FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM 1.5 DRAFT SECTION 55 CHECKLIST

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Section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Appendix 3 of Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents

Version: October 2019

Section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 can be viewed at legislation.gov.uk, here: <u>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/55</u>

DISCLAIMER: This Checklist is for information only and is not a formal application document. It is a non-statutory checklist for the Planning Inspectorate to complete. Completion or self-assessment by the Applicant does not hold weight at the Acceptance stage. Unless specified, all references to the Planning Inspectorate are made in relation to functions being carried out on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Sec	Section 55(2) Acceptance of Applications				
1	Within 28 days (starting day after receipt)	Date received	28 day due date	Date of decision	
	the Planning Inspectorate must decide whether or not to accept the application for Examination.	22 March 2024	20 April 2022		
may	tion 55(3) – the Planning Inspectorate / only accept an application if it cludes that:	Pl	anning Inspectorate co	omments	
Sec	Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c): It is an application for an order granting development consent				
2	Is the development a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ¹ (NSIP) (or does it form part of an NSIP); and does the application state on the face of it that it is an application for a Development Consent Order ² (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008), or equivalent words? Does the application specify the development to	Application Form (document reference 3.1) is a Nationally Sig categories set out in section 14(This is consistent with the sum	erence 1.2) and the draft I inificant Infrastructure Proj 1)(a) and section 15(3) of t mary provided in the Appl	re Wind Farm Project') set out in the Development Consent Order (document lect (NSIP), as a development within the the Planning Act 2008. lication Form (box 4), which states that n with an installed capacity of over 100	

¹ NSIP is defined generally in s14 with the detailed thresholds for each of the specified categories being set out in ss15 to 30

² Development consent is required for development to the extent that the development is or forms part of an NSIP (s31 of the PA2008)

	 which it relates (i.e. which category or categories in ss14 to 30 does the Proposed Development fall)? If the development does not fall within the categories in ss14 to 30, has a direction been given by the Secretary of State under s35 of the PA2008 for the development to be treated as development for which development consent is required? 	megawatts, and is therefore an NSIP.
3	Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)	
	etion 55(3)(e): The Applicant in relation to cedure)	o the application made has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application
4	In accordance with the EIA Regulations ³ , did the Applicant (prior to carrying out consultation in accordance with s42) either	Yes a) The Applicant issued a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate)
	(a) request the Planning Inspectorate adopt a Screening Opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of that development?	 dated 30 September 2021 (received on 5 October 2021) and requested a Scoping Opinion in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. A Scoping Opinion (document reference 6.1.6) for the Project was adopted by the Secretary of State on 12 November 2021. b) The Applicant confirmed that it would be submitting an Environmental Statement in respect of the development in a letter dated 30 September 2021. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix 11.1 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.2).

³ Regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (2017 EIA Regulations), or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 6 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (2009 EIA Regulations)

⁴ Section 55(4) of the PA2008 provides that the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the Consultation Report, and any Adequacy of Consultation Representations received

	do they confirm that the Applicant has complied with the duties under s42, s47 and s48?		
Se	Section 42: Duty to consult		
Dio	the Applicant consult the applicable persons se	et out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?	
6	Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed ⁵ ?	Yes The Applicant consulted all relevant persons prescribed under the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (see Appendices 4.1 for Stage 2 consultation and 10.1 for Stage 3 consultation) of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) for a full list of the addresses sent information under section 42, and sample letters sent to notify those bodies of the consultations. Below is a list of the relevant section 42(1)(a) bodies identified for the Stage 2 (statutory) consultation, which was carried out from 14 March to 12 May (2023): • Health and Safety Executive • NHS England • NHS North East Essex CCG • Natural England • Historic England • Essex County Fire and Rescue Service • Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner • The Environment Agency • Joint Nature Conservation Committee • The Maritime and Coastguard Agency • The Maritime And Southority • Essex County Council • National Highways	

