

Rampion 2 Wind Farm

Category 5:

Reports

Consultation Report

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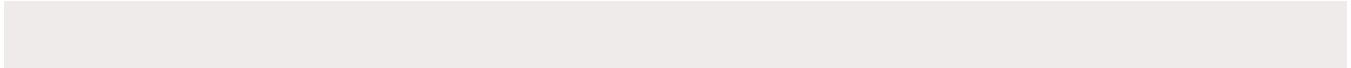
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Rampion 2

WIND FARM

Consultation Report

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations, 2009 - Regulation 5(2)(q)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Consultation Report has been prepared by the Applicant (Rampion Extension Development Limited) in support of the application for a Development Consent Order for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm, which is an extension to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm. This Project, which includes constructing, operating and maintaining an offshore wind farm off the south coast of England to be known as Rampion 2, is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as defined by the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the Act to demonstrate how the Applicant has complied with its duties under sections 42, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the Act and in accordance with guidance issued pursuant to section 50 of the Act.

In summary these duties are to consult prescribed consultees under section 42 (which includes a range of local authorities, landowners and other statutory organisations), the community in the vicinity of the proposals under section 47, to publicise the proposed application (through a series of local, national and commercial fishing publications as required under section 48), and to take account of relevant responses received to those consultations carried out (under section 49). In addition, these duties include notification of the relevant Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate under section 46 of the Act.

In addition to statutory consultation, the Applicant has also carried out non-statutory consultation and ongoing engagement with community representatives and other stakeholders.

In line with the Department of Communities and Local Government Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), the Applicant has undertaken an iterative consultation process including statutory and non-statutory consultations. Seven stages of consultation were carried out between January 2021 and June 2023.

These were:

- **Non-statutory consultation** between 14 January and 11 February 2021;
- **Project wide consultation** between 14 July and 16 September 2021, which was then extend from 7 February to 11 April 2022;
- **Onshore consultation** on potential changes to the onshore cable corridor between 18 October and 29 November 2022;
- **Targeted consultation on the LACR 1D onshore cable route corridor** between 24 February and 2 March 2023;
- **Targeted consultation on the Rampion 2 extension to the National Grid Bolney substation** between 28 April and 30 May 2023;
- **Minor highways and new parties consultation** from February to April 2023; and
- **A project refresh consultation** with land interests from April to June 2023.

As a project requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment, it is a requirement under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 to consult on preliminary environmental information. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was published as part of the Project wide consultation (14

July to September 2021). A Supplementary Information Report to support the PEIR was then published as part of the Onshore consultation (18 October to 29 November 2022). A Further Supplementary Information Report to support the PEIR was published to support the targeted consultation on the LACR 1D onshore cable route corridor.

A separate document setting out supplementary Preliminary Environmental Information was published to support the targeted consultation on the Rampion 2 extension of the National Grid Bolney substation. At each stage comments were sought on the published preliminary environmental information.

Five in-person events and five virtual events were held across all of the stages of consultations. It was not possible to hold in-person events during the first two stages of consultation (the non-statutory consultation held between 14 January and 11 February 2021; and the Project wide statutory consultation held between 14 July and 16 September 2021) due to restrictions in place in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic; however the Applicant did hold five outside roadshow events to support the Project wide statutory consultation. Other in-person and online events have been held as general engagement on the Project and are detailed in the relevant sections of this Report.

In total 2,146 responses were received to all stages of consultation. Multiple changes to the Project were made following feedback received in response to these consultations including reductions in the size of the offshore array area, refinement of the offshore and onshore cable corridors, and consideration of alternative options for the onshore route and installation methodologies, the introduction (and adoption) of an alternative cable route corridor, and the selection of an onshore substation location.

This Consultation Report summarises the stages of consultation that have been undertaken in order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Act. The Report also sets out how the consultation responses provided during statutory (and non-statutory) consultation have influenced the final application.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Summary

- 1.1.1. This Consultation Report sets out how Rampion Extension Development Limited¹ (the ‘Applicant’) has complied with its duties under the Planning Act 2008 (‘the Act’) to carry out consultation before the submission of a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the powers to construct, operate and maintain an offshore wind farm off the south coast of England to be known as Rampion 2 (hereinafter also called “the Project”).
- 1.1.2. Section 37(3)(c) of the Act requires the applicant for a DCO to submit a consultation report as part of its application. This report fulfils that requirement.
- 1.1.3. This Report includes:
- An overview of the engagement undertaken with stakeholders outside of consultation (both statutory and non-statutory) periods to help inform the development of the proposals;
 - Early non-statutory consultation on the proposals;
 - Six stages of consultation with statutory elements.
- 1.1.4. Due to the complexity and size of the Project, the Applicant carried out a multi-stage iterative consultation process. Responses to each stage informed both the development of the Project and future consultations (where relevant). These are summarised below in Table 1.1.
- 1.1.5. The Environmental Statement for the Project describes some of the consultation stages using different terminology. These terms, where different from those used in this Consultation Report, are set out in the table below.

Table 1.1: Stages of consultation to support Rampion 2.

Stage of consultation	Environmental Statement term	Period	Type of consultation
1. Non-statutory consultation	N/a	14 January to 11 February 2021	Non-statutory
2. Project wide consultation	First statutory consultation exercise	14 July to 16 September 2021 Extended: 7 February to 11 April 2022	Statutory consultation under sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008
3. Onshore consultation	Second statutory consultation exercise	18 October to 29 November 2022	Statutory consultation under sections 42, 46,

¹ Company Registration Number: 12091939.

			47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008
4. Targeted onshore cable route consultation – LACR 01d	Third statutory consultation exercise	24 February 2023 to 27 March 2023	Statutory consultation under section 42, targeted non-statutory consultation with the community
5. Targeted Rampion 2 extension to the National Grid substation consultation	Fourth statutory consultation exercise	28 April to 30 May 2023	Statutory consultation under section 42, targeted non-statutory consultation with the community
6. Minor highways changes and new parties consultation	N/a	February to April 2023	Targeted consultation under section 42, no consultation with the community
7. Project refresh consultation	N/a	April to June 2023	Targeted consultation under section 42, no consultation with the community

1.2. Structure of this report

1.2.1. The full structure of this Report is set out in the table below.

Table 1.2: Structure of this Consultation Report.

Section	Title	Contents
1	Introduction	An introduction to the Consultation Report including the formal project description and information about the Applicant.
2	Legislative context and compliance checklist	Legislation and guidance that has informed the consultation process for Rampion 2.
3	Engagement	Details of the non-consultation engagement that was carried out alongside and in support of consultation.
4	Non-statutory consultation	Details of the non-statutory consultation that was carried out on early proposals.
5	Project wide consultation	Details of the first full statutory consultation on the proposals which included the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This section also includes information about the re-opening of this stage of consultation.
6	Onshore consultation	Details of the second statutory consultation, with a focus on onshore proposals and alternatives which included the Supplementary Information Report to the PEIR.

7	Targeted onshore cable route consultation – LACR 01d	Details of a targeted consultation on an alternative onshore cable route option that was identified in responses to the Onshore consultation which included the Further Supplementary Information Report to the PEIR.
8	Targeted Rampion 2 extension to the National Grid substation consultation	Details of a targeted consultation on an extension to the National Grid substation at Bolney required to connect the Project to the national electricity transmission network which included further Preliminary Environmental Information.
9	Minor highways changes and new parties consultation	Details of two consultations that were targeted at land interests to ensure all parties included in the Book of Reference were consulted with under section 42 and given the opportunity to make representations in respect of the project as a whole, included small additional areas of land to connect the project to adopted highway and included small additional areas of land to connect the project to adopted highway.
10	Project refresh consultation	
11	Consultation under the EIA Regulations and the Habitats Regulations	Information about the consultation carried out in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and Habitats Regulations.
12	Conclusions	Conclusions of this Report.

1.2.2. Three annexes are appended to this Consultation Report containing information in appendices to support the Report. They provide evidence of the ways in which the consultation was delivered in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements and examples of materials used during consultation. They also provide background material in relation to the phases of consultation. A list of the appendices and their contents is provided in below.

Table 1.3: The appendices that support this Consultation Report.

Appendix	Contents
CONSULTATION REPORT – ANNEX 1 (APPLICATION REFERENCE 5.1.1.)	
1. Notification outside of consultation	
1.1 Notification under 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations	
1.2 Letter to Applicant confirming EEA states notified	
2. Engagement	
2.1 Project liaison groups	Information related to the Project Liaison Groups including presentations and meeting minutes.

