



National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties and Other
Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010084

Date: 22 January 2019

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 13 and Rule 16

Application by Vattenfall Wind Power Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm

Notification of hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection 1

We write to all Interested Parties to announce the dates, times and places of forthcoming hearings which will be held between 19 and 21 February 2019, and the date, time and meeting place for Accompanied Site Inspection 1 on 18 February 2019. Important details about both are set out at **Annex A** and **Annex B** to this letter, respectively.

Hearings

As set out in the Examination Timetable annexed to our Rule 8 letter dated 18 December 2018, those Interested Parties who wish to speak at hearings were asked to notify the Planning Inspectorate by 15 January 2019 (Deadline 1).

- At least one request to be heard at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) was received from an Interested Party and consequently the hearing designated as OFH1 in the Examination Timetable (in February 2019) must be held. At this stage, it appears that OFH2 (in April 2019) may not be required, but a formal decision on that question will be made and notice will be provided on 12 March 2019 if OFH2 is to proceed.
- At least one request to be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) was received from an Affected Person and consequently such a hearing must also be held. We have decided to use the hearing designated as CAH1 in the Examination Timetable (in February 2019) to hear the Applicant's case for compulsory acquisition and temporary possession in strategic terms. It follows that we will use the hearing designated as CAH2 in the Examination Timetable (in April 2019) to hear individual objections to compulsory acquisition and/ or temporary possession

and therefore CAH2 must also be held. Formal notice of CAH2 will be provided on 12 March 2019.

- We have also decided that all those Issue Specific Hearings (ISHs) provided to be held in February 2019 in the Examination Timetable will proceed, for the purposes set out in the timetable. A final formal decision on the need for and content of ISHs reserved in the timetable to be held in April 2019 will be made and notice will be provided on 12 March 2019.

Details of and arrangements for all hearings to be held in February 2019 are set out at **Annex A**.

We would be grateful if you would inform us if you plan to attend any of the hearings to be held in February 2019 (even if you do not wish to speak) **no later than 12 February 2019**. It would also assist us if you could notify the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc). Please ensure that you include your Interested Party reference number in your correspondence (provided either in the email covering this letter or on the postcard you have received).

An agenda for each of the hearings will be published on our website no later than one week before each event.

If any hearing arrangements need to be changed, reasonable notice will be provided to Interested Parties of our decision.

Accompanied Site Inspections

As set out in the Examination Timetable annexed to our Rule 8 letter dated 18 December 2018, those Interested Parties who wished to nominate locations for and/or to attend an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) were asked to notify the Planning Inspectorate by 15 January 2019 (Deadline 1).

A number of location nominations and attendance requests have been made. We also wish to invite certain Interested Parties to attend.

The Applicant set out site inspection proposals in its Deadline 1 Submission Appendix 32 [[REP1-002](#)]:

- We have considered the Applicant's proposals for an ASI to certain locations relevant to seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) set out in paragraphs 3 – 4 (Table 1) of that submission. As explained in the Preliminary Meeting, we have already commenced a programme of unaccompanied site inspections (USIs) to a sample of locations relevant to SLVIA [EV-001], [EV-008]. The USI programme is not complete and further USIs will be held. Summary reports of them will continue to be published on the website. In the absence of a specific requirement to be accompanied on inspections held at locations in the public domain, we have decided that it is not necessary to hold an ASI to the locations nominated in the Applicant's Table 1, but we will add these to the USI programme.
- We have considered the Applicant's proposals that we should inspect locations on private land at Richborough relevant to the onshore cable route, substation and grid connection as set out in Appendix 32 in paras 5 – 6 (Table 2) and agree to all

of these proposals. Details of and arrangements for an ASI to Richborough to be held in February 2019 are set out at **Annex B**.

Port of Tilbury London Ltd (PoTLL) and **London Gateway Port Ltd (LGPL)** have requested [[REP1-088](#)] that we should inspect their operational port facilities and development proposals, located in the Thurrock Council area. We have considered this request and taking the nature of submissions on port and navigation effects made to the Examination into account, we have agreed to it. We agree that because of the specialist, potentially hazardous and access-controlled nature of port operations, the inspection must be an ASI. Details of and arrangements for an ASI to port facilities in Thurrock, Essex to be held in April 2019 will be the subject of formal notice to be provided on 12 March 2019.

Final itineraries for ASIs will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website no later than one week before each event, once the Applicant, relevant land owners and operators have finalised their access, security, health and safety arrangements.

A number of other Interested Parties have requested to attend ASIs and additional provisional attendance arrangements can be found in **Annex B**, although it should be noted that final attendance arrangements taking account of access, security and safety arrangements will be confirmed in the final itineraries.

If any ASI is no longer required or arrangements need to be changed, reasonable notice will be provided to Interested Parties of our decision to cancel it. As provided for in our procedural decision 4 of 18 December 2018, in unforeseeable circumstances such as severe weather, the ExA reserves the right to amend or defer an ASI or part of it by notice posted on the website and/ or oral notice at the event start location, at any time up to the advertised start time.

