

**FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECT
PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER: EN010115**

Sections 91 and 92 of the Planning Act 2008

Rule 13(6) Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Notice of Preliminary Meeting, Compulsory Acquisition, and Issue Specific Hearings

Notice is hereby given that, at the dates, times and location set out below, the following Hearings will be held by the Examining Authority (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero) in respect of the application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) (registered office at Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, SN5 6PB) for a Development Consent Order under sections 14, 15 and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Act”). The Application (Planning Inspectorate reference number: EN010115) was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State c/o the Planning Inspectorate on 26 March 2024 and accepted on 23 April 2024. The Examining Authority was appointed on 7 June 2024 to examine the Application.

Date	Hearing	Time	In person venue
Tuesday 17 September 2024	Preliminary Meeting	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:30 Virtual (online) Registration Process from: 09:30 Preliminary Meeting starts: 10:00	Wivenhoe House Hotel Wivenhoe Park Park Road Colchester CO4 3FA
Tuesday 17 September 2024	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)	Seating available at venue from: 14.00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 14.00 Hearing starts: 14.30	Wivenhoe House Hotel Wivenhoe Park Park Road Colchester CO4 3FA
Wednesday 18 September 2024	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Environmental Matters	Seating available at venue from: 09.30 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 09.30 Hearing starts: 10.00	Wivenhoe House Hotel Wivenhoe Park Park Road Colchester CO4 3FA
Thursday 19 September 2024	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) (continued if not completed on Wednesday 18 September 2024) Environmental Matters	Seating available at venue from: 09.30 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 09.30 Hearing starts: 10.00	Wivenhoe House Hotel Wivenhoe Park Park Road Colchester CO4 3FA
Thursday 19 September 2024	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Draft Development Consent Order Matters	Seating available at venue from: 14.00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 14.00 Hearing starts: 14.30	Wivenhoe House Hotel Wivenhoe Park Park Road Colchester CO4 3FA

The Preliminary Meeting and subsequent Hearings will be blended events (i.e. attendance can be in person or online via any standard internet browser). Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

You must register by completing the online Event Participation Form (<https://forms.office.com/e/RJhFPfvgCa>) by 9 September 2024 if you intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe the Hearings then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to observe only by 9 September 2024 using the Event Participation Form on the project website. Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by 9 September 2024.

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to discuss the procedure for the Examination of the above application.

At each Hearing interested parties are entitled (subject to the Examining Authority's powers of control over the conduct of the Hearing) to make oral representations about the particular issue to be considered. Interested parties include any person that has made a relevant representation to the Examining Authority in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Planning Act 2008, as well as the Applicant, and various persons and bodies prescribed by statute.

Should the consideration of the issues take less time than anticipated, the Hearing may be concluded as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any Hearing then it may be necessary to continue the session for longer on the day or adjourn the hearing and continue at a subsequent sitting.

If you require assistance with registering your attendance, please contact the Planning Inspectorate at FiveEstuaries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or by calling 0303 444 5000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm).

The Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline and subsequent Deadlines are set out in the Draft Examination Timetable, available to view in the Rule 6 Letter on the project page of the Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010115>

Any further hearings will be publicised as required by the Examining Authority and by the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Summary of the Project

The Application is for development consent to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission an offshore wind farm known as the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm ("the Project"), and the associated development to connect the offshore wind farm to the national grid. The Project is a proposed extension to the operational Galloper Offshore Wind Farm situated off the coast of Suffolk.

The Project includes provision for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm located approximately 37 kilometres off the coast of Suffolk at its closest point in the southern North Sea; including up to 79 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure making landfall at Sandy Point between Frinton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea in Essex, the

installation of underground cables, and the construction of an electrical substation and associated infrastructure to the west of Little Bromley to connect the development to National Grid's proposed East Anglia Connection Node substation. The Project includes provisions for the installation of additional underground ducts to be utilised by a separate project with a similar proposed landfall and connection point. The Project also includes provision for the construction, operation, maintenance, and removal of habitat improvements measures for lesser black-backed gulls at a site on Orford Ness in East Suffolk.

Maps showing the onshore and offshore locations of the wind farm and associated infrastructure form part of the Application (examination library references APP-006 for the onshore location plan and APP-007 for the offshore location plan), which can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under the documents tab:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010115>

As the proposed wind farm will have a generating capacity in excess of 100MW, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(3) of the Act. Development consent is therefore required for the Project.

The Development Consent Order would, if granted, authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The Development Consent Order would also authorise alterations to the public highway network, the construction of temporary construction and permanent access routes, the temporary stopping up and / or management of the public highway, public rights of way and street works, and the application and / or disapplication of legislation.

Application form and accompanying documents

The application form and the accompanying documents, plans and Environmental Statement (including Non-Technical Summary) can be viewed and downloaded free of charge on the Project's page of the Planning Inspectorate's website under the 'Documents' tab:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010115>

The documents will be available online throughout the pre-examination and examination process. To find out more about the Project, you can visit the Applicant's website at www.fiveestuaries.co.uk.

Copies of the Application form and the accompanying documents, plans and maps, including the Environmental Statement, can be provided by the Applicant by using the contact details below. A charge of up to £10,000 may be made for providing paper copies.

You can contact the Applicant directly with questions about the Project using the contact information below:

Email: fiveestuaries@rwe.com

Telephone: 0333 880 5306

23 August 2024