FIVE ESTUARIES
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

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Project	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
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DEFINITION OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
AfL	Agreements for Lease
BEIS	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
DCO	Development Consent Order
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
VE OWFL	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
Galloper	Galloper Offshore Wind Farm
GW	gigawatts
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
MW	Megawatts
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
O&M	Operational and maintenance
OSPs	Offshore Substation Platforms
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
RLB	Red Line Boundary
SoS	Secretary of State
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
TCE	The Crown Estate
WTGs	wind turbine generators

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

1.1.1 This chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has been drafted by GoBe Consultants Ltd. and introduces the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as VE), the company that is developing the project, and the purpose and structure of the PEIR.

1.1.2 VE is a proposed extension project to the operational Galloper Offshore Wind Farm (Galloper) off the coast of Suffolk (Figure 1.1). The new wind farm would include up to 79 wind turbine generators (WTGs), across two separate sea bed areas in the southern North Sea, and create enough energy each year to power hundreds of thousands of homes. VE will create job opportunities, support the UK Government's ambitions for up to 50GW of electricity generated from offshore wind by 2030 and help meet the objectives of the UK Energy Security Strategy. The existing Galloper Offshore Wind Farm consists of 56 WTGs and supplies electricity to approximately 380,000 households annually. A 60-strong team operates and maintains the wind farm from a state-of-the-art, purpose-built Operations & Maintenance (O&M) facility in Harwich International Port.

1.1.3 VE's wind turbine generators (WTGs) will be situated within two array areas to the east of the operational Galloper. The array areas will be located approximately 37 km off the coast of Suffolk, England. Extension projects, such as VE, are considered to represent a significant opportunity for cost reduction in offshore wind through the benefits of experience in constructing and operating an offshore wind farm (OWF) neighbouring the site, as well as access to existing datasets and environmental studies. This is an increasingly important driver under the highly competitive UK electricity market which aims to deliver the best possible value to the consumer.

1.1.4 VE will have an overall capacity of greater than 100 Megawatts (MW) and therefore constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008. Such projects require a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be granted by the relevant UK Secretary of State (SoS); in this case, the SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero. Further information about the process of the DCO applications can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and Legislation.

1.2 ABOUT THE APPLICANT

1.2.1 The Project is being developed under a joint venture arrangement, through the company Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (VE OWFL). The project partners are the same as for the operational Galloper Offshore Wind Farm and include RWE (25%), a Macquarie-led consortium (25%), Siemens' financing arm, Siemens Financial Services (25%), ESB (12.5%) and Sumitomo Corporation (12.5%). RWE is leading the development of the project on behalf of the project partners.

1.2.2 In the UK, RWE is currently the third largest renewable generator, with a diverse portfolio of onshore wind and offshore wind amounting to over 2.2 gigawatts (GW) of generating capacity. Its biggest share of renewable generation is from offshore wind. RWE is ideally positioned in the UK, with an existing range of power generation assets in addition to wind and solar. RWE already generates around 15% of all the electricity generated in the UK, a figure that we expect to grow as we expand our renewables portfolio.

1.2.3 In the UK, RWE expects to invest up to £15 billion in new green technologies and infrastructure by 2030 and currently has an operating UK portfolio of ten offshore wind farms, and one also currently under construction. Community benefits from renewable energy projects operated by RWE in the UK total £25m over the last 20 years. In 2021, offshore wind farms operated by RWE contributed over £1.2 million to local community funds, including 139 different grants, and helped secure an additional £1.7 million in matching funding. RWE Renewables owns a stake in operational offshore wind farms on the East coast of England, Galloper (353 MW) and Greater Gabbard (504 MW). These generate enough low-carbon renewable energy each year to power the equivalent of over 780,000 UK homes.

1.2.4 These two projects have led to the creation of 15 skilled apprentice opportunities, around 180 long-term skilled jobs to support the operation and maintenance of the wind farms, and around £3 billion in project investment overall. The teams have worked extensively with schools and educational institutes, as well as teachers and pupils along the East coast, to deliver numerous career insight sessions and STEM presentations to promote knowledge of the renewables industry and associated job opportunities.

