



Rampion 2

WIND FARM

FIRST ROUND OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION 2021-2022 FEEDBACK

17th October 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

Between 14 July to 16 September 2021 Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED), a joint venture between RWE, Macquarie and Enbridge, undertook a statutory consultation on the proposals for Rampion 2.

RWE who are leading the development on behalf of RED, would like to thank those who have responded to the consultations on this project to date.

The purpose of this document is to summarise comments and issues raised in the responses made to the first round of Statutory Consultation.

Feedback from the consultation, together with preliminary environmental impact assessments and discussions with relevant local authorities and other key stakeholders, has informed the proposals presented in the second round of Statutory Consultation. This focuses on our onshore proposals and will run from 18 October to 29 November 2022. Full details of this consultation can be viewed at www.rampion2.com/consultation

We have also refined our project, having had regard to the feedback received from the consultation and engagement with statutory bodies and landowners. Offshore, we have reduced the overall boundary of the windfarm by over 40%. We have also cut the maximum number of turbines to 90, which is 26 fewer than our previous maximum. We have also introduced separation channels between the existing Rampion 1 and our proposals.

More detail on the offshore changes is set out in Section 5. Onshore, we have selected our preferred substation site from the two that we consulted on. This is described in Section 6.

The first round of Statutory Consultation presented information about the proposals online, along with a consultation response form which included closed and open questions to encourage both quantitative and qualitative feedback. People were invited to give their views either by filling in the questionnaire online or via post or email. People also had the option of responding by written letter or email.

2 FORMAT OF THE FIRST ROUND OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION

In order to ensure the construction and operation of Rampion 2 reduces impacts on the environment and local communities wherever possible, we completed a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), describing our initial proposals and a preliminary assessment of their likely impacts. This was published as part of the first round of Statutory Consultation which ran from July to September 2021 and was re-opened February to April 2022.

We encouraged anyone who has an interest in the project to give their views about how the Rampion 2 proposals may benefit or impact them. We invited feedback on:-

- our preliminary assessment of the onshore and offshore environmental, community and economic impacts and proposed mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts;
- our early thinking on building the project and the measures we plan to put in place to minimise the impacts of construction on local communities; and
- the merits or disbenefits of substation and cable route alignment proposals where there are options being considered.

The consultation was conducted at a time when project design was still in at an early stage and proposals were subject to preliminary environmental impact assessment. However, we aimed to ensure that we provided sufficient project and background information to enable communities to provide informed responses to the consultation.

In addition we encouraged them to raise issues and suggestions that they would like us to consider as the proposals developed. In order to achieve this, we provided a suite of materials to support the consultation.

The full suite of consultation materials used during the first statutory consultation can be viewed and downloaded from www.rampion2.com/consultations-2021.

3 CONSULTATION RESPONSE THEMES

The consultation consisted of 10 questions about the proposals which people could respond to. The consultation requested people to identify whether they were responding on behalf of an organisation, business or campaign group, or if they were a person or business that has an interest in land around the indicative underground cable route or route options, or a similar interest in land around the three search area options we had identified for the new substation. Finally, a series of questions about the demographics of the respondent was asked to allow subsequent analysis.

In our initial analysis, in advance of preparing the Consultation Report which will accompany our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, responses were categorised and grouped as follows:-

- **Project wide themes**
- **Offshore themes**
- **Onshore themes**

The next sections summarise the overall themes of comments received under each of the above categories. This document is not intended to be an exhaustive list of every comment received or a response to those comments. It is intended to give the reader a sense of issues that were raised. Furthermore, not all comments may be addressed, as they may still be subject to further consideration, or we may ultimately decide that there is not an appropriate project response that can be made. The project's full consideration of responses, including reasons why we have not made changes in some cases, will be provided in the Consultation Report to be submitted with the DCO application.

4 PROJECT WIDE THEMES

4.1 Our approach to Environmental Impact Assessment

Positive comments

- General support for the approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Negative comments

- Concerns that surveys and assessments rely too heavily on 'desk study', more wildlife surveys should have been commissioned;
- Suggest an alternative less damaging route preferably outside the South Downs National Park;
- Insufficient detailed data available and insufficient work with partner independent conservation agencies with a lack of transparency; and
- Comments reflecting a scepticism to the conclusion that there are 'no significant effects' identified at this stage. A lack of consideration for the residents that will have to live with the construction and operational impacts.

Neutral comments

- Suggestions to consider floating wind turbines as part of the project assessment. Floating wind turbines would reduce the environmental impact on the seabed and nearby residents;
- Comments stating that the project did not include Green Hydrogen in the assessments; and
- Requests for more detailed environmental assessments to be carried out to demonstrate that there will not be irreversible harm to the protected habitats and species in the area.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

There were a number of comments regarding our approach to EIA. This is governed by a well-established processes, set out under the Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

A number of the comments on scope and sufficiency of the information in the PEIR reflect the fact that the PEIR is by definition a preliminary assessment part way through the pre-application process. The final application will include a full Environmental Statement, taking account of EIA Scoping with the relevant Secretary of State and responses to that Scoping process, together with subsequent feedback from consultation and extensive ongoing engagement with statutory bodies over the past 2 years.

In respect of why the onshore cable route could not avoid the South Downs National Park, this was explained in the PEIR in Chapter 3 Alternatives, which described a number of alternatives which had been evaluated but were not feasible. The final outcomes relating to alternatives will be presented in the Alternatives Chapter of our Environmental Statement. Furthermore, policy context relating to cable route alternatives will be addressed in a dedicated section of our Planning Statement.

The term 'no significant effects' has very specific meaning in terms of EIA, as it is undertaken to a methodology set out in the PEIR or eventual environmental Statement, which we seek to agree with key relevant bodies. We identify 'receptors', which are something that could be affected by our works, for example, a property or nature conservation site that might hear construction noise. We identify receptors to understand the potential effect of our project. 'No significant effects' does not mean 'no effects' or that there are not localised effects, or changes of effects, to a receptor. Depending on the level of effect, this might then be called significant. The sensitivity of the receptor, and the magnitude of change is key to this assessment.

Regarding suggestions of including other technology innovations into the proposals, RWE as a shareholder in RED/Rampion 2 has developments and investments elsewhere into floating wind and hydrogen production, however the technical characteristics and constraints of this site location and the need for green electricity production near to major centres of demand, are better suited to 'fixed bottom' foundations and generating electricity.

4.2 Cumulative impacts

Positive comments

- Comments encouraging the project to emphasise the benefits of having sustainable electricity generated in the local area.

Negative comments

- Concern that the project lacked consideration about the cumulative effects of construction and other pre-existing pressures, such as nearby areas of aggregate dredging;
- Comments raising concerns about the timing of the project which will clash with new housing due for construction in affected areas. This was given as another reason the area is considered unsuitable by some residents;
- Comments relating to the general cumulative disruption to communities and ecology along the cable route to the substation; and
- A perception that areas affected by Rampion 1 are taking longer to recover than expected and therefore concern that the same will be the case for Rampion 2.

