




F I V E  
ESTUARIES  
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE  
WIND FARM  
VOLUME 9, DOCUMENT 33:  
APPROACH TO STATEMENTS OF  
COMMON GROUND

Application Reference	EN010115
Application Document Number	9.33
Revision	A
APFP Regulation:	5(2)(q)
Date	March 2024





Project	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
Sub-Project or Package	Environmental Statement
Document Title	Volume 9, Document 33 – Approach to Statements of Common Ground
Application Document Number	9.33
Revision	A
APFP Regulation	5(2)(q)
Document Reference	005076724-01

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	VEOWFL	VEOWFL	VEOWFL



## CONTENTS

1.	Introduction .....	7
1.1	Purpose of Document.....	7
1.2	Consultation to Date .....	7
1.3	Statements of Common Ground .....	8
1.4	Statement of Commonality of SOCGs.....	8
1.5	Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements .....	8

## TABLES

Table 1 - List (non-exhaustive) of potential interested parties for SoCGs and topics .....	9
--	---



## DEFINITION OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
DCO	Development Consent Order
EA	Environment Agency
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ExA	Examining Authority
LVIA	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
MCA	Maritime Coastguard Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
PADS	Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Impact Report
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm
VE OWFL	Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm Limited

## GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
VE	The Project.
The Applicant	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ExA	A panel of independent inspectors called the examining authority examine the project, they conduct the examination of the application, and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State about if the project should go ahead
PADS	Principal Area of Disagreement Statement provides a summary position of those areas a stakeholder considers to be unresolved and/or in dispute
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The PEIR was written in the style of a draft Environmental Statement (ES) and formed the basis of statutory consultation. Following that consultation, the PEIR



Term	Definition
	documentation has been updated into the final ES that is accompanying the application for the Development Consent Order (DCO).
ES	Environmental Statement (the documents that collate the processes and results of the EIA).
SOCCG	Sets out areas of agreement and disagreement between a stakeholder and the applicant



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1 The Approach to Statement of Common Grounds (SoCG) document accompanies the application for the proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (the 'Project'). The aim of this document is to set out the approach to drafting and developing SoCGs with stakeholders, the Statement of Commonality of SoCGs and the relationship to any requested Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADSs) which the Examining Authority may request.
- 1.1.2 A SoCG is a document which outlines the areas of agreement and/or disagreement between two interested parties in relation to a proposed development. The SoCGs are voluntarily entered into and are records of the position between parties not formal agreements, nonetheless they assist the Examining Authority (ExA) and Secretary of State in the determination of the application.
- 1.1.3 A Statement of Commonality of SoCGs is summary document setting out for each stakeholder and each topic, the general level of agreement on matters relating to the application and provides an overview of where outstanding issues remain.
- 1.1.4 PADSs are unilateral documents produced by interested parties, usually at the request of the ExA, and entered into the examination to provide an initial position on where, from the Interested Parties perspective, their key areas of disagreement with the Applicant are.

### 1.2 CONSULTATION TO DATE

- 1.2.1 Under the Planning Act 2008, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are required to carry out consultation with key groups before submitting an application. Three stages of consultation were carried out between 2022 and 2024, as detailed in the Consultation Report (Volume 5, Report 5.1).
- 1.2.2 Under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, The Project published a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for consultation. The PEIR was published as part of the Section 42 consultation between 14 March 2023 to 12 May 2023 (Stage 2 Consultation).
- 1.2.3 The Project has been engaged with multiple stakeholders throughout the development of the application and has held Expert Topics Groups (ETGs) on a number of specific topics, as detailed in Volume 5, Document 5.2; Evidence Plan. These have also been supplemented with bilateral meetings with key stakeholders.
- 1.2.4 The consultation responses and output from key meetings, alongside relevant representations made during the pre-examination period will help to inform the basis for the draft SoCGs with key stakeholders.



