




**F I V E**   
**ESTUARIES**  
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

**FIVE ESTUARIES**  
**OFFSHORE WIND FARM**  
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL  
INFORMATION REPORT

VOLUME 1, ANNEX 3.1: CUMULATIVE  
EFFECTS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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## APPENDICES

Appendix A	Cumulative Effects Assessment Longlist
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## DEFINITION OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EN-1	Overarching NPS for Energy
EN-3	NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure
EN-5	Electricity Networks Infrastructure
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
MHWS	Mean High-Water Springs
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
MW	Megawatts
NPSs	National Policy Statements
NSIPs	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RIAA	Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
ZoI	Zone of Influence





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Cumulative effects are defined as the effects on a receptor that may arise when the development is considered together with other existing and/ or approved projects, plans and activities. A fundamental requirement of undertaking the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) is to identify those projects, plans and activities with which Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (VE) may interact to produce a cumulative effect. These interactions may arise within the construction and operation and maintenance (O&M) phases of the project. Please note that due to the anticipated lifetime of the project (anticipated to be up to 40years), it is not possible to undertake a meaningful assessment of potential cumulative effects for the decommissioning phase at this time, which is in line with common practice for Offshore Wind Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
- 1.1.2 The objective of this document is to provide details on the proposed methodology for VE for each of the assessments, justification for the approach taken regarding cumulative effects, and to detail the longlist of projects, plans and activities that have been considered within the assessments. The approach for assessing cumulative effect is based upon the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advice Note 17: Cumulative Effects Assessment, which is described in further detail in Section 2. The approach to the CEA is intended to be specific to VE and takes account of the extensive available knowledge of the environment and of the other activities in the vicinity of VE.

### 1.2 DEFINITIONS OF CUMULATIVE AND IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS FOR VE

- 1.2.1 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) sets out the preliminary findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The focus of the EIA is on the assessment of the impacts which are likely to have significant effects on the environment including an assessment of cumulative effects. For the purpose of the CEA process, cumulative effects are defined as effects upon certain receptors from VE when considered alongside other proposed developments and any other reasonably foreseeable projects and activities. This includes all projects that result in a comparative or ongoing effect and is not restricted to offshore wind farms, offshore and onshore electrical systems, or projects that are pre-commencement.
- 1.2.2 In-combination effects are defined as the combined effect of VE, with the effects from a number of different projects, on the integrity of European Sites designated for their nature conservation value in terms of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The methodology for in-combination effects is bespoke to the HRA process (though it will draw on many of the same data sources presented in this document) and is presented separately within the Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment (RIAA).
- 1.2.3 Cumulative effects apply in the EIA, whilst in-combination effects apply to the RIAA in HRA terms. These definitions are consistent with those provided in Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019) and have been applied throughout the PEIR documentation. This document therefore presents the first stages of the CEA for the EIA only.



## 2 POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 2.1.1 The Planning Act 2008 underpins the consenting regime for NSIPs. The Planning Act 2008 sets out thresholds above which certain types of development are classified as NSIPs and therefore require a DCO in England and Wales. For offshore energy developments in English waters (including offshore wind), projects are classed as NSIPs if they have a generating capacity of over 100 megawatts (MW) under section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008. VE will exceed this generating capacity and therefore is classed as an NSIP.
- 2.1.2 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') implement the requirements of the EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU) into UK law in respect of NSIPs. A CEA is required under Schedule 4, Paragraph 5(e) of the EIA Regulations.
- 2.1.3 The National Policy Statements (NPSs) set out national (UK) policy relating to NSIPs. In line with the Energy White Paper, the NPSs are currently undergoing revision following consultation in late 2021. This document and the PEIR refer primarily to the extant NPSs, as these remain the primary policy tests of relevance. The draft NPSs are however considered important and relevant and referred to throughout the PEIR when appropriate.
- 2.1.4 The Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) (DECC, 2011a) states at paragraph 4.2.5: *"When considering cumulative effects, the ES should provide information on how the effects of the applicant's proposal would combine and interact with the effects of other development (including projects for which consent has been sought or granted, as well as those already in existence)."*
- 2.1.5 The NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (DECC, 2011b) (states at paragraph 2.6.169: *"In considering what interference, obstruction or danger to navigation and shipping is likely and its extent and nature, the IPC should have regard to the likely overall effect of the development in question and to any cumulative effects of other relevant proposed, consented and operational offshore wind farms."*
- 2.1.6 The Overarching NPS for Energy, the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure and the NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) and their respective drafts identify the need to address the maximum potential adverse impacts. Matters considered to affect the maximum adverse impact are topic impacts, inter-relationships between topics, and cumulative effects. The Maximum Design Scenario (MDS), or envelope, is also sometimes referred to as the 'Rochdale Envelope'.
- 2.1.7 PINS has produced 'Advice Note 9: Rochdale Envelope' (2019) setting out the views of PINS regarding how this approach should be used in the context of the Planning Act 2008. The Rochdale Envelope approach is a well-understood concept that involves ensuring that any EIA is based on assessing the realistic MDS where flexibility or a range of options is sought as part of the consent application. This guidance confirms that in order to ensure a robust application of the Rochdale Envelope principle to the EIA process, this principle must also be applied to the CEA as well as the assessment of project specific, individual effects.



- 2.1.8 Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019), which provides guidance on a staged process that can be used for cumulative effects assessments for NSIPs. Advice Note 17 details a four-step process that can be followed by developers and which has been applied here. The proposed methodology, in accordance with Advice Note 17, is outlined in Section 4 below.

### MARINE POLICY CONTEXT

- 2.1.9 The Government's Marine Policy Statement (MPS) sets out the need to address cumulative impacts or effects, stating in paragraph 2.3.2.1: *"when considering potential benefits and adverse effects, decision-makers should also consider any multiple and cumulative impacts of proposals in the light of other projects and activities"*.



### 3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1.1 The CEA is the subject of detailed discussion between VE OWFL and various statutory and non-statutory authorities and stakeholders. This consultation has been captured under the auspices of the Evidence Plan process, via focused Expert Topic Groups (ETGs).
- 3.1.2 A summary of consultation related to the CEA to date is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: EIA Methodology.

### 3.2 OVERVIEW

- 3.2.1 Cumulative effects refer to effects upon receptors arising from VE when considered alongside all existing, and/ or reasonably foreseeable projects, plans and activities that results in a cumulative effect with any element of VE. It should be noted that existing projects are generally considered to be part of the existing baseline environment, except in cases where there is an ongoing effect; examples are loss of benthic habitat for an existing (offshore wind) project will generally form part of the baseline as the habitat was lost at that stage, whereas ongoing bird collisions associated with the same project would be considered ongoing. The exact approach taken by each technical topic is described within the CEA section of the relevant PEIR chapters.
- 3.2.2 The cumulative effects arising as a result of VE is a required part of the EIA as described in Section 2. Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019) provides guidance on a staged process that can be used for CEAs for NSIPs, which is described below in Table 4.1.
- 3.2.3 The following sections set out the VE approach to completing Stages 1 to 3 (as described in Table 4.1 below), incorporating the development of the longlist (Appendix A), tiering of projects and the development of the topic-specific shortlists. These shortlists have been considered in detail in each of the topic-specific PEIR chapters to complete CEA Stage 4.



**Table 4.1: Stages of the CEA process.**

CEA Stage	Activity
<p>Stage 1 – Establish the project’s Zone of Influence (Zol) and identify a longlist of ‘other development’</p>	<p>The Project undertakes a desk study to identify the Zol for the development for the topics that are proposed to be scoped into the EIA. The Zol analysis is documented (i.e. table of topics and Zol), with supporting mapping.</p> <p>The longlist of other plans and projects/activities is drawn up through a desk study of planning applications, development plan documents, relevant development frameworks and any other available sources to identify ‘other development’ within the Zol.</p> <p>Information on each project (location, development type and timing, etc.) is documented, along with the certainty or tier assigned to the ‘other development’ (i.e. confidence it will take place in the current form and when it will take place in relation to the project).</p> <p>Advice Note 17 notes that the project should then consult with the relevant planning authority/ authorities and statutory consultees regarding the longlist (and ideally prior to the submission of the Scoping Report<sup>1</sup>).</p>
<p>Stage 2 – Screening of longlist: Identify a shortlist of ‘other development’ for the CEA</p>	<p>PINS has provided inclusions/ exclusion threshold criteria (PINS, 2019), against which the potential for ‘other development’ to give rise to significant cumulative effects by virtue of overlaps in temporal scope, the scale and nature of the ‘other developments’ and /or receiving environment, or any other relevant factors is assessed.</p> <p>From this assessment, a shortlist of ‘other developments’ to be included in the CEA is produced. It is noted that documented information on each of the ‘other developments’ is likely to be high level at this stage, outlining the key issues to take forward.</p> <p>Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019) notes that the proposed inclusion/ exclusion should ideally be finalised prior to the request for a Scoping Opinion, and the project must consult with the relevant planning authorities and statutory consultees regarding the shortlist<sup>1</sup>).</p>
<p>Stage 3 – Information gathering</p>	<p>All available information on the ‘other developments’ within the shortlist generated at Stage 2 is collated to inform the CEA.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Note: VE did not provide a longlist for consideration at Scoping for cumulative issues, this is/will be prepared for consultation at the PEIR stage following refinement of the Scoping boundary.