2.2 Other engagement activity	Information related to other engagement activity carried out to support the Project.
3. Non-statutory consultation – 14 January to 11 February 2021	
3.1 Publicity	Materials used to promote the consultation
3.2 Consultation material	Material published as part of the consultation
3.3 Interim Consultation Report	A report published after the non-statutory consultation reporting on the findings of the consultation.
4. Project wide statutory consultation – 14 July to 16 September 2021	
4.1 Statement of Community Consultation	Information related to the Statement of Community Consultation including consultation on a draft of the document with local authorities, the final document and copies of published notices.
4.2 Notifications under section 42	A list of consultees notified under section 42 of the Planning Act and an example cover letter. Note: This section does not include a list of PWILs.
4.3 Notification under section 44	An example cover letter sent to PWILs and a copy of the section 42 notification.
4.4 Publicity	Materials used to promote the consultation (excludes statutory notices).
4.5 Section 46 notice	Copy of the notice sent to the Planning Inspectorate to fulfil the requirements section 46 and the acknowledgement of receipt.
4.6 Section 48 notices	Copies of the notices published to fulfil the requirements of publicity under section 48.
4.7 Consultation material	Material published as part of the consultation (excluding full copies of published technical documents).
4.8 Summary of issues and consideration	A summary of the issues raised from response to the consultation (including the extension period) and demonstration of the consideration of relevant responses.
5. Extended project wide statutory consultation – 7 February to 11 April 2022	
5.1 Publicity	Materials used to promote the consultation extension.
5.2 Consultation material	The updated response form published for this consultation extension. All other materials were identical to those set out in Appendix 4.7.
CONSULTATION REPORT – ANNEX 2 (APPLICATION REFERENCE 5.1.2.)	
6. Onshore supplementary consultation – 18 October to 29 November 2022	
6.1 Statement of Community Consultation	Information related to the Statement of Community Consultation including consultation on a draft of the document with

	local authorities, the final document and copies of published notices.
6.2 Notifications under section 42	A list of consultees notified under section 42 of the Planning Act and an example notification letter.
6.3 Notification under section 44	The two types of example notification cover letters sent to PWILs and a copy of the section 42 notification.
6.4 Publicity	Materials used to promote the consultation (excludes statutory notices).
6.5 Section 46 notice	Copy of the notice sent to the Planning Inspectorate to fulfil the requirements section 46 and the acknowledgement of receipt.
6.6 Section 48 notices	Copies of the notices published to fulfil the requirements of publicity under section 48.
6.7 Consultation material	Material published as part of the consultation (excluding full copies of published technical documents).
6.8 Summary of issues and consideration	A summary of the issues raised from response to the consultation and demonstration of the consideration of relevant responses.
7. Targeted route consultation LACR 1D – 24 February to 27 March 2023	
7.1 Publicity	Materials used to promote the non-statutory community consultation.
7.2 Notifications under section 42	A list of consultees notified under section 42 of the Planning Act and an example notification letter. Note: This section does not include a list of PWILs.
7.3 Notification under section 44	Letters were sent to all PWILS directly impacted. An example letter is provided.
7.4 Consultation material	Material published as part of the consultation (excluding full copies of published technical documents).
7.5 Summary of issues and consideration	A summary of the issues raised from response to the consultation and demonstration of the consideration of relevant responses.
8. Targeted Rampion 2 extension to the National Grid substation consultation – 28 April to 30 May 2023	
8.1 Publicity	Materials used to promote the non-statutory community consultation.
8.2 Notifications under section 42	A list of consultees notified under section 42 of the Planning Act and an example notification letter. Note: This section does not include a list of PWILs.
8.3 Notification under section 44	An example notification letter sent to PWILs.

8.4 Consultation material	Material published as part of the consultation (excluding full copies of published technical documents).
8.5 Summary of issues and consideration	A summary of the issues raised from response to the consultation and demonstration of the consideration of relevant responses.
9. Targeted minor highways change consultation - 2023	
9.1 Notification under section 44	A template of the notification's letters sent to PWILs and an example of a final letter. Note: This section does not include a list of PWILs.
9.2 Summary of issues and consideration	A summary of the issues raised from response to the consultation and demonstration of the consideration of relevant responses.
10. Project refresh consultation - 2023	
10.1 Notification under section 44	A template of the notifications letters sent to the newly identified PWILs and an example of a final letter. Note: This section does not include a list of PWILs.
10.2 Summary of issues and consideration	A summary of the issues raised from response to the consultation and demonstration of the consideration of relevant responses.
CONSULTATION REPORT – ANNEX 3 (APPLICATION REFERENCE 5.1.3.)	
11. Consultation responses from statutory consultees referenced in the Environmental Statement	Text of responses received from prescribed consultees that are directly referenced in the Environmental Statement.

1.3. The Project

- 1.3.1. The Applicant proposes to develop an offshore energy generating station and related electrical connections and infrastructure to connect the power generated offshore to the national electricity transmission system.
- 1.3.2. The offshore generating station is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") within sections 14(1)(a) and 15(3) of the 2008 Act because it comprises an offshore generating station and its capacity will be more than 100MW. The infrastructure required to provide the connection to the national electricity transmission system comprises associated development for which development consent may be granted under section 115 of the Act.
- 1.3.3. As the authorised development would be an NSIP, development consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State and an application for a development consent order must be made to the Secretary of State, care of the Planning Inspectorate ("the Inspectorate"), under section 37 of the 2008 Act.

1.3.4. **Project description**

- 1.3.5. Rampion Extension Development Limited (hereafter referred to as 'RED') (the Applicant) is developing the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project (Rampion 2) located adjacent to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Project ('Rampion 1') in the English Channel.
- 1.3.6. Rampion 2 will be located between 13km and 26km from the Sussex Coast in the English Channel and the offshore array area will occupy an area of approximately 160km².
- 1.3.7. The key offshore elements of the Proposed Development will be as follows:
- up to 90 offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs) and associated foundations;
 - blade tip of the WTGs will be up to 325m above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) and will have a 22m minimum air gap above Mean High Water Springs (MHWS);
 - inter-array cables connecting the WTGs to up to three offshore substations;
 - up to two offshore interconnector export cables between the offshore substations;
 - up to four offshore export cables each in its own trench, will be buried under the seabed within the final cable corridor; and
 - the export cable circuits will be High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC), with a voltage of up to 275kV.
- 1.3.8. The key onshore elements of the Proposed Development will be as follows:
- a single landfall site near Climping, Arun District, connecting offshore and onshore cables using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) installation techniques;
 - buried onshore cables in a single corridor for the maximum route length of up to 38.8km using:
 - trenching and backfilling installation techniques; and
 - trenchless and open cut crossings.
 - a new onshore substation, proposed near Cowfold, Horsham District, which will connect to an extension to the existing National Grid Bolney substation, Mid Sussex, via buried onshore cables; and
 - extension to and additional infrastructure at the existing National Grid Bolney substation, Mid Sussex District to connect Rampion 2 to the national grid electrical network.

1.4. **The Applicant**

- 1.4.1. The Applicant is a joint venture company called Rampion Extension Development Limited ("RED") (Company Registration Number: 12091939).
- 1.4.2. RED is a joint venture between RWE Renewables, Enbridge Inc, and a Macquarie-led consortium. These joint venture partners were also legacy shareholders in the existing operational Rampion Offshore Wind Farm

("Rampion 1 project"), with RWE being the majority shareholder and development service provider for the joint venture.

- 1.4.3. RWE is a global energy company. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE has locations in Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region.
- 1.4.4. The Macquarie consortium, which was a legacy shareholder in Rampion 1 between 2015 and 2023 and investor in many other UK renewable energy assets, includes Macquarie European Infrastructure Fund 5, Corio Generation and USS pension fund.
- 1.4.5. Enbridge Inc, also a shareholder in Rampion Offshore Wind Limited, is a leading North American energy infrastructure company with natural gas, oil and renewable power networks and a growing European offshore wind portfolio.
- 1.4.6. RED was granted an electricity generation licence pursuant to section 6(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1989 on 8 July 2021 by Ofgem, who are the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority.

2. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT AND COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

2.1.1. This section of the Report covers the various statutory requirements for pre-application consultation and provides a checklist of compliance against each requirement.

2.2. The Planning Act 2008

2.2.1. Compliance with the requirements of the Act is the main purpose of this Report. Throughout this Report, the use of ‘section 42 – 50’ refers to the relevant sections of the Act. The table below sets out the key sections of the Act that are relevant and the locations within this Report that the evidence of compliance is captured.

Table 2.1: Sections of the Planning Act 2008 and the Applicant’s compliance with them.

Section	Compliance
<p>42. Duty to consult</p> <p>(1) The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application—</p> <p>(a) such persons as may be prescribed,</p> <p>(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection,</p> <p>(b) each local authority that is within section 43,</p> <p>(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and</p> <p>(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.</p>	<p>Consultation under section 42(1)(a), (aa) & (b) was carried out at the following stages of consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide consultation (14 July to 16 September 2021) – see Section 6.3; • Onshore consultation (18 October to 29 November 2022) – see Section 7.3; • Targeted onshore cable route consultation – LACR 01d (24 February 2023 to 27 March 2023) – see Section 8.3; and • Bolney substation extension consultation (28 April to 30 May 2023) – see Section 9.3. <p>Consultation under section 42(1)(c) was not required.</p> <p>Consultation section 42(1)(d) was carried out at the following stages of consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide consultation (14 July to 16 September 2021) – see Section 6.3; • Onshore consultation (18 October to 29 November 2022) – see Section 7.3;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted onshore cable route consultation – LACR 01d (24 February 2023 to 27 March 2023) – see Section 8.3; • Bolney substation extension consultation (28 April to 30 May 2023) – see Section 9.3; • Minor highways changes and new parties consultation (February to April 2023) – see Section 10.3; and • Project refresh consultation (April to June 2023) – see Section 11.3.
<p>43. Local authorities for purposes of section 42(1)(b)</p> <p>(1) A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area.</p> <p>(2) A local authority (“A”) is within this section if—</p> <p>(a) the land is in the area of another local authority (“B”),</p> <p>(aa)B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and</p> <p>(b)any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area.</p> <p>(2A) If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council (“C”), a local authority (“D”) is within this section if—</p> <p>(a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and</p> <p>(b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area.</p>	<p>The local authorities identified and consulted in line with section 43 are set out in Section 6.3 for the Project wide consultation. The same identification process was used in future consultations and the relevant local authorities are listed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 6.2 for the Onshore consultation; and • Appendix 7.2 for the Targeted onshore cable route consultation; and • Appendix 8.2 for the Bolney substation extensions consultation. <p>Note: For the targeted cable route, National Grid substation extension at Bolney, minor highways changes and project refresh consultations only local authorities under 42(1)(b) affected by the scope of the consultation were consulted.</p>
<p>44. Categories for purposes of section 42(1)(d)</p> <p>(1) A person is within Category 1 if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land.</p>	<p>The process used to identify all landowners and people with interest in land is set out in the Book of Reference (application reference 4.3) through methods including land registry searches and written requests for information.</p>

(2) A person is within Category 2 if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person—

- (a) is interested in the land, or
- (b) has power—
 - (i) to sell and convey the land, or
 - (ii) to release the land.