Neutral comments

- Request for more detail on how the project will minimise onshore and offshore impacts, with emphasis on how monitoring will be carried out during operation;

- Requests for the work to be carried out safely, protecting the environment and successfully increasing power production for the nation.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

A range of feedback was received about how Rampion 2 could interact with other existing and proposed developments. As part of the Scoping Opinion and subsequent consultation and engagement with statutory bodies, the potential for ‘cumulative’ and ‘in combination’ effects is identified and the requirements to make an assessment of these in the Environmental Impact Assessment are agreed.

This includes for example the combined effect with the existing Rampion 1 wind farm, with existing industries such as aggregates and fishing, and onshore it includes potential for interaction and combined effects with new road schemes and housing schemes.

4.3 Human health

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of impacts on human health.

Negative comments

- Concerns raised in relation to the impacts of vibration, motion, noise and air pollution on the affected communities during the construction phase;
- Concerns raised in relation to construction compounds and excessive disruption this will cause residents and impacts to local schools and the commercial impact to camping sites;
- Concerns raised relating to the negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of local residents due to adverse visual impacts including flashing lights on the seascape and overall reduction in the beauty of the coast; and
- Comments raising concerns about the conflict between the project and the A27 Arundel bypass scheme. Some respondents believe this will generate an unsustainable volume of traffic with more HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicles) movements, this in turn will negatively impact on local residents and businesses as well as exacerbating the air quality problems identified in the wider area.

Neutral comments

- Requests for further information regarding noise of operation from an operational wind farm of equal size and nature; and
- Requests for the project to give fair consideration to the impact the scheme would have on the Heritage Coast to the east and along the West Sussex seashore to Selsey in the west.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The final EIA will take into account the potential for effects on a range of environmental aspects, including the themes raised in respect of impacts on communities and individuals. Traffic during the onshore construction phase is a key aspect which is evaluated. We seek to apply mitigations and management plans where relevant to seek to reduce the scope for impacts.

Visual impacts are assessed in depth for both the offshore and onshore elements of the project (albeit temporary in the case of the onshore electricity cable route). We acknowledge that whilst many people are neutral or have a positive association with wind turbines, others dislike their appearance. The EIA assessment, and ultimately the decision made by the Secretary of State, will take into account all likely impacts of the scheme.

4.4 Needs case for the project

Positive comments

- General support for the expansion of wind energy as it is a vital part of the nation's route to net zero, this makes some people in the area proud to have wind turbines off their shoreline;
- Comments supporting the expansion and encouraging the project to proceed as soon as possible; and
- Support for renewable wind energy over more hazardous forms of energy like nuclear power.

Negative comments

- General criticism that the overall costs of the project are not declared in a transparent manner in the consultation materials;
- Concern raised on the considerable cost of manufacturing wind turbines and the associated cost of construction underwater;
- Criticism relating to the scale of the carbon footprint for construction and operation of the project. This conflicts with it being a sustainable source of energy;
- Criticism that the 'green credentials' of the project are less than that described in the consultation materials due to the offshore and onshore environmental impacts; and
- Concern that it appears that the power is solely being generated for electricity demands beyond rather than those that live in the local area and being impacted by construction and operation of Rampion 2.

Neutral comments

- Suggestion that that project should ensure that the construction phase encourages ecological growth and biodiversity; and

- Expectation that the project would be constructed without relying on government funding and with supply being made at average prevailing rates for all sources of fuel for energy.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

At the time Rampion 2 was first proposed the UK Government established a target for 40GW of offshore wind capacity to be operational by 2030, an effective quadrupling from around 10GW in 2020. In April 2022 Government released the British Energy Security Strategy (BESS) responding to the ever increasing twin challenges of climate change and energy security, with the latter having been thrown into sharp focus by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and significant increases in the price of gas globally. The Government has increased the 2030 target to 50GW meaning the delivery of projects like Rampion 2 is even more crucial.

The costs of Rampion 2 are not declared in detail since they cannot be determined until the project design is refined post-consent (when the final number of turbines, their optimised layout and location and the final scheme megawatt output are determined). The Government's 'Contracts for Difference' (CfD) process, where renewable electricity generators bid downwards until sufficient megawatts have been secured, ensures value for the consumer in the electricity market.

The overarching trend of costs of offshore wind over recent years has been a reduction by more than half, as a result of technological improvements and economies of scale. Further reading on how much progress has been made in making offshore wind cost competitive with other technologies can be found at the website of the Carbon Trust:-

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/policy-innovation-and-cost-reduction-in-uk-offshore-wind>

4.5 Socio-economics

Positive comments

- General sentiment that the project will create new jobs and contribute towards the economic growth and vitality of the area;
- Comments that jobs, apprenticeships and retraining for wind farm operational phase are a significant benefit for the area. Early selection of entrepreneurs, recruitment, training and information campaigns will be required to ensure wealth creation from this phase is localised; and
- Suggestion that this is a great opportunity for all job seekers in the area, not just school-leavers and apprentices.

Negative comments

- Criticism that the PEIR downplayed the role tourism plays in the economic health of the coastal communities along the Sussex Bay. Concerns that the project will contribute to further decline of the coastal economy in West Sussex;
- Concerns raised about the proposed construction compounds in the affected area and excessive disruption this will cause residents;
- General concerns relating to significant HGV disruption to a local road network during the construction phase. Fears this will negatively impact on local residents and businesses as well as reducing air quality in the affected area and wider; and
- Criticism that the project does not meet the policy guidelines of the South Marine Plan produced by the Maritime Management Organisation which makes sure that development does not have an adverse impact on tourism. Concern that the project will result in significant job losses in the local area.

Neutral comment

- Suggestion to subsidise power to homes locally to offset impacts on those living in the area; and
- Suggestions that the project work closely with other organisations/community bodies, that seek to ensure that local marine life thrives and remains safe and sustainable.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

Socioeconomic impacts and factors that featured in a number of comments will be addressed in the final Environmental Statement, including opportunities for local jobs, contracts and tourism, as well as perceived impacts on and tourism and jobs. In addition, the UK Government (BEIS) requires a full Supply Chain Plan to be prepared as part of the pre-qualification process for bidding into the CfD auctions.

The original Rampion Offshore Wind Farm now provides full time employment for 65 operational staff and technicians, with a total of 12 apprentices so far having been recruited locally and trained. During construction at peak there were around 1000 workers, many from within Sussex and the Southeast region. Whilst the construction phase does not provide permanent local opportunities and not all specialist labour will be able to be secured in the local resource market, secondary benefits often arise from local hoteliers, the hospitality sector and shops benefitting from incoming workers on major projects.

We do not believe the nature or scope of the proposed development contradicts any local or national policy, and do not believe there is any evidence from Rampion 1 or any other areas near offshore wind farms where tourism or employment has been adversely affected. We have observed strong interest and footfall in our visitor centres (RWE has others besides Rampion 1), along with local charter boat operators providing trips out to Rampion 1.

