

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

VOLUME 7, REPORT 3: DRAFT CODE OF CONSTRUCTION PRACTICE

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DEFINITION OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
CDM	Construction Design and Management
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
H&SP	Health and Safety Plans
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
LEDPP	Landscape and Ecology Design Principles Plan
MW	Megawatts
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NRMM	Non-Road Mobile Machinery
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
OnSS	Onshore Substation
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PAMP	Public Access Management Plan
PIR	Passive Infrared Sensor
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SMP	Soil Management Plan
SOS	Secretary of State
TCC	Temporary Construction Compound
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
VE OWFL	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
WTGs	Wind Turbine Generators
WTP	Workforce Travel Plan



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (VE OWFL) plans to submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State, for a development Consent Order (DCO) for the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (VE).
- 1.1.2 VE is the proposed extension to the operational Galloper Offshore Wind Farm, with up to 79 turbines across two areas. The closest point to shore of the Project above sea level is located 37 km off the coast of Suffolk.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).

1.2 FIVE ESTUARIES PARTNERS

1.2.1 VE is being developed under a joint venture arrangement, through the company Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (VE OWFL) (who will be the 'Applicant'). VE partners are the same as the operational Galloper 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 VE on behalf of VE partners.

1.3 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

PURPOSE OF THIS DRAFT COCP

- 1.3.1 The CoCP is being carefully developed to reduce and mitigate the effects of VE during construction. It aims to provide clear and appropriate means of monitoring and ensuring compliance with a wide range of good practice measures and sets out a series of measures and standards of work, which will be applied throughout the construction period to:
 - Provide effective planning, management and control during construction to manage and mitigate potential impacts on people, businesses and the natural and historic environments
 - > Provide a framework for engaging with the local community and its representatives throughout the construction period.
- 1.3.2 The Draft CoCP has been provided for feedback as part of our statutory consultation. The gives and opportunity for statutory bodies and communities to understand and comment on the mitigation proposals.
- 1.3.3 This Draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) will be revised and updated to take account of feedback and will be submitted as part of the VE DCO application

SCOPE OF THIS DRAFT COCP

- 1.3.4 For the avoidance of doubt, this Draft CoCP relates to the onshore elements of VE only (i.e landward of Mean High Water Springs). This includes the following construction works:
 - > Landfall
 - Export Cable Corridor (ECC)



- > Temporary Construction Compound (TCC) and Site Accesses
- > Onshore Substation (OnSS)
- Works by VE within the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) East Anglia Connection Node Substation, and associated underground connection works from the OnSS

STRUCTURE OF THIS DRAFT COCP

- 1.3.5 This Draft CoCP sets out measures that are applicable to VE, including site-specific controls that will be refined within the final CoCP to be implemented by the contractor.
- 1.3.6 This document also references other management plans that will be secured through the DCO. Those specific management plans are detailed in Table 1 below, and versions of those documents will be prepared to support the final DCO application.

Table 1.1: Management Plans.

Name	Description
Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP)	This will build upon the Landscape and Ecology Design Principles Plan (LEDPP), which sets out the principles that will be followed when finalising landscape and ecology mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures for VE. The LEDPP has been provided for comment as part of this consultation.
Soil Management Plan (SMP)	Sets out the approach to retain soil condition and quality and effective re-instatement. A version of the SMP will be provided as part of the final DCO submission.
Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	Sets out the approach that will be taken to manage the potential impacts of construction traffic. An Outline CTMP has been provided for comment as part of this consultation.
Public Access Management Plan (PAMP)	Sets out the approach that will be taken to manage the potential impacts upon Public Rights of Way. An Outline PAMP has been provided for comment as part of this consultation.
Workforce Travel Plan (WTP)	Provides a framework for promoting and encouraging a reduction in private vehicles. An Outline WTP has been provided for comment as part of this consultation.
Communications and Public Relations Procedure	Sets out the communication measures which may be implemented during the construction of the onshore works and supporting programme of activity.



2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The general management of the construction site is important in controlling environmental impacts from construction activities. This section sets out the overarching principles being proposed for the implementation of the CoCP which will be submitted with the DCO and used during construction.

2.2 CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLES

2.2.1 VE will be constructed in an environmentally sensitive manner and will meet the requirements of all relevant legislation, codes of practice and standards identified in the Environmental Statement.

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- 2.3.1 VE will be built, where reasonably practicable, in accordance with current best practices for minimizing the adverse effects of construction on the environment and the local community.
- 2.3.2 The CoCP will be complied with by the Principal Contractor(s) and subcontractors (or contractors) employed by VE OWFL to carry out the works.

2.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY PRINCIPLES

- 2.4.1 Appropriate industry standards will be adopted and implemented for the health, safety and welfare of the construction staff while onsite and arrangements will be in place for the discharge of duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (or updated as appropriate).
- 2.4.2 The Principal Contractor for the onshore works will develop a Construction Phase Plan which will address the safety of construction workers, visitors to the site and the general public for the works. The Construction Phase Plan will set out how all health and safety risks are identified and managed in accordance with legal requirements and current best practice for each stage of the onshore works.
- 2.4.3 Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be worn by construction workers including sub-contractors.

2.5 COMMUNITY LIASON

- 2.5.1 VE OWFL will manage public relations with the local community who may be affected by traffic, noise or other aspects of disruption caused by the onshore construction works.
- 2.5.2 A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) will support pre-construction and construction activity. The role will be an active part of the construction team, implementing a proactive communications approach and ensuring that appropriate notification of works activity is provided.
- 2.5.3 The CLO will manage and respond to any questions and complaints and keep a robust record of all correspondence. A system for dealing with enquiries or complaints will be established by VE OWFL and the Principal Contractor.



