FIVE ESTUARIES
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

PROJECT UPDATE SUMMER 2026

A FUTURE OF CLEAN GREEN ENERGY

- FIVE ESTUARIES RECEIVES DEVELOPMENT CONSENT – WHAT'S NEXT?
- OUR SURVEY ACTIVITY
- ENGAGING WITH THE SUPPLY CHAIN
- SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITMENTS



NEXT STEPS FOR FIVE ESTUARIES

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm is delighted to have been awarded Development Consent in December 2025. This achievement marks the culmination of several years of extensive consultation and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and local communities.

The examination process took place between September 2024 and March 2025, covering a wide range of topics and hearing from interested parties - including landowners, local communities, residents, businesses and statutory consultees. Your input has been invaluable in shaping a project that seeks to balance the need for renewable energy with local environmental considerations and community interests.

WHAT'S NEXT?

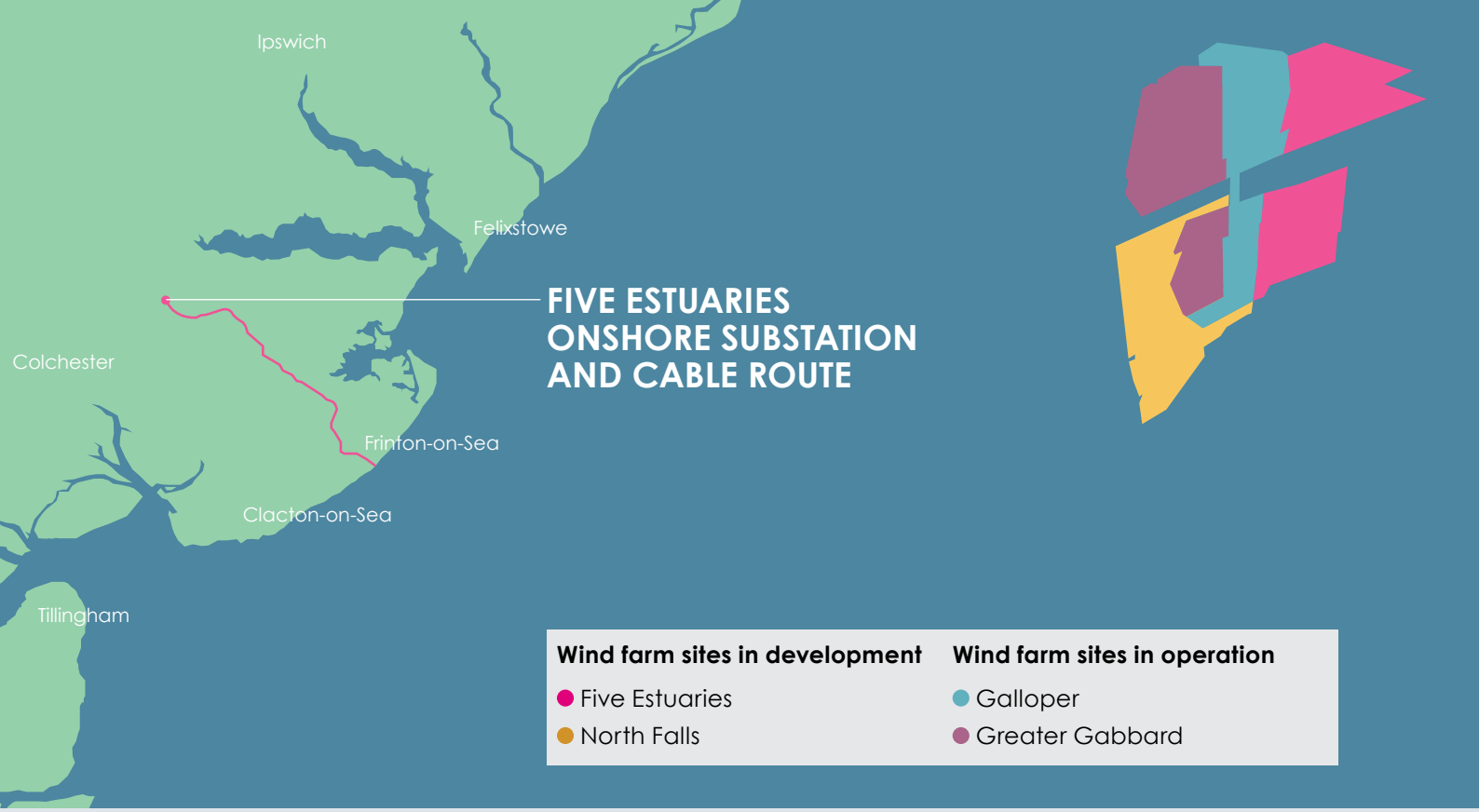
With consent secured, the project is focusing on design progression and planning. This involves refining the technical aspects of the wind farm, including potential turbine layouts and associated onshore infrastructure. Environmental commitments secured during the consent process will continue to guide this work, ensuring that mitigation and enhancement measures are included in the final design.

