



FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

VOLUME 5, REPORT 5.8: GUILLEMOT & RAZORBILL IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PLAN – REVISION E (TRACKED)

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DEFINITION OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
AEol	Adverse Effect on Integrity
AOE	Alde-Ore Estuary
AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
DCO	Development Consent Order
ETG	Expert Topic Group
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
LBBG	Lesser Black-backed Gull
LIMP	Lesser Black-backed Gull Implementation and Monitoring Plan
MMF	Mean-Max Foraging Range
NE	Natural England
OOEG	Offshore Ornithology Engagement Group
OTB	Outer Trial Bank
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
RAG	Red, Amber, Green
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SD	Standard Deviation
SMP	Seabird Monitoring Programme
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
SPA	Special Protection Area
VE	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
VE OWFL	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).
Environmental Statement	Environmental Statement (the documents that collate the processes and results of the EIA).
Export Cable Corridor (ECC)	The area(s) where the export cables will be located.
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	The assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European Site (as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)), the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it will adversely affect the integrity of the site
Mitigation	Mitigation measures, or commitments, are commitments made by the project to reduce and/or eliminate the potential for significant effects to arise as a result of the project.
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are major infrastructure developments in England and Wales which are consented by DCO under the Planning Act 2008. These include proposals for offshore wind farms with an installed capacity over 100MW.
Order Limits	The extent of development including all works, access routes, TCCs, visibility splays and discharge points. (Not Red Line Boundary (RLB))
The Applicant	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited (The Applicant).
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	A protected site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017).
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Sites designated under EU Regulations (79/409/EEC) to protect habitats of migratory birds and certain threatened birds under the Birds Directive Regulations.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document presents the guillemot (*Uria aalge*) and razorbill (*Alca torda*) implementation and monitoring plan (GRIMP) that will guide the compensation measures for Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (VE - hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant'). VE is a proposed extension to the operational Galloper Offshore Wind Farm. VE will be situated approximately 37 km off the coast of Suffolk, England (at its closest point). The GRIMP has been developed in consultation with Natural England and the RSPB through the Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) and specific meetings with both Natural England and the RSPB.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) supported by a range of plans and documents, including an Environmental Statement (ES) which will set out the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Applicant is also submitting a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (Volume 5, Report 4), which sets out the information necessary for the competent authority, in this case the Secretary of State (SoS), to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to determine if there is any Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEol) on the national site network.
- 1.1.3 The GRIMP is part of the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Derogation Case and should be read in conjunction with the guillemot and razorbill evidence, site selection and roadmap document (Volume 5, Report 5.5) and sets out how the final compensation scheme would be developed, implemented and monitored, if required. This process is described in more detail below.

1.2 DEROGATION PROCESS

- 1.2.1 As part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm Ltd (VE OWFL) is required to produce a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) to provide the information required by the Competent Authority in order to undertake its Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment. If the HRA process deems that Adverse Effects on Integrity (AEol) cannot be excluded, a derogations process is followed. In the event that no alternative solutions can be found, and if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), the final stage of the derogations process is to develop measures to compensate for adverse effects on a site.
- 1.2.2 Though VE is at the stage of pre-application, VE OWFL is already investigating compensation options for species deemed at risk of requiring compensation, so it can allow for sufficient time to engage with stakeholders and develop compensation plans.
- 1.2.3 However, it should be noted that this does not prejudice the outcome of the ongoing HRA process. The ongoing HRA process will ultimately determine the compensation requirements for VE OWFL.

1.3 PREDICTED IMPACTS

- 1.3.1 Two of the species of potential derogation risk for VE is guillemot and razorbill at Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) Special Protection Area (SPA) and guillemot at Farne Islands SPA.