4.6 Sustainability, carbon and life cycle

Positive comments

- Sentiment that extending Rampion is a logical step which utilises infrastructure and minimises the disturbance that a new site might cause and is key to meeting our low carbon power requirements;
- General comments supporting Rampion 2, as renewable energy sources are one of the biggest contributors to a more sustainable way of life for future generations and for the well-being of the planet and wildlife; and
- Suggestions the project should future proof the expansion so new and emerging technologies can be used to increase energy efficiency and production.

Negative comments

- Concern relating to the constantly changing nature of windfarm technology and need for continual maintenance which will causing ongoing disruption and waste during the project's lifecycle;
- Suggestions that the location for the proposed Rampion 2 is a region of low wind power density and that better more acceptable locations should be identified found to meet the Government targets for wind generated electricity in the UK; and
- Concern that the technology will be obsolete and decommissioned within 30 years of operation which could be detrimental to the local community and economy.

Neutral comments

- Request for further information on when the site will have a carbon neutral footprint.
- The project will need to deliver a 'hearts and minds' campaign to demonstrate the adverse impacts on biodiversity, marine life and natural habitats will be offset by the benefits during operation; and
- Suggestion to delay production and wait for technology that can deliver smaller wind turbines and equivalent amount of energy currently proposed by the project.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

As outlined in Section 4.4 The Needs Case for the Project, there is a strong UK Government (indeed largely global consensus) policy requirement for offshore wind and the significant benefits this will deliver.

The Rampion 2 site is exposed to strong prevailing winds within the English Channel, is located close to shore (by comparison to other projects that may be 100-150km offshore and have to address associated challenges as a result) and lies within favourable depths of water. The Rampion 1 wind farm has now been fully operational for over 4 years and has been highly successful in terms of delivering renewable energy.

4.7 Community benefits

Positive comments

- Suggestion that the project take the opportunity to work with Local Authorities on educational programmes related to the project and it being a great opportunity to bring challenges of renewable energy to life for children; and
- Suggestion that the project offer local primary and secondary schools the opportunity to visit Rampion 1 in preparation for Rampion 2 construction and operation.

Negative comments

- General sentiment that local residents do not benefit from the project and at the very least residents should receive a significant reduction in energy costs to compensate for the disruption to their lives;
- Concern that community benefits do not appear to be distributed to communities adjacent to the affected areas; and
- The project could do more to provide sustainable community support through the provision of grants and contributions towards the maintenance of sea and flood defences on Climping Beach.

Neutral comment

- Suggestion that local residents should be compensated by cheaper energy prices; and
- Suggestions for additional local mitigation including creating community owned nature asset around substation; and
- Regular boat trips to the wind farm to people can learn more about the project and its benefits.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

Community involvement and being a 'long term good neighbour' is something we strive for in the way we develop, construct and operate our projects. On Rampion 1 this included a Community Benefits Scheme which was launched in 2017 and administered by Sussex Community Foundation, encompassing coastal communities within Sussex as well as inland communities near to the onshore cable route and our grid substation.

Contributing to education and in particular on themes of environment and sustainability is central to our approach. The Rampion Visitor Centre on the Brighton Seafront is a state-of-the-art facility offering general public and groups of students an insight into the challenges of climate change, the role of renewable energy and the story of how the Rampion project was delivered.

Whilst it is too early to confirm details, there will be a Community Benefits Scheme for Rampion 2 should the project consent be approved. In terms of the communities involved, this would take into account communities further west which were not within scope for the original Rampion 1, which did not extend as far west as Rampion 2.

4.8 Community disruption

Positive comments

- Sentiment that many of the predictions of adverse impacts made by opponents to Rampion 1 did not materialise. The same could occur for Rampion 2.

Negative comments

- General concerns raised relating to the disruption to the local area along the entire route during construction. Fears relating to significant delays and impacts to the local road network;
- Concerns raised on the lack of clarity on the construction traffic flows to and from the cable landfall site and to what extent Bognor to Littlehampton Road will be affected; and
- Fears and concerns raised relating to noise and vibration based on previous experience from the construction phase of Rampion 1, including an increase in migraines, disruption to sleep and damage to property.

Neutral comments

- Suggestion that notices be erected in advance in affected areas during the construction phase so people can plan alternate routes; and
- The project should be delivered as soon as possible to minimise the disruption to communities.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

We note some feedback that the actual effects were not as some had feared prior to experiencing the actual construction and operation of Rampion 1. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) will invariably have some impacts, which are assessed and set out in the Environmental Statement, and are taken into account by the Secretary of State in making a final decision. However, we will strive to reduce these effects through how we design, plan and carry out the works.

We have been considering valuable feedback and lessons learned from the original Rampion 1 project which we will aim to implement should Rampion 2 be granted consent and taken forward to construction.

This will include careful consideration of construction techniques, working hours, traffic management plans, avoiding major loads during key times, selection of quieter plant and machinery and other measures. Establishing open and regular two-way dialogue with communities local to the works will be a fundamental part of our approach, so we can seek to address any issues arising.

4.9 Consultation

Positive comments

- Comments on the improved level of community engagement in comparison to the Rampion 1 consultation;
- Positive sentiments that local people have had an opportunity to explore the proposals in detail; and
- General support for the professionalism and quality of the consultation.

Negative comments

- Concern raised on the complexity of the consultation materials with some local people finding it difficult to understand the proposals;
- Comments criticising the how the of the consultation response form, the questions were not written in a clear and concise manner and led to some confusion; and
- Some criticism that the consultation period was not long enough to allow people to consider and respond to consultation. And the consultation activity was not promoted well enough.

Neutral comments

- Comment that more information on incident management could have been included in the consultation; and
- Suggestion that there are positive aspects to the project that the consultation doesn't mention that could have been included in the material.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

We welcome the feedback received on how previous consultations were received by local stakeholders and communities and are always seeking to improve the 'user experience' where we can.

The timing of Rampion 2 coincided with an unprecedented situation in modern times of lockdown and restrictions public gatherings due to Covid. Under the Planning Act 2008 we are required to undertake at least one round of 'Statutory Consultation' however we decided to hold in addition a prior 'Non Statutory'/informal round of consultation between January and February 2021 in order to raise the profile of the project. This was then followed up by the

Statutory Consultation between July and September 2021 (which we re-opened between January and April 2022 when it had been flagged to us that some addresses along part of the coast in West Sussex had not received the flyer notifications due to a mailing error).

We recognise and appreciate that the information presented for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) can be somewhat involved and possibly even daunting for the general public, so as well as the statutory-required documents (Preliminary Environmental Information Report or PEIR, which has to follow a particular format and style and is used by Statutory Bodies and their respective experts) we also produce various additional more 'user friendly' summary documents, factsheets and videos, which we hope do assist the interpretation of what can often be quite lengthy and complex statutory documents.

5 OFFSHORE THEMES

This section firstly covers some key changes we have made to the offshore proposals, before then outlining the themes of feedback received and our responses to these.