- 2.5.4 A Communications and Public Relations Procedure will be developed and implemented throughout construction to ensure that local residents, parish and town councils and businesses are kept informed of work activities. This will also include providing the local community information about types and timings of works, transport routes, likely hours of traffic movements and traffic management measures that will be carried out. Paying particular attention to potential work outside of standard hours and where activities occur in close proximity to residential properties.
- 2.5.5 All enquiries relating to onshore works should be directed to the CLO initially who will then respond or escalate as needed. A dedicated Project email address will be available as well as details to contact the CLO directly.
- 2.5.6 The CLO will assess, redirect and respond to the enquiries and complaints, in coordination with other members of the on-site team as appropriate with the action dependent on the nature of the complaint.
- 2.5.7 At relevant milestones, information on the programme of works and associated activity will be communicated through a variety of methods to ensure people are informed on what they can expect to see and experience through the construction. These might include newsletters, website updates and information events.
- 2.5.8 VE OWFL will appoint an Agricultural Liaison Officer (ALO) to provide a point of contact for landowners and occupiers during construction. The ALO will be available to discuss any practical issues that might arise. They will usually be introduced to landowners and occupiers before construction commences.



3 GENERAL SITE OPERATIONS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 This section sets out the general requirements for the major stages of the onshore construction works with respect to working hours, general site layout and appearance, and security.

3.2 WORKING HOURS

- 3.2.1 Core working hours for construction of the onshore components for VE are as follows:
 - > 07:00 to 19:00 hours Monday to Saturday;
- 3.2.2 No activity where noise is audible beyond VE boundary will take place outside of these hours including Sundays, public holidays or bank holidays apart from under the following circumstances:
 - > Where continuous periods of construction work are required, such as concrete pouring or directional drilling.
 - > For the delivery of abnormal loads to the connection works, which may cause congestion on the local road network, where the relevant highway authority has been notified prior to such works 72 hours in advance;
 - Where works are being carried out in the marine environment and may be tidally restricted;
 - > For internal fitting out works associated with the onshore substation;
 - > The testing or commissioning of any electrical plant installed as part of the onshore infrastructure;
 - > Security monitoring; and
 - Activity necessary in the instance of an emergency where there is a risk to persons, the environment, delivery of electricity or property.
 - > as otherwise agreed in writing with the Relevant Authorities.

3.3 CONSTRUCTION SITE LAYOUT AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- 3.3.1 A Good Housekeeping policy will be applied to the construction areas and TCCs at all times. As far as reasonably practicable the following principles will be applied:
 - > Working areas to be kept in a clean and tidy condition;
 - > The site will be secured to prevent unauthorised access;
 - > Open fires and the burning of rubbish will be prohibited at all times;
 - All necessary measures will be taken to minimise the risk of fire and the contractor will comply with the requirements of the local fire authority;
 - > Adequate welfare facilities will be provided for construction staff;
 - Waste from the construction areas will be stored securely to prevent wind blow; and
 - Waste will be removed at frequent intervals.
 - All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure mud, water and other loose material does not encroach onto the public highway, and if it does steps will be taken to immediately address the concern.
 - > Where used, wheel washing facilities will be cleaned frequently



3.3.2 Temporary Construction Compounds (TCCs) will be required for the storage of materials and equipment, assembly of large items and parking of mobile plant and vehicles. Within these areas material and plant storage will be located to limit adverse environmental effects where possible

3.4 SITE INDUCTION

- 3.4.1 The Principal Contractor will ensure that personnel working on and accessing the Onshore Works are made aware of the content of this CoCP and any topic specific management plans relevant to their work via a site induction on any personnel's first visit to the Works Site. This will include an introduction to all health and safety measures applicable on site, as well as any relevant environmental considerations. As a minimum, the following information will be provided to all inductees:
 - > Site rules e.g. speed limits;
 - > Identification of environmental risks associated with the Onshore Works specific to the activities being undertaken by the inductee. For example:
 - Species and / or habitat protection requirements relating to breeding birds, bats and grass snake;
 - > Protocol for archaeological discoveries;
 - > Watercourse crossing works;
 - > Measures for minimising the risk of spreading invasive species; and farm animal & bird diseases;
 - Noise and dust control measures:
 - Pollution prevention and response (e.g. silt mitigation and protection of the water environment);
 - Waste management practices; and
 - > Emergency Response Procedures (ERP).

3.5 TRAINING AND TOOLBOX TALKS

3.5.1 During construction, in order to provide on-going reinforcement and awareness training, Toolbox Talks are given on environmental issues. Toolbox Talks and training are arranged by the Principal Contractor or relevant Contractor and delivered by specialist personnel on site as required, in advance of the issue being encountered or in response to the findings of an inspection.

3.6 SITE INSPECTIONS

3.6.1 Environmental site inspections will be undertaken throughout construction as appropriate to the construction activity underway at the time. These will highlight evidence of good practices and recommend remedial actions where issues are identified.



3.7 SCREENING AND FENCING

- 3.7.1 Secure temporary fencing will be installed around the TCCs, when in use, and will also be provided for sections of the onshore export cable route as appropriate with allowances for private land access, stock crossing and relevant ecological constraints.
- 3.7.2 The type of fencing will be selected to suit the location and purpose. All boundary fences/screening will be installed at the commencement of works in that location and maintained in a tidy condition and fit for purpose.
- 3.7.3 All temporary screening and fencing will be removed as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of the works.

3.8 UTILITIES

3.8.1 Where the construction works will be in close proximity to existing utilities, or any works affecting existing drains, sewers or chambers works will be undertaken in manner agreed with the relevant statutory undertaker.