If you have any further queries please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Rynd Smith

Rynd Smith
Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annex A – Dates, times and place for forthcoming hearings in February 2019

Annex B – Date, time and meeting place for Accompanied Site Inspection 1 (ASI1) to Richborough

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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Dates, times and place for forthcoming hearings

Issue Specific Hearings

Please be advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) will hold hearings under Section 91 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) on the following dates:

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) ISH3 on Environmental matters, Ecology, HRA, physical, construction and other matters	Tuesday 19 February 2019	10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Building 500, Discovery Park Sandwich, CT13 9FF
Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4) ISH4 on Landscape and Visual, Seascape and Historic Environment Issues	Tuesday 19 February 2019	3.00pm (seating available from 2.30pm)	
Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5) ISH5 on Maritime, Shipping, Navigation, Safety and Recreational Sea Use	Wednesday 20 February 2019	10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	
Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6) ISH6 on Fishing and Fisheries	Wednesday 20 February 2019	6.30pm (seating available from 6.00pm)	
Issue Specific Hearing 7 (ISH7) ISH7 on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)	Thursday 21 February 2019	12.10pm (seating available from 11.40am)	

If you wish to participate in or observe at either of the Issue Specific Hearings scheduled between 19 and 21 February 2019, please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing ThanetExtension@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 12 February 2019** indicating your wish to attend and the matters in respect of which you wish to speak.

Agendas for the Issue Specific Hearings will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing to which they relate taking place.

The time allocated for each of the hearings has been estimated based on the matters identified for consideration. Should a hearing take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to. Equally, if there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any hearing, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day, or adjourn the hearing and continue at a subsequent sitting.

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing

Please be advised that the ExA will hold a hearing under Section 92 of the PA2008 on the following date:

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1) CAH1 on the Applicant's compulsory acquisition (CA) and temporary possession (TP) case.	Thursday 21 February 2019	10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Building 500, Discovery Park Sandwich, CT13 9FF

Please note that if you wish to be heard at a CAH in respect of your objection to the Applicant's CA and/ or TP request affecting your own individual interests in or occupation of land, an opportunity for you to be heard will be provided at CAH2 in April 2019. CAH2 will be the subject of separate notice to be provided on or before 12 March 2019.

If you wish to participate in or observe at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing scheduled on 21 February 2019, please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing ThanetExtension@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 12 February 2019** indicating your wish to attend and the matters in respect of which you wish to speak.

An agenda for the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing to which they relate taking place.

The time allocated for the hearing has been estimated based on the matters identified for consideration. Should it take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to. Equally, if there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at the hearing, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day, or adjourn the hearing and continue at a subsequent sitting.

Open Floor Hearing

Please be advised that the ExA will hold a second hearing under Section 93 of the PA2008 on the following date:

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)	Tuesday 19 February 2019	6.30pm (seating available from 6.00pm)	Building 500, Discovery Park Sandwich, CT13 9FF

Please note that each participant will be provided with one opportunity to speak. **The ExA will not wish to hear submissions from groups or individuals repeated.**

If you wish to participate in or observe the Open Floor Hearing, please let the Planning Inspectorate's case team know by emailing ThanetExtension@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 12 February 2019** indicating your wish to attend and the topics in respect of which you wish to speak.

Each Interested Party should assume that they will be allowed a maximum speaking time of 10 minutes in total for all submissions that they wish to make in this session. Please note that in the event that there are an exceptional number of potential submissions, it may be necessary to reduce the available speaking time per person on a fair and proportionate basis.

If the ExA decides that it is necessary to provide an agenda for this hearing, this will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing.

Date, time and meeting place for Accompanied Site Inspection 1

Please be advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) will hold Accompanied Site Inspection 1 (ASI1) under Rule 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 on the following date:

Event	Date and time	Meeting Place
Accompanied Site Inspection 1 (ASI1)	Monday 18 February 2019 Arrival 12:00 noon (Departure 12:30pm)	Car Park Building 500, Discovery Park Sandwich, CT13 9FF

The following land is in scope:

- Onshore cable alignment locations (Baypoint Sports Club, Crostline and BCA Sports Solutions);
- The proposed substation site; and
- The proposed grid connection location in Richborough Energy Park.

Representatives of the Applicant, the owners and occupiers of the land, Dover District Council, Thanet District Council and Kent Country Council are invited to attend.

Attendees will travel from the meeting place to locations in Richborough relevant to the onshore cable corridor, substation and grid connection proposals, using their own private transport. Detailed site inspections within private land will be made on foot.

Attendees who do not have their own means of transport or who have special transport needs are requested to contact the Case Team by emailing ThanetExtension@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 6 February 2019** so that transport and access arrangements can be made.

A detailed itinerary will be published on the website no later than one week before the event, to take account of any access, security, health and safety arrangements advised by the Applicant and/or the owners or occupiers of the land.

Attendees are requested to arrive at the meeting place by 12 noon to receive a compulsory safety briefing and introductory remarks from the Planning Inspectorate. The ASI will commence as soon as possible after these are concluded.

The inspection will largely be on foot and include walking on uneven or wet ground. Winter weather conditions may be expected. The Planning Inspectorate therefore advises attendees to wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather, and sturdy footwear. Certain sites may have additional requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn. The reasonable directions of site managers provided in the interests of health and safety must be observed. If severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances emerge, this ASI may be cancelled or re-arranged as

published on the website at any time prior to the meeting time, or by oral notice provided at the meeting location.

The Applicant is requested to engage with the landowners/ occupiers and to advise the Case Team **no later than 6 February 2019 of** any advance requirements and arrangements for security, access and PPE use, for inclusion in the final itinerary.

Please be reminded that the purpose of this site inspection is to allow the ExA to look at particular physical features, first hand. It is not an opportunity to make any oral representations about the application to the ExA.