CEA Stage	Activity
Stage 4 – Assessment	<p>The project reviews each of the ‘other developments’ in turn to assess whether cumulative effects may arise. This should also include, where relevant, consideration of any mitigation measures where adverse cumulative effects are identified and should clearly signpost to the relevant means of securing mitigation (e.g. DCO requirements and/or associated mitigation plans).</p> <p>It may be appropriate to ascertain the contribution of each development to the effect (via professional judgement) but should not be used as a means to shift the burden of mitigation. This may, however, be useful during the consultation with other developers to identify ways to jointly address mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce likely significant adverse cumulative effects.</p>

### 3.3 STAGE 1 - ESTABLISH THE ZOI AND IDENTIFY THE LONGLIST OF 'OTHER DEVELOPMENT'

#### DEVELOPING THE LONGLIST

3.3.1 Under the first stage of the offshore CEA, a longlist of relevant projects, plans and activities occurring within a large study area have been developed around the VE Red Line Boundary (RLB) (including the array areas, onshore and offshore Export Cable Corridors (ECC), Substation Search Areas and the 400 kV Connection). Depending on the type of project, this generally encompasses a large area of the North Sea (offshore) (Table 4.2) and parts of Essex and Suffolk (onshore) (Table 4.3). The longlist (Appendix A) includes the details of the relevant operational or planned projects, plans and activities including those in the UK and adjoining international jurisdictions and has been based on publicly available information available at the time of preparation.

#### OFFSHORE

3.3.2 The longlist, seaward of Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS) has been produced based on the scale of other projects and the potential for them to produce cumulative effects with VE. The longlist will be reviewed post-PEIR consultation and for the purpose of the ES, and all relevant changes will be captured in the Environmental Statement chapter assessments.

3.3.3 Table 4.2 defines the search area extents that have been applied in developing the longlist of marine projects, plans and activities. It should be noted that the initial screening ranges were based on what are considered to be the maximum extents of potential impacts from those activities and are therefore considered to be highly precautionary. Impact-specific screening ranges used for individual topics use refined ranges depending on topic-specific criteria at Stage 2.

3.3.4 All projects, plans and activities within the search areas defined in Table 4.2 have been identified through a desktop study using, among others, the following data sources:

- > PINS website;



- > The Crown Estate website;
- > The Marine Management Organisation's Marine Case Management System
- > European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) data;
- > North Sea Transition Authority website; and
- > Developer and project proponent websites.

3.3.5 The CEA longlist for projects is presented in Appendix A of this document. All offshore projects, plans and activities considered based on the Zol criteria listed in Table 4.2 are presented in Figure 4.1 to Figure 4.5.

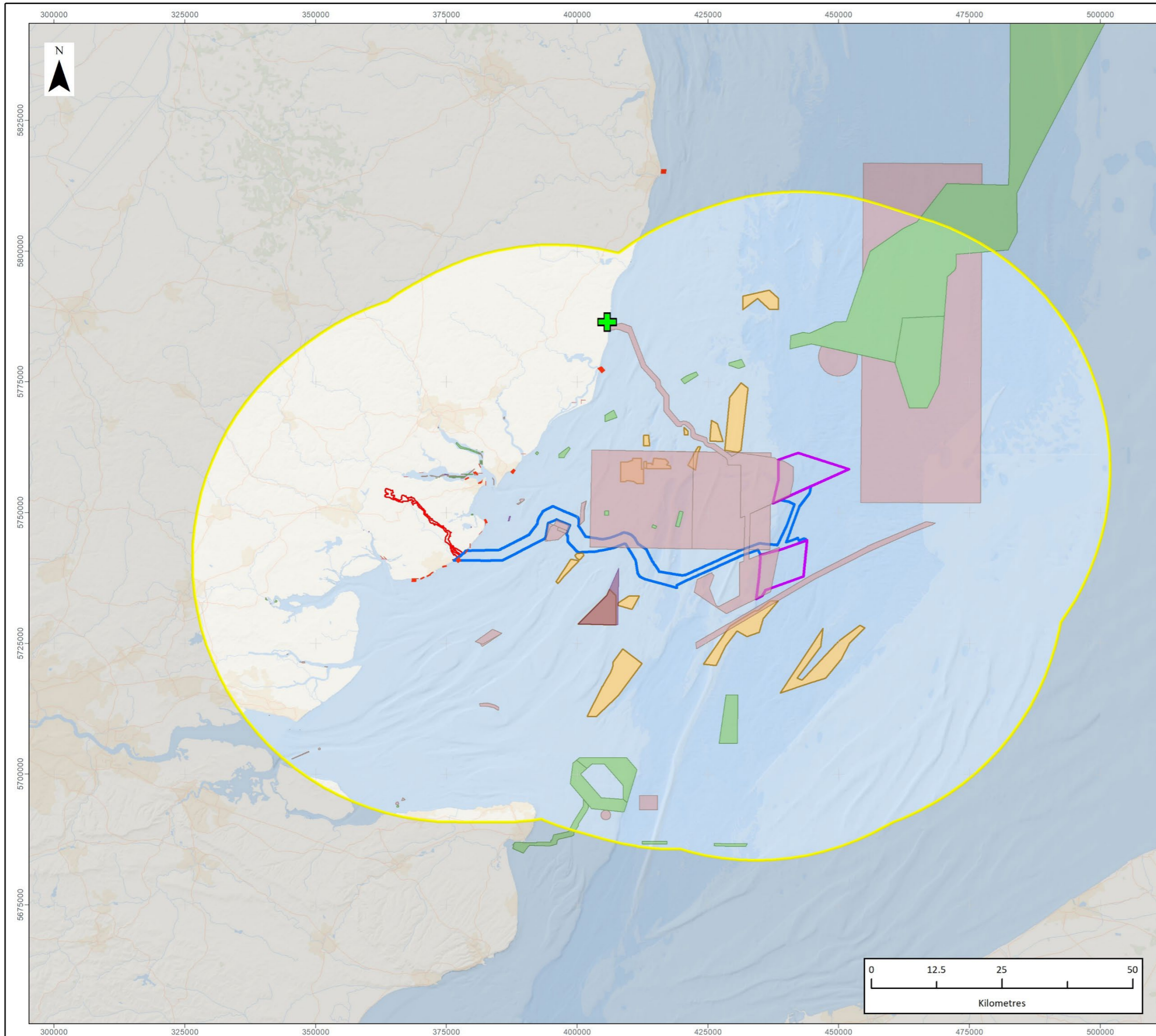
**Table 4.2: Offshore longlist Zones of Influence**

Type of project or activity	Zol criteria	Rationale
Aggregate dredging and disposal	Up to 50 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary maximum distance at which effects from aggregate dredging and disposal could occur.
Offshore energy, including Carbon Capture Storage	Up to 500 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary maximum distance at which effects from offshore energy could occur.
Commercial fisheries	Up to 200 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary maximum distance at which effects from commercial fisheries activities could occur.
Oil and gas	Up to 200 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary maximum distance at which effects from oil and gas activities could occur.
Cables and pipelines	Up to 50 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary distance at which effects from cables and pipelines could occur.
Shipping, Ports and Harbours	Up to 200 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary maximum distance at which effects from commercial shipping activities could occur.



<b>Type of project or activity</b>	<b>ZoI criteria</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Military, aviation and radar	Up to 200 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary maximum distance at which effects from military, aviation and radar effects could occur.
Coastal developments	Up to 200 km from VE array areas and offshore ECC.	This range represents a precautionary maximum distance at which effects from major coastal development effects could occur.