(3) An expression, other than “the land”, that appears in subsection (2) of this section and also in section 5(1) of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (c. 56) has in subsection (2) the meaning that it has in section 5(1) of that Act.

(4) A person is within Category 3 if the applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled—

- (a) as a result of the implementing of the order,
- (b) as a result of the order having been implemented, or
- © as a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented, to make a relevant claim. This is subject to subsection (5).

(5) A person is within Category 3 only if the person is known to the applicant after making diligent inquiry.

(6) In subsection (4) “relevant claim” means—

- (a) a claim under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (c. 56) (compensation where satisfaction not made for the taking, or injurious affection, of land subject to compulsory purchase);
- (b) a claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (c. 26) (compensation for depreciation of land value by physical factors caused by use of public works);
- (c) a claim under section 152(3).

Whilst general practice is to obtain Land Registry updates bi-annually, in the early stages of land referencing for a scheme of this nature, additional refreshes of data were then timed to occur prior to key milestones; such as the issue of section 42 consultation letters in August 2021, and issue of further targeted section 42 Consultation letters in October 2022.

How consultation was carried out with those identified under section 44 is set out in:

- Section 5.3 for the Project wide consultation
- Section 6.3 for the Onshore consultation;
- Section 7.3 for the Targeted onshore cable route consultation;
- Section 8.3 for the Bolney substation extensions consultation;
- Section 9.3 for the Minor highways changes and new parties consultation; and
- Section 10.3 for the Project refresh consultation.

Note: For the Targeted cable route, National Grid substation extension at Bolney, minor highways changes and project refresh consultations only PWILS affected by the scope of the consultation were consulted.

<p>45. Timetable for consultation under section 42</p> <p>(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.</p> <p>(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.</p>	<p>The consultation period for each consultation under section 42 was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide consultation – 64 days and then re-opened for 64 days; • Onshore consultation – 45 days; • Targeted onshore cable route consultation – 32 days; • Bolney substation consultation – 33 days; • Minor highways changes and new parties' consultation - multiple tranches not less than 28 days beginning from the day after the party received the consultation documents; and • Project refresh consultation – multiple tranches not less than 28 days beginning from the day after the party received the consultation documents.
<p>46. Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application</p> <p>(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.</p> <p>(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.</p>	<p>Notification of the Secretary of State was carried out via the Planning Inspectorate. The notification letters directed to the Project website were all of the consultation materials were hosted. Letters under section 46 were sent before or at the same time as the section 42 consultations in respect of the proposed application. Details of the notifications can be found in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide consultation – see Section 6.4; and • Onshore consultation – see Section 7.4. <p>Note: The Planning Inspectorate were made aware of the subsequent consultations.</p>
<p>47. Duty to consult local community</p> <p>(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.</p>	<p>For the Project wide consultation, a Statement of Community Consultation was drafted, consulted on with the local authorities between 25 March and 28 April 2021, published on 7 June 2021 and delivered against. Comments were received</p>

<p>(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.</p> <p>(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority’s response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.</p> <p>(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).</p> <p>(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).</p> <p>(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant [F1 must—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,]</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p> <p>(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.</p>	<p>on the draft SoCC from local authorities See Section 5.5 for full details.</p> <p>For the Onshore consultation an Updated Statement of Community Consultation was drafted, consulted on with the local authorities between 22 April 2020 and 18 May 2022, published on 12 October 2022 and delivered against. Comments were received on the draft SoCC from local authorities. See Section 6.5 for full details.</p> <p>The mandatory local authorities consulted with on the draft SoCCs were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun District council • Horsham District Council • Mid Sussex District Council • South Downs National Park Authority • West Sussex County Council. <p>The Applicant also consulted with additional local authorities on a voluntary basis. These are listed in the respective sections of the Report set out above.</p>
<p>48. Duty to publicise</p> <p>(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.</p>	<p>Notices were published in line with the requirements of section 48 and details are set out in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide consultation – see Section 5.6 and Appendix 4.6; and

<p>(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore consultation – see Section 7.6 and Appendix 6.6.
<p>49. Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</p> <p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant— (a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and (b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means— (a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case, (b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, ©(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	<p>The consideration of relevant responses received to consultation and publicity has been set out in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 4.8 for the Project wide consultation • Appendix 6.8 for the Onshore consultation; • Appendix 7.5 for the Targeted onshore cable route consultation; • Appendix 8.5 for the Bolney substation extension consultation; • Appendix 9.2 for the Minor highways changes and new parties' consultation; and • Appendix 10.2 for the Project refresh consultation.

2.3. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- 2.3.1. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”) provide additional requirements for pre-application consultation for projects that classify as EIA developments.
- 2.3.2. The table below sets out how these requirements were complied with.

Table 2.2: Compliance with the EIA Regulations 2017

Regulation	Compliance
8. Procedure for establishing whether environmental impact assessment is required	The Applicant asked the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) to carry out a scoping opinion regarding the Project and notified the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) of its intention to provide an Environmental Statement. Both of these requirements were fulfilled on 2 July 2020 and a copy of the letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate can be found in Appendix 1.
10. Application for a scoping opinion	
12. Consultation statement requirements	<p>The Statement of Community Consultation and Updated Statement of Community Consultation set out that the Project is an EIA development, and that preliminary environmental information was to be made be available and consulted on as part of the respective consultations.</p> <p>That preliminary environmental information was then published as part of the respective consultation.</p> <p>The published Statement of Community Consultation can be found in Appendix 4.1 and the Updated Statement of Community Consultation can be found in Appendix 6.1. Reference to the preliminary environmental information can be found in each published SoCC in a dedicated section titled ‘Environmental Impact Assessment’.</p>
13. Pre-application publicity under section 48 (duty to publicise)	At the start of the Project wide consultation and the Onshore consultation, the respective section 48 notices were sent to all section 42 consultees, this included the persons notified to the applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c). An example of the letter that included the notice can be found in Appendix 4.2 for the Project wide consultation and Appendix 6.2 for the Onshore consultation.

2.4. The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

2.4.1. The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) provide details for how parts of the pre-application consultation must be carried out.

Table 2.3: Compliance with the APFP Regulations 2009

Regulation	Compliance
3. Prescribed consultees	<p>The 'prescribed consultees' for the purpose of s42(1)(a) are set out in regulation 3 and schedule 1 to these regulations. Some consultees are only required to be consulted in respect of particular types of project. The consultees from schedule 1 who were consulted in respect of the project pursuant to section 42(1)(a) are set out in the following Appendices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide consultation (14 July to 16 September 2021) – see Appendix 4.2; • Onshore consultation (18 October to 29 November 2022) – see Appendix 6.2; • Targeted onshore cable route consultation – LACR 01d (24 February 2023 to 27 March 2023) – see Appendix 7.2; and • Bolney substation extension consultation (28 April to 30 May 2023) – see Appendix 8.2. <p>Following the Project wide consultation in 2021 schedule 1 of the Regulations was amended so that Public Health England was changed to United Kingdom Health Security Agency. This change was not incorporated into the onshore consultation. Once this was identified the 'new' statutory consultee was offered the opportunity to make representations in respect of the whole project.</p>
4. Publicising a proposed application	<p>Regulation 4 specifies what must be included in the notice publicising an application under sections 48, and where it must be published. The notices contained the required information and were published as prescribed.</p> <p>The notices under section 48 were published as required for the Project wide and the Onshore consultations. Details of the publications of the notices and full copies of the notices can be found in the following sections of this Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide consultation (14 July to 16 September 2021) – see Section 5.6 for a summary and Appendix 4.6 for copies of the published notices; and • Onshore consultation (18 October to 29 November 2022) – see Section 6.6 and Appendix 6.6 for copies of the published notices.

2.5. Advice and guidance

- 2.5.1. In addition to requirements covered above, the following documents were used to inform the consultation activities undertaken and the drafting of this Consultation Report.
- 2.5.2. **Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2015)**
- 2.5.3. Pursuant to section 50 of the Act, this document provides guidance on how to carry out pre-application consultation, what is an appropriate amount of consultation and how best to respond to issues raised during the consultation.

Table 2.4: Adherence with the DCLG guidance on the pre-application process.