⁵ Statutory consultees set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations)

neries.
age 3 (habitat cember 2023 to 31

		 The Crown Estate Ministry of Defence Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Transport East Coal Authority Canal & River Trust The Crown Estate Secretary of State for Transport The Forestry Commission United Kingdom Health Security Agency Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs - Marine & Fisheries. The full list of stakeholders consulted are set out in the Consultation Report; for Stage 2 consultation see Consultation Report Appendix 4.1 for the address list and Appendix 4.3 for example letters (document reference 5.1.1); and for Stage 3 consultation see Consultation Report Appendix 10.2 for example letters (document reference 5.1.2).
7	Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation ⁶ ?	Yes The Applicant consulted with the Marine Management Organisation at both Stage 2 consultation and Stage 3 consultation (habitat compensatory measures). The Marine Management Organisation is included in the list of section 42 organisation consulted as set out in the Consultation Report; for Stage 2 consultation see Consultation Report Appendix 4.1 for the address list and Appendix 4.3 for example letters (document reference 5.1.1); and for Stage 3 consultation see Consultation Report Appendix 10.1 for the address list and Appendix 10.2 for example letters (document reference 5.1.2).
8	Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43 ⁷ ?	Yes The Applicant consulted with each local authority identified under section 43 of the Act. These local

⁶ In any case where the Proposed Development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA2008

⁷ Definition of 'local authority' in s43(3) of the PA2008: The 'B' authority where the application land is in the authority's area; the 'A' authority where any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; the 'C' authority (upper tier) where the application land is in that authority's area; the 'D' authority (upper tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority

authorities were different for State 2 consultation and Stage 3 consultation (on habitat compensatory measures).
Stage 2 consultation local authorities:
 Tendring District Council (B) Essex County Council (C) Babergh District Council (A) Colchester District Council (A) Enfield London Borough Council (A) Havering London Borough Council (A) Medway Council (A) Redbridge London Borough Council (A) Southend-on-Sea Council (A) Southend-on-Sea Council (A) Thurrock Council (A) Waltham Forest London Borough Council (A) Suffolk County Council (D) Cambridgeshire County Council (D) Hertfordshire County Council (D). Non-prescribed local authorities that may be visually impacted by the offshore elements of the Project: Thanet District Council Kent County Council East Suffolk District Council (became a host authority for the purpose of Stage 3 consultation as below).
Stage 3 consultation (habitat compensatory measures) local authorities:
 East Suffolk Council (B) Suffolk County Council (C) Ipswich Borough Council (A) Mid Suffolk District Council (A) Babergh District Council (A) South Norfolk Council (A) North Norfolk District Council (A) Broadlands District Council (A) Essex County Council (D)

		 Cambridgeshire County Council (D) Norfolk County Council (D) The Broads Authority (A). Non-prescribed local authorities that were informed of the consultation due to ongoing involvement with the project. Tendring District Council.
		The full list of local authorities consulted are set out in the Consultation Report; for Stage 2 consultation see Consultation Report Appendix 4.1 for the address list and Appendix 4.3 for example letters (document reference 5.1.1); and for Stage 3 consultation see Consultation Report Appendix 10.1 for the address list and Appendix 10.2 for example letters (document reference 5.1.2).
		After the launch of the Stage 3 consultation, the Applicant identified that the Broads Authority should have been included as a local authority under the section 42(1)(b) for the consultation the habitat compensatory measures in East Suffolk as a neighbouring authority. This error was identified on 20 February 2024. On 21 February 2024, the Applicant provided the Broads Authority with a version of the section 42 letter by email and invitation to comment on the proposals for habitat compensatory measures, with a deadline to respond of 22 March 2024 (28 days after the day of receipt of materials). A letter was also sent the same day by post. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix 10.2 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.2).
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London	Not applicable
	uthority (if in Greater London area)?	The duty to consult the Greater London Authority only arises if the land to which the development relates is in Greater London. The land for the project is within the county of Essex and Suffolk (exclusively for the habitat compensatory measures).
10	Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories8?	Yes
		The Applicant consulted all persons identified under section 44, being persons with a relevant interest in land affected the Project (see the Book of Reference, document reference 4.1, for a full list) with the exception of eight interests identified post consultation.
		The full list of stakeholders consulted are set out in the Consultation Report; for Stage 2

⁸ Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land; Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim. There is no requirement on the Planning Inspectorate to check the accuracy of the list(s) provided or whether the Applicant has made diligent inquiry

