



Ms. Harriet Thomas
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Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
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Date: 16 November 2021
HRA Screening Report Document Ref: (003446906-01).
Our Ref: Five Estuaries HRA Screening Report Response
Enquiries to: Grahame Stuteley
Email: grahame.stuteley@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Dear Ms. Thomas,

Re: Consultation on the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Report (003446906-01) (18 October – 28 November 2021).

Thank you for your email dated 15 October 2021 and the opportunity to comment on the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm HRA Screening Report. East Suffolk Council (ESC) has reviewed the report and note that it provides information to enable the screening of the project with respect to its potential to have a likely significant effect (LSE) on European and Ramsar sites of nature conservation importance (alone and in-combination).

ESC is not a host authority or a direct neighbouring authority of the onshore scoping area. The offshore array areas will however be visible from the Suffolk coastline and designated Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We have submitted comments in relation to the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts (SLVIA) of the project to the Planning Inspectorate in our earlier Environment Impact Assessment Scoping Report response dated 27 October 2021.

Having reviewed the HRA Screening consultation document, we have no specific comments to make at this time as we defer the offshore elements of the HRA to Natural England and, as the landfall is due to be located outside of our District (within Essex), the onshore elements in that area are deferred to Natural England and the relevant Essex Local Planning Authority.

Whilst we have no specific comments to make at this stage and our response is provided on the basis that the project proposes an onshore grid connection located outside of Suffolk and beyond the East Suffolk Council District boundary, should this change in future, our position regarding the HRA aspect of this project may need to be revisited.

Yours sincerely,

Grahame Stuteley BSc (Hons) MSc MRTPI
Senior Energy Projects Officer