Reference	How the Project as adhered to the guidance
<p>20. Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options; • shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and • engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views. 	<p>The Applicant published consultation materials in a range of formats designed to make the proposals easy to understand. This included, for example, non-technical maps to show alternative cable route options during the Onshore statutory consultation, so that stakeholders could get a visual understanding of the proposals without needing to read technical plans (which were also provided for those interested and to aid in discussions with the Project team).</p> <p>The Applicant shared early proposals during its initial non-statutory consultation before consulting on more detailed proposals for the statutory Project wide consultation. The proposals were then refined through consultation on alternatives and additions.</p> <p>Examples of the consultation materials can be found in the appendices to this Report and were designed to be engaging and informative. At every stage of consultation respondents were encouraged to leave their feedback.</p>

<p>21. Where an applicant has not been able to follow this guidance, they should provide comments setting out why this is the case, in the consultation report.</p>	<p>This Consultation Report has complied with the DCLG guidance and so no further explanation is required here.</p>
<p>28. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.</p>	<p>During the Project wide statutory consultation, it was identified that a number of addresses had not been sent newsletters. This meant that part of the published Statement of Community Consultation had not been complied with. To rectify the situation, the consultation was extended and reopened. More information about this is set out in Section 5.7 of the Consultation Report.</p> <p>Note: the change to the APFP regs schedule 1 at the end of 2021 was not picked up and the 'new' consultee was not provided with notification pursuant to the onshore consultation. Once this was identified the consultee was offered the opportunity to make representations on the project as a whole.</p> <p>During the Targeted consultation on the Rampion 2 extension of the National Grid Bolney substation, the relevant parish councils were not sent printed copies of the letter sent to other section 42 consultees. The parish councils were however contacted directly, and representatives of the parish councils attended the consultation's public meeting. More information about this is set out in Section 8.3 of the Consultation Report.</p> <p>Otherwise, the Applicant has complied with all statutory requirements with as detailed throughout the Consultation Report. There is no need therefore to state where this was not possible.</p>

<p>41. Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the SoCC which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.</p>	<p>Due to the nature of restrictions in relation to COVID-19, it was difficult for the Project to commit to physical / in-person events for the Project wide statutory consultation in its SoCC. Several respondents to the draft SoCC requested more firm commitments. The Applicant was unable to due to the lack of certainty around the situation; however, the Applicant was able to hold five outdoor events to support the Project wide consultation – responding to the core of the requests to see in-person engagement return as soon as possible.</p>
<p>52. Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	<p>Additional land interests were identified and included throughout the iterative stages of consultation.</p> <p>Some of the alternatives and amendments that were subject to the consultations undertaken after the project wide consultation brought in new land interests. Where this was the case, in addition to being invited to participate in the consultation about the change the new PWILs were invited to make representations about the project as a whole. They were directed to the material that was made available as part of the previous consultations, and also offered an opportunity to meet with a member of the project team to reflect the offer made to the PWILs at the time of the project wide consultation. The new PWILS were advised that if they had responded to a previous consultation as they did not need to repeat their representations in their capacity as PWIL, as the response would be taken into account from that previous exercise.</p> <p>Also, it was noted that when some PWILs had been consulted the correspondence had not made explicit the</p>

	<p>basis on which the person had been consulted. For the avoidance of any doubt during the minor highways changes and new parties consultation these people were written to again and it made clear in what capacity their responses were sought if this had not been apparent before, inviting any comments on the project as a whole at that stage, directing them to all previously issued consultation materials and offering a meeting with the project.</p> <p>The final project refresh consultation was undertaken following a re-referencing exercise to ensure that had there been any changes to ownership of the land interests within the proposed Order limits during the pre-application process, the new owners were invited to make representations on the project as a whole. and there be time to take any responses into account in the finalisation of the project prior to submission of the application</p> <p>In order to ensure all parties had an opportunity to comment on the proposals and preliminary environment information, two targeted consultations were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minor highways changes and new parties consultation (February to April 2023) covered in Section 9 of the Consultation Report; and • The Project refresh consultation (April to June 2023) covered in Section 10 of the Consultation Report.
<p>68. To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.</p>	<p>An iterative approach to consultation has been used by the Applicant to ensure that consultation could take place at an early stage where feedback could influence the proposals. The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in respect of an area of search before proposals were developed taking</p>

	<p>feedback into response and then presented at the project wide consultation stage. Later stages of consultation had more information as the proposal developed, including preliminary environmental information, to enable consultees to understand the potential benefits and impacts.</p>
<p>69. Applicants will often also require detailed technical advice from consultees, and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore, applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.</p>	<p>Engagement via the Project Liaison Groups and the Evidence Plan process ensured that input from technical, specialist and representative stakeholders was sought early and throughout the process, supplementing the formal consultation periods.</p>
<p>70. To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large projects with long development periods. For example, applicants might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options are still being considered. This will be helpful in informing proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.</p>	<p>This is the approach used by the Applicant. Non-statutory consultation was used to gather early feedback from stakeholders and inform project development, before the Project wide statutory consultation. Further consultations were then held to focus on specific alternatives and additions to the proposals.</p>
<p>71. Where an iterative consultation is intended, it may be advisable for applicants to carry out the final stage of consultation with persons who have an interest in the land once they have worked up their project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests.</p>	<p>The non-statutory consultation helped inform the iteration of the project to what was presented at the project wide consultation. The project wide consultation generated feedback that led to the consideration of alternatives, some of which were presented for consultation as alternatives or modifications to the project in targeted locations.</p>

<p>72. The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the impacts. The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.</p>	<p>The non-statutory consultation was held for 28 days.</p> <p>For the Project wide consultation, it was acknowledged that there was a lot of information being presented about the Project, and a period of 64 days was provided. The duration of the consultation was discussed with, and influenced by, the LPAs. This exceeded the statutory minimum of 28 days. The extension of this consultation was the same duration.</p> <p>The onshore consultation was restricted to the onshore cable corridor, and consequently a shorter consultation period of 45 days was allowed. Significantly longer than the statutory minimum. The following two consultations, targeted onshore cable route consultation and Bolney substation consultation, were in respect of targeted changes proposed in discrete sections of the onshore Order limits and therefore a targeted consultation with those affected by the specific changes was undertaken. In view of this a shorter period 32 and 33 days were allowed, both exceeding the statutory minimum.</p> <p>For the minor highway changes and new parties, and project refresh consultations 28 days were allowed on the basis that where changes were proposed they were very minor in nature and information about the project had been in the public domain, and the consultation material continuously available on the project website.</p>
<p>73. Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being</p>	<p>Following the Project wide statutory consultation, a number of alternatives and options were identified that merited further consultation. Due to the scale of those changes and changing guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the</p>

<p>taken forward is fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.</p>	<p>Applicant considered it appropriate to update its SoCC and re-consult on its contents as per section 47 of the Act (and set out in section 6 of this Report).</p> <p>Following the publication of the updated SoCC and the carrying out of the onshore consultation in accordance with the updated SoCC, two further targeted community consultations were carried out in line with the principles set out in the updated SoCC (the Targeted onshore cable route consultation set out in section 7 of this Report and the consultation on the extension to the Bolney substation set out in section 8 of this Report).</p> <p>The updated SoCC acknowledged that targeted consultations may need to be undertaken. Because these consultations represented localised changes to the project which did not substantially change the proposals that had previously been consulted on, it was not considered proportionate to repeat the consultation as set out in the updated SoCC.</p>
<p>80. The consultation report should provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline.</p>	<p>Section 1.1 of the Consultation Report includes a summary of the stages of consultation including dates.</p>
<p>80. The consultation report should set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate.</p>	<p>Compliance with the Planning Act and relevant secondary legislation is set out in Section 3 of the Consultation Report. Compliance with guidance is set out in this table.</p>
<p>80. The consultation report should set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local</p>	<p>How the Applicant responded to the comments received in relation to the draft SoCC and draft updated SoCC are set out in Appendix 4.1 and 6.1.</p>

<p>authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation.</p>	
<p>80. The consultation report should provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed.</p>	<p>The consideration of relevant responses (including how they have impacted the Project) received to consultation and publicity has been set out in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 4.8 for the Project wide consultation • Appendix 6.8 for the Onshore consultation; • Appendix 7.5 for the Targeted onshore cable route consultation; • Appendix 8.5 for the Bolney substation extension consultation; • Appendix 9.2 for the Minor highways changes and new parties consultation; and • Appendix 10.2 for the Project refresh consultation. <p>In addition, a summary of the changes as a result of feedback is included in Section 12 of the Consultation Report as well as in the Environmental Statement.</p>
<p>80. The consultation report should provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts.</p>	<p>In the consideration of responses, reasons why any suggested major changes could not be made are explained.</p>
<p>80. The consultation report should, where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken.</p>	<p>The Applicant has complied with all advice and guidance as detailed in the consultation report.</p>
<p>80. The consultation report should be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.</p>	<p>The Consultation Report sets out each stage of consultation in a single section and makes it clear which statutory requirements are fulfilled by each stage.</p>

<p>81. It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has been used to shape and influence the project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an application is submitted to the Inspectorate.</p>	<p>Following the conclusion of the non-statutory consultation a report of the responses and how they had informed the proposals presented at PEIR was prepared and made available as part of the project wide consultation.</p>
<p>81. Applicants should consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.</p>	<p>After the project wide statutory consultation, a plain English feedback document was produced for the local community setting out headline findings was produced and made available as part of the information released during the onshore statutory consultation.</p> <p>This Consultation Report provides a detailed summary of the consultation activities carried out, the responses received and how the Applicant has had regard to those responses – as well as how they have affected the Project.</p> <p>Engagement with representative groups has continued throughout the development of the Project. Following the acceptance of the DCO application, the Applicant will issue a newsletter and press release directing people to where they can find this information.</p>

2.5.4. Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (The Planning Inspectorate, February 2021)

2.5.5. Advice Note Fourteen provides advice on the format of consultation reports and what should (and shouldn't) be included. The structure of the Report is in line with the Advice Note.

