

# Riverside Energy Park

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## Applicant's response to Environment Agency Deadline 4 Submission

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# Applicant's Response to the Environment Agency's Deadline 4 Representation

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This document provides a response to the representation submitted by the Environment Agency (EA) at Deadline 4.

1.1.2 This response covers the following topics:

- Comments on proposed changes to the Project
- Open Mosaic Habitat
- Protective Provisions
- Draft Development Consent Order

1.1.1 The above matters are addressed in order below.

1.1.2 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been progressed with the EA and a signed SOCG (**8.01.11**) is submitted at Deadline 5 with the wording of the Protective Provisions in **Part 4** of **Schedule 10** of the **draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (3.1, Rev 3)** yet to be agreed. However, the Applicant anticipates these will be agreed before the end of the examination.

## 1.2 Comments on proposed changes to the Project

### Electrical Connection Route

1.2.1 The Applicant welcomes the EA's confirmation that the electrical connection route selected avoids the need for concerns relating to Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) issues at Erith High Street and reduces any potential risk to the Thames Tidal Flood Defences.

### Progress Report 2019

1.2.2 The Applicant welcomes the EA's confirmation that the location of the Main Temporary Construction Compound and the installation of the cable troughs are unlikely to impact on the Thames Tidal Defences. The Applicant considers the EA's view is correct, as the Thames Tidal Defences are approximately 350m away from the amended location of the Main Temporary Construction Compound at its closest point and, 850m and 1.8km away from the cable troughs located at the southern end of Norman Road, at the junction with Picardy Manorway; and land to the north of the A206 Bob Dunn Way crossing over the strategic sewer (west of Joyce Green Lane), respectively.

## 1.3 Open Mosaic Habitat

1.3.1 In careful consideration of the application of the Biodiversity Mitigation Hierarchy, the Applicant has been in discussion with the EA regarding the creation of Open Mosaic Habitat on the flood embankment within the REP

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Site. Extensive discussions have concluded that the EA remain concerned that "the proposed mosaic habitat on the flood defence embankment will increase the risk of erosion and thus reduce the durability of the structure".

- 1.3.2 Given this outcome, the Applicant is no longer pursuing the provision of Open Mosaic Habitat on the flood embankment, and will instead seek appropriate compensation elsewhere within or off site, which will be demonstrated through the Biodiversity Metric calculations which is being progressed by the Environment Bank and secured through **Requirement 5** of the **dDCO (3.1, Rev 3)** submitted at Deadline 5.

## 1.4 Protective Provisions

- 1.4.1 The Applicant is currently in discussion with the EA's Legal Team regarding Protective Provisions and will update the Examination as soon as the specific wording has been agreed. The Applicant anticipates that agreement can be reached before the close of the Examination.

## 1.5 Draft Development Consent Order

- 1.5.1 The Applicant has been in discussion with the EA regarding wording relating to **Requirement 17** River Wall and **Requirement 23** Flood Risk Activity Permit Area. This wording has now been agreed and is included in the signed SOCG between the Applicant and the EA and in the **dDCO (3.1, Rev 3)** submitted at Deadline 5.