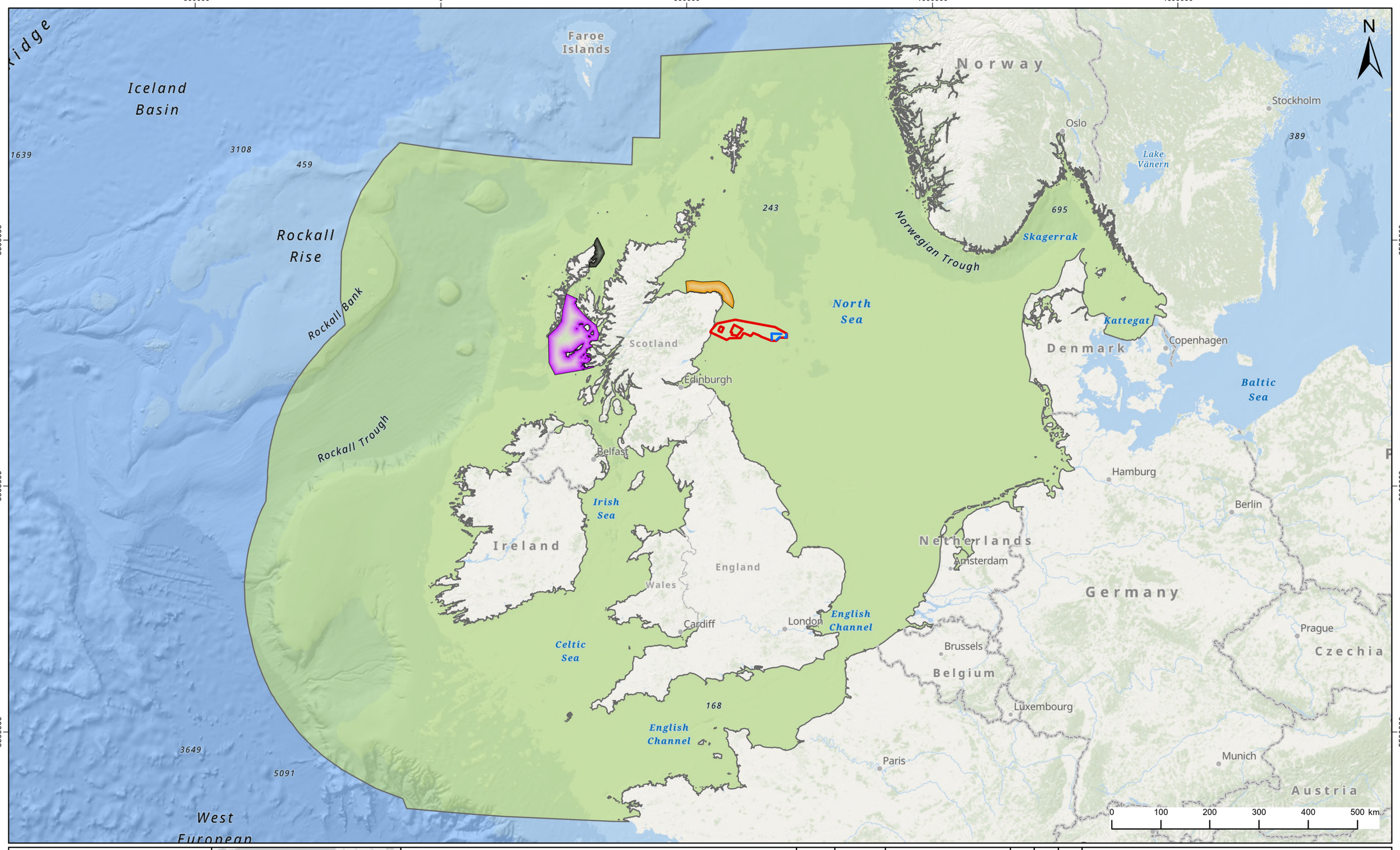
Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA)

Report:

Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area MPA Screening Report

Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0229

Figure A.4



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Bellrock

Legend:
- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) Scoreening Boundary
- Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
- Celtic and Greater North Sea Management Unit

Marine Mammal Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (ncMPAs)
- North-east Lewis ncMPA
- Sea of the Hebrides ncMPA
- Southern Trench ncMPA

REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
1	18/05/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N

Source:

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Scale @ A3
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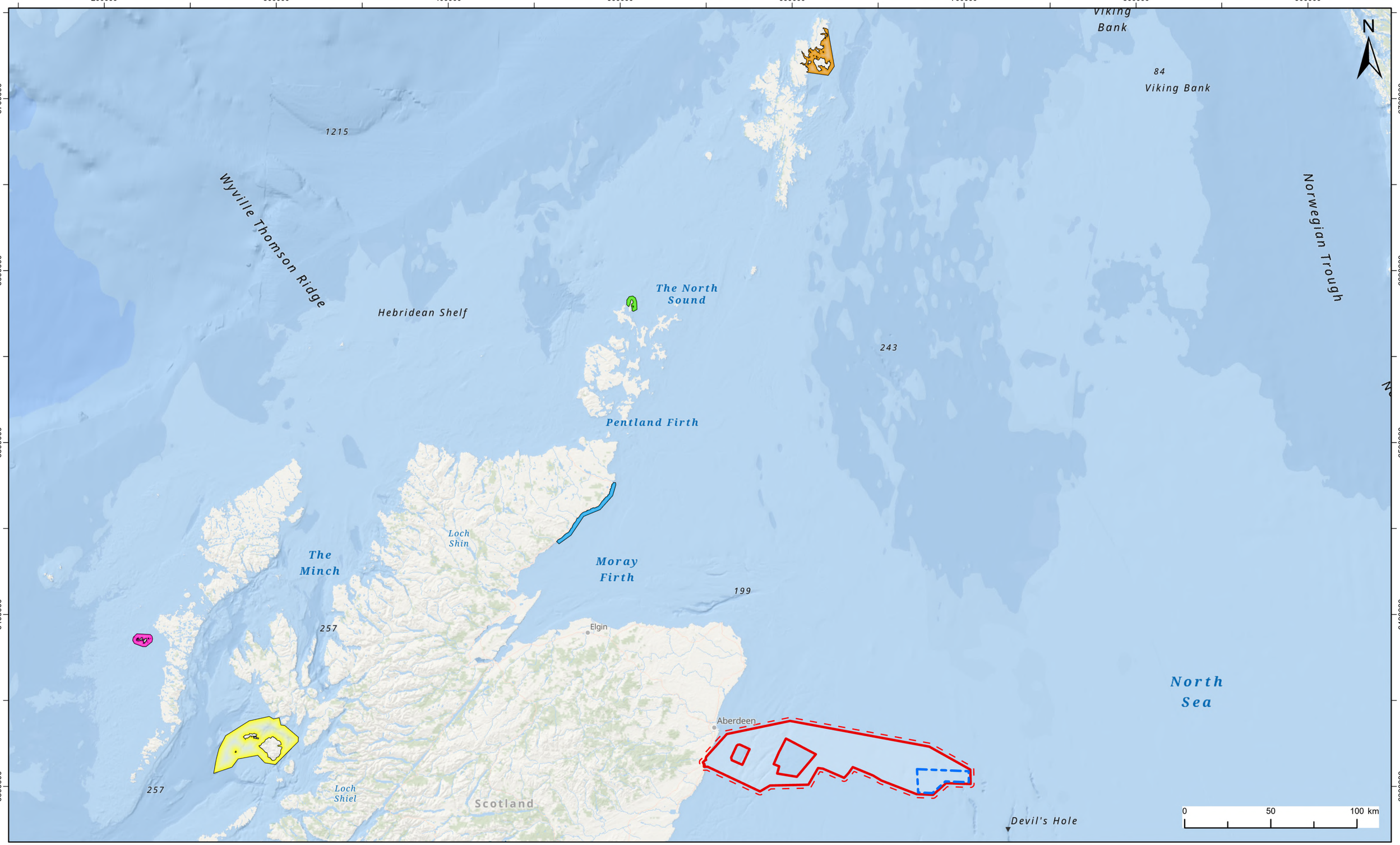
Figure Title: **Location of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas Considered in the Marine Mammal Features Screening Assessment in Relation to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary**

Project: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA)

Report: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area MPA Screening Report

Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0230

Figure A.5



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Bellrock

Legend:

- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) Screening Boundary
- Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
- 2 km Zone of Influence Screening Buffer

Ornithological Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (ncMPAs)

- East Caithness Cliffs
- Fetlar to Haroldswick
- Monach Isles
- Papa Westray
- Small Isles

REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
1	18/05/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N

Source:

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GEBCO, National Geographic, NOAA, and the GIS User Community, OceanWise, Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue, © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026.

Scale @ A3

1:2,000,000

Figure Title:

Location of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas Considered in the Ornithological Features Screening Assessment in Relation to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary

Project:

Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA)

Report:

Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area MPA Screening Report

Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0231

Figure A.6

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