



FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

VOLUME 5, REPORT 2, ANNEX 2.2 SUMMARY OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Application Reference | EN010115 |
| Application Document Number | 5.2.2 |
| Revision | A |
| APFP Regulation: | 5(2)(q) |
| Date | March 2024 |



| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project | Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm |
| Sub-Project or Package | DCO Application |
| Document Title | Volume 5, Report 2, Annex 2.2 Summary of Pre-application Meetings |
| Application Document Number | 5.2.2 |
| Revision | A |
| APFP Regulation | 5(2)(q) |
| Document Reference | 005108480-01 |

COPYRIGHT © Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

All pre-existing rights reserved.

This document is supplied on and subject to the terms and conditions of the Contractual Agreement relating to this work, under which this document has been supplied, in particular:

LIABILITY

In preparation of this document Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd has made reasonable efforts to ensure that the content is accurate, up to date and complete for the purpose for which it was contracted. Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd makes no warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of material supplied by the client or their agent.

Other than any liability on Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd detailed in the contracts between the parties for this work Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd shall have no liability for any loss, damage, injury, claim, expense, cost or other consequence arising as a result of use or reliance upon any information contained in or omitted from this document.

Any persons intending to use this document should satisfy themselves as to its applicability for their intended purpose.

The user of this document has the obligation to employ safe working practices for any activities referred to and to adopt specific practices appropriate to local conditions.

| Revision | Date | Status/Reason for Issue | Originator | Checked | Approved |
|----------|--------|-------------------------|------------|---------|----------|
| A | Mar-24 | Application | GoBe | VEOWFL | VEOWFL |



Table A.1 Summary of pre-application meetings (meeting minutes are available in Annex 2.3 for those meetings highlighted bold)

| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ETG 1 Shipping and Navigation | |
| 19/11/2019 | Introductory meeting with Trinity House and MCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Kick-off meeting introducing the project, the Applicant and the Evidence Plan process (shipping & navigation to form part of this); > A presentation of the navigational features in the vicinity of VE along with proposed data sources to inform the scoping process for shipping and navigation including the Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA); and > Request to include SUNK VTS User Group in the ETG. |
| 29/11/2019 | Introductory meeting with SUNK VTS User Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Kick-off meeting introducing the project, the Applicant and the Evidence Plan process; and > A presentation of the navigational features in the vicinity of VE along with proposed data sources to inform the scoping process for shipping and navigation including the Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA). |
| 26/02/2020 | Follow up meeting with Trinity House and MCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Discussion of updates to MGN 543 and 372 and lines of orientation for search and rescue lanes; and > Data and survey scopes discussed |
| 13/03/2020 | Kick off meeting with Royal Yachting Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Kick-off meeting introducing the project, the Applicant and the Evidence Plan process; and > A presentation of the navigational features in the vicinity of VE along with proposed data sources to inform the scoping process for shipping and navigation including the Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA). |
| 09/08/2021 | Pre Scoping Shipping & Navigation ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Presentation of the proposed scoping project design: and > Update on the grid connection point to be determined by NG. |
| 09/12/2021 | Post Scoping Shipping & Navigation ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Discuss key points raised in the Scoping Opinion; and > Agree next steps for areas of outstanding disagreements. |
| 20/10/2022 | Pre PEIR Hazard Workshop with Shipping & Navigation ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update including, traffic data and models used to reduce the northern array boundary from that considered at Scoping, and grid connection point confirmed and cable routing work commenced; and > Shipping & Navigation hazards and proposed mitigation were discussed. |
| 20/06/2023 | Meeting with London Gateway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project overview provided; and > Cable route crossing with HEO DWR and Trinity DWR discussed including the need for future vessel assessment and cable burial depth detail. |
| 26/07/2023 | Post PEIR meeting with UK Chamber of Shipping, DFDS Seaways and Stena Line: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update provided; and > Traffic, turbine separation to shipping routes, cable burial and future shipping case discussed. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 31/07/2023 | Joint Five Estuaries and North Falls meeting with Harwich Haven Port Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Discussion of aligned datasets and cable routing per project; and > Particular focus on proximity to pilot boarding station and depth of burial at Harwich Deep Water Channel. |
| 22/09/2023 | Follow up joint Five Estuaries and North Falls meeting with Harwich Haven Port Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Areas closest to the Harwich Deep Water Channel and Sunk pilot boarding station refined; > VE routing refinement confirmed as acceptable by Harwich Haven; and > Detail of installation discussed and vessel management for construction. |
| 06/10/2023 | Post PEIR meeting with MCA and Trinity House: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Separation distance to cumulative projects discussed and confirmed as meeting guidance requirements; and > Array turbine layout confirmed as currently acceptable by MCA and Trinity House to be discussed further post consent as required. |
| 11/10/2023 | Meeting with Port of London Authority and London Gateway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update provided including a reduction in the number of export cables from 4 to 2; > Data, parameters and approach to assessment confirmed as acceptable; and > Approach to Vessel Management Plan welcomed with ongoing updates to be provided. |
| 25/01/2024 | Follow up Hazard Workshop with Shipping & Navigation ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Lines of orientation confirmed as at least one for both arrays at the current design stage, agreed that discussion on this and allision risk can continue post consent; > Since PEIR, the offshore cable route has been refined, accounting for the approach to Harwich Deep, crossing of Sunk and Trinity deep-water routes, and the proximity to the Sunk pilot boarding station; > MCA has granted an extension to the AIS data use by 3 months allowing for use in DCO submission; and > Overview of the Navigational Installation Plan was provided, feedback will be sought from the ETG once ready. |
| 02/02/2024 | Meeting with Port of London Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project confirmed that cable burial to depth in London Clay should be possible at key areas of vessel draught constraint. PLA welcomed this and would review the Cabel Burial Risk Assessment once available; and > Overview of the Navigational Installation Plan approach provided as previously discussed with other stakeholders. PLA agreed with the general approach and to update as the plan progresses. |
| ETG 2 Offshore Ornithology | |
| 18/07/2021 | Pre Scoping Offshore Ornithology ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to re-introduce the project and provide the latest updates following provision and acceptance of a revised grid connection by National Grid (location to be determined); > It was explained that the project sought to avoid the Margate and Long Sands SAC but this conflicted with the high density of pilotage operations; and > The approach to the EIA and Habitats Regulation Assessment was presented to the ETG and early feedback was received including a need to engage on compensation at an early date. It was agreed that compensation would be discussed throughout the process and through the ETGs. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|------------|---|
