FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM VOLUME 6, PART 6, ANNEX 10.3: OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES ASSESSMENT

Application Reference Application Document Number Revision APFP Regulation Date EN010115 6.6.10.3 A 5(2)(a) March 2024



Project	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
Sub-Project or Package	Environmental Statement
Document Title	Volume 6, Part 6, Annex 10.3: Offshore Activities
	Assessment
Application Document Number	6.6.10.3
Revision	A
APFP Regulation:	5(2)(a)
Document Reference	005024286-01

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
А	Mar-24	ES	SLR	GoBe	VE OWFL



₩SLR

Annex 10.3 of Volume 6, Part 3 Chapter 10: Offshore Activities Assessment Environmental Statement

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited

Prepared by: SLR Consulting Limited Floor 3, 86 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 6NG

SLR Project No.: 404.V05356.00010

2 February 2024

Revision: 1.0

Making Sustainability Happen

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
1.0	2 February 2024	Jamie Munro	Ben Turner	Ben Turner

Basis of Report

This document has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) with reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescales and resources devoted to it by agreement with Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) as part or all of the services it has been appointed by the Applicant to carry out. It is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment.

SLR shall not be liable for the use of or reliance on any information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document for any purpose by any person other than the Client. Reliance may be granted to a third party only in the event that SLR and the third party have executed a reliance agreement or collateral warranty.

Information reported herein may be based on the interpretation of public domain data collected by SLR, and/ or information supplied by the Client and/ or its other advisors and associates. These data have been accepted in goopm2.d faith as being accurate and valid.

The copyright and intellectual property in all drawings, reports, specifications, bills of quantities, calculations and other information set out in this report remain vested in SLR unless the terms of appointment state otherwise.

This document may contain information of a specialised and/ or highly technical nature and the Client is advised to seek clarification on any elements which may be unclear to it.

Information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document should only be relied upon in the context of the whole document and any documents referenced explicitly herein and should then only be used within the context of the appointment.

Table of Contents

1.0	Offshore Activities Assessment	1
2.0	Vessel Emissions	2
2.1	Assessment Methodology	2
2.2	Baseline Environment	3
2.3	Vessel Emissions Screening Assessment	5
3.0	Helicopter Emissions	13

Tables in Text

Table A:	Maximum Defra Mapped Background Pollutant Concentration Estimates4
Table B:	Details of Human Receptors Within 250 m and/or 1 km of Potential Nearshore Vessel Activities
Table C:	Details of Ecological Designations Within 250 m and/or 1 km of Potential Offshore Activities
Table D:	Extent of Construction Vessels and Likelihood to Interact With Onshore Sensitive Receptors
Table E:	Total Number Construction Vessel Movements Likely to Occur Within Proximity of an Onshore Receptor
Table F:	Extent of O&M Vessels and Likelihood to Interact with Onshore Sensitive Receptors
Table G:	Number O&M Vessel Movements Likely to Occur Within Proximity of an Onshore Receptor9

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
AQAL	Air Quality Assessment Level
со	Carbon Monoxide
CTV	Crew Transfer Vessel
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
ECA	Emission Control Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LAQM.TG(22)	Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance 2022
MARPOL	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOx	Oxides of Nitrogen
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PM _{2.5}	Fine Particulate Matter
PM10	Particulate Matter
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide
SOx	Sulphur Oxides
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

1.0 Offshore Activities Assessment

The scope of the assessment is to understand potential onshore air quality impacts arising from offshore activities generated by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (VE), during all stages of development. This is in response to the Planning inspectorate (PINS) comments contained within the Scoping Opinion (PINS, 2021).

The offshore wind farm array is located 37 km off the coast, at its closest. Activities occurring at the array (construction, operational and decommissioning) are highly unlikely to cause onshore impacts – given the separation distance and dispersal of emissions. However, offshore activities which do interact with onshore receptors have the potential to cause onshore impacts. These include:

- Marine vessel movements; and
- Helicopter movements.

Information used for the purposes of informing the offshore activity assessment is consistent with values provided within Volume 6, Part 2, Chapter 1: Offshore Project Description. Each assessment is discussed in turn.

