



Application for Development Consent for
Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension
Case Ref: EN010084

Examining Authority's Note of Unaccompanied Inspection of Sites

Inspection 1:

Thanet Coast, Landfall Location and Towns

30 October 2018

Background

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook its first unaccompanied site inspections to support its examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension (the application) on 30 October 2018.

In the interests of efficiency, the ExA decided to commence its programme of unaccompanied inspections before the Preliminary Meeting.

Inspections were undertaken from publicly accessible land including highways and public rights of way. No access was required to private land, so advance permission to enter land was not required and these inspections could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The inspections were undertaken to view the proposed application site onshore and views to the existing Thanet Offshore Wind Farm and to the proposed Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension. Locations prospectively within the setting of the onshore development proposals in the application were also inspected.

The first unaccompanied inspections are recorded in this note, the purposes of which are:

- to inform the applicant, interested parties and other persons of actions already taken by the ExA; and
- to enable the applicant, interested parties and other persons to consider which additional sites the ExA might need to inspect.

Further site inspections will be required. The site inspection programme will be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting to be held on 11 December 2018. The applicant, interested parties and other persons will be provided with an opportunity to provide comments to the ExA on the approach that it should take to site inspections and to nominate site inspection locations. An opportunity will be provided to propose inspections of private land on an accompanied basis.

Before agreeing to a site inspection at a particular location, the ExA will consider the degree to which it is necessary to visit a site that has been nominated for an inspection to inform it about the application. It may decide not to visit nominated locations where it considers that it is not

necessary to see the features to be observed there. It may decide not to hold an accompanied site inspection if all relevant features can be observed and understood from locations in the public domain.

Arrangements for any accompanied site inspections will be included in the ExA's examination timetable and procedural decision to be issued after the preliminary meeting.

If further inspections are carried out, further inspection notes will be published.

Particulars of the Inspection

The first unaccompanied inspection was undertaken by the ExA: Examining Inspectors Rynd Smith (Panel Lead) and Stephen Bradley. Zachary Sefton (a work experience placement student) was in attendance. The purpose of the visit was for the ExA to become familiar with:

- views to the existing Thanet Offshore Wind Farm and to the proposed Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension (the application site and surrounds offshore);
- onshore coastal locations from which seascape landscape and visual impact appraisals were undertaken and where relevant receptors are located, from Dover Castle, eastwards to Foreness Point, Palm Bay;
- the proposed onshore works including:
 - the proposed cable landfall;
 - Pegwell Bay Country Park; and
 - the proposed sub station and grid connection locations at Richborough.

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot on 30 October 2018 commencing in Dover at 09-30. Weather conditions were overcast and rainy, with periods of heavy rain. Whilst conditions were adequate to appreciate short and medium range views towards the proposed development from some of the locations that were inspected, longer range views from more distant onshore receptor locations towards the existing offshore wind farm will require additional inspections. The proposed cable landfall and Pegwell Bay Country Park were inspected, but again, would benefit from further viewing in dryer conditions.

Individual locations inspected and the purposes of those inspections are recorded in the attached Annex.

The inspection concluded at North Foreland at 16-30.

Annex

Place	References	Notes
Views to proposed array from locations to the west	SLVIA Offshore Viewpoints [APP-053] Table 12.11 [APP-126] Figure 12.5 [APP-127] Montages 1-18 [APP-128] Montages 19-29	
Viewpoint 24 Dover Castle	CT16 1HU	Inspected from northern rampart of castle grounds. Inspected satisfactorily View dominated by radio mast
Viewpoint 23 South Foreland Lighthouse	CT15 5NA	Not inspected because visibility poor at the time
Viewpoint 10 St Margarets at Cliffe Coastguard Memorial	CT15 6DT	Inspected satisfactorily
Viewpoint 7 Deal Pier / Promenade	CT14 6HY	Not inspected because visibility poor at the time
Viewpoint 8 Kings Avenue/Princes Drive, Sandwich Bay Estate	CT13 9PZ	Inspected satisfactorily
Viewpoint 18 England Coastal Path, Sandwich Flats	CT13 9QB	Footpath to foreshore walked to beach opposite edge of golf course
Viewpoint 9 Richborough Roman Fort	CT13 9JW	Visibility fair to poor; inspected satisfactorily from within scheduled ancient monument compound. Medium range viewscape dominated by existing transmission lines and industrial facilities
Pegwell Bay and environs: onshore works		
Saxon Shore Way long distance footpath	CT13 9JG Footpath on north bank of river provides views into Richborough Energy	Not inspected: access road gated (private land)

Place	References	Notes
Richborough Road/ Zen Car Factors	Park, Work No 16.	
A256 Ramsgate Road	CT13 9NL Stevens and Carlotti up to roundabout / entrance to Richborough Energy Park Opposite Works Nos. 14, 13, 12 & 15 (lorry park) Same side Works No 16	Walked along carriageway, but key elements of landfall, cable alignment and sub station site will require ASI.
A256 roundabout 2 Sandwich Lane	CT13 9QL Kent Golf Academy Works Nos. 10 & 11 (access)	No inspection of Cable corridor adj to R Stour - private land or land adjacent to Baypoint Sports Club.
Sandwich Road	CT12 5JB Pegwell Bay Country Park Landfall Works Nos. 3B, 4B, 4A, 4, 5, 6 and 7 [APP-124] SLVIA Onshore viewpoints 10, 13, 12	Inspected context photo locations A,B,C,D, G,H; did not approach Bird Hide south of C. Photos taken adjacent to the proposed TP location and of the crossings of the Nemo berm. No inspection of HE assets. Did not inspect VP 11 or 12 or Context photo locations N, O: additional inspection required.
Thanet Coast and Towns: views to proposed array from immediate locale and to the east	SLVIA Offshore Viewpoints [APP-053] Table 12.11 [APP-126] Figure 12.5 [APP-127] Montages	
Viewpoint 6 Wellington Crescent, Ramsgate		Did not inspect
Viewpoint 17 Broadstairs, Dumpton Gap	CT10 1TJ	Inspected satisfactorily
Viewpoint 5 Broadstairs Promenade	CT10 1DP	Inspected satisfactorily whole seafront of CA. View from promenade and modern apartment block at south end of

Place	References	Notes
		conservation area; in fair visibility
Viewpoint 12 Stone Bay	CT10 1DU	Did not inspect
North Foreland Lighthouse		Inspected satisfactorily
Viewpoint 11 Joss Bay/ North Foreland	CT10 3PG	Did not inspect
Viewpoint 4 Kingsgate/ North Foreland, Coastal Path	CT10 3QL	Inspected satisfactorily whole of Kingsgate Bay viewed at dusk from Captain Digby Inn as lights on existing arrays became visible. Did not inspect from coastal path north of the Inn.
Viewpoint 13 Foreness Point, Palm Bay	CT9 3PP	Foreness Point not reached but inspected satisfactorily after dark instead from Botany Bay, 800m. to south east. Existing arrays fully illuminated. Several medium-sized commercial vessels at anchor immediately offshore in Margate Roads. A vessel approximately on the RLB, NE of Elbow bouy. Another vessel passing NW to SE along the edge of the existing array.