



Application for Development Consent for
Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension
Case Ref: EN010084

Examining Authority's Note of Unaccompanied Inspection of Sites

Inspection 5:

Views from Reculver Towers, Westgate and Margate

15 April 2019

Background

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook its fifth unaccompanied site inspection (USI5) on the afternoon of 15 April 2019 to support its examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension (the application).

Inspections were undertaken from publicly accessible land including highways and public rights of way. No access was required to private land, so advance permission to enter land was not required and these inspections could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The inspections were undertaken to assess views to the existing Thanet Offshore Wind Farm and to the proposed Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension.

The fifth unaccompanied inspection is recorded in this note, the purpose of which is to inform the applicant, interested parties and other persons of actions already taken by the ExA.

The site inspection programme was discussed at the Preliminary Meeting held on 11 December 2018. The applicant, interested parties and other persons were provided with an opportunity to provide comments to the ExA on the approach that it should take to site inspections and to nominate site inspection locations. An opportunity has been provided to propose inspections of private land on an accompanied basis, should this be necessary. Anticipated accompanied site inspections (ASIs) have now been carried out. The ExA has also carried out an extensive round of unaccompanied site inspections (USIs), of which this USI5 is the last. It follows that the site inspection programme is complete.

Particulars of the Inspections

The inspection was undertaken by the ExA: Rynd Smith, Jessica Powis and Stephen Bradley, supported by Robert Ranger (Case Manager) and Bart Bartkowiak (Case Officer) from the Planning Inspectorate. The purpose of the visit was for the ExA to become familiar with:

- views towards the existing Thanet Offshore Wind Farm and to the proposed Thanet Offshore Wind Farm Extension (the application site and surrounds offshore) from Reculver Towers; and
- views on the same basis from the North Thanet coast, Westgate and Margate.

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot on 15 April 2019 commencing at 1600hrs. Weather conditions were dry with sun and hazy cloud over the Thames Estuary; visibility good (more than 5nm) with low haze over the sea. This was adequate to appreciate short and medium-range views towards the proposed development from each of the locations that were inspected. However, long range views to structures at sea including the existing Thanet Offshore Wind Farm were occluded by haze. However, on the basis that the ExA has already familiarised itself with views to the existing wind farm from a range of relevant distances, the primary purpose of this inspection was to view relevant onshore receptor locations, and this was able to be accomplished. The inspection concluded at 1800hrs.

Individual locations inspected and the purposes of those inspections are recorded in the attached Annex.

Annex

Place	References	Notes
North Kent Views to proposed Array	SLVIA Offshore Viewpoints [APP-053] and Figure 12.54 [APP-128] Montages	
Viewpoint 1: Reculver Towers and Country Park		Walked around the Towers and ruins; views along coast toward Margate shrouded by haze. Existing Thanet WF not visible. Kentish flats Array just discernible.
Viewpoint 2: Westbrook POS (West of Margate)	CT9 5DW	Walked through P.O.S.; views toward Margate harbour lightly shrouded by haze. Existing Thanet WF not visible.
Viewpoint 3: Margate Harbour (Turner Art Gallery)	CT9 1HG	Walked from Art Gallery to end of boat park; one ship visible at anchor in Margate Road. Existing Thanet WF not visible.