



# 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 6: Isle of Harty**

*24 July 2019, 1430 to 1545 and 1550 to 1600*

The Examining Authority undertook an unaccompanied site inspection on 24 July 2019 to observe the southerly view towards the Application Site from the Isle of Harty on the north bank of The Swale. All inspections took place from a public highway or public place. 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 a scattered covering of thin, high cloud. Long-distance views across and beyond the Application Site and eastwards to Herne Bay and beyond were clearly available.

The walking route (see map A) started from Sayes Court and Harty Churchyard and along the public rights of way to the sea defence embankment of the Swale National Nature Reserve at a point to the north of Cleve Hill.

The Application Site was viewed from the Church and Churchyard, observing the Application Site, the pylons, the Head of Faversham Creek, the coastal defence wall around the Application Site, and the backdrop of trees, buildings, agricultural structures and the more distant wooded hills.

As well as looking at the views towards the Application Site, the scale and character of the intervening landscape and vegetation types were noted, including lines of poplar trees, the broad views and dynamic tidal character of the Swale and the distribution, scale and patterns of its saltmarsh vegetation.

Possible future changes to the views if the Proposed Development was to be built were assessed.

Similar views were experienced from the coastal footpath to the east, though from lower ground, from where less depth to the Application Site was visible. The variation in colour and character of the existing sea defences around the Application Site was noted, along with clear but distant views of Cleve Hill and the existing substation.

The walking route was followed back to the starting point, where it ended, and the inspection continued by car to the Ferry House Inn at Harty Ferry. The view from the Ferry jetty and its approach, and from the area close to the Ferry House Inn were inspected on foot. The head of Faversham Creek and the areas previously visited on unaccompanied site inspections along Faversham Creek were noted, along with the pylon line and the Application Site and its coastal defences.

### Map A: the route taken