**LEGEND**

- Array Areas
- Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Onshore Red Line Boundary
- 50km Cumulative Effects ZOI
- Outfall Pipes
- Aggregate Areas
- Disposal Sites:
  - Open
  - Disused
  - Closed
- + Sizewell C

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

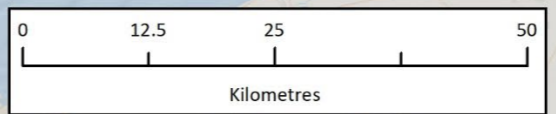
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*FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WINDFARM*

**DRAWING TITLE:**  
**Locations of cumulative schemes:  
aggregates and disposal sites**

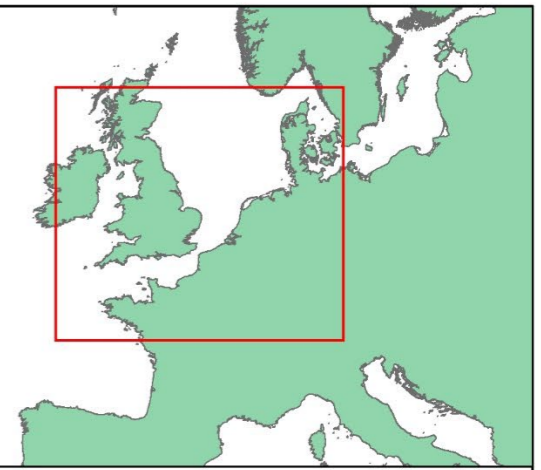
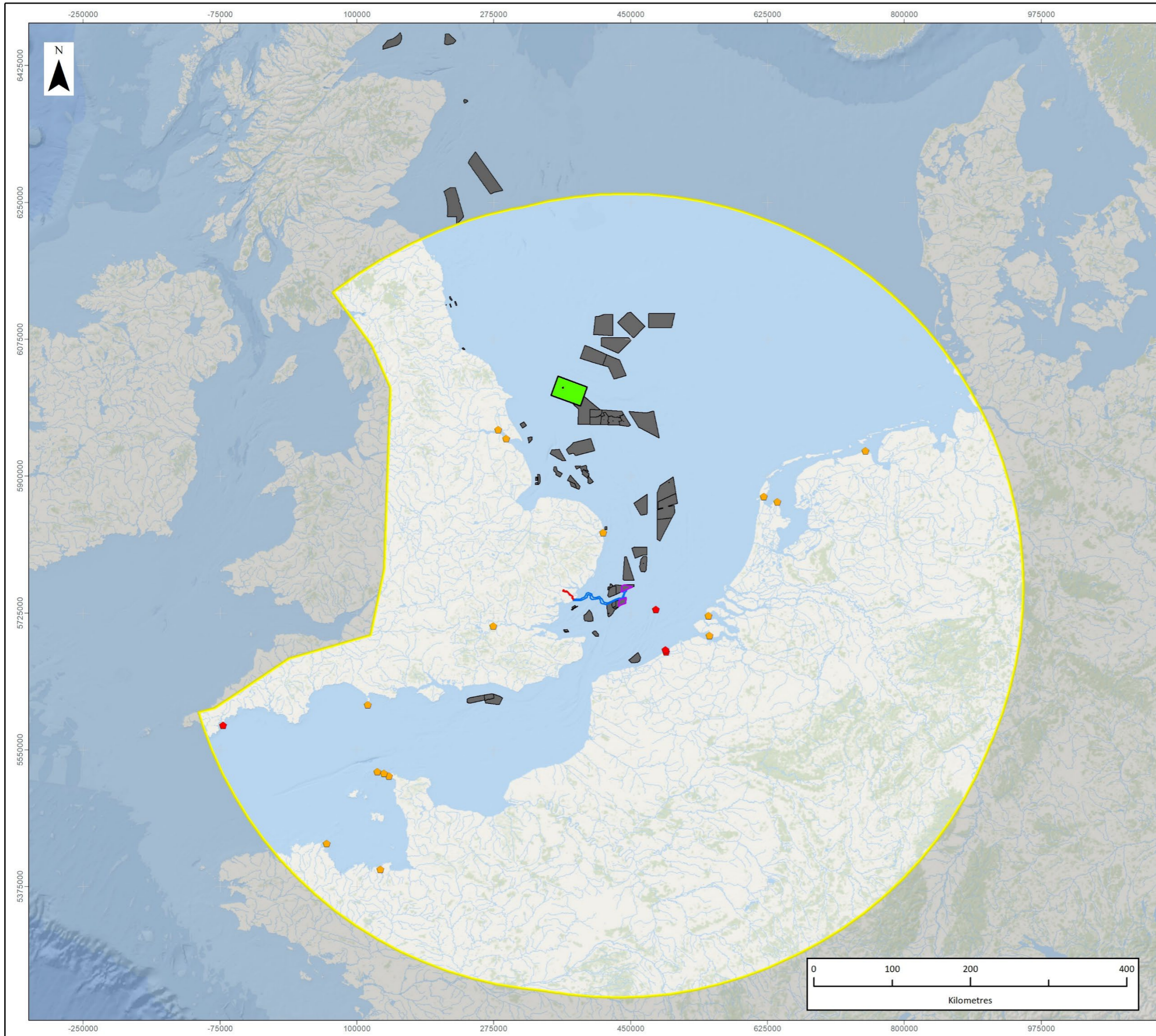
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**DRAWING NUMBER:**  
**4.1**

SCALE: 1:750,000 | PLOT SIZE: A3 | DATUM: WGS84 | PROJECTION: UTM31N







**LEGEND**

- Array Area
- Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Onshore Red Line Boundary
- 500km Cumulative Effects ZOI (Exc. Irish Sea)
- Carbon Capture and Storage Sites
- Offshore Wind Farms
- ◆ Wave Energy Sites
- ◆ Tidal Energy Sites

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

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*FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WINDFARM*

**DRAWING TITLE:**  
**Locations of cumulative schemes:  
 offshore energy**

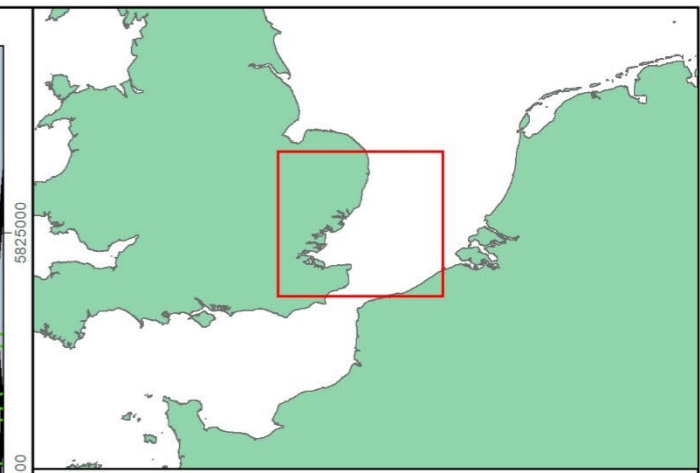
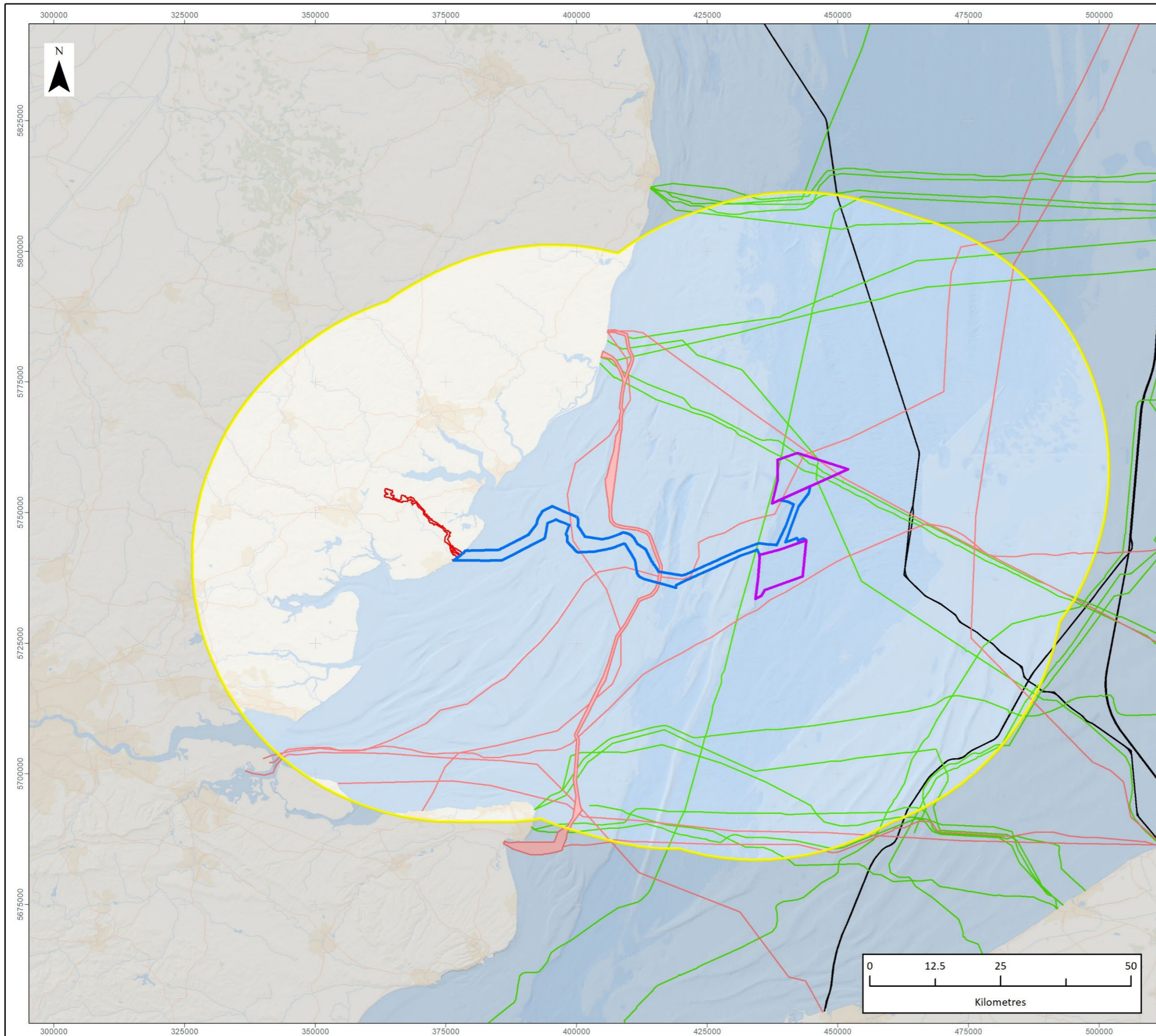
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**DRAWING NUMBER:**  
**4.2**

