

**Appendix 8**

**Project:** Sevington Inland Border Facility

**Our reference:** 419419-MMD-XX-SV-RP-HE-0003      **Your reference:** N/A

**Prepared by:** I. Gray-Davies      **Date:** 18/12/2020

**Approved by:** [REDACTED]      **Checked by:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Response to condition 4: Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Scheme Background

This technical note has been compiled by Mott MacDonald in response to Condition 4 of the relevant approval for Sevington, Ashford Inland Border Facility (Sevington IBF). Approval for Sevington IBF was sought via special development order (SDO). Sevington IBF is summarised as follows in this application:

*'The temporary use of land for up to 5 years operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week, for an Inland Border Facility for use in different phases by Department for Transport, HM Revenue & Customs/Border Force, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for border readiness, CTC, ATA and CITES checks, and market surveillance activities. ...'*<sup>1</sup>

The impact of this scheme on heritage assets is discussed in the overarching Cultural Heritage Assessment ('CHA', ref: 419419-MMD-XX-SV-RP-YE-0001), this is appended to the Analysis of Likely Environmental Effects of the Development Report (ref: 419419-MMD-XX-SV-RP-YE-0002). These documents were included under article 4 of SDO submission.

Also submitted was a technical note on the Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post (ref: 70056115-002) produced by WSP in 2019; *LAND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HIGHFIELD LANE SEVINGTON, ASHFORD. Technical Note on Royal Observer Corp Monitoring Post. 70056115-002* (1). This was accompanied by a covering note (ref: 419419-MMD-XX-SV-RP-HE-0002). The technical note was produced by WSP in 2019 and details the history, location and condition of the Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post (hereafter referred to as the 'ROC post'), a non-designated heritage asset.

### 1.2 Condition 4

Approval for the scheme was granted, with conditions, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.<sup>2</sup> Condition 4 is of relevance to this technical note and reads as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. *The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020* ("the Order") Submission seeking approval under Article 4(1)(a) of the Order.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

*“Prior to the implementation of relevant works, information confirming vegetation clearance that might affect the Royal Observer Corps underground monitoring post and a photographic record of the above ground remains are to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Secretary of State.”<sup>3</sup>*

This technical note provides the details requested by condition 4, for submission to the Secretary of State. Section 2 of this technical note addresses the first half of this condition, regarding vegetation clearance. Section 3 of this technical note addresses the second half of condition 4, regarding a photographic record of the asset.

### 1.3 Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post

The ROC post is a non-designated asset comprising of below ground remains and limited above ground remains, dating to 1961. Details regarding the location, history and condition of the post can be found in; WSP (2019) *LAND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HIGHFIELD LANE SEVINGTON, ASHFORD. Technical Note on Royal Observer Corp Monitoring Post. 70056115-002* (1).

The ROC post is located within the application boundary for Sevington IBF (at NGR 604190 140530). However, no works have been proposed to the area containing the remains of the ROC post, which is to be left in situ. Therefore, no impact is anticipated on the asset from the construction of Sevington IBF. The impact of the scheme on heritage assets is discussed in greater detail in the overarching CHA.

## 2 Vegetation Clearance

This section of this technical note provides a response to the first half of condition 4, namely;

*‘Information confirming vegetation clearance that might affect the Royal Observer Corps underground monitoring post ... [is] to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Secretary of State.’<sup>4</sup>*

