



**National
Trust**

██████████@nationaltrust.org.uk
17 September 2024

Online submission: Planning Inspectorate

Your Ref: EN010115

Our Ref: 20049295

Dear Sir/Madam

Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm project

Submission in lieu of attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 1 (Environmental Matters)

Thank you for the invitation from the Examining Authority (ExA) to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 1. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend this Hearing. However, we have reviewed the detailed agenda and would like to offer our comments in writing on agenda item 5 (Onshore Ecology). We will review the recording of the Hearing and address any further points in our response at the next deadline if necessary.

The National Trust's interest in this application relates to the Applicant's Habitats Regulations Assessment and the proposed derogation case for Lesser Black-Backed Gull (LBBG) in relation to the Alde-Ore Estuary (AOE) Special Protection Area (SPA). In particular, the proposed compensation measures at Orford Ness.

As set out in our Relevant Representation (RR-080), we are concerned about the piecemeal nature of these proposals. As Europe's largest conservation charity, our priority is to ensure the best outcome for nature.

In our Relevant Representation we make reference to land at Lantern Marshes on Orford Ness. For the avoidance of doubt, we wish to clarify that the National Trust are the freehold owners this land, however the minerals are owned by Cobra Mist Ltd. The freehold interest is

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Patron: His Majesty The King
Chair: René Olivieri CBE
Director-General: Hilary McGrady
Midlands & East of England Regional Director : Paul Forecast
Registered office: Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 2NA
Registered charity number 205846

registered at the Land Registry under title number SK127406 which also documents the extent of the mineral rights owned by Cobra Mist Ltd.

There is currently insufficient information to determine the compensation package for LBBG. Further work is required on the location, size and suitability of the proposal. We note the comments submitted by RSPB (RR-094) and Natural England (PD2-006) and are keen to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the compensation for LBBG has the best possible chance of success.

Yours sincerely

Nina Crabb

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