

Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6):

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 6 Environmental Matters 1) Terrestrial traffic and transportation 2) Navigation and shipping and fishing 3) Landscape, Visual and Seascape 4) Offshore Archaeology 5) Farming 6) Socio economic and residential living conditions 7) Offshore ecology 8) Onshore ecology	Day 1 Tuesday 21 January 2025 Seating available from 13:00 Hearing Starts at 13:30 Online Registration Process from 13:00 Day 2 Wednesday 22 January 2025 Seating available from 09:30 Hearing Starts at 10:00 Online Registration Process from 09:30	Blended event at: The Colchester United Football Club JobServe Community Stadium United Way Colchester CO4 5UP Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

Agenda items

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing

2. Purpose of Issue Specific Hearing 6

ISH6 is being held to hear evidence relating to matters in respect of the following topics:

- Terrestrial traffic and transportation
- Navigation and shipping and fishing
- Landscape, Visual and Seascape

- Offshore Archaeology
- Farming
- Socio economic and residential living conditions
- Offshore ecology
- Onshore ecology

The giving of evidence at this hearing will be led by the Examining Authority (ExA), through the ExA's asking of questions of the Applicant and relevant other IPs, informed by the cases that have been made by parties up to and inclusive of the written and oral submissions made by Examination Deadline 5A (13 January 2025).

3. Matters for discussion at this Hearing

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 6 – Environmental Matters	
3.1	<p>Effects for Terrestrial Traffic and Transportation</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-090], [APP-172], [APP-173], [APP-257], [APP-259], [AS-023], [AS-024], [AS-030], [AS-043], [AS-045], [AS-055], [RR-009], [RR-027], [RR-079], [RR-082], [RR-107], [REP1-018], [REP1-026], [REP1-028] to [REP1-032] inclusive, [REP1-043], [REP1-049], [REP1-059], [REP1-060], [REP1-062], [REP1-066], [REP1-071], [REP2-026], [REP2-029], [REP2-039], [REP2-043], [REP2-045], [REP2-046], [REP2-047], [REP2-062], [REP2-064], [REP3-022] to [REP3-025], [REP3-027], [REP3-028], [REP3-030], [REP4-036], [REP4-039], [REP4-040], [REP4-046], [REP4-048], [REP4-049], and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A.</p> <p>The ExA will ask the Applicant to provide a brief update on any progress made or discussions that have taken place on traffic and transportation matters since ISH3.</p> <p>The ExA will then ask the Applicant and other IPs any questions it may have in respect of the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Routing of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) b) Road traffic surveys and predicted traffic generation during construction, including cumulative impacts with other proposed developments c) Impacts on the strategic and local road networks d) A120/Bentley Road junction improvements e) Control and mitigation measures during construction

3.2	<p>Effects for Navigation and Shipping and the Fishing Industry</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-077], [APP-078], [APP-127], [APP-230], [APP-233], [APP-240], [AS-069], [RR-015], [RR-016], [RR-042], [RR-043], [RR-067], [RR-071], [RR-077], [RR-090], [RR-095], [RR-118], [PD4-004], [REP1-037], [REP1-039], [REP1-049], [REP1-059], [REP1-060], [REP1-063], [REP1-065], [REP1-069], [REP2-026], [REP2-056], [REP2-066], [REP2-069], [REP2-070], [REP2-088], [REP3-022] to [REP3-025], [REP3-035], [REP3-036], [REP4-019], [REP4-039], [REP4-040], [REP4-054], [REP4-066], [REP4-067], [REP4-074] and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A.</p> <p>The ExA will ask the Applicant to provide a brief update on any progress made or discussions that have taken place on navigation and shipping matters since ISH3.</p> <p>The ExA will then ask the Applicant and other IPs for any updates and/or questions it may have in respect of the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Shipping and Navigation</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cable burial, in particular where the Export Cable Corridor (ECC) crosses the Sunk and the Trinity Deep Water Routes and within the Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation b) Control and mitigation measures during construction c) Any other matters still outstanding 2) <i>Effects for the Fishing Industry</i> (which will be addressed under Agenda item 3.6 if representatives of the fishing industry are not in attendance for item 3.2)
3.3	<p>Effects for Landscape, Visual and Seascape</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-079], [APP-83], [APP-084], [APP-086], [APP-098], [APP-180] to [APP-224] (inclusive), [APP-225], [APP-227], [APP-234], [APP-264], [AS-006], [AS-041], [RR-009], [RR-027], [RR-080], [RR-106], [PD2-002], [PD2-011] and [PD2-013], [PD4-010], [PD4-011], [PD4-012], [REP2-022], [REP2-031] to [REP2-038] inclusive and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A</p> <p>The ExA will ask questions for the Applicant and other IPs, including amongst other things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discharging the duty under section 245(6) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, ie "...to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural

	<p>beauty ...” following the publication of the DEFRA Guidance (16 December 2024)</p> <p>b) Design for substation, visual mitigation and design guide</p> <p>c) Consideration of the design for the proposed onshore substation zone under a scenario for which the North Falls project did not proceed</p>
3.4	<p>Offshore Archaeology</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-016], [APP-017], [APP-080], [APP-089], [APP-128], [APP-160], [APP-163], [APP-167], [APP-168], [RR-046], [RR-080], [RR-081], [AS-068], [PD2-004], [PD4-013], [REP3-022], [REP3-024], [REP4-012] and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A</p> <p>The ExA will ask the Applicant to provide a brief update on any progress made or discussions that have taken place relating to offshore archaeology to date.</p> <p>The ExA will ask questions for the Applicant and other IPs including, amongst other things:</p> <p>a) Effects on archaeology within the proposed offshore cable corridor from the Proposed Development alone and cumulatively with the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm</p> <p>b) The level of impact on sediments and geoarchaeological potential</p> <p>c) The level of investigation in relation to geoarchaeological cores</p> <p>d) Any other matters still outstanding</p>
3.5	<p>Effects for Farming</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-086], [APP-087], [APP-088], [APP-234], [REP1-041], [AS-004], [AS-019], [REP2-022], [REP2-030], [REP2-039], [REP2-071], [REP2-074], [REP2-075], [REP2-081] to [REP2-087] inclusive, [REP2-089], [REP2-091] to [REP2-093] inclusive, [REP2-095] to [REP2-099] inclusive, [REP3-004], [REP3-010], [REP3-023], [REP3-024], [REP4-019], [REP4-036], [REP4-039], [REP3-040], [REP4-068], [REP4-069], [REP4-070], [REP4-075], [REP4-076], [REP4-077] and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A</p> <p>The ExA will ask questions for the Applicant and other IPs, including amongst other things:</p> <p>a) Sub-surface infrastructure impacts on agricultural activity</p> <p>b) Drainage</p> <p>c) Haul roads between Bentley Road and site for the proposed onshore substation, including the “additional loop” south of Ardleigh Road</p>

	d) Hedgerows, including proposals for hedgerow reinstatement
3.6	<p>Effects for Socio economic and residential living conditions</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-091], [APP-174], [APP-175], [AS-019], [REP2-090], [REP3-004], [REP4-038], [REP4-039], [REP4-043], [REP4-046], [REP4-072] and [REP4-073] and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A</p> <p>The ExA will ask questions for the Applicant and other IPs, including amongst other things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Wake Loss and the Deadline 4 submissions made by East Anglia Two Limited 2) Effects for the fishing industry (which will be addressed under Agenda item 3.2 if representatives of the fishing industry are in attendance) 3) <i>Living Conditions</i> <p>Onshore construction and operational noise effects, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Proposed measures for mitigating construction noise, including at the junction of the A120 and Bentley Road ii. Mitigating cumulative noise associated with the operation of the existing Ardleigh substation and the proposed substations for Five Estuaries, North Falls and the East Anglia Connection Node iii. Screen planting for the Proposed Development's onshore substation and effects on the living conditions for the occupiers of Normans Farm
3.7	<p>Effects for Offshore Ecology</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-040], [APP-045], [APP-046], [APP-049], [APP-050], [APP-051], [APP-052], [APP-053], [APP-054], [APP-055], [APP-073], [APP-074], [APP-075], [APP-076], [APP-098], [APP-103] to [APP-127] (inclusive), [APP-225], [APP-228], [APP-243], [AS-003], [RR-030], [RR-070], [RR-077], [RR-094], [RR-107], [PD2-002] and [PD2-005] to [PD2-010] (inclusive), [REP3-018], [REP3-019], [REP4-007], [REP4-008], [REP4-010], [REP4-011], [REP4-013], [REP4-014], [REP4-015], [REP4-016], [REP4-021], [REP4-022], [REP4-023], [REP4-024], [REP4-025], [REP4-026], [REP4-034], [REP4-039], [REP4-040], [REP4-041], [REP4-042], [REP4-052], [REP4-053], [REP4-057] to [REP4-065] (inclusive) and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A.</p> <p>The ExA will ask the Applicant to provide a brief update on any progress made or discussions that have taken place on offshore ecological matters since ISH3.</p>