2.0 Vessel Emissions

Consideration has been given to the extent of vessel movements generated by VE, during all stages of development, and the likelihood for a significant effect to arise. The scope of the assessment comprises the following:

- Review of the baseline environment, including:
 - Existing vessel movements;
 - Current marine vessel emissions regulations; and
 - o Baseline and future baseline conditions.
- Vessel emissions screening assessment, including:
 - o Review of sensitive onshore receptors; and
 - Comparison of the extent of predicted marine vessel movements associated with all stages of VE with reference to screening thresholds to determine whether further assessment is required.

2.1 Assessment Methodology

The screening of vessel emissions has been undertaken in accordance with the further assessment of vessel emissions is recommended where:

- There are more than 5,000 large ship movements¹ per year, with relevant exposure within 250 m of berths and main areas of manoeuvring: or
- There are more than 15,000 large ship movements per year, with relevant exposure within 1 km of these areas.

The screening thresholds indicate that sensitive receptors up to 1 km from vessel movements can be affected by vessel emissions. The offshore wind farm array is located at the closest 37 km off the coast of England. Given the separation distance, vessel movements associated with all phases of VE are therefore only likely to interact with onshore sensitive receptors where they are:

- Used to facilitate the installation, maintenance and decommissioning of cabling infrastructure at landfall; and/ or
- Exiting/entering a port.

The specific port location(s) to be utilised by vessels are yet to be determined, however all movements will be compliant/ included within the port's capacity analysis undertaken in support of their consent. Therefore, further consideration of vessels exiting/entering a port has not been given.

The focus of this assessment thus relates to the potential extent of vessels used to facilitate the installation, maintenance and decommissioning of cabling infrastructure at landfall and their interaction with onshore sensitive receptors. In relation to this, the majority of vessel movements affecting these receptors would occur in the construction phase (and potentially the decommissioning phase, if infrastructure is not left *in situ*). Nearshore activities during

¹ Cross-channel ferries, roll on-roll off ships, bulk cargo, container ships, cruise liners, etc – one ship generating two movements (arrival and departure).



operation and maintenance (O&M) are expected to be very limited, relating to cable maintenance for example.

Vessel movements used within this assessment derive from values provided within Volume 6, Part 2, Chapter 1: Offshore Project Description. As described in the chapter, flexibility in wind turbine generator (WTG) choice is required to ensure that anticipated changes in available technology and project economics can be accommodated within the project design. Therefore, the chapter details the extent of vessel movements predicted to occur in relation to both WTG scenarios assessed by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (up to 41 large, or up to 79 smaller WTGs are planned for VE). These scenarios represent the maximum and minimum realistic worst-case scenarios against which environmental effects have been assessed. The use of these scenarios provides sufficient confidence in the assessment outcomes.

2.2 Baseline Environment

The offshore elements of VE are located within the North Sea, an area already characterised by a high volume of shipping traffic including large ships/ tankers.

Offshore vessel movements associated with VE would represent a small number of overall vessel traffic in comparison (particularly smaller vessels) and therefore accounts for a small proportion of total North Sea emissions. Further information is provided within Volume 6, Part 2, Chapter 9: Shipping and Navigation.

2.2.1 Current and Future Regulation

Vessel emissions within the North Sea are regulated by legislation. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention for the regulation of emissions from vessels. MARPOL Annex VI, first adopted in 1997, limits the main air pollutants contained in ships exhaust gas, notably sulphur oxides (SO_X) and nitrogen oxides (NO_X) .

In 2005 the MARPOL Annex VI was revised with the aim of strengthening the emission limits in light of technological improvements and implementation experience. This was adopted in 2008. The revised MARPOL Annex VI introduced a globally progressive reduction of SO_x, NO_x, and particulate matter emissions from vessels alongside discrete emission control areas (ECAs) where more stringent limits apply. The North Sea is a designated ECA under MARPOL Annex VI, where the following limits apply:

- 0.1% sulphur fuel content limit. The sulphur limit for international waters is 0.5%; and
- Vessels which comply with the most stringent NOx emission limit (Tier III). Tier II standards apply outside of ECAs.

