

Diane Mailer Five Estuaries Project Manager

EEGR SNS

2024

Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm



Wind farm area of 128km².



37km closest distance to shore in Suffolk.



Up to 79 turbines across two separate seabed areas.



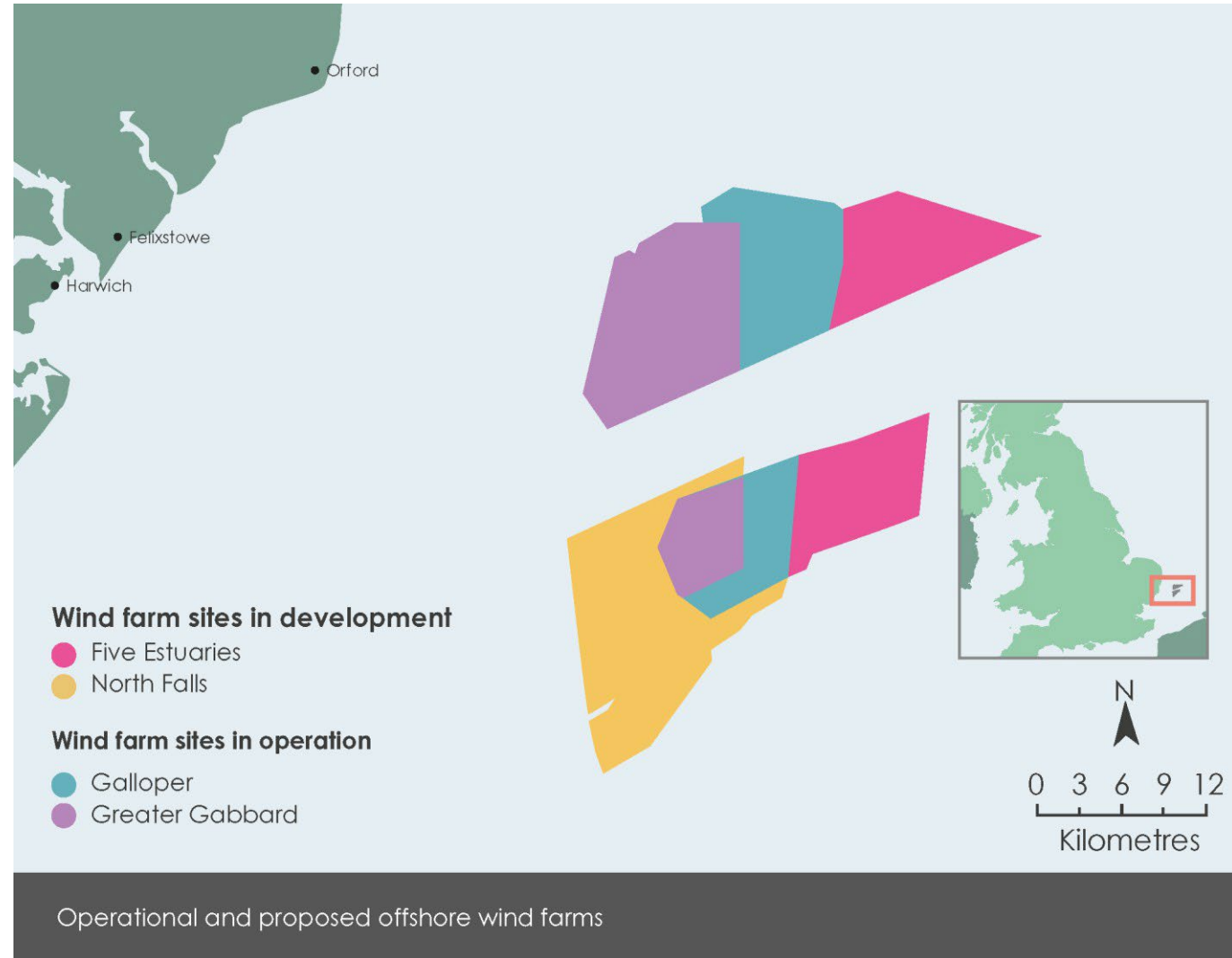
One new onshore substation to connect the project into the proposed National Grid East Anglia Connection substation.



Would power hundreds of thousands UK households each year.



Project Partners – RWE, a Macquarie-led consortium, ESB and Sumitomo Corporation. RWE is leading the development.