3.9 CONSTRUCTION SITE LIGHTING

- 3.9.1 External lighting of the construction site will be designed and positioned to:
 - > Provide the necessary levels for safe working;
 - > Minimise light spillage or pollution; and
 - > Avoid disturbance to adjoining residents and occupiers.
- 3.9.2 No permanent/fixed lighting will be required along the onshore ECC during construction.
- 3.9.3 At TCC and on the onshore ECC, temporary lighting may be required in the winter months when natural daylight is not sufficient to enable safe working.
- 3.9.4 Construction works will typically not require night time working. However, in winter, some illuminations may be required in the early morning and evening. Illuminations may also be needed for occasional activities which require continuous working during night time. This may occur where continuous working is necessary for matters such as concrete pours and Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) works (or other trenchless crossing techniques). Low level security lighting may also be required at night throughout the construction period within some TCC's.
- 3.9.5 The following methods will be adhered to where temporary lighting is used during the construction phase:
 - > Site lighting is to be angled and facing into the work or welfare areas to reduce light pollution as much as possible with the use of hoods and cowl.
 - Light intensity will be as low as is permissible and appropriately located/directed in order to minimise lighting disturbance for bats and birds.
 - Lighting spillage will be avoided or minimised to reduce impacts on ecological resources, including nocturnal species;
 - Construction lighting shall be positioned and directed to minimise nuisance to footpath users, residents, distractions to passing drivers on adjoining public highways and to minimise skyglow, so far as is reasonably practicable; and



- > Low energy LED type bulbs will be used which can be automatically switched, i.e. via dawn to dusk sensor, timer or passive infrared sensor (PIR).
- 3.9.6 So far as is practicable, all power to temporary lighting shall be taken from mains supplies rather than from portable generators. Where portable generators are used, industry best practice will be followed to minimise noise and air pollution from generators.

3.10 CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC

3.10.1 Construction traffic will be managed according to the measures set out in the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). An outline CTMP has been prepared which provides preliminary details of management measures related to the mitigation and management of traffic flows.

3.11 SECURITY

3.11.1 Adequate security of the TCCs will minimize the opportunity for unauthorised entry, protect the public, and prevent theft. Site gates will be secured when there is no site activity and appropriate security measures will be implemented. Where possible, access to construction areas will be limited to specified entry points and all personnel entries/exits will be recorded for security and health and safety purposes.

3.12 PEST CONTROL

3.12.1 The risk of pest/vermin infestation will be reduced by ensuring any perishable waste is stored appropriately and regularly collected from construction areas, and implementing effective preventative pest control measures. Any pest infestation will be dealt with promptly.

3.13 WASTE

- 3.13.1 All waste arising during the construction of VE will be stored in designated waste areas located away from sensitive environmental receptors. Where appropriate, waste will be stored in secure containers to prevent the escape of waste and wind blow.
- 3.13.2 Hazardous wastes will be stored separately from other wastes. All waste will be handled and managed in accordance with the Duty of Care requirements. Each transport of waste from the site will be accompanied by a Waste Transfer Note which includes:
 - > A description of the waste (including an industry SIC code);
 - > Quantity, and details of any pre-treatment undertaken;
 - > Specific handling requirements (where appropriate);
 - > The name and permit reference of the facility to where the waste is being taken; and
 - > The waste carrier details.

3.14 WELFARE

3.14.1 The TCCs shall be serviced by temporary construction offices and necessary welfare facilities, plus for mobile construction teams in teams in compliance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015).



3.15 CLEARANCE OF SITE ON COMPLETION

3.15.1 TCCs and accesses will be cleared when they are no longer required to support the construction. On completion of construction work all plant, temporary buildings or vehicles will be removed. Following completion of works in a particular area it will be reinstated in line with the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

3.16 GENERAL POLLUTION PREVENTION MEASURES

- 3.16.1 Areas at risk of spillage, such as vehicle maintenance areas and hazardous substance stores (including fuel, oils and chemicals) will be bunded and carefully sited to minimise the risk of hazardous substances entering drainage systems or local watercourses. Additionally, the bunded areas will have impermeable bases to limit the potential for migration of contaminants into groundwater following any leakage/spillage. Bunds used to store fuel, oil etc. will have a 110% capacity.
- 3.16.2 All fuel and chemical storage will comply with relevant storage regulations. Any refuelling of machinery will be undertaken within designated areas where spillages can be easily contained. The following measures will be implemented on site for the storage of materials:
 - All oil and diesel storage facilities will be at least 30 m from any watercourse and at least 50 m from any borehole or well, where practicable;
 - > A spill procedure will be documented and suitably sized and stocked spill kits kept in the vicinity of potentially hazardous materials storage areas.
 - > Spill kits and drip trays will be provided for all equipment and at locations where any liquids are stored and dispensed;
 - Storage facilities will be provided for solid materials to prevent deterioration of the materials and their escape;
 - Storage facilities will be kept secure to prevent acts of vandalism that could result in leaks or spills; and
 - > All containers of any size will be correctly labelled indicating their contents and any hazard warning signs.
- 3.16.3 Where fuel is delivered through a pipe permanently attached to a tank or bowser the pipe will be fitted with a manually operated pump or a valve at the delivery end which closes automatically when not in use. The following management controls will also be implemented:
 - > The pump or valve will be fitted with a lock;
 - The pipe will be fitted with a lockable valve at the end where it leaves the tank or bowser;
 - > The pipework will pass over and not through bund walls;
 - > Tanks and bunds will be protected from vehicle impact damage; and
 - > Tanks will be labelled with contents and capacity information.
- 3.16.4 For deliveries and dispensing activities it will be ensured that:
 - > Site-specific procedures are in place for bulk deliveries;
 - > Delivery points and vehicle routes are clearly marked;