2.6. Advice from the Planning Inspectorate

2.6.1. The Planning Inspectorate provided a Scoping Opinion on 20 August 2020, which is appended to the Environment Statement at **6.4.5.1 Rampion 2 ES Volume 4 Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Opinion**. The Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised and has conducted the environmental impact assessment accordingly. A detailed response

to the opinion is described in each relevant chapter of the ES, and collated at **6.4.5.2 Rampion 2 ES Volume 4 Appendix 5.2 Response to the Scoping Opinion.**

2.6.2. The table below summarises section 51 advice and suggestions provided by The Planning Inspectorate to the Applicant, it also summarises and references the responses to matters raised.

Table 2.5: Advice from The Planning Inspectorate in relation to consultation.

Project update meeting 19 October 2020		
Topic	Advice	Response
Consultation and engagement	<p>The Applicant will be holding virtual public information events to raise awareness of the project in the local community. They have a website and a dedicated email address for feedback on the project.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate advised that virtual events are seemingly working successfully on other projects but to ensure options are also available for anyone that does not have access to the internet (e.g. telephone hotlines etc).</p>	<p>A Freephone number has been available since the Project's launch and promoted throughout the consultation periods.</p> <p>It was also possible to obtain printed copies of key consultation materials and respond to the consultation in writing via a Freepost address.</p>
Project update meeting 28 May 2021		
Topic	Advice	Response
Statutory / Non-statutory consultation	<p>The Applicant explained how informal consultation ran virtually and feedback was invited from 14 January 2021 to 11 February 2021. The Inspectorate commented that the ease of accessibility is a key benefit of holding virtual exhibitions.</p>	<p>The project wide statutory consultation happened during COVID restrictions and therefore was primarily a wide-ranging publicity campaign driving people to the website where all documentation was available. Online public forums were held allowing members of the public to watch a</p>

	<p>The Inspectorate queried whether there was any scope in the SoCC to move to physical exhibitions during the upcoming formal consultation if circumstances allowed. The Applicant noted that it is being considered but are mindful that if commitments are made in the SoCC and Government COVID guidance were to change, this could result in a potential delay.</p> <p>The Applicant explained how supplementary surgery events are being considered following feedback from consultees that more opportunities to ask questions directly to the project team would be helpful.</p>	<p>presentation about the project and ask questions directly to the project team. Further information about this can be found in section 5.5 of this document.</p> <p>Traditional in-person public events were not delivered during the Project wide statutory consultation. However, the following activities were carried out to increase visibility / engage better with landowners in a COVID safe manner.</p> <p>COVID safe landowner surgeries were held on 21 July 2021, 23 July 2021 and 3 September 2021. More information about these surgeries can be found in Section 5.3 of this Report</p> <p>Between 24 and 28 August 2021 five roadshow events were held to help support and promote the consultation. See the section on additional activity in Section 5.5 of this Report for more information.</p>
<p>Consultation report format</p>	<p>The Applicant queried the Consultation Report format, noting that there was an update to Advice Note 14 in February 2021, and if there were any examples that have since been submitted to the Inspectorate that prove best practice. The Inspectorate confirmed that there had been no new reports to date as it was a recent update. The key update surrounding Advice Note 14 was the</p>	<p>The Consultation Report includes one dedicated section for each stage of consultation, presented chronologically and making clear at the start which aspects of the Planning Act 2008 each stage relates to.</p>

	<p>focus on GDPR, for example, that Applicants are to consider a person’s privacy such as capturing personal data, such as images, addresses etc.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also suggested using clear cross-referencing throughout the Consultation Report, and to use a chronological format when documenting multiple consultation events to ensure it is clear. This should also be reflected in the Appendices. Advice Note 14 explains this in more detail.</p>	<p>In addition, the Appendices follow the same format, with one appendix to support each stage of consultation.</p> <p>Cross referencing has been made throughout to reduce duplication.</p>
Project update meeting 17 May 2022		
Topic	Advice	Response
<p>Forthcoming targeted onshore consultation</p>	<p>The Applicant informed the Inspectorate of the ongoing engineering and environmental reviews since the Statutory Consultation, which resulted in certain changes. The Applicant is in the process of exploring an alternative cable route construction area, drilling locations and access options. The SoCC had been updated, posters, leaflets and newspaper notification were being prepared ready to go out in the affected areas.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that the Consultation Report should explain why a targeted consultation was appropriate as opposed to a full round of consultation. The Applicant confirmed that the consultation was going to be similar to last year’s, including four face-to-face sessions, as well as engaging with landowners in new areas of land; it</p>	<p>Each section of this Report sets out the scope and rationale for each of the consultations that have been undertaken.</p>

	was essentially a full statutory consultation focussing on terrestrial matters. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report, Supplementary Information Report and some public-facing factsheets for guidance had been prepared.	
Draft document submission to the Inspectorate	<p>The Applicant enquired as to what draft documents were expected to be submitted and about the timescales.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that it may take 6-8 weeks to review and respond. As for documents, for instance, submitting an advanced draft Consultation Report could be very helpful, and anything the Applicant wanted specific advice on, including any novel approaches, but in any case, the documents should be as complete as possible when submitted for review.</p>	The applicant sent a set of draft documents to the Planning Inspectorate for review on 21 April 2023. This targeted suite included the draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum, the structure of the Consultation Report, and correlated excerpts from the Book of Reference, Land Plans, Works Plans, Crown Land and Special Category Land Plans. A more developed draft of the Consultation Report was subsequently provided on 5 June 2023.
Project update meeting 3 February 2023		
Topic	Advice	Response
PINS Consultation Feedback	The Inspectorate informed the Applicant of an increase in emails raising concerns over the Applicant's consultation process, with reference to the residents of Cowfold and West Sussex County Council, which is the proposed location for the onshore substation. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that in addition to four in-person events held for the cable route modification consultation, the Applicant went to a public meeting at Cowfold Village Hall and gave a	<p>As set out in in Section 3.4. in addition to attending the event hosted by Cowfold Parish Council, the Applicant held a dedicated public event on 21 June 2023 for the Cowfold community, close to the proposed Oakendene Onshore Substation site for the Project.</p> <p>This event was attended by 140 people and responded to concerns about the level of engagement.</p>

	<p>presentation and answered public questions on the scheme at the invitation of the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant's Consultation Report recognises the event and clearly demonstrates how concerns about the adequacy of the consultation have been addressed and considered.</p>	<p>The Cowfold Information Event was advertised on posters locally, on community Facebook pages and through a targeted maildrop to everyone within 1km of the proposed Oakendene substation site and the main Cowfold conurbation. The Parish Council also helped promote the event and attended in person.</p> <p>Section 2 of this consultation report sets out the legislative context and compliance checklist, it presents the various statutory requirements and pre-application consultation and provides a checklist of compliance against each requirement. It demonstrates the Applicant's compliance to legislation and delivery of an adequate statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant also developed a Statement of Community Consultation working with the affected Local Planning Authorities to develop the approach to delivering the project wide statutory consultation held in July 2021. Section 5.5 of this Report covers the development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and table 5.5 presents the SoCC commitments and activity.</p>
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		<p>The concerns about Cowfold engagement and the adequacy of consultation have been considered and responded to by the Applicant in a series of response tables in relation to consultations held by the project. Below are consultation response codes that demonstrate how the Applicant has considered those issues.</p> <p>A) Cowfold:</p> <p>Appendix 4.8 Summary of issues and consideration: Project wide statutory consultation (14 July to September 2021 & extended 7 February to 11 April 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONS104 <p>Appendix 6.8 Summary of issues and consideration: Onshore statutory consultation (18 October to 29 November 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A6-17• A7-21 <p>Appendix 7.5 Summary of issues and consideration: Targeted onshore cable route consultation LACR 01d (24 February to 27 March 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OTH02 <p>Appendix 10.2:</p>
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		<p>Other consultation issues raised (April to June 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OTH02 <p>B) Adequacy of the consultation</p> <p>Appendix 4.8 Summary of issues and consideration: Project wide statutory consultation (14 July to September 2021 & extended 7 February to 11 April 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GEN38• GEN41• GEN59• GEN60• GEN61• GEN65 to GEN73• GEN84• GEN115 <p>Appendix 6.8 Summary of issues and consideration: Onshore statutory consultation (18 October to 29 November 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CON-01 to CON-08• CON-10• CON-11• CON-13• CON-16• CON-17
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CON-19 <p>Appendix 7.5 Summary of issues and consideration: Targeted onshore cable route consultation LACR 01d (24 February to 27 March 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CON01 to CON04• CON06 to CON08 <p>Appendix 9.2 Summary of issues and consideration: Minor highways changes and new parties' consultation (February to April 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MIN1 to MIN6 <p>Appendix 10.2 Summary of issues and consideration: Project refresh consultation (April to June 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRO01 <p>Appendix 10.2: Other consultation issues raised (April to June 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OTH01• OTH04• OTH05• OTH17
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<p>Draft DCO Principles (Applicant)</p>	<p>The DCO application is expected to be submitted in Q2 2023. The Applicant is considering submitting draft documents, for the Inspectorate’s review, in March 2023. The Inspectorate advised of a 6–8-week review period and highlighted the importance of the Applicant submitting a focussed suite of documents, rather than a blanket submission, highlighting specific matters that the Applicant is seeking advice on.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also advised that a well-advanced draft of the Consultation Report is one of those documents that should be submitted for review.</p>	<p>The applicant sent a set of draft documents to the Planning Inspectorate for review on 21 April 2023. This targeted suite included the draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum, the structure of the Consultation Report, and correlated excerpts from the Book of Reference, Land Plans, Works Plans, Crown Land and Special Category Land Plans.</p> <p>The draft Consultation Report was sent to the Planning Inspectorate for a review on 5 June 2023 after the set of previous draft documents.</p>
<p>Section 51 advice regarding draft CR document - 30 June 2023</p>		
Topic	Advice	Response
<p>Consultation Report format</p>	<p>Draft Consultation Report (CR)</p> <p>The advice is limited by the maturity of the documentation provided by the Applicant and the time available for consideration and is raised without prejudice to the acceptance decision or the final decision about whether development consent should be granted. The note advised to the inclusion/ reference to the following;</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations</p> <p>No reference has been made in relation to the EIA Regulations - either (a) request the Planning</p>	<p>The following sections can be found in this consultation report and address the points raised in the consultation report format note raised by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 11 Consultation under the EIA Regulations and the Habitats Regulations. 2. Section 2.6 Advice from the Planning Inspectorate – table 2.5 - PINS Consultation Feedback: The Inspectorate's advice on the