| 14/12/2021 | <p>Post Scoping Offshore Ornithology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss post Scoping feedback and next steps to reach agreements; > Method statement on the assessment techniques to be produced and circulated to the ETG; and > Minimum tip height to be investigated by the project in consultation with the ETG. |
| 17/11/2022 | <p>Pre PEIR Offshore Ornithology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update since Scoping, including reduction of the northern array for shipping and navigation as well as environmental and SLVIA benefits/improvements; > Survey area and coverage agreed as per discussions with Natural England. Number of transects questioned as sufficient or not; and > It was explained that all methodologies have been discussed with stakeholders and meet the guidance and requirements. Further detail can be provided on methodologies to ensure they are replicable. |
| 22/08/2023 | <p>Ornithology Compensation meeting with Natural England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Presentation of interim findings on mortality numbers and discussion of potential compensation routes. Natural England agreed that site restoration and predator exclusion is a sensible approach until measures such as the Marine Recovery Fund become viable options. |
| 04/09/2023 | <p>Post PEIR Offshore Ornithology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update was provided including a reduction in export cables from 2 to 4, other updates from PEIR were minimal; > Methods and assessments of collision risk modelling were discussed with further technical detail requested by the ETG for review; > The ETG agreed that 1% collision rate for gannet was acceptable for VE; > Apportioning method was discussed and post meeting information provided to detail the findings as acceptable to the ETG. > Red throated diver to be covered by measures in the Vessel Management Plan. The ETG agreed and VE will include standard measures; and > Methods of compensation were discussed; Lesser Black Backed Gull sites that are being investigated and collaboration with other projects for lower number bird impacts ongoing if required. |
| 27/11/2023 | <p>Meeting with Natural England – Offshore Ornithology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > LBBG compensation measures presented including timeline for consultation and additional meetings; > Kittiwake compensation discussed and agreed in principle (Dogger Bank South tower agreement for VE), gannet compensation discussed and agreed in principle (bycatch management), guillemot and razorbill compensation discussed and agreed in principle if required (disturbance management). |
| 15/12/2023 | <p>Meeting to discuss use of Outer Trial Bank as a LBBG Compensation Site with RSPB and Natural England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It was explained that the project is working to ensure Lesser Black Backed Gull compensation measures are adequately secured and that this is the only species showing HRA significant effects. The project is currently considering sites at Alde Ore/Orford and Outer Trials Bank; > Both Natural England and RSPB strongly supportive of improving Outer Trials Bank – vegetation clearance, predator eradication (rats) and for VE to be part of this. |
| 19/02/2024 | <p>Catch up meeting with Natural England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Update on LBBG compensation options at Orford Ness and Outer Trails Bank, final impact numbers for submission, compensatory measures for kittiwake, agreed no adverse effect on Gannet and progress on Guillemot and razorbill |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|--|---|
| ETG 3 Marine Ecology, Physical Processes and Water & Sediment Quality | |
| 13/12/2019 | Meeting with the Wildlife Trusts (Marine Mammals): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to re-introduce the project and provide the latest updates following provision and acceptance of a revised grid connection by National Grid (location to be determined); and > Screening, scoping and methodology for assessments outlined and agreed in principle as a sensible approach. UXO mitigation to be included in the final application. |
| 10/02/2020 | Pre Scoping Marine Ecology, Physical Processes and Water & Sediment Quality ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to re-introduce the project and provide the latest updates following provision and acceptance of a revised grid connection by National Grid (location to be determined); and > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Feedback was taken from the ETG to help inform the scoping report. |
| 19/02/2020 | Meeting with Natural England (Benthic Ecology): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to re-introduce the project and provide the latest updates following provision and acceptance of a revised grid connection by National Grid (location to be determined); and > Screening, scoping and methodology for surveys and assessments outlined and agreed in principle as a sensible approach (survey specifications to be reviewed), agreed to scope out EMF and noise, and pollution with adequate control measure. |
| 12/07/2021 | Pre Scoping Marine Ecology, Physical Processes and Water & Sediment Quality ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project update was provided including the area of search and key constraints including shipping & navigation and Margate and Longsands Special Area of Conservation and the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area. It was explained that due to significant shipping & navigation constraints the export cable corridor would now be routed through small sections of protected areas; and > Data sources and assessment approaches were re-introduced and additional sources of information suggested by the ETG where appropriate. |
| 20/07/2021 | Pre Scoping Marine Mammals ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project update was provided including timelines and detail of the proposed scoping report; and > Marine mammal species for assessment were presented based on species present in the study area. Scoped in impacts were discussed and agreed The method for assessing piling and UXO noise was presented. Agreed that UXO would be assessed but not form part of the DCO licence i.e. to be licenced post-consent. |