At the same time, we are progressing with preparatory activities such as supply chain engagement, procurement strategy development, and further site investigations to better understand the ground conditions. These steps are essential to ensure that the project is delivered in an efficient manner and in accordance with best practice.



Five Estuaries examination hearing

> FIVE ESTUARIES' PRIORITY IS TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING PLANS TO TRANSITION THE PROJECT FROM DEVELOPMENT TO DELIVERY

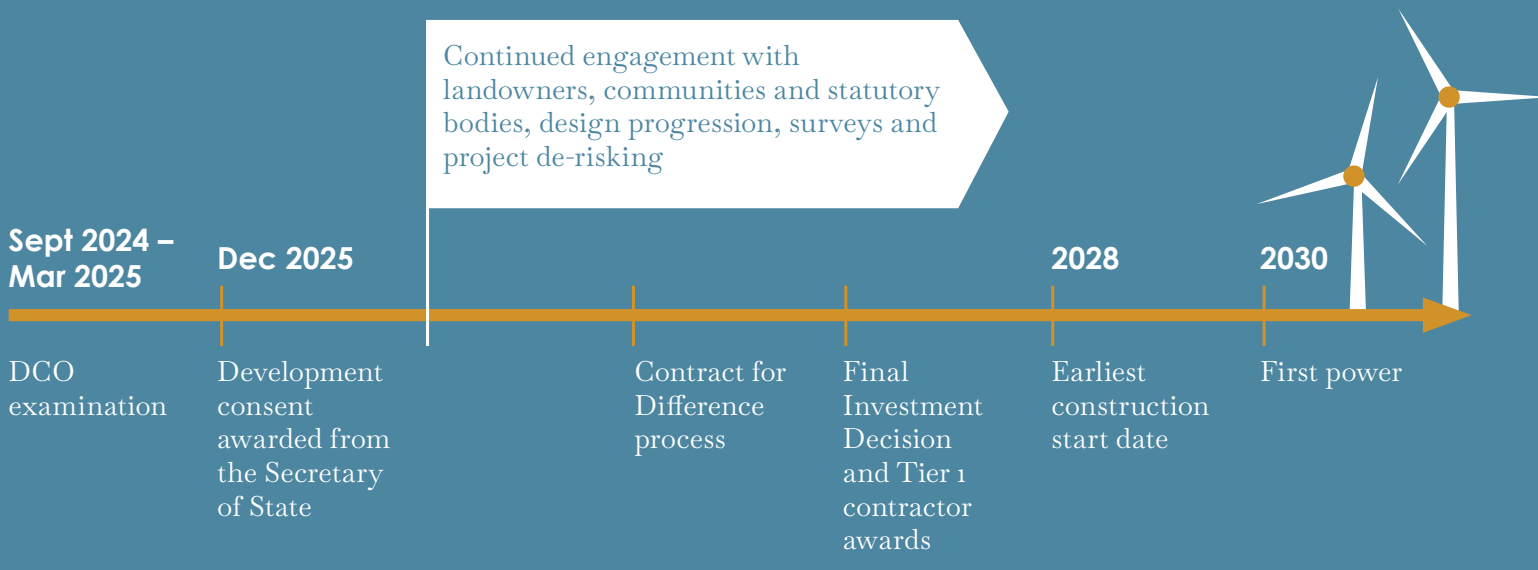


While this progress is significant, it is important to recognise that there are still key steps ahead before construction can begin. We have not fixed our long-term programme, as it is dependent on numerous factors such as the Government Contract for Difference process and securing a Final Investment Decision (see page 4 for more information), however, the project is still working towards first power in 2030.

We remain committed to maintaining open communication as the project evolves and will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout this next phase. Five Estuaries represents a major opportunity to contribute to the UK's secure and affordable renewable energy ambitions, and we look forward to building on the strong foundations established to date.

Further updates will be shared as the project continues to develop. You can register to be kept informed via email on our website fiveestuaries.co.uk/contact.

INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE



STRIKE PRICE AND INVESTMENT DECISION – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Before construction can begin, the project moves into a key phase: securing investment, finalising contracts, and preparing the supply chain. One key milestone in this journey is the Contract for Difference, a government-backed mechanism that provides revenue certainty and unlocks the ability to invest. Once the project secures a CfD and reaches a Final Investment Decision, it can move into construction.

CONTRACT FOR DIFFERENCE (CFD)

This system is run by the Low Carbon Contracts Company, and contracts are awarded through competitive annual auctions managed by Ofgem. Developers bid the price at which they're willing to generate electricity (the "strike price"), and the cheapest bids typically win. Once built, the wind farm sells its electricity into the wholesale market as usual, but the CfD then adjusts its revenue. If the market price is lower than the agreed strike price, the scheme tops up the difference; if it's higher, the developer pays money back into the system.

For Five Estuaries, this will provide long-term revenue certainty, usually over a 20 year period, which is crucial given the high upfront costs of turbines, grid connections, and construction at sea. It means we can secure financing more easily and at a lower cost, which ultimately helps keep electricity prices down.

FINAL INVESTMENT DECISION (FID)

This is the structured process investors use to decide whether a project is worth funding. Developers and their backers assess the expected costs of building and operating a project against the revenues it will generate over time.

This includes analysing construction costs, maintenance, electricity output, and market risks like fluctuating power prices. The Final Investment Decision (FID) is the point at which investors formally commit the capital needed to build the project.



For local communities, these investment decisions are what ultimately unlock new developments – bringing jobs, supply chain opportunities, and infrastructure improvements. It also means that when wholesale electricity prices spike (as seen during global energy shocks), wind farms under CfDs can return money to the system – helping to reduce overall costs for bill payers rather than increasing them.

SURVEYS UPDATE

Before we build Five Estuaries, further onshore and offshore surveys and site investigations are undertaken to better understand the existing environmental and ground conditions across the project area.

These surveys are an essential part of the final development process and help inform the detailed design of the wind farm and its supporting infrastructure. This helps ensure that the project is designed appropriately, construction is efficient and smooth and that potential impacts are properly understood and managed.

In March, we commenced our farmland birds survey and in April, further archaeology investigations took place near the landfall site. All surveys are carried out in agreement with the relevant landowners. Where possible, surveys are undertaken to provide information for both North Falls and Five Estuaries offshore wind farms. Further surveys will be undertaken ahead of the start of construction.

You can find out more information on our website **fiveestuaries.co.uk/surveys-and-investigations**.



FARMLAND BIRDS SURVEYS

These surveys are being undertaken by qualified ornithologists to understand the bird species using the farmland within and immediately around the onshore substation area. This helps to understand the numbers of birds, such as skylarks or corn bunting, that are currently using the site to ensure that impacts to them are properly compensated, as required by the Development Consent Order.



ARCHAEOLOGY PHASE 2 SURVEY

Archaeologists employed by the project have been busy within the cable route area near our landfall undertaking trial trenches to understand the archaeology that is present. These trial trenches, conducted along the length of the onshore project area, will inform the required mitigation activities, and determine whether detailed set-piece excavations are required (for example, if significant archaeology is identified).

Final evaluation trial trenching within the rest of cable route will be completed over the next couple of years in advance of construction. We will keep you updated on progress, particularly on any significant findings.

BUILDING LOCAL OPPORTUNITY

As Five Estuaries continues to take shape, one of our key priorities is ensuring that the benefits of the project are felt locally. A major part of that involves early engagement with the local supply chain, helping businesses understand not just what offshore wind is, but where they might fit into it.