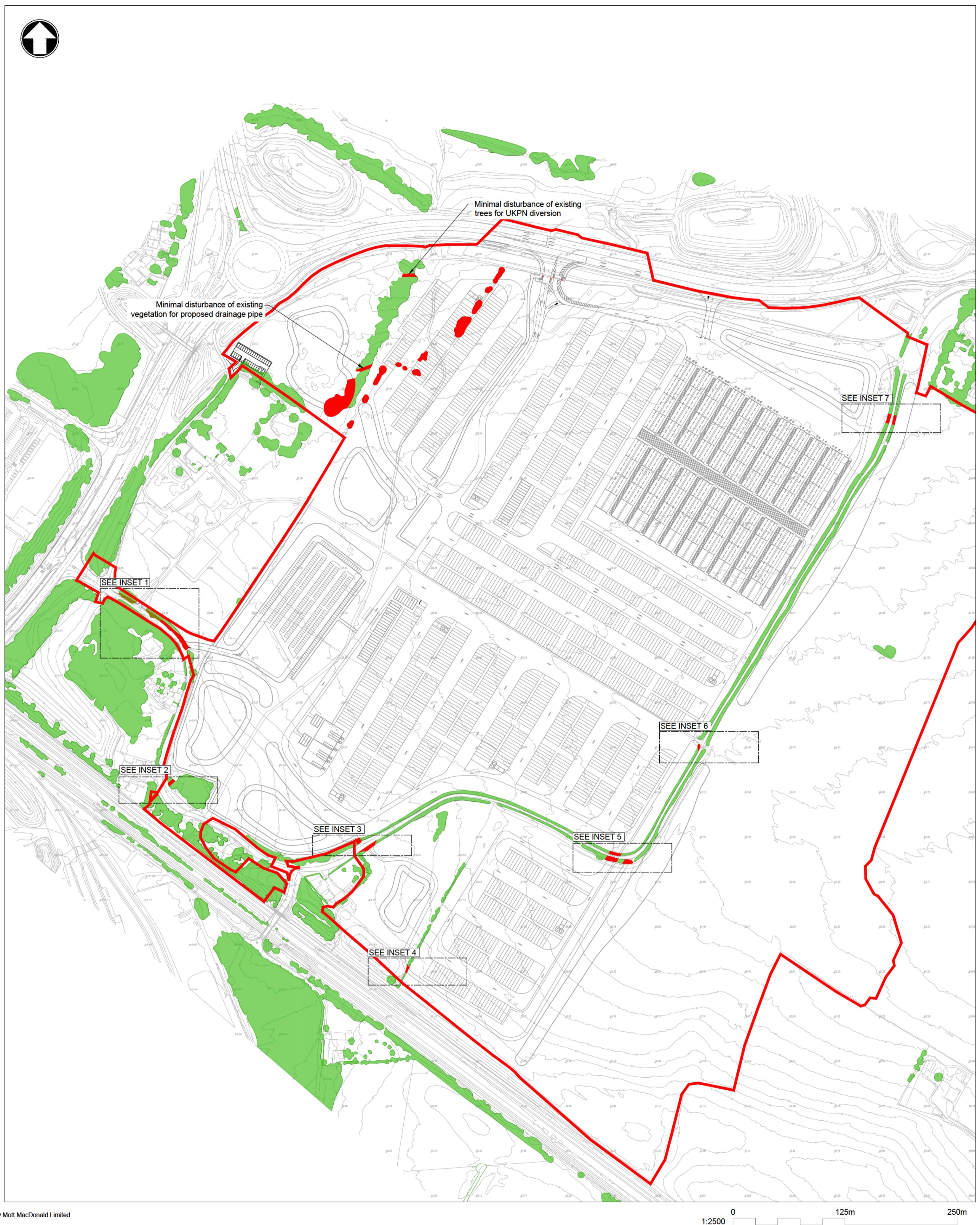
No direct works are proposed to the ROC post, including vegetation clearance. However, some vegetation clearance is proposed in the surrounding area (see drawing 419419-MMD-01-MO-DR-C-0201). This clearance may improve visibility of the limited above ground remains of the asset on approach, which may contribute to increased understanding of it.

The plan of proposed vegetation clearance at the Sevington site can be viewed below in drawing 419419-MMD-01-MO-DR-C-0201. Inset 6 is of particular relevance.

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<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, letter dated 1st December 2020. The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020 (“the Order”) Submission seeking approval under Article 4(1)(a) of the Order.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



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### 3 Photographic Record

This section of this technical note provides a photographic record of the ROC post, with the intention of satisfying to second half of condition 4, which reads as follows:

*'... a photographic record of the above ground remains are to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Secretary of State'*<sup>5</sup>

Photos provided within this section are suitable for use on information boards, as have been proposed following decommissioning of the site, or for other education or research purposes.

The first series of photos here provided were taken in March 2019 by WSP. These photos provide a photographic record of the above ground remains of the ROC post.

**Figure 3.1: ROC Post, looking South-West, 2019**



Source: WSP, taken 21/03/2019

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. *The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020 ("the Order")* Submission seeking approval under Article 4(1)(a) of the Order.

**Figure 3.2: ROC Post, looking south, 2019**



Source: WSP photo, 21/03/2019

**Figure 3.3: ROC post, looking north, 2019**



Source: WSP, taken 21/03/2019

The following photos were taken during 2020. These photos show the area of containing the remains of the ROC post remaining undisturbed during construction of Sevington IBF and further contribute to the photographic record of the asset.

**Figure 3.4: ROC post looking south, 2020 (asset highlighted in centre)**



source: AOC, taken 2020

**Figure 3.5: ROC post looking south-west, 2020**



Source: AOC, taken 2020

## 4 References

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. *The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020 ("the Order")* Submission seeking approval under Article 4(1)(a) of the Order.

Mott MacDonald (2020) *Sevington Inland Border Facility, Analysis of Likely Environmental Effects of the Development Report*, 419419-MMD-XX-SV-RP-YE-0002.

Mott MacDonald (2020) *Sevington Inland Border Facility, Cultural Heritage Assessment ref: 419419-MMD-XX-SV-RP-YE-0001*.

Mott MacDonald (2020) *Sevington Inland Border Facility, Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post covering technical note*, 419419-MMD-XX-SV-RP-HE-0002.

WSP (2019) *LAND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HIGHFIELD LANE SEVINGTON, ASHFORD. Technical Note on Royal Observer Corp Monitoring Post*. 70056115-002 (1).