		 consultation see Consultation Report Appendix 4.1 for the address list and Appendix 4.3 for example letters (document reference 5.1.1); Stage 3 consultation (targeted land) see Consultation Report Appendix 9.1 for the address list and Appendix 9.2 for example letters (document reference 5.1.2).and for Stage 3 consultation (habitat compensatory measures) see Consultation Report Appendix 10.1 for the address list and Appendix 10.2 for example letters (document reference 5.1.2). Eight interests were identified post consultation. Pursuant to paragraph 52 of the guidance Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the Pre-Application Process (Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2015), these interests were contacted with information about the Project, an explanation the upcoming opportunities to be involved in the process, and an offer to meet. An example letter is included in Appendix 11.5 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.1). More information about engagement with this interests is set out in chapter 11.3 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1). 		
Sec	tion 45: Timetable for s42 consultation			
11	Did the Applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the Applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	Yes The consultation period for Stage 2 consultation, which included consultation with all groups identified under section 42, ran from 14 March to 12 May 2023 which is 60 days. This deadline was stated in the letter sent to consultees, examples of which can be found in Appendix 4.3 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.1). The consultation period for Stage 3 consultation, which included consultation with targeted stakeholders under section 42, ran from 5 December 2023 and 31 January 2024, which is 57 days. This deadline was stated in the letter sent to consultees, examples of which can be found in Appendix 10.2 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.2).		
Sec	Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application			
12	Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation	Yes Notification under section 46 was sent as part of the Stage 2 consultation. The notification of the Secretary of State was carried out via the Planning Inspectorate via a letter and email on 13 March 2023 on the same date it was issued to section 42 consultees. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix 5.1 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.1). The section 46 notification letter included:		

	under s42?	 Section 42(1)(d) notice; Section 42 notice; Section 48 notice; Guide to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report; and A link to the other consultation documents.
		The Planning Inspectorate confirmed receipt on 16 March 2023. A copy of the confirmation is included in Appendix 5.2 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.1).
		In addition, notification under section 46 was also sent as part of the Stage 3 consultation. The notification of the Secretary of State was carried out via the Planning Inspectorate via a letter and email on 5 December 2023 on the same date it was issued to section 42 consultees. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix 10.3 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.2). The section 46 notification letter included:
		 Section 42(1)(d) notice for the targeted land interest consultation in Essex; Section 42 (1)(d) notice for the habitat compensatory measures consultation in Suffolk; Section 42 notice for the habitat compensatory measures consultation in Suffolk; and A link to the consultation documents.
		The Planning Inspectorate confirmed receipt on 7 December 2023. A copy of the confirmation is included in Appendix 10.4 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.2).
Sec	tion 47: Duty to consult local communit	y
13	Did the Applicant prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	Yes A Statement of Community Consultation was published on 15 February 2023 setting out that the Applicant intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land. The Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) sets out the details of the preparation and publication of the SoCC in Chapter 8. The published SoCC is included in Appendix 6.4 of the Consultation Report
14	Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if so, was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and (where applicable) 'C' authorities received	Yes A draft Statement of Community Consultation was consulted on with B and C local authorities between 3 October 2022 and 1 November 2022. This consultation was 28 days in duration. The local authorities consulted on the SoCC are listed below. Essex County Council (C); and

	the consultation documents?	Tendring District Council (B).
		The Applicant also consulted with local authorities covering areas that had a potential visual impact from the Project, as defined by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility.
		 Babergh District Council* East Suffolk Council Kent County Council Suffolk County Council; and Thanet District Council
		*Babergh District Council was identified as a local authority with a potential visual impact later in the Project's development. Babergh District Council was sent a copy of the draft SoCC on 10 November 2022, with a deadline for responses of 9 December 2022. This consultation was 28 days in duration.
15	Has the Applicant had regard to any	Yes
	responses received when preparing the SoCC?	Comments were received from local authorities on the dates below. All local authorities consulted provided a response.
		 Thanet District Council - 18 October 2022 East Suffolk Council - 26 October 2022 Kent County Council - 3 November 2022 Essex County Council - 1 November 2022 Suffolk County Council - 1 November 2022 Tendring District Council - 1 November 2022 Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils - 7 December 2022
		Local authority responses and how all comments were considered in the preparation of the final SoCC is detailed in Appendix 6.3 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.1).
		Key changes that were made to the SoCC following feedback from the local authorities included:
		 Explicitly seeking comments on the visual screening for the onshore substation; Commitment to send GP surgeries and healthcare centres posters promoting the consultation; An additional event in Tendring village; The provision of copies of the printed newsletter to parish councils outside of Essex/Tendring;