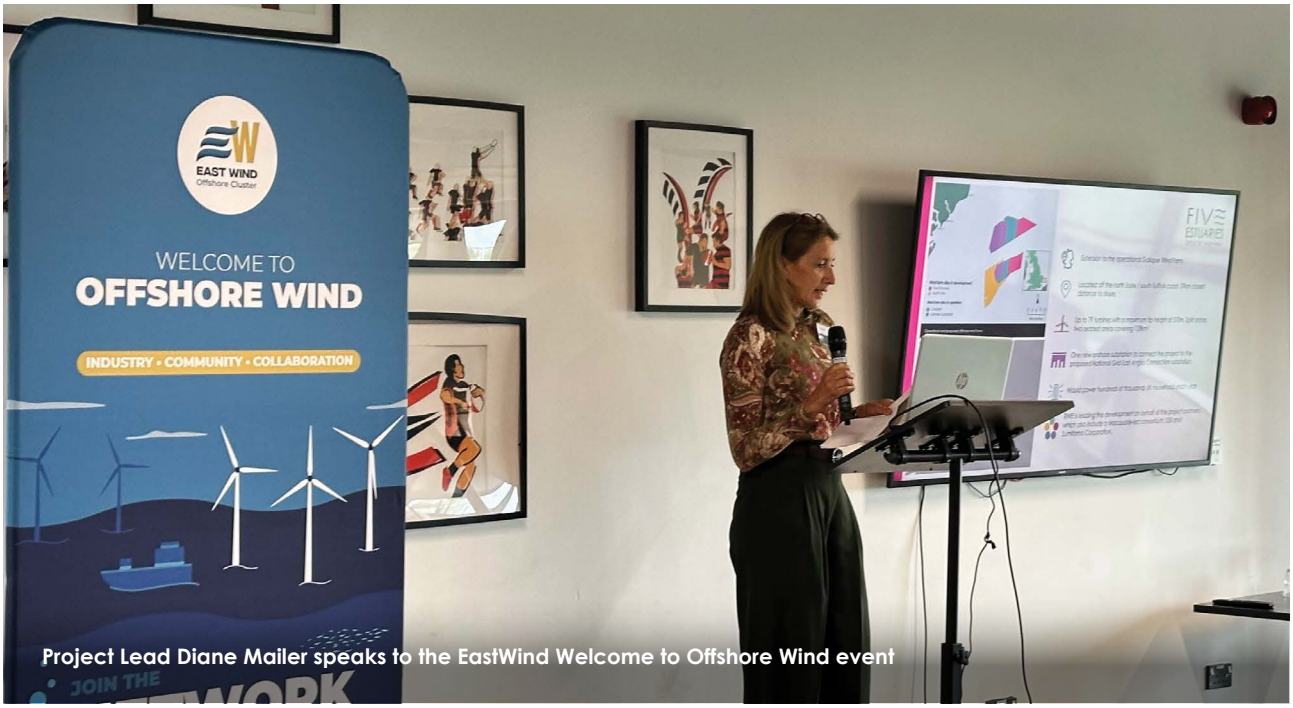
For many, offshore wind can seem like a distant or highly specialised industry, dominated by large multinational contractors. The supply chain operates in layers. Tier 1 contractors are typically responsible for major components such as turbine supply, foundations, and electrical systems. These companies then subcontract elements of their work to Tier 2 suppliers, who in turn may rely on Tier 3 and Tier 4 businesses to deliver specific services or local support.

These include:

- Civil and general construction support
- Logistics and transport services
- Environmental and survey support
- Site security and fencing
- Cleaning and facilities management
- Catering and accommodation services
- Office support, recruitment, and training providers
- Habitat management

These opportunities are often more accessible to local businesses and can provide a meaningful route into the offshore wind sector.

> ONE OF OUR KEY PRIORITIES IS ENSURING THAT THE BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT ARE FELT LOCALLY



Project Lead Diane Mailer speaks to the EastWind Welcome to Offshore Wind event

> BY WORKING TOGETHER NOW, WE CAN BUILD A RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE SUPPLY CHAIN

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES TO GET INVOLVED

We recognise that entering a new sector can be challenging, particularly where there are specific regulatory, safety, or certification requirements. That's why part of our engagement focuses on helping businesses prepare, not just informing them about opportunities.

This includes:

- Raising awareness of procurement processes
- Highlighting required accreditations and standards
- Signposting training and funding opportunities
- Encouraging collaboration between local firms
- Connecting businesses with Tier 1 and Tier 2 contractors

