



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
<b>File reference</b>	EN010115
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	15 November 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (“The Applicant”)
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

### Project Update

The Applicant is still expecting to submit its Development Consent Order (DCO) application in February or March 2024 and will be undertaking a targeted consultation from 05 December 2023. This will last for 8 weeks and mostly involve discussions with persons with an interest in the land (PILs). Additional consultation relating to Lesser Black-Backed Gull (LBBG) impacts will include all consultees listed under Section 42. The Applicant’s project website will be updated to include the new consultation materials. Additional opportunities for public engagement are being planned for January 2024 to provide local communities with updates on the recent changes to the project’s red line boundary / Order limits.

Regular co-ordination meetings with North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (North Falls) are ongoing. Regular meetings with National Grid are also ongoing due to significant interactions between the proposed onshore substation associated with the wind farm and National Grids proposed connection node substation.

The Applicant is reviewing draft Environmental Statement chapters. Land and property work is ongoing, including discussions with the ‘Land Agent Group’ that represent the majority of affected landowners along the onshore cable route. The Applicant currently understands that there is no special category land or onshore Crown land within the Order limits.

An announcement on the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme is expected to be made by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero later in November 2023.

The Applicant outlined the current project programme and upcoming multipartite meetings which the Inspectorate has been invited to.

## **HRA Update**

The draft derogation case and compensatory measures documents are now with the Inspectorate and Natural England (NE) for review. Plans for how implementation of these measures would be carried out are currently in development.

## **Draft Application Documents**

The Applicant enquired about the Inspectorate's progress on reviewing submitted draft documents and associated queries. Most documents are still under Inspectorate review and will be returned to the Applicant in December or January.

In relation to the Early Adopters Programme, comments by the Inspectorate on the draft Policy Compliance Document were expected prior to the next scheduled meeting.

## **AOB**

The Applicant confirmed it will provide the Inspectorate with the number of parties impacted by compulsory acquisition and whether there is any Special Category Land/onshore Crown Land affected by the project.