1.2.5 RWE is also actively involved in industry bodies including Renewable UK and the East of England Energy Group. Over recent years RWE has supported numerous supply chain and industry events, via sponsorship and speaking opportunities, and participation in meet the buyer events, business breakfasts, awards and sponsorship. This activity is ongoing, including participation in the recently launched EastWind – the East of England's Offshore Wind Cluster forum.

1.2.6 The UK will continue to be a key focus in RWE's strategy to grow its renewables business and to become carbon neutral by 2040. As one of the world's leading offshore wind developers, the company supports the UK Government in achieving its goal of having every single home powered by offshore wind within the next 10 years.

1.3 PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.3.1 In February 2017, The Crown Estate (TCE) announced the opportunity for developers to apply for project extensions to operating offshore wind farms. Eight applications were received, including VE, which met the specified criteria. In August 2019, TCE published a plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which assessed the potential impacts of the proposed projects on relevant nature conservation sites of the European Natura 2000 network. Seven of the eight extension projects, including VE, proceeded to the award of leasing rights as part of the 2017 extensions round. The Agreements for Lease (AfLs) for these projects were awarded in summer 2019.

1.3.2 On 5th October 2021, VE OWFL submitted a scoping report (VE OWFL, 2021) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and received a formal scoping opinion (PINS, 2021) on 12th November 2021. PINS issued their transboundary screening document on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) in June 2022. This is provided in Volume 1, Annex 3.2: Transboundary Screening for the purposes of regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations.

1.3.3 VE OWFL has engaged in post-scoping, pre-application consultation with both statutory and non-statutory consultees (including via the Evidence Plan, a series of regular consultation meetings with key stakeholders on technical matters), as well as with the public through a public engagement exercise comprising two live events in Lawford and Frinton-on-Sea, Essex and a hybrid virtual exhibition from 30 June to 12 August 2022. An interim consultation response was issued by VE to the community in Autumn 2022. A comprehensive account of all consultation undertaken to assist in the development of the project will be submitted alongside our DCO application towards the end of 2023.