Vessel emission restrictions are expected to tighten in future years, following the availability and introduction of cleaner technologies and fuels, alongside policy such as the Maritime 2050 and Clean Maritime Plan. These policies provide a strategy for the transition to zero emission shipping within the UK. Therefore, emission contributions from vessel emissions are expected to reduce even further. These projections are evidenced in 2.2.2.

2.2.2 Background Pollutant Concentrations

As discussed in Volume 6, Part 3, Chapter 10: Air Quality, Defra maintains a nationwide model of existing and future background annual mean air quality concentrations at a 1 km² grid square resolution. A review of annual mean background concentrations provided by Defra for the pollutants of principal importance in relation to shipping has been undertaken to provide an indication of sensitivity of the study area to pollutant concentration changes.



Consideration has been given to pollutant concentrations reported for the first year of proposed activities associated with each phase of VE (where available), comprising:

- 2027 the earliest potential year main construction will commence; and
- 2030 the first year of operation (used to characterise decommissioning baseline conditions as well further explanation below).

Pollutant concentrations for the year of 2023 have also been provided as a comparison – to inform the evolution of the baseline.

The current version of Defra's background concentration estimates (2018 reference year) (Defra, 2020) extends up to 2030. 2030 has therefore been used for the purposes of characterising baseline conditions for the decommissioning phase. This is likely to be conservative, in consideration of the forecast improvements to air quality (associated with the introduction of policy and cleaner emission technologies/ restrictions). Baseline concentrations anticipated during the decommissioning phase are expected to lower in comparison to those reported.

Consideration of the first year of proposed activities associated with each phase of VE for the purposes of characterising baseline conditions is likely to be conservative, in recognition of the forecast improvements to air quality. However, this approach ensures all potential impacts are assessed throughout the lifespan of VE.

Defra's dataset includes annual average concentration estimates for NOx, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM_{10}) and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) using a reference year of 2018 (the year in which comparisons between modelled and monitoring are made), which are projected up to the year 2030. Annual mean background concentrations of carbon monoxide (CO) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) are also available, however these relate to 2001 concentrations. These values are therefore likely to be overly conservative in consideration of concentrations anticipated throughout VE. This is because background CO and SO₂ concentrations are likely to have reduced since 2001 (and continue to do so in the future), following the introduction of policy and lower emission technologies (discussed in Section 2.2.1),

As justified in Section 2.1, consideration has been given to onshore locations within 1 km of potential nearshore vessels movements at the offshore vs. onshore interface i.e., where vessels are used to facilitate the construction and decommissioning of onshore infrastructure (cable laying and landfall infrastructure). The maximum annual mean background concentrations for each relevant pollutant considered, based on the 1 km² grid squares which cover the onshore study area are provided in Table A. The corresponding Air Quality Assessment Levels (AQALs) and Critical Levels are provided as a comparison, where available.

Pollutant	Year	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³)	
		Maximum Background ^{(B) (C)}	AQAL or Critical Level
NOx	2023	9.6	30
	2027	8.6	
	2030	8.2	
NO ₂	2023	7.5	40
	2027	6.9	
	2030	6.4	

Table A: Maximum Defra Mapped Background Pollutant Concentration Estimates

Pollutant	Year	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³)		
		Maximum Background ^{(B) (C)}	AQAL or Critical Level	
PM10	2023	13.9	40	
	2027	13.5		
	2030	13.6		
PM _{2.5}	2023	8.4	20	
	2027	8.1		
	2030	8.1		
SO ₂	2001	5.4	10/ 20 ^(A)	
СО	2001	230.0	-	

Table notes:

- ^(A) 10µg/m³ where lichens or bryophytes are present, 20µg/m³ where they are not present.
- ^(B) 2018 reference datasets: NOx, NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}
- ^(C) 2001 reference datasets: SO₂, CO

The maximum background concentrations reported for the onshore locations likely to be affected by nearshore vessel emissions are below the corresponding AQALs and Critical Levels for all phases of VE. Reported maximum 2001 concentrations of SO₂ and CO are likely to be greater in comparison to those anticipated during VE – as these do not take into account any improvements beyond 2001 (i.e. introduction of cleaner emission technologies and restrictions). A large headroom exists between projected annual mean pollutant background concentrations and the corresponding AQALs/ Critical Levels at locations where offshore vessel movements are most likely to interact with onshore sensitive receptors. The likelihood of vessel emission pollutant contributions causing an exceedance of the AQALs/ Critical Levels is therefore low. The sensitivity of the study area with respect to pollutant concentration changes is therefore low.