- Emergency procedures are displayed and a suitably sized spill kit is available at all delivery points, and staff are trained in these procedures and the use of spill kits:
- > Suitable facilities (for example, drip trays, drum trolleys, funnels) meet the sites specific dispensing needs and are maintained and used;
- > Tank capacities and current contents levels are checked prior to accepting a delivery to ensure that they are not overfilled;
- > All deliveries are supervised throughout the delivery operation;
- > Spill prevention equipment is used during dispensing activities; and
- All spillages occurring during dispensing and handling activities are cleared up and reported via the appropriate site manager/agent.
- 3.16.5 All flammable and hazardous substances will be kept in a secure bunded cupboard, cabinet or tank constructed of materials which are chemically resistant to its contents and suitably ventilated.
- 3.16.6 The use of vehicles and plant poses similar risks to those posed by storage of liquids. Fuel and oil may leak from such equipment which may enter drains and/or watercourses, as well as contaminating the ground itself. Vehicle checks will be conducted to ensure fuel storage and engine condition is satisfactory and that no fuel or chemical release will occur during site operations.
- 3.16.7 The following measures will be implemented to minimise the risk of pollution through release of silts and sediments:
 - Stockpiling of excavated materials during earthworks will be temporary and will only be permitted in designated areas. Designated stockpile areas will be located a minimum of 10 m from any open watercourse features where practicable;
 - > Disturbance to areas close to watercourses will be reduced to the minimum necessary for the work;
 - Excavated material will be placed in such a way as to avoid any disturbance of areas close to the banks of watercourses and to prevent spillage into water features;
 - > Use of sediment fences along watercourses when working in close proximity to prevent sediment being washed into watercourses;
 - > Covers will be used by lorries transporting materials to/ from site to prevent releases of dust/ sediment to watercourses or drains; and
 - > If applicable, storage of stockpiled materials should be on an impermeable surface to prevent leaching of contaminants and covered when not in use to prevent materials being dispersed by wind or rainfall runoff.
- 3.16.8 The potential for release of drilling fluids as a result of frac-out will be reduced by:
 - Undertaking appropriate ground investigation/desk study to inform drilling parameters such as drilling pressures;
 - > Monitoring of drilling fluid properties (i.e. mud weight, viscosity, gel strength, volume and pressure) during drilling to prevent frac-outs;
 - Stopping drilling if unexpected variations or trends are observed and investigating the cause:
 - Having frac-out contingency plans and response equipment such as sand bags and clean-up equipment in place; and



Regular inspections should also be conducted along the drill path during pilot hole drilling.

3.17 UNEXPECTED CONTAMINATION

- 3.17.1 Any visual/ olfactory signs of contamination encountered during excavation will be reported to the Principal Contractor and investigated.
- 3.17.2 Areas where unexpected contamination is encountered or suspected will be photographed and annotated on a site drawing. Necessary works at the location where signs of contamination are suspected/encountered will cease until the contamination has been assessed by a suitably qualified Environmental Consultant in accordance with the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006;
- 3.17.3 Soil (vapour/ groundwater) samples will be collected and analysed. The risks associated with contamination will be assessed. When required, a remediation strategy will be designed and agreed with the Relevant Authorities before implementation.

3.18 MANAGING RISK TO WORKERS AIRISING FROM EXISTING CONTAMINATION

- 3.18.1 Potential risks to construction and maintenance workers arising from contamination within soil and groundwater during the construction phase(s) of the proposed development will be controlled through:
 - > The CDM Regulations 2015;
 - > The requirement to work in accordance with best practice and statutory guidance; and
 - > The requirement for Personal protective equipment (PPE), as standard working practice.
- 3.18.2 PPE requirements will be defined by risk assessment, and may include nitrile gloves, protective overalls, safety goggles and face masks especially by those workers who are likely to be coming into contact with soil or water, such as those carrying out hand digging activities.



4 TOPIC SPECIFIC CONTROLS

4.1 SOIL MANAGEMENT

- 4.1.1 A Soil Management Plan (SMP) will provide details of mitigation measures and best practice handling techniques to safeguard soil resources by ensuring their protection, conservation and appropriate reinstatement during the construction of the onshore works.
- 4.1.2 Prior to construction, the Principal Contractor will ensure that information on existing agricultural management and soil/land conditions is obtained, recorded and verified by way of detailed pre-construction soil condition surveys and intrusive soil survey trial pits to identify and describe the physical and nutrient characteristics of the existing soil profiles. The surveys will be undertaken by specialist soil surveyors (professional members of the British Society of Soil Science) according to best practice (typically one intrusive investigation per 100 m for linear routes or 1 per hectare elsewhere).
- 4.1.3 On completion of construction, the principal contractor will ensure that information on soil/land conditions is obtained and verified through a detailed post-construction soil condition survey. In discussion with landowners the contractor will remedy any loss of nutrients according to best practice guidance at the time of works completion.
- 4.1.4 All soil handling, placing, compaction and management will be undertaken in accordance with best practice (DEFRA, 2009¹). Mitigation measures will comprise the following:
 - > Topsoil from areas currently in agricultural use will be stripped at the start of general construction works;
 - Soils of different types (as identified by the detailed pre-construction soil survey) will be stockpiled/stored accordingly;
 - > Soils will be replaced within the same field as excavated;
 - Soils suitable for reuse as part of wider mitigation associated with the OnSS (e.g. planting areas) to be reused in a broadly similar location to their origin, and stored for the shortest amount of time permissible;
 - > Any surplus soils from the OnSS works to be re-used for landscaping, offered to landowners or disposed of in an appropriate manner off-site; and
 - > Vehicle movements will be restricted on waterlogged soils and will be subject to an assessment of ground conditions which will be undertaken on a site by-site basis to avoid compaction and damage.
- 4.1.5 The following measures will be used to protect stored soils:
 - No trafficking of vehicles/plant or storage of materials to take place outside designated working areas. Heavy plant and vehicles to be restricted to specific routes;
 - No trafficking of vehicles or plant on stockpiled or reinstated soils (topsoil or subsoil);