Project update

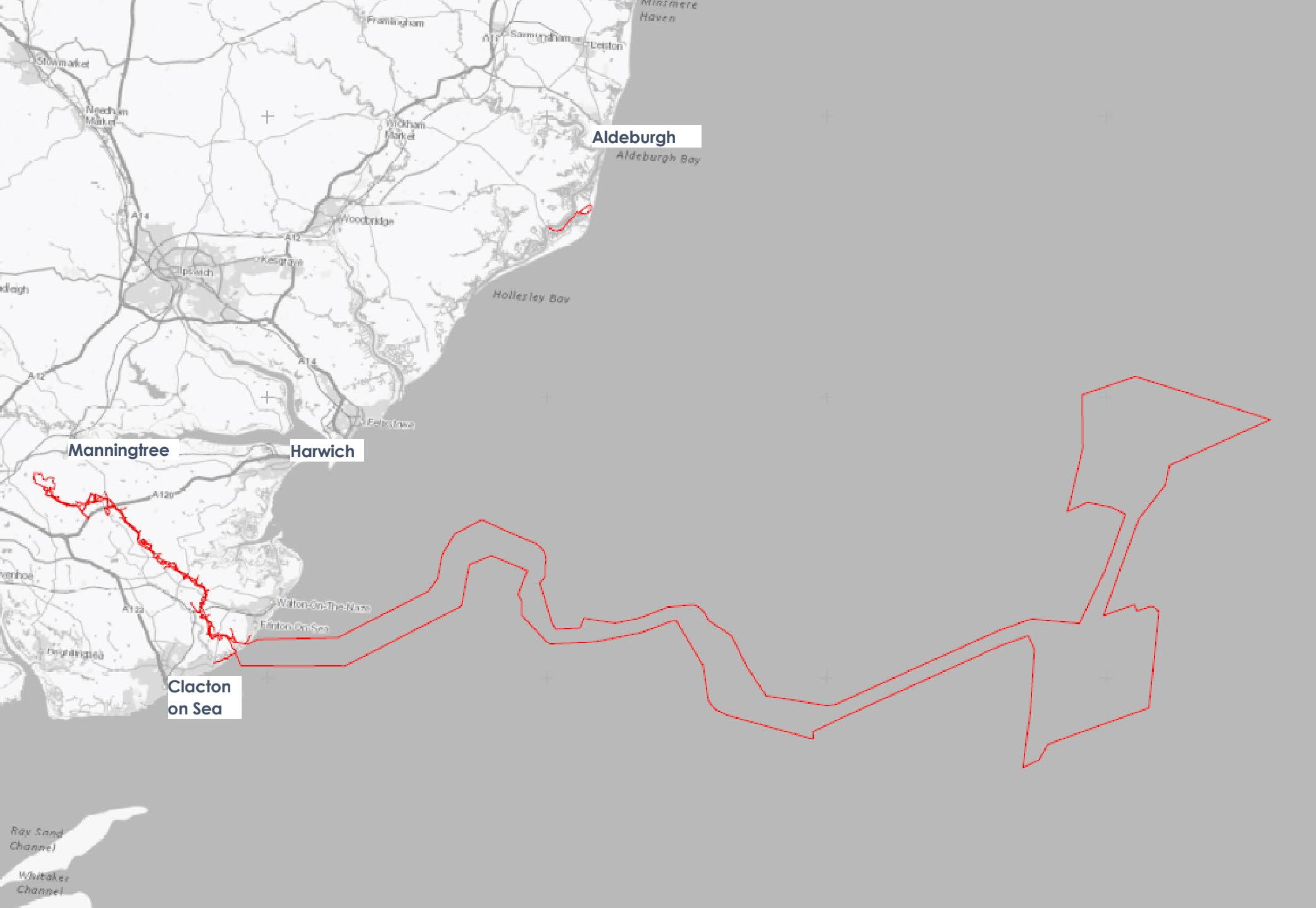
- Development Consent Order application submitted 22 March 2024 for an onshore connection to the National Grid EACN substation as per our grid connection offer.
- Application accepted 22 April.
- Relevant Representation period now open until 21 June.
- Examination expected to commence late summer.