Furthermore, baseline concentrations anticipated during the decommissioning phase are expected to be lower in comparison. This is largely driven by the legislative and policy interventions which target emissions reductions alongside the introduction of cleaner technologies (discussed in Section 2.2.1). These forecast improvements are reflected within Table A where the maximum background concentrations across the study area largely decrease in future years.

2.3 Vessel Emissions Screening Assessment

2.3.1 Review of Onshore Sensitive Receptors

In recognition of the LAQM.TG(22) (Defra, 2022) screening thresholds, a review of onshore coastal sensitive (human and ecological) receptors located within 250 m and/ or 1 km of potential nearshore vessel movements generated by VE (at the locations of the onshore vs. offshore interface) has been undertaken. Volume 6, Part 3, Chapter 10: Air Quality, Figure 10.6 provides an illustration of the offshore activities study area, following the application of the screening thresholds from Landfall within the Order Limits.

Outcomes of this exercise will be used to indicate whether exposure exists, and further assessment is required.

For the purposes of defining the onshore study area (the potential area affected by nearshore vessel emissions), 250 m and 1 km onshore buffers from the onshore vs. offshore interfaces have been established. This theoretically assumes that vessel movements at the



onshore vs. offshore interfaces occur up to the point of the coastline – irrespective of logistical constraints (i.e., shallow water). This is considered conservative – as it increases the spatial extent of the onshore study area – as vessel movements are likely to occur some distance from the coast, given logistical constraints.

2.3.2 Human Receptors

Table B details the extent of human receptors located within 250 m and/ or 1 km of potential nearshore vessel movements generated by VE.

Table B: Details of Human Receptors Within 250 m and/ or 1 km of Potential Nearshore Vessel Activities

Affected Area/ Properties	Within 250 m	Within 1 km
Frinton Golf Clubhouse	No	Yes
Residential properties off Second Avenue	No	Yes
Residential properties off Third Avenue	No	Yes
Residential properties off Esplanade	No	Yes
Residential properties off Holland Road	No	Yes

No human receptors are found within 250 m of potential nearshore vessel movements generated by VE, however human receptors are found within 1 km. Further assessment in relation to human receptors is therefore required.

2.3.3 Ecological Receptors

Table C details the extent of ecological designations located within 250 m and/ or 1 km of potential nearshore vessel movements. These locations are illustrated in Appendix A of this document.

Table C: Details of Ecological Designations Within 250 m and/ or 1 km of Potential Offshore Activities

Site Name	Designation	Within 250 m	Within 1 km
Holland Haven Marshes	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Yes	Yes
Holland Haven Marshes	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Yes	Yes
Frinton Cliffs	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	No	Yes

Ecological receptors are found within 250 m and/ or 1 km of potential nearshore vessel movements generated by VE. Further assessment in relation to ecological receptors is therefore required.

2.3.4 Construction Phase Assessment

The LAQM.TG(22) (Defra, 2022) screening criteria relates to the number of large ships movements per year; however, the extent of predicted construction vessels numbers for VE provided in Volume 6, Chapter 1: Offshore Project Description relates to the total number of round trips. In order to derive the number of vessel movements per year for each phase, the total number of vessels movements (round trips) has been multiplied by two.



The number of predicted construction vessels movements relates to the extent of vessels generated throughout the whole construction period. The construction period is expected to last longer than 1 year (up to 3 years). To increase the confidence in the screening exercise and minimise the use of assumptions, the total number of construction vessel movements estimated to occur throughout the whole construction phase has been used. This is believed to be conservative as the screening thresholds relate to the number of vessel movements permitted to occur in an annual period. Therefore, actual annual movements are believed to be lower than those values used for screening.