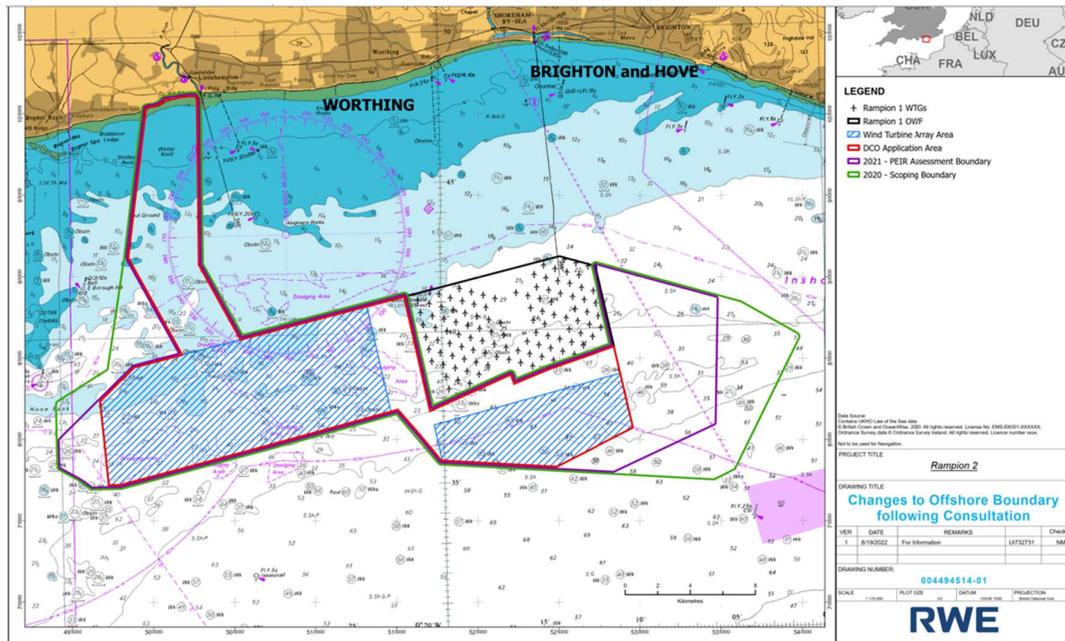
5.1 Offshore Elements changed since the First Statutory Consultation

As a result of feedback from Statutory Consultees, other stakeholders and the wider community, RED has now made a number of revisions to the physical extent of the offshore proposals, with the key changes as follows:-

- A reduction of the overall boundary of the offshore wind farm by over 40% from 270km² in the previous consultation, to 160km² (in terms of the area where wind turbines may be located) in our revised proposals;
- Reduction of the maximum number of wind turbines to a maximum of 90 turbines - 26 fewer than in the previous proposal which had been for up to 116 new turbines; and
- Introduction of separation channels between the turbine areas for Rampion 2 and the existing operational Rampion Offshore Wind Farm. These channels serve several objectives including visual design, navigation and shipping and as emergency access.

When we first announced the project and the initial 'Area of Search' we said we would refine the project proposals over time and through the course of consultation and engagement to a final proposal which would be located somewhere within that Area of Search (i.e. not the entire area initially identified).

The figure below shows the evolution of the offshore proposals from our initial boundary used for the Scoping Opinion in 2020 (315km²), to that presented in the First Statutory Consultation (270km²), through to what is now proposed as the maximum footprint of 160km² (the blue hatched areas) for the DCO Application.



5.2 Seascape/visual impacts

Positive comments

- Comments showing a preference to offshore wind farms instead of onshore wind turbines;
- Comments that during certain weather conditions Rampion 1 cannot be seen;
- An understanding that there is a minority of days-per-year when the meteorological visibility allows the wind farm to actually be seen; and
- Comments supporting the additional height of the new turbines to supply more power the South of England.

Negative comments

- General opposition to the scale of the wind turbines, as too tall/ close to the shore and South Downs National Park and the overall negative impact to local beach views;
- Calls to reduce the size of the wind turbines and move the project further out to sea;
- Suggestions to move the location to less populated areas like; Beachy Head, Rye, between Dungeness and Folkstone;
- Questions on how night-time visual impacts are assessed, i.e. navigation lights polluting the sky and disrupting wildlife;
- Comments that the assessments contained errors, were incomplete and biased toward an outcome that supports the project;

- Concerns that the assessments did not properly take into account the impacted landscapes, seascape, wildlife, the marine environment and tourism;
- Comments referring to the detrimental impact on the coast for both residents and tourists; and
- Calls for the proposals to be reduced in size, with smaller turbines and further offshore to reduce the visual impact and integrate with Rampion 1.

Neutral comment

- Suggestions for further information on the project's on and offshore light pollution impacts to both species and people through construction and operation;
- Suggestions to retrofit the Rampion 1 wind farm with the latest technology; and
- Suggestions to paint wind turbines a neutral colour similar to the sea view and horizon to reduce the visual impact of the project.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

As mentioned in the introduction to this Offshore section, we have made a number of revisions to the physical extent, and hence the likely visual effect, of the offshore proposals since the first Statutory Consultation. These changes result of feedback from Statutory Consultees, other stakeholders and the wider community.

This includes a 40% reduction in the overall area within which wind turbines may be located, as well as reducing the maximum number of turbines by 26 turbines. Despite these reductions and refinements we still believe we are able to deliver a project of up to 1200MW within this now refined scope. Much of the reduction is from the east recognising the sensitivity of the Heritage Coast, although a further 10 square kilometres have been taken from the west.

Additionally the introduction of separation channels between existing Rampion wind turbines and the proposed areas of new development have the effect of breaking up the views of separate developments from some key viewpoints, as well as reducing potential for 'clutter' effect viewed from Heritage Coast by avoiding new larger turbines in front of the existing (smaller in relative terms) Rampion turbines.

Because we are planning for project that if consented would be built in the second half of this decade, it remains important for us to include a range of likely sizes of wind turbines as we cannot be certain which models and size may be on the market by the time the project is contracting with suppliers. As such, we have needed to maintain the maximum 325m to tip height, but in practice the final selected turbine model may be less than this.

5.3 Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology

Positive comments

- Support for the 'safe zone' for marine life once the work is complete;

- Support on the basis that the physical presence of the wind farm will provide protection to the seabed by preventing further damage through trawler fishing activities; and
- Support for the enhancement of marine habitat in creation of artificial reefs.

Negative comments

- General comments on concerns relating to the impact to the seabed and marine life is likely to be substantial;
- Concerns on the impact to ongoing development of sustainable onshore fisheries and local fish and shellfish stocks;
- Concern about damage to the seabed's fragile ecosystem, as well as the impact on migrating birds and seabirds;
- Further mitigations suggested to reduce bird strikes and impacts of other forms of wildlife and marine life; and
- Call for greater investment by the project in replanting the kelp seabed and protecting the dolphin population.
- Look at alternate methods of underwater installation needs to be explored to minimise impact on the ecosystem and environment.

