



Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

10 April 2026

Interested Party Reference: [REDACTED]  
VE Ref: 006762343-01

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Project (EN020027) - Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Deadline 3 Submission**

This letter provides Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd's (Five Estuaries) responses to the Examining Authorities Questions Number 1 issued on 20 March 2025 and its Deadline 3 submission for the Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) examination. Specifically Five Estuaries was asked to respond to GEN1.9, GEN 1.20 and DES 1.7. To assist the Examining Authority Five Estuaries has also provided a response to DES 1.5

Ref	Question Text	Five Estuaries Response
GEN 1.9	<p><b>Report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects</b></p> <p>A report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects was submitted by the applicant at deadline 1 [REP1-134]. The applicants/ developers of the projects listed in table 2.1 of the report (those which are IPs in this examination) are asked to provide comments on the content of the report, cross referencing to any relevant statements of common ground (SoCG) where necessary.</p>	<p>Five Estuaries confirm that the interrelationship report through the appendices (e.g. Appendix B1 Tripartite Position Statement of 8.4.3 Report on Interrelationship with Other Infrastructure Projects (Final Issue A) [REP1-134]) adequately sets out the position on coordination between the projects. Five Estuaries note that appendix B.2 Onshore substations operational noise and the outline noise complaints protocol requires some minor amendments. This is currently under discussion between Five Estuaries and the Applicant. Five Estuaries understands that the Applicant plan to submit an updated version at Deadline 4 as a result of this ongoing engagement to address this.</p>

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Ref	Question Text	Five Estuaries Response
<p>GEN 1.20</p>	<p><b>Statements of Common Ground - 3</b></p> <p>Table 1.3 of the SoCG overview document [REP1-008] sets out 30 potential SoCG which are not currently proposed or unlikely to be produced. The applicant is asked to review the need for SoCG with the following consultees, given that representations have been received in relation to their operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-IPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ East Anglian Air Ambulance</li> <li>○ Broomfield Hospital (Air Ambulance)</li> <li>○ Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) (Safeguarding and Airfield Advisory Team)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• IPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Aviation Awareness Council</li> <li>○ British Gliding Association</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The applicant is also asked to review the need for SoCG with North Falls and Five Estuaries. Whilst the ExA are aware that work underway on protective provisions is confidential until such point that terms are agreed, there are a number of other matters which affect the final design and co-ordinated approach to construction of these other NSIPs, which would benefit from being set out in a SoCG.</p>	<p>Regular engagement is ongoing between Five Estuaries, the Applicant and the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project to discuss coordination. The latest revision of the Tripartite Position Statement included at Appendix B1 within 8.4.3 Report on Interrelationship with Other Infrastructure Projects (Final Issue A) [REP1-134] was updated and submitted at Deadline 1 by the Applicant, in agreement with Five Estuaries.</p> <p>Five Estuaries note that agreed Protective Provisions are included in 3.1 draft DCO – Revision B [REP2-004]. The latest revision of the Tripartite Position Statement adequately sets out the position on coordination and a bilateral SoCG between Five Estuaries and the Applicant would not provide any additional information or benefit and is accordingly not being progressed.</p>
<p>DES 1.5</p>	<p><b>Design Approach for Site Specific Infrastructure (DASSI) [APP-354]</b></p> <p>The DASSI [APP-354] seeks to justify the choice of Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) for the proposed EACN substation rather than use Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).</p> <p>Are the proposed substations for the Five Estuaries and North Falls wind farms AIS or GIS? What technology is the Tarchon Interconnector likely to employ (AIS or GIS). Explain how the design choices for each of the substations are assimilated and how they will tie in together.</p>	<p>Five Estuaries note that this question was directed at the Applicant. However, to assist the Examining Authority a response has been prepared.</p> <p>The Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Order 2025 allows the flexibility to use either AIS or GIS technology within the onshore substation.</p> <p>In its ongoing work in developing a Joint Design Guide for the onshore substations with North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, Five Estuaries has indicated it is proposing to use AIS technology. The Joint Design Guide sets out how the detailed substation designs will be developed to ensure that there is coherence between the two wind farm projects.</p>

Ref	Question Text	Five Estuaries Response
DES 1.7	<p><b>Horlock Rules – North Falls and Five Estuaries</b></p> <p>Were the Horlock rules applied to the proposed substations for North Falls and Five Estuaries?</p> <p>Do they take account of cumulative effects, and if so, explain how.</p>	<p>National Grid’s Guidelines on Substation Siting and Design (The Horlock Rules) were taken into consideration by Five Estuaries in identifying the most appropriate location to site its onshore substation. These guidelines document National Grid’s best practice for the consideration of relevant constraints associated with the siting of electricity network infrastructure, including design, local context and land use, amenity, and line entry.</p> <p>These guidelines also confirm that consideration must be given to environmental issues at the earliest stage in order to keep adverse effects to a reasonably practical minimum in the planning of new substations.</p> <p>Table 4.4 in 6.1.4 Site Selection and Alternatives of the Five Estuaries’ application documents summarises the Horlock Rules, (National Grid, 2003), and the project’s approach to them.</p>

Yours faithfully,



**Project Lead**  
**Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm**