



## **Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd for the proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm**

**Case reference: EN010115**

### **Examining Authority's note of Access Required Site Inspection 1 (ARSI1) and Unaccompanied Site Inspection 3 (USI3) on Thursday 6 March 2025**

Examining Inspectors Rebecca Norman, Felicity Webber, Mark Harrison and Grahame Gould, as part of the Examining Authority (ExA) for the proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (the Proposed Development) undertook ARSI1 and USI3 on Thursday 6 March 2025 as explained below. It was dry and sunny throughout the day. Visibility onshore was good, while offshore visibility was more limited with only the Gunfleet Sands wind turbine generators being visible.

#### *ARSI1 – Normans Farm farmstead, Ardleigh Road*

The ExA drove to Normans Farm arriving at 09:30. Prior to commencing this inspection the ExA made its presence known to Mr Fairley. Thereafter the ExA was left unaccompanied while it walked around the perimeter of the farmstead viewing the proposed substation zone for the Five Estuaries and North Falls offshore wind farms. The ExA observed the essentially flat nature of the proposed substation zone and the limited presence of trees and hedgerows around the boundary and within the interior of this site. The ExA also observed the siting of the farmhouse and farmyard buildings relative to the site for the proposed substation zone.

The ARSI at Normans Farm was completed at around 10:00.

#### *USI3*

Having completed ARSI1 the ExA then commenced USI3 by walking westwards along Ardleigh Road to further observe the proposed onshore substation zone and also viewed the area south of Ardleigh Road in the vicinity of "Obstacle OOX31".

Thereafter the ExA walked eastwards back along Ardleigh Road and then along public right of way (PROW) FP14 172 to inspect St Mary's Church in Barlon Road. The ExA then walked southwards along Barlon Road to view the proposed substation zone from onshore "Viewpoint 5" (Barlon Road) and was also able to see part of the proposed export cable corridor from this location. The ExA then retraced its route along the PROW returning to Normans Farm at around 11:30.

Thereafter the ExA drove to Bentley Road via Ardleigh Road and Shop Road. In so doing, the ExA saw the entirety of Bentley Road, observing the locations on this road that would be affected by the proposed development. In driving along Bentley Road the ExA observed the presence of various roadside placards, presumably placed by members of the local community, indicating the locations for a number of the proposed works, as had been the case when the ExA undertook its USI1.

The ExA then drove along the A120 to Harwich. On route to Harwich the ExA observed the condition of the road surface on the Wix Bypass and the volume of traffic, including heavy goods vehicles, travelling to and from the port.

Thereafter the ExA drove to the Holland Haven Country Park via the A120, B1033 and B1032. Having parked the ExA walked along the seafront to the site for the proposed landfall of the offshore export cable corridor. From the shoreline path the ExA saw the wind turbine generators (WTGs) of the Gunfleet Sands, Gunfleet Sands Demonstration and London Array Offshore Wind Farms. The slight haze out at sea meant that the WTGs of the Galloper and Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farms were not visible.

The ExA then drove to The Naze, Walton (offshore “*Viewpoint 12*”). The haze out at sea meant that it was not possible to see any WTGs or shipping.

The ExA then drove to Henderson Road, off Landermere Road/the B1414, Thorpe-le-Soken. The purpose of this part of USI3 was to observe the relationship particularly between the proposed onshore export cable corridor and the land being promoted for residential development by Strutt and Parker (Farms) Limited and Liana Enterprises Limited to the north east of Thorpe-le-Soken.

The ExA then drove to the Port of Felixstowe via the B1035, the A137 (crossing the river Stour between Manningtree and Cattawade) and the A14. While travelling to and from the port the ExA observed the volume of traffic using the public highway.

USI3 was concluded at 17:15.

*Rebecca Norman, Felicity Webber, Mark Harrison and Grahame Gould*  
Members of the Examining Authority