- 1.3.2 -FFC SPA is 275.5 km away and Farne Islands SPA is 472.5 km from VE, both out with the mean-max foraging (MMF) range) for guillemot (153.7 km; Woodward et al., 2019) and razorbill (164.6 km; Woodward et al., 2019); therefore, there is low potential for connectivity between FFC SPA and Farne Islands SPA and VE during the breeding season. Following a review of tracking data and agreement from Natural England (NE) it was decided that guillemot and razorbill were only considered for the non-breeding connectivity.
- 1.3.3 Recent decisions on other offshore wind projects (e.g. Hornsea Three, East Anglia One North, East Anglia Two, Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas) concluded that AEol could not be ruled out for guillemot at FFC SPA when considered in-combination with other projects. AEol could not be ruled out for the Farne Islands in the recent decision for Rampion 2 OWF. As a precedent for concern around AEol has been established on other projects, the species is thus of in-principle derogation concern for VE.

1.4 OUTLINE

- 1.4.1 This document will outline the implementation and monitoring plan for the chosen guillemot and razorbill compensatory measures. Small scale compensation measures in colonies in southwest England were agreed to be an appropriate measure by Natural England at the ETG in September 2023. It was concluded and agreed with Natural England that compensation should focus on mitigating the effects of recreational disturbance and perhaps predation if it's found to be an issue at the selected site(s). The compensatory measures are designed to compensate for both the impacts at FFC and Farne Islands SPA.
- 1.4.2 Feedback from Natural England and DEFRA has highlighted the desire to have a collaborative approach to these small-scale compensation measures and the Applicant has been working with other developers. Furthermore, the implementation plan will adapt where necessary when further relevant information becomes available from future OWF applications, such as Outer Dowsing and North Falls OWFs.
- 1.4.3 The Secretary of State recently approved measures for DEFRA strategic compensation/ Marine Recovery Fund (MRF) including predator control. The Applicant proposes either the small-scale management measures or participating in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) strategic compensation via the MRF are feasible, deliverable compensation options.

2 PROPOSED COMPENSATION MEASURES

- 2.1.1 Following the guillemot and razorbill roadmap (Volume 5, Report 5.5: Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation – Evidence, Site Selection and Roadmap), after consultation with Natural England and the RSPB at the ETG in September 2023 and subsequent meetings the following options for measures have been selected for compensation for guillemot and razorbill:
- > Small scale management measures at colonies in the southwest of England including:
 - > Recreational disturbance reduction;
 - > Wardening
 - > Signage
 - > Education
 - > Visitor access statements
 - > Engagement with local businesses and organisations.
 - > Participating in the DEFRA strategic compensation via the MRF.

3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

3.1.1 VE OWFL presented potential compensation measures to Natural England during the ETG in September 2023 and it was agreed that small scale management measures at colonies in southwest England would be the most suitable option given the low level of impact on guillemot and razorbill by the Project (VE OWFL, 2023).

3.1.2 Stakeholder engagement will be required throughout the development of the management measures.

3.1.3 In addition to consultation with local experts and stakeholders during the site selection process, compensation plans ~~are-werebeing~~ consulted upon with relevant stakeholders, such as Natural England before DCO application submission. Consultation on compensation plans to date has consisted of relevant ETG meetings with Natural England and the RSPB as well as monthly meetings with Natural England.

~~3.1.33.1.4~~ Engagement with Natural England continued throughout the examination period, during which refinements were made to this IMP. Following the examination, additional updates were incorporated in response to a request from the Secretary of State. Further consultation is planned as the development of the management measures progresses (VE OWFL, 2023).

3.1.5 Following consent of the project, a steering group named the Offshore Ornithology Engagement Group (OOEG) will be convened by VE OWFL. This group will assist in the delivery of any implementation and maintenance of the compensation measures, monitoring, reporting, and other relevant matters as determined by VE OWFL. It is envisaged that core members of the OOEG will be the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) as well as the local planning authority and owners and/or managers of the sites at which the ~~artificial nesting program disturbance reduction measures~~ are planned to be implemented. RSPB, the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and other relevant parties, including relevant recreational stakeholders, will also be invited to form part of the OOEG in an advisory capacity.

