

The Kent Prospectus



A Place to Grow the Offshore Wind Farm Industry in the UK



Foreword

The UK has one of the largest offshore wind resources in the world and an estimated 33% of the total European offshore wind resource. Projects having an installed capacity of 8GW are already planned with the first developments complete and others now under construction. The UK Government has also confirmed that it wants to develop a further 25GW of capacity by 2030.

The Thames Estuary is a key development area for the UK where more than £5 billion is being invested in projects over the next 5-10 years. These projects need local support to succeed. Kent County Council, Thanet District Council and Locate in Kent have joined together to offer the offshore wind industry that support and establish Kent as an important centre in the UK's expansion plans.

We recognise that for the UK to successfully grow its own offshore wind industry the supporting infrastructure and development opportunities must be available. Our region is well placed to meet these demands and occupies a strategic location in the South East of England close to wind farm development areas and with a high degree of national and international connectivity. We believe Kent has the potential to grow into a leading UK centre and we invite you to share in that growth.

January 2010

Cover photos from the left:

Port of Ramsgate

Kentish Flats © Vattenfall

Service vessel at Whitstable Harbour

Kentish Flats © Vattenfall

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Every effort has been made to ensure that this document is accurate. However, in some instances it is based on information supplied by third parties and we cannot offer any guarantees as to the reliability or completeness of its contents. If you consider there are any errors or inaccuracies please contact us so that these may be corrected.

1. Introduction

The UK Government has very ambitious plans for the development of offshore wind farms in its coastal waters involving up to 33GW of new installed capacity by 2030. The plans reflect the need to provide secure and sustainable solutions for future UK energy supply and to meet the expectation set by the European Union that 20% of all energy should be renewably sourced by 2020. Member states have been set their own targets as part of achieving this expectation with the UK target set at 15%. More than 30% of UK electricity will need to be generated from renewable sources to meet this target with a significant proportion of that coming from offshore wind.

The Government is committed to supporting large-scale investment in the renewables sector and providing direct financial support for development of the offshore wind industry. This support extends to helping the establishment of a UK based supply chain and manufacturing sector, support to stimulate investment in UK ports, and, support for next generation technology development and demonstration.

In 2008 the UK overtook Denmark as the world number one for installed offshore capacity. The Thames Estuary is one of the three areas leading the first wave of UK development with 2GW of installed capacity. The significant scale of development within this area suggests that there is real potential to establish a focal point for the offshore wind industry.

Kent enjoys a prominent position in South East England with an extensive coastline extending alongside the southern half of the Thames Estuary and around into the English Channel. The areas connectivity and multi modal transport options offer real development advantages. We believe Kent is best placed to meet the needs of a growing technology led industry and recognise that these centre on port services, construction and assembly facilities, manufacturing plant, and, operations and maintenance bases. This prospectus seeks to highlight what Kent can offer together with the strengths of the region that make it an exceptional place in which to invest. Overleaf you will find the commitments we are making to support the growth and make Kent a county of choice for the offshore wind industry.

Our Commitments to the Offshore Wind Industry in Kent

1.

A joined up approach

We will work together and with others to support the development of the offshore wind farm industry in Kent

2.

Help for developers

We will work to better understand developers requirements and provide help to ensure we mutually benefit from the development process

3.

Inward investment

We will work to raise awareness of the opportunities for development in Kent particularly those linked to the growth of a UK supply chain and provide support to investors

4.

Skills & training

We will work to skill local people and ensure the Kent workforce is capable of meeting the requirements of a growing new industry

5.

Enabling infrastructure

We will work to enable the provision of infrastructure required to support or progress development where this is practical



2. A strategic location for wind power growth and development

The eastern seaboard of England enjoys shallow waters and strong wind resources extending far into the North Sea making it a very suitable location for the development of offshore wind farms. The Crown Estate, which owns the UK seabed, has identified strategic locations along the eastern seaboard where development can take place. The Thames Estuary and the Greater Wash, which are around 140 nautical miles apart, are two of the first areas to be developed with leases awarded by the Crown Estates following successive bidding rounds. In the first bidding round in 2001 projects were limited to 30 turbines. One of the very first schemes to be built under this round and become operational was the Kentish Flats project in the Thames Estuary.

The Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

Project Description:	Kentish Flats consists of 30 x 3MW Vestas V90 Wind turbines and is located 8km off the North Kent Coast at Herne Bay & Whitstable. The main export cables come ashore at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay and run 2.5km inland to an existing substation where connection to the National Grid distribution network is made.
Construction:	Construction of the Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm commenced in August 2004 and was completed at the end of August 2005. The wind farm became operational in September 2005.
Cost:	Overall project cost: £105,000,000
Ownership	The project was initially developed by Grep Marine UK but is now owned by the Swedish utility company Vattenfall.
Operation & Maintenance	Kentish Flats is operated for Vattenfall by Vestas Offshore. A service centre has been established at Whitstable Harbour from which operation of the wind farm can also be remotely monitored.



Kentish Flats is a very important project which has helped to highlight Kent's potential to host wind farm support services and in the longer term play a role in the growth of a UK based offshore wind industry.

In 2003 the Crown Estates awarded leases to much larger projects following a second round of bidding by developers. Details of the Thames Estuary projects, which have all now entered the construction phase, are set out in the table below (*see also map 1*).