	<p>Inspectorate adopt a Screening Opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an Environmental Statement. S48 notices, s42 consultation letter and evidence of which parties this was sent to has not been provided, therefore, we are unable to determine whether Applicant sent the S48 notice to EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with the EIA Regulations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. Adequacy of Consultation Responses (AoCR)</p> <p>As the Applicant is aware, concerns have been raised about the adequacy of the pre-application consultation that been undertaken. The Inspectorate has provided advice on this matter, which has been published as s51 advice on the Rampion2 project page of the Inspectorate website. The draft CR does not specify how the Applicant has had regard to concerns raised about the consultation. It is important that the Applicant does so in the final version of the CR.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3. S42 – Duty to Consult</p> <p>The Applicant refers to the provision of a summary of the S42 letter process, information, and section 42 consultees in section 6.3, 8.3, 10.3, 12.3, 14.3</p>	<p>adequacy of consultation and how the Applicant has shown regard.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Table 1.1 in Section 1 of this Report summarises which consultation stages consulted under section 42 of the Act. Each relevant section covering a consultation stage then covers the details of that consultation (section 5.3, 6.3, 7.3, 8.3, 9.3 and 10.3). 4. Sections 5.4 and 6.4 of this Report cover notification under section 46. Copies of the notifications can be found in Appendix 4.5 and 6.5. 5. Section 47 consultation, in accordance with section 47 of the Act, a draft Statement of Community Consultation was developed by the Applicant (section 5.5 and appendix 4.1). Details of the process are presented in this section of the report. 6. Sections 5.6 and 6.6 presents how the Applicant publicised the proposals in the ‘prescribed manner’ in accordance with section 48. Copies of the notices can be found in Appendices 4.6 and 6.6.
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	<p>and Appendix 4.2, 5.1, 6.2, 7.2, 8.2, 9.2. However, these sections/appendices have not been provided, so the Inspectorate is unable to verify their accuracy.</p> <p>There are statements that refer to the consultation being carried out pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 in various sections of the draft report (examples are paragraph 1.10.1, paragraph 1.13.1, paragraph 1.15.1, paragraph 1.17.1) however, in the absence of supporting information in the CR, the Inspectorate to verify these statements. The index/summary also appears to have separated out multiple instances of consultation, so it is unclear exactly how many rounds of consultation have been carried out and whether all stages have complied with S42.</p> <p>4. S46 – Duty to Notify Secretary of State Reference can be seen in section 6.4. However, documents have not been supplied and therefore comments are unable to be provided. No date has been included for the s46 notification.</p> <p>5. S47 – Duty to Consult Local Community / SoCC (Statement of Community Consultation) The CR refers to a Statement of Community Consultation yet does not provide a copy or any extracts from it. No dates or examples have been supplied for the s47. Reference is given to ‘B’ and ‘C’ authorities being consulted but no evidence has been</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. To demonstrate compliant with section 49, the duty to take account of responses, each consultation stage has a dedicated ‘responses to the consultation’ section in the appendices. Annexes 1, 2 and 3 present detailed summaries of issues raised at consultation and the project’s official response. 8. The compliance checklist has now been included in the Consultation Report as section 2. 9. The contents page is complete with functioning links 10. The Applicant has applied consistent referencing across the document. 11. Each section of this Report sets out the scope and rationale for each of the consultations that have been undertaken.
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	<p>supplied or who these authorities are. The Applicant states that it has had regard to responses received (Section 1.7.2) but no examples are included and therefore the Inspectorate cannot comment on the adequacy of regard given. No examples of notices as to where the SoCC could be inspected have been included.</p> <p>6. S48 – Duty to Publicise the Proposed Application</p> <p>S48 notice and evidence of publication has not been included, therefore the Inspectorate is unable to determine whether Applicant publicised the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regulations.</p> <p>It is also unclear from the section “Consultation Report Structure” how many rounds of consultation there has been and whether multiple S48 notices were publicised. There are references in the Consultation Report Structure to a Section 48 notice in sections 6 (Project wide statutory consultation), section 8 (onshore statutory consultation – not clear if this is repetition of section 6). There are no references to S48 notices in the structure overview for Section 10 (Targeted route consultation)</p> <p>S48 notices and evidence of publications not included, therefore unable to determine whether</p>	
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	<p>Applicant publicised the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regulations.</p> <p>7. S49 – Duty to Take Account of Responses to Consultation</p> <p>Brief references to consultation responses and the regard given are made in the Executive Summary, Consultation Report Structure Overview, Introduction and Overview of the Consultation Process. However, the Inspectorate is unable to verify compliance due to the lack of completeness of report (no relevant appendices or detailed evidence has been provided to support these statements).</p> <p>8. Pre-application procedure</p> <p>Paragraph 2.4.2 of the CR states that the Applicant has taken into consideration all relevant statutory and other guidance. Paragraph 2.4.3 states a compliance checklist is included at Appendix 1 which demonstrates that the consultation process had regard to statutory guidance. However, Appendix 1 and further evidence to support Paragraph 2.4.2 have not been provided, so the Inspectorate is unable to verify</p> <p>9. Contents page</p>	
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	<p>Contents page links are broken.</p> <p>10. Consistent referencing</p> <p>Referencing should be consistent (example reference to Section 4.8 notice as section 6.6 in contents page, and 6.7 and 6.8 in consultation report structure overview.</p> <p>11. Justification for provision of targeted consultation</p> <p>Where the Applicant has chosen to undertake targeted consultation, as opposed to a full round of consultation, the final CR should ensure that justification for this decision is provided</p>	
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2.7. Gunning Principles

2.7.1. The Gunning Principles were coined as part of the 1985 court case (R V London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). They set out four key principles for lawful consultation.

Table 2.6: Adherence with the Gunning Principles.

The Gunning Principles	How the Project as adhered to the principle
Principle 1: Consultation must be carried out when proposals are still at a formative stage	<p>To manage the tension between consulting at an early stage, and providing consultees with sufficient information about the proposals, the Applicant carried out an iterative consultation process starting with early engagement with key technical stakeholders, the EPP and PLGs, then the information consultation exercise before the project wide statutory consultation. The feedback enabled some decisions to be taken about the project, such as the reduction in the offshore Order limits and selection of the onshore substation after the project wide consultation, but that additional potential changes were identified as a consequence of the feedback which were then presented at a subsequent consultation.</p> <p>The scope of each consultation was made clear in the published material so that stakeholders could understand what elements of the proposals their comments could influence.</p>
Principle 2: There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'	<p>The material produced at each stage of consultation is reproduced in the Annexes of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Information was presented at different levels of complexity (from plain English non-technical and summary information through to plans and detailed technical environmental information) in order to provide sufficient information to enable informed responses that could be taken into account in the development of the project design.</p>
Principle 3: There is adequate time for consideration and response	The minimum length of time for responses to consultations are set out in legislation. In most cases, the Applicant extended the consultation period beyond these statutory minimums in recognition of the amount of information produced and the time needed for consultees to prepare a considered response.

	<p>The longest period of consultation was for the first statutory consultation on the basis that it was the first presentation of the full scheme to consultees.</p>
<p>Principle 4: ‘Conscientious consideration’ must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made</p>	<p>The consideration of relevant responses is also a requirement under section 49 of the Act. The responses to each stage of consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to those responses is set out in the following appendices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 4.8 for the Project wide consultation • Appendix 6.8 for the Onshore consultation; • Appendix 7.5 for the Targeted onshore cable route consultation; • Appendix 8.5 for the Bolney substation extension consultation; • Appendix 9.2 for the Minor highways changes and new parties consultation; and • Appendix 10.3 for the Project refresh consultation.