Planning Inspectorate website

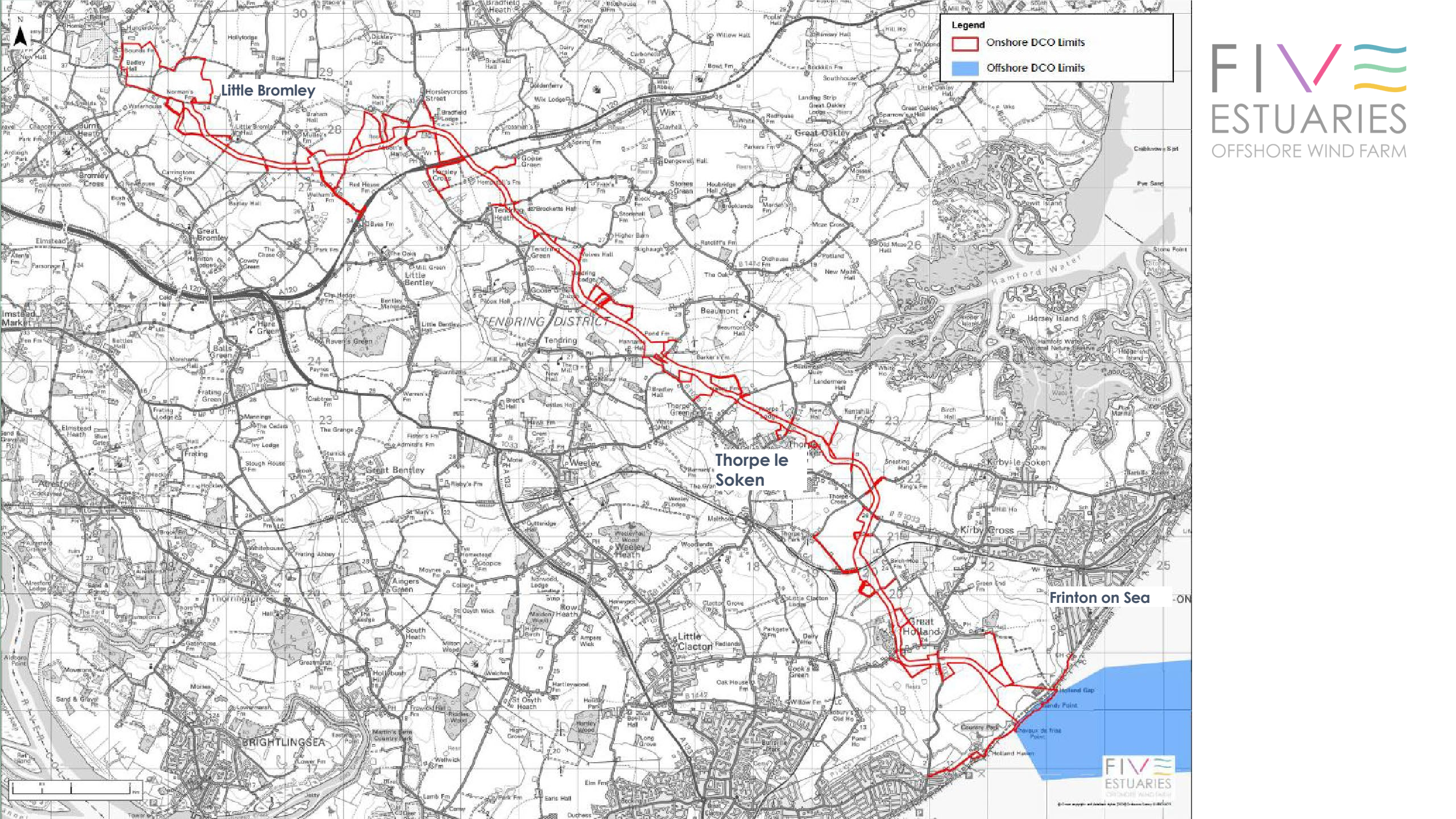
[national-infrastructure-consenting.](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010115