		 Additional locations for deposit points; Additional organisations to send information to at the launch of consultation; and Additional newspapers to advertise in.
16	Has the SoCC been made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	Yes The SoCC was published on 15 February 2023 on the Project's dedicated website. In addition, the SoCC was placed in the following locations and available from the week commencing 13 February 2023 till the close of the Stage 2 consultation on 12 May 2023. These locations were considered to be reasonably convenient having regard to the location of the Proposed Development. These locations had free public internet access – which was explained in the public notices. Essex: • Brightlingsea Library • Clacton Library • Clacton Library • Colchester Library • Greenstead Library • Greenstead Library • Jaywick Library • Jaywick Library • Jaywick Library • Prettygate Library • Tendring Townhall • West Clacton • Wivenhoe Library • Endeavour House, • Felixstowe Library • Leiston Library • Lowestoft Library • Lowestoft Library • Saxmundham Library • Southwold Library • Margate Library • Margate Library

		 Notices stating when and where the SoCC could be accessed were published as follows: East Anglian Daily Time - 16 February 2023 Frinton and Clacton Gazette - 16 February 2023 Isle of Thanet News - online only – live from 16 February 2023 Essex County Standard - 17 February 2023 Harwich and Manningtree Standard - 17 February 2023 Thanet Extra - 22 February 2023 Felixstowe Flyer - 1 March 2023 Southwold Gazette - 3 March 2023. Copies of these notices can be found in the Copies of Statutory Notices document (document reference 1.4) and Appendix 6.5 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.1). The notice included a short description of the Project, a list of the places the SoCC could be inspected
		(including addresses and opening times) and the website address where the SoCC was also available.
17	Does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development ⁹ ; and does it set out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information?	Yes Page 11 of the SoCC, in the section "What we're consulting on", sets out that the development is an EIA development and sets out how the Applicant intended to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information.
		"As per the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. Our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) is the first main output of the EIA process and the largest document in this consultation. The PEIR sets out the current environmental baseline, and based on our initial assessments, the Project's potential benefits and impacts, and our proposals to mitigate those impacts. The PEIR is a key part of the consultation."
18	Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	Yes Compliance with the activity set out in the SoCC is detailed in chapter 8.5 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) and supported by evidence in Appendix 6 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.1). No deviations from the SoCC were recorded.

⁹ Regulation 12 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 10 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

Sec	tion 48: Duty to publicise the proposed a	application					
19	Did the Applicant publicise the proposed	Yes					
	application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations?	Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Fo	The Applicant publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations) in accordance with s48 of the Planning Act 2008.				
		Dated copies of the notices, as prescribed and liste the Copies of Statutory Notices document (docume Consultation Report (5.1.1).					
		Consultation under s48 of the Planning Act 2008 ran in parallel with the Stage 2 statutory consultation from 14 March 2023 to 12 May 2023.					
		Newspaper(s)	Date				
a)	for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	East Anglian Daily Times	14 March 2023 and 21 March 2023				
b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Telegraph	14 March 2023				
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette	14 March 2023				
d)	where the proposed application relates to	Lloyds List	14 March 2023				
,	offshore development –	Fishing News	16 March 2023				
	(i) once in Lloyds List; and						
	(ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?						
20	Did the s48 notice include the required	Yes	·				
	information set out in Regulation 4(3) of	Copies of the published section 48 notice can be for	ound in Appendix 7 of the Consultation Report				

	APFP Regulatior	ns?	(5.1.1).			
	Information	Paragraph			Information	Paragraph
a)	the name and address of the Applicant.	Name and address given in t notice as "Five Estuaries Off Wind Farm Limited (the "App of Windmill Hill Business Par Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wilt United Kingdom, SN5 6PB".	fshore plicant") ırk, Itshire,		a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	Statement that the Applicant "intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for the above mentioned DCO."
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	Statement that "the Project is Environmental Impact Asses development for the purpose Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Asses Regulations 2017."	sment es of the	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development	 The proposals were summarised as: "Offshore 1. An offshore wind turbine generating station with a generating capacity of over 100 megawatts, comprising up to 79 wind turbine generators with associated foundations and a maximum tip height of 420m above sea level. 2. Up to two offshore substation platforms with associated foundations. 3. A network of subsea inter-array cables including cable protection, connecting the wind turbines to each other and to the offshore substation platforms including cable crossings. 4. Up to four subsea export cable circuits including cable crossings, cable protection, sheet piled intertidal exit pits and trenchless installation works from the offshore substation platforms to shore, with an offshore cable route length of up to 84km.