Neutral comments

- General comments on the need for information on minimising the effects of construction on the seabed environment;
- Concern over the impact on kelp and requests to support the Kelp Restoration Project across Sussex Bay; and
- Comments suggesting the project should be required to monitor relevant environmental impacts from construction and operation on all habitats and species, particularly fisheries, the marine environment and associated natural communities.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The potential for impact on the seabed, marine ecology, fisheries and bird life will be fully assessed in the Environment Statement in line with the requirements of the various statutory bodies including the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Natural England and the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA).

Whilst a wind farm spans a significant area in terms of total square kilometres of the site, the actual footprint of the wind turbines is a very small proportion of this, typically <1%. Therefore

the vast majority of the seabed is unaffected by the construction and presence of the wind turbines. Cabling linking the turbines is buried under the seabed.

There is anecdotal evidence marine growth occurs on the foundations of wind turbines creating an 'artificial reef' effect which is believed to encourage fish stock diversity and numbers. We do not believe the wind farm proposal poses any risk to the plans for the kelp restoration and we will work with that project to ensure successful co-existence.

5.4 Coastal Processes

Positive comments

- General comments that the project will be beneficial to the coast;
- Suggestion the project could restore sea defences at the Climping Beach area; and
- Appreciation for tunnelling method under Climping Beach due to the fragility of the landscape and proximity to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Negative comments

- Suggestion that the project could do more to provide long term community support through the provision of community grants and maintenance of the sea and flood defences on Climping Beach;
- Concern that the project will worsen coastal erosion in the area; and
- Concerns the worst-case scenario presented at consultation was insufficient and lacked relevant assessment data.

Neutral comments

- Comments suggesting the project should take the opportunity to improve various local facilities.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The potential impact to existing coastal processes is assessed in full as part of the Environmental Statement, involving complex computer modelling of how the introduction of structures may modify the natural current and wave effects. On the original Rampion 1 project, given each turbine foundation only presents a 6.5m diameter 'obstructions' at least 13km from shore and with turbines spaced out by a factor of more than 100 times the foundation diameter, the findings were that the effect would not be significant. Indeed, there are various ongoing natural processes which are likely to have a much more significant effect in the long term, not least the threat posed by climate change and sea levels rising, which we have also taken account into our plans.

5.5 Commercial Fisheries

Positive comments

- The project may enable fish to breed undisturbed as it will keep commercial fishing away from the affected area; and
- Support protection of the marine environment from fishing.

Negative comments

- Concerns that the impact on the fishing community has not been properly considered due to the large-scale exclusion zone around the project. Belief that the project will deprive local fishermen of their livelihood;
- Concern that the project will cause irreparable damage to the seabed and sea life in the affected area;
- General concerns around the negative impacts of both commercial and recreational fishing sector; and
- Concern relating to trawling rights for fishing between the rows of turbines as it will have a negative impact on marine life.

Neutral comments

- Request that further assessments should be carried out on the western extension to the original windfarm (Rampion 1) to understand the impacts on the species in that area;
- Suggestion that fishing trails are included as part of the post-construction mitigation to provide assurance that activity may resume; and
- Greater certainty should be provided about the prospects for fishing resuming post construction.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

We work closely with commercial fishermen in the area and want to ensure that the wind farm and commercial fisheries can successfully co-exist together. On the original Rampion 1 project we entered into 'cooperation agreements' which asked the fishermen to work with us and stay safe distances away from areas under construction during the various stages of the construction, and in turn we would ensure they are not adversely financially impacted by recognising this may require additional fuel, time, cost to adapt their regular fishing practices and locations.

Following completion of each phase of the wind farm, access was re-opened and available for fishing to resume, which remains the case through the operational lifetime of the wind farm.

As mentioned in Section 5.3 Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology, there is evidence that the marine growth on foundations which provides an 'artificial reef' effect which may encourage fish stock diversity and numbers.

5.6 Fish and shellfish ecology

Positive comments

- Rampion 1 contributed to the creation of a marine park and this benefit should be emphasised for Rampion 2; and
- General support for the project in creating a larger naturally protected marine reserve which will help create more sustainable fish and shellfish stocks plus additional habitation for other types of marine life.

Negative comments

- Comments regarding silt from dredging and piling will prevent crabs and lobsters from breeding offshore from Selsey and Littlehampton and stopping fish breeding in the adjacent Marine Protected Areas;
- Concerns that the project has not paid enough attention to the impact on vulnerable species such as seahorses;
- General concerns regarding the negative impact on the local fishing fleet and economy;
- General concerns of the adverse impact on the ecological environment caused by wind turbines; and
- Comments on the disruption to the spawning routines of local fish.

Neutral comment

- Questions on how impacts on marine habitat will be monitored during installation have been raised.
- Suggestion that further assessment is required on the western extension to Rampion 1 to better understand the impact on the species and fishing ground in that area.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The final Environmental Statement will take into account potential for effects on fish and shellfish both from an ecological perspective as well as commercial fisheries.

Species of particular importance such as seahorse are assessed as part of the Fish and shellfish chapter, with specification additional mitigation requirements still under discussion with regulatory bodies.

Black bream associated with the Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) are a sensitive species for which we need to need to minimise risk to their spawning season, both directly from the cable corridor construction as well as indirectly from subsea noise associated with foundation piling activities. Measures including noise suppression technologies and potential seasonal restrictions are part of what is currently being considered.

As mentioned in Section 5.4 Commercial Fisheries we have found that the marine growth on wind turbine foundations can actually act as an ‘artificial reef’ which may encourage fish stock diversity and numbers.

5.7 Marine Mammals

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of marine mammals.

Negative comments

- Concern on the damaging effects of marine noise pollution from construction and operation of turbines; and
- Significant adverse effects of wind turbines, including destruction of underwater habitats, sanctuaries to fragile and diverse sea life, and electromagnetic radiation which can affect the behaviour of certain marine animals.

Neutral comments

- Comments that project should ensure marine life is undisturbed by vibration from the construction of and general running of the turbines; and
- Request for a Marine Mammals Monitoring Plan, prior to any consent being given.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The points raised are all within the scope of the final Environmental Statement and there are in fact a number of specific measures put in place (as standard, agreed with MMO and Natural England) on offshore wind farms in the UK.

This includes having a Marine Mammals Monitoring Plan and a ‘soft start’ piling approach which means that when piling of foundations is commenced we start with low hammer energies (lower subsea noise) then gradually increasing the hammer energy over typically a 20 minute period. This provides opportunity for marine mammals, which will typically avoid such noises, to swim away from the area where the noise is being generated. This is a well-tested approach which the statutory nature conservation bodies accept as a primary mitigation to minimise risk of harm to marine mammals.

We are also, as mentioned in connection to breeding fish, also looking at potential noise suppression techniques to reduce the source noise of piling works. Potential for electromagnetic fields to effect certain electrosensitive fish species will also be assessed in the Environmental Statement.

5.8 Noise and vibration

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of noise and vibration.

Negative comments

- Concerns raised on two-year construction noise from offshore drilling and its impacts on marine life and residents along the coast;
- Comments that more needs to be done in relation to construction impact mitigation; and
- Concerns that desk based ecological surveys cannot give a true representation of the effects on particular species and how they will be able to adapt to such significant initial disruption to their environment and re-adjust to those changes.

