



## **Development Consent Application: East Anglia ONE North Offshore Wind Farm (Case Ref: EN010077)**

## **Development Consent Application: East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farm (Case Ref: EN010078)**

## **Examining Authorities' Note of Access Required and Unaccompanied Inspections of Sites Undertaken 25, 26 & 27 January 2021 (AR & USI7)**

### **Background**

The Examining Authorities (ExAs) undertook access required and unaccompanied site inspections on 25, 26 and 27 January 2021 to support examinations of applications for development consent for the proposed East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farms (the applications). These inspections were held to replace Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs) notified to occur on 26 and 27 January 2021, which did not proceed as originally notified due to the imposition of additional public health controls following the Christmas period.

Access required (AR) site inspections took place on private land with the consent of and (where required) accompanied by relevant persons to ensure access and advise on the location of relevant features. An officer of Suffolk County Council attended one inspection conducted on public highways and rights of way to advise on the location of features relevant to drainage and flood considerations. However, because accompaniment was strictly limited in this way to assure compliance with public health regulations and guidance, the ExAs are conscious that these inspections could not be attended by persons who in normal circumstances would have attended and observed ASIs. Whilst itineraries are published in advance of ASIs, notes are not normally published after they have been completed, on the basis that the Applicants, Interested Parties (IPs) and members of the public are free to attend and observe them. This note has been prepared and published as a confirmatory record of the AR site inspections, to assist those who may have wished to attend the originally intended ASIs.

Unaccompanied site inspections (USI7) were also held over the same days, where inspection locations were accessible from the public domain and accompaniment was not required. Those inspections are recorded in this note in the normal manner, to inform the Applicants, IPs and other persons of actions taken by the ExAs.

A single note has been produced of both the AR inspections and of the USIs. It is endorsed with the yellow and blue icon used to identify materially identical documentation in accordance with the ExAs' Procedural Decisions 3 on document management of 23 December 2019<sup>1</sup>. Whilst this note has been published to the Examination Libraries for both applications, if it is read in one library, there is no

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<sup>1</sup> The ExA's Procedural Decision 3 for [East Anglia ONE North](#) can be seen here at Annex B. The ExA's identical Procedural Decision 3 for [East Anglia TWO](#) can be seen here at Annex B.



need to read it again in the second library. Previous site inspection notes<sup>2</sup> and itineraries<sup>3</sup> can be found in both libraries on the same basis.

## Particulars of the Inspections

The inspections were undertaken by members of the ExAs consisting of Rynd Smith (Lead), Jon Hockley, Caroline Jones and Guy Rigby. The purposes of the inspections were to:

- View the village of Friston and the proposed substation and transmission system connection site after nightfall (USI);
- Address remaining USI requests from the IP body SEAS; and
- Deliver two programmes of access required (AR) and unaccompanied site inspections (USIs) to replace the original ASIs.

The inspections were carried out over three days.

**Friston at night** – the inspections departed from Saxmundham Road adjacent to the village green shortly after sunset at 5:30pm on 25 January 2021. Two successive footpath routes were taken into the proposed Orders land, concluding at 7:30pm at the village green. Background noise observations were made. Weather conditions were dry, clear/ moonlit and initially still but with a freshening breeze later and with good long-range visibility throughout.

**SEAS USI requests** – the inspections viewed remaining USI routes requested by SEAS in an email of 19 January 2021. They were undertaken by car and on foot at each inspection location, between at 3:30pm and 4:00pm and 5:00pm and 5:15pm on 25 January 2021 and between 2:00pm and 2:45pm on 26 January 2021. Weather conditions were dry and with good visibility on both days, clear and sunny on 25 January and overcast on 26 January.

**Access Required (AR) and Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) to Replace ASIs** - the inspections viewed the locations identified in site inspection itineraries commencing at 9:00am and concluding at 3:00pm on 26 January 2021 and commencing again at 9:00am and concluding at 2:00pm on 27 January 2021. Weather conditions were dry and with good visibility on both days, clear and sunny on 26 January and overcast with sunny spells on 27 January 2021.

The individual locations inspected over both days and the purposes of those inspections are recorded below with route maps provided at **Annex A**. Route and location numbers as shown on the maps are set out below.

