



Planning Inspectorate

Application by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd for the proposed North Falls Offshore Windfarm

Case reference: EN010119

Examining Authority's note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) to which the Application or Specified Matters relates on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 December 2024

Examining Inspectors Wendy McKay, Helen Van Willegen, Jonathan Medlin, Anthony Johnson and Matthew Shrigley being the Panel appointed as the Examining Authority (ExA) for the application for the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (the Proposed Development) undertook the Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) firstly in the late afternoon of Wednesday 4 December (USI 1) and secondly on the morning of Thursday 5 December 2024 (USI 2).

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot on public roads, public footpaths and publicly accessible land. A route was planned having regard to issues raised in relevant representations, enabling the ExA to familiarise itself with the character of the area within which the substation, onshore cable route and temporary construction compounds and other works associated with the Proposed Development would be located. In addition, the route was planned to obtain views of the proposed offshore wind turbines from identified viewpoints and to view the existing windfarms visible from the area between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea.

The ExA commenced USI 1 at 4.30pm at Lawford SubStation on Ardleigh Road. The weather was generally dry and clear, and darkness had fallen. The ExA looked at the proposed onshore substation site from the area near VP04. The ExA then stopped at Normans Farm on Ardleigh Road and looked at the proposed substation site from VP03.

The ExA then drove on public highways to Walton-on-the-Naze and the public car park adjacent to Naze Tower. The ExA walked past Naze tower towards the cliff top to view the existing offshore windfarm arrays during hours of darkness. The ExA stopped at VP13. USI 1 was then concluded at 5.45pm.

USI 2 commenced at 9.15am. The weather was slightly overcast but visibility was generally good, and it was dry. The ExA returned to the Lawford Substation and stopped again near VP04 to look at the proposed substation site. The ExA then drove to Normans Farm and looked at the proposed substation site and access route in the fields adjacent to Normans Farm from VP03

The ExA stopped at the start of Little Bromley FP12 and viewed the proposed substation site from VP02 and then proceeded to St Mary's Church where the ExA walked around the church and onto Little Bromley FP16 at Hall Farm viewing from VP07.

The ExA then drove along Bentley Road to view the location of the temporary construction compounds, haul road and road widening works. At the end of Bentley Road, the ExA turned onto the A120, noting the location of the proposed highway improvements at this point.

At the Horsley Cross roundabout, the ExA travelled north passing the water tower and Abbots Hall to see the location of the temporary construction compound and the cable route. The ExA returned to the roundabout and then headed south-east on the B1035, observing the location of the proposed temporary construction compound south of the A120.

The ExA viewed the proposed cable route passing east of Tendring Green and drove to Wolves Hall Farm before proceeding to Barkers Hall Cottages and Swans Road to look at the location of the proposed temporary construction compound location and the trees that are subject to a TPO.

At Thorpe-le-Soken, the ExA observed the proposed cable route at Landsmere Road and then proceeded to Great Holland, noting the proposed location of the temporary construction compounds at Great Holland Lodge.

The ExA next visited Holland Haven Country Park to the south west of VP14 (Frinton-on-Sea) and walked to Holland Haven on the path, noting the Port of London Radar, the Gunfleet Boating Club and the beach huts. The visibility was clear and the ExA were able to see Gunfleet Sands, Gunfleet Sands Demonstration, London Array, Galloper and Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farms from the path.

The ExA concluded USI2 at 12.15pm in Clacton-on-Sea having driven along the promenade to the pier (VP15).