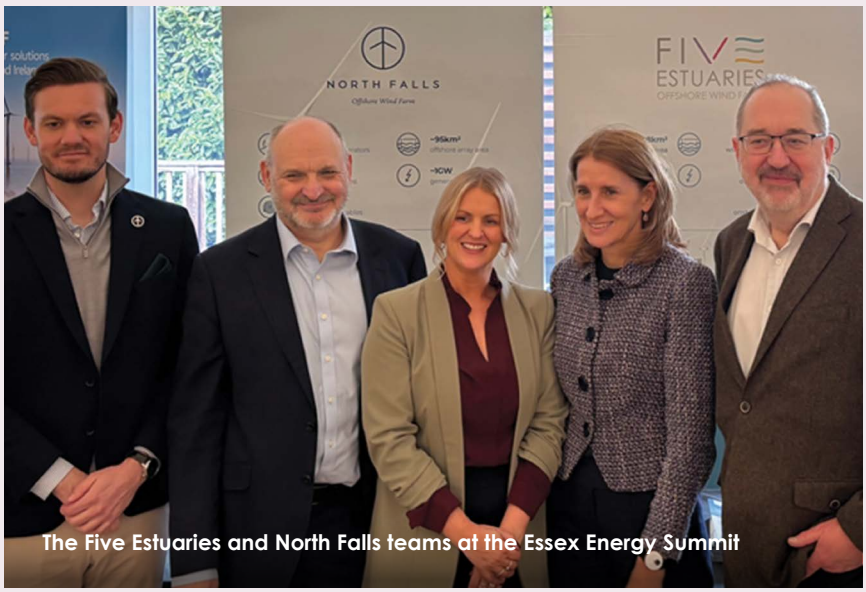
Offshore wind is not just a construction project; it represents decades of activity, from development and installation through to operations and maintenance. This creates sustained demand for services and skills, offering long-term opportunities for businesses that establish themselves early.

By working together now, we can build a resilient, inclusive supply chain that delivers both economic and environmental value for Essex and beyond.

We look forward to continuing the conversation and supporting local businesses as they explore their role in the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm.

OUR ENGAGEMENT

- We launched our supply chain engagement at **East of England Energy Group's Southern North Sea (EEEGR SNS) Conference** in 2025, meeting with over 20 interested businesses to provide insight into the project and future timeline.
- Our Project Lead provided an update at the **Essex Energy Summit** in January and we networked with Essex businesses.
- At the **EastWind Welcome to Offshore Wind event** we provided insight into the range of support the project will need throughout construction and operation.
- We're continuing **1-2-1 meetings** to provide further support as requested.



The Five Estuaries and North Falls teams at the Essex Energy Summit

Register with Five Estuaries on the STEP Engagement Platform to keep updated on the project and for procurement support or visit **fiveestuaries.co.uk/suppliers**.

JOINT SUBSTATIONS DESIGN GUIDE UPDATE



Indicative substation articulation

Our second phase of engagement on the Joint Substations Design Guide took place over February and March this year and we have been reviewing feedback to finalise the document ahead of publication in Summer 2026.

The purpose of the Joint Substations Design Guide is to outline the overarching design principles for both the Five Estuaries and North Falls substations. It will establish a series of shared commitments that the final substation designs must follow. It covers key elements such as site layout, building form and materials, ensuring a consistent and coordinated design approach across both Five Estuaries and North Falls, particularly if separate contractors are commissioned.

The feedback we received was valuable in supporting the further refinement of the document, which, alongside other documents, will be submitted to each project's substation designers, to provide a fixed framework for the final designs that the local community have fed into.

We have been working closely with the Essex Quality Review Panel, Essex County Council and Tendring District Council as we finalise this.

Thank you to all those who have engaged with us during this process.

Find out more: fiveestuaries.co.uk/design-guide

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY ACCESS AND USE

In our Design Guide engagement, we asked for views on the potential of enhancing the area around the substation site for local community use. Following positive feedback, we have now made a commitment to further explore opportunities for recreational use and environmental enhancement. To support this work, we have appointed an independent consultant who will help guide some early fact-finding meetings with local communities to better understand their needs and aspirations. In the near future we will be reaching out to some community groups, groups who use the area and other stakeholders for their local knowledge and views.

SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

In December 2025, we hosted the first Skills and Employment Working Group jointly with North Falls. This working group of key regional stakeholders will meet regularly, and this valuable engagement will help inform the final Skills and Employment Strategy (SES).

Building on the 'Outline' SES which was submitted with our DCO application, this sets out how the project will create meaningful job opportunities and help develop a skilled workforce at local, regional, and national levels. Its purpose is to ensure that the economic benefits of the project are maximised by prioritising local employment, supporting apprenticeships and training pathways, and addressing skills gaps within the supply chain.

By working with organisations such as Essex County Council, DWP, the NHS, and Colchester Institute, the strategy will set out our actions that will help to prepare individuals and businesses to participate in the project, while also leaving a lasting legacy of enhanced skills, increased employability, and stronger local economies beyond the construction phase.

Visit http://fiveestuaries.co.uk/jobs-and-skills to find out more.

Congratulations to **Colchester Institute** for being selected as a Clean Energy Technical Excellence College! We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you.

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Five Estuaries is owned by a number of shareholders; RWE, a Macquarie led consortium, ESB and Sumitomo Corporation. RWE is leading the development of the project on behalf of the project partners.