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**LEGEND**

- Array Areas
- Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Onshore Red Line Boundary
- 50km Cumulative Effects ZOI

Subsea Cables and Pipelines:

- Power
- Telecom
- Pipelines
- Sealink Interconnector

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

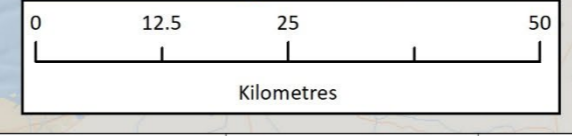
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**FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WINDFARM**

DRAWING TITLE:  
**Locations of cumulative schemes:  
 cables and pipelines**

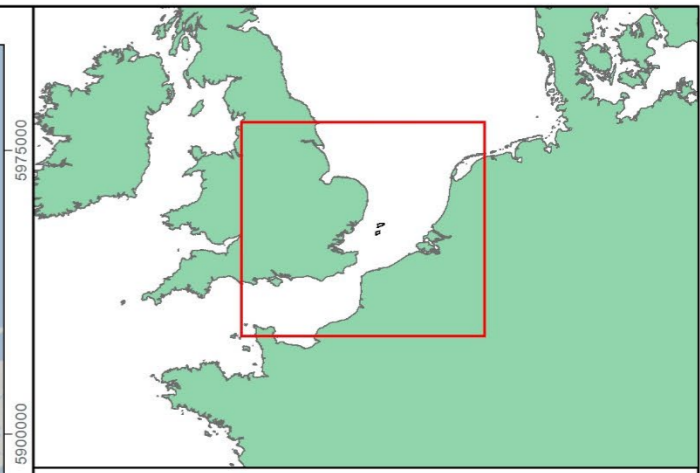
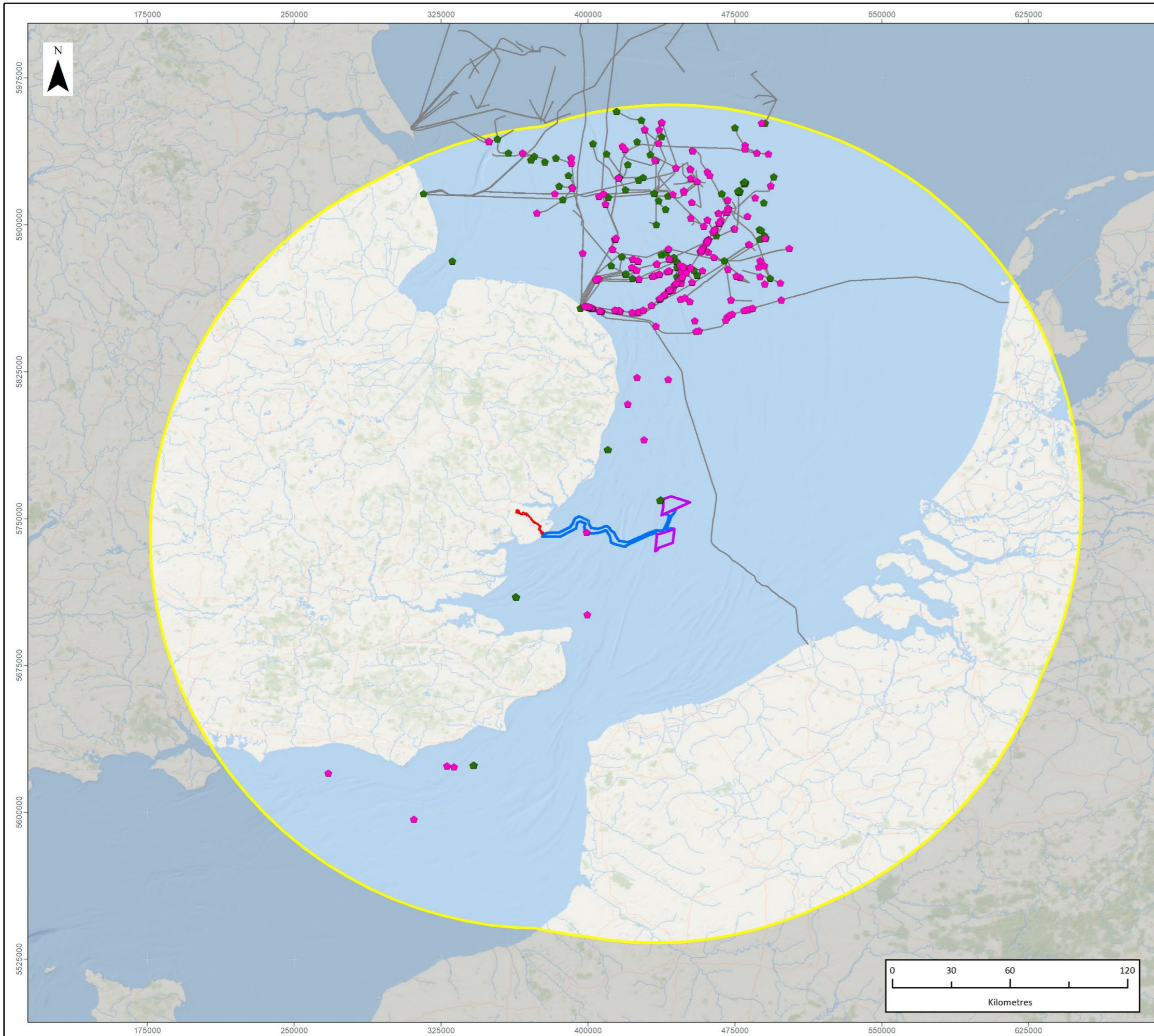
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1	10/03/2023	For Issue	SWM	SS

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**4.3**

SCALE: 1:750,000    PLOT SIZE: A3    DATUM: WGS84    PROJECTION: UTM31N







**LEGEND**

- Array Areas
- Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Onshore Red Line Boundary
- 200km Cumulative Effects ZOI
- ◆ Oil and Gas Subsurface Features
- ◆ Oil and Gas Surface Features
- Oil and Gas Pipelines

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

PROJECT TITLE:  
*FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WINDFARM*