| 09/12/2021 | Post Scoping Marine Ecology, Physical Processes and Water & Sediment Quality ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss post Scoping feedback and next steps to reach agreements; > An update on available survey data and findings was provided. Future surveys and studies, and timings for these were presented; and > Survey results used to characterise benthic habitats were discussed in detail. It was confirmed that the method had been previously agreed with the ETG and that additional surveys (accounting for improved seasonal visibility) were not necessary / helpful as the area in question (inshore) has high turbidity year round; and > Details relevant to a Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) will be included in the draft Marine Licence and therefore no PEMP is required; |
| 14/12/2021 | Post Scoping Marine Mammals and Underwater Noise ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss post Scoping feedback and next steps to reach agreements; > Agreed that temporary hearing threshold shift, barrier effects and operational noise should be scoped in and assessed at a high level; and > Approach to underwater noise modelling discussed and agreed. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|--|---|
| 31/10/2022 | <p>Pre PEIR Benthic Ecology, Physical Processes and Water & Sediment Quality ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update since Scoping, including reduction of the northern array for shipping and navigation as well as environmental and SLVIA benefits/improvements; and > Scoping methodology confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG to progress the PEIR. |
| 01/11/2022 | <p>Pre PEIR Marine Mammals, Fish & Shellfish & Underwater Noise ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update since Scoping, including reduction of the northern array for shipping and navigation as well as environmental and SLVIA benefits/improvements; and > Scoping methodology confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG to progress the PEIR. |
| 22/06/2023 | <p>Post PEIR meeting with Marine Management Organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update following finalisation of the PEIR. |
| 05/09/2023 | <p>Post PEIR Marine Mammals, Fish & Shellfish & Underwater Noise ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project update was provided including reducing from 4 to 2 export cables and details of the Early Adopters scheme and the components which VE is participating in; and > Methods and data for assessments were presented, discussed and agreed so far as possible with the ETG – further details provided as assessments progressed post ETG (assessment methods for clarity and marine mammal impact ratings to align with Natural England’s expectations). |
| 07/09/2023 | <p>Post PEIR Benthic Ecology, Physical Processes and Water & Sediment Quality ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project update was provided including reducing from 4 to 2 export cables and details of the Early Adopters scheme and the components which VE is participating in; > Benthic ecology compensation measures outlined in case adverse effects are concluded on Margate and Longsands SAC from cable installation. Natural England welcomed the general approach and highlighted that the case for not avoiding the protected area must be clear i.e. previously discussed shipping & navigation constraints; and > Methods and data for assessments were presented, discussed and agreed so far as possible with the ETG. |
| 25/08/2023 | <p>Meeting with Natural England – Benthic Ecology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Natural England indicated that Adverse Effects on Integrity were likely to be the case for VE planned works in the Margate and Longsands SAC; and > A range of benthic compensation measures was presented and discussed. SAC extensions as strategic compensation were not supported by Defra (at this time), however, Natural England could see the clear benefit of strategic compensation with limited other options. |
| 27/11/2023 | <p>Meeting with Natural England – Benthic Ecology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update provided including minor changes to the proposed Order Limits accounting for Cable Burial Risk Assessment findings and discussions with shipping and navigation stakeholders – area through Margate and Longsands SAC minimised so far as possible; and > Discussion of compensation measures and their merits, SAC extension viewed as a good option ecologically, seagrass beds must be subtidal, existing infrastructure removal must be 1:1 ratio. |
| ETG 4 Onshore Biodiversity, Hydrology and Ground Conditions | |
| 14/01/2020 | <p>Pre Scoping Onshore Biodiversity, Hydrology and Gound Conditions ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to introduce the project and provide the latest updates following provision and acceptance of a revised grid connection by National Grid (at Friston, this was later revised by National Grid); > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Feedback was taken from the ETG to help inform the scoping report (which was delayed due to National Grid re-evaluation of grid connection point); > Mineral resources and private water supplies to be included at scoping. A single Code of Construction Practice may serve to capture mitigation and control measures, pending ongoing review and update with the ETG and across phases; > National Trust and Forestry Commission to be added to the ETG. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|------------|--|
| 03/08/2021 | <p>Pre Scoping Hydrology and Gound Conditions ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The project was re-introduced following National Grid's re-evaluation of a grid connection location (to be determined at that time); and > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Feedback was taken from the ETG to help inform the scoping report. |
| 12/08/2021 | <p>Pre Scoping Onshore Biodiversity ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The project was re-introduced following National Grid's re-evaluation of a grid connection location (to be determined at that time); and > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Feedback was taken from the ETG to help inform the scoping report. |