3.1.6 As part of the compensation measures, engagement with relevant local tourism and recreational stakeholders will also take place as the measures continue to develop.

4 LOCATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

4.1.1 As outlined in Section 2, the delivery of small-scale management measures for guillemot and razorbill may be undertaken using the below options:

- > Small scale management measures at colonies in the southwest of England including:
 - > Recreational disturbance reduction;
 - > Wardening
 - > Signage
 - > Education
 - > Visitor access statements
 - > Engagement with local businesses and organisations.

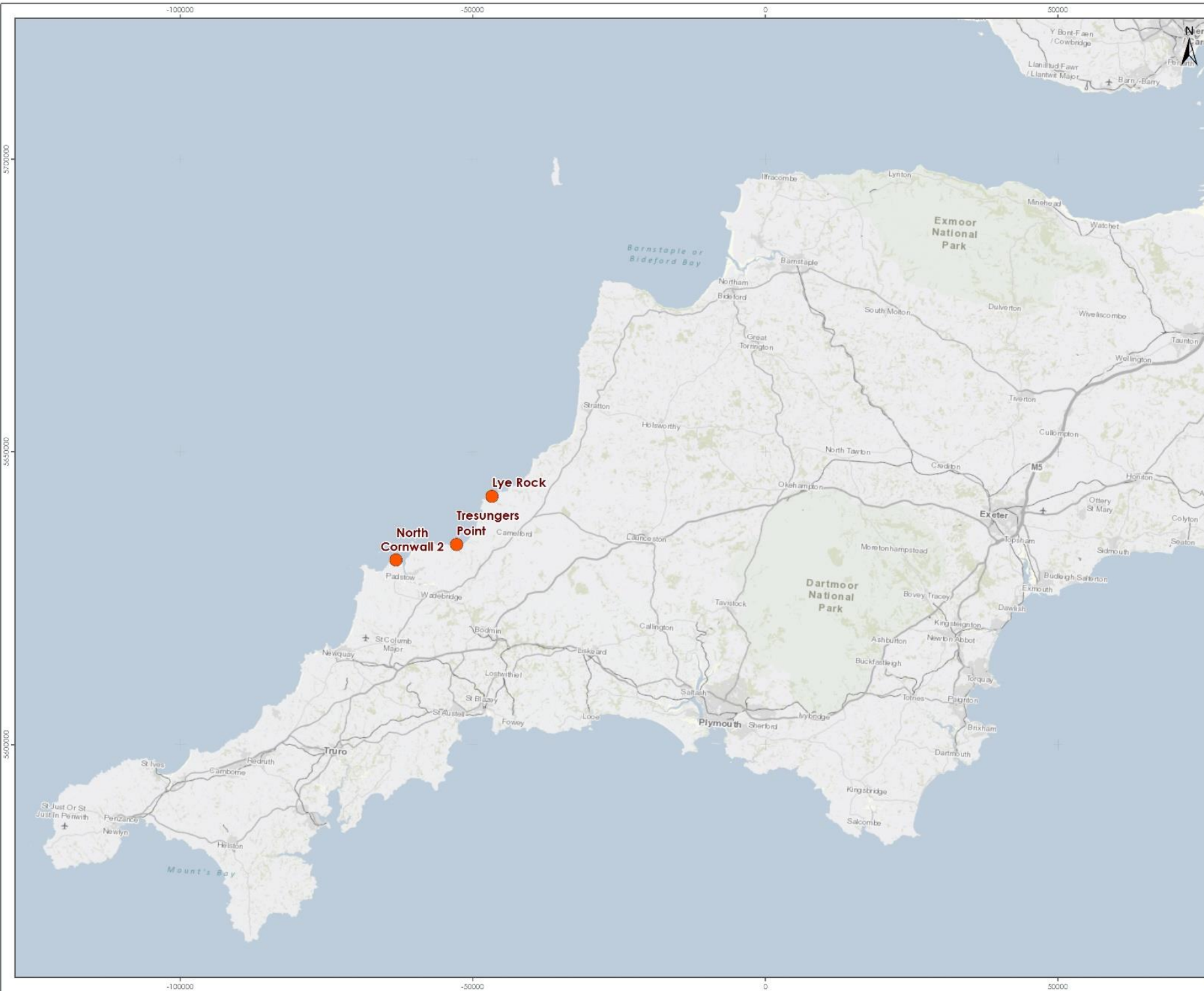
4.1.2 The Applicant is currently in discussions with landowners, managers and local stakeholders at the locations set out in Figure 4.1. Following the conclusion of these discussions the final measures will be selected based on various factors including the impacts recreational disturbance has on the productivity and success of the colony. The design of the compensation measures will be targeted at the identified pressures to maximise the efficiency of the proposed measures.