### 1.3 STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 1.3.1 Following the detailed consultation and engagement outlined in Section 1.2, the Applicant will produce draft SoCGs to further develop with relevant Interested Parties. In common with other examples, the SoCGs will set out the topic, summary of the issue or matter subject to disagreement or agreement, the position of the Applicant and that of the Interested Party, and a colour coding to illustrate the level of agreement and/or materiality.
- 1.3.2 Table 1 gives an indication of the Interested Parties and relevant topics of interest that the Project intends to seek a SoCG with, based on engagement to date. As a bilateral document, the SoCGs rely on agreement from the Interested Parties to progress and progress will therefore be dependent on the availability and willingness of Interested Parties to engage in the process.
- 1.3.3 To avoid overly lengthy documents wherever possible, the content of the SoCGs will be kept to key issues that are under discussion or not agreed, or where the record of agreement on a particular matter has a material effect on the Examination.
- 1.3.4 The Applicant will manage the drafting of the SoCGs, submitting them into the Examination at the appropriate time.
- 1.3.5 It is not intended, unless otherwise directed by the ExA, to enter into SoCGs with landowners or land interests, as agreement with these Interested Parties is to be secured primarily via commercial agreement where they are willing to engage.

### 1.4 STATEMENT OF COMMONALITY OF SOCGS

- 1.4.1 To assist the ExA during the Examination the Applicant will submit, at the appropriate times, a Statement of Commonality of SoCGs. The document will summarise the level of agreement within the individual SoCGs by stakeholder and by topic, providing a visual representation of where any key areas of disagreement remain across the application. A colour coding system will be used to illustrate whether matters are agreed, under discussion or not agreed.

### 1.5 PRINCIPAL AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT STATEMENTS

- 1.5.1 The Applicant will use any PADS submitted by Interested Parties to inform the initial drafting or updates of SoCGs, and to focus ongoing engagement with the relevant parties. Where PADS are updated during examination, the Project would then seek to update the relevant SoCGs to reflect the positions of the Interested Parties alongside the Applicants'.



**Table 1 - List (non-exhaustive) of potential interested parties for SoCGs and topics**

<b>Interest Party</b>	<b>Example Topic(s)</b>	<b>Onshore / Offshore</b>
<b>Essex County Council</b>	All Onshore Topics	Onshore
<b>Tendring District Council</b>	All Onshore Topics	Onshore
<b>Environment Agency</b>	Hydrology, Flood Defence	Onshore / Offshore
<b>National Highways</b>	Impacts to the Strategic Road Network	Onshore
<b>Historic England</b>	Terrestrial Archaeology & Cultural Heritage, Marine archaeology, Historic Setting Assessments	Onshore / Offshore
<b>Natural England</b>	Matters relating to European protected species and sites, terrestrial ecology, biodiversity net gain, marine ecology, landscape	Onshore / Offshore
<b>Suffolk County Council</b>	Seascape and Visual Impact	Offshore
<b>East Suffolk Council</b>	Seascape and Visual Impact	Onshore
<b>Marine Management Organisation</b>	Content of the deemed Marine Licences, marine habitats and species, marine protected areas.	Offshore
<b>RSPB</b>	Offshore ornithology, matters relating to European protected species and protected sites.	Offshore
<b>Chamber of Shipping</b>	Commercial shipping, navigational safety	Offshore
<b>Harwich Haven Authority</b>	Commercial shipping, navigational safety	Offshore
<b>London Gateway</b>	Commercial shipping, navigational safety	Offshore
<b>Port of London Authority</b>	Commercial shipping, navigational safety	Offshore
<b>Maritime and Coastguard Agency</b>	Commercial shipping, recreational shipping, navigational safety	Offshore
<b>Trinity House</b>	Commercial shipping, recreational shipping, navigational safety	Offshore
<b>Sunk Vessel Traffic Service</b>	Commercial shipping, navigational safety	Offshore



The logo for Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm. The word "FIVE" is written in a large, sans-serif font. The letter "I" is grey, "V" is purple, and "E" is pink. To the right of "FIVE" are three wavy lines representing water, colored teal, green, and yellow from top to bottom. Below "FIVE" is the word "ESTUARIES" in a large, grey, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo is the phrase "OFFSHORE WIND FARM" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

FIVE  
ESTUARIES  
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

PHONE  
EMAIL  
WEBSITE  
ADDRESS

COMPANY NO

0333 880 5306

fiveestuaries@rwe.com

[www.fiveestuaries.co.uk](http://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