Wind Farm	Location	Turbines	MW	Status	Developer
Thanet Offshore	Thames Estuary	100 Vestas 3MW	300	Under construction / completion 2010	Vattenfall
London Array	Thames Estuary	271 Siemens 3.6MW	1000	Phase 1 (175 turbines) under construction / completion 2011	DONG Energy / E.on / Masdar
Greater Gabbard	Thames Estuary	140 Siemens 3.6MW	504	Under construction / completion 2011	Scottish and Southern Energy / RWE npower
Gunfleet Sands I	Thames Estuary	30 Siemens 3.6 MW	108	Under construction / completion 2010	DONG Energy
Gunfleet Sands II	Thames Estuary	18 Siemens 3.6MW	64	Under construction / completion 2010	DONG Energy

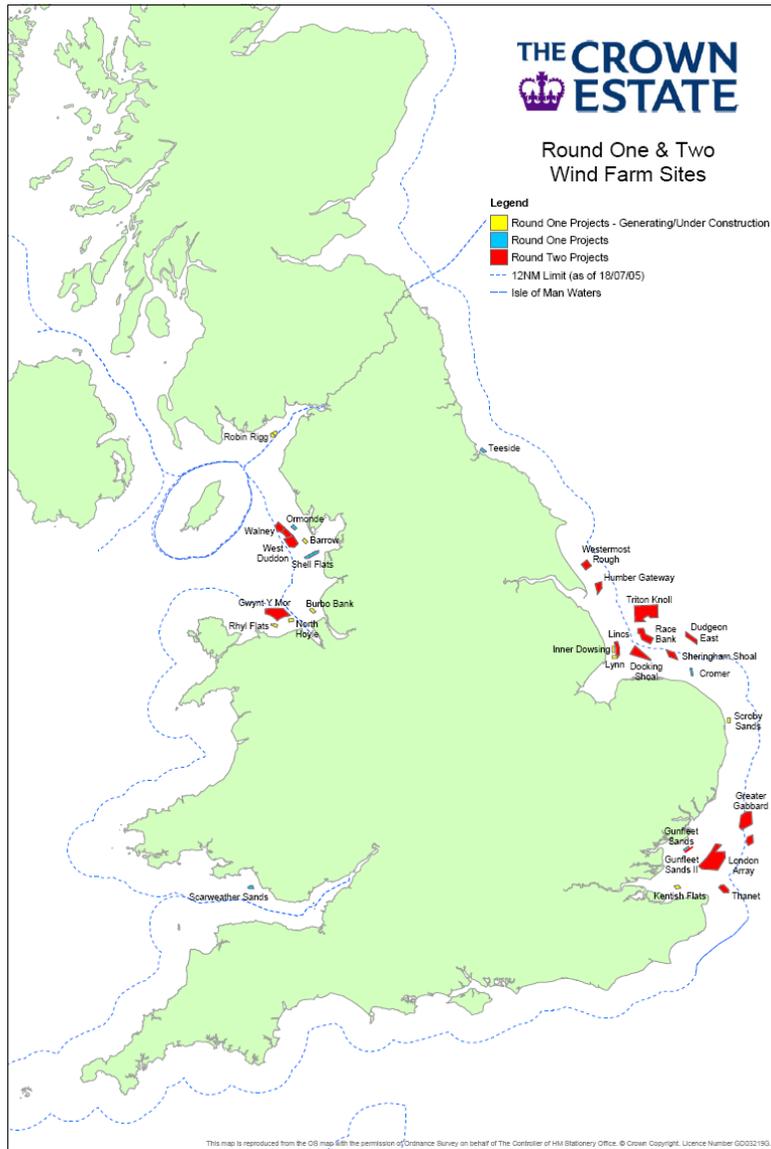
Both the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm and the London Array have chosen to use the Port of Ramsgate in East Kent as a base during the construction phase and the location for their future operations and maintenance facilities. This commitment is bringing new long term investment and jobs to the port and the construction of state of the art facilities from which to maintain and operate two of the UK's largest offshore wind farms.

In terms of further development opportunities for round one and round two projects, the Crown of Estates has offered to extend leases to 50 years where this is not already the case. This will allow operators to plan for re-powering of their projects with new turbines. The Crown Estates has also offered operators the opportunity to bring forward proposals for extending these projects. A number of the Thames Estuary operators are known to be interested in taking advantage of this offer which will further strengthen the areas position as a centre for the offshore wind industry. It could also be advantageous to suppliers looking to establish facilities in the UK as the industry gears up to the challenge of building projects in deeper coastal waters.

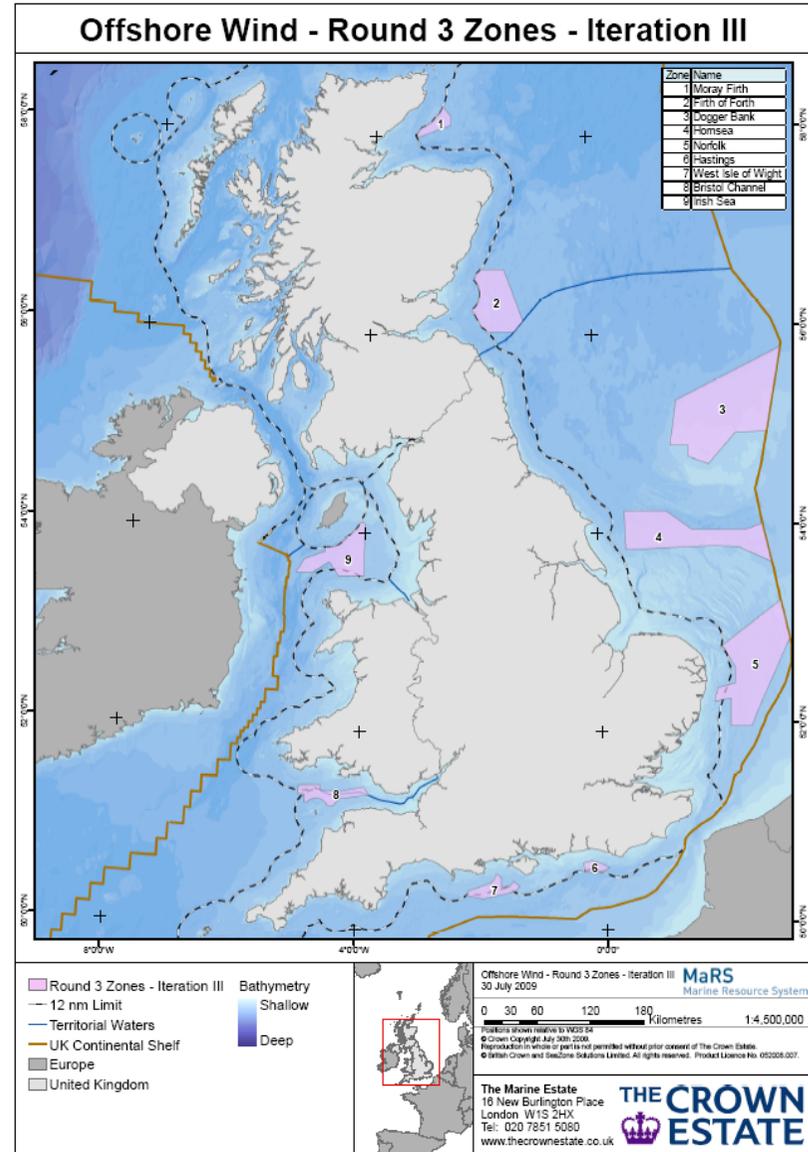
The next tranche of offshore wind development in deeper coastal waters is covered by the Crown Estates third round development programme (*see map 2*). This is now at an advanced stage with the developer selection process complete. It is intended that this round will bring forward projects in deeper coastal waters with the largest of the new development areas being in the Southern North Sea.

The latest round confirms the significant level of UK ambition to grow offshore wind towards 33GW of installed capacity by 2030. Kent is well placed to support this expansion and can offer a strategic location capable of hosting support services and supply chain businesses. We firmly believe our region can play a key role in supporting the delivery of UK offshore wind.

Map 1



Map 2



3. A strong region and a great place for business

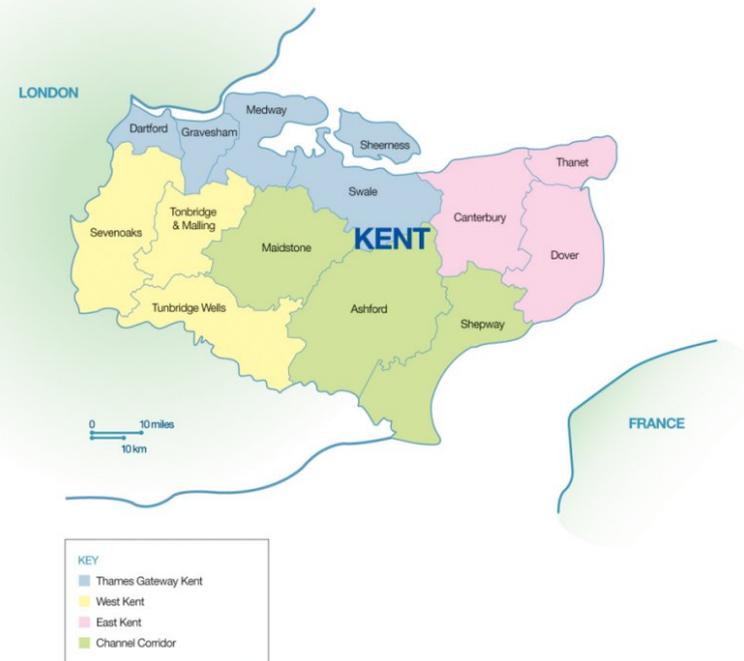
Kent including Medway is positioned at the hub of commercial activity between London and mainland Europe. The region offers easy access to both UK and European markets and is the base for around 60,000 companies and a workforce of 785,100. It is one of the UK Governments areas for strategic economic development with plans for 137,000 new homes and 125,000 new jobs by 2026.

Kent is an important part of the Greater South East which includes London and extends from The Wash down to Dover and across to the Isle of Wight. The Greater South East is home to 21 million people or 35 per cent of the UK's population and has almost 753,000 registered businesses.

With an annual GDP of over £451 billion it ranks as the 10th largest economy in the world. The regions that make up the Greater South East are the only three in the UK in the top 20 global regions in terms of Gross Value Added, innovation and global competitiveness. (Source: 'The Greater South East' written by SEEDA, EEDA and LDA)

Infrastructure

There are four national motorways (M20, M2, M26 and M25) providing a high degree of accessibility within Kent and connectivity to London and other parts of the UK. This is backed up by a strong local highway network that has been enhanced in recent years to improve access to towns and development areas.



London's three main airports at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted are all within a drive time of less than 65 minutes from the County town of Maidstone. In addition Kent has two regional airports in Kent International Airport at Manston and London Ashford Airport at Lydd.

Eurostar provides international rail services from stations at Ashford and Ebbsfleet with journey times of less than two hours to Paris and Brussels. The completion of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link into St Pancras in central London and the new international station at Ebbsfleet in North Kent has greatly enhanced European rail access from the County. New high speed domestic rail services have now commenced with journey times to London of 17 minutes from Ebbsfleet, 37 minutes from Ashford and less than an hour from East Kent.

Kent together with Medway has six main seaports at Sheerness, Thamesport, Dover, Ramsgate, Chatham and Dart Terminals London each benefiting from good road access. These ports operate freight and passenger services at a scale that is of national significance to the UK economy. In addition to our ports Kent has a unique transport feature in the Channel Tunnel. The tunnel which lies on the outskirts of Folkestone provides rail access to the European Union for cars, commercial vehicles and freight.

Proximity to London is seen as an advantage with the city having been ranked the best in terms of external transport links (*Cushman & Wakefield European Cities Monitor, 2007*) and recognised for its connections to UK, European and global consumer and business centers.

The Economy of Kent & Medway

The local economy is built around established centres of excellence in hi-tech engineering, ICT, automotive industry, bio-technology and pharmaceuticals, financial services and food processing. A number of these are high performing sectors which account for a fifth of Kent and Medway's workforce. There are some significant geographical business clusters as follows:

- Transport and communications sector in North and East Kent;
- Manufacturing, engineering and high technology in Medway and North Kent;
- Construction, banking, finance and insurance sectors in North and West Kent;
- Hotels, leisure and tourism in Canterbury, Maidstone, Rochester and Tunbridge Wells.

Manufacturing is a significant component of the Kent and Medway economy. Often quoted as the “powerhouse of the South East”, manufacturing has an estimated output worth some £3.5 billion, 17% of the regions total output. There are over 3,500 manufacturing companies in Kent & Medway, employing almost 70,000 people.

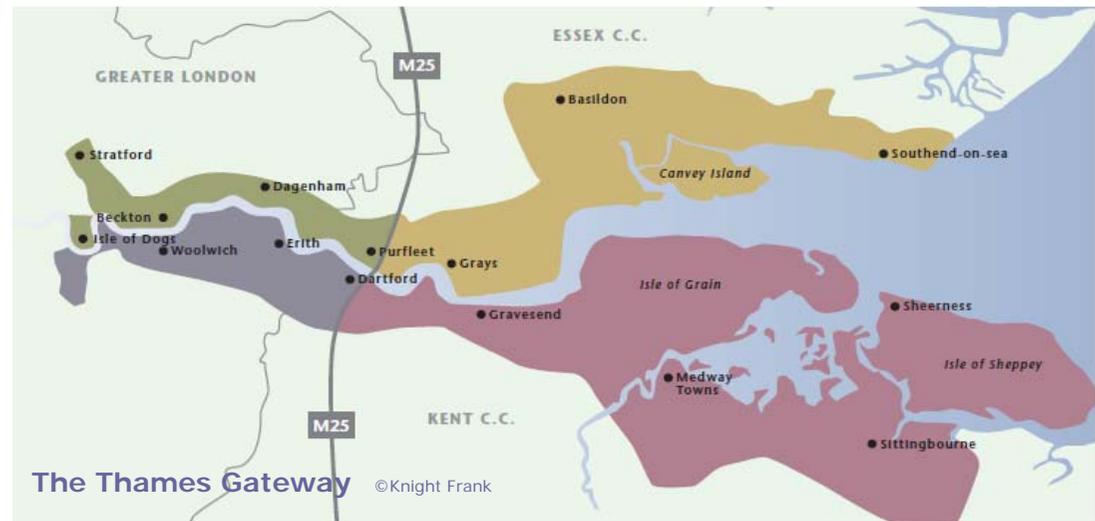
The advantages of Kent and Medway have been recognised by many world-class businesses. More than 400 foreign owned companies have chosen to place themselves at the business heart of Europe. For example, Pfizer has a major presence in East Kent employing around 3,600 people.

Land & Property

There are 35 strategic sites across the region providing more than 2,400 hectares of development land and property. The area offers a combination of attractive, modern business parks, fully-serviced development sites and commercial and industrial property. A strong feature of these sites is their accessibility and many have benefited from investment in highway improvement schemes.

Thames Gateway

The Thames Gateway is the UK’s largest regeneration area, stretching for 40 miles (60 kilometres) along both sides of the Thames Estuary (see map). The area has attracted significant levels of public and private investment as part of initiatives to facilitate and bring forward regeneration projects. The Kent area of the Gateway offers a number of opportunities alongside the Thames Estuary which could be attractive to businesses involved in offshore wind development, turbine supply and component manufacture.



Skills, Education and Training

Government figures suggest that the UK plans for offshore wind expansion could create up to 70,000 new jobs across operations and maintenance, turbine and component manufacturing, engineering and design, research and development. We recognise that developing the skilled workers to fill these jobs is a major challenge and that incoming companies will want some certainty that there are skilled personnel available. Kent is strong on educational resources and has excellent schools and universities capable of delivering a highly qualified workforce. The County Council as a lead provider of education services is willing to work with incoming developers to help meet their requirements from the local workforce. There are good opportunities to build training capacity in Kent and tailor courses to the occupational standards and qualifications of the offshore wind industry (*see page 22*).

Kent is home to the Universities of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church and Greenwich. All three universities offer a wide range of higher education courses, research and development programmes and consultancy services. The University of Kent has a dedicated Business School and runs Kent Innovation and Enterprise, a unit supporting business development. Canterbury Christ Church University specialises in higher education linked to public services while the University of Greenwich has a highly respected School of Engineering.

Quality of Life

The environmental quality of Kent is recognised by many and its beautiful landscapes and coastline are protected for their national and international value. Traditionally known as the 'Garden of England' the region is not only a great place for business to invest in but a great place in which to live. There is a plenty of well located high quality housing to meet the needs of executives and the workforce.

4. Key sites and development opportunities

The engineering challenge to deliver the UK's plans to add a further 25GW of offshore wind generating capacity by 2030 to the 8GW already planned is huge and equivalent to installing 7,000 3.6MW turbines. Other European countries have aspirations too and the number of offshore turbines needed could easily be doubled. This Pan-European challenge presents major opportunities for wind farm developers, turbine manufactures and component suppliers.

The advantages of Kent's strategic location in relation to the UK's prime development areas have already been highlighted. Here we look at how the region can support the growth of offshore wind through existing facilities and new development opportunities. Our discussions with the industry have identified a range of requirements which inter-relate with each other and which can be summarised as follows:

- port facilities and services
- project construction and assembly facilities
- manufacturing land and plant
- operations and maintenance bases.

There are a number of key sites in Kent and Medway where these requirements can be met in full or part. Some of these fall within the aforementioned Thames Gateway regeneration area. The common link across all the sites is the port or quayside access they can offer. The sites are discussed below and an assessment of what we think they can offer is provided in the accompanying capability matrix. This is not intended to be a definitive assessment of what is available but a guide to the potential of Kent for prospective developers and investors. Locate in Kent can assist with more detailed site appraisals, site owner discussions and can help to find solutions which match your requirements.

Port of Sheerness

The Port of Sheerness is part of Peel Ports the UK's second largest port group, which also includes the Port of Liverpool, the Manchester Ship Canal, the Port of Heysham and Clydesport in Scotland. Located on the Isle of

Sheppey at the confluence of the River Thames and the River Medway, Sheerness is one of the UK's most important ports handling a diverse range of cargoes and benefiting from Freeport status.

The Port of Sheerness covers more than 150 hectares and is a deepwater port with 9 berths and no lock restrictions. The port benefits from sheltered natural deepwater and enjoys easy access for shipping at all states of the tide. The port is open 24 hours and 365 days a year and has not been known to close due to bad weather conditions. It is well connected to the highway network and is close to the M2, M20 and London's M25 orbital motorway. The completion of the new Swale crossing in 2006 has greatly enhanced access to and from the port which is also rail connected. The port can further offer approved and designated helipads which may be attractive to offshore wind developers.

The port's core business is currently fresh produce, forest products and car imports. However, it also handles a significant amount of general cargo, including steel, cement and aggregates and has attracted industries to the area including engineering and steel. In the case of the later, the Thamesteel works is located close to the port.

Sheerness is very well located in relation to the Thames Estuary development area and around 100 nautical miles from one of the largest Round 3 development areas. There are opportunities within the port and in areas close by for the location of uses, permanent and temporary, which meet the identified requirements of the offshore wind industry. Peel Group, the port owners, recognise the importance of the offshore wind to the UK and other European countries and are very supportive of the role that Sheerness and its other port facilities can play in the manufacture, construction and servicing of offshore wind farms. A subsidiary of the Peel Group, Peel Wind Power Ltd are have secured planning permission for the development of four 2.5 MW turbines at the port further reflecting the Group's interest and commitment to the wind industry.

Port of Ramsgate

The Port of Ramsgate is one of the largest municipal ports in England and Wales and second only in turnover to Portsmouth. It is owned and operated by Thanet District Council and provides the only passenger/freight ferry service between the Channel ports and Belgium. The port comprises 13.2 hectares of dedicated land located on the East Kent coast. Its sheltered harbour is protected by a wrap-around breakwater and offers all weather

Thanet District Council is committed to assisting the offshore wind industry and is actively engaged in a programme of updating and modernising the port. With land available for further development both at the port and at a range of nearby sites, the port and surrounding area are capable of playing an important supporting role to the offshore wind industry.

Thamesport and the Isle of Grain

Thamesport is located on the Isle of Grain in Medway, North Kent. It is one of the UK's busiest container ports and a member of the Hutchison Port Holdings Group which also owns the Port of Felixstowe as well as Harwich International Port. Thamesport is one of the most advanced container ports in the world capable of handling the latest generation of large container ships. Strategically located at the point where the deep-water channels of the River Medway and River Thames converge, Thamesport's offers good accessibility to and from the shipping lanes of Northern Europe. The port is open 24 hours and 365 days a year.

The port covers an area of 85 hectares and facilities include 2 berths with a total length of 655 metres and a low water depth of 15.5m depth. A large proportion of the goods which come into the port are electronics and consumables from Asia, although the Port also handles a significant amount of heavy and bulky freight, such as raw materials and equipment for the construction or heavy manufacturing industries.

Thamesport has a dedicated rail terminal with services to UK destinations including Manchester, Birmingham, London, Doncaster, Leeds and Glasgow. The port is well connected to the highway network and is 10 miles from the M2 and 20 miles from the M25 orbital motorway.

The port is keen to develop short sea and coastal shipping initiatives which could include activities related to the offshore wind industry. Although the primary business of the port is containers there are significant land holdings in the vicinity of the port which could support a large dock side based manufacturing and assembly operation to serve the offshore sector. Further details of this land holding are given below and Locate in Kent can assist interested parties who may wish to consider this opportunity further.

Isle of Grain Development Opportunity

Site Owner	National Grid Holdings.
Site Description	Approximately 280 hectares of vacant land with waterside frontage to the River Medway.
Potential	Large dock side based manufacturing and assembly operation for the offshore wind sector.
Plot Size	As above.
Service / Utilities infrastructure	None connected.
Planning Situation	Allocated for Port related activities and industrial uses (B1(c), B2, B8 and more specialist industrial uses) in the local development plan.
Availability	Subject to planning permission and exchange of legal documentation.
Terms	For discussion – The site owners and agents are prepared to discuss land values.
Existing Occupiers	E.on, Thamesport, Foster Yeoman, Grain LNG.
Additional Information & Grant Availability	The Isle of Grain is located within a Tier 3 Assisted Area.