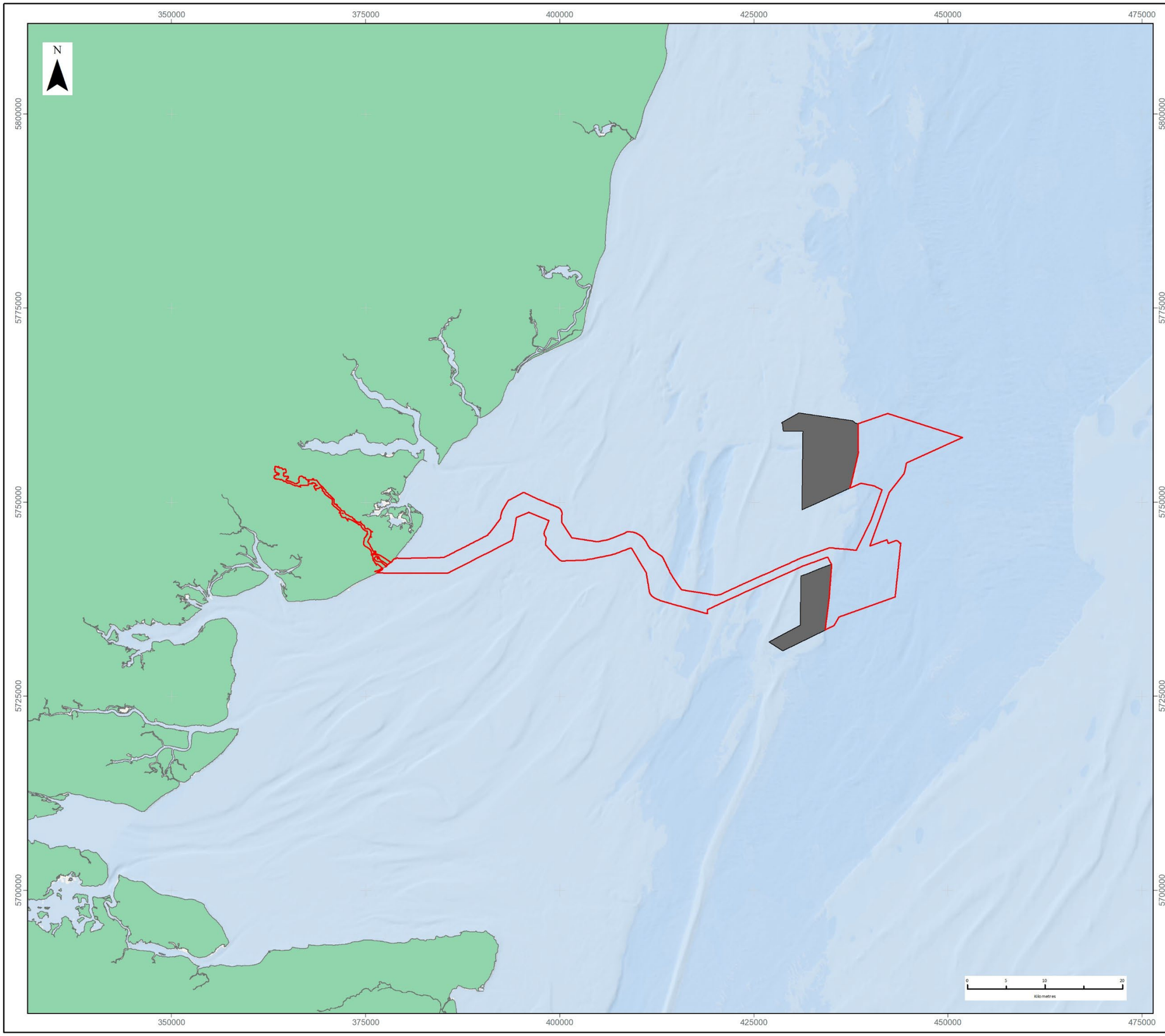
1.3.4 VE OWFL has prepared this PEIR in the format of a draft Environmental Statement (ES) that forms the basis of the project information submitted for statutory consultation under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008. Consultation feedback received will be carefully considered as the project design is finalised and documentation is updated to form the final ES that will accompany the DCO (including deemed marine licence) application.

PROJECT DETAILS

1.3.5 At VE, offshore WTGs will be connected via subsea cables to Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) that will transform the voltage and transmit the power generated via further subsea cables within the offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) to a landfall location between Holland-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea on the Essex coast.

1.3.6 Connection to the National Grid will be at a new substation to be called the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) via cable circuits installed underground between the landfall and the grid connection. A new onshore substation, for VE, will be constructed in the vicinity of National Grid's new EACN.

1.3.7 More information on the project design is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Offshore Project Description and Volume 3, Chapter 1: Onshore Project Description. The project Red Line Boundary (RLB) is presented in Figure 1.1.



LEGEND

- Project PEIR Red Line Boundary
- Galloper OWF

Data Source:
Basemap: Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

PROJECT TITLE:

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WINDFARM

DRAWING TITLE:

The Five Estuaries Red Line Boundary

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1	16/02/2023	For Issue	SS	SM

DRAWING NUMBER:

1.1

SCALE:	PLOT SIZE:	DATUM:	PROJECTION:
1:500,000	A3	WGS84	UTM31N

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Z:\GIS\GIS_Projects\0144 Five Estuaries\GIS\Figures\PEIR\Introduction\VE_Introduction_PEIR_Fig1_RLB.mxd

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

1.4.1 This suite of documents provided for the PEIR for VE, set out the initial findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to satisfy the pre-application consultation requirements under the Planning Act 2008. The EIA will be finalised following this consultation and will be reported in the ES which will accompany the DCO application.

1.4.2 The PEIR forms the basis of the statutory consultation. Once concluded, the feedback received from statutory and non-statutory consultees will be reviewed, with due regard had to all comments within the final ES and other DCO application documents.