4.1.3 The location of the selected sites were agreed with Natural England during the ETG in September 2023 as a proportionate measure given the very small impacts involved. Although there is no connectivity with FFC SPA and the Farne Islands SPA, the sites are within dispersal range of several larger colonies such as Lundy and Skomer and will help protect the national site network.

4.2 COMPENSATION REQUIREMENTS

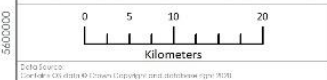
4.2.1 The estimated compensation quantum for the predicted mortality of 0.8 birds for guillemot and 0.2 birds for razorbill for FFC SPA and 0.7 birds for guillemot at the Farne Islands SPA was calculated in the Guillemot and Razorbill Evidence, Site Selection and Roadmap document (Volume 5, Report 5.5). The roadmap presents a range of compensation requirements, from a ratio of 1:1 up to 3:1, following both the methods used in Hornsea Four.

~~4.2.2~~ Following the methods used by Hornsea Four for guillemot and razorbill impacts at FFC SPA, the minimum number of guillemot breeding pairs required (1:1 ratio) is four (3.48) and the maximum number of pairs required (3:1 ratio) is 112 (10.44). The minimum number of razorbill breeding pairs required (1:1 ratio) is two (1.93) and the maximum number of pairs required (3:1 ratio) is six (5.79). The minimum number of breeding pairs for guillemot based on the impacts at the Farne Islands SPA is 4 (3.1) pairs (1:1 ratio) and the maximum is 10 (9.3) pairs at a 3:1 ratio.



LEGEND

● Guillemot and Razorbill Colony Locations



Info Source:
Ordnance Survey, Ordnance Survey, Ordnance Survey, Ordnance Survey, Ordnance Survey

PROJECT TITLE:
FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WINDFARM

DRAWING TITLE:
Guillemot and Razorbill Colony Locations

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1	19/09/2024	For Issue	BPHB	RI

DRAWING NUMBER: 27

4.3 LANDOWNER AGREEMENTS

- 4.3.1 The Applicant has been in correspondence with local stakeholders and landowners/managers of the short-listed sites, including Cornwall Council, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall Birds and the Seal Research Trust. Through the discussions with the landowners/stakeholders and the site surveys undertaken in summer 2024, the final site(s) were identified based on recreational disturbance pressures in the area.
- 4.3.2 The Applicant is in discussion with other offshore wind projects regarding the potential for a collaborative or strategic measure for Auks (based on the management measures proposed by the Applicant) with a partner in the southwest.
- 4.3.3 As discussions progress and the measures are defined, relevant agreements will be put in place to implement the most suitable small-scale management measures outlined in Section 4.1.1.
- ~~4.3.3~~ 4.3.4 Irrespective of how the measures are delivered it is not anticipated that any land will necessarily be required to implement them. As such land agreements are not being progressed at this time.