©Adrian Warren / Dae Sasitorn

Port of Dover

The Port of Dover is one of the world's busiest international ferry ports and the second busiest UK cruise port. The port is located on the East Kent coast and is easily accessed via the M20 motorway. It is owned and operated by the Dover Harbour Board and covers approximately 140 hectares of land. The Eastern Docks comprise 9 berths in the main handling passenger and freight traffic but including a cargo and container berth. The Western Docks provide facilities for fast ferry passenger services, a bulk goods dock and two cruise ship berths serviced by a new terminal building.

Dover is the nearest UK landing point to continental Europe and one of the busiest road haulage freight portals in the country. In 2007, 2.5 million road freight vehicles were recorded as passing through the port. In addition, Dover Harbour Board has operated a deep sea cargo terminal since 1998. The terminal is now one of the UK's top four handling locations by tonnage. It offers a 24-hour port with no locks or tidal restrictions and a minimum quay water depth of 8.5m close to the English Channels main shipping lanes. Commercial vessels (other than ferries) of up to 260m length can be safely manoeuvred to suitable berths within the port provided their draft is not excessive.

The busy nature of this port and its location further south than the other ports profiled means that it is most likely to be suitable for temporary activities linked to the construction and pre assembly of offshore wind farms. There may be sufficient vacant land within the port capable of supporting this activity.

Whitstable

Whitstable Harbour lies on the North Kent coast at the mouth of the River Swale and the River Thames. It is a municipal harbour owned by Canterbury City Council and managed by the Whitstable Harbour Board. Whitstable is a niche port which accommodates a mix of activities including importation of aggregates, shellfish processing, ship lay-by and repair and wind farm maintenance facilities.

Whitstable Harbour is the current operations and maintenance base for the Kentish Flats Wind Farm which is owned by Vattenfall. The harbour was the construction management base for the wind farm and following its completion has provided operations and maintenance base facilities for the past 3 years. These services are

currently provided by the turbine manufacturer Vestas who operate support vessels from the harbour. Although the harbour is tidal, Vestas have arranged their working schedules and procedures to accommodate tidal patterns and shown that Whitstable is a viable base for operations and maintenance.

The Harbour Board is keen to support new services and activities for the growing wind farm industry in the Thames Estuary. The harbour has areas of land that could be made available for development. Quay infrastructure is in a good condition and Canterbury City Council has a commitment to maintaining and improving these facilities.

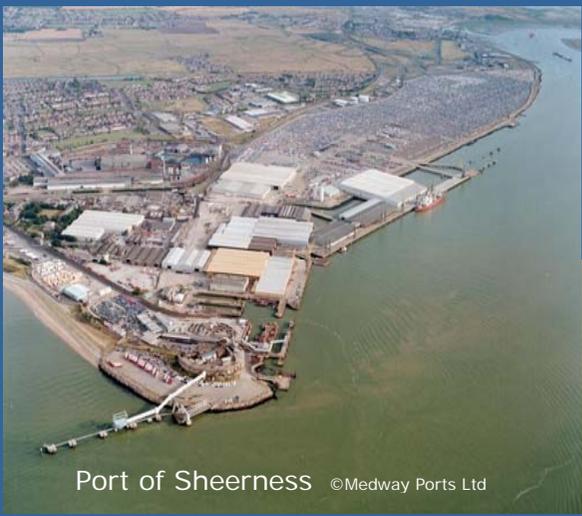
Northfleet

Northfleet lies alongside the River Thames in North Kent and upstream of the Thames Estuary development area. It is the most westerly of the locations profiled and lies within the Thames Gateway regeneration area. The area comprises a mix of riverside industrial complexes and wharves many of which are vacant pending redevelopment. An area of land including a wharf with quayside has been identified as possible location which could provide temporary space for use in connection with offshore wind farm construction and pre-assembly. Further investigation would be required to determine its suitability for use but the landowner has indicated that the site could be made available.