1.4.3 The purpose of the PEIR is to present the outcomes of the EIA and consultation to date, forming the basis of the statutory consultation required under the Planning Act 2008. Specifically, the PEIR:

- Provides consultees (statutory, non-statutory and the public) with sufficient technical information to understand the proposed development;
- Presents the existing environmental baseline information, as established through desk studies, surveys and consultation;
- Describes the methodology used within the EIA process;
- Presents the potential environmental impacts arising from VE, based upon the baseline information gathered and the analysis and impact assessments completed;
- Indicates any difficulties encountered during the compilation of the environmental information, including the acknowledgement of any data gaps or deficiencies and the level of confidence in the information gathered;
- Puts forward potential mitigation measures that could prevent, minimise, reduce or offset potential adverse environmental effects identified during the EIA process;
- Provides consideration and analysis of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process and an indication of the reasons for the project selection;
- Provides a basis for the draft DCO; and
- Sets out additional information from the discussions about VE with stakeholders, particularly the Evidence Plan process.

1.5 THE PROJECT TEAM AND STRUCTURE OF THE PEIR

1.5.1 The VE development team responsible for the production of this PEIR, is being led by RWE, with the assistance of lead EIA consultants GoBe Consultants Ltd. and their team of technical specialist sub-consultants. Additionally, Burges Salmon is providing specialist legal advice throughout the process.

1.5.2 GoBe Consultants' EIA activities are accredited by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) under the EIA Quality Mark Scheme, which demonstrates GoBe's commitment to ensuring EIAs are undertaken at a high quality and in accordance with best practice.

1.5.3 Table 1.1 identifies the organisations that have contributed to the relevant sections of the assessment alongside the structure of the PEIR.

Table 1.1: Structure of the PEIR.

Document	Title	Lead Author
N/A	Non-Technical Summary	GoBe Consultants
Volume 1: Introductory Chapters and Annexes		
1.1	Chapter 1: Introduction	GoBe Consultants
1.2	Chapter 2: Policy and Legislation	GoBe Consultants
1.3	Chapter 3: EIA Methodology	GoBe Consultants
1.3.1	Annex 3.1: Cumulative Effects Assessment	GoBe Consultants
1.3.2	Annex 3.2: Transboundary Screening for the purposes of regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations	The Planning Inspectorate
1.4	Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives	GoBe Consultants
Volume 2: Offshore Chapters		
2.1	Chapter 1: Offshore Project Description	GoBe Consultants
2.2	Chapter 2: Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes	ABPmer
2.3	Chapter 3: Marine Water and Sediment Quality	GoBe Consultants
2.4	Chapter 4: Offshore Ornithology	APEM

Document	Title	Lead Author
2.5	Chapter 5: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology	GoBe Consultants
2.6	Chapter 6: Fish and Shellfish Ecology	GoBe Consultants
2.7	Chapter 7: Marine Mammal Ecology	SMRU Consulting
2.8	Chapter 8: Commercial Fisheries	Poseidon
2.9	Chapter 9: Shipping and Navigation	Anatec
2.10	Chapter 10: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	OP-EN
2.11	Chapter 11: Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Maritime Archaeology
2.12	Chapter 12: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users	GoBe Consultants
2.13	Chapter 13: Military and Civil Aviation	Osprey
2.14	Chapter 14: Inter-relationships	GoBe Consultants
Volume 3: Onshore Chapters		
3.1	Chapter 1: Onshore Project Description	SLR
3.2	Chapter 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	OP-EN
3.3	Chapter 3: Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation	SLR
3.4	Chapter 4: Onshore Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	SLR
3.5	Chapter 5: Ground Conditions and Land Use	SLR