DRAWING TITLE:  
**Locations of cumulative schemes:  
oil and gas**

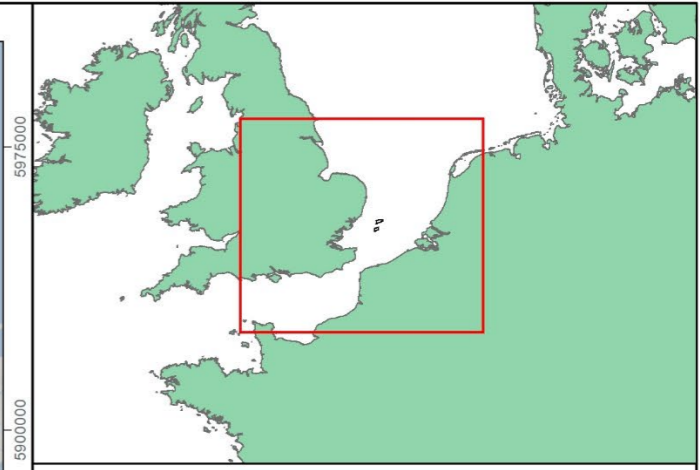
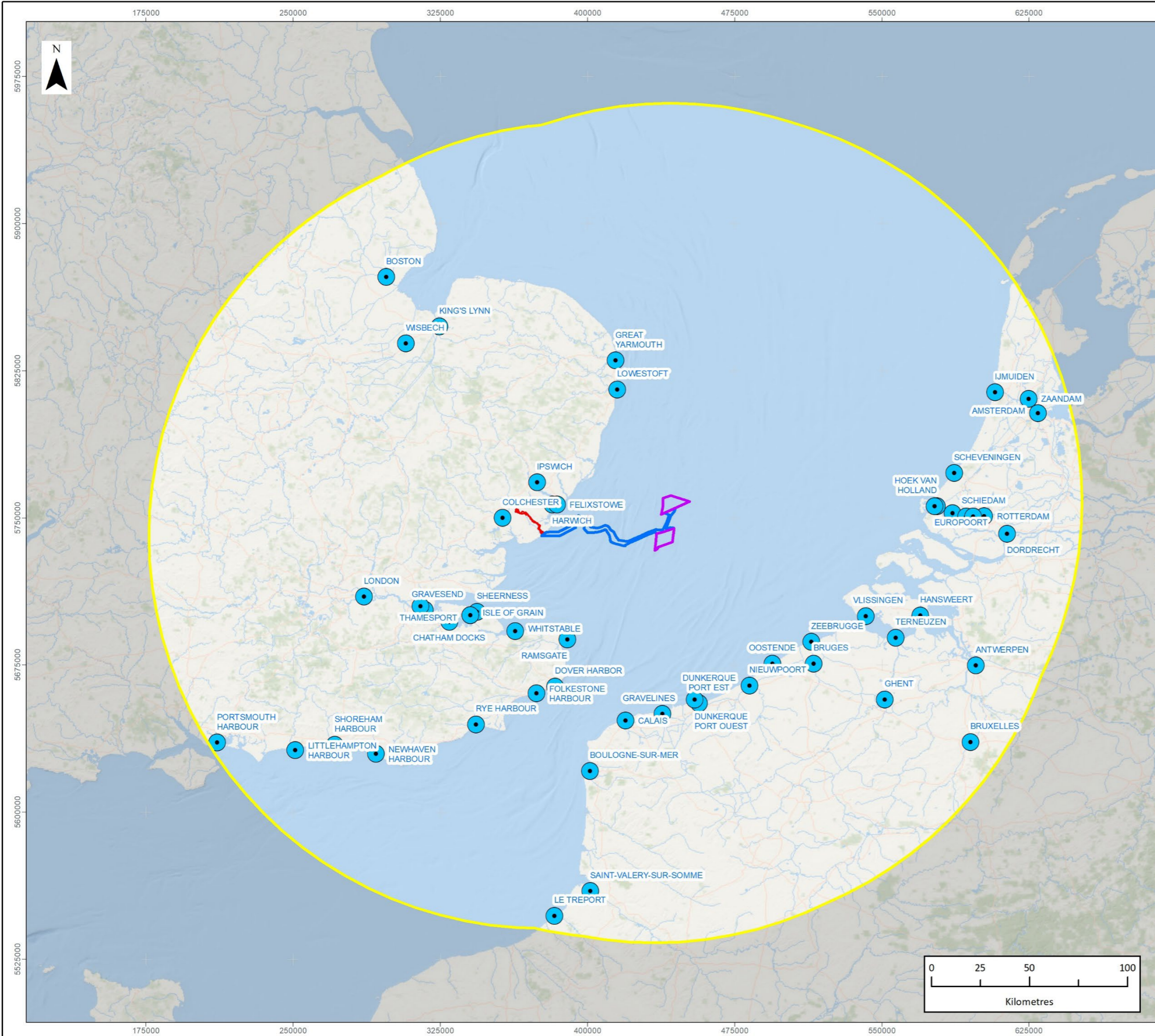
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DRAWING NUMBER:  
**4.4**

SCALE: 1:2,000,000 | PLOT SIZE: A3 | DATUM: WGS84 | PROJECTION: UTM31N







**LEGEND**

- Array Areas
- Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Onshore Red Line Boundary
- 200km Cumulative Effects ZOI
- Major Ports

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

**PROJECT TITLE:**  
 FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

**DRAWING TITLE:**  
 Locations of cumulative schemes:  
 major ports and harbours

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1	10/03/2023	For Issue	SWM	SS

**DRAWING NUMBER:**  
 4.5

SCALE: 1:2,000,000    PLOT SIZE: A3    DATUM: WGS84    PROJECTION: UTM31N







## ONSHORE

- 3.3.6 Under the first stage of the onshore CEA, a longlist of relevant projects, plans and activities occurring within a study area round the onshore ECC options and onshore substation area of search has been developed from the sources described in the paragraph below. Planning consents granted within the last three years, or applications that have been made and have yet to be determined have been considered.
- 3.3.7 Given the scale of the onshore components of VE, this information was collated from the following publicly available data sources:
- > PINS website;
  - > Essex County Council;
  - > Tendring District Council;
  - > East Suffolk Council;
  - > Suffolk County Council; and
  - > Colchester Borough Council
- 3.3.8 The CEA longlist for onshore projects is presented in Appendix A of this document. All onshore projects, plans and activities considered based on the Zol criteria listed in Table 4.3 are presented in Figure 4.6. The longlist also includes applications that have been made and have yet to be determined within the local authority areas. The local authority areas are:
- > Essex County Council
  - > Tendring District;
  - > East Suffolk District;
  - > Suffolk County Council; and
  - Colchester Borough

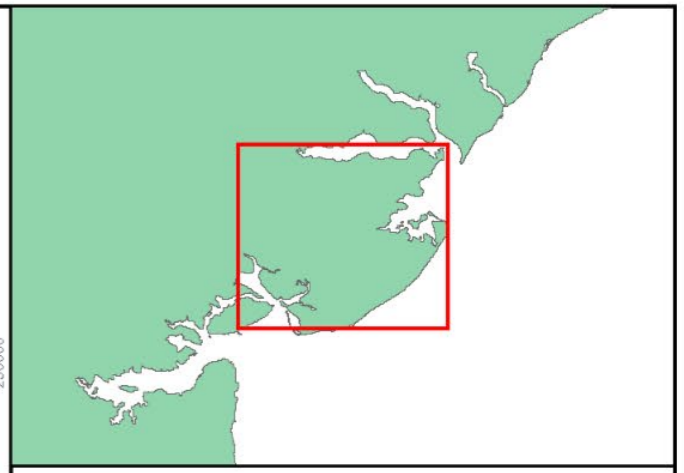
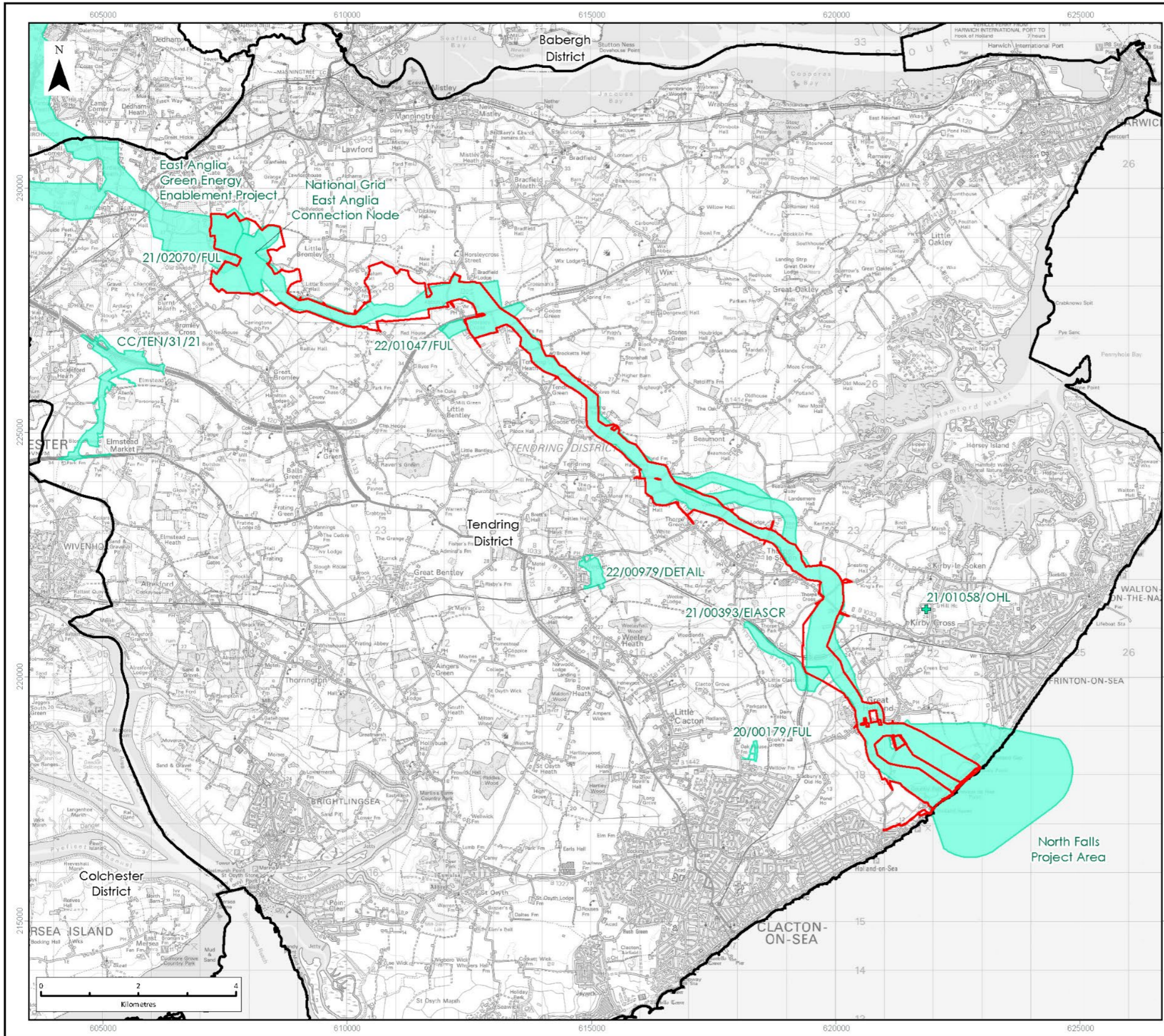
**Table 4.3: Onshore longlist Zones of Influence**