| 26/04/2022 | <p>Post Scoping Onshore Biodiversity ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss post Scoping feedback and next steps to reach agreements; > A project update was provided, including reduction of the cable route area from scoping and ongoing work by National Grid to select a grid connection location; > Natural England had a preference for horizontal directional drilling under the sea wall defence to landfall and the Environment Agency had a preference to avoid areas of coastal erosion; > Findings of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal were presented and upcoming surveys were discussed and agreed, mitigation will be presented in an Outline Environmental Ecological Management Plan (this later evolved into the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan); and > Biodiversity Net Gain was discussed at a high level, with the expectation that more detailed discussions would take place as the project evolved. |
| 01/11/2022 | <p>Pre PEIR Hydrology and Gound Conditions ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update since Scoping, news that project substation search areas to be included at PEIR; and > Scoping methodology confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG, additional datasets suggested as available from the ETG on request – these were requested and incorporated; > Mineral resource assessment confirmed as underway for inclusion in the ES. |
| 22/11/2022 | <p>Pre PEIR Onshore Biodiversity ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update since Scoping, project substation search areas to be included at PEIR; and > Scoping methodology and proposed survey scopes confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG, bat survey scope to be reviewed in detail once received; > Non-breeding bird survey cover 95% of the requested 400m buffer around the RLB, location of the remaining 5% requested by the ETG; > It was confirmed that an Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan wud be provided at ES and that ETG members would provide details of any existing / planned schemes that VE could join; and > The approach to Biodiversity Net Gain was presented including confirmation that the appropriate Defra metric will be used and include the direct project construction footprint plus the areas for compensation and mitigation. The ETG agreed to this in principle, further discussion to be had as the project progresses including time period for management. |
| 19/09/2023 | <p>Joint North Falls and VE Post PEIR Hydrology and Ground Conditions ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to provide stakeholders with an update on the Projects and details of the emerging collaboration strategy, including dropping from 4 to 2 export cables per project, width reduction of the joint cable corridor route, and collocated substations close to National Grid's EACN substation and grid connection point; > It was explained that co-delivery of the construction phase was also being explored, with details and options to be included in the ES; > Joint proposals and controls for hydrology and ground conditions were presented and broadly agreed to by the ETG. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|--|---|
| 10/10/2023 | <p>Post PEIR Onshore Biodiversity ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update and details of the emerging collaboration strategy with North Falls, including dropping from 4 to 2 export cables per project, width reduction of the joint cable corridor route, landfall option selected, and collocated substations close to National Grid's EACN substation and grid connection point. It was explained that co-delivery of the construction phase was also being explored; > Feedback on the PEIR was discussed, including confirmation that no HDD to take place within Holland and Haven Marshes SSSI at landfall and that a Biodiversity Net Gain Indicative Design Stage Report will be included at ES; > An update on ecology survey results was provided including bats, water vole, lizard; and > Proposed mitigation was presented and it was explained that there is an opportunity to coordinate mitigation with North Falls, which will happen post DCO consent for VE. |
| ETG 5 SLVIA, LVIA, Onshore & Offshore Archaeology | |
| 15/01/2020 | <p>Pre Scoping SLVIA, LVIA, Onshore & Offshore Archaeology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to introduce the project and provide the latest updates following provision and acceptance of a revised grid connection by National Grid (at Friston, this was later revised by National Grid); and > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Feedback was taken from the ETG to help inform the scoping report (which was delayed due to National Grid re-evaluation of grid connection point). |
| 11/07/2021 | <p>Pre Scoping SLVIA, LVIA, Onshore & Offshore Archaeology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The project was re-introduced following National Grid's re-evaluation of a grid connection location (to be determined at that time); > The project constraints offshore were presented leading to the current cable route from the array areas to the landfall location; > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Feedback was taken from the ETG to help inform the scoping report |
| 15/07/2021 | <p>Meeting to discuss SLVIA viewpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss proposed design update to increase turbine tip height and likely increased area of impact (buffer) with increased cumulative considerations; and > Proposed viewpoints and data sources discussed, noting that the buffer area will need to increase as will the number/range of sites assessed. |
| 07/12/2021 | <p>Post Scoping SLVIA and Offshore Archaeology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss post Scoping feedback and next steps to reach agreements; and > Scoping methodology confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG, additional viewpoints, curtaining effect with East Anglia 2 and consideration of impact to coastal paths suggested by the ETG. |
| 04/05/2022 | <p>Meeting to discuss LVIA viewpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss post Scoping feedback and next steps to reach agreements; and > Scoping methodology confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG. |