Document	Title	Lead Author
3.6	Chapter 6: Hydrology and Flood Risk	SLR
3.7	Chapter 7: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Wessex Archaeology
3.8	Chapter 8: Traffic and Transport	SLR
3.9	Chapter 9: Airborne Noise and Vibration	SLR
3.10	Chapter 10: Air Quality	SLR
3.11	Chapter 11: Human Health, Major Disasters & Climate Change	SLR
Volume 4: Offshore Annexes		
4.2.1	Annex 2.1: Physical Processes Baseline Technical Report	ABPmer
4.2.2	Annex 2.2: Physical Processes Model Design and Validation	ABPmer
4.2.3	Annex 2.3: Physical Processes Technical Assessment	ABPmer
4.2.4	Annex 2.4: Main Array and Export Cable Route - Environmental Features Report	Fugro
4.3.1	Annex 3.1: Water Framework Directive Assessment Note	GoBe
4.4.1	Annex 4.1: Offshore Ornithology Technical Report	McArthur Green
4.4.2	Annex 4.2: Seabird Abundance by Month	McArthur Green
4.4.3	Annex 4.3: Seabird Densities by Month	McArthur Green
4.4.4	Annex 4.4: Seabird Abundances by Survey	McArthur Green

Document	Title	Lead Author
4.4.5	Annex 4.5: Seabird Densities by Survey	McArthur Green
4.4.6	Annex 4.6: Seabird Peak Seasonal Abundances	McArthur Green
4.4.7	Annex 4.7: Seabird Peak Seasonal Densities	McArthur Green
4.4.8	Annex 4.8: Collision Risk Modelling Inputs and Outputs	McArthur Green
4.4.9	Annex 4.9: Seabird Distributions Recorded in Aerial Surveys	McArthur Green
4.4.10	Annex 4.10: Digital Video Aerial Surveys of Seabirds and Marine Mammals at Five Estuaries: Annual Report for March 2019 to February 2020	HiDef
4.4.11	Annex 4.11: Digital Video Aerial Surveys of Seabirds and Marine Mammals at Five Estuaries: Two-year Report March 2019 to February 2021	HiDef
4.5.1	Annex 5.1: Main Array - Benthic Ecology Monitoring Report	Fugro
4.5.2	Annex 5.2: Export Cable Route and Intertidal Benthic Ecology Monitoring Report	Fugro
4.6.1	Annex 6.1: Fish and Shellfish Ecology Technical Baseline Report	GoBe Consultants
4.6.2	Annex 6.2: Underwater Noise Technical Report	Subacoustech
4.6.3	Annex 6.3: Spawning Herring Heatmaps (International Herring Larval Survey Data)	GoBe Consultants
4.7.1	Annex 7.1: Marine Mammals Baseline Characterisation	SMRU
4.8.1	Annex 8.1: Commercial Fisheries Technical Baseline Report	Poseidon

Document	Title	Lead Author
4.11.1	Annex 11.1: Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Technical Report	Maritime Archaeology
4.11.2	Annex 11.2: Outline Marine Written Scheme of Investigation	Maritime Archaeology
Volume 5: Onshore Annexes		
5.4.1	Annex 4.1: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Onshore) Report	SLR
5.4.2	Annex 4.2: Habitat and Hedgerow Survey Report: North of A120	SLR
5.4.3	Annex 4.3: Habitat and Hedgerow Survey Report: South of A120	Ecology Resources
5.4.4	Annex 4.4: Great Crested Newt Survey Report: North of A120	SLR
5.4.5	Annex 4.5: Great Crested Newt Survey Report: South of A120	Ecology Resources
5.4.6	Annex 4.6: Wintering Brid Survey (Landfall Locations)	SLR
5.4.7	Annex 4.7: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Holland Haven Marshes SSSI and Adjacent Land NVC Survey 2021	Ecology Resources
5.4.8	Annex 4.8: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey 2021	Ecology Resources
5.4.9	Annex 4.9: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Holland Haven Marshes SSSI: Survey and Assessment of Aquatic and Terrestrial Invertebrates 2021	Ecology Resources
5.4.10	Annex 4.10: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Landfall Area: 2020/21 Non-breeding Bird Surveys	Ecology Resources
5.4.11	Annex 4.11: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Landfall Area: 2021/22 Non-breeding Bird Surveys	Ecology Resources