5. Scour protection, as required, for foundations and cables.
Onshore
1. Transition joint bays between Frinton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea to connect the offshore cables and the onshore cables.
2. Up to four buried export cable circuits from the transition joint bays at landfall along an approximately 22km route to a new electrical substation near Lawford and Ardleigh, including cable ducts, jointing and trenchless installation works. This route passes under the A120.
3. The construction of a new electrical substation in the vicinity of Little Bromley together with associated equipment, accesses, landscaping and a temporary construction compound.
4. Two buried 400kV cable circuits connecting the new substation to National Grid's proposed East Anglia Connection Node substation, including cable ducts, jointing and trenchless installation works.
5. Temporary construction areas and haul roads together with works to secure vehicular and/ or pedestrian means of access for the Project.
6. Associated and/or ancillary works including archaeological and ground investigations, drainage works, highway improvements, works to alter the position of existing utilities, works to watercourses, landscaping and other mitigation and monitoring works.
7. Such other works as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of work in connection with the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the Project.
8. If required, temporary stopping up, diversion or

			1		alteration of streets, roads and Public Rights of Way.
					 If required, the permanent and compulsory acquisition of land and rights for the Project.
					10. If required, overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land for the Project.
					11. If required, the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory acquisition.
					Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient."
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development are available for inspection free of charge on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Applicant, including the address of the website; the place on the website where the documents, plans and	The notice states: "A copy of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and non-technical summary (NTS), which includes details of the proposals, may be inspected free of charge in the exhibition section of the Applicant's website (www.fiveestuaries.co.uk) that also contains other information on the Project. The NTS, as well as other consultation materials, will also be available in hard copy at the deposit locations listed in the table. Opening hours are subject to change, please check before making a special trip." The details of 20 deposit locations were then included in a table along with their full addresses and opening times.	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website	The notice states: "The documents (which include plans showing the location of the proposed development) will be available for inspection during the consultation period."

	maps may be inspected; and a telephone number which can be used to contact the Applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps				
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	The notice states: "We are able to provide guidance on using the project website or can, upon request, provide a USB stick free-of- charge containing the PEIR. Hard copies of the NTS, the Statement of Community Consultation, the Consultation Booklet, and a Feedback Form can also be provided free-of-charge upon request during the consultation period. Hard copies of the PEIR will be subject to a maximum charge of £1,000 to cover printing costs."	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	The notice states: "Any responses in respect of the Project should be sent: (1) by email to fiveestuaries@rwe.com; or (2) by post to 'Freepost FIVE ESTUARIES'. No further postal address or stamp is required."
i)	a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last	The notice states: "The deadline for responses is 11:59pm on Friday 12 May 2023, postal responses must be sent on or before this deadline." This was 52 days after the publication of the last notice on 21 March 2023.			

	published	
21	Are there any observations in respect of the	s48 notice provided above?
	No	
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with the EIA Regulations ¹⁰ ?	Yes The section 48 notice was included in the information provided to consultees consulted under section 42, which included the EIA consultation bodies, as part of the Stage 2 consultation. The full list of stakeholders consulted is set out in the Consultation Report in Appendix 4.1 and Appendix 4.3 includes example letters (document reference 5.1.1) that included a copy of the section 48 notice.
s49	: Duty to take account of responses to	consultation and publicity
23	Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	explained in chapters 5.5, 11.6 and 12.4 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) and set out fully in the Consultation Report appendices 8, 9.3 and 10.7 (document reference 5.1.2).
		These sections include whether responses led to changes to the Project. Where a particular request or suggestion in a response has not led to a change in the Project, it is set out why.
		A summary of major changes to the proposals as a result of responses to consultation are list in chapter 14.2 of the Consultation Report (5.1).
Gui	dance about pre-application procedure	

¹⁰ Regulation 13 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 11 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

24	To what extent has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process' ¹¹ ?	The Applicant has adhered to all relevant statutory and other guidance. A detailed breakdown is set out in chapter 2.5 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1).
25	Summary: Section 55(3)(e)	The Applicant has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the Planning Act 2008.
to v		ding accompaniments) achieves a satisfactory standard having regard to the extent n and contents of application) and with any standards set under section 37(5) and ion 37(4)
26	 Is it made in the prescribed form as set out in Schedule 2 of the APFP Regulations, and does it include: a brief statement which explains why it falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate; and a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme? 	Yes Boxes 4 and 5 of the Application Form (document reference 1.2) include a brief statement which explains why the Application falls within the remit of the Secretary of State and a brief non- technical description of the Project Proposal. Box 6 in the Application Form (document reference 1.2) identifies the location and route of the application site. A Location Plan - Onshore (document reference 2.1) and Location Plan – Offshore (document reference 2.2) have also been provided.
27	Is it accompanied by a Consultation Report?	Yes A Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) along with two annexes, Appendix 1 to 7 (document reference 5.1.1) and Appendix 8 to 11 (document reference 5.1.2), have been included with the application.
28	Where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, has a key plan been	Yes A key plan showing the relationship between different sheets is provided at the start of each of the

¹¹ The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the Applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50

	provided showing the relation the different sheets? ¹²	 following plans: Location Plan – Onshore (document reference 2.1) Land Plans – Onshore (document reference 2.3) Special Category Land Plan (document reference 2.4) Works Plans – Onshore (document reference 2.5) Works Plans – Offshore (document reference 2.6) Offshore Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plan (document reference 2.7) Street Works and Access Plan (document reference 2.8) Temporary Closure of Public Rights of Way Plan (document reference 2.9) Tree Preservation Order and Important Hedgerow Plan (document reference 2.10) Historic Environment Plan - Onshore (document reference 2.11) Statutory/Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites - Onshore (document reference 2.13) Crown Land – Onshore (document reference 2.17) Temporary Speed Reduction Plan (document reference 2.18). 				
29	Is it accompanied by the doc information set out in APFP 5(2)?				nation required by APFP r oplication as listed below:	egulation 5(2) are set out in the documents
	Information	Document			Information	Document
a)	Where applicable, the Environmental Statement required under the EIA Regulations ¹³ and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	Volume 6 of the	all the documents in le application. This coping Report and on (document		The draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	A Draft Development Consent Order has been submitted with the application in PDF (document reference 3.1) and as a Word document. The Draft DCO Validation Report has also been submitted (document reference 3.3).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?				Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
c)	An Explanatory	An Explanatory	Memorandum has	d)	Where applicable, a	A Book of Reference has been submitted

¹² Regulation 5(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ¹³ The 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, the 2009 EIA Regulations

	Memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	been submitted with the application (document reference 3.2).		Book of Reference (where the application involves any Compulsory Acquisition)	with the application (document reference 4.1) and is supported by a Schedule of Negotiations (document reference 4.1.1) and Statutory undertakers position statement (document reference 4.1.2).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
e)	A copy of any Flood Risk Assessment	A Flood Risk Assessment – Cable Route Corridor has been submitted with the application (document reference 5.3.1). A Flood Risk Assessment – Onshore Substation has been submitted with the application (document reference 5.3.2).	f)	A statement whether the proposal engages one or more of the matters set out in section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (statutory nuisances) and if so how the Applicant proposes to mitigate or limit them	The Statutory Nuisance Statement (document reference 5.7) sets out how the proposals engage with the matters set out in section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act (1990).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
h)	A Statement of Reasons and a Funding Statement (where the application involves any Compulsory Acquisition)	A Funding Statement (document reference 4.2), Statement of Reasons (document reference 4.3) and a Compensation Measures Funding Statement (document reference 5.5.10) have been submitted with the application.	i)	 A Land Plan identifying:- (i) the land required for, or affected by, the Proposed Development; (ii) where applicable, any land over which it is proposed to 	Land Plans – onshore (document reference 2.3) and Special Category Land Plan (document reference 2.4) have been submitted with the application.

				 exercise powers of Compulsory Acquisition or any rights to use land; (iii) any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and (iv) any special category land and replacement land 	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
j)	 A Works Plan showing, in relation to existing features:- (i) the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and (ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for 	Works Plans – Onshore (document reference 2.6) and Works Plans – Offshore (document reference 2.7) have been submitted with the application.	k)	Where applicable, a plan identifying any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets or roads or any diversions, extinguishments or creation of rights of way or public rights of navigation	Street Works and Access Plan (document reference 2.8) and Temporary Closure of Public Rights of Way Plan (document reference 2.9) have been submitted with the application.

	in the draft DCO				
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
1)	 Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:- (i) any statutory/ nonstatutory sites or features of nature conservation eg sites of geological/landscape importance; (ii) habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and (iii) water bodies in a river basin management plan, together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the Proposed Development 	 The following documents have been submitted as part of the application: Statutory/Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites – Onshore (document reference 2.13) Statutory/Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites – Offshore (document reference 2.14) Water Bodies in a River Basin Management Plan (document reference 2.15) Tree Preservation Order and Important Hedgerow Plan (document reference 2.10). Assessments of these effects are set out in the Environmental Statement submitted as part of the application (volume 6) in the following chapters: Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (document reference 6.2.5) Fish and Shellfish Ecology (document reference 6.2.6) Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical processes (document reference 6.2.7) Offshore Ornithology chapter 	m)	Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory/ non- statutory sites or features of the historic environment, (eg scheduled monuments, World Heritage sites, listed buildings, archaeological sites and registered battlefields) together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the Proposed Development	 The following documents have been submitted as part of the application: Historic Environment Plan – Onshore (document reference 2.10) Historic Environment Plan – Offshore (document reference 2.11). Assessments of these effects are set out in the Environmental Statement submitted as part of the application (volume 6) in the following chapters: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference) 6.3.7 Application Document 6.2.11 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 6.2.11)