Neutral comments

- Comments that the project needs to do all it can to ensure that marine life is undisturbed by vibration from the construction and operation of the wind turbines; and
- Requests for mitigation relating to the ‘humming’ noise of the wind turbines during operation.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

We have mentioned in the context of marine mammals and fish species in previous sections how we are looking at mitigation the potential impact of subsea noise associated with construction, specifically the piling of foundations into the seabed.

We also look at the potential for airborne noise which could in certain conditions potentially be audible from shore. During the construction of the Rampion 1 project, there were rare instances (from 116 foundation units being installed) of this being audible by residents on shore during some very warm and calm nights in early summer. This led us to carefully monitoring the atmospheric conditions and modifying our installation timings accordingly which addressed this, an approach which will be adopted from the start on Rampion 2 should it go ahead.

Regarding the mention of a ‘humming’ noise of the wind turbines during operation, the wind farm is not audible from shore under any normal operating conditions. In order to hear the

wind turbine operational noise it is necessary to be on a boat typically very close (a few hundred metres) to a wind turbine.

5.9 Ornithology

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of ornithology.

Negative comments

- Comments raising concerns for coastal and migratory birds, bats and insects across the proposed site which would be significantly impacted.
- Concerns that the project has not paid enough attention to the impact on migrating seabirds, nightingales and turtle doves.

Neutral comments

- Mitigation for impacts to ornithological interests should be part of the application and retained for the lifetime of the project; and
- Comments that the PEIR makes no attempt to assess what impact the development may have on migratory birds.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The Ornithological assessment has been substantially updated and more data included since the draft published at PEIR. The final Environmental statement will include a full assessment of the potential impact to bird habitat and food sources, as well as any potential impact to both resident and migratory bird populations. Bats are assessed separately in the Onshore Ecology sections of the Environmental Statement. The impact to nationally designated species and features such as nightingales is covered not only in the Onshore Ecology sections of the Environmental statement but also in the separate Habitats Regulations Assessment.

5.10 Recreational users of the sea

Positive comments

- General support for the provision of sustainable energy, wildlife reserve, and habitat creation as it is good for tourism and diving.

Negative comments

- General concerns raised on the negative Impact on local sailing communities;

- Concern on the detrimental impact on unique underwater geology in the area to the west of Rampion 1 where proposed turbines will be situated for Rampion 2; and
- Concerns raised on the disruption which will be caused to prime diving sites during the construction phase.

Neutral comments

- Requests for further information on potential impact on inshore windspeeds from high-windsurfing community.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

As with shipping and commercial fisheries, our aim is to successfully co-exist with all groups of marine users. This includes the yachting and sailing community, charter boat owners, anglers and divers. Communication with these groups will be key to ensure they are kept aware of our plans and likely timing, and in some cases (for example charter boats running dive trips) we would seek to enter into some form of agreement to ensure a safe approach is agreed to how and when such activities can take place given the various construction phases of the project.

Seabed archaeology is considered as part of the Environmental Statement and there are standard protocols we put in place with Historic England to identify potential features of interest and to micro-site the final wind turbine locations away from these. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is put in place which ensures expert archaeologist involvement in any artefacts discovered during construction.

We do not believe that there is any measurable effect on inshore wind speeds near the coast, given the wind turbines would be a minimum of 13km offshore.

5.11 Commercial shipping and navigation

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of shipping and navigation.

Negative comments

- Request for an integrated proposal round the whole of the British Isles with maps showing the impact on shipping lanes and coastal views should be offered for consultation.

Neutral comments

- No specific neutral comments were received in respect of shipping and navigation.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The comments about providing a combined impact on shipping and coastal views of all offshore wind farms in the UK is outside the scope of what the authorities require for the Rampion 2 application, which focusses on interaction with relevant aspects in the Sussex and South east region.

Although there were few comments from the community consultation on shipping and navigation, there has been detailed consultation feedback and subsequent dialogue with statutory bodies including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Trinity House Lighthouse Services, and the various ports including Shoreham, Newhaven and Littlehampton. The reduction of the offshore boundary at the east has been influenced by this feedback (along with the feedback from other parties regarding visual effects), with the new proposed eastern boundary ensuring continued clear access to the inshore ports from the English Channel Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

In addition to the main boundary reduction, we have also introduced two separation channels between the existing operational Rampion wind turbines and the areas where we are proposing additional development as part of Rampion 2. As well as providing route options for water borne traffic, there is also a benefit in terms of helicopter routeing for search and rescue operations.

6 ONSHORE THEMES

6.1 Introduction

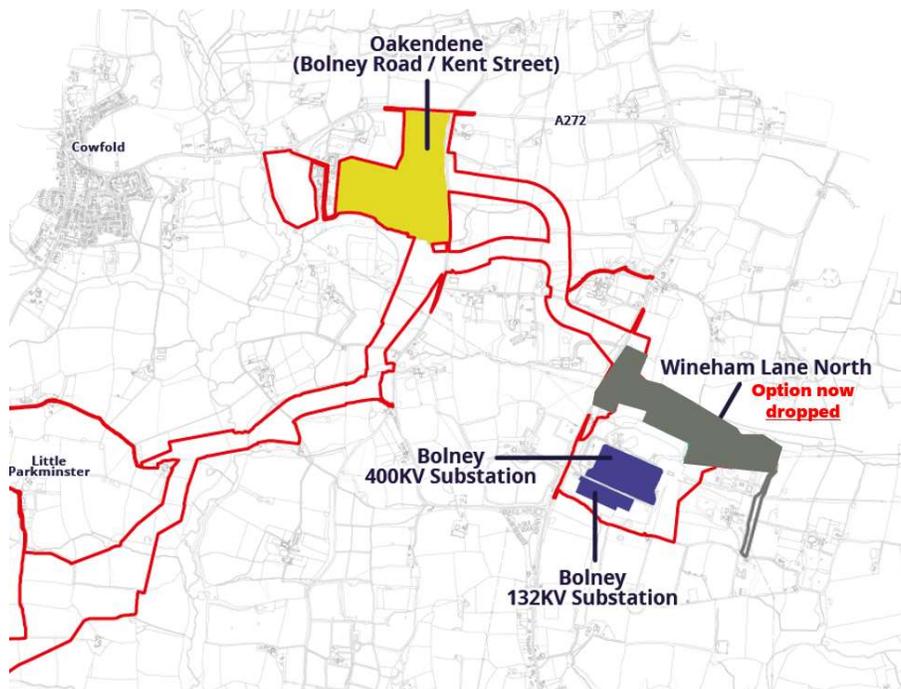
The onshore elements of the proposal comprise the cable route and project substation. The cable route is buried underground except for occasional access covers, whilst the project substation is our main above-ground onshore equipment required for the project.

Our current consultation is a substantial response to the comments and feedback we have received on our onshore cable route, both through our main consultation periods and ongoing engagement. We have also proposed potential modifications to our scheme arising from our own ongoing environmental and engineering studies, particularly as the lifting of Covid restrictions has allowed us to return to a normal level of activity in terms of site visits and surveys.