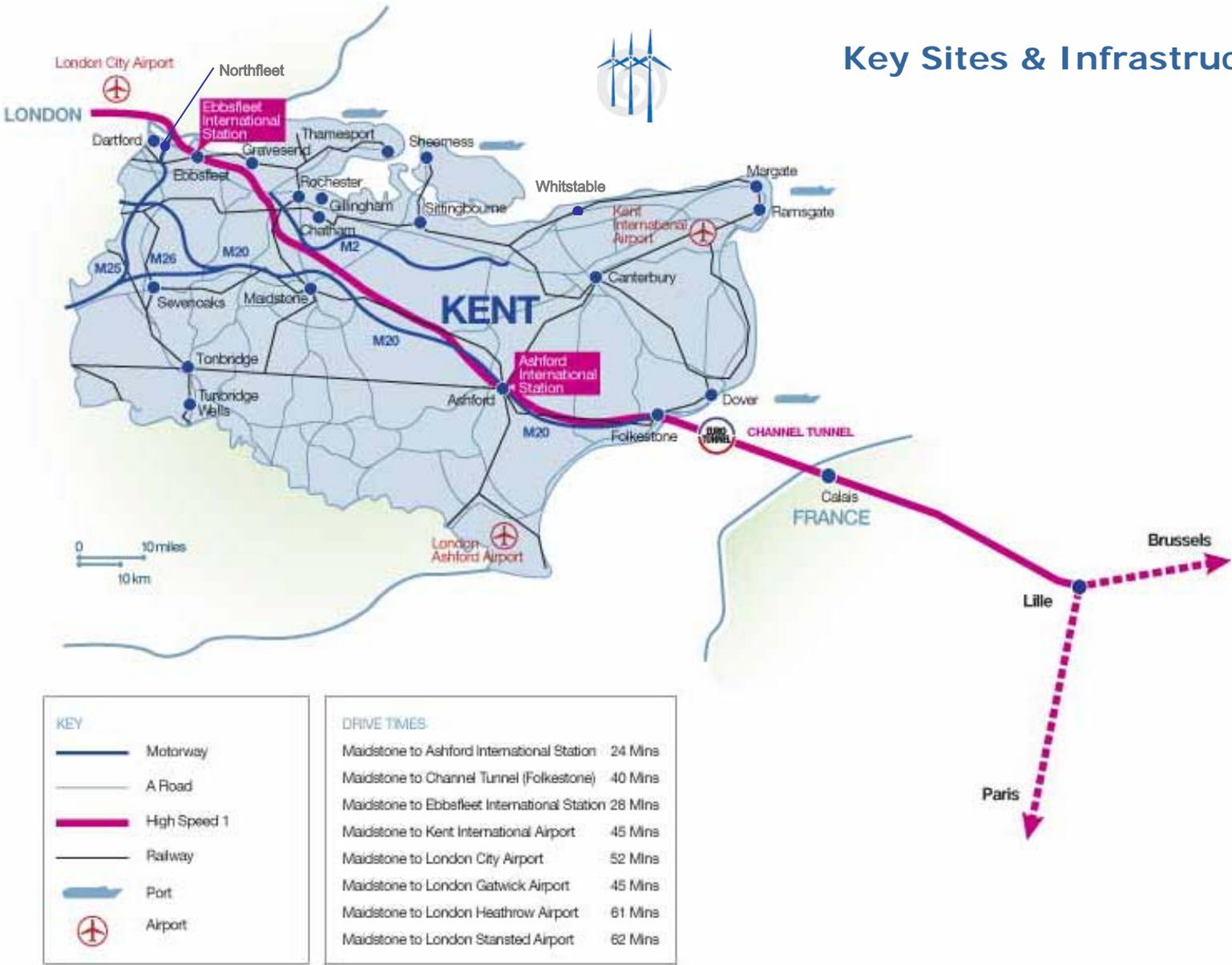
Kent International Airport

Kent International Airport is situated at Manston near Ramsgate in East Kent. It has one of the longest runways in the UK and its location in the South East within easy reach of London has resulted in a growing freight business and future plans to expand passenger services. The airport is profiled here because of its potential to support future wind farm activities particularly operations and maintenance where wind farms are located further offshore. The airport is very well placed to cater for helicopter movements and its location brings the whole of the Thames Estuary eastern seaboard development area within an easy flying time. The airports proximity to both the Port of Ramsgate and sites suitable for development offers good opportunities for businesses connected to the offshore wind industry.

Key Site Capability Matrix

 <p>Port of Sheerness ©Medway Ports Ltd</p>	Suitable as a construction base for project management, crew transfers and wind farm commissioning	Suitable as a load in and load out port with no pre-assembly area	Suitable as a base for all pre-assembly and installation works	Suitable as a base for operations and maintenance and related offshore services	Suitable as an emergency port and shelter for marine equipment in adverse weather conditions	Suitable location for turbine and/or component manufacture and assembly
Port of Ramsgate	✓			✓	✓	
Port of Sheerness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thamesport & Isle of Grain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Port of Dover		✓	✓		✓	
Whitstable Harbour				✓		
Northfleet		✓	✓			

Key Sites & Infrastructure



5. Business and financial support

The UK offshore wind industry has grown very quickly in the past 10 years and the increasing demand for wind turbines and components now offers major commercial opportunities for manufacturers to locate in the UK. More than £40 billion is expected to be invested in UK offshore wind farms in the period to 2020. Kent is perfectly placed to support the continued growth and to offer a bright and sustained future to the industry. Its strategic location in relation to key UK development areas is a major advantage. Kent could also be capable of helping to fulfill plans further a field in coastal waters off Northern Europe. We feel providing support to companies wanting to take advantage of new economic opportunities is vital and we are committed to offering that support.



Locate in Kent is the investment promotion agency for Kent and Medway. It provides a range of company relocation services to both UK and internationally owned companies. All Locate in Kent's services are provided free of charge on a completely confidential basis.

Locate in Kent can provide support to your company whether you are looking to establish a new base or expand your business in the UK. The service is run by a team of dedicated professionals who work closely with property developers, commercial agents, legal advisers, banks and other partners to provide the advice, information and the contacts you need. The company relocation and expansion advisory services are totally free, independent and confidential and include:

- working with you to define your location or expansion requirements;
- undertaking specific research to support your location decision;
- providing the latest comprehensive information on available commercial sites and properties;
- arranging personal tours of the county, allowing you to explore the opportunities;
- providing introductions and liaison with professional intermediaries, consultants and advisers to give you access to local knowledge and sources of assistance;

- providing you with information about grants and financial assistance that may be available to your company in certain areas of Kent; and
- providing an aftercare service to all Kent and Medway based companies, assisting them to grow and develop.

Locate in Kent can provide advice and guidance on the availability of **financial support** in the UK and the Kent region.

The UK Government's main measure for supporting investment in renewable electricity generation is the Renewables Obligation which requires electricity suppliers to source a growing percentage of the electricity they sell from renewable sources each year. This obligation is currently to provide 9.7% of electricity from renewable sources in 2009 with the figure rising each year thereafter. Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) are issued for each megawatt hour of energy generated from a renewable source. ROCs can be traded on the free market to power suppliers unable to reach their Renewables Obligation target.