	<p>The ExA will then ask the Applicant and other IPs any questions it may have in respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Effects on protected species, with particular regard to bats b) Assessment methodologies c) Compensatory measures d) Benthic and aquatic ecology
3.8	<p>Effects for Onshore Ecology</p> <p>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-086], [APP-098], [APP-132] to [APP-149] (inclusive), [APP-153] to [APP-158] (inclusive), [APP-255], [AS-004], [RR-027], [RR-030], [PD2-002], [PD2-012], [REP2-022], [REP2-039], [REP2-042], [REP3-004], [REP3-010], [REP3-033], [REP4-019], [REP4-046] and any other relevant submissions made up until Deadline 5A</p> <p>The ExA will ask questions for the Applicant and other IPs, including amongst other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Green Infrastructure Strategy, including the assessment for achieving 10% Biodiversity Net Gain for the Proposed Development and the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm b) Creation of orchard within the substation zone c) Trees (TPO) and Hedgerows (Protected)

4. Any Other Business

The ExA may extend an opportunity for the Applicant, IPs and Other Persons to raise matters relevant to topics covered in ISH6 that they consider should be examined.

5. Review of matters and actions arising

The ExA will discuss how any actions arising from the discussion are to be addressed by the Applicant, IPs or Other Persons following ISH6. A written action list will be published if required.

6. Close of Hearing

Attendees

Based on Relevant Representations received and input into the Examination to date, the ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this Hearing.

Agenda Item 3.1 Terrestrial Traffic and Transportation	Agenda Item 3.2 Navigation and Shipping and Fishing	Agenda Item 3.3 Landscape, Visual and Seascape
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • National Highways • Essex County Council (in its capacity as the local highway authority) • Suffolk County Council (in its capacity as a local highway authority) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • Maritime Coastguard Agency • Trinity House • Harwich Haven Authority • Port of London Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant, including a representative with an expertise in landscape matters • Natural England • Tendring District Council • Essex County Council • Babergh District Council • East Suffolk Council • Suffolk County Council • Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape Partnership
Agenda Item 3.4 Offshore Archaeology	Agenda Item 3.5 Farming	Agenda Item 3.6 Socio economic and residential living conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • Historic England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant, including a representative with an expertise in farming practices • Interested Parties with an interest in farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • Tendring District Council • Essex County Council • Suffolk County Council • Any Interested Parties living in close proximity to the proposed development
Agenda Item 3.7 Offshore Ecology	Agenda Item 3.8 Onshore Ecology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant, including representatives with expertise in ornithology, fish, benthic ecology and marine mammals • East Suffolk Council • Marine Management Organisation • Natural England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant, including representatives with expertise in ecological matters • Essex County Council • Tendring District Council • East Suffolk Council 	

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All Interested Parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the Agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the Hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the Hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional Agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the Hearing in person, who has not already advised the Case Team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the Hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can therefore view and listen to the Hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Timing

The ExA will keep to the agenda as much as possible. The first day of this hearing is not expected to sit beyond 17:30. If necessary, the hearing will recommence at 10:00 on Wednesday 22 January.

Anyone who is not able to provide all their oral submissions by the close of the hearing should follow it up in writing.

Registration Process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a Joining Instruction email shortly before the Hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the Hearing on Day 1 to start on time at **13:30** those attending virtually should join promptly at **13:00** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the Registration Process in good time. On Day 2 of ISH6 those attending virtually should join promptly at **09:30** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the Registration Process in good time for this hearing's resumption at **10:00**.

Procedure at ISH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at Hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.