6.2 What we have now fixed in the Onshore elements

We have now selected a site for our onshore substation, from the two that we consulted upon. Feedback from the public and statutory bodies was helpful in reaching this decision. Our preferred site is Oakendene, at Bolney Road/Kent Street

The Wineham Lane North site option has been dropped, as have the associated cable routes and accesses from the south which would have served that site.



6.3 Historic Environment

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of the historic environment.

Negative comments

- General concern about the loss of historic and archaeological sites and potential damage to historic landscape;
- Suggestion that the substations, as with the turbines, should be to the west of the area, to minimise the effect of the offshore development on the undeveloped Heritage Coast;
- Concern choosing Climping Beach, known for its archaeological interest, for the cable landfall location could be problematic.
- Questions on whether the project has engaged with Natural England and the Environment Agency; and
- There is no assessment of the significance of the identified terrestrial heritage assets, the contribution setting makes to their significance or how this significance is likely to be impacted by proposals.

Neutral comments

- Requests for the project to take every opportunity to explore and preserve any archaeological finds.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

During the course of the project Environmental Impact Assessment, any potential effects upon historic environment are being identified. In addition to thorough desk studies, we are undertaking geophysical surveys over most of the route, and digging trial trenches in locations where buried archaeology is most likely.

Appropriate measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts on archaeology will be proposed within the Rampion 2 Development Consent Order (DCO) application, and agreed with the consenting authorities, including Historic England.

6.4 Engineering and Design

Positive comments

- General support for the undergrounding of cable routes and approach to minimising disturbance;
- Comments relating to the speedy recovery of the first Rampion cable route; and

- Comments that the disturbance during construction of the first Rampion was minimal and expectation that the same might be said for Rampion 2.

Negative comments

- General concern that the cable route will cause massive disruption for many years in an area that is, already undergoing mass disruption;
- Fears that the works will significantly cause upheaval when the cables are being laid and damage the countryside;
- Comments questioning why the existing power lines cannot be added to in order to bring the power to land and the main power station, this would avoid disrupting the countryside and villages;
- Concerns around physical constraints to the substation proposals. Due to the presence of the Rampion 1 substation to the south, and the recently expanded woodland strip to the north, and overhead high voltage power lines on pylons, there is very little space in which to construct the substation; and
- Comment that it was poor planning by Rampion 1 to limit the onshore cable.

Neutral comments

- Further clarity needed on exactly where the substantial cabling and connection infrastructure will be brought on shore, and if possible, further detailed Environmental Impacts Assessments relating to Rampion 2.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The cables for the Rampion 1 project were designed to be efficient and cost effective for transmitting that project's power output, and they unfortunately do not have the capacity to also carry the power from the Rampion 2 windfarm.

The Rampion 2 project will reinstate the land along the cable route, once the onshore cables have been installed. Additional trenchless crossings have been proposed to avoid disruption to main roads and landscape features.

The Development Consent Order (DCO) application and associated documents will provide detail of the final proposed cable route, and of the detailed Environmental Impact Assessments conducted along it.

6.5 Land and Property

Positive comments

- General sense of reassurance that Rampion 2 will be repairing any damage to the land after the cables are laid.

Negative comments

- General concerns relating to coastal communities suffering during the construction and operation of Rampion 2;
- Criticism that the cable route is brought ashore at almost the furthest point from the substation. Belief that this will mean that the proposed route will irreparably destroy the surface of farmland, which is needed to feed the increasing population and future generation;
- Concerns about the drop in the local housing market due to the project. Fears that this will turn away future investment in the community and make the residents oppose any future developments;
- Concern that the project is driven by foreign companies that have no vested interest in the area; and
- Comments that not enough information has been provided on the noise and vibration impacts on properties during construction.

Neutral comments

- Suggestions that the proposed substations should be kept together with the existing Rampion substations in order to minimise their spread and impact on the countryside.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The heavily developed nature of the Sussex coast means that there are few locations at which the cables can be brought ashore. Having assessed a range of potential landfalls and cable/substation options (as described in the PEIR Chapter 3 Alternatives) Climping was selected as the preferred location, and has attempted to identify the best route by which to run the cables from there to the grid connection location at Bolney substation.

The Rampion 2 project will reinstate the land along the cable route back to its former condition, once the onshore cables have been installed.

The Development Consent Order application and associated documents will provide detail of the final proposed cable route, and of the detailed Environmental Impact Assessments (including those on noise and vibration effects) conducted along it.

6.6 Landscape and Visual Impacts

Positive comments

- Comments that you now cannot see the impact of the Rampion 1 cabling onshore apart from fencing in certain places.

Negative comments

- Concerns over the visual impact of cable construction albeit temporary, and the effectiveness of the reinstatement of the land afterwards; and
- Criticism of the environmental assessment, due to them not properly taking into account the landscape and the human environment.

Neutral comments

- There were no neutral comments on this topic

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The cables will be buried for the full length of the onshore cable route and so any visual impacts of the works will be temporary. We are committed to reinstate the land as quickly as possible back to its former condition and have a 10 year monitoring and maintenance plan which ensures that if any replanting or further reinstatement needs to happen, this is delivered.

The onshore grid substation is the only permanent above ground feature of the onshore works. Detailed plans for visual mitigations through landscaping and tree planting are being developed to limit the visibility of the substation from key receptors including Oakendene Manor, other local properties and adjacent roads and rights of way.

6.7 Noise and Vibration

Positive comments

- Comments that the original consultation brought to light many things that have since proved to be false, such as severity of noise impacts.

Negative comments

- Concerns that from previous experience of Rampion 1, the Rampion 2 construction phase will be just as disruptive including the beach becoming unpleasant to use due to noise from the drilling work, which is perceived to be impossible to mitigate;
- General concerns raised on views are being ruined and local people having to live with the noise and traffic associated with the Rampion 2 construction phase; and
- Concerns raised on the impact upon the quality of daily life due to noise and disruption from regular massive vehicles accessing the sites near homes.

Neutral comments

- Requests for more information on mitigation measures including piling during the construction phase to reduce noise and vibration impacts;

- Further information on assessments on the worst-case scenario for the largest wind turbine included in the design envelope; and
- Suggestion that that all onshore work is done in small stages so as to minimise the disruption to people's lives.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The effects of noise and vibration upon sensitive receptors, near the cable and substation construction sites, are being assessed by Rampion 2.

The Development Consent Order application and associated documents will provide details of these effects and of the project's proposals for dealing with them (which will then need to be agreed with the relevant planning consent authorities). A draft of our Code of Construction Practice is available at this consultation to provide further information on how noise and vibration effects can be mitigated.

The limiting of working hours, and the use of noise barriers, can be used where appropriate to limit disturbance.

6.8 Soil and Agriculture

Positive comments

- General support for the commitment to preparing a comprehensive reinstatement plan where the underground cables will be placed, as part of the DCO application.

