

NEP Project - Fisheries Information Bulletin No.1

Moving Seabed Boulders for Pipeline Safety

This bulletin provides information for local fisheries on the planned relocation of seabed boulders to allow safe installation of the new CO₂ pipeline for the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) carbon capture & storage project.

Why are we moving boulders?

To safely install the pipeline, we need to move some of the boulders from within the pipelay corridor (between a 10m to 20m wide zone). This prevents potential damage to the pipeline during installation and operation. We will move approximately 2,000 boulders. Two thirds of these boulders are less than 0.5m high and most of the remainder are less than 0.8m high.

Where are the boulders located?

The map below shows the location of the boulders (in black) within the established fishing exclusion zones along the pipeline route.

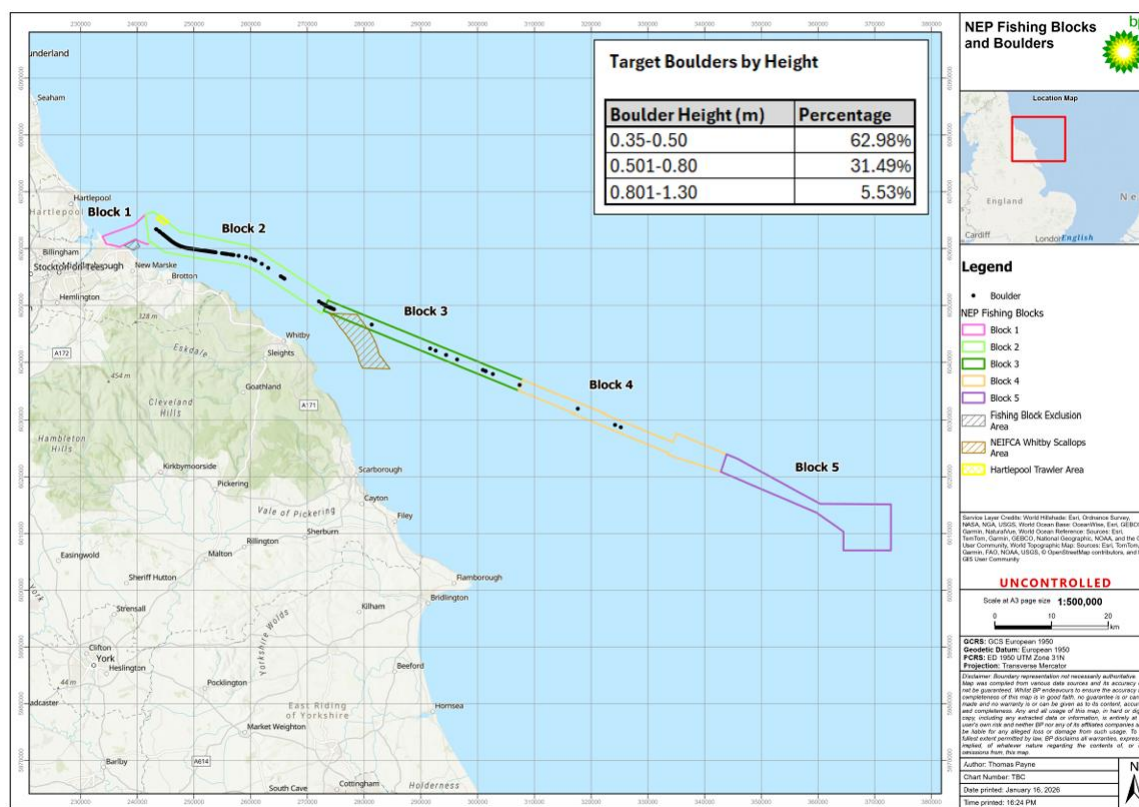


Figure 1

Note: All boulder relocation activity will occur within the boundaries of the NEP fisheries exclusion zone. And no boulders will be relocated within the NEIFCA Scallop Area or the Block 2 Trawl Area (see Figure 1)

When will this happen?

Between end of January 2026 to March 2026.

What vessel?

N-Sea's Pathfinder vessel will be the primary vessel used for moving boulders.

How will we move them?