Document	Title	Lead Author
5.4.12	Annex 4.12: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Cable Route: Non-breeding Bird Surveys 2021-22	Ecology Resources
5.4.13	Annex 4.13: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Landfall Area: Breeding Bird Surveys 2021	Ecology Resources
5.4.14	Annex 4.14: Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Biodiversity Net Gain Approach	SLR
5.4.15	Annex 4.15: Statutory Designated Sites Qualifying or Notified Features	SLR
5.6.1	Annex 6.1 Onshore Export Cable Corridor Flood Risk Assessment	SLR
5.7.1	Annex 7.1: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment	Wessex Archaeology
5.7.2	Annex 7.2: Onshore Geophysics	Wessex Archaeology
5.7.3	Annex 7.3: Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment	Wessex Archaeology
5.7.4	Annex 7.4: Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Monitoring of Ground Investigation works	Wessex Archaeology
5.7.5	Annex 7.5: Onshore Cultural Heritage: GPA3 Exercise and Technical Note - Offshore Array	Wessex Archaeology
5.7.6	Annex 7.6: Onshore Cultural Heritage: GPA3 Exercise and Technical Note - Onshore Project Area	Wessex Archaeology
5.8.1	Annex 8:1: Traffic and Transport Baseline Report	SLR
5.8.2	Annex 8.2: Traffic and Transport Trip Generation and Distribution	SLR
5.8.3	Annex 8.3: Traffic and Transport Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	SLR

Document	Title	Lead Author
5.8.4	Annex 8.4: Traffic and Transport Outline Public Access Management Plan	SLR
5.8.5	Annex 8.5: Traffic and Transport Outline Workforce Travel Plan	SLR
5.9.1	Annex 9.1: Onshore Airborne Noise Baseline Noise Survey	SLR
5.9.2	Annex 9.2: Onshore Airborne Noise Construction Sound Power Details	SLR
5.10.1	Annex 10.1: Construction Dust Assessment Methodology	SLR
5.10.2	Annex 10.2: Non Road Mobile Machinery Emissions Assessment	SLR
5.10.3	Annex 10.3: Offshore Activities Assessment	SLR
5.10.4	Annex 10.4: Road Traffic Dispersion Modelling Methodology	SLR
5.10.5	Annex 10.5: Air Quality Mitigation Measures	SLR
Volume 6: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Annexes		
6.2.1	Annex 2.1: LVIA Figures	OP-EN
6.2.2	Annex 2.2: LVIA Visualisations	OP-EN
6.10.1	Annex 10.1: SLVIA Methodology	OP-EN
6.10.2	Annex 10.2: SLVIA Viewpoint Assessment	OP-EN
6.10.3	Annex 10.3: SLVIA Visual Figures and Photomontages	OP-EN
Volume 7: Supporting Documents		
7.1	Schedule of Monitoring	GoBe Consultants
7.2	Schedule of Mitigation	GoBe Consultants
7.3	Draft Code of Construction Practice	VE OWFL

Document	Title	Lead Author
7.4	Crossings Register	SLR
7.5	Landscape and Ecology Design Principles	OP-EN/ SLR
7.6	Navigational Risk Assessment	Anatec
7.7	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment	GoBe Consultants
7.8	Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol	GoBe Consultants

1.6 CONSULTATION

1.6.1 It is a statutory requirement for promotors of NSIPs to engage in pre-application consultation with communities that may be affected by the proposed development, certain prescribed organisations (including local authorities), and persons with an interest in the land.

1.6.2 This PEIR helps set out the potential benefits and impacts associated with the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the project, to help consultees respond in an informed manner to the statutory consultation.

1.6.3 Early engagement began in October 2019, following VE OWFL's decision to progress with site characterisation work and take part in the extensions leasing round led by TCE.

STAGE 1 (NON-STATUTORY) CONSULTATION

1.6.4 From 30 June to 12 August 2022, VE OWFL carried out an initial stage of pre-application consultation on the project. Members of the public, landowners, and statutory bodies were invited to comment on early proposals, so that feedback could be used to inform the development of the project.