Reference to Environmental Statement Viewpoints (ES VP) is to Figure 29.4 for onshore receptors (Examination Library references [APP-394]): these references are common to both applications.

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<sup>2</sup> Pre-examination USI1, 2 and 3 notes can be seen in the [East Anglia ONE North](#) library here the Examination period [USI4, 5 and 6 notes](#) can be seen here.

Identical Pre-examination USI1, 2 and 3 notes in the [East Anglia TWO](#) library can be seen here and the Examination period [USI4, 5 and 6 notes](#) can be seen here.

<sup>3</sup> Annexes E (Notice) and E1 (Outline Itinerary) of the Rule 8(3) Letter of 8 December 2020 can be seen in the [East Anglia ONE North](#) library here and in an identical letter in the [East Anglia TWO](#) library here. Detailed itineraries can be seen in the [East Anglia ONE North](#) library here and in the [East Anglia TWO](#) library here.



## 25, 26 and 27 January 2021:

**Friston at Night** viewed the following locations:

<b>Location(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Observations</b>	<b>ES VP (where applicable)</b>
Saxmundham Road, Friston Common	Parked on Friston Common, Saxmundham Road B1121 at 5:30pm (point 1).	
Church Path	Walked northwards via Church Path (point 2).	
Public right of way to Friston Moor (West)	Walked northwards on Public Right of Way to point 3 (VP1), point 4 (crossing of existing transmission alignment) and point 5. Observations of ambient noise and lighting made. Returned southwards via same route to Church Lane, Friston (VP2).	VP1 VP2
Public right of way to Friston Moor (East)	Walked northwards on Public Right of Way to point 6, point 7 (crossing of existing transmission alignment) and point 8. Observations of ambient noise and lighting made. Returned southwards via same route to Church Lane, Friston.	
Church Lane Friston	Walked eastwards along Church Lane to junction with Grove Road.	VP4
Grove Road Friston	Walked south and west along Grove Road to Friston Common (point 1). The inspection concluded at 7:30pm.	

**SEAS USI Requests** viewed the following locations:

<b>Location(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Observations</b>
3.2 Sailor's Path to Tesco's Roundabout (A1094)	This route has been driven by the ExAs on several occasions, including this USI from 5:00pm on 25 January 2021, and the traffic conditions, warning signs and blind crests noted. The approach to Tesco's Roundabout, including the presence of parked vehicles, the accesses to Tescos and the



Location(s)	Relevant Observations
	Co-op supermarkets, the zebra crossing and the access to schools, fire station, community centre and sports facilities, has also been observed and walked where safe to do so as part of USI6, the note for which is published alongside this note.
3.3 Tesco's Roundabout to Aldringham Court (B1122)	This route has been driven by the ExAs on several occasions, most recently as part of USI6 and en route to the AR inspections in Aldringham on 27 January 2021. The geometry and operation of the roundabout, particularly the presence of parked vehicles on the B1122 exit arm, were observed on foot as part of USI6 (see above). The general operating conditions, speed limits, hidden dips, accesses, warning signs and lines have also been observed, as has the cable route crossing point near Aldringham Court, again as part of the AR inspections in Aldringham.
3.4 Tesco's Roundabout/Park Road/High Street and back	This route has been walked and/or driven by the ExAs in parts, most recently from 3:30pm on 25 January 2021. The various amenities, townscape character and traffic conditions have been noted.
3.5 Aldeburgh to Thorpeness circular route	The outward part of this route has been walked and/or driven by the ExAs northwards from Aldeburgh to Thorpeness and the views inland and to sea observed, most recently from 2:00pm on 26 January 2021. The inland element of the suggested route southwards via Norton Warren has not been inspected, as the ExAs consider that it is not directly affected by the Applications.

**Access Required (AR) and Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) to Replace ASIs** viewed the following locations:

Location(s)	Relevant Observations
<b>Day 1 – 26 January 2021</b>	
St Mary's Church, Friston (Location 2) <sup>4</sup>	Inspection of churchyard and internal viewing of the Church (a Grade II* listed building). Church opened by Mr Peter Fife; church warden also present. Reverend Mark Lowther also present

<sup>4</sup> Location numbers in this table refer to the separately published itinerary and maps for these inspections which can be found as document [EV-003] in the [East Anglia ONE North](#) and [East Anglia TWO](#) Examination Libraries.