	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	 (document reference 6.2.4) Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk chapter (document reference 6.3.6) Onshore Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (document reference 6.3.4). 		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
n)	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	Crown Land – Offshore (document reference 2.16) and Crown Land – Onshore (document reference 2.17) have been submitted with the application.	0)	Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the development consent proposal showing details of design, external appearance, and the preferred layout of buildings/ structures, drainage, surface water management, means of vehicular and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping	 The following documents have been submitted as part of the application: Location Plan – Onshore (document reference 2.1) Location Plan – Offshore (document reference 2.2) Offshore Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plan (document reference 2.7) Temporary Speed Reduction Plan (document reference 2.18) Offshore Project Design Principles (document reference 9.3) Onshore Substation Design Principles (document reference 9.4) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (document reference 9.22).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Are they of a satisfactory standard?	
p)	Any of the documents prescribed by Regulation 6	The following documents have been submitted as part of the application:	q)	Any other documents considered necessary to support the	The following documents have been submitted as part of this application:Cover Letter (document reference 1.1)

of the APFP Regulations:	 Cable Statement (document reference 8.1) Safety Zone Statement (document reference 8.2). 	application	 Application Form (document reference 1.2) Guide to the Application (and Glossary) (document reference 1.3) Copies of Statutory Newspaper Notices (document reference 1.4) Draft Section 55 Checklist (document reference 1.5) Draft DCO Validation Report (document reference 3.3) Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) Consultation Report Appendix 1 to 7 (document reference 5.1.1) Consultation Report Appendix 8 to 11 (document reference 5.1.2) Evidence Plan (document reference 5.2) Evidence Plan Terms of Reference (document reference 5.2.1) Summary of pre-application meetings (document reference 5.2.2) Selected Meeting Minutes (document reference 5.2.3) Supporting Documents and Correspondence (document reference 5.2.3) Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
			 Selected Meeting Minutes (document reference 5.2.3) Supporting Documents and Correspondence (document reference
			/
			 HRA Screening Report (document reference 5.4.2) HRA Screening Matrices (document reference 5.4.3)
			 Summary of Designated Sites (document reference 5.4.4)

Lesser Black Backed Gull Habitats	
Regulation Assessment (document	
reference 5.4.5)	
Habitats Regulations Derogation Case	е
(document reference 5.5)	
Benthic Compensation Strategy Road	Imap
(document reference 5.5.1	- 1
Outline Benthic Implementation and	
Monitoring Plan (document reference	5.5.2)
LBBG Compensation Evidence, Site	0.0.2)
Selection and Roadmap (document	
reference 5.5.3)	
Kittiwake Evidence, Site Selection and	d
Roadmap (document reference 5.5.4)	
Guillemot and Razorbill Evidence, Site	
Selection and Roadmap (document	
reference 5.5.5)	
Lesser Black Backed Gull Implement	ation
and Monitoring Plans (document refer	
5.5.6)	
Kittiwake Implementation and Monitor	ina
Plans (document reference 5.5.7)	
Guillemot and Razorbill Implementation	n
and Monitoring Plans (document refer	
5.5.8)	Chico
LBBG Compensation Site Suitability F	Renort
(document reference 5.5.9)	
Compensation Measures Funding	
Statement (document reference 5.5.1	0)
Compensation Longlist and Shortlist	<i>S</i> ,
(document reference 5.5.11)	
Stage 1 Marine Conservation Zone	
Stage T Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (MCZA) (document refer	onco
5.6)	ence
Details of other consents and licences	
	>
(document reference 5.8)	