FIV 
ESTUARIES
OFFSHORE WIND FARM



Legend

- Onshore DCO Limits
- Offshore DCO Limits

FIV ESTUARIES

OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Little Bromley

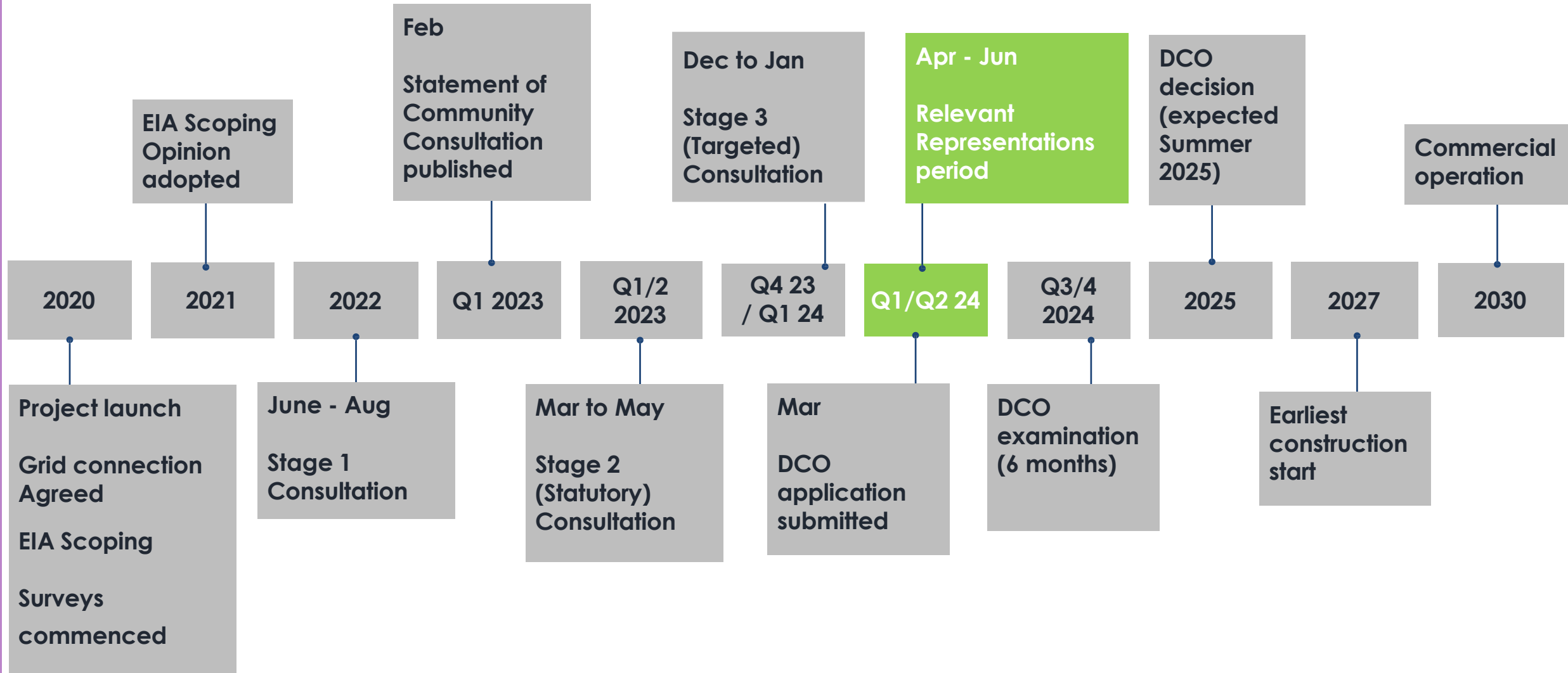
Thorpe le Soken

Frinton on Sea



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Indicative project timeline



Developing the Project

- Project development began in 2020.
- We have been working with the local community and statutory stakeholders since 2020, including:
 - Natural England
 - Local Port Authorities
 - Fishermen
 - Environment Agency
 - Local Councils
- The development of the Project has been further informed by:
 - Three Consultations (Stage 1 in Summer 2022, Stage 2 in Summer 2023 and a targeted Consultation in January 2024).
 - Lessons learnt and experience from previous projects e.g. Galloper.
 - Engagement and coordination with neighbouring projects.

