



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix I3 to the Natural England Deadline 3 Submission
Natural England's comments on Seascape Landscape Visual Assessment Wirelines
and Updated Viewpoints [PD4-010 to PD4-012] and [REP2-031 to REP2-038]

For:

The construction and operation of Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, located approximately 57 km from the Essex Coast in the Southern North Sea.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN010115

12 November 2024

Natural England's Advice on the Seascape Landscape and Visual Assessment

In formulating these comments, the following documents have been considered:

Procedural Deadline D Documents

- [PD4-010] 10.8.1 SLVIA Wireline Figures 10.47-10.53
- [PD4-011] 10.8.2 SLVIA Wireline Figures 10.54-10.60
- [PD4-012] 10.8.3 SLVIA Wireline Figures 10.61-10.67

Deadline 1 Document

- [REP1-051] 10.4.1 Applicant's Response to Natural England's Relevant Representation

Deadline 2 Documents

- [REP2-031] 10.21.1 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 1 (Figure 10.26) – 370m Tip Height
- [REP2-032] 10.21.2 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 2 (Figure 10.27) – 370m Tip Height
- [REP2-033] 10.21.3 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 3 (Figure 10.28) – 370m Tip Height
- [REP2-034] 10.21.4 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 4 (Figure 10.29) – 370m Tip Height
- [REP2-035] 10.21.5 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 5 (Figure 10.30) – 370m Tip Height
- [REP2-036] 10.21.6 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 6 (Figure 10.31) – 370m Tip Height
- [REP2-037] 10.21.7 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 9 (Figure 10.34) – 370m Tip Height
- [REP2-038] 10.21.8 Updated SLVIA Viewpoint 10 (Figure 10.35) – 370m Tip Height

1.1. Summary

Natural England welcome the further updated Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) for the maximum height to turbine blade tip metric from 399m LAT to 370m LAT. While the new maximum height to turbine blade tip of 370m LAT is more acceptable than the 399m LAT scenario, this reduction in height does not change Natural England's advice on the significance of impacts to the Suffolk Coast Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (SCHAONB), the Suffolk Heritage Coast (SHC), and their seascape settings.

1.2. Detailed comments

Table 1: Natural England's Advice On: Missing Seascape Landscape and Visual Assessment Wireline Figures

NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	General Comment	Natural England welcome the provision of SLVIA Figures 10.54 to 10.68 into examination as visualisations of the 324m LAT design scenario were not originally made available.	Upon review of these figures, Natural England's concerns remain the same, and therefore our Relevant Representations still stand in full.

Table 2: Natural England's Advice On: Updated Seascape Landscape and Visual Assessment Viewpoints

Document reviewed: [REP2-031 to REP2-038] 10.21.1 to 10.21.8 Updated SLVIA Viewpoints 1-6, 9 and 10 (Figures 10.26 to 10.31, 10.34 and 10.35) – 370m Tip Height			
NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	General Comment	The viewpoints chosen for updated wireframes for 370m LAT option are the key viewpoints within the SCHAONB. The 29m reduction in the height to turbine blade tip has not changed Natural England's advice in relation to the significance of seascape and visual effects associated with the statutory purposes of the SCHAONB, SHC, and their seascape settings.	Natural England's advice remains unchanged.