Type of project or activity	Zol criteria	Rationale
Energy generation infrastructure	Installations larger than domestic scale within the local authority areas.	The four local authority areas are considered to represent the realistic worst-case scenario over which cumulative effects are likely to occur. Since the selection of a single onshore route, the onshore aspects of the scheme are located entirely
Building/housing developments	Developments of more than five dwellings/units within the local authority areas.	
Roads	Major or main road installation or upgrade within the local authority areas.	



<b>Type of project or activity</b>	<b>ZoI criteria</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Cable and pipelines	Major cable and pipeline installations and upgrades within the local authority areas.	within Tendring, but the five local authority areas have been retained as the ZoI rationale for completeness.
National Grid	Any works within the local authority areas.	
Coastal protection works	Any works within the local authority areas.	





**LEGEND**

- ▭ Onshore Red Line Boundary
- + Cumulative Development Location
- Cumulative Development
- Local Authority Boundary

Data Source:  
© Crown copyright [and database rights] (2022) 0100031673 OS OpenData.

**PROJECT TITLE:**  
*FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WINDFARM*

**DRAWING TITLE:**  
**Onshore Cumulative Developments**

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1	08/03/2023	PEIR Submission	DB	JS

**DRAWING NUMBER:**  
**FIGURE 4.6**

SCALE: 1:80,000    PLOT SIZE: A3    DATUM: OSGB 1936    CO-ORDINATE SYSTEM: British National Grid







## TIERED APPROACH

- 3.3.9 In assessing the potential cumulative effects for VE, it is important to bear in mind that projects, predominately currently 'proposed', may or may not be, ultimately, taken forward for development. Therefore, there is a need to build in some consideration of certainty (or uncertainty) with respect to the potential impacts which might arise from such proposals, in line with the approach set out in Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019). For example, projects which are already under construction are more likely to contribute to cumulative effects than those development applications that are not yet submitted.
- 3.3.10 For these reasons, all the relevant longlist plans and projects were allocated into 'Tiers', reflecting their current status within the planning and development process. This enabled the cumulative impact assessment to present several scenarios, reflecting the varying levels of certainty of an activity proceeding and therefore the potential for impacts to arise that might act cumulatively with the impacts arising from VE. When examining the potential cumulative effects of VE, appropriate weight has been given to each scenario (Tier) in the decision-making process.
- 3.3.11 In accordance with Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019), the proposed tiering structure is described in Table 4.4. The Tiers are listed in descending order of level of detail likely to be available (and, correspondingly, certainty of effects arising). It is noted in Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019) that where other projects are expected to be completed before the construction of the proposed NSIP and the effects of those projects are fully determined, effects arising from them should be considered as part of the baseline and have been considered as part of assessment in the construction and operational phase (noting that the assessment should clearly distinguish between projects forming part of the baseline and those in the CEA).
- 3.3.12 It is important to note that this tiering methodology is generally applied across the PEIR. Certain topics may employ their own bespoke tiering methodology where greater precision on certainty is required, or where specific best practice guidance so dictates. Where this is the case, it is clearly described within the topic specific PEIR chapter.



**Table 4.4: Description of Tiers of other developments considered for CEA<sup>2</sup>.**

Tiers	Development Stage
Tier 1	Projects under construction.
	Permitted applications, whether under the Planning Act 2008 or other regimes, but not yet implemented.
	Submitted applications, whether under the Planning Act 2008 or other regimes, but not yet determined.
Tier 2	Projects on the Planning Inspectorate's Programme of Projects where a Scoping Report has been submitted.
	Projects under the Planning Act 2008 where a PEIR has been submitted for consultation.
Tier 3	Projects on the Planning Inspectorate's Programme of Projects where a Scoping Report has not been submitted.
	Identified in the relevant Development Plan (and emerging Development Plans with appropriate weight being given as they move closer to adoption) recognising that much information on any relevant proposals will be limited.
	Identified in other plans and programmes (as appropriate) which set the framework for future development consents/ approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.

<sup>2</sup> Tier descriptions adapted from Advice Note 17 (PINS, 2019).



## 3.4 STAGE 2

### SCREENING OF LONGLIST – DEFINITIONS OF CRITERIA

- 3.4.1 Once the VE CEA longlist had been finalised, all projects, plans and activities were then screened based on whether there is a conceptual impact-receptor pathway for effect. The Stage 2 exercise screened the longlist in terms of whether the project, plan or activity is considered to be part of the existing baseline environment or not. Existing projects that have ongoing effects have also been screened in. This Stage 2 screening produced EIA topic-specific shortlists of projects to be considered and refined further within the CEA as part of each of the PEIR chapters.
- 3.4.2 All plans, projects and activities are screened based on the potential impacts of each cumulatively with VE, therefore, the plan, project or activity may be screened out for one receptor/ topic of the PEIR but screened in for another. Those plans, projects and activities that are screened in are then carried forward into the CEA.
- 3.4.3 The steps for screening included consideration of the following:
- > Potential for an impact-receptor-pathway;
  - > Potential for a temporal overlap (i.e. activities occurring concurrently);
  - > Potential for a spatial overlap (i.e. activities occurring within a certain distance from one another); and
  - > The level of confidence in the data and detail that was publicly available.
- 3.4.4 During the screening process, the steps detailed in Table 4.5 were followed in the defined order to allow a clear justification for screening projects in or out. This allowed for the screening out of projects with limited data availability and, as a result, effects that could not be included due to a lack of data, while screening in those that could be considered with the available data.
- 3.4.5 Only where there is the potential for both spatial and temporal interaction between effects at VE and one or more other plans/ projects, has a cumulative impact been taken forward for consideration in the CEA.



**Table 4.5: Definitions of screening criteria.**

Term	Criteria
Potential impact-receptor-pathway	There is the potential that a pathway exists whereby an impact could have an effect on a receptor. For example, increases to suspended sediment concentration could have an impact on fish and shellfish receptors, but underwater noise would not have an effect on aviation and radar receptors.
Temporal overlap	The impacts from VE and one or more other plans/projects have the potential to occur at the same time. If there is no temporal interaction of the impacts, there is no potential for a cumulative effect.
Spatial overlap	The impacts on a receptor from VE and one or more other plans/projects may have a geographical overlap. For example, underwater noise contours from piling at VE could overlap with those of another offshore wind farm project, if it is sufficiently close to VE. If there is no spatial interaction of the impacts, there is no potential for a cumulative effect.
Level of confidence	The publicly available information on each project or proposed activity (location, development type and timing, etc.). This information is critically assessed to ascertain the level of confidence it will take place in the current form and when it will take place in relation to the project (i.e. the level of confidence in the published information).

