



Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd for the proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm

Case reference: EN010115

Examining Authority's note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) on Wednesday 11 September 2024

Examining Inspectors Rebecca Norman, Mark Harrison and Grahame Gould, as part of the Examining Authority (ExA) for the proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (the Proposed Development) undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI1) during the late morning and early afternoon of Wednesday 11 September 2024. In the course of undertaking USI1 the ExA viewed the site for the proposed onshore substation and the sites for the proposed onshore substations for the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and the East Anglia Connection Node and inspected the landfall area for the Proposed Development at Holland Haven between Frinton and Clacton. In the course of undertaking USI1 the ExA viewed part of the public highway network that the Applicant intends to use in constructing the onshore elements of the Proposed Development.

It was generally dry throughout USI1 and the visibility was good. It was windy at Holland Haven and there was sufficient wind strength for the ExA to see the offshore wind turbines rotating.

The inspection was undertaken by a combination of car and foot using the public highway and other publicly accessible land. A route was planned having regard to issues raised in relevant representations, enabling the ExA to familiarise itself, in particular, with the character of the area within which the Proposed Development's substation and onshore cable corridor would be located and to view the existing offshore wind farms that are located to the east of Frinton and Clacton.

USI1 commenced at 11:00 with the ExA driving from Ardleigh via Little Bromley Road and Ardleigh Road to view the site for the Proposed Development's substation and the sites for the adjoining proposed substations. The ExA drove and walked along both Grange Road and Ardleigh Road and saw where boundary hedgerows and trees are and are not present. The ExA also viewed the adjoining district network operator's substation site on the southern side of Ardleigh Road. The ExA also saw the farmhouse and complex of farmyard buildings at Normans Farm and observed the character of the fields on the southern side of Ardleigh Road through which it is proposed the cable corridor would pass before reaching the substation site.

The ExA then continued along Ardleigh Road to reach Little Bromley and drove along Bentley Road. In driving along Bentley Road the ExA observed the presence of various roadside placards, presumably placed by members of the local community, indicating the locations for a number of the proposed works.

The ExA then drove along the A120, exiting that road at its roundabout junction with the B1035. In joining the B1035 the ExA saw the location of the proposed construction compound on the south eastern side of the junction. The ExA continued along the B1035,

passing through Tendring Green, Tendring and Thorpe Green. The ExA then drove through Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby Cross using the B1033 before joining the B1032 and passing through Great Holland in order to access the car park at Holland Haven.

In walking along the road and track that it is proposed would be used to access the landfill works site the ExA saw both the Port of London's radar installation and the existing compound that the Applicant intends to use as a construction compound.

From the sea wall walkway the ExA saw the Gunfleet Sands, Gunfleet Sands Demonstration, London Array, Galloper and Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farms.

USI1 was concluded at 14:30.

Rebecca Norman, Mark Harrison and Grahame Gould

Members of the Examining Authority