Location(s)	Relevant Observations
	briefly <sup>5</sup> . Several other people also used the footpath crossing the churchyard whilst in attendance but did not interact with or affect the conduct of the inspection. Proceeded on foot to...
Grove Road, Friston (Location 3)	Inspection of location of proposed haul road/cable route crossing, unaccompanied. Proceeded on foot to...
The 'Wooded Pit', Friston (Location 4)	Inspection of wooded pit to the west of Footpath 6; access provided by Mrs Mary Shipman and Mrs Jeanie Wright <sup>6</sup> . Proceeded on foot to...
High House Farm (Location 5)	Inspection of the outside of High House Farm and its grounds; access provided by Ms Fiona Cramb. <sup>7</sup> Proceeded on foot to...
Friston Main River (Location 6)	Inspection of the Friston River in ditch from adjacent to Footpath No 17; down Footpath 17/Woodside Farm Access Track and then over Church Lane and alongside village recreational ground (footpath 23); across the B1121 and adjacent to Low Road and adjacent to footpath no 26/30. Accompanied by Mr Williamson of Suffolk County Council along this route <sup>8</sup> who pointed out drainage infrastructure. This visit/location was split by a visit on foot to Friston House (below).
Friston House (Location 7)	Inspection of the exterior of Friston House and its grounds; access provided by Mr and Mrs Fulford <sup>9</sup> . Returned on foot to Friston Main River inspection then proceeded by car to...
Moor Farm (Location 8)	Inspection of Moor Farm and land; access provided by Mr Mahoney <sup>10</sup> . Proceeded on foot to...

<sup>5</sup> Those present provided access to the church car park and church. Observations were made concerning events held at the Church and the use of footpath 25.

<sup>6</sup> Mrs Shipman and Mrs Wright pointed out the potential site of a badger sett and various drainage pipes

<sup>7</sup> Mrs Cramb referred to various diseased ash trees recently removed, the stumps of which were evident.

<sup>8</sup> Mr Williamson provided a factual commentary on past flooding events in Friston; the general layout and location of ditches and land drains and efforts by local residents, Suffolk County Council, landowners, and the Environment Agency to map and improve the watercourse and alleviate the effects of flooding.

<sup>9</sup> Mr and Mrs Fulford pointed out areas of recent landscaping carried out by themselves around the grounds of Friston House, both in general terms and in response to the proposals.

<sup>10</sup> Mr Mahoney referred to areas within his property boundary subject to CA. A large helium balloon had been raised within Mr Mahoney's grounds at the request of Ms Fiona Gilmore which Mr Mahoney explained reflected the anticipated height of the substations.



<b>Location(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Observations</b>
B1121 (Location 9)	Inspection of proposed permanent site access, north of Moor Farm and Friston, unaccompanied. Break taken then proceeded by car to...
Former Leiston Airfield (Location 10)	Inspection of former Leiston Airfield, Harrow Lane, Theberton, unaccompanied.
<b>Day 2 – 27 January 2021</b>	
Snape Road (Location 2)	Inspection of proposed crossing of Snape Road, Coldfair Green, close to Sandlings PRoW, unaccompanied, on foot. Proceeded by car to Aldringham.
Hundred River Valley (Location 3)	Slopes to the east of the Hundred River inspected, accompanied by Ms Abraham of Suffolk County Council. <sup>11</sup> Proceeded on foot to...
Hundred River Valley (Location 4)	Inspection of Gypsy Lane and the gardens of two properties along this lane, on the west bank of the Hundred River. Accompanied by Mr Bill Halford (SASES member and owner/ occupier of one of the properties). <sup>12</sup> Proceeded on foot to...
Aldeburgh Road (Location 5)	Inspection of proposed crossing of Aldeburgh Road, adjacent to Gypsy Lane and Fitches Lane, carried out unaccompanied, with viewing of façade of Aldringham Court (from public road). Proceeded on foot to...
Fitches Lane and surrounding footpaths (Location 6)	Inspection of land, woodlands, and Aldringham Court from Fitches Lane and adjacent ProW carried out unaccompanied. Proceeded by car to...
Sandlings SPA (Location 7)	Inspection of Sandlings SPA in vicinity of the proposed crossing location of the onshore cable corridor. Accompanied by Mr Murray-Wood of Suffolk County Council <sup>13</sup> Proceeded by car to...
Wardens Trust (Location 9)	Inspection of the land surrounding the Wardens Trust Hall, Ness House and adjacent cottages, accompanied by Ms Tessa Wojtczak (initially) and