From April 1st 2009, a new system of "banded" ROCs" came into effect after ministers feared that newer technologies were not getting enough support compared to more established renewable energy technologies. Offshore wind power now receives two ROCs per MWh of energy produced effectively doubling the available subsidy. The Government has also announced that the Renewables Obligation will be extended through to 2037 giving a greater degree of certainty for investors.

The Government has acknowledged that building a UK supply chain will be critical in meeting its plans for the expansion of offshore wind and that the Renewables Obligation alone will not achieve these. It has a number of other ways to support growth and has developed an investment programme for low carbon technologies which it plans to roll out in partnership with UKTI, Regional Development Agencies and other delivery bodies.

In the 2009 budget the Government announced that it is providing up to £120 million to support investment in the development of the offshore wind industry in the UK. This includes funding for new offshore wind manufacturing facilities and investment in the development of next-generation offshore wind technologies through large scale demonstration. The newly formed Office for Renewable Energy Development is working proactively to support

investment in large-scale production facilities by both existing wind turbine manufacturers and new entrants to the offshore wind market.

At a very local level grants are available across Kent and Medway under the Grant for Business Investment scheme. The grant scheme is funded by South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and delivered by Finance South East in the South East region. The scheme aims to assist businesses looking to expand, modernise, rationalise, diversify and increase productivity in order to maintain or establish sustainable growth and provide skilled jobs. All business grants are paid in arrears and in instalments against expenditure already paid.



Kent County Council is responsible for providing a wide range of services that support residents and businesses in Kent. These services cover highways, education and training, social services, libraries, trading standards, planning and regeneration. The County Council works closely with the local councils on matters affecting Kent and in partnership where there is shared responsibility.

The County Council recognises that new economic opportunities linked to the 'green' economy can bring increased prosperity to Kent and it is committed to supporting new business growth and job creation. It has recently produced a strategy for regeneration called 'Unlocking Kent's Potential'. Developing and attracting high-tech and sustainable technology businesses such as the offshore wind industry has been identified as a priority action and as a way of accelerating new approaches to 'green' growth in the County.

Creating the right skills base in Kent to support growth is something that the County Council believes it can help with. It has recently started work on designing a **Kent Skills Framework** and action plan to deliver the skills and qualifications required by the sustainable technology sector in the coming decade (2010-20). The skills framework will cover both young people in education and the existing workforce and specifically, it will seek to meet the skills needs required by new renewable energy technologies. A range of delivery formats is envisaged including 14-19 vocational training, apprenticeships, short courses and formats for developing higher skills levels.



Thanet District Council provides a range of important local services to Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate as well as surrounding towns and villages. Thanet is a coastal district situated at the eastern end of Kent in close proximity to the continent. The district benefits from having both the Port of Ramsgate and the developing Kent International Airport at Manston. The Port is owned by the Council and has already been identified by offshore wind farm developers as a good location for operational activities linked to Thames Estuary projects. Further growth in onshore activities would be welcomed and consistent with the Council priorities which include diversification at the port, support for growth of the airport and development of key industrial and employment sites.



Envirobusiness is a specialist company supported by SEEDA which is helping businesses involved with environmental technology and services to secure a greater share of the global market for solutions to environmental change. By working across a wide range of technologies, engaging with buyers and investors and those influencing the development of markets, Envirobusiness is able to identify new business potential and match businesses according to their needs and ambitions. As part of the service, Envirobusiness runs a free membership scheme for environmental technology and service providers.

Envirobusiness is co-ordinating a new intensive package of support for high potential companies capable of serving growing global markets for environmental technologies and services. This will involve helping 600 companies to generate £60M of new commercial activity and to secure greater prominence world wide. Part of the programme is to focus on exploiting the commercial opportunities associated with the burgeoning demand for offshore wind and marine renewables in South East England including working with top tier companies to facilitate strategic investments in the South East, building new supply chains and identifying opportunities to create competitive advantage through R&D. Envirobusiness has appointed BVG Associates to liaise with the industry to maximise the

positive economic impact for the region and encourage businesses to engage and take advantage of the new opportunities.



Marine South East is the regional marine initiative of the SEEDA. It was instigated to tackle issues affecting marine businesses in the region and to support the economic development of the marine sector in the South East. This includes working with marine businesses seeking to exploit new business opportunities linked to the growth of offshore renewables. Marine South East recognises that the marine industry has an important supporting role to the offshore industry and is seeking to support growth through the promotion of and development of businesses and skills within the region.

6. Contacting us to take advantage of these opportunities

Please feel free to contact us for more information and help about the opportunities in Kent. Locate in Kent will act as the first point of contact for your enquiry.

Contact Details

Peter Symons
Director of Business Development
T: 01732 520 711
F: 01732 520 701
E: peters@locateinkent.com

Karl Jansa
Business Development Manager
T: 01732 520 713

E: karlj@locateinkent.com

www.locateinkent.com

Locate in Kent
2 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4AQ

7. Useful links

Crown Estates

www.crownstates.co.uk

British Wind Energy Association

www.bwea.com

Department for Climate Change and Energy

www.decc.gov.uk

Locate in Kent

www.locateinkent.com

Kent County Council

www.kent.gov.uk

Thanet District Council

www.thanet.gov.uk

Envirobusiness

www.envirobusiness.co.uk

Marine South East

www.marinesoutheast.co.uk

South East England Development Agency

www.seeda.co.uk

Notes