



# The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

## **The Planning Act 2008**

### **Application for Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector**

Application ref: EN020022

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

*25 February 2020, 1430 to 1710*

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook an unaccompanied site inspection (USI) by car (with stopping points) on 25 February 2020, with the general purposes of observing:

- the proposed route of the onshore cable corridor;
- the general locality of the existing Lovedean Substation and proposed converter station;
- the general setting of the car park off Fort Cumberland Road; and
- road and general traffic conditions along the cable installation route in highways.

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 USI was undertaken by all three members of the ExA (Andrew Mahon, Stephen Roscoe and David Wallis).

The weather was cloudy with periods of heavy rainfall and consistent high winds, although the evening did brighten towards sunset. Intermediate views were available to the ExA on the route embarked upon.

The USI driving route commenced at 1435 at the entrance to the existing substation and headed north past Hinton Daubney House. A circuit was made on the roads forming the perimeter of the proposed Order Limits at the northern end of the Order Land, stopping briefly where the Monarch's Way footpath meets the highway and pausing to confirm addresses of properties on Old Mill Lane and Boundary Lane. The position and relative visibility of the substation and proposed converter station site in the landscape were observed, as well as the topography, hedgerows, copses and other features that contribute to the landscape character and quality. The relationship with the South Downs National Park and the Monarch's Way long distance footpath were noted. Reference was

made to the baseline photographs and visualisations provided with the application as appropriate.

The route continued from Edneys Lane to Anmore to observe Kings Pond, before proceeding to follow the route of the proposed onshore cable corridor along various highways.

Short viewing stops were held at the car park off the B2177 prior to Farlington Avenue, Farlington Playing Field and the Holiday Inn, Baffin Milton Rovers FC pitches (via the diverted road through the construction site for the coastal protection scheme), the Great Salterns Mansion Harvester, Bransbury Park with Yeo Court and finally the car park at Fort Cumberland. At each location the general characteristics of the area were noted with reference to the Works and Lands Plans accompanying the application.

The ExA concluded the drive to Eastney by 1635, before retracing its steps to leave Portsea Island via the A2030 and the A27. The ExA was able to observe early rush hour traffic conditions in both directions on the A2030, concluding the visit at 1710 once on the A27.