3.4.6 The shortlist identifies all the projects, plans, and activities that have the potential to give rise to cumulative effects when considered alongside the worst-case potential impacts arising from VE but does not identify the differences in impact ranges for different environmental receptors. For example, this exercise treats fish and shellfish as a single receptor group but does not distinguish between different species; this is left for the CEA section of the fish and shellfish PEIR chapter. Table 4.6 below details these topic-specific screening ranges that have been applied to the longlist.

**Table 4.6: Topic-specific screening ranges applied to the longlist.**

EIA receptor group	Maximum extent of effect and justification
Physical processes	Based on the distance of one spring tidal excursion ellipse.
Marine water and sediment quality	Based on the distance of one spring tidal excursion ellipse.
Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology	Based on the distance of one spring tidal excursion ellipse.



EIA receptor group	Maximum extent of effect and justification
Fish and shellfish ecology	<p>50 km from the array area, based on a precautionary impact range from underwater noise.</p> <p>Based on the distance of one spring tidal excursion ellipse.</p>
Marine mammals	<p>Dependent on the reference population extent, i.e. the relevant management units.</p>
Offshore ornithology	<p>Dependent on the maximum foraging range of the bird species in question.</p>
Commercial fisheries	<p>Extent of the relevant fishing grounds.</p>
Shipping and navigation	<p>Based on shipping lanes and available sea room around the relevant components of VE.</p>
Military and civil aviation	<p>Distance at which disturbance from the VE array area would interact with that of another development, based on the Line of Sight assessment.</p>
Seascape, landscape and visual impacts	<p>Based on the maximum extent of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).</p>
Marine archaeology	<p>Dependent on the archaeological receptor in question but as a worst-case the distance of one spring tidal excursion ellipse.</p>
Other marine users and activities	<p>Dependent on the receptor in question, in line with the maximum extents for physical processes, fish and shellfish ecology, aviation and tourism and recreation.</p>
Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation	<p>Distances will vary depending on type of species depending on the type of development/the potential impacts anticipated and the ecological receptor that may be affected.</p>
Archaeology and cultural heritage	<p>For setting of assets, buffers of 500 m from the onshore ECC and 5 km from the onshore substation area have been identified. For offshore projects, this will be based maximum extent of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). These represent the maximum distance over which visual cumulative effects could occur.</p> <p>For direct impacts, precautionary distances determined by the Zol of anticipated potential impacts.</p>



EIA receptor group	Maximum extent of effect and justification
Airborne noise and vibration	Precautionary distance of a maximum of 1km for construction noise at Landfall and cable corridor. Substation has both construction and operational – maximum of 1km.
Traffic and transport	Schemes of local and regional significance within Essex County Council (incorporating Colchester) and partly Suffolk County Council as agreed with the relevant local authorities. Any proposals outside these areas would not be considered unless the proposal was a significant scheme expected to generate a large number of vehicle movements.
Air quality	<p>Construction Dust Assessment (qualitative assessment of potential dust generated by construction activities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of any committed development within 700m from the RLB/Location of works.</li> </ul> <p>Construction Traffic Emissions Assessment (assessment of additional vehicle trips associated with the construction of the development)</p> <p>Where there is a spatial and temporal overlap in terms vehicle movements generated from both the proposed development, and other committed developments (no set distance as this is determined at a transport level).</p>
Hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk	Based on any surface water catchments and flood risk areas that overlap with the onshore project activities.
Geology and ground conditions	Preliminary 500 m buffer from the onshore ECC and 1 km from the onshore substation area. The assessment would also consider a 'sliding scale' in addition to account for potentially significant schemes that are >1km from the site, whilst also discounting small, less obtrusive activities that are <500 m.
Onshore landscape and visual impacts	500 m from the onshore ECC and 5 km from the onshore substation area, considered to be the maximum distance over which the onshore substation would be visible and the distance over which cumulative effects could occur.



EIA receptor group	Maximum extent of effect and justification
Socioeconomics / Tourism	Projects of local and wider regional significance will be taken into account in the local labour market areas. Tourism is dependent upon the receptor.
Human health, Major Disasters and Climate Change	Distances will vary depending upon the receptor for human health which are covered in other relevant onshore topic sections. Projects of local, regional and national significance will be taken into account for the purposes of assessing major disasters (both onshore and offshore)..

3.4.7 These topic-specific ranges have been applied to the longlist, to identify relevant shortlist plan, projects and/ or activities to be taken forward to the topic-specific CEA presented in each PEIR chapter. These are described within Appendix A, and a summary of the shortlist tables are presented in each of the PEIR chapters.

3.4.8 The process for screening the longlist into a series of topic-specific shortlists is summarised in Table 4.7.

**Table 4.7: CEA longlist screening criteria.**

Screening criteria	Screening assessment	Conclusion
<b>Step 1 – Conceptual impact-receptor pathway</b>		
Does a conceptual cumulative impact-receptor pathway exist from the project, plan or activity?	No conceptual cumulative impact-receptor pathway for effect.	<b>Screened out.</b>
	Yes, impact(s) from the project, plan or activity could theoretically interact to produce a cumulative effect.	Proceed to step 2.
<b>Step 2 – Baseline environment</b>		
Is the project, plan or activity part of the existing baseline environment?	Yes.	<b>Screened out.</b>
	Yes, but has an ongoing effect that is not considered part of the baseline environment.	Proceed to step 3.
	No – project, plan or activity is currently in planning and therefore cannot be considered as part of the existing environment.	
<b>Step 3 – Data confidence</b>		
	Low – a meaningful assessment cannot be undertaken.	<b>Screened out.</b>



Screening criteria	Screening assessment	Conclusion
What is the level of confidence in the data available?	Medium or high – enough data is available for the project, plan or activity to enable a meaningful assessment to be undertaken, either quantitatively or qualitatively.	Proceed to step 4.
<b>Step 4 – Spatial effect interaction</b>		
Is there physical effect-receptor overlap? (see screening ranges applied in Table 4.6).	No, the project, plan or activity is sufficiently distant from VE such that there is no geographical overlap of their maximum impact extents.	<b>Screened out.</b>
	Yes, impacts on a receptor from VE together with other plans, projects and activities overlap geographically.	Proceed to step 5.
<b>Step 5 – Temporal effect interaction</b>		
Is there a temporal overlap of potential effects?	No, the project, plan or activities will not occur at the same time as the relevant phase of VE (i.e. construction or operation and maintenance) and therefore there is no potential for a cumulative effect.	<b>Screened out.</b>
	Yes, the project, plan or activity is anticipated to occur concurrently with the relevant phase of VE.	<b>Screened in – potential for cumulative effect exists.</b>

### 3.5 STAGE 3 – INFORMATION COLLATION

- 3.5.1 The next stage (Stage 3) of the CEA included gathering information on the projects, plans and activities screened in so that a meaningful assessment can be undertaken. Such information included public sources such as ESs and associated planning application documents, project websites and, where such information was not readily accessible, industry consultation with the developers and operators of the schemes, as well as regulators and local authorities in order to gather the most accurate and up to date project information.
- 3.5.2 Information gathered on the projects, plans and activities screened in have been collated and input into Stage 4 of the CEA.

### 3.6 STAGE 4 – ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 3.6.1 Stage 4 is undertaking the cumulative effects assessment for each screened in project, plan or activity. These assessments have been carried out on a topic-by-topic basis within the CEA section of the relevant PEIR chapter.





- 3.6.2 In terms of the scope of impacts that have been assessed within the CEA, these were the same impacts assessed for the project alone in the main EIA assessments. Any effect that has been concluded to be of negligible or neutral significance (in EIA terms) for the project alone, would make no material contribution to any potential cumulative effect, and was therefore scoped out of the CEA. Effects of greater than negligible significance for the project alone have been considered cumulatively.
- 3.6.3 The cut-off point for the final selection of projects to be included within the ES CEA, prior to submission, will be agreed as part of the Evidence Plan Process.