¹ <u>Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites</u> (<u>publishing.service.gov.uk</u>)



- > Stripping areas are to be protected from in flow of water and ponding. Wet areas will be drained in advance of stripping;
- > Soils will only be moved when they are in a dry and friable condition, based on field assessment of the soils' wetness in relation to its lower plastic limit;
- Designated stockpile areas at a minimum of 10 m from any open watercourse features;
- Where practical, where soil is to be stored for over 6 months it will be covered to minimise erosion, sprayed to prevent weed growth or allowed to re-vegetate naturally; and
- > No mixing of topsoil with subsoil, or of soil with other materials.
- 4.1.6 Details of the soil management works will be recorded as part of the daily record/site diary, and these records will by checked on a weekly basis for compliance with the SMP, and these details recorded.
- 4.1.7 All site operatives who will be involved in the excavation or movement of soils will be briefed on the SMP as part of the initial site induction process, and each site operative will sign copies of the appropriate method statements held within the site register to confirm acknowledgement of this information.
- 4.1.8 This information will be refreshed throughout VE as part of the daily toolbox talks, and key works relating the SMP will be recorded in the daily record/site diary maintained by the site manager (e.g. material movements/stockpiling, soil sampling/testing, etc).
- 4.1.9 Communication and understanding of the information relating to the SMP will be assessed as part of weekly reviews and regular site audits.
- 4.1.10 Before commencing work on site, where soils are to be disturbed, the Contractor will be required to ensure that the construction plant being proposed is appropriate to the size of the site, the volume of soil and haul distances. The selection of appropriate equipment and work practices is important as mishandling of soil can have an adverse effect on its fertility, permeability, ecological diversity, and the performance and visual quality of vegetated areas. Mishandling can also increase the risk of flooding and off-site discharges. Multiple handling of soil materials will be minimised.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

- 4.2.1 VE OWFL will appoint an Agricultural Liaison Officer (ALO) to provide a point of contact for landowners and occupiers during construction. The ALO will be available to discuss any practical issues that might arise. They will usually be introduced to landowners and occupiers before construction commences.
- 4.2.2 The ALO will ensure that information on existing agricultural management and land conditions is obtained, recorded and verified by way of a pre-construction condition survey commissioned either by VE OWFL or the Principal Contractor. The ALO will undertake site inspections during construction to monitor working practices and ensure landowners' and occupiers' reasonable requirements are fulfilled. The ALO will also liaise between the onshore main contractor and landowners & occupiers on reinstatement measures following completion of the works.



- 4.2.3 In relation to temporary land take requirements VE OWFL will liaise with landowners to agree commercial terms including loss of ongoing payments or penalties relating to agri-environmental stewardship schemes.
- 4.2.4 Where reasonably required, crossing points will be used in suitable places in order that livestock and vehicles can cross the working width.
- 4.2.5 Wherever possible, farmers and landowners will be informed of any general disruption impacts via project updates prior to commencement of on-site activities to allow time for them to adapt or make informed decisions on their work practices.

4.3 NOISE AND VIBRATION

- 4.3.1 Construction works will be undertaken in accordance with the best practicable means (as defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974) to minimise noise and vibration effects. Noise control measures will be consistent with the recommendations of the current version of BS 5228 Part 1: Noise and Part 2: Vibration. Construction contractors will carry out the works in a manner which seeks to minimise noise and vibration wherever feasible, taking account of statutory requirements and legislation. These measures may include the following:
 - > There will be a preference for the use of plant fitted with effective silencers and noise insulation.:
 - > The number of plant items in use at any one time will be minimised, where practicable;
 - > Plant maintenance operations will be undertaken as far away from noise-sensitive receptors as is practicable;
 - > The works will be phased, where practicable;
 - > Any compressors brought on to site will be silenced or sound reduced models fitted with acoustic enclosures;
 - > The speed of vehicle movements will be limited to below 15 miles per hour:
 - Operations will be designed to be undertaken with any directional noise emissions pointing away from noise-sensitive receptors where practicable;
 - > The use of pink noise reversing alarms that produce a "static" sound as opposed to a beep will be used where reasonably practicable to reduce the noise generated by reversing beepers on site vehicles;
 - Construction plant will be regularly serviced and maintained and operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions - plant that is intermittently used should be shut down in the intervening periods between work or throttled down to a minimum:
 - > The use of local noise screening or site hoardings to reduce noise where necessary, will be considered;
 - The appointment of a site contact to whom complaints/ queries about construction activity can be directed - any complaints should be investigated, and action taken where appropriate;
 - Local residents will be kept informed of construction activities, including working hours through a variety of measures;
 - All reasonable steps will be taken to limit the number of vehicles waiting to deliver materials to the proposed development;



- > Construction which would be closest to nearby residential receptors will be undertaken as efficiently and quickly as reasonably possible;
- > With the exception of generators, pumps and electric plant, all plant and equipment would be expected to be shut down when not in use;
- Construction contractors will adhere to the codes of practice for construction working set out in BS 5228 'Code of Practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites' insofar as these are reasonably practicable and applicable to the construction works; and
- > Construction staff training will include advice on:
 - > The proper use and maintenance of tools and equipment;
 - The positioning of machinery on site to reduce noise emissions to neighbouring residents; and
 - > The avoidance of unnecessary noise when carrying out manual operations and when operating plant and equipment.

