

Offshore Wind Leasing Round 6 Refinement of spatial design

September 2026

In preparation for Offshore Wind Leasing Round 6, The Crown Estate has been engaging a wide range of stakeholders to inform the identification of sites to be offered to the market, known as Project Development Areas (PDAs).

This means working closely with other sectors which use the seabed, such as shipping and fishing, as well as statutory nature conservation bodies, to identify the best locations for the proposed new wind farms.

This engagement is part of the work The Crown Estate undertakes for offshore wind leasing and is important to ensure that potential interactions with other sectors and nature are taken into account, while ensuring an attractive opportunity for potential developers and access to the supply chain.

Work is also continuing with NESO to ensure Round 6 is aligned with its Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP).

The process so far

In March 2026, The Crown Estate published a number of Refined Areas of Search, which had been shortlisted for further refinement into PDAs. A map of these areas can be found [here](#).

Over the last six months, The Crown Estate has been engaging on the methodology it has used to refine the spatial design, as well as on the design itself. Details of this methodology will be published alongside the final PDAs ahead of the formal launch of the tender, expected in the first half of 2027.

PDA Zones

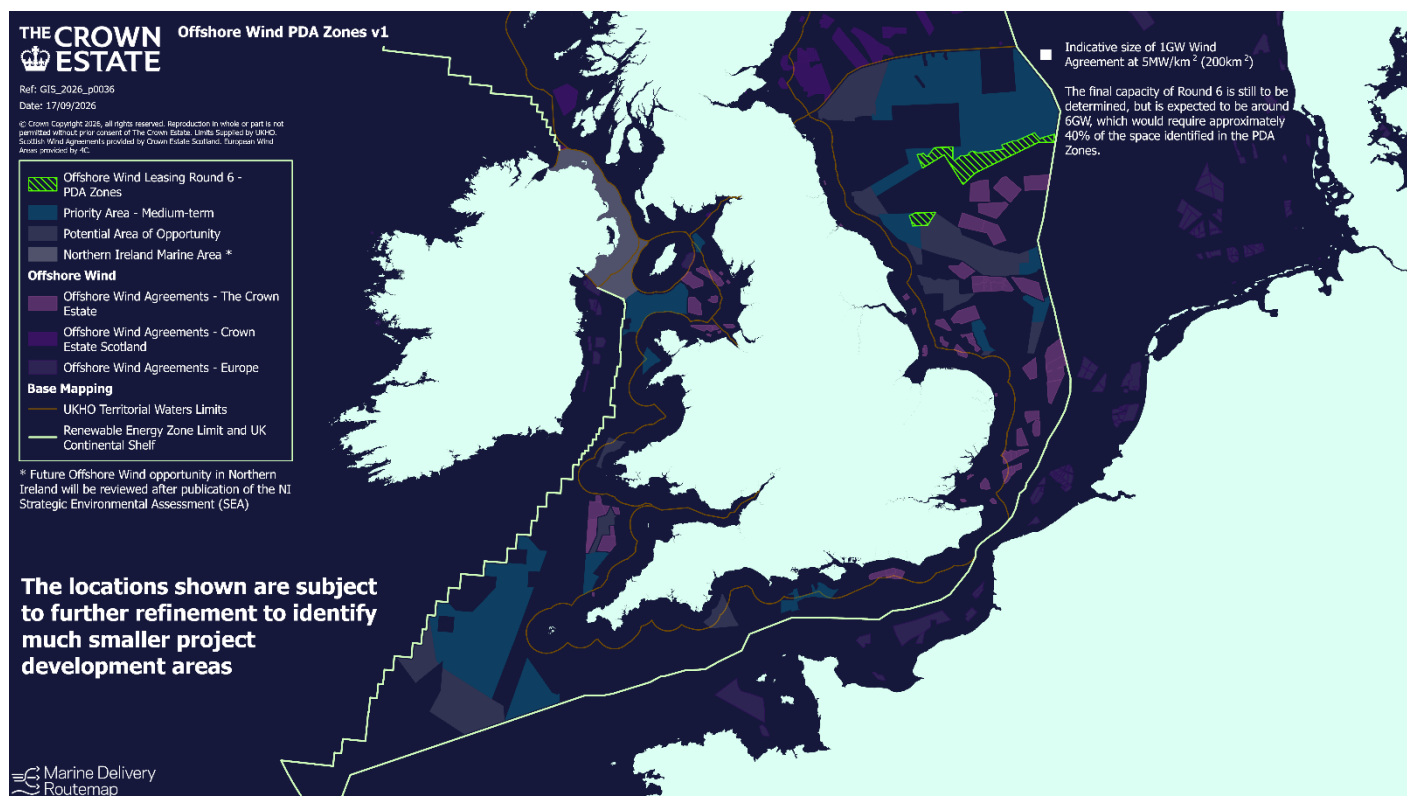
As a result of its recent engagement, The Crown Estate has now published a series of PDA Zones, representing the next stage in the refinement of the spatial design. These PDA Zones have been identified in line with the objectives for Round 6, which include supporting the deployment of offshore wind at scale while balancing environmental considerations, the needs of other marine users and creating new opportunities for communities.

The PDA Zones have been refined through an iterative process that considered environmental information, existing marine activities, technical considerations and stakeholder feedback. The final capacity of Round 6 is still to be determined, but is expected to be around 6GW, which would require approximately 40% of the space identified in the PDA Zones.

You can find a map of the PDA Zones on the next page of this document.

A copy is also available to download [here](#).

Map of Round 6 PDA Zones



Next steps

Following further engagement, work is now underway to complete the spatial refinement process and select PDAs, ahead of the launch of Round 6.

Once the PDAs have been identified, they will be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Marine Conservation Zone assessment, which will formally assess potential effects on sites which have been designated for the protection of the environment. This work is expected to conclude ahead of the auction for the sites, which is anticipated in 2028.

Contact us

If you have further questions about this process, please email Round6@thecrownestate.co.uk.