



The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Act 2008

Application for Development Consent for Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

Case Ref. EN010125

The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI2)

Background

The Examining Authority (the ExA) undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection to support the Examination of an application for Development Consent for the proposed Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms on Wednesday 25 September 2024.

The ExA carried out its Unaccompanied Site Inspection from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths and bridleways). No inspections were undertaken on private land, and advance permission to enter land was not required so the inspections could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The site inspection was undertaken to view the locations of the proposed onshore converter station site, cable route, temporary construction compounds and other elements of the proposed scheme in the context of the existing highway network and the surrounding area.

Particulars of the Site Inspection

The inspection was undertaken by Jo Dowling, Helena Obremski, Laura Shorney and Matthew Tandy.

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot. Weather conditions were dry, partly sunny and overcast in the afternoon and temperatures circa 15 degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were at all times suitable to appreciate long range views.

The inspection commenced at approximately 8.45am and finished at approximately 5.15pm. A list of the locations visited is attached at Annex A and an overview of the inspection route and map of the locations is attached at Annex B.



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Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI2) on Wednesday 25 September 2024

The ExA undertook a site inspection at the following locations:

1. Beverley Westwood

The ExA parked at Newbald Road, Beverley Westwood. The ExA walked through Beverley Westwood towards Black Mill tower and observed views from this Grade II Listed Building westwards towards the proposed onshore cable corridor and southwards towards the proposed onshore converter station site. The ExA continued its walk in a south-westerly direction onto Walkington Footpath No 6 where it observed where the proposed onshore cable corridor would cross the footpath. The ExA noted the hedgerows proposed for removal as well as a woodland (Shorthill Hag) and a largely dry, vegetated pond in close proximity to the proposed onshore cable corridor. The ExA then walked northwards through Beverley Westwood and followed Newbald Road towards the south-west. The ExA observed the location of the proposed crossing of the onshore cable corridor with Newbald Road as well as views northwards where the proposed cable corridor would route to the west of Burton Buses. The ExA noted various mature trees and hedgerows along the verges of Newbald Road, where a trenchless crossing is proposed.

Map of Walk 1: Beverley Westwood



2. Walkington

The ExA then drove to Walkington and parked on Crake Wells, near Walkington Primary School. The ExA walked southwards and eastwards on Walkington Footpath No 3 to viewpoint 5 ([APP-193] figure 23-11), where it noted the location of the proposed onshore convertor station site.



Map of Walk 2: Walkington Footpath No 3



3. Oriel Close

The ExA then drove to Oriel Close, off Broadgate, and observed views from viewpoint 4 ([APP-193], Figure 23-10).

4. Onshore Converter Station Site

The ExA then parked at a public car park off Broadgate and walked south-westwards along Broadgate and then south onto Walkington Footpath No 4. The ExA continued on this footpath, adjoining the Order Limits and proposed location of the two temporary construction compounds (Works No 23 A/ B). The ExA noted the sloping landscape and existing agricultural fields. The ExA observed views towards the proposed onshore converter station site and from the viewpoint 3 ([APP-193], Figure 23-9). The ExA also observed views towards the location of the Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gunsite (Scheduled Monument) and Butt Farm. The ExA continued southwards on Walkington Footpath No 9 up to the woodland (Johnson's Pit) and observed further views towards the proposed onshore converter station site. The ExA then returned to Walkington Footpath No 4, following it eastwards. The ExA observed the location of the proposed permanent footpath diversion (as identified in [APP-234]) and continued the walk towards Butt Farm, stopping to observe views from viewpoint 1 ([APP-193], Figure 23-7). The ExA continued over the bridge over the A1079 and noted views south-eastwards onto the Jock's Lodge junction and improvement works.



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Map of Walk 4: Onshore Converter Station



5. Bentley

The ExA parked the car on Main Street/ Copleflat Lane in Bentley and walked east towards the A164. The ExA noted that the junction with the A164 was currently closed due to the ongoing Jocks Lodge road improvement works and consequently no traffic was observed driving through Bentley. The ExA observed views northwards towards the proposed onshore converter station site and from viewpoint 2, Copleflat Lane, Bentley ([APP-193], Figure 23-8). The ExA crossed the A164 towards Rowley Bridleway No 13 but noted that the bridleway had been closed from 19 August 2024 for a period of approximately 6 months up to the junction with Woodmansey Bridleway No 6 due to the ongoing road improvement works. The ExA then continued northwards along the A164 up to the junction with the A1079 and observed the residential properties on the western side of the A164 and the Bentley Sanctuary Stone (Scheduled Monument) on the eastern side of the A164. The ExA also observed views westwards towards the proposed onshore converter station. The ExA then returned towards Bentley and continued further westwards along Bentley Lane. The ExA observed further views northwards towards the proposed onshore converter station site.

Map of Walk 5: Bentley



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6. Risby Hall and Garden

The ExA then drove southwards via Dunflat Road to Risby Hall and Gardens, a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. The ExA observed views from Dunflat Road and noted the extent of woodland towards the north and north-east. The ExA then walked northwards from Dunflat Road on Rowley Footpath No 8, following the eastern boundary of the woodland, and observed views onto the proposed onshore converter station site from the north-eastern boundary of the woodland.

Map of Walk 6: Risby Hall and Garden



7. Skidby



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The ExA then drove to the village of Skidby and parked on Church Rise. The ExA walked northwards along Skidby Bridleway No 4 and observed views towards the proposed onshore converter station. The ExA also observed views from viewpoint 6, footpath Risby ([APP-193], Figure 23-12).

Map of Walk 7: Skidby Bridleway No 4



8. Creyke Beck Substation

For context, the ExA drove eastwards through Cottingham to view the location of the existing Creyke Beck substation and battery storage, situated on Park Lane. The ExA observed views onto the substation as well as surrounding land including the location of the proposed onward onshore cable corridor from the proposed onshore converter station to the proposed National Grid substation and views towards the north onto the existing Dogger Bank converter station, situated to the north of the A1079.

9. Woodmansey

The ExA drove northwards to the village of Woodmansey and stopped at Hull Road (A1174) to observe views towards the proposed onshore converter station in a south-western direction. The ExA also visited viewpoint 7, Woodmansey ([APP-193], Figure 23-13).

10. A1079 Layby



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The drive continued north-westwards along the A1079, back towards Beverley. The ExA stopped at the layby on the southern side of the A1079 to observe the proposed location of the permanent access zone (Works No 21 A/ B) from the public highway as well as the location of the proposed crossing of the cable route under the A1079. The ExA also noted views southwards towards the proposed onshore converter station and access zone and proposed main temporary construction compound (Works No 20 A/ B). The ExA observed mature trees and hedgerow cover along the road verges. The ExA then returned to Beverley where it finished the site inspection.



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Annex B: Overview of the inspection route