Construction vessel movements have been categorised based upon their likelihood to occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of an onshore sensitive receptor located in proximity of construction works to be consistent with the LAQM.TG(22) screening thresholds. Outcomes of this exercise are documented within Table D.

Table D:	Extent of Construction Vessels and Likelihood to Interact With Onshore
	Sensitive Receptors

Vessel Type	Vessel Movements Likely to Occur Within 250m of on an Onshore Sensitive Receptor?	Vessel Movements Likely to Occur Within 1km of on an Onshore Sensitive Receptor?
Scour Vessel	No	No
Gravity Base Foundation Ballast Vessel	No	No
Foundation Installation Spread Vessel	No	No
Transition Piece Installation Vessel	No	No
WTG Installation Spread Vessel	No	No
Commissioning Vessel	No	No
Accommodation Vessel	No	No
IA Cable Vessel	No	No
IA Rock Berm Vessel	No	No
Export Cable Vessels and Landfall Cable Installation Vessel	Yes	Yes
Export Cable Rock Berm Vessel	Yes	Yes
Substation Installation Vessel Topside	No	No
Substation Installation Vessel Foundation	No	No
Other Vessels	No	No

Export cable vessels and landfall cable installation vessels will be used to facilitate the construction of onshore infrastructure. It is therefore assumed that these vessel movements will occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of a sensitive onshore receptor at the location of the offshore vs. onshore interface (see Section 2.3.1). All other vessels will predominantly be used to facilitate the construction of offshore infrastructure. The offshore wind farm array is



proposed to be located 37 km off the coast at the closest point. Therefore, vessel movements used in the construction of the offshore array will not occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of the offshore vs. onshore interface.

Table E details the extent of construction vessel movements likely to occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of the offshore vs. onshore interface, in comparison to LAQM.TG(22) screening thresholds to determine whether further assessment is required.

It should be acknowledged that the LAQM.TG(22) screening thresholds relate explicitly to large ship movements which comprise cross-channel ferries, roll on-roll off ships, bulk cargo, container ships and cruise liners. Vessels used to facilitate the construction of onshore infrastructure (within 250 m and/ or 1 km of onshore works) are unlikely to represent large ships, given the nature and location of works. For the purposes of facilitating an assessment, it has been assumed that all vessels will comprise large ships. Furthermore, as discussed, it has been assumed that these vessels operate at the onshore vs. offshore interface i.e. up to the point of the coastline.

This approach is considered to be overly conservative – and increases the confidence in the overall assessment outcomes.

Vessel Type	Vessel Movements (Round Trips)		Vessel Movements ^(A)	
	Small WTG	Large WTG	Small WTG	Large WTG
Export Cable Vessels and Landfall Cable Installation Vessels	26	26	52	52
Export Cable Rock Berm Vessels	252	252	503	503
Total	278	278	555	555
LAQM.TG(22) Screening Criteria	Exposure Within 250 m		5,000	
	Exposure Within 1 km		15,000	
Note:	-		•	

Table E:	Total Number Construction Vessel Movements Likely to Occur Within
	Proximity of an Onshore Receptor

^(A) The total number of vessels movements (round trips) has been multiplied by two to calculate the total number of movements (one ship generating two movements).

The total number of vessel movements estimated to occur throughout the construction phase (up to 3 years) within 250 m and/ or 1 km of onshore sensitive receptors (at locations of the offshore vs. onshore interface) are below the LAQM.TG(22) screening thresholds, despite the overly conservative assessment methodology applied. Actual annual movements are believed to be lower than those values used for screening. Furthermore, offshore construction works are expected to last up to 3 years, and as such impacts are believed to be temporary, with no long-term deterioration of conditions.

Whilst taking the above into account, in conjunction with baseline conditions discussed in Section 2.1, impacts from vessel emissions associated with the construction phase are not considered to be significant. Further assessment is therefore not required.

2.3.5 **Operational & Maintenance Phase Assessment**

Vessels will mainly be used for the maintenance of the offshore wind farm array - located 37 km off the coast, at its closest point. Vessels may be used for unplanned maintenance



including cable replacement, which could occur close to the shore. No extensive (planned) nearshore activities are expected to be required in the operational phase.

O&M vessel movements detailed within Volume 6, Chapter 1: Offshore Project Description have been categorised based upon their likelihood to occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of onshore works (and therefore a sensitive onshore receptor). Outcomes of this exercise are documented within Table F.

Table F:	Extent of O&M Vessels and Likelihood to Interact with Onshore Sensitive
	Receptors

Vessel Type	Likely To Occur Within 250m of an Onshore Sensitive Receptor/ Onshore Works	Likely To Occur Within 1km of an Onshore Sensitive Receptor/ Onshore Works
Jack-Up Vessels	No	No
Service Operations Vessels	No	Νο
Small O&M Vessels (CTV)	No	No
Lift Vessels	No	No
Cable Maintenance Vessels	Yes	Yes
Auxiliary Vessel	Yes	Yes

Cable maintenance vessels and auxiliary vessels (where used to support the cable maintenance vessels) have the potential to occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of the onshore works and therefore a sensitive onshore receptor. All other vessels will predominantly be used to facilitate the maintenance of offshore infrastructure. The offshore wind farm array is proposed to be 37 km off the coast at the closest point. It is highly unlikely that vessel movements used for the maintenance of offshore infrastructure will therefore occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of the offshore vs. onshore interface.

Table G details the extent of operations and maintenance (O&M) vessel movements likely to occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of the offshore vs. onshore interface, in comparison to LAQM.TG(22) (Defra, 2022) screening thresholds to determine whether further assessment is required.

It should be acknowledged that the LAQM.TG(22) screening thresholds relate explicitly to large ship movements which comprise cross-channel ferries, roll on-roll off ships, bulk cargo, container ships and cruise liners. O&M vessels (located within 250 m and/ or 1 km of onshore works) are unlikely to represent large ships, given the nature and location of works. For the purposes of facilitating an assessment, it has been assumed that all vessels will comprise large ships. Furthermore, as discussed, it has been assumed that these vessels operate at the onshore vs. offshore interface i.e. up to the point of the coastline.

This approach is therefore considered to be highly conservative – which serves to increase confidence in the overall assessment outcomes.

Table G: Number O&M Vessel Movements Likely to Occur Within Proximity of an Onshore Receptor

Vessel Type		Vessel Movements (Round Trips)		Vessel Movements ^(A)	
	Small WTG	Large WTG	Small WTG	Large WTG	
Export Cable Vessels	1	1	2	2	
Auxiliary Vessels	64	56	128	112	
Total	65	57	130	114	
LAQM.TG(22) Screening Criteria	Exposure With	Exposure Within 250 m		5,000	
	Exposure With	Exposure Within 1 km		15,000	
N ata .	•				

Note:

^(A) The total number of vessels movements (round trips) has been multiplied by two to calculate the total number of movements (one ship generating two movements).

Estimated vessel movements likely to occur within 250 m and/ or 1 km of onshore sensitive receptors (at locations of the offshore vs. onshore interface), are below the LAQM.TG(22) screening thresholds, despite the highly conservative assessment methodology applied.

Whilst taking the above into account, in conjunction with baseline conditions discussed in Section 2.1, emissions from vessel emissions associated with the O&M phase are not considered to be significant. Further assessment is therefore not required.

2.3.6 Decommissioning Phase Assessment

Details surrounding the decommissioning phase are yet to be fully clarified. In addition, it is also recognised that policy, legislation and local sensitivities evolve, which will limit the relevance of undertaking an assessment at this stage.

