

# Help us build an extension to Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

Vattenfall, a leading European energy company, would like to extend its Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm (also known by local people as Whitstable or Herne Bay Wind Farm) with up to 17 wind turbines. This Statement of Community Consultation explains how you can comment on its proposed application for a development consent order to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

## Kentish Flats Extension - the proposal

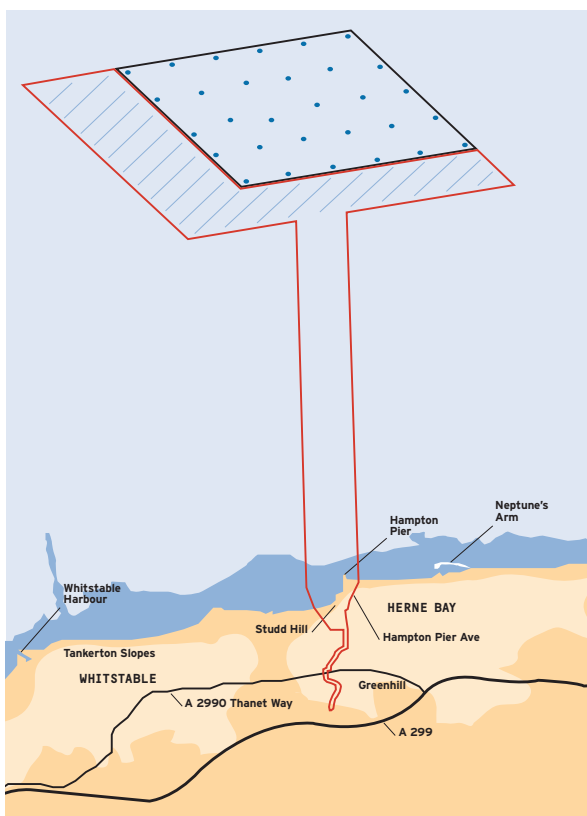
The existing Kentish Flats wind farm with 30 wind turbines has been producing green electricity since 2005. The proposed extension is around 8km off Herne Bay and will be to the south and west of the current project. It could add up to 17 wind turbines in 7.7 km<sup>2</sup> of sea, in water depths between three and five metres at lowest tide.

The wind turbines for the extension will have a similar capacity to those currently used, with a tip height up to 145 metres. The turbines will be placed on top of large steel tube foundations which will be driven up to 35 metres into the seabed, similar to the current scheme.

Underwater cables will connect turbines to the existing offshore substation from which one or two underwater cables will run to shore at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay. Onshore, the new cables will follow the route of the existing cabling along the Hampton Pier Road under paved roads to the Red House Farm substation south of Herne Bay. KFE will not require any changes to the power grid.

Due to its scale, Vattenfall must do an assessment, known as EIA, of possible significant environmental effects of the extension. We are also seeking views from all interests, including the public, on the proposal. We will consult on the whole project and have identified the following as likely to be important:

- Potential cumulative impacts on Red-throated divers in the Thames Estuary
- Visual, landscape and seascape effects
- Impact on fishing, leisure and business interests, including tourism
- Impact of onshore construction on nearby households
- Impact on traffic on roads caused by onshore works



There will be an opportunity to consider these and other points, during the consultation process. We will make available the preliminary findings of our EIA. This initial environmental information will also describe any alternatives we are considering and measures to minimise impacts.

## Why Vattenfall wants to extend Kentish Flats

Kentish Flats Extension (KFE) could generate up to 150,000 megawatt hours per year of clean electricity, if 17 turbines are deployed. This is equivalent to the total annual electricity needs of up to 35,000 UK homes.

The UK's delivery of its offshore wind potential could supply the equivalent of 30% of the country's electricity demand. Offshore wind in the UK will help European green energy targets and the reduction of emissions that cause climate change.

Vattenfall is committed to major reductions in carbon emissions from its activities as an energy company. Wind power will it meet that commitment.

## About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a leading European energy company and is Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat. Across the north of Europe we operate many wind farms on land and in the sea. This includes Kentish Flats and Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, which is the world's largest offshore wind farm.

## Statement of Community Consultation and the Infrastructure Planning Commission

In 2008 new planning laws changed the way projects like KFE are dealt with. Under this new regime the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) controls the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Vattenfall will submit its proposal to the IPC following a consultation with both the community and organisations including the local authorities, Marine Management Organisation and Natural England.

We will carefully consider all responses received and when the application is made we will report to the IPC and all responders detailing how we have taken the communities' views into account.

The IPC will ask Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council for their opinion of the Vattenfall community consultation. The Councils' opinion will play an important part in whether the IPC accepts the application.

## Other planning matters

When the IPC decides on KFE it will take into account any energy related National Policy Statements (NPSs) published by the UK Government. These are currently in draft but will be finalised before a decision is made. These include: Energy (EN-1); Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and, Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5).

Vattenfall is unaware of any other applications to the IPC or local authorities or consultations which are relevant to this proposal.

You can view a document which describes our approach to the consultation on the Vattenfall website.

If you need help to understand this proposal and the IPC process you can contact Planning Aid by calling 0870 850 9806 or visiting [www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning\\_aid\\_in\\_your\\_area/south\\_east/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning_aid_in_your_area/south_east/)

## PUBLIC INFORMATION & CONSULTATION DAYS

Date & Time	Location
23 Feb 2011 2-8pm	Kings Hall Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 5BA
24 Feb 2011 2-8pm	Whitstable Castle Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW

## How you can find out more and tell Vattenfall what you think

Visit the website:

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm)

Email: [mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com](mailto:mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com)

Call: (0)7545 339 299

Post: Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB

Or use the feedback form and questionnaire available at the Public Information Days and public places where project documents are lodged.

This community consultation starts on 31 January, 2011 and you must reply in writing by 4 March, 2011 using the methods described above.

Please note that responses may be made public.

## Help us build the best possible wind farm - get in touch

Vattenfall has already started its consultation but the formal community consultation runs from 31 January 2011 to 4 March 2011. Kentish Flats is already an important feature in the area and we value our good relations with local people.

Please look at our proposals, the preliminary environmental information, maps and other documents. All of these will be available on our website for the duration of the application and, during the consultation period at the locations noted below.

Your views will be taken into account as we complete the assessments of the KFE, finalise the design of the wind farm, and before we submit an application to the IPC.

We will also do the following to help the Thames Estuary coastal community, especially around Herne Bay and Whitstable, and other interests, express their views on our plans:

- Contact by letter homes and businesses likely to be affected by our plans
- Hold public information and consultation days in Herne Bay and Whitstable with specialist staff on hand
- Advertise our plans in local papers
- Advertise the Statement of Community Consultation in local papers in the Thames Estuary region
- Hold separate workshops and meetings with fishermen, other users of the sea and the region's businesses
- Continue meetings with the Area Member Panels and Parish Councils of Whitstable and Herne Bay
- Maintain contact with all those who have shown an interest in the project
- Continue working with local media to publicise Vattenfall's plans
- Place all relevant documents on the Vattenfall website, including a questionnaire
- Work with Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council to inform local interests of our proposals explaining how they can get involved
- Work with both Councils to identify and engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Place the PEI, maps, other relevant documents and envelopes and questionnaires in the Harbour Office, Whitstable Harbour, the Canterbury City Council office in Herne Bay, Medway Council (Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham), Swale Borough Council (Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne), Thanet District Council (Cecil Street, Margate), Maldon District Council (Princes Road, Maldon), Rochford District Council, (3-19 South Street, Rochford) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (12th Fl, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea), Castle Point Borough Council (Kiln Road, Benfleet)

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