



# The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

## **The Planning Act 2008**

Application for Development Consent for the Cleve Hill Solar Park

Case ref: EN010085

## **Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection**

### **Inspection 5: Oare Marshes**

*23 July 2019, 1410 to 1520*

The Examining Authority undertook an unaccompanied site inspection on 23 July 2019 to observe the easterly view towards the Application Site from the western bank of Faversham Creek at Oare Marshes. All inspections took place from a highway or public right of way. This note is a brief record to inform the Applicant, Interested Parties and other parties of the actions taken by the Examining Authority.

The inspection was undertaken by two members of the Examining Authority, Mr David Rose and Mr Andrew Mahon.

The weather was hot and sunny with no cloud cover. Long-distance views across and beyond the Application Site were clearly available.

The route (see map A) started from the small car park behind the coastal defences at Oare Marshes and followed the Saxon Way public footpath along the coastal defence embankment eastwards to the bird hide and then southwards to a point opposite the Shipwright's Arms at Hollowshore, at the confluence of Faversham Creek and Oare Creek. Here, the inspection turned and returned to the starting point along the reverse route.

The water bodies and reedbeds of the Kent Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve were noted, with the lake seen to be attracting large concentrations of waterfowl and waders. The nearby vegetation types and agricultural activities associated with the area were also observed, including saltmarsh, grazing marsh, arable crops, hay fields and ditches with reedbeds. The tide was low, and the mud flats of Faversham Creek were being well used by a variety of waterfowl: there was a regular exchange of birds between the various local habitats. The view up the Creek to the town of Faversham was noted, including a clear sight of the spire of the Parish Church of St Mary of Charity.

The views towards the Application Site were also noted in detail, including the scale and character of the intervening landscape and vegetation types, the dynamic character of Faversham Creek, and the backdrops to relevant views. The recreational use and amenity value of the area was also evaluated. Site features such as the coastal defences, the pylon line and the Cleve Hill substation were located and noted.

**Map A: the route taken**