1.6.5 Information was available on the project's website from 30 June 2022. To promote the consultation, newsletters were sent to approximately 14,000 residential and business addresses in Tendring. In addition, councillors, Members of Parliament, and parish councils representing the area potentially affected by the onshore infrastructure were directly contacted by email. Advertisements were also placed in local newspapers during the first week of the consultation and two weeks before the close of consultation to encourage responses.

1.6.6 Two events were held to support the consultation:

- Wednesday 13 July 2022, 3pm to 8pm, St Mary's Parish Church Hall, Frinton-on-Seam CO13 9BX – 98 attendees; and
- Thursday 14 July 2022, 2pm to 8pm, Oglivie Hall, Lawford, CO11 2JG – 106 attendees.

1.6.7 138 responses were received in response to this consultation. Details of how the responses were considered the in the development of the project were published in an Interim Feedback Report (VE OWFL, 2022).

STAGE 2 (STATUTORY) CONSULTATION

1.6.8 The Applicant has a duty to consult on the proposed application with different groups. The PEIR documents support the project's second consultation, running from March 2023 to April / May 2023, which fulfils this statutory duty to consult.

1.6.9 The following groups will be consulted during this statutory consultation period:

- Under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008:
  - Local Planning Authorities;
  - Owners, tenants and occupiers of land directly affected by the DCO application;

- Commercial stakeholders, including asset owners (such as the owners of cables and pipelines) and the commercial fisheries industry;
- The Marine Management Organisation; and
- Prescribed bodies as set out by the Planning Act 2008.

- Under section 47 of The Planning Act 2008, the Applicant must consult people living in the vicinity of the proposed development area and who may be affected by the project. For the project, this includes:
  - Areas potentially affected by proposed onshore infrastructure including underground cabling and the proposed onshore substation; and
  - Coastal areas in Essex, Suffolk and Kent with potential visual impacts from the proposed turbines and other offshore infrastructure.

1.6.10 A Statement of Community Consultation was published on 15th February 2023 setting out how VE OWFL will consult under section 47 (VE OWFL, 2023). The following local authorities were consulted in the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation:

- Essex County Council;
- Tendring District Council;
- Suffolk County Council;
- East Suffolk District Council;
- Babergh District Council
- Kent County Council; and
- Thanet District Council.

1.6.11 Once the consultation has been completed, VE OWFL has a statutory duty to consider the responses received. This consideration and how we have responded will be included in a Consultation Report submitted as part of the DCO application.

1.7 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

1.7.1 The documents described in Table 1.1 are being made publicly available online, giving all interested parties an opportunity to engage with the project as VE OWFL work towards finalising the details of the project and the DCO application documents.

1.7.2 The PEIR presents the initial findings of the EIA and consultation to date and how it has shaped the project. It also describes the site-selection process that has led to the scheme design envelope. The PEIR non-technical summary provides an overview of the project, the consultation process, and the EIA process along with the initial findings. All PEIR documents are available through the project website at:

- https://fiveestuaries.co.uk/consultation/

1.7.3 Physical hard copies of the non-technical summary are also available on request by contacting:

- **Email:** fiveestuaries@rwe.com
- **Telephone:** 0333 880 5306
- Or write to us at:
  - **FREEPOST FIVE ESTUARIES (No stamp or further address details are required)**

1.8 REFERENCES

VE OWFL (2021a) 'ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: SCOPING REPORT'. Available online: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010115/EN010115-000012-5EST%20-%20Scoping%20Report.pdf [Accessed March 2022]

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PINS (2021) 'SCOPING OPINION: Proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm' Available online: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010115/EN010115-000014-5EST-Scoping%20Opinion.pdf [Accessed March 2022]

FIVE ESTUARIES
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

PHONE 0333 880 5306
EMAIL fiveestuaries@rwe.com
WEBSITE www.fiveestuaries.co.uk
ADDRESS Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way, Swindon, SN5 6PB
COMPANY NO Registered in England and Wales
company number 12292474