



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

26 February 2020, 1000 to 1310

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook an unaccompanied site inspection (USI) consisting of several specifically targeted walking routes over the course of the day. 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.

This was undertaken by all three Members of the ExA panel, Andrew Mahon, Stephen Roscoe and David Wallis.

The weather was sunny following a frosty night, with occasional cloud and strong winds. Visibility was good, with long distance views available.

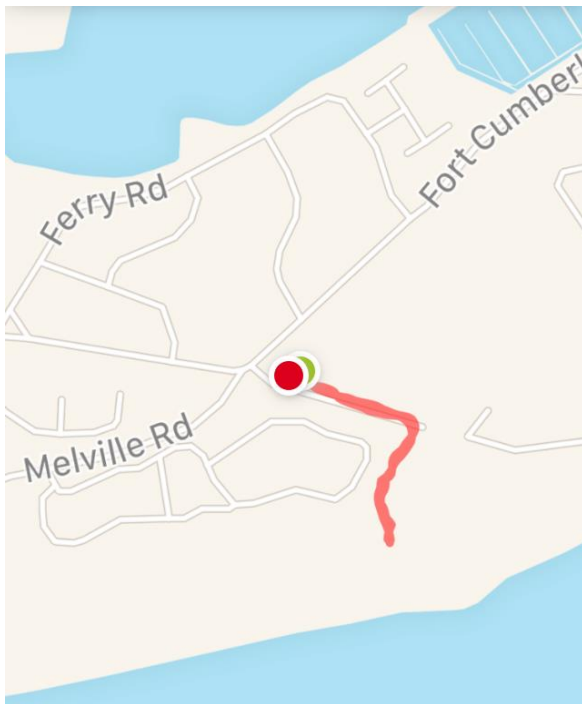
The following is a summary of each of the walks taken.

Walk 1

1000 - 1020

The USI began in the car park off Fort Cumberland Road at 1000. The walking route started from the car park and along the track on the northern perimeter of the Southsea Holiday Park to the gates of Fraser Range, then through onto Eastney beach where the foreshore and entrance to Langstone Harbour were observed. Note was made of the landscape and seascape conditions, the proximity of various heritage assets and shipping and other evident marine activities. The walking route was followed back to the starting point where it ended.

Map A: Route Taken on Walk 1



Walk 2

1030 - 1145

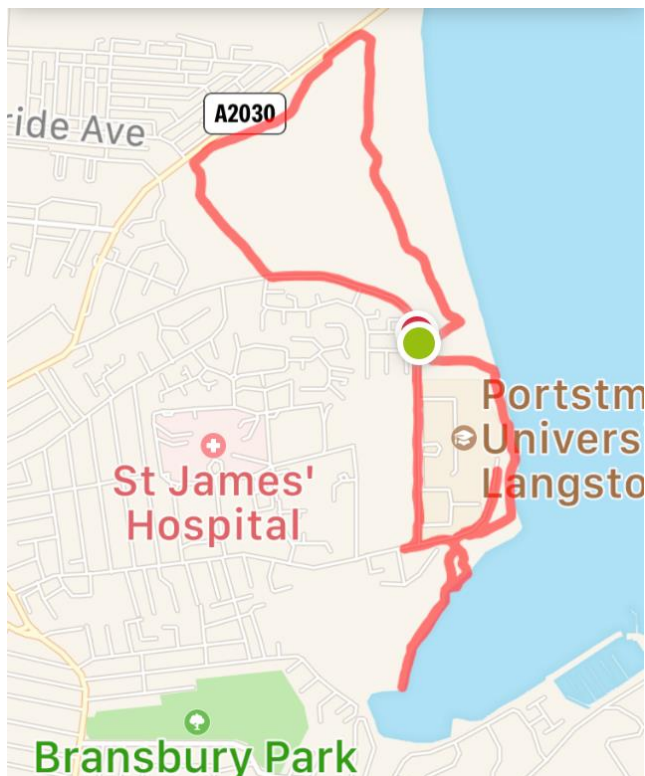
The walk commenced on Moorings Way close to Sanderling Road. From there, the route followed the bus only lane through the University of Portsmouth campus, through the car park of the Thatched House Public House, and along the beach to the east of the allotments. Walking back towards the Thatched House Public House, the route passed through the Milton Locks Nature Reserve. Before moving on to the Solent Way public footpath, a short diversion was followed to observe the eastern side of the University campus from the end of Longshore Way.

The ExA then followed the sea wall (Solent Way) past Locks Sailing Club up to Milton Common. The ExA walked around the Common, broadly following the cable route options proposed by the Applicant before returning to the car; during the drive off Portsea Island, the opportunity was taken to observe traffic on the A2030 and the proximity of residential areas and community facilities.

Along the walking route, the character, terrain, topography, trees, other vegetation, general wildlife and evidence of use associated with the various open spaces and facilities were noted.

The map below shows the walking route.