3. ENGAGEMENT

3.1. Definition of ‘engagement’ and ‘consultation’

- 3.1.1. For the purposes of this report, the term ‘consultation’ is used to describe defined periods of time in which the Project has sought comment from stakeholders on specific published materials. Consultation was primarily carried out to fulfil the requirements for, and adhere to guidance relating to, pre-application consultation in the Planning Act 2008 but also for non-statutory consultation in order to seek views from the community within a defined period.
- 3.1.2. Consultation is one element of engagement. Engagement covers all other activity where the Applicant has engaged with external stakeholders in the development of the Project proposals.
- 3.1.3. This Report does not cover in detail the technical engagement that was carried out with key stakeholders in the development of the proposals with the Expert Topic Groups as part Evidence Plan process. A summary of the process is included below, however the Evidence Plan (application reference 7.21 sets out this process in detail).
- 3.1.4. Information to support this section of the Consultation Report can be found in Appendix 2 in the Consultation Report – Annex 1 (application reference 5.1.1.).

3.2. Approach to engagement

- 3.2.1. The Applicant’s approach to stakeholder engagement (including consultation) is based on principles of best practice. The Applicant aimed to build trust and respect with stakeholders and always follow an open and transparent approach. This included consultation with consultees under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.
- 3.2.2. Engagement was carried out in line with the following key principles:
 - a) Inclusivity – To involve the widest possible range of local stakeholders, local groups, local residents and businesses. To actively and extensively promote consultation to a wide and diverse community, and have an additional commitment to make particular efforts to involve traditionally ‘hard-to-reach’ stakeholders.
 - b) Transparency – For plans to be visible and to be open and honest in approach. Activity will be well advertised in the local media, by direct communication with stakeholders, residents and businesses via a project website and other communication tools.
 - c) Continuous dialogue – To encourage a continuous dialogue with all stakeholders. Comments, questions and suggestions are encouraged, and feedback will be obtained via various mechanisms.

d) Multi-dimensional – A activity programme comprised of a wide range of ways in which information will be disseminated and opportunities for community involvement invited. This approach was subject to COVID 19 restrictions.

e) Working in line with regulations and ‘best practice’ – To adhere to regulations and best practice guidelines for engagement and public consultation on planning and development issues.

3.2.3. The following is a summary of the Applicant’s engagement and consultation objectives which consists of what the project intended to deliver and how it intended to deliver the activities. The delivery of the engagement activity is detailed below and further information on the delivery of the consultation activity can be found in the rest of this Report.

3.2.4. **Engagement and consultation objectives**

3.2.5. In delivering engagement and consultation throughout the pre-submission period, the following objectives were set:

- Deliver excellent stakeholder engagement and consultation in line with industry best practice, maximising input and feedback from stakeholder organisations and the local community;
- Maximise the level of understanding of the Project across the West Sussex community; and
- Develop proposals through ongoing engagement and statutory consultation to maximise the prospect of a DCO being ‘made’.

3.2.6. In order to deliver against the objectives above, the overarching strategy of delivering engagement (including consultation) was:

- Comply with all requirements of the Planning Act 2008;
- Inform stakeholders about the project in a clear and unambiguous manner so that any misunderstandings can be resolved at an early stage;
- Encourage participation and support for the proposals by providing access to information at all stages of the engagement and consultation process so that stakeholders can make informed choices on the development proposals and provide feedback;
- Build on existing relationships established during the development, construction and operation of the Rampion 1 project where possible;
- Facilitate frequent opportunities for stakeholders to meet with members of the project team, using a wide range of communication and engagement tools;
- Remain a valued member of the community, always behaving in an open and honest manner; and
- Mobilise and demonstrate support to aid the progress of the proposals through the DCO application and examination in order to be successful in grant of a DCO for the project.

3.2.7. The above strategy had to develop to take account of the restrictions imposed by COVID lockdowns on meetings indoors and the need to social distance.

3.3. Project liaison groups

- 3.3.1. The Applicant established six project liaison groups (PLGs). With such a large geographical area to cover, a population approaching a million people and a wide and diverse range of interests, the PLGs acted as a method for two-way information dissemination.
- 3.3.2. Groups and organisations in the respective areas were identified and invited to join a PLG. The groups invited to join, and the invitation can be found in Appendix 2.1.
- 3.3.3. Each PLG covers a different area of interest and looks to make the most of the representatives' local knowledge, expertise and networks. With this, the Applicant reached a far greater audience to raise awareness of the project, whilst also increasing the level of feedback to help shape the proposals.
- 3.3.4. This process was used successfully in the development of the original Rampion 1 offshore wind farm project, benefitting both the development and the wider Sussex community. The six PLGs established for the Rampion 2 project were:
- Onshore communities (along the proposed cable corridor)
 - Coastal communities
 - Environmental
 - Sea Users
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Business & Tourism.
- 3.3.5. Starting in late 2020, when the project proposals were at a formative stage, these groups met at milestones throughout the engagement and consultation process and allowed local stakeholders and opinion formers to input into the Project's development in a constructive and measured way. They also provided the opportunity for specific issues to be discussed in greater detail than public events would ordinarily allow.
- 3.3.6. For a record of the PLG engagement to date please see Appendix 2.1 (application reference 5.1.1), which includes presentations and minutes from each meeting. These meetings were held online. The Environmental PLG was disbanded after the fourth round of meeting by mutual agreement of the attendees.

Table 3.1: Project liaison group meeting dates

Project liaison group	Date of meeting
Meeting round 1: Early engagement	
Environmental	19 October 2020
Business & Tourism	20 October 2020
Sea Users	23 October 2020
Community – Coastal	22 October 2020

Community – Onshore	23 October 2020
Public Rights of Way	3 November 2020
Meeting round 2: Non-statutory consultation	
Environmental	2 February 2021
Business & Tourism	3 February 2021
Sea Users	5 February 2021
Public Rights of Way	9 February 2021
Community – Coastal	4 February 2021
Community – Onshore	4 February 2021
Meeting round 3: Project wide statutory consultation	
Environmental	19 July 2021
Business & Tourism	19 July 2021
Sea Users	20 July 2021
Public Rights of Way	21 July 2021
Community – Coastal / Onshore	21 July 2021
Community – Onshore	20 July 2021
Meeting round 4: Onshore statutory consultation	
Business & Tourism	13 October 2022
Sea Users	12 October 2022
Public Rights of Way	12 October 2022
Community – Coastal	13 October 2023
Community – Onshore	12 October 2023
Meeting round 5: Ongoing engagement	
Business & Tourism	13 June 2023
Sea Users	13 June 2023
Public Rights of Way	14 June 2023
Community – Coastal	14 June 2023
Community – Onshore	14 June 2023

3.4. The Evidence Plan process

- 3.4.1. The Evidence Plan process was initially developed by the Major Infrastructure Environment Unit (MIEU) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to provide a formal mechanism for Applicants and statutory bodies to agree what information and evidence should be submitted in support of an NSIP application, with specific focus on habitats regulations assessments (HRA) matters. However, in practice, the MIEU advises that topic areas that may be covered in an Evidence Plan can be expanded, at the request of the applicant, to include broader EIA issues as well as HRA issues.
- 3.4.2. For the purposes of the Rampion 2 Evidence Plan, the remit has been widened to EIA topics in addition to HRA aspects.
- 3.4.3. The overarching purpose of the Evidence Plan process is to seek agreement on key assessment steps; including the baseline approach, assessment methodology, assessment outcomes, and mitigation. As such, the members

need to have a technical and organisational mandate to reach agreement on the key assessment steps.

- 3.4.4. The Evidence Plan process consisted of one- to-one meetings, workshops on specific subjects to which several different stakeholders were invited, written correspondence or telephone/ teams conversations. Wherever possible, the Applicant endeavoured to minimise the engagement burden on stakeholders by ensuring that, where appropriate, multiple topics were covered in a session, suitable pre-reading was sent in advance, accurate minutes of meetings were produced and agreed by those attending, and an acceptable amount of time was allowed for post-meeting comments to be submitted.
- 3.4.5. The Evidence Plan comprised a series of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) as follows, some of which were broken down into ETG sub-groups where meetings were required on specific technical areas.
- ETG 1: Shipping and navigation;
 - ETG 2: Offshore ornithology;
 - ETG 3: Marine mammals;
 - ETG 4: Marine ecology;
 - ETG 5: Onshore ecology;
 - ETG 6: Onshore hydrology and flood risk;
 - ETG 7: SLVIA;
 - ETG 8: Archaeology and cultural heritage;
 - ETG 9: Human environment; and
 - ETG 10: HRA.
- 3.4.6. An Evidence Plan Report is submitted with the application (application ref: 7.21) which summarises the Evidence Plan process, the roles of those involved including the ETGs listed above, the aims and objectives of the Evidence Plan, and summaries of the meetings and consultation undertaken with the ETGs.

3.5. Landowner engagement

- 3.5.1. The Applicant worked closely with landowners throughout the development of the proposals as well as consulting with them formally under section 42 of the Act. A team of land agents supported the Project throughout the pre-application process and were directly contactable by landowners. The land referencing process is set out in more detail in the Book of Reference (application reference 4.3).
- 3.5.2. In addition to ongoing engagement and the formal consultation process, in July and September 2021, the Project held dedicated surgeries for landowners to provide an opportunity for them to meet the Rampion 2 team and its land agents to find out more about the project and how it might affect their land interests. These were arranged to be COVID safe. These sessions were pre-booked and enabled potentially affected landowners to have one-to-one discussion with the Project team, with arrangements made to ensure

they were COVID safe and complied with the Government guidance in place at the time as well as the Applicant's internal risk assessments.

