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5 REPORT FORMAT

5.1 Structure of the Environmental Statement

The Environmental Statement (ES) for the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm (Thanet) project is divided into four main volumes as shown in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1 Format of the Environmental Statement

Volume – Title	Format
Volume 1 – Non Technical Summary	Hardcopy and CD-ROM ¹
Volume 2 – Environmental Statement, Parts I and II	Hardcopy and CD-ROM
Volume 3 – Environmental Statement, Parts III, IV and V	Hardcopy and CD-ROM
Volume 4 – Appendices	CD-ROM only

5.1.1 Volume 1: Non Technical Summary

The Non Technical Summary provides a concise description of the Thanet project and information about the potential environmental impacts that would be associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning activities. The document is written in a style that enables understanding by the non-specialist reader.

5.1.2 Volumes 2 and 3: Environmental Statement

The ES is split into five component parts contained on two CD-ROMs:

CD 1

- Part I: Introduction;
- Part II: Offshore Wind Farm and Export Cable Route;

CD 2

- Part III: Cable Landfall and Landside Infrastructure;
- Part IV: Information for Appropriate Assessment; and
- Part V: Summary.

Part I: Introduction

Part I consists of five introductory Sections that detail the background to, and need for the Thanet project. It includes details of the site selection process, the likely engineering designs, construction, operation and final decommissioning of the wind farm and associated infrastructure. Part I also covers the regulatory, legislative and policy frameworks that drive the consenting process, and presents a discussion of the relevant guidance that has been referred to throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The approach to the EIA is described as well as the definition of the impact significance levels.

¹ The Non Technical Summary is only available in CD-ROM format on CD 1 alongside Volume 2.

Part II: Offshore Wind Farm and Export Cable Route

Part II consists of 13 Sections. Each Section relates to a specific natural, physical or human environmental parameter that has the potential to be impacted by the offshore construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Thanet project and is structured as follows:

- Introduction – Sets out the content of the Section for the parameter concerned.
- Assessment Methodology – Describes the assessment methodology including data collection through literature reviews and site specific surveys and the official guidelines that were used to develop the survey methodology, as well as the methodology used for data analysis and manipulation. The study area is also defined where necessary.
- Existing Environment – Describes the baseline conditions with respect to the parameter being assessed, based on the results of the data collection and analysis process.
- Impacts during Construction – Assesses the predicted impact of each construction activity and outlines the mitigation measures that Thanet Offshore Wind Limited (TOW) has committed to. This is followed by a discussion of the potential significance of the residual impact following mitigation in terms of its nature, magnitude and extent.
- Impacts during Operation – Similar to the above, an assessment of the potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts that would be associated with the operation of the Thanet project.
- Impacts during Decommissioning - Similar to the above, an assessment of the potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts that would be associated with the decommissioning of the Thanet project.
- Cumulative Impacts – Assesses the potential significance of impacts upon the parameter being considered due to the simultaneous effects of a range of developments in the wider study area.
- Monitoring Proposals – Sets out any proposals for monitoring of the parameter being assessed that TOW has committed to.
- Summary – A concise discussion of the key points from the impact assessment for each parameter.

Part III: Cable Landfall and Landside Infrastructure

Part III is presented in the same format and structure as Part II and covers the environmental parameters associated with the land based aspects of the Thanet project, in most cases above mean high water or as specified.

Part IV: Information for Appropriate Assessment

The Thanet project could have a significant impact on three sites of importance to nature conservation under the EC Habitats and Birds Directive (see **Section 4, Policy Framework and Guidance**). As such, the Competent Authority, in this case the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI), is required to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of whether the Thanet project would have an adverse effect on the integrity

of these sites. Part IV provides information collected through the EIA in order to inform the DTI's assessment.

Part V: Summary

Part V summarises the key issues and impacts for each parameter. It also draws out the key mitigation measures that TOW has committed to in order to avoid, reduce or minimise environmental impacts.

5.1.3 Volume 4: Appendices

Volume 4 provides a number of Technical Appendices which provide detailed information about certain environmental parameters, often providing further information regarding the results of surveys or detailed analysis. In all cases, the relevant section of the ES should be referred to for information on impact significance.