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# APPENDIX A

## CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT LONGLIST

**Key**

	No longer operational
	Concept/In Planning/Consenting/Pre-Construction
	Construction
	Operation and Maintenance
	Decommissioning

a	Included as part of the topic baseline and hence not considered within the cumulative impact assessment.
b	Part of the baseline but has an ongoing impact and is therefore considered relevant to the cumulative impact assessment: <b>Screened in to assessment.</b>
c	Potential cumulative impact exists: <b>Screened in to assessment.</b>
d	No conceptual effect-receptor pathway: <b>Screened out of assessment.</b>
e	Low data confidence: <b>Screened out of assessment.</b>
f	No physical effect-receptor overlap: <b>Screened out of assessment.</b>
g	No temporal overlap: <b>Screened out of assessment.</b>

TDC Tendering District Council  
 CBC Colchester Borough Council  
 ECC Essex County Council  
 ESC East Suffolk Council

## Data Sources

Data	Data Source	Date
Aggregate Production Area	The Crown Estate	29/10/2021
Disposal Sites	CEFAS	04/03/2021
Carbon Capture and Storage	TCE	22/06/2022
Outfall	Marine Themes Data Product (OceanWise)	01/11/2021
O&G Surface Features	O&G Authority	19/10/2020
O&G Subsurface Features	O&G Authority	19/10/2020
O&G Pipelines	O&G Authority	19/10/2020
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Subsea Cables	KISORCA (gobe edit)	20/04/2022
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Offshore Wave Site Agreements	The Crown Estate	30/07/2020
Offshore Tidal Site Agreements	The Crown Estate	30/07/2020
Offshore Wind Farms (England/Wales)	The Crown Estate	22/06/2022
Offshore Wind Farms (Scotland)	Crown Estate Scotland	11/10/2021
Offshore Wind Farms (Europe)	EMODnet	18/07/2022
Offshore Wave Site Agreements (Scotland)	Crown Estate Scotland	11/10/2021
Offshore Tidal Site Agreements (Scotland)	Crown Estate Scotland	11/10/2021
PEXA	NATS	22/01/2019
Global Offshore Wind Farms	4C Offshore	02/03/2023
Explore Marine Plans	The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	03/03/2023

## Screening Ranges

Project type	Screening Range (km)
Aggregates and Disposal	50
Offshore Energy	500
Commercial Fisheries	200
Cables and Pipelines	50
Oil and Gas	200
Shipping	200
Military, Aviation and Radar	200
Coastal	200
Onshore	N/A (LPA boundaries)

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Reference	Category	Priority	Description	Status/Date	Start	End	Duration	Value	Unit	Notes
190647	Demolition of existing buildings on the site and redevelopment to provide 130 residential dwellings	CBC	Medium	with access, link road to allow for potential future connections, associated parking, private amenity space and public open space.	Appeal Upheld. 7/3/2019	EXPECTED START		10.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
170997	Outline planning application for 36 residential dwellings	CBC	Medium	including details of access, dwellings, public open space, landscaping, new access and highways	Approve Conditional. 13/4/2017			5.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
220192	Erection of 113 dwellings	CBC	Medium	Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 12/12/22.	Approve Conditional. 24/1/2022			5.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
200079	a renewable energy centre and heat distribution network.	CBC	Medium	Detailed consent for a first phase of infrastructure to include the creation of a pedestrian 'Walk'(previously known as the Boulevard) and associated landscaping and a renewable energy centre and heat distribution network.	Approve Conditional. 14/1/2020			3.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
CC/COL/77/22	Installation of new heating plant (air source heat pumps) and relocation of bin storage area.	ECC	Medium	Full Planning Application CC	Validated. 12/08/2022			45.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
CC/HLW/78/22	Installation of new heating plant (air source heat pumps).	ECC	Medium	Full Planning Application CC	Validated. 11/08/2022			62.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/66/22/UTT	Importation of soils to allow for the re-capping and reprofiling of restored landfill; and installation of a ground-mounted solar array.	ECC	Medium	Ugley Landfill Site	Validated. 14/07/2022			55.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/49/22/UTT	Excavation of minerals	ECC	Medium	use of land for skip hire, waste recycling, waste transfer and green waste composting; restoration of land with the deposit of inert waste; and other associated development (consolidated decision of planning application refs: ESS/09/16/UTT, ESS/83/19/UTT, ESS/67/21/UTT, ESS/68/21/UTT and	Validated, pending legal agreements. 25/03/2022			52.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/42/22/TEN	Installation of a landfill gas fuelled electricity generating station	ECC	Medium	comprising containerised spark ignition gas engines and ancillaries in a fenced compound	Validated. 09/05/2022			54.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/32/21/COL	Removal and export of up to 60,000 cubic metres of London clay for use in site engineering	ECC	Medium	Bellhouse landfill.	Granted. 17/05/2021			12.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/77/20/CHL	Sand and gravel quarry and associated works/development	ECC	Medium	together with the importation of inert material to facilitate site restoration	Granted. 11/06/2020			48.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/12/20/BTE	Extraction of 6.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel	ECC	Medium	including the retention of the existing access onto the A120, the processing plant, office and weighbridge, ready mix concrete plant, bagging unit, DSM plant, water and silt management systems	Granted. 31/01/2020			50.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/42/18/UTT	Importation of inert material, installation and use of recycling plant to produce secondary aggregate and the final disposal of inert residues to facilitate restoration of the site to calcareous grassland	ECC	Medium	together with the continued extraction of chalk reserve. Newport Chalk Quarry	Granted. 14/12/2018			9.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/17/18/TEN	Extraction of 3.8 million tonnes of sand and gravel as an eastern extension to the existing Wivenhoe Quarry, erection of sand and gravel processing plant and ancillary facilities	ECC	Medium	restoration to agriculture and low-level water-based nature conservation habitats, lowland meadow, woodland planting and hedgerow enhancement using approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of imported inert waste material.	Granted. 14/06/2018			8.5	d	d C d d d d d d d d
ESS/03/18/BTE	Extraction of 2 million tonnes of sand and gravel	ECC	Medium	with restoration to agriculture and biodiversity. Bradwell Quarry	Granted. 30/01/2018			12.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
ESS/01/18/CHL	The construction of an agricultural reservoir involving the extraction, processing and exportation of sand and gravel and soils	ECC	Medium	Together with the construction of an associated irrigation pipeline from the proposed abstraction point. Land at Sheepcotes Farm	Granted. 19/01/2018			38.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
CC/CHL/85/21	A single carriageway road between Roundabout 4 of the Beaulieu Park Radial Distributor Road (RDR1) and a new roundabout on the A131 at Chatham Green plus dualing of the existing A131 between Chatham Green and Deres	ECC	Medium	With one intermediate roundabout, 3 road overbridges and 1 pedestrian/cycle/horse overbridge. Together with other associated works and landscaping.	Granted. 04/04/2022			43.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
CC/TEN/31/21	New link road between the existing A120 and A133 inclusive of a grade separated dumbbell junction at the A120	ECC	Medium	with new accesses to an existing petrol station (Ardleigh South Services) and Colchester Waste Transfer Station; a new roundabout at the junction with the A133; and two intermediate roundabouts along the link road. Together with other associated works and landscaping	Granted. 23/03/2021			5.5	d	d C d d d d d d d d
ESS/30/22/COL	Retrospective planning permission for a composting facility to process 25,000 tpa of green waste	ECC	Medium	to include the provision of weighbridge, 0.4ha of hardstanding for windrows and associated landscaping	Validated. 28/03/2022			12.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
DC/21/5515/FUL	Erection of 21 MW Solar PV Development	ESC	Medium	with associated equipment and ecological improvement works	Awaiting Decision. 08 Dec 2021			20.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
DC/21/3327/EIA	Solar farm, comprising an array of ground-mounted solar panels and ancillary infrastructure	ESC	Medium	up to 28.1MW capacity (no red line plan for location reference)	Permitted. 01 Mar 2021			19.5	d	d d d d d d d d d d
DC/21/1001/FUL	construction and operation of a solar farm together with all associated works	ESC	Medium	It is estimated that the solar panels would generate up to 49.9 megawatts	Permitted. 01 Mar 2021			50.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
DC/20/3376/FUL	Erection of a flexible power generation facility and battery storage facility with associated ancillary infrastructure	ESC	Medium	Conrad Energy installs reciprocating gas engine plants generally up to a maximum of 25MW dependent on available grid capacity generating at 11 kV.	Permitted. 02 Sep 2020			45.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
DC/22/2987/FUL	Proposed development of the existing commercial buildings on site and the erection of 9no dwellings and 14 commercial units	ESC	Medium	on land of the former forge site	Awaiting decision. 26 Jul 2022			35.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d
DC/22/1100/FUL	Proposed New Build Residential development consisting of 9no. Dwellings	ESC	Medium	with associated access, parking and open space	Awaiting decision. 21 Mar 2022			30.0	d	d d d d d d d d d d





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