

All NATMAC Representatives

26 March 2010

File Reference: DAP/AU&ORA/KIA -TMZ

NATMAC INFORMATIVE LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL FRAMEWORK BRIEFING: ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSPONDER MANDATORY ZONE(S) (TMZ) AROUND THE LONDON ARRAY (LA) AND THANET OFFSHORE (TOW) WINDFARMS IN THE EASTERN THAMES ESTUARY

The Directorate has held a Framework Briefing with Infratil (Operators of Manston/Kent International Airport (KIA)) on a proposal to establish TMZ(s) around the LA and TOW offshore windfarms (enclosure 1) in the eastern Thames Estuary. Infratil has confirmed the intention to proceed with the proposal and has commenced Stage 2¹ (Proposal Development). This proposal is in support of a staged plan to mitigate the potential effect upon KIA ATC displays, of a large number of primary radar returns caused by the Thames Estuary wind turbines.

The proposal in the vicinity of KIA primarily concerns the establishment of one or two TMZs. This is one stage of a mitigation plan (including safety case), required by the Department for the Environment and Climate Change (DECC)², to address potential large-scale radar clutter³ and blanking with the consequential impact upon service provision. Infratil propose that the TMZ or TMZs will be established with effect from September 2011 when potential clutter reaches a maximum, coincident with the completion of the TOW and erection of the first turbines in the LA.

The DAP Project Leader is Richard Hinchcliffe, in the Airspace Utilisation & Off-Route Airspace Section DAP; richard.hinchcliffe@caa.co.uk, 020 7453 6543.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed

J C Walker
NATMAC Secretary

Enclosures:

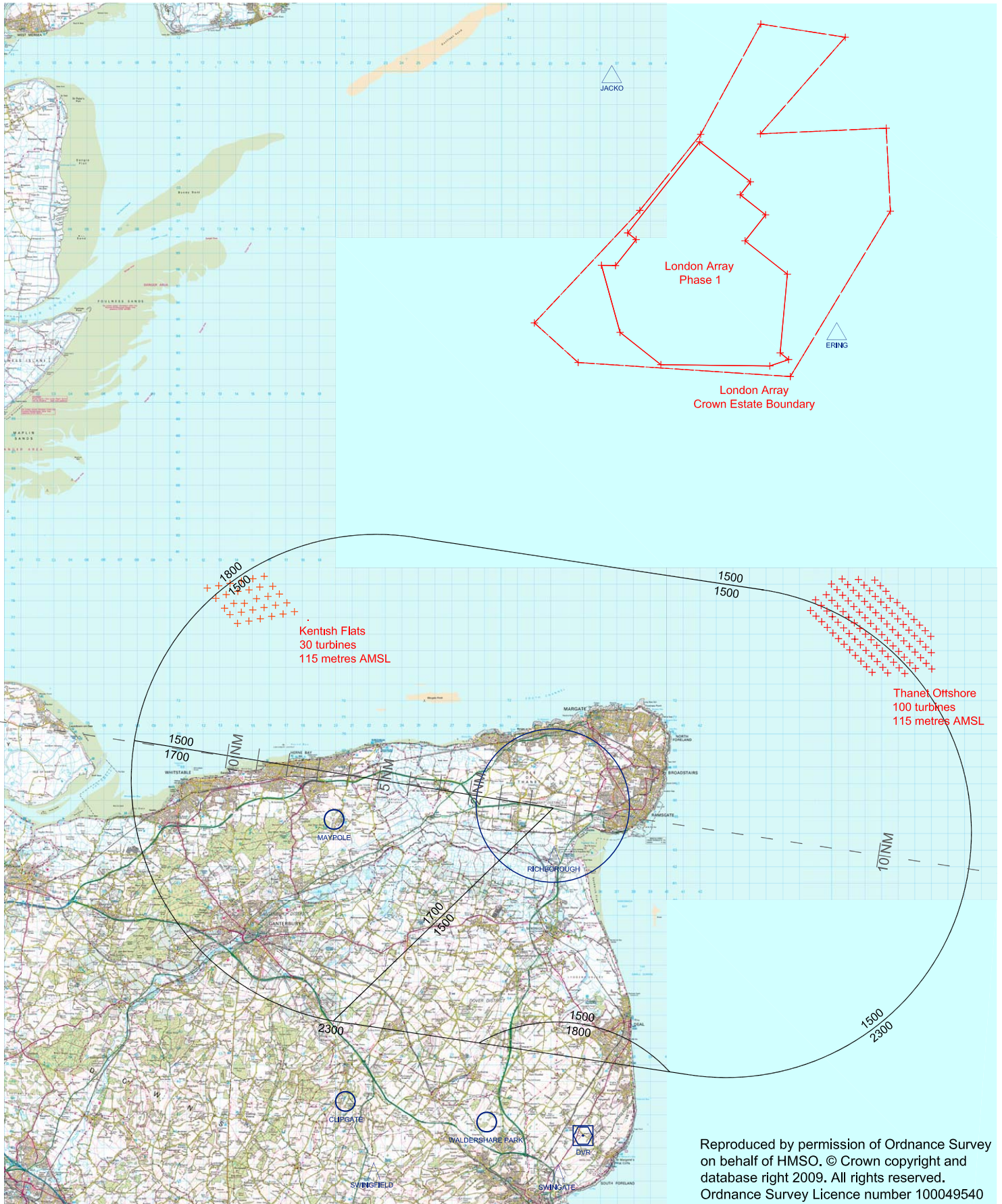
1. Map showing position of the LA & TOW offshore windfarms

¹ CAP 725, CAA Guidance on the Application of the Airspace Change Process

² Supporting offshore renewable energy resource recovery.

³ CAP 493, MATS Part 1, Section 1, Chapter 5, paragraph 18.

LA and TOW Windfarms



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