Negative comments

- General comments that the route should avoid proposed development sites and be diverted and or reconsidered;
- Further thought needs to be given to livestock farms and the practical difficulties of managing livestock. It is not possible to mitigate the impacts on cattle farms due to the proposed alignment of the cable route; and
- Comments that not enough information was collected from Rampion pre-construction and post completion about changes to the soil structure. Some mitigations and restorations were not a complete success including soil structure and gaps in hedgerow.

Neutral comments

- Noted that permanent loss of any agricultural land is regrettable but restricted to the onshore substation on Grade 3 land so should not result in a reason to resist the proposals; and
- Suggestion to reconsider some of the cable route to avoid areas of Environmental sensitivity by re-routing the cable further South along the South Downs, South of

Washington to avoid excessive road crossings and disturbance to the village community. Taking this more southerly route would avoid disturbing good productive arable land at Barns Farm (Grade 3a). The more southerly route would pass through lower quality soil grades which is rough grassland.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

In identifying the onshore cable route, Rampion 2 has sought to minimise effects on properties and proposals with planning consent, and upon valuable habitats such as woodlands.

Where agricultural land is crossed, locations will be provided at which cattle can cross the cable corridor, and land will be reinstated following the completion of construction.

The Rampion 2 project will reinstate the land along the cable route, once the onshore cables have been installed. Farmland topsoil will be temporarily removed and stored according to government best practice guidance so that it can be reinstated to pre-existing conditions.

6.9 Terrestrial Ecology and Nature Conservation

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of terrestrial ecology.

Negative comments

- Concern raised on the number of trees (especially oak trees), which will be lost forever as they are closely spaced. Not only will there be a loss of visual amenity, but the ecological damage will be significant. If one of the aims is to minimise the loss of mature oak trees, then routing cables through our boundaries fails this objective; and
- General concerns that Rampion 2's onshore cable will cross the South Downs National Park causing permanent damage to the National Park.

Neutral comments

- Questions on whether Rampion 2 has surveyed the whole site month by month so that the project knows what plants and wildlife will be impacted; and
- Suggestion that the impact on wildlife in and around the High Weald needs further consideration. Building so near to an AONB has impact on wildlife corridors, walkers and the well-being of small, local neighbourhoods.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The Rampion 2 project will seek to minimise the number of trees that it removes, by routing cables around them where it can. This consultation also includes details of a number of new trenchless crossings to route cables at least 6m underneath important woodland. It will also promote the planting of new trees, to replace those that it does need to remove.

Between the publication of PEIR and the publication of PEIR SIR the number of trees that maybe lost to development has reduced due to design (avoidance) and the development of mitigation (e.g. ways of working to reduce hedgerow loss). This includes minimising tree loss both within woodland (much less loss than the worst case scenario described at PEIR) and within hedgerows (worst case scenario for a hedgerow is a reduction in the loss of 50m of hedgerow per crossing to 14m, with many retained intact)

We have also developed some entirely new alternative cable routes to avoid nature conservation areas, which are now out for public consultation. At a more localised scale, where avoidance is to take place this will be detailed in the planning application in a 'vegetation retention plan'.

Temporary lighting (i.e. to aid construction) will be localised and restricted to a small number of locations; permanent lighting will be present at the substation only. All lighting will be designed to attune to guidance from the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust to minimise effects on wildlife.

Surveys have been conducted along the Rampion 2 cable route, in order to understand the wildlife that is present along it, and help us develop ways to reduce our impacts.

While construction of the cable route will have a temporary effect upon users of the local area, the land will be reinstated once the construction has been completed. The cables for the Rampion 1 project also crossed the South Downs, and reinstatement of the land was carried-out following these works.

Vegetation will be reinstated following construction, with appropriate safe guards in place to ensure it is managed and monitored appropriately to ensure it establishes well. The project has made a commitment to delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as part of the project, measured using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric.

6.10 Transport

Positive comments

- General support to the approach to construction and mitigation of impacts in the area; and
- Comments supporting the majority of components and materials being shipped by sea, to reduce traffic congestion and associated negative impacts on the local communities.

Negative comments

- Concern that some lanes along the proposed route are unsuitable for construction traffic. And access to properties will be affected by the construction phase;
- Concerns construction traffic, especially in the Climping area will render travel along the coast road extremely difficult. The traffic routes along the coast between Bognor Regis and Littlehampton are already busy;
- Comments that successive local development plans for residential development are only serving to increase the traffic levels, the additional pressure from Rampion 2 construction will only add to traffic congestion and disruption; and
- Concerns raised around the type of traffic that will be travelling in area during the construction phase including HGV movement and diggers.

Neutral comments

- Suggestion to move plant and machinery to work sites by helicopter and minimise the inconvenience caused by heavy lorries on narrow country roads; and
- Comments highlighting the need to maintain the flow of transport through the area whilst construction takes place.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The Environmental Assessment of the Rampion 2 project includes an analysis of the effects of the construction works upon traffic levels on local roads.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the County Council, including the routing of HGVs away from major settlements. Measures to minimise disruption to local traffic (such as the transportation of large loads at quieter traffic times) could be agreed where appropriate, with the relevant authorities.

A Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Management Plan will also be agreed to set out how we manage impacts to users of footpaths, bridleways and other public rights of way.

This consultation includes proposals to cross some roads using trenchless techniques which would reduce disruption to the local road network.

6.11 Water Environment

Positive comments

- No specific positive comments were received in respect of the water environment.

Negative comments

- Concerns raised on the impact the cable route will have on lichen and interconnected flood meadow;
- Concern that the planned cable route crosses an area of recent and extensive flooding which may cause further problems for the local community;
- Comments that Rampion 2 assessments have ignored recent sea defence breaches at Climping and the regular flooding of the Arun Valley; and
- Comments that the area is unsuitable for Rampion 2 due to the already complex drainage issues on fluvial and the coastal flood plain. In addition, the area has limited water resources for construction and seriously inadequate sewage infrastructure.

Neutral comments

- Suggestions that the construction of Rampion 2 is an opportunity to improve sea defences and raise riverbanks as well as raising the levels of ground as appropriate across the whole area. It could also be used to create much needed lakes to supply fresh water to the area which it will be in need of when all the house building is complete; and
- Suggestion that the construction of the substations be linked with the building of sewage works which are needed in the region.

Summary Response from Rampion 2

The design of the Rampion 2 onshore infrastructure is taking into account local flood plains and matters such as land drainage and coastal erosion. We have been engaging in detail with the Environment Agency on flooding and coastal erosion. We are also undertaking a detailed Hydrogeological Risk Assessment to be included in our Environment Statement at DCO application. The final design will be in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities.

7 CONSULTATION REPORT

As part of our DCO Application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing our approach to consultation, the feedback that we receive, and how we have given due regard to all responses in finalising the proposals. When considering our DCO application, the Secretary of State must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate and compliant with the statutory requirements.



www.rampion2.com

Rampion 2 Wind Farm
c/o RWE Renewables UK
Greenwood House
Westwood Way
Coventry
CV4 8PB

rampion2@rwe.com
www.rampion2.com