| 03/08/2022 | <p>Meeting to discuss Marine Archaeology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss PEIR approach and next steps to reach agreements; > Project update confirmed minor changes to the offshore Order Limits to meet shipping and navigation constraints, gaps in geophysical data will be filled post PEIR with available data from North Falls, geotechnical surveys to be completed post ES; and > Methodology confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|------------|--|
| 02/11/2022 | <p>Pre PEIR SLVIA, LVIA, Onshore & Offshore Archaeology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update since Scoping, including reduction of the northern array for shipping and navigation as well as environmental and SLVIA benefits/improvements, slight widening of offshore cable route at key locations to allow the cable corridor to move north, and project substation search areas to be included at PEIR showing a GIS substation; and > Scoping methodology confirmed as broadly acceptable by the ETG to progress the PEIR. |
| 07/02/2023 | <p>Joint North Falls and VE Pre PEIR Onshore Archaeology Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It was explained that co-delivery of the construction phase between the projects was being explored, with details and options to be included in the ES; and > The data collected, ongoing surveys, methodologies for assessment and proposed mitigations were broadly acceptable to the ETG – substation trial trenching plan suggestions made by the ETG for projects to consider and feedback. |
| 03/08/2023 | <p>Joint North Falls and VE Post PEIR Onshore Archaeology Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to provide stakeholders with an update on the Projects and details of the emerging collaboration strategy, including dropping from 4 to 2 export cables per project, width reduction of the joint cable corridor route, and collocated substations close to National Grid’s EACN substation and grid connection point; > Presentation of trial trenching results and layout for future trial trenching; > Project update including reduction in landfall options to a single trenchless (HDD) crossing of under the seawall defence and co-located substation location selected to allow for screening planting and avoidance of constraints; and > The ETG suggested small adjustments to the plan for future trial trenching at the substation area which was agreed to be incorporated. |
| 31/08/2023 | <p>SLVIA meeting with Suffolk Coasts and Health AONB and Natural England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project update was provided and layout and SLVIA impact presented and discussed; and > Stakeholders raised concerns over the height of the tallest turbines and distance to shore in line with a study and curtaining effect of 8 northern turbines – agreed to discuss further at a later ETG. |
| 04/09/2023 | <p>Post PEIR SLVIA and Offshore Archaeology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project update was provided including reducing from 4 to 2 export cables and details of the Early Adopters scheme and the components which VE is participating in; > Discussion of paleo landscapes in terms of archaeology, explained that cores will be taken post ES and that the paleo landscape will be assessed in the ES; and > Turbine height relative to distance from shore raised as a concern for visual impact, agreed to address this in the ES (post meeting: turbine height reduced to below 400m max to significantly mitigate this). |
| 27/09/2023 | <p>Post PEIR LVIA and Onshore Archaeology ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduction in onshore Order Limits described with commitments to trenchless crossings at the majority of crossings; > Screening planting was discussed and confirmed that the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will provide details and commitments to management period; and > Additional cultural heritage viewpoints suggested and agreed to consider them with additional assessment. |
| 05/10 2023 | <p>Offshore Archaeology meeting with Historic England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update and discussion of inclusion of geoaerchological investigation in outline WSI for post ES geotechnical investigations; > The data collected, ongoing surveys, methodologies for assessment and proposed mitigations were broadly acceptable |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|---|---|
| ETG 6 Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Socioeconomics, Noise, Public Health | |
| 11/08/2021 | <p>Pre Scoping Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Socioeconomics, Noise, Public Health ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The project was re-introduced following National Grid's re-evaluation of a grid connection location (to be determined at that time); and > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Feedback was taken from the ETG to help inform the scoping report. |
| 14/09/2022 | <p>Socio-economic meeting with Essex County Council and NHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Concerns around the potential skills gap and impact on tourism accommodation were raised by stakeholders and information sources provided to the project. Project agreed to consider this further in the assessment through Employment, Skills and Education Strategy. |
| 03/11/2022 | <p>Post-scoping Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Socioeconomics, Noise, Public Health ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss post Scoping feedback and next steps to reach agreements; > A project update was provided, including reduction of the cable route area from scoping and project substation search areas to be included at PEIR following provision of a grid connection point by National Grid; and > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle, ongoing meetings suggested to resolve traffic and air quality concerns. |
| 05/09/2023 | <p>Joint North Falls and VE Traffic and Transport Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss feedback on the PEIR with traffic and transport ETG stakeholders (Essex County Council and National Highways); > Project update including coordinated design of export cable corridor and co-located substation location between the projects and substation access coordination discussions ongoing with National Grid; and > Proposed approach to data sources, surveys (where applicable) and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. Safety assessment clusters, employee traffic methodology and cumulative project information to be checked against information to be provided by the stakeholders. |