Coordinating with North Falls

- Distinct projects with separate shareholdings.
- Both parties signed a 'good neighbour agreement' in summer 2023, which has enabled closer liaison, information sharing and joint planning.
- Through coordination, we have been able to:
 - Almost fully align the onshore export cable corridors;
 - Identify possible shared works accesses and construction compounds;
 - Exchange data and share surveys e.g. ecology and archaeology;
 - Agree on a shared location for each project's substation and identify possible shared access and screening concepts;
 - Increase the coordination of engagement with landowners;
 - Share our navigational risk assessments and measures to ensure vessel coordination during construction; and
 - Exchange information on project design at an early stage to carry out cumulative seascape, landscape and visual impact assessments



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Coordinating with National Grid



- Five Estuaries connection point is at the proposed East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation as part of the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury project.
- Five Estuaries and Norwich to Tilbury are being developed in parallel with the same ambition to be operational by 2030.
- Throughout the development the project teams meet regularly to share updates on the designs and explore opportunities for coordination to reduce impacts on local communities.
- Should both projects receive development consent, these efforts will continue throughout the construction and operational phases.

nationalgrid

Exploring an offshore connection



- **Sea Link, North Falls** and **Five Estuaries** were awarded funding under the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) in December 2023.
- The consortium have undertaken a series of assessments to determine the feasibility, challenges and solutions to enable a co-ordinated offshore connection. Considering the economics, engineering & regulatory challenges, logistics and programme delivery aspects. A feasibility study was submitted to DESNZ in March 2024.
- Currently being evaluated by DESNZ to aid its decision on whether to grant a second tranche of funding to undertake more detailed feasibility studies.
- As there is currently no viable or available offshore connection option we will continue to develop a coordinated onshore connection as a base case, aligned with existing regulations and commercial conditions. Thus, ensuring no delay to our planned grid connection date and therefore continuing to support the UK's target of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Industry Challenges

EMPLOYMENT

Skills shortages within the sector. Lack of awareness around re-skilling and transition opportunities.

Addressed through the Outline Skills and Employment Strategy

EDUCATION

Teachers' not familiar with the industry to provide guidance on full scope of career opportunities and education routes.

SUPPLY CHAIN

Lack of visibility of new suppliers in comparison to established players, and availability of local training provision.

Addressed through the Supplier Transparency and Engagement Programme / SIRs

Skills & Employment

- To inform the development of our **Outline Skills and Employment Strategy** we carried out a programme of engagement to understand the regions needs and opportunities in partnership with North Falls.
- This included discussions with key skills stakeholders such as LEPs, industry bodies, major education & training providers and with the supply chain.
- Our OSES outlines our understanding of the region's gaps and opportunities and highlighted other RWE initiatives as examples of the future strategy commitments to support the whole career.
- We look to continue this engagement and build relationships and presence in the region ahead of creating our final strategy.

Examples of other RWE project initiatives:

Champions of Wind Programme

Dedicated teacher programme supporting the development of tailored curriculum materials in their specialist subject, with a focus on offshore wind and its associated careers. Enabling students to have links to the vast array of job opportunities in their region.



Galloper Introduction to Offshore Wind Skills Programme

Inviting students with an existing interest in engineering or offshore wind to take part in a six-session programme. Providing first-hand experience of the industry, talks with RWE professionals, CV writing and interview experience.

How can the Supply Chain prepare itself?

1



Solid UK and international growth pipelines means many opportunities

2



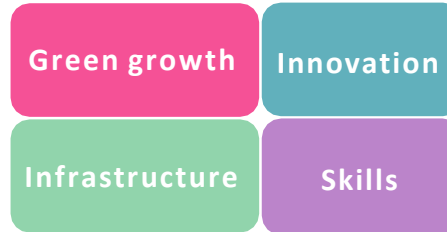
Strong and collaborative supply chain is vital to investment

3



Understand where you fit in the supply chain and align your offering with requirements

4



Familiarise yourself with the supply chain policy scene new requirements, industry challenges, ambitions and criteria

5



To maximise opportunities, be prepared to work with us to respond to the criteria and feed in challenges, suggestions, ideas

Future supply chain

Supplier Engagement Platform

- Open for Five Estuaries registration now.
- To increase the visibility of SMEs to other businesses in the supply chain. Anyone signed up to STEP is able to search for different businesses, for example by area of expertise, location etc.
- Access support from RWE and Five Estuaries as the project develops.



rwe.supplierengagementplatform.com

Future STEP activities

- Early Supply Chain Engagement Conference – Spring 2025.
- Project Opportunities Timeline and milestones.
- Information, advice and 1-1 surgeries with Supply Chain team.



Next steps

- Currently in the pre-examination phase preparing for examination.
- Hearings expected to commence late summer / autumn.
- Consent decision expected Spring / Summer 2025.
- Ongoing engagement around skills and supply chain.



GET IN TOUCH

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Register your email on our website to receive regular project updates.

www.fiveestuaries.com