Map B: Route Taken on Walk 2



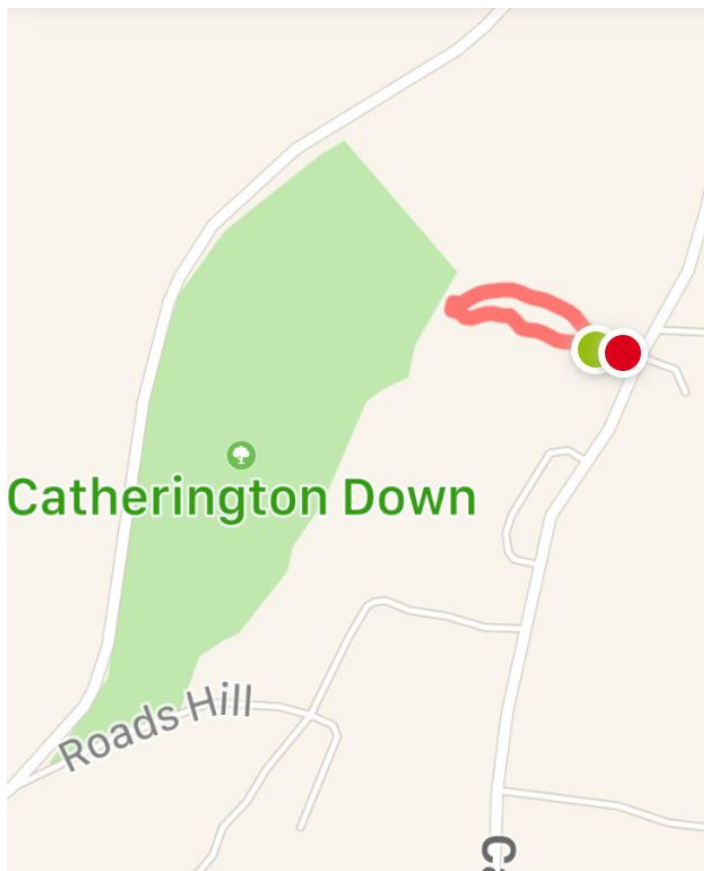
Walk 3

1210 - 1225

The ExA undertook a short walk from the Catherington Down car park close to the school and All Saints Church in Catherington. This walk into the public open space allowed the ExA to observe the quality, condition and character of the landscape and the position of the existing Lovedean substation, pylons and electricity lines within the view and topography.

The inspection continued by car, leaving Catherington Road via the lane linking to Hinton Manor Road, taking in observations of the setting of Hinton Manor.

Map C: Route Taken on Walk 3

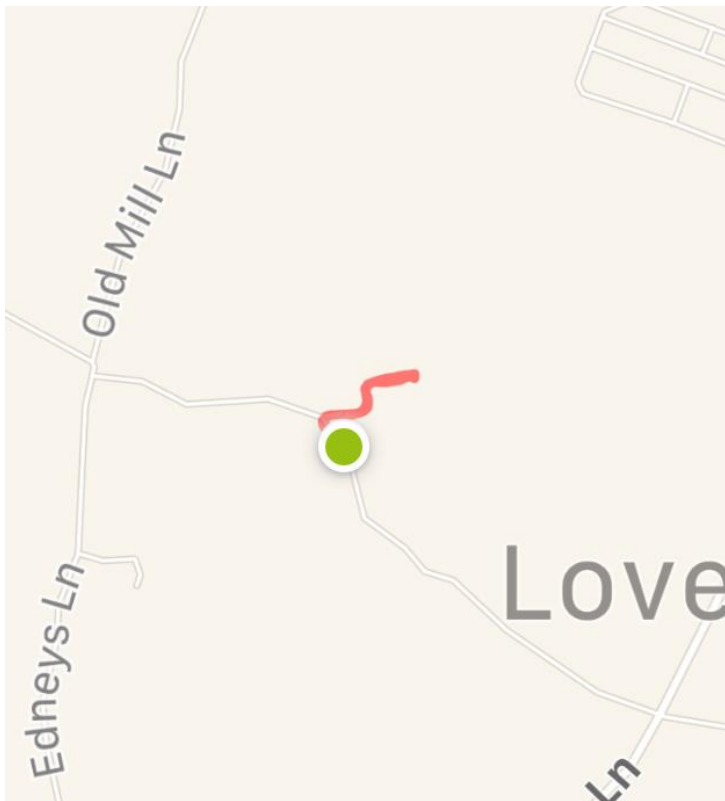


Walk 4

1235 - 1245

The inspection continued by car, stopping to review the viewpoint from Monarch's Way previously visited on the 25 February 2020 USI to observe the Proposed Development Site and the views to the South Downs National Park in different weather conditions. At the point where Old Mill Lane becomes Edney Lane, a short walk was conducted for the purposes of viewing the existing substation and the proposed site for the converter station from the south, following the public footpath through a farmyard and stable complex. The views, character, quality and condition of the landscape were reviewed.

Map D: Route Taken on Walk 4



The ExA returned to the car park at Catherington via local roads, viewing the proposed new site entrance at the Boundary Lane / Day Lane junction in the process.