



The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Act 2008

Application for Development Consent for Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (Generating Station)

Case Ref: EN010130

The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Day One: Wednesday 22 May 2024

Background

The Examining Authority ('the ExA') undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (Generating Station) ('the application') on Wednesday 22 May 2024.

The ExA carried out its USI 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 these inspections could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The USI was undertaken in order to view the locations of the proposed landfall, cable route, construction compounds, onshore substation site, and other elements of the proposed application in the context of the existing highway network and the surrounding area.

Particulars of the USI

The USI was undertaken by: Mark James, Gavin Jones, Gaurav Joshi, Rod MacArthur and Claire Megginson

The USI was undertaken by car and on foot. Weather conditions were wet with both moderate and light rain at times, with a temperature of circa 14 degrees centigrade.

Visibility: Fair to Good.

The USI commenced at approximately 09:15 and finished at approximately 15:10. A list of the locations visited is attached in Annex A, an overview of the inspection route is attached in Annex B.



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Annex A: Details of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Day One: Wednesday 22 May 2024

The Viewpoints visited on this date included Landscape Viewpoints as identified in Chapter 28: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the Environmental Statement [[APP-083](#)].

The ExA drove from Boston along the A17 to Craven's Lane and stopped at the end of Craven's Lane. At this location the ExA observed the proposed temporary Construction Access (Work No 18) and the approximate location of the proposed Secondary Construction Compound 26 (Work No 19). The ExA then drove south noting the approximate locations of the highway alterations works (Work No 21) and stopped on Wash Road in front of the Middlecott's Hospital (Grade II Listed Building) observing the proposed temporary construction access (Work No 18) and adjacent fields. The ExA proceeded from this location, driving along Wash Road and observing the proposed Order limits. The ExA crossed the A17 and stopped on Surfleet Bank where the ExA looked out to see the approximate location of the Secondary Construction Compound 28 (Work No 19) and proposed temporary Vehicular Access Tracks (Work No 18). The ExA noted the location of Grave's Farm Building.

The ExA then drove to Viewpoint 1 ([APP-125](#)) on Marsh Lane near Manor House to see the proposed location of the onshore substation, the proposed landscaping works (Work No 23) and the proposed corridor for the onshore cable route running from the east in the direction of the proposed onshore substation to the west. The ExA then visited Viewpoint 2 ([APP-126](#)) on A16 near Marsh Lane Junction to visualise the Proposed Development from that location. The ExA walked around in the vicinity of that viewpoint to see the different viewpoints of the Proposed Development and the proposed landscaping works (Work No 23) and noted the location of Vicarage Farm. The ExA drove to Viewpoint 3 ([APP-127](#)) and stopped at Surfleet Bank Junction. The ExA walked along the road between A16 and the proposed Temporary Work Areas (Work No 19) towards the north to observe the views of the proposed onshore substation and visualise the proposed landscaping works (Works No 23). The ExA then travelled to Surfleet Bank Junction near to Viewpoint 4, stopped the car, and walked towards Viewpoint 4 ([APP-129](#)) Macmillan Way near the Ship Inn. The ExA observed to the north the approximate location of the onshore cable corridor, the proposed Order limits and visualised the proposed National Grid substation location to the south.



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Walk 1, Towards Viewpoint 4.



The ExA then travelled back on Surfleet Bank and stopped on Marsh Drive near to Big Tree Honey Farm. The ExA observed the approximate location of the Landscaping Works (Work No 23) and the Drainage Works (Work No 24). The ExA then drove to the A17, turned right towards Marsh Road on the south side of the River Welland and observed the onshore cable route, stopping near Cowtree Cottages to see the approximate location of the onshore substation.

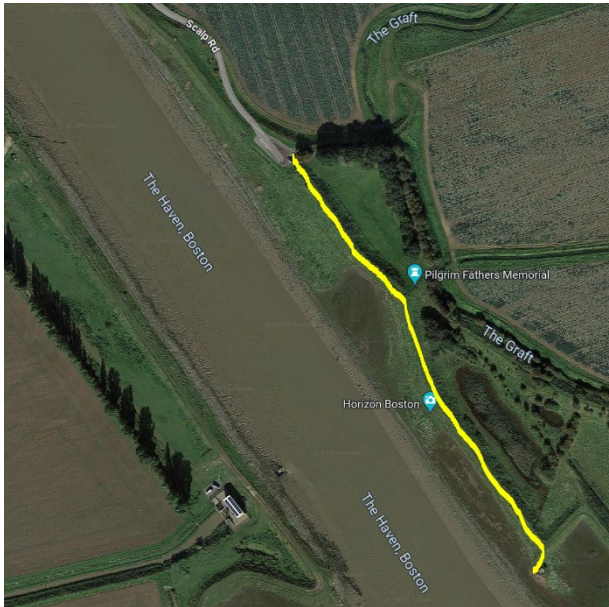
The ExA subsequently drove to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Frampton Marsh Reserve and parked the car in the parking area. The ExA observed the Frampton Marsh RSPB Reserve and RSPB Greater Frampton Vision Project Area. The ExA returned to the car and drove on Wyberton Road and stopped near 'The Ship' building and observed the temporary vehicular access tracks for construction (Work No 18) and the proposed Secondary Construction Compound 22 as well as the Wyberton Roads South Compensation Site for the Boston Alternative Energy Facility.

Next, the ExA travelled to the other side of The Haven through Boston and stopped at the Pilgrim Memorial car park on Scalp Road. The ExA walked along the Public Footpath to the Pilgrim Memorial and observed the approximate location of the onshore cable corridor, Cable Installation Compound 251, Secondary Construction Compound 21, The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site and noted the Horizon public art site.



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Walk 2, At Pilgrim Fathers' Memorial



The ExA then drove along Fen Bank Road to observe the Friskney Decoy Wood Local Wildlife Trust Site, the approximate proposed location of Cable Installation Compound 137 and the proposed Secondary Construction Compound 12. From there, the ExA travelled to Brewster Lane and observed the level crossing before travelling to Church Lane through Croft Bank. En route, the ExA observed the proposed temporary vehicular access tracks (Work No 18) at Brewster Lane. The ExA stopped at the entrance of the Public Right of Way (PRoW) on Church Lane and observed the approximate location of the temporary diversion of the PRoW and the nearest residential properties. The ExA then drove along the A52 and observed the Order limits of the Proposed Development and then returned to Boston.



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Annex B: Overview of the Unaccompanied Site Inspection route (Day One)