- Each boulder will be lifted using a seabed grab tool (AUXROV) (see Figure 2)
- Moved 5 - 15 metres to the side (see Figure 3)
- Placed gently on the seabed outside the pipelay corridor
- There will be no piling, mounding, or grouping – boulders will remain spread out. (See typical relocation plan image below)



Figure 2

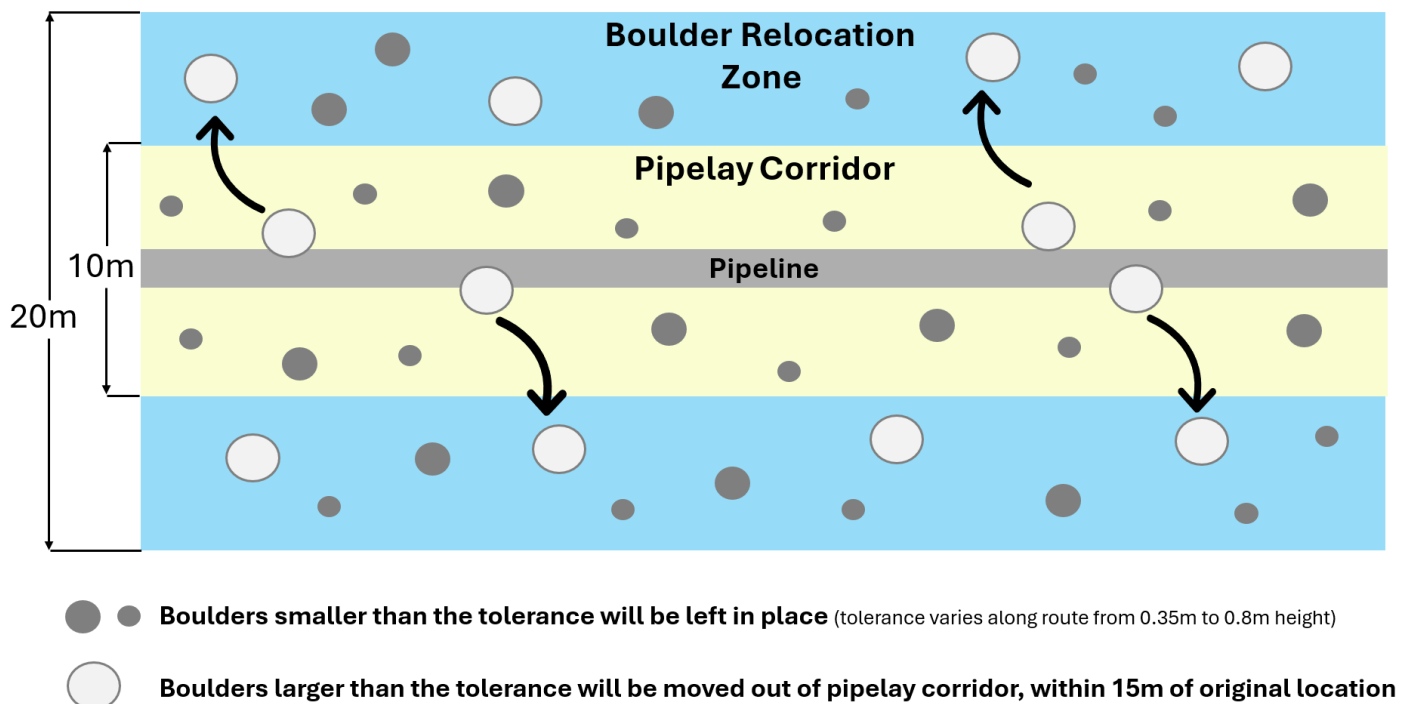


Figure 3

Impact on Fishing?

- ✓ No boulders are taken away from the area
- ✓ No change to seabed type (sand stays sand; gravel stays gravel; rocky stays rocky)
- ✓ Very small, temporary disturbance only under each boulder

Summary

We are only moving some of the boulders a few metres to the side, one at a time. Nothing will be removed or piled up.

Next Steps

We will issue another bulletin once the work is complete, confirming all boulders have been relocated outside the pipelay corridor.

Project Contacts

If you have any questions or comments on the information contained in this bulletin, please contact:

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