<sup>11</sup> Ms Abraham provided a commentary on location of trial trenches and the general archaeology of the area.

<sup>12</sup> Mr Halford provided access to the rear gardens and provided information on the river, local flood events, archaeological and ecological aspects.

<sup>13</sup> Mr Murray-Wood provided information on local ecology referring to the habitat, hedgerows and birdsong.



<b>Location(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Observations</b>
	Dr Gimson (latterly) <sup>14</sup> . Proceeded on foot to...
Land to the south and west of Wardens Trust (Location 8 - part)	Walk undertaken of local walking routes to the south and west of Wardens Trust; views of the coast, Thorpeness Common, local coverts and surrounding farmland, unaccompanied. Inspections ended. The full requested walking route was not undertaken, as the ExAs had previously inspected land between Thorpeness and Sizewell on foot (see USI Notes for USI1, USI2 and USI3).

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<sup>14</sup> Ms Wojtczak and Dr Gimson attended separately and provided information on the works of Wardens Trust, pointed out items of interest around the buildings and adjacent coast line, showed the ExA the borehole on site as well as matters relating to the cable route adjacent to the site including nearby woodland and trees.





## Key to Plan Notations

-  Walking routes taken by the ExAs at Friston
-  Walking and car routes taken by the ExAs for the SEAS requests
-  Walking route taken at the Warden's Trust (AR inspection)