4.4 AIR QUALITY

- 4.4.1 Site-specific control/mitigation measures have been divided into general measures applicable to all site works, and measures specific to demolition, earthworks, construction and the movement of dust and dirt from a construction/demolition site onto the public road network (referred to as trackout).
- 4.4.2 These control measures will be implemented throughout the full duration of construction.

GENERAL

- 4.4.3 When undertaking general works the following measures will be implemented:
 - > No bonfires or burning of waste material;
 - > Plan site layout so that machinery and dust causing activities are located away from receptors, as far as is possible;
 - > Erect solid screens or barriers around dusty activities where there is a sensitive receptor within 350m;
 - > Fully enclose site or specific operations where there is a high potential for dust production and the site is active for an extensive period;
 - > Avoid site runoff of water or mud:
 - Keep site fencing, barriers and scaffolding clean using wet methods:
 - Remove materials that have a potential to produce dust from site as soon as possible, unless being re-used on site. If they are being re-used on-site cover as described below;
 - > Cover, seed or fence stockpiles where practical to prevent wind whipping;
 - Ensure bulk cement and other fine powder materials are delivered in enclosed tankers and stored in silos with suitable emission control systems to prevent escape of material and overfilling during delivery; and
 - > For smaller supplies of fine powder materials ensure bags are sealed after use and stored appropriately to prevent dust.



EARTHWORKS

- 4.4.4 When undertaking earthworks and other works potentially creating dust the following will be implemented:
 - > Damping down all dusty activities and surfaces, especially during dry, windy weather;
 - > During stockpiling of loose materials, stockpiles shall exist for the shortest possible time:
 - Material stockpiles will be low mounds without steep sides or sharp changes in shape;
 - Daily visual inspections will be undertaken to assess need for use of water bowsers;
 - Sealing and re-vegetation of earthworks and other exposed areas to stabilise surfaces as soon as practicable, where it is not possible hessian or mulches will be implemented;
 - > Where works are being conducted, removal of any secure covers will be undertaken in small areas during work;
 - Excavation and earthworks areas will be stripped as required in order to minimise exposed areas;
 - During excavation works, drop heights from buckets will be minimised to control the fall of materials reducing dust escape;
 - > Speed limits on internal access roads will be enforced;
 - Local roads will be kept clean by regular use of road sweepers and a dry wheel wash located close to the construction exit;
 - > All cutting/ grinding equipment will be fitted with dust extraction systems;
 - > Debris netting around dust sources will also be implemented as appropriate; and
 - > Ensure sand and other aggregates are stored in bunded areas and are not allowed to dry out, unless this is required for a particular process, in which case ensure that appropriate additional control measures are in place.

TRACKOUT

- 4.4.5 To prevent the transportation of dust and dirt from the construction site onto the public road network, the following will be implemented:
 - Use water-assisted dust sweeper(s) on the access and local roads, to remove, as necessary, any material tracked out of the site;
 - Avoid dry sweeping of large areas;
 - > Ensure vehicles entering and leaving sites are covered to prevent escape of materials during transport;
 - > Inspect on-site haul routes for integrity and instigate necessary repairs to the surface as soon as reasonably practicable;
 - Record all inspections of the on-site haul routes and any subsequent action in a site logbook;
 - Implement a wheel washing system (with rumble grids to dislodge accumulated dust and mud prior to leaving the unsurfaced haul routes or/ site where reasonably practicable and appropriate);



- > Ensure there is an adequate area of hard surfaced road between the wheel wash facility and the site exit, wherever site size and layout permits.
- Access gates to be located at least 10m from receptors where possible.

NON-ROAD MOBILE MACHINERY (NRMM)

- 4.4.6 All NRMM used during the construction of VE will be controlled through the following measures:
 - > Plan site layout so that NRMM are located away from receptors, as far as is possible;
 - > Ensure all vehicles switch off engines when stationary no idling vehicles
 - Avoid the use of diesel or petrol powered generators and use mains electricity or battery powered equipment where practicable;
 - Impose and signpost a maximum-speed-limit of 15mph on surfaced and 10mph on unsurfaced haul roads and work areas (if long haul routes are required these speeds may be increased with suitable additional control measures provided, subject to the approval of the nominated undertaker and with the agreement of the local authority, where appropriate);
 - Use a Construction Logistics Plan to manage the sustainable delivery of goods and materials;
 - > Ensure all equipment complies with the latest (Stage V) emission standards or has suitable dispensation as appropriate; and
 - Where feasible, ensure further abatement plant is installed on NRMM equipment, e.g. Diesel Particulate Filters (DPFs).

SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

- 4.4.7 The following measures and monitoring will be implemented throughout construction of VF:
 - > Record all dust and air quality complaints, identify cause(s), take appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner, and record the measures taken.
 - > Make the complaints log available to the Relevant Authorities when asked.
 - > Record any exceptional incidents that cause dust and/or air emissions, either onsite or off-site, and the action taken to resolve the situation in the log book.
 - > Hold regular liaison meetings with other high risk construction sites within 500m of the construction works area, to ensure plans are co-ordinated and dust and particulate matter emissions are minimised. It is important to understand the interactions of the off-site transport deliveries which might be using the same strategic road network routes.
 - Undertake regular on-site and off-site inspection, where receptors (including roads) are nearby, to monitor dust, record inspection results, and make the log available to the local authority when asked. This will include regular dust soiling checks of surfaces such as street furniture, cars and windowsills within 100 m of construction works area, with cleaning to be provided if necessary.
 - Carry out regular site inspections to monitor compliance with air quality and dust control measures and make an inspection log available to the local authority if requested.
 - Increase the frequency of site inspections by the person accountable for air quality and dust issues on site when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out and during prolonged dry or windy conditions.



