

Vehicles seized at road stops in Dartford and Gravesham

Press release

Multi-agency operation sees 36 vehicles stopped and waste collectors' paperwork checked.



One of 8 vehicles seized during the roadstop is loaded onto a recovery vehicle

Environment Agency officers – working with Dartford and Gravesham Borough councils, Kent Police Rural Task Force and the Dartford and Gravesham Community Policing teams – stopped 36 waste vehicles and seized 8 of the vehicles while checking their paperwork was in order.

Officers checked the paperwork of waste vehicle drivers

The Environment Agency was checking vehicles in the Dartford and Gravesham area, to check they had a valid waste carrier's licence and waste transfer note describing what waste they were carrying, where they picked the waste up from and where they were taking it to. Waste collectors must have this paperwork as part of their 'duty of care' to be able to collect waste legally.

The Environment Agency and its partners seized the 8 vehicles for various offences such as no valid insurance. They also found a number of waste offences, including not being registered as a waste carrier. The Environment Agency will be taking further action against any operators that had no valid waste carrier's licence or were not compliant with their duty of care.

Another seized waste vehicle is taken away

Matt Higginson, Environment Manager for the Environment Agency, said:

We regularly run these multi-agency operations to check waste collectors are complying with the law. As the results from these operations show, we will not hesitate to use our enforcement powers.

Everyone has their part to play in stopping waste crime. To help avoid giving your waste to an illegal waste carrier and your waste ending up at an illegal waste site, we encourage you to ask your waste collector for their waste carrier's registration number and ask to see their waste transfer note. They must be able to produce both. We also encourage people to avoid paying in cash.

Any investigation by the Environment Agency that leads to a successful conviction could see those responsible facing extensive fines and even a prison sentence.

Paperwork checks included inspection of waste carrier's licences and waste transfer notes as well as vehicle insurance

Anyone who suspects illegal waste activity is reminded to report it to our 24 hour hotline by calling 0800 80 70 60, or anonymously contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

[Check your waste collector's waste carriers registration](#) or call 03708 506 506.

Published 9 August 2021

Vehicles seized at road stops in Dartford and Gravesham

Multi-agency operation sees 36 vehicles stopped and waste collectors' paperwork checked.

Wind of change for the Humber region

- More than £260 million UK government and private sector investment to develop the next generation wind turbines, as the UK works to onshore more manufacturers and level up the country
- over 1,340 jobs will be created and supported across the Humber, helping the region build back greener
- part of government's ambitions to grow and nurture a strong, world-class offshore wind manufacturing base in the UK, attracting vital investment and ramping up export opportunities

The UK continues to significantly boost its world-leading offshore wind manufacturing industry, with over 1,340 jobs created and protected across the Humber region thanks to £266 million of UK government and private sector investment, the government has announced today (Monday 9 August).

Offshore wind manufacturers Siemens Gamesa and GRI Renewable Industries will receive grant funding from the government's £160 million Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Support scheme, announced as part of the [Prime Minister's ten point plan](#), to further develop manufacturing facilities in the Humber region. Both companies will be supplying essential components to offshore wind farms providing clean power across the UK – as well as for export around the world.

The investment will be a huge boost for the Humber region, helping to revitalise this industrial heartland, bring in vital investment and job opportunities for the area and level up the rest of the UK, all whilst support the UK's commitment to eradicating its contributions to climate change.

Siemens Gamesa will invest a total of £186 million to expand its blade manufacturing site located near Hull, creating and safeguarding up to 1,080 direct jobs. As a result of the investment, the company will be able to manufacture the next generation of offshore wind turbines and blades greater than 100 meters.

Additionally, GRI Renewable Industries is the second confirmed company to build facilities at Able Marine Energy Park, Hull, with £78 million investment in an offshore wind turbine tower factory, creating up to 260 direct jobs.

This follows the announcement over £180 million of private sector investment from offshore wind manufacturers in the Humber and in Newcastle-upon-Tyne last month, and another £95 million from government to create two new offshore wind ports on the Humber and on Teesside earlier this year – building the UK's offshore wind capacity for clean electricity generation as dirty coal power is phased out.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

The Humber region embodies the UK's green industrial revolution, with new investment into developing the next generation of wind turbines set to create new jobs, export opportunities and clean power across the country.

With less than a hundred days to go until the climate summit COP26, we need to see more countries embracing new technologies, building green industries and phasing out coal power for a sustainable future.

Business & Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

With its close proximity to some of the world's largest offshore wind farms and strong skills base, the Humber region is vitally important for the growth of the British offshore wind industry and is at the heart of our green recovery.

Our announcement backed by private investment will give a boost to this important industrial heartland, creating and supporting thousands of good quality jobs across the region while ensuring it is on the frontline of developing the next generation of offshore wind turbines.

The Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Support scheme was announced by the Prime Minister last year as part of his ten point plan to build factories that will develop components for next generation wind turbines. It is designed to support the delivery of manufacturing investment in the offshore wind supply chain. It provides grant funding for major investments in the manufacture of strategically important offshore wind components, from turbine blades to subsea cables.

Minister for Investment Gerry Grimstone said:

The UK is a world leader in offshore wind and these investments are further evidence of the confidence foreign investors have in both the sector and in the UK economy.

Our Global Investment Summit later this year will show how the UK can shape the future of green investment and will be a platform to drive further investment into exciting industries of the future.

Today's announcement continues to deliver on the Prime Minister's ten point plan for a green industrial revolution and meeting his target of quadrupling

the UK's offshore wind capacity to produce 40GW of energy from offshore wind by 2030 – enough to power every home in the country.

This continues to lay the groundwork for British businesses and workers to take full advantage of the booming offshore market in the UK and internationally, support up to 60,000 jobs in the industry, and help eliminate the UK's contribution to carbon emissions by 2050.