| 06/09/2023 | <p>Socio-economic and Health meeting with NHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > NHS concerns were discussed and resolved in principle including pressures on local services during construction from incoming construction population and temporary road closures. |
| 20/09/2023 | <p>Post PEIR Joint North Falls and VE Traffic & Transport, Socioeconomics, and Public Health ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update including reduction in landfall options to a single trenchless (HDD) crossing of under the seawall defence, dropping from 4 to 2 export cables per project, width reduction of the joint cable corridor route, and collocated substations close to National Grid's EACN substation and grid connection point; > It was explained that co-delivery of the construction phase was also being explored, with details and options to be included in the ES; and > Proposed approach to data sources and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. |
| 02/10/2023 | <p>Post PEIR Joint North Falls and VE Air Quality, Noise and Climate Change ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Project update including reduction in landfall options to a single trenchless (HDD) crossing of under the seawall defence, dropping from 4 to 2 export cables per project, width reduction of the joint cable corridor route, and collocated substations close to National Grid's EACN substation and grid connection point; > It was explained that co-delivery of the construction phase was also being explored, with details and options to be included in the ES; and > Proposed approach to data sources and assessments were discussed and agreed in principle. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|---|--|
| 30/10/2023 | Joint North Falls and VE Traffic and Transport Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to provide an update on construction access proposals for the onshore substations ongoing traffic and transport actions; > Project update including selection of a co-located substation area and access to it via Bentley Road and along the haul road via B1035; and > Bentley Road widening discussed as required for two-way HGV traffic, improvements to A120/Bentley Road junction discussed as required for Abnormal Indivisible Load access – further details provided post meeting and follow up meeting arranged. |
| 3/01/2024 | Export Cable Crossings meeting with Essex County Council Lead Local Flood Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > North Falls invited as observers due to similar nature of projects and routes; > Obstacle crossing techniques discussed throughout the onshore route at key locations where optionality remained (trenchless or trenched techniques); > Confirmed that A120 would be a trenchless crossing; and > Pollution control and drainage design discussed, ongoing discussions to take place in the future. |
| 11/01/2024 | Joint North Falls and VE Traffic and Transport Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No concerns were raised with data collected from recent Road Safety Audits to inform the design of access roads, temporary speed limit along Bentley Road discussed and decided that 40mph limit should be applied; > All access arrangements agreed as acceptable in principle; and > Handover of Bentley Road ownership back to Essex County Council post construction to be discussed post ES. |
| 16/01/2024 | Traffic meeting with National Highways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to discuss Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) delivery approach; > North Falls and National Grid invited as observers due to similar nature of projects and routes; > Bentley Road / A120 junction widening discussed as required for HGV access; and > National Highways had safety concerns over removing the central reservation at the above location. Preference was for a contraflow option. |
| ETG 7 Steering Group & Overarching | |
| 13/08/2020 | Steering Group meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to introduce the project and provide the latest updates following provision and acceptance of a revised grid connection offer by National Grid (location to be determined at that time); > Onshore and offshore study areas were presented including key constraints; and > Steering group feedback on early development of compensation measures where required taken on board. |
| 06/09/2021 | Post Scoping Natural England meeting on all relevant topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to bring Natural England up to speed after not being able to attend earlier ETGs; > This included Onshore Biodiversity, HRA, SLVIA, Shipping & Navigation, Physical Processes, Marine Water & Sediment Quality, Fish and Shellfish. |
| 04/05/2022 | Onshore Project Update meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meeting to present the onshore site selection process to ETG members; > Provide update on approach to site selection and area of search refinement; > Receive feedback on refined area of search and approach to refining it; and > Seek input of local knowledge from stakeholders to supplement work done to date and inform next stages of area of search refinement and site selection. |



| Date | Summary of Key Discussion Points |
|------------|---|
| 27/10/2022 | <p>Meeting with Environment Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Meeting to provide project update and approach to seawall/main river crossings;> Landfall crossing design options discussed, Environment Agency were comfortable with the proposed trenchless crossing depth below the seawall defence pending further investigation of ground conditions;> Watercourse crossings discussed, Environment Agency confirmed that their main concern is with regard to main river crossings and that a hydrological risk assessment should be undertaken; and> Environment Agency confirmed that Environmental Permit/Flood Defence Consents can be included as Protective Provisions within the Application. |



F I V E 
ESTUARIES
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

PHONE
EMAIL
WEBSITE
ADDRESS

0333 880 5306
fiveestuaries@rwe.com
www.fiveestuaries.co.uk

COMPANY NO

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way, Swindon, SN5 6PB
Registered in England and Wales
company number 12292474

