

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

10.10.9 STATEMENT OF COMMON **GROUND**

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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In preparation of this document Five Estuaries Wind Farm Ltd has made reasonable efforts to ensure that the content is accurate, up to date and complete for purpose.

Revision	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Originator	Checked	Approved
Α	Dec 2024	SoCG	VE	VE	VE



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DEFINITION OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECFRS	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
ETGs	Expert Topic Groups
MW	Megawatts
NSIP	National Significant Infrastructure Project
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as "VE").
- 1.1.2 Following detailed discussions undertaken between the parties, the Applicant and ECFRS have sought to progress a SoCG. It is the intention that this document provides the Planning Inspectorate with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document will be updated if any additional points are identified or any positions change during the Examination.

1.2 APPROACH TO SOCG

- 1.2.1 This SoCGs sets out the topic, a brief summary of the issue or matter subject to disagreement or agreement, the position of the Applicant and that of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, and a colour coding to illustrate the level of agreement and/or materiality.
- 1.2.2 A full description of the approach adopted is set out in 9.33 Approach to Statements of Common Ground [APP-266] submitted as part of the DCO application.

1.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3.1 The Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as VE) is the proposed extension to the operational Galloper Offshore Wind Farm. The project includes provision for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm located approximately 37 kilometres off the coast of Suffolk at its closest point in the southern North Sea; including up to 79 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure making landfall at Sandy Point between Frinton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea, the installation of underground cables, and the construction of an electrical substation and associated infrastructure near to the existing Lawford Substation to the west of Little Bromley in order to connect the development to National Grid's proposed East Anglia Connection Node substation, which would be located nearby.
- 1.3.2 All onshore connection infrastructure would be located in the administrative area of Tendring District Council, within Essex County Council. VE will have an overall capacity of greater than 100 Megawatts (MW) and therefore constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Section 15 (3) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.3.3 A full Project description is included in the Environmental Statement, in particular 6.2.1 Offshore Project Description [APP-069] and 6.3.1 Onshore Project Description [APP-083].



2 ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S REMIT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 One of the largest fire and rescue services in the country, serving the county of Essex which has a wide variety of risks. It covers an area of 1,400 square miles and serves a population of 1.8 million residents. The service provides prevention, protection and emergency response services from 50 fire stations across the county and an Urban Search and Rescue facility. ECFRS has different specialized units for each type of emergency response needed, such as Animal Rescue Unit and Swift Water Rescue Unit. On a typical day, they attend around 70 incidents, being 7 fires, 24 false alarms and 39 special services.
- 2.1.2 The following application documents have informed the discussions with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and address the elements of VE that may affect the interests of the interested party:
 - > 6.3.8 Traffic and Transport [APP-090]
 - > 6.4.2 Human Health and Major Disasters [APP-095]
 - > 9.4 Onshore Substation Design Principles [APP-234]
 - > 9.21 Code of Construction Practice [APP-253]
- 2.1.3 The main areas of interest raised by ECFRS Service were the following:
 - Ensuring communication is up to date to collaborate with ECFRS operational planning;
 - Impact on emergency response resulting from road closures;
 - > Emergency planning should consider access within the site for emergency services;
 - Compliance with design guidelines in terms of fire risks.
- 2.1.4 ECFRS and the Applicant have been working together to minimise possible impacts of the project on the ECFRS's operations.
- 2.1.5 ECFRS enters into this SoCG in a position of neutrality to the development as a whole. The purpose of ECFRS's engagement with this development is to ensure that it takes all reasonably practicable steps to provide an effective Fire and Rescue provision for all the communities of Essex with a mission to make Essex a safer place to live, work and travel.

2.2 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

2.2.1 Since 2019, the project has been engaging with relevant stakeholders through different levels of activity. The project has undertaken the necessary consultations before submitting the application and has held Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) on a number of specific topics, as well as bilateral meetings with key stakeholders. ECFRS has replied to the Section 42 consultation. The comments received and the meetings between the project and the interested party have informed the basis for this SoCG.



3 AGREEMENTS LOG

- 3.1.1 The following sections of this SoCG set out the level of agreement between the Applicant and ECFRS for each relevant component of the Application identified in paragraph 2.1.3. The tables below detail the positions of the Applicant alongside those of ECFRS and whether the matter is agreed or not agreed.
- 3.1.2 In order to easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or an 'ongoing point of discussion, the agreements logs in the tables below are colour coded to represent the status of the position according to the criteria in Table 3.1 below. Colours were chosen in order to ensure inclusivity for the visibility of data.

Table 3.1: Position Status key

POSITION STATUS	COLOUR CODE
The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.	Agreed
The matter is neither 'agreed' or 'not agreed' and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties, for example where relevant documents are being prepared or reviewed.	Ongoing point of discussion
The matter is not agreed between the parties.	Not agreed



Table 3.2: Status of discussions

Issue	Proposed Resolution	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service's Position	Position Status
Ensuring communication is up to date to collaborate with ECFRS operational planning.	9.21 Code of Construction Practice - Rev B [REP1-041] section 2.4.4 has been amended as below to provide additional commitments on communication. "A Communications and Public Relations Procedure will be developed and implemented throughout construction to ensure that local residents, parish and town councils and businesses and the local authorities and 'blue light services' are kept informed of work activities. This includes providing the local community and key stakeholders information about types and timings of works, transport routes, TCC locations, likely hours of traffic movements and traffic management measures that will be carried out, planned road closures, timing and movements of abnormal load movements. Paying particular attention to potential work outside of standard hours and where activities occur in close proximity to residential properties."	ECFRS is satisfied with the revision.	Agreed
Impact on emergency response resulting from road closures.	Only the following three roads may have temporary closures and, in the event it happens, notice will be provided well in advance to stakeholders ahead of any closures taking place: - Damant's Farm Lane - Payne's Lane	ECFRS is satisfied with the revision.	Agreed



	- Barlon Road Additional text has been added to 9.21 Code of Construction Practice – Rev B [REP1-041] paragraph 2.4.4 to address these concerns. The revised 2.4.4 commits the contractors to the development and implementation of a Communications and Public Relations Procedure, it specifically includes that "blue light services" such as ECFRS, will be informed of potential disruption to the road network from the construction (e.g. any temporary road closures). Compliance with the CoCP is secured by requirement within the draft DCO.		
Emergency planning should consider access within the site for emergency services.	Section 6 of 9.21 Code of Construction Practice - Rev B [REP1-041] sets out the commitment for the Principal Contractor(s) to produce an Emergency Response Plan, additional text has been added to include emergency services access to site.	ECFRS is satisfied with the revision.	Agreed
Compliance with design guidelines and regulations as included in the Essex Design Guide.	The Applicant notes it already includes a commitment to consider the latest version of the Essex Design Guide within its detailed design in table 2 'Applicable Design Guidance and Policy' of its 9.4 OnSS Design Principles document [APP-234]. Section 4.4.3 has been updated at Revision B to include specific reference to design codes in relation to fire safety.	ECFRS is satisfied with the current commitment and the proposal to add a specific reference to section 4.4.3.	Agreed



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