CEO of the Siemens Gamesa Offshore Business Unit Marc Becker said:

Since our offshore blade factory opened in Hull in 2016, Siemens Gamesa has proudly served as the catalyst for the powerful growth the area has seen. The rapid development of the offshore wind industry – and continued, strong, long-term support provided by the UK government for offshore wind – has enabled us to power ahead with confidence when making these plans. We're committed to unlocking the potential of wind energy around the globe, with solutions from Hull playing a vital role.

Siemens Gamesa continues to be the leading supplier of offshore wind turbine technology in the world's leading offshore wind market, the UK. Through safe, efficient, and reliable manufacturing, over 1,500 blades from Hull have been delivered to customers worldwide. We're very much looking forward to adding to the approx. 1.4 GW of clean power capacity these blades help provide as a part of our offshore Direct Drive wind turbines.

Chairman & CEO GRI Jon Riberas said:

We are proud to participate in this major project to power British homes and communities with wind energy towards sustainability and carbon neutrality. This project will create a worldwide leader in the offshore sector in a market that is increasingly demanding and constantly evolving.

This investment swiftly follows an announcement made in early July when the UK government announced over £180 million of private sector investment for offshore wind manufacturers SeAH Wind Ltd and Smulders Projects UK who will build facilities located on the Humber and at Wallsend in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, creating and safeguarding more than 1,000 jobs.

In March this year, the government also announced up to £95 million investment to establish 2 new ports on the Humber and on Teesside to enable manufacturers to build the next generation of offshore wind projects.

Together these new ports will have the capacity to house up to 7 manufacturers to support the development of the next-generation offshore wind

projects, substantially boosting the UK's offshore wind manufacturing base while directly creating around 3,000 new jobs each.

In addition, US energy giant GE Renewable Energy have announced an investment in a major new offshore wind turbine blade manufacturing plant, the first investment on Teesside. This brand new, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility will directly create around 750 jobs in the area to supply the Dogger Bank Wind Farm project.

- the funding is part of the £160 million announced by the Prime Minister last year to further develop the UK's offshore wind capabilities
- the finalisation of detailed agreements and grant funding amounts will only follow a satisfactory due diligence phase

Press release: Broadband rollout trial to target hard-to-reach homes through UK's water pipes

Fibre optic cables fed through water mains to connect homes, businesses and mobile masts without digging up roads

Broadband rollout trial to target hard-to-reach homes through UK's water pipes

- Three-year project to accelerate rollout of broadband and mobile signal in rural areas
- Scheme also aims to help reduce leakage from the public water supply

Fibre broadband cables could be fed through the country's water pipes as part of the government's plan to speed up the nationwide roll out of lightning-fast broadband and mobile coverage in rural areas.

Four million pounds is available for cutting-edge innovators to trial what could be a quicker and more cost-effective way of connecting fibre optic cables to homes, businesses and mobile masts, without the disruption caused by digging up roads and land.

Civil works, in particular installing new ducts and poles, can make up as much as four fifths of the costs to industry of building new gigabit-capable broadband networks.

This new scheme could turbocharge the government's £5 billion Project Gigabit plan to level up broadband access in hard-to-reach areas as well as the £1 billion Shared Rural Network which will bring strong and reliable 4G phone signals to many of the most isolated parts of the country.

Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman said:

The cost of digging up roads and land is the biggest obstacle telecoms companies face when connecting hard-to-reach areas to better broadband, but beneath our feet there is a vast network of pipes reaching virtually every building in the country.

So we are calling on Britain's brilliant innovators to help us use this infrastructure to serve a dual purpose of serving up not just fresh and clean water but also lightning-fast digital connectivity.

The project will also look to test solutions that reduce the amount of water lost every day due to leaks, which is 20% of the total put into the public supply. It will involve putting connected sensors in the pipes which allow water companies to improve the speed and accuracy with which they can identify a leak and repair it. Water companies have committed to delivering a 50% reduction in leakage, and this project can help to reach that goal.

Deployment challenges for essential utilities such as water and telecoms are complex and tightly regulated because both are parts of the country's critical national infrastructure. The project will consider these regulatory barriers as well as the economic, technical, cultural and collaborative challenges and impact on consumer bills.

Any solution used to trial fibre optic cables in the water mains will be approved by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) before being used in a real world setting. The DWI requires rigorous testing ahead of approving any products that can be used in drinking water pipes, and fibre has already been deployed in water pipes in other countries such as Spain.

The government is already considering giving broadband firms access to more than a million kilometres of underground utility ducts to boost the rollout of next-generation broadband – including electricity, gas and sewer networks – and will soon respond to a consultation on changing regulations to make infrastructure sharing easier.

The government has already given broadband suppliers access to existing infrastructure to help speed up roll out, with electricity poles used extensively throughout England to carry broadband cables.

Stephen Unger, Commissioner at the Geospatial Commission, said:

Fibre is the future of digital communications. Its unmatched performance and reliability can seamlessly connect our society together. But it took over a hundred years to build the legacy copper network, so replacing it with fibre won't be easy.

The best way to meet this challenge is to use existing infrastructure, such as the water pipes that already reach every home and business in the country. Our ambition must be for reliable broadband to become as easy to access tomorrow as drinking water is today.

The Fibre in Water project is due to conclude in March 2024. The final year of the project will explore scaling proven solutions right across the country.

Deadline for applications to the competition is 4 October.

ENDS

The government has launched a competition to select a consortium, which could comprise telecoms companies, utility providers and engineering companies, to lead and deliver the project. As part of this, a region or multiple regions of the country will be selected to host the trial.

The Fibre in Water competition is being run by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in partnership with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Geospatial Commission