General location of inspections in Friston at night



General location of inspections relating to the SEAS USI requests

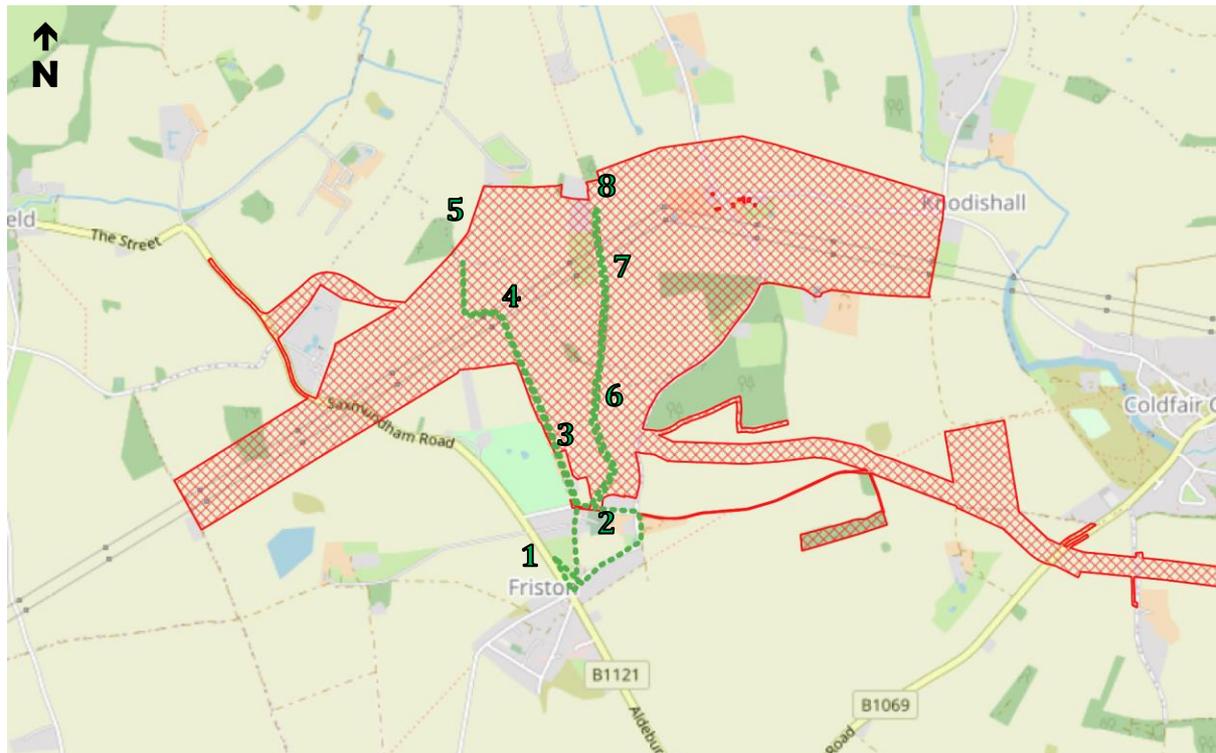


General locations of AR inspections



## Friston at Night:

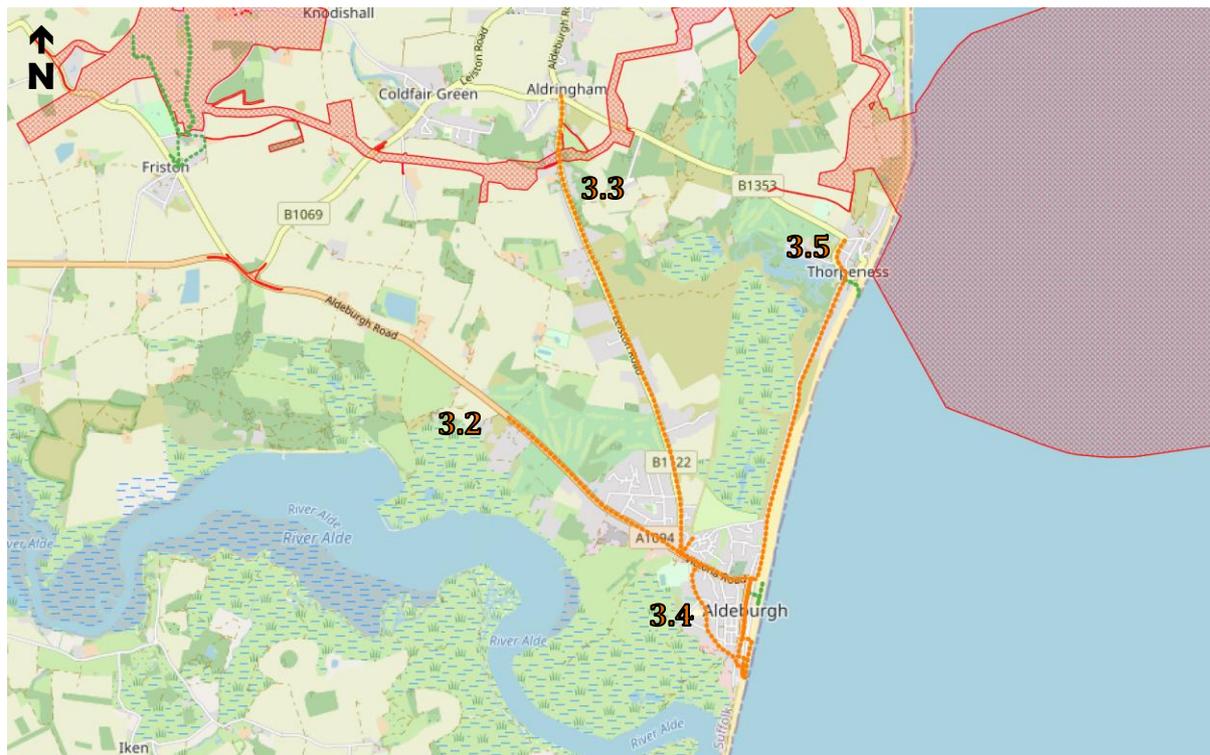
1



All maps - Base Map Source: © [Open Street Map](#) Contributors (EPSG: 3857 – WGS 84) via QGIS (January 2021)  
Do not scale



## SEAS USI Requests:



All maps - Base Map Source: © [Open Street Map](https://www.openstreetmap.org/) Contributors (EPSG: 3857 – WGS 84) via QGIS (January 2021)  
Do not scale