- 3.5.3. These sessions were promoted by letters sent to landowners.
- 3.5.4. Three surgeries were held on 22nd July 2021 at Henfield, on 23rd July 2021 at Littlehampton, and on 3rd September 2021 at Thakeham. The discussions informed the development of the route corridor and ongoing engagement with landowners while not being a formal part of the statutory consultation period.
- 3.5.5. Landowners were also encouraged to respond to the consultation in writing if they also wanted their concerns considered through the formal consultation process.

3.6. Other engagement activity

3.6.1. Communication channels

- 3.6.2. The Applicant used a range of communications channels to keep members of the public and interested stakeholders prior to and throughout the formal consultations.

Table 3.2: Communication channels used throughout the pre-application engagement period.

Channel	Description
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant developed a new standalone website platform for the Rampion 2 proposals, hosted at www.rampion2.com. • The website provides information on the project including maps and charts, news updates, contact details, ways to feed into the engagement and consultation process and details of all the consultation activity, including public exhibitions and the community liaison groups. The website continues to host the material from each consultation period.
Contacting the Project	<p>Members of the public could contact the project through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The website included a contact form to message the Project; • By email via rampion2@rwe.com; • By Freephone 0800 2800 886; • By writing to the company address (Rampion 2 Wind Farm, RWE Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB). A different, freepost address was made available

	during the consultation periods for people to send their responses to.
Press Releases & Media	The Applicant has used well-targeted media pieces on TV, radio and local press to raise large-scale awareness for the project, communicating key information and requesting input and feedback.
Social Media	The Applicant has used its social media channels to issue project information, engagement and consultation activities out to stakeholders. The project has a Facebook and Instagram account, for this purpose.
Visitor Centre	The Rampion Visitor Centre on Brighton seafront opened in September 2020 and has been an asset in helping the Applicant communicate the need for offshore wind, the story of the original Rampion1 project and communicate the need for further expansion in the form of Rampion 2. The Centre has also acted as a repository for consultation materials and response forms during consultation periods.

3.6.3. Stakeholder meetings

3.6.4. In addition to the PLGs, Evidence Plan process, fisheries liaison and landowner engagement, engagement was carried out with key local elected representatives including parish councils, local authorities and Members of Parliament.

3.6.5. The table below sets out a non-exhaustive list of the dates and organisations met with outside of the consultation periods. This list is focused on public facing meetings with representative groups and excludes PLG and ETG meetings as well as some technical meetings. Details of meetings during consultations are included in the relevant sections of the Report. Meetings were generally virtual, any meetings which took place in person arrangements were made to ensure they were COVID safe and complied with the Government guidance in place at the time as well as the Applicant's internal risk assessments.

Table 3.3: Stakeholder meetings held outside of consultation periods.

Date	Organisation / elected representative	Purpose
18 July 2018	West Sussex County Council and South Downs National Park Authority	First meeting / Project introduction
9 March 2020	Arun District Council	Meetings with local authorities to introduce Project areas of search, engagement &
25 March 2020	Brighton & Hove City Council	
25 March 2020	East Sussex County Council	
26 March 2020	Horsham District Council	

27 March 2020	Adur & Worthing District Council	consultation plans and broad timetable.	
27 March 2020	West Sussex County Council		
3 April 2020	South Downs National Park Authority		
7 April 2020	Mid Sussex District Council		
27 April 2020	Chichester District Council		
1 May 2020	Lewes & Eastbourne Councils		
4 September 2020	Caroline Lucas MP, Brighton Pavilion	Introductory meeting with Members of Parliament.	
9 September 2020	Peter Bottomley MP, West Worthing		
5 October 2020	Caroline Ansell MP, Eastbourne – team only		
15 September 2020	Tim Loughton MP, East Worthing & Shoreham		
9 October 2020	Peter Kyle MP, Hove		
15 October 2020	Maria Caulfield MP, Lewes		
10 November 2020	Andrew Griffith MP, Arun & South Downs		
27 November 2020	Mims Davies MP, Mid Sussex		
16 December 2020	Andrew Griffith MP, Arun & South Downs		Follow up meeting.
15 July 2020	Bolney & Twineham residents		Introductory meetings with parish councils and residents groups.
20 August 2020	Clymping Parish Council		
21 October 2020	Middleton-On-Sea Parish Council		
10 November 2020	Shermanbury Parish Council		
7 December 2020	East Preston Parish Council		
7 December 2020	Kingston Parish Council		
18 September 2020	Adur & Worthing District Council	Meeting on request.	
18 November 2020	Horsham District Council	Meetings with elected members to introduce areas of search, engagement & consultation plans, scoping request and broad timeline.	
19 November 2020	South Downs National Park Authority		
25 November 2020	Wealden District Council		
26 November 2020	Lewes & Eastbourne Councils		
27 November 2020	East Sussex County Council		
3 December 2020	South Downs National Park Authority		
17 December 2020	Adur & Worthing District Council		
2 January 2021	West Sussex County Council		
7 January 2021	Arun District Council		
12 February 2021	Selsey Fisherman's Association		Engagement following the initial non-statutory consultation.
16 February 2021	Lyminster & Crossbush Parish Council		
18 February 2021	Warningcamp Parish Council		
24 February 2021	Angmering Parish Council		
24 February 2021	Woodmancote Parish Council		
25 February 2021	Bolney Parish Council		
15 March 2021	Steyning Parish Council		

17 March 2021	Burpham & Wepham Parish Council	
30 September 2021	Aldwick Parish Council	Engagement between the Project wide statutory consultation and the Onshore statutory consultation.
4 November 2021	Coastal West Sussex Partnership Board	
9 November 2021	South Downs National Park Authority	
1 November 2021	<i>Briefing issued to Gillian Keegan MP</i>	
19 November 2021	Tim Loughton MP	
30 November 2021	East Worthing Neighbourhood	
3 December 2021	Nick Gibb MP	
10 December 2021	Neil Hart, High Sheriff	
2 February 2022	Littlehampton Port	
15 March 2022	Worthing Green Party	
24 May 2022	IMEchE Event in Sussex	
17 June 2022	Site visit to Rampion 1 with Tim Loughton MP and Peter Bottomley MP	
23 September 2022	Worthing Borough Council	
14 October 2022	Site visit to Rampion 1 with Caroline Lucas MP and ITV Meridian	
22 June 2023	Sussex Kelp Restoration Project	
12 July 2023	West Sussex County Council	Skills and employment strategy discussion
12 July 2023	Brighton & Hove City Council	Skills and employment strategy discussion

3.6.6. Engagement with Rampion 1

3.6.7. The Project (Rampion Extension Development or ‘RED’) development site is adjacent to the operational Rampion Offshore Wind Farm owned and operated by Rampion Offshore Wind Limited (ROW). As part of engagement with key stakeholders, the Applicant has engaged with ROW throughout the pre-application period. ROW has also helped spread awareness of consultations and other information about the Project. From the outset, joint references have been made to Rampion and Rampion 2 in various external communications such as:

- Power generation (together the projects could power all the homes in Sussex, twice over);
- Joint ventures (which retained the same composition until earlier in 2023);
- Building on the expertise and learnings from Rampion to ensure best practice.

3.6.8. The Applicant used ROW facilities to support Rampion 2 meetings and events, such as:

- Site visits to the Rampion Wind Farm for MPs on 17 June and 14 October 2022; and
 - Stakeholder meeting with Protect Coastal England on 14 September 2021; and
 - Rampion 2 Team meeting regarding the upcoming consultation on 24 May 2021.
- 3.6.9. In particular, the Stakeholder Managers from RED and ROW are in regular communication and engage across a number of initiatives:
- The ongoing management and development of the Rampion Fund, managed by Sussex Community Foundation, with Fund Panel meetings held on 12 May 2021, 16 May 2022 and 25 July 2023 and strategy meetings on the new campaign and project selection criteria held on 23 November 2022 and 20 January 2023;
 - Coordination of Rampion Site Visits for the benefit of key Rampion 2 stakeholders, such as Tim Loughton MP and Peter Bottomley MP on 17 June 2022 and Caroline Lucas MP & Team and ITV Meridian on 14 October 2022;
 - Sponsorship and long-term support strategies, such as jointly supporting the Cost-of-Living Crisis Fund managed by Sussex Community Foundation in September 2022, with a joint meeting with Adur & Worthing Council on 23 September 2022 to discuss the crisis and our response. The Stakeholder Managers also had a recent joint meeting with the Sussex Kelp Restoration Project on 22 June 2023; and
 - The RED Stakeholder Manager provides regular verbal and email updates to the ROW Stakeholder Manager regarding key Rampion 2 consultations and project milestones, so the Visitor Centre staff can point visitors in the right direction (rampion2.com) for further information. This included a presentation to the new Visitor Centre Team by the RED Stakeholder Manager on 11 May 2021
- 3.6.10. ROW has a visitor centre and the RED team have continued to make use of this to keep the local stakeholders and those visiting the visitor centre informed of the progress of the