

**Our reference: Section 46 – Notification to the Secretary of State**

Date: 4 December 2023

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The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
c/o **KJ Johansson, Case Manager**  
Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Temple Quay  
Bristol,  
BS1 6PN  
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**Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project (Planning Inspectorate reference EN10115)**  
**Sections 42 and 46 Planning Act 2008**  
**Statutory notification and consultation: 5 December 2023 to 31 January 2024**

Dear Mr Johansson,

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited ('Five Estuaries') is developing its plans for a wind farm in the southern North Sea, off the coast of Suffolk. The proposed development ('the Project') is adjacent to the existing Galloper Offshore Wind Farm. As the Project has a generating capacity in excess of 100MW in English waters, it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). As the Inspectorate is aware, the Applicant therefore intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Project in 2024.

The Project includes provision for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm located approximately 37 kilometres off the coast of Suffolk at its closest point in the southern North Sea; including up to 79 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure making landfall at Sandy Point between Frinton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea, the installation of underground cables, and the construction of an electrical substation and associated infrastructure to the west of Little Bromley in order to connect the development to National Grid's proposed East Anglia Connection Node substation. All onshore infrastructure would be located in Tendring, Essex.

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**REGISTERED OFFICE:** Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd  
Windmill Hill Business Park  
Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB

**COMPANY NO:** Registered in England and Wales  
company number 12292474

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development. The DCO application will include full details of the Project and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement in accordance with the Act and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The draft DCO application will also include inter alia powers of compulsory acquisition of land and rights, powers of temporary possession, powers to take access and to alter streets and highways.

Between **5 December 2023 and 31 January 2024** Five Estuaries are carrying out two consultations as its third stage of consultation. These consultations are:

- **HRA Habitat compensatory measures consultation:** A consultation on proposals to improve the habitat for lesser black-backed gulls in East Suffolk, to compensate for a potential impact from our proposed offshore wind turbines; and
- **Targeted land interest consultation:** A targeted consultation with those with an interest in the land affected by changes to the onshore proposals in Tendring District, Essex, that have been made since statutory consultation earlier this year (14 March to 12 May 2023).

### **HRA Habitat compensatory measures consultation – East Suffolk**

Since the statutory consultation earlier this year, the need to provide habitat improvements for lesser black-backed gulls has been confirmed, in line with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. To include these habitat improvements within the application, Five Estuaries is required to consult on its proposals in the Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area in Suffolk, including with those prescribed under section 42 of the Act.

We have published the following documents, all of which can be accessed free of charge via our website ([www.fiveestuaries.co.uk/stage-3-consultation](http://www.fiveestuaries.co.uk/stage-3-consultation)) as part of this consultation. These will be available to inspect until the close of the consultation.

- A **HRA Compensatory Sites for Lesser Black-Backed Gulls Consultation Booklet**, which sets out more information about the proposals; and
- Site **plans** of the proposed locations.

### **Targeted land interest consultation – Tendring District, Essex**

Following our previous stage of consultation, a number of changes have been made to the proposals to respond to the feedback received. The updated proposals also consider how the Project might best coordinate with the proposals being put forward by the North Falls Offshore Windfarm Project – a nearby project also in development, with the same proposed landfall and connection point to the national electricity transmission network.

We are consulting with parties under section 42(d)/section 44 that we have identified as having an interest in the land that is either newly within the proposed development area for the Five Estuaries project or is differently affected following changes to the proposals.

We have published the following documents, all of which can be accessed free of charge via our website ([www.fiveestuaries.co.uk/stage-3-consultation](http://www.fiveestuaries.co.uk/stage-3-consultation)) as part of this consultation. These will be available to inspect until the close of the consultation.

- The **Preliminary Environmental Information Report** (PEIR), which sets out the current environmental baseline, the Project's potential benefits and impacts, and our proposals to mitigate those impacts. This includes a Non-Technical Summary;
- **PEIR Update Note – December 2023** providing a short high level summary of likely changes in impacts from the Project red-line boundary assessed for the PEIR to the new revised red-line boundary; and
- **Plans** showing the new proposed red-line boundary for the Project.

### **Notification under section 46 of the Act**

Under section 46 of the Act, we are required to notify the Secretary of State before the start of consultation under section 42 – please therefore treat this letter as that notification.

In accordance with section 46 of the Act, we enclose example letters for your attention, which are the documents that will be supplied to consultees as part of the Applicant's duty to consult under section 42 of the Act for both consultations.

**We are seeking feedback from consultees under section 42 of the Act. The deadline for submitting responses to the consultation is 11:59pm on 31 January 2024.**

If you have any questions about this the project, consultation or information published, please contact us using the details below.

Kind regards,



Diane Mailer

**Project Lead**

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

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