Decommissioning activities are expected to occur for up to three years. Decommissioning activities are not anticipated to exceed the construction phase worst case criteria assessed and impacts are likely to be lesser in comparison, given the following:

- Landfall infrastructure is expected to be left *in situ* where appropriate, to abate potential future impacts and minimise the extent of decommissioning activities;
- Vessel emission restrictions are expected to tighten in future years and in the interim before decommissioning activities occur (>25 years). This forecast is based on the introduction and availability of cleaner technologies and fuels, alongside legislation – as detailed in Section 2.1. Therefore, emission contributions from vessel emissions generated during the decommissioning phase are expected to be lower in comparison; and/ or
- Air quality is expected to improve in future years, and in the interim before decommissioning activities occur (>25 years). This forecast is based on the introduction of policy and legislation, and availability of cleaner technologies. The likelihood of a significant effect arising during the decommissioning phase is therefore low.

These elements (alone and/ or in combination) would result in a reduction in the level of significance in comparison to the assessment of construction effects. The outcomes of the construction phase assessment indicate that impacts from vessel emissions on sensitive



onshore receptors are not significant. Further assessment in relation to the decommissioning phase is therefore not required – and effects are believed to be not significant.

Nonetheless, the decommissioning methodology would be finalised nearer to the end of the lifetime of VE, to be in line with current guidance, policy and legislation. Any such methodology would be agreed with the relevant authorities and statutory consultees.

3.0 Helicopter Emissions

Consideration has been given to the extent of helicopter movements generated by VE, during all stages of development, and the likelihood for a significant effect on onshore sensitive receptors to arise.

In all phases of VE, helicopters will use an existing onshore base/ helipad; all movements will be compliant/ in line with the relevant helipads operational constraints and management plans. The increased number of helicopter movements at the existing helipad will still likely be under the maximum assessed capacity of the existing onshore base/ helipad.

Up to 530 two-way movements by up to two helicopters may be undertaken on an annual basis during the construction phase. Impacts during the construction phase are believed to be temporary, with no long-term deterioration of conditions. It should be noted that helicopters may also be used for emergency situations, for training/ drills, and where requested by the relevant authorities.

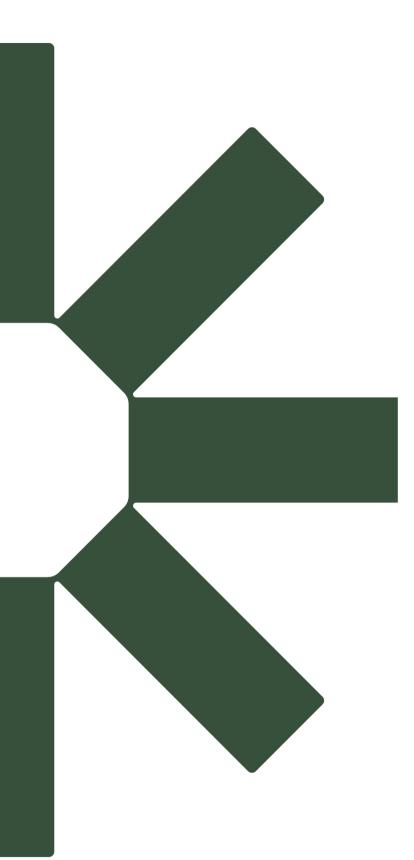
During the operational phase, helicopters will only be used for crew transfer during unplanned maintenance where crew transfer vessel (CTV) access is not possible. Up to 125 two-way movements helicopter trips per year may be required.

Details surrounding the decommissioning phase are yet to be fully clarified however are expected to occur for up to three years. Despite this, decommissioning activities are not anticipated to exceed the construction phase worst case criteria assessed and impacts are likely to be lesser in comparison, given the potential for infrastructure to remain *in situ*, forecast improvements to air quality and introduction of cleaner emission technologies.

In consideration of the above, the likelihood for potential effects to occur are considered unlikely given the frequency of use, transient exposure and separation distances from emission sources to receptors. Further consideration of helicopter emissions has therefore been screened out for all phases of VE, and effects can be concluded as not significant.

References

- Defra (2020), 'Background Mapping data for local authorities 2018', <u>https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/laqm-background-maps?year=2018</u> [accessed January 2024].
- Defra (2022), Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22) (LAQM.TG(22)), August 2022.
- PINS (2021), Scoping Opinion: Proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, Case Reference: EN010115.



Making Sustainability Happen



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

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