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Our Ref: [REDACTED]  
PINS Ref: EN010115  
Date: 11 November 2025  
Telephone: [REDACTED]

By Email only

Dear Mr. John Wheadon,

**Planning Act 2008 and  
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) for  
an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed  
Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (“the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm project”)**

I refer to your letter dated 15 October 2025 (the letter) inviting all Interested Parties to comment on the responses received in relation to the Secretary of State’s (SoS) requests of 21 August 2025 and 26 September 2025, regarding the above Development Consent Order (DCO) application. In response, Essex County Council (ECC) in conjunction with Tendring District Council (TDC) [jointly referred as “the Councils”] would like to provide the following comments.

**Investigation of Noise Complaints**

The Councils would like to point out that the Norwich to Tilbury DCO application is now accepted for examination.

Our letter dated 7 August 2025 highlighted our continuous concerns regarding the Outline Noise Complaints Protocol (REP7-080) [to be renamed as Outline Joint Noise Investigation Protocol]. The lack of a collective approach in handling noise complaints and the prolonged timeframes for investigation of noise complaints during operation would result in cumulative noise impacts arise from the co-located NSIP schemes not being adequately addressed, resulting in significant adverse impacts.

The Councils therefore respectfully requests the SoS to order the Outline Joint Noise Investigation Protocol be revised to reflect our proposed amendments and subsequently certified as part of the DCO, should consent be granted. Furthermore, the final version of the

Protocol, which will be submitted to discharge Requirement 15, must align with the certified revised document to ensure consistency and enforceability.

**C3-004 – 11.11 Applicant’s responses to the SoS letter dated 21 August 2025 – wording of Requirement 15(2)**

The Councils do not agree with the proposed wordings from Five Estuaries and North Falls. The wordings do not specify the joint responsibility for noise investigation as requested by both Councils. Our proposed wordings add clarity on how collaboration will occur and explicitly require consultation and agreement between the undertaker, North Falls and National Grid. This is essential that the requirement itself is precise and enforceable. The outline protocol currently includes a process that is not acceptable to us, as the prospective discharging authority should consent be granted. Without a robust and agreed approach, we risk entering a circular process that fails to achieve the core objective of protecting residential amenity. Consequently, the development would not adequately mitigate potential cumulative noise impacts. Moreover, it would risk disputes further down the line when discharging the requirement, hence it is beneficial to be clear what is expected for this requirement.

We therefore reiterate that the following wordings should be used for Requirement 15:

*2) Prior to the commencement of operation of Work No. 15B, the undertaker will consult and agree with North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited and National Grid a noise investigation protocol which must be submitted to and approved by the discharging authority. The noise investigation protocol must identify how the undertaker, North Falls and National Grid will jointly investigate noise.*

**C4-008 – 9.21 Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) – Revision G (Tracked)**

We note the revisions made in terms of flood management and emergency response measures. However, our letter dated 12 September 2025 also requests the CoCP to be revised as follows, which are still outstanding:

- Inclusion of the definition of “high impact” activities (e.g. piling, breaking out, vibratory compaction, use of hydraulic hammer, excavators, cranes, saws, sanders or grinders);
- Daily start up and shut down activities to be within the construction hours of 07:00 to 19:00;
- No amplifier nor radio shall be used between 18:00 and 08:00;
- Not less than 2 working days for the relevant authorities, including National Highway, ECC and TDC to consider any exemption request; and
- Advance notifications of “high impact” activities to be given not less than 2 working days to noise sensitive receptors prior to the commencement of those works.

We have no other comments on C4-002 – 10.81 Applicant's responses to the SoS letter dated 26 September 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Technical and Operational Lead, Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects  
Essex County Council

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