



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Appendix J7 to Natural England's Deadline 7 Submission
Natural England's Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 5 Documents Related to the
Proposed Lesser Black Backed Gull Compensation Site at Orford Ness

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

03 March 2025

Appendix J7 Natural England’s Advice on the Applicant’s Deadline 5 Documents Related to the Proposed Lesser Black Backed Gull Compensation Site at Orford Ness.

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

- [REP5-005] Five Estuaries 2.8 Street Works and Access Plans - Revision C.
- [REP5-012] Five Estuaries 5.4.3 HRA Screening Matrices - Revision B (Tracked).
- [REP5-022] Five Estuaries 5.5.6 Lesser Black Backed Gull Implementation and Monitoring Plans - Revision C (Tracked).
- [REP5-038] Five Estuaries 9.25 Outline Public Access Management Plan Revision B (Tracked).
- [REP5-074] Five Estuaries 10.34.1 Applicant's Comments on Natural England's Deadline 4 Submissions - Revision A.

Table 1: Natural England’s advice on: Lesser Black Backed Gull Compensation Proposals.

Document reviewed	Update made	Issue resolved? Yes/No/Progressed
[REP5-074] 10.34.1 Applicant’s Comments on Natural England’s Deadline 4 Submissions – Rev A	NE39 (J4) Natural England notes that the Applicant intends to consult the Environment Agency’s NCERM2 map on SMP Explorer, as follows: https://environment.data.gov.uk/shoreline-planning/unit/SMP7/ORF15.2?ncerm-layers=complex-cliff-zone%2Ccomplex-cliff-recession%2Cncerm-smp-0-2055%2Cncerm-smp-0-2105 . We are content that the NCERM2 map predicts there is no coastal erosion risk at the PCS over the next 50-100 years. This issue is, however, only partially resolved because seasonally appropriate baseline surveys covering the PCS still need to be carried out to inform mitigation measures prior to the installation of the fence. Please see our Deadline 6 cover letter for more details [REP6-066]	Partially resolved.
[REP5-074] 10.34.1 Applicant’s Comments on Natural England’s Deadline 4 Submissions – Rev A	NE40 (J8) As advised above, based on the NCERM2 map the Proposed Compensation Site (PCS) area is not predicted to erode over the next 50-100 years. Therefore, this issue is resolved.	Yes.
[REP5-074] 10.34.1 Applicant’s Comments on Natural England’s Deadline 4	NE46 (J23) –Natural England’s original concern [Rel Reprs, J23] was that increased nutrients may arise due to a gull colony being established at the Orford Ness compensation site, which could affect SAC features within the site. In [REP5-074], the Applicant states that ‘any increase in nutrients would be no more than that derived from the	Partially resolved.

<p>Submissions – Rev A</p>	<p><i>stated conservation objective to restore the gull breeding colony within the SPA</i>. However, arisings from sward management should be removed both to deliver optimal nesting habitat and ensure unintended impacts on the SAC do not arise, and that does need to be secured.</p>	
<p>[REP5-074] 10.34.1 Applicant's Comments on Natural England's Deadline 4 Submissions – Rev A and [REP5-022] LIMP</p>	<p>NE52 – The Applicant states that a commitment to remove arisings is made within Section 5.4 of 5.5.6 LBBG Implementation and monitoring Plan – Revision C submitted at Deadline 5. However, in paragraph 5.4.2 of [REP5-022] (updated LIMP), it is stated that <i>'consideration may be given to removing cut vegetation from the site and any blockages from the fencing'</i>. We advise that whilst this <u>'consideration' is welcome</u>, it is not a commitment.</p>	<p>No</p>