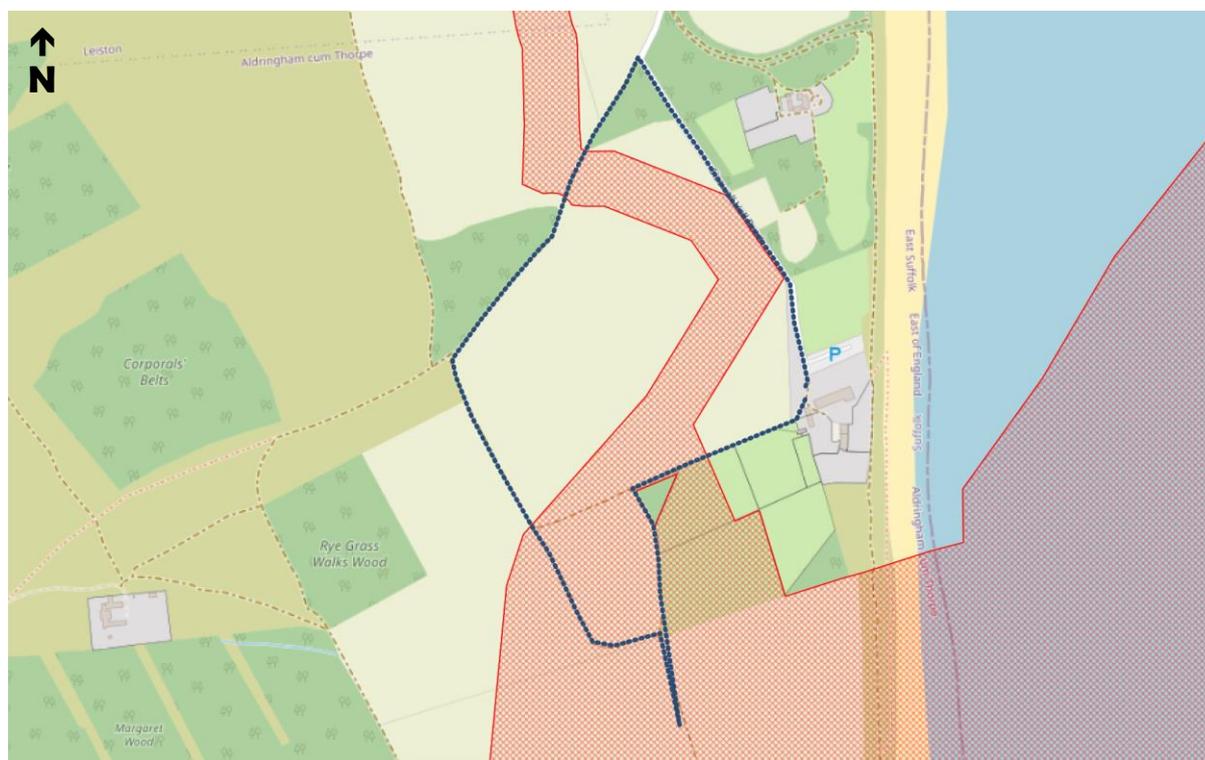


## Access Required and Unaccompanied Site Inspections held to replace ASIs):

Map locations for these inspections were provided in the published itineraries for these inspections and can be seen in both the [East Anglia ONE North](#) and [East Anglia TWO](#) Examination Libraries [EV-003] using these links. The itineraries are identical and do not require to be read twice. Number references in the table to this note are to the numbered locations in the itineraries.

All but one location identified in the itineraries were fully inspected and amended mapping is not provided in this note. An amended map is provided for the walking route taken between Sizewell and Thorpeness, from land held by the Warden's Trust (Location 8), as with reference to previous inspections in that location undertaken as parts of USI1, USI2 and USI3, the ExAs did not consider that it was necessary to walk the whole of the route that had been recommended by Save our Sandlings. The amended route is recorded below.

### Warden's Trust, Ness House and Surroundings



All maps - Base Map Source: © [Open Street Map](#) Contributors (EPSG: 3857 - WGS 84) via QGIS (January 2021)  
Do not scale