4.5 ONSHORE ECOLOGY AND NATURE CONSERVATION

- 4.5.1 A number of sensitive onshore ecological features have the potential to be adversely affected by VE. These features require specific and detailed mitigation in order to provide the necessary safeguards, a Landscape and Ecology Design Principles Plan (LEDPP), has been produced which sets out the principles that will be followed when producing the landscape and ecology mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures for VE. Further information on this will be detailed within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, which will be developed to accompany the DCO application. These will include:
 - Pre-construction surveys, including for hog's fennel, S41 and/or red data book plant species associated with coastal habitats and arable margins, and other protected species whose distribution could have changed since the baseline surveys will be undertaken to update the baseline and determine potential impacts at the time of construction;
 - Micrositing of project elements will be used to avoid important ecological features, where possible;
 - > A suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be employed to oversee construction work and minimise risks to important ecological features;
 - > Protective fencing will be installed around retained habitats of importance;
 - All habitats will be reinstated as soon as possible after construction. Hedgerows along the onshore ECC will be reinstated using a species-rich, locally appropriate native mixture including heavy standard trees at a 3:1 ratio for any lost;
 - > Removal of potential nesting bird habitat will take place outside of the breeding season (March - August inclusive), where possible, to avoid damage to, or destruction of active nests. Where this is not possible, a check for the presence of nesting birds by the ECoW will take place in advance of work. Where active nests are located the relevant areas of vegetation will be retained until such time as young fledge or the relevant nesting attempt has ended;
 - Surveys for Schedule 1 bird species and other breeding species of conservation concern which are likely to be particularly sensitive to disturbance, e.g., breeding waders, will take place prior to and during construction (as required). Avoidance of disturbance to these species whilst nesting will be achieved through the implementation of disturbance-free buffer zones around active nests. The extent of any buffer zones will be species and location-specific and will be determined by the ECoW, taking into consideration relevant guidance and experience from other sites, as appropriate. The ECoW will also monitor nesting attempts to check that the agreed buffer zones are successful; and
 - Checks for the presence of Great Crested Newts (GCN), dormice, badger setts, reptiles, hedgehogs, harvest mice, hares or other protected or notable species will be carried out by the ECoW prior to vegetation clearance. Additional reasonable avoidance measures will be implemented/ mitigation licences applied for as necessary (details to be provided in the ES, on completion of the relevant surveys). applied for as necessary (details to be provided in the ES, on completion of the relevant surveys).
- 4.5.2 To reduce disturbance to important populations of non-breeding birds at the landfall, the following measures will be applied:
 - Piling (if required at the landfall) will either take place outside the winter period (October to March) or will utilise less noisy, vibro-piling technology;



- > Depending on the final design, the contractor will consider the use of visual and acoustic screening, such as fencing/hoarding at HDD pits, and other working areas at the landfall:
- If necessary, works at the landfall will be suspended during periods of very cold weather (seven consecutive days on which the ground has frozen) Suspension of works will last for a minimum of seven days thereafter and any lifting of the suspension will take into consideration the need for a period of recovery for waterbirds.
- 4.5.3 To reduce disturbance to important populations of breeding birds at the landfall (March to August inclusive), the following measures will be applied:
 - > Depending on the final design, the contractor will consider the use of visual and acoustic screening, such as fencing/hoarding at HDD pits, and other working areas at the landfall.

BIOSECURITY

- 4.5.4 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are animals and plants that grow in an area in which they do not naturally occur and that have the ability to spread rapidly causing environmental, economic or health impacts.
- 4.5.5 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any such species listed in Schedule 9, Part I or Part II of Section 62 of Act.²
- 4.5.6 Injurious weeds are native plants that are considered a problem for farming. Under the Weeds Act 1959 occupiers should take action to prevent the spread of five species of injurious weeds.³
- 4.5.7 The locations and extent of INNS and injurious weeds will be recorded by the ECoW and personnel will be made aware of their locations and any required mitigation in advance of construction activity in the vicinity. The ECoW will assist in the identification of these species and in the delivery of Toolbox Talks on the subject.
- 4.5.8 Appropriate measures for the management of INNS and injurious weeds will be implemented. These measures are required to reduce adverse environmental impacts and to reduce the potential for legal offences. The measures are highly dependent of the particular species and context and thus are not included in the CoCP.
- 4.5.9 If identified as a requirement by ECoW, species-specific management plans will be developed with input from suitably qualified professionals who may be required to undertake surveys, provide management advice, and to implement management actions. Management plans will be made available to site personnel and will include:
 - > Maps identifying the locations of INNS and injurious weeds and any associated exclusion and management areas;
 - > Workforce responsibilities, including liaison or information sharing with landowners; and

² Prevailing good practice for the management of invasive non-native plants is available from: <u>How to stop</u> invasive non-native plants from spreading - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

³ Prevailing good practice for the management of injurious weeds is available from: <u>Guidance on the methods</u> that can be used to control harmful weeds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



- Sood practice biosecurity measures that will minimise the spread of INNS and injurious weeds.
- 4.5.10 The approach should consider general environmental good practice other features of importance, including future land use.
- 4.5.11 In instances where INNS have been identified, to avoid biological contamination, adherence to Defra (2003) for best practice measures will be applied to minimise the risk of spreading disease. These measures include but are not limited to:
 - > Agreeing access arrangements with landowners and occupiers in advance of any construction works taking place;
 - > Minimising where possible the movements of people, vehicles or equipment into areas where farm animals are kept; and
 - > Cleaning equipment upon arrival and departure.
- 4.5.12 The contractor should follow current relevant guidance in relation to active avian influenza strains.

4.6 FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

- 4.6.1 Any works in a floodplain will incorporate measures to minimise possible obstruction or deviation of floodwater. For example, this will include leaving gaps in soil stockpiles, minimising the height of possible raised structures (e.g. access tracks and working areas).
- 4.6.2 The contractor should consider implementing measures to manage runoff, particularly to limit runoff directly to roads. These control measures for managing runoff and minimising risk of water pollution include, but not limited to:
 - > Staff toolbox talks on pollution prevention and spill procedures;
 - > The Principal Contractor will sign up to the Environment Agency Flood Alerts and 'Floodline' flood warning services;
 - Visual checks on flood defences, watercourses and drainage culverts will be carried out following a flood event within the working area will be undertaken after any significant weather event. Any signs of degradation reported to the EA and relevant landowner immediately;
 - Debris will be safely contained, reducing the risk of large items entering the flood flow;
 - Monitoring of construction drainage sediment traps (visual inspection) with increased monitoring during inclement weather. If required these traps can be pumped via settling tanks to remove sediment, based on a pre-defined level / depth of sediment; and
 - Machinery will be stored or returned to areas of hard standings, preferably remote from flood waters, or where this is not possible, sufficiently constrained so as not to wash away.
- 4.6.3 Flood response awareness and procedures will be included in the principal contractors emergency response planning where there are works near to a flood zone or residual risk existing from coastal flood defence failure and the risk of tidal flooding to any landfall activities on the seaward side of coastal defences during the construction phase. In the unlikely event of a flood emergency the Principal Contractor will follow its specific flood warning and evacuation plans.



4.7 WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS

- 4.7.1 Temporary access track crossings over main rivers will where practical be designed as clear span bridges (i.e. they will span the entire watercourse from bank top to bank top) to minimise disturbance of the channel and maintain water flowing along the watercourse.
- 4.7.2 Watercourse crossings will be designed to suit the type of watercourse that is being crossed and will be constructed in a way that minimises the disturbance of channel bed and banks as far as possible.
- 4.7.3 The number of haul routes crossing watercourses will be minimized and existing crossings used where practical.
- 4.7.4 In order to mitigate the potential impacts to water quality where crossing or working near water courses, the following principles will be applied:
 - > Entry into water will be avoided where possible;
 - > All cables will be installed beneath the active channel bed;
 - Temporary crossings will be appropriately sized to maintain flow patterns and sediment conveyance, and avoid unnecessary changes to the hydromorphology of the watercourses;
 - Clear span bailey bridges (or similar) or suitable sized culverts will be used to avoid impacts to the hydromorphology of the watercourses. Adherence to best practices and guidance to ensure the risk of pollution is minimised;
 - > A temporary haul road bridge, culvert or other temporary measure may be constructed if repeated crossings are required;
 - Works will be thoroughly planned and controlled in order to minimise the risk of pollution;
 - In areas where there is likely to be large quantities of silt generated, straw bales or sediment traps will be placed in the watercourse downstream to help filter out any silts;
 - Where the water flow is high, water will be over pumped during construction to prevent flooding upstream;
 - If there is a requirement for dewatering of excavations, water will be pumped out and passed through a suitable filtration system which may include a settlement tank or lagoon to allow suspended solids to settle out before being discharged to an appropriate location;
 - Appropriate treatment methods will be adopted prior to discharge of the water from any land drains uncovered during the construction phase; and
 - Regular clearing of debris from culverts along ordinary watercourses within the working area will need to be undertaken to ensure that no blockages are present during construction.
- 4.7.5 Cables may be installed under smaller watercourses or ditches using open-cut techniques. Such smaller watercourses or ditches may be temporarily flumed, dammed-up and over-pumped or diverted to allow installation to take place. Trench support may be required to temporarily hold open the excavated trenches either side of the ditch. Trench support will be removed prior to reinstatement, including reinstatement of the watercourse or ditch.



5 ENVRIONMENTAL INSPECTIONS AND COMPLIANCE

- 5.1.1 Each contractor will be required to comply with the CoCP, monitor compliance and report breaches to VE OWFL.
- 5.1.2 A public hotline will be made available to members of the public so that the general public can raise queries or complaints to a representative of VE OWFL.



6 EMERGENCY CONTACTS AND PROCEDURES

- 6.1.1 An emergency response plan will be developed by the Principal Contractor(s) giving details for dealing with emergencies which may arise during the onshore works. All contractors and subcontractors will work in accordance with this plan.
- 6.1.2 Emergency procedures will be developed within this plan for the onshore works taking into account the anticipated hazards and the conditions at each work site. This shall include the following:
 - > Emergency pollution control measures based on Environment Agency guidelines;
 - > Fire safety;
 - > Site evacuation;
 - > Spill prevention, location of spill kits and control procedures; and
 - > Location of first aid facilities.
- 6.1.3 The emergency response plan procedure will contain emergency contact details of relevant local and statutory authorities, and any notification requirements. The procedures will be displayed at the work sites and all site staff will be required to follow them.
- 6.1.4 Should an incident involving injury or damage to vehicles or plant take place, the Site should be left undisturbed as far as is reasonably practicable (in accordance with personal health and safety) until suitable investigations have been conducted. Where it is necessary to move equipment, materials or people to prevent or reduce environmental impact, photographs will be taken, wherever reasonably practicable (in accordance with personal health and safety), to allow easy reconstruction of the incident layout for any required investigative purposes.



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