Diagning Statement (degument reference)
 Planning Statement (document reference 9.1)
,
Policy Compliance Document (document reference 9.2)
Minerals Resource Assessment (document
• Millerais Resource Assessment (document reference 9.5)
Water Framework Directive Assessment -
onshore (document reference 9.6)
Water Framework Directive assessment -
offshore (document reference 9.7)
Dredge Disposal Site Characterisation
Report (document reference 9.8)
Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment (document reference 9.9)
Navigational Risk Assessment (document
reference 9.10)
Equality Impact Assessment (document reference 9.11)
Cable Specification and Installation Plan
(document reference 9.12)
Margate and Long Sands Special Area of
Conservation Benthic Mitigation Plan
(document reference 9.13)
Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
- Piling (document reference 9.14.1)
Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
- UXO (document reference 9.14.2)
Outline Southern North Sea Special Area
of Conservation Site Integrity Plan
(document reference 9.15)
Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence
Plan (document reference 9.16)
Outline Offshore Operations and
Maintenance Plan (document reference
9.17)
Outline Project Environmental

	Management Plan (document reference
	9.18)
	Working in Proximity to Wildlife in the
	Marine Environment (document reference
	9.18.1)
	Outline Marine Written Scheme of
	Investigation (document reference 9.19)
	Outline Navigation and Installation Plan (document reference 9.20)
	Code of Construction Practice (document
	reference 9.21)
	Arboricultural Report (document reference
	9.22.1)
	Outline Written Scheme of Investigation –
	Onshore (document reference 9.23)
	Outline Construction Traffic Management
	Plan (document reference 9.24)Outline Public Access Management Plan
	(document reference 9.25)
	Outline Workforce Travel Plan (document
	reference 9.26)
	Outline Skills and Employment Strategy
	(document reference 9.27)
	Outline Landfall Methodology (document
	reference 9.28)
	Offshore Connection Scenario (document reference 9.29)
	Co-ordination Document (document
	reference 9.30)
	Schedule of Mitigation - Routemap
	(document reference 9.31)
	Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan
	(document reference 9.32)
	Approach to Statements of Common Cround (document reference 0.22)
	Ground (document reference 9.33).

	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at Box 29 (a) to (q) above?		
	Νο		
31	Is the application accompanied by a report identifying any European site(s) to which Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 applies; or any Ramsar site(s), which may be affected by the Proposed Development, together with sufficient information that will enable the Secretary of State to make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site if required by Regulation 48(1)? ¹⁴	 Yes A Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (document reference 5.4) along with appendices (listed below) have been included with the application. The suite of HRA documents also include the compensation measures longlist and shortlist (document reference 5.5.11) and a compensation measures funding statement (document reference 5.5.10). HRA Site Integrity Matrices (document reference 5.4.1) HRA Screening Report (document reference 5.4.2) HRA Screening Matrices (document reference 5.4.3) Summary of Designated Sites (document reference 5.4.4) Lesser Black Backed Gull Habitats Regulation Assessment (document reference 5.4.5). A Habitats Regulations Derogation case (document reference 5.5) along with appendices (listed 	
		 below) have been included with the application. <u>Conceded derogation</u>: LBBG Compensation: Evidence, Site Selection and Roadmap (document reference 5.5.3) Lesser Black Backed Gull Implementation and Monitoring Plans (document reference 5.5.6) LBBG Compensation Site Suitability Report (document reference 5.5.9). <u>Without prejudice derogation</u>: Benthic Compensation Strategy Roadmap (document reference 5.5.1) Benthic In Principle Monitoring Plan (document reference 5.5.2) Kittiwake: Evidence, Site Selection and Roadmap (document reference 5.5.4) Guillemot (and Razorbill): Evidence, Site Selection and Roadmap (document reference 5.5.7) Kittiwake Implementation and Monitoring Plans (document reference 5.5.7) 	

 $^{^{14}}$ Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations

32	If requested by the Planning Inspectorate, two paper copies of the application form and other supporting documents and plans ¹⁵	Not requested by the Planning Inspectorate.	
33	Has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance', and has this regard led to the application being prepared to a standard that the Planning Inspectorate considers satisfactory?	Yes The cover letter submitted with the application (document reference 1.1) confirms that the Applicant has complied with statutory guidance on the form of the application.	
34	Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)	The Planning Inspectorate to complete	
The	The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended)		
Fee	Fees to accompany an application		
35	Was the fee paid at the same time that the application was made ¹⁶ ?	Yes A fee of £8,244.00 was paid on 18 March 2024.	

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager		
Acceptance Inspector		

 $^{^{15}}$ Regulation 5(2)(r) of the APFP Regulations

¹⁶ The Planning Inspectorate must charge the Applicant a fee in respect of the decision by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55 of the PA2008. If the Applicant fails to pay the fee, the Planning Inspectorate need not consider the application until payment is received. The fee must be paid at the same time that the application is made