

# FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

10.5 FIVE ESTUARIES AND NATURAL ENGLAND SURVEY DISCUSSION SUMMARY

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Pursuant to: Planning Act 2008 – Section 89(3)

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Revision	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Originator	Checked	Approved
Α	Sep-24	Procedural Deadline D	GoBe	VEOWF	VEOWF

### FIVE ESTUARIES AND NATURAL ENGLAND SURVEY DISCUSSION SUMMARY

22 AUGUST 2024

## Item 1: VE Survey Update

Following further discussions with stakeholders, Five Estuaries (VE) is aiming to confirm the approximate 6 ha fenced habitat management area that would be required for the Lesser Black Backed Gull (LBBG) compensation site on Orford Ness.

VE have been permitted access to the National Trust (NT) land on Orford Ness. Surveys will therefore be undertaken and focus on the NT land to begin with. VE hope to use these results as a proxy to characterise the adjacent Cobra Mist land where voluntary access has not currently been secured.

Natural England (NE) noted that VE would still need to understand the Cobra Mist site in further detail, via additional surveys prior to implementation, to inform the detailed siting of the compensation site fencing, as it will be difficult to characterise the whole site from surveying only the NT land.

VE noted at this stage they would have to keep the surveys broad, owing to the lack of access to the Cobra Mist land. However, if necessary and required, there is the potential for VE to undertake more detailed surveys when the final area has been identified.

NE advised that they would want to see a more detailed survey of any additional land included within the compensation site not covered by the current surveys ahead of any measures being implemented. NE noted, in order to provide the most confidence, these surveys should be secured through the DCO as part of the wider LBBG compensatory measures. It should be noted that the design of the site may have to change following any future surveys.

# Item 2: Surveys

The dates and scope of the surveys were discussed, with surveys commencing at the end of August and throughout September. The overall scope of the surveys was agreed, with the addition of using the Sneddon and Randall classification methodology. Additionally, it was agreed that whilst surveying the NT land, the area of bare shingle within the site will be estimated, along with surveys of the saline lagoons.

NE noted that due to the time of the year, some plants and invertebrates may not be present. VE noted and agreed that existing literature on invertebrate populations from the area will be taken into consideration. VE also stated that they would identify and discuss data gaps as part of their reporting. If further surveys are required to take place, VE will aim to capture the whole season.

Item 3: Survey Reporting VE noted that any results and survey reports will be shared with NE and submitted into the examination. VE will include the results in any future update to the 6.8.1 Lesser Black Backed Gull Environmental Impact Assessment [APP- 225].



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