4.4 COORDINATION WITH OTHER OFFSHORE WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.4.1 Section 4.2 highlighted that the estimated compensation requirement is low, with 0.8 guillemot and 0.2 razorbill mortalities per annum. Other RWE projects have similar impacts, and the Applicant is working with other OWF developers on a strategic approach to the compensation for guillemots and razorbills. This collaboration with other OWF developers is key to the success of these compensation measures, which wouldn't be feasible for each individual project given the low levels of impact.
- 4.4.2 The collaborative approach described has also been supported and encouraged by Natural England and DEFRA during consultation. The full consultation table can be found in the RIAA (Volume 5, Report 4).
- 4.4.3 The compensation measures are likely to be delivered in collaboration with other projects, and the benefits measured, in one of two ways:
- > Measures will form part of a wider strategic scheme that will target and benefit colonies across the region. However, the benefits of the compensation measures attributed to VE OWFL will be monitored at the shortlisted sites presented. It is foreseen that these shortlisted sites may be shared between VE OWFL and Rampion 2 as there is more than sufficient benefit available to compensate for both project's impacts; or
 - > A broader, regional, compensation package with the same measures that will be undertaken in collaboration with a group of developers and the benefits from these measures will be proportionally distributed between each project at an agreed rate.
- 4.4.4 The Applicant is confident that the regional benefits of the proposed measures will vastly outweigh the compensation requirements for the projects involved. Given the very low level of impact, VE OWFL will ensure that their low requirement is considered fully within any potential strategic scheme.

5 GUILLEMOT AND RAZORBILL COLONIES IN SOUTHWEST ENGLAND

5.1 AIM

- 5.1.1 This section will outline the implementation plan for the small-scale management options at southwest England guillemot and razorbill colonies, including the timeline and monitoring and reporting of the compensation programme.

5.2 IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

- 5.2.1 It is planned that the compensation measures are to be in place three breeding seasons before the operational phase of VE, therefore the site(s) will potentially receive a net benefit from these compensation measures by the time VE becomes operational.

5.3 MAINTENANCE

- 5.3.1 The maintenance of the compensation measure will depend on which measure is carried forward. Signage will be monitored at the same time as the colony breeding season is monitored and repaired where necessary. Coordination with local businesses and organisations will continue throughout the lifetime of the project.

5.4 MONITORING AND REPORTING

MONITORING PLAN

- 5.4.1 Monitoring will be required for all stages of the proposed management programme. The details of monitoring proposals will be discussed with the OOEG, with key details to be agreed upon including the frequency, duration, and nature of monitoring methodology, as well as data analysis and reporting requirements. However, this document will present an initial monitoring methodology upon which the final monitoring plan can be decided. A collaborative, strategic approach to monitoring—coordinated among all projects implementing measures in the south-west—will provide the most efficient means of gathering data and assessing the success of these measures.
- 5.4.2 When monitoring, the same environmental variables will be recorded on each visit to ensure that clear comparisons can be made to baseline conditions and between visits. Additional data, such as productivity and diet, may be collected to further the knowledge of the breeding colonies. A monitoring programme will be discussed and developed with the OOEG, but it is expected that monitoring will be undertaken throughout the operational lifetime of VE. The first two years of monitoring will help establish appropriate setback distances to maximise the benefits of disturbance measures once the reduction methods are implemented.
- 5.4.3 After the compensation plan has been implemented, additional monitoring will take place to determine the success of these compensatory measures. Therefore, productivity of the site will be monitored and be measured against the pre-implementation monitoring that serves as a baseline.
- 5.4.4 This monitoring will be carried out by trained observers, and they will undertake monitoring using the methods outlined in JNCC's Seabird Monitoring Programme (Walsh et al., 1995). The surveys at the sites will be carried out using telescopes from vantage points along the cliff tops. The three shortlisted sites for compensation are all easily viewed from land and will not require any innovative approaches to monitor colony counts and productivity. The final methods will be decided after discussion with various stakeholders.

5.4.5 Monitoring will be carried out annually at the three compensation sites plus selected control sites and changes in bird numbers and productivity will be assessed at the end of each breeding season.

5.4.45.4.6 Should additional monitoring be required during the colony counts and productivity monitoring, then monitoring feeding rates will help with assessing prey availability and potentially prey type and address the knowledge gaps in relation to colony health and success.

5.4.55.4.7 This monitoring plan will be reviewed annually to reassess its accuracy and efficiency in light of up-to-date survey methods.

5.4.65.4.8 Methods for monitoring the benefits of the compensation measures are set out in Section 8 of the guillemot and razorbill roadmap (Volume 5, Report 5.5: Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation – Evidence, Site Selection and Roadmap – Revision D).

5.4.9 From the three shortlisted sites, a conservative maximum of 166-184 additional adult pairs for guillemot and 34-113 pairs of razorbill could be delivered into the regional population based on national productivity rates. If the colonies currently have lower productivity rates then this number would increase.

5.4.10 Human and predator disturbance will be monitored throughout the breeding season. Any disturbance events to the auk colonies will be recorded during the colony counts, classified using an established approach to monitoring disturbance adapted from Briggs (2007). Disturbance events and potential disturbance stimuli will be recorded on a proforma sheet which include fields for a unique identifier (UID), time, stimulus type, species involved, level of effect, time away from the nest site, duration of exposure to stimulus, and distance from stimulus (if known). If a disturbance event affects multiple species, a separate entry with a different UID was used with a comment to clarify. The full methods can be found in 10.11 Guillemot and Razorbill – Survey Reports [REP1-054].

5.4.75.4.11 Changes in human behaviour and disturbance will be monitored, evaluating the volume of disturbance events each year, with reductions in human disturbance events and fewer birds showing negative responses to human activity indicating that the compensation measures are working.

5.4.85.4.12 Although the compensation measures will provide benefits to these colonies and the wider region, given the low impacts from the project, it is unlikely that the benefits can be accurately measured due to natural fluctuations in population sizes. Whilst monitoring the colonies will be ~~an~~ important, the monitoring of human behavioural change is intended to be the measure by which the success of the compensation will be determined.

REPORTING PLAN

5.4.95.4.13 Following the breeding season an annual report will be produced and provided to the relevant stakeholders by the end of the year.

5.4.105.4.14 An OOEG/stakeholders meeting will be organised following each years' monitoring to present any findings and will discuss any reporting issues or any adaptive management measures that may be required.

5.4.115.4.15 The planned timelines for the annual reporting will follow the stages below:

- > Monitoring data collected from the season received by the end of August;
- > Findings from the data presented to the OOEG/stakeholders by end of September;

- > Draft report circulated by end of October;
- > Finalised report submitted to relevant stakeholders by start of December;
- > Approval/final comments by January the following year;
- > Adaptive management begins where required prior to the breeding season.

5.5 DATA SHARING

5.4.125.5.1 All data collected from the monitoring of the colonies and nearby control sites will be shared with the Marine Data Exchange (The Crown Estate), the relevant Local Environmental Records Centre and the Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) database.

6 COMPENSATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1.1 Should post-implementation monitoring reveal that the selected site(s) is unsuccessful, or less successful than anticipated, an assessment will be undertaken to determine the reasons underlying the lack of success, and to inform the next steps.
- 6.1.2 Novel monitoring approaches will be considered to increase coverage at the sites, including remote cameras to monitor anthropogenic activities throughout the breeding season.
- 6.1.3 Notably, the next steps will consist of identifying potential improvements (or extensions) to the implemented measure, based on potential issues discovered during the assessment. The design of the compensation measures provides several options to help deal with recreational disturbance. Should the assessment determine that the measure cannot be improved or extended sufficiently, then alternatives will be considered in consultation with the OOEG. The Project will not commit to adaptive measures if the evidence suggests that the reason for lack of success are out of the Projects control e.g. climate change, prey availability.

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FIVE
ESTUARIES
OFFSHORE WIND FARM



PHONE
EMAIL
WEBSITE
ADDRESS

COMPANY NO

0333 880 5306

fiveestuaries@rwe.com

www.fiveestuaries.co.uk

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way, Swindon, SN5 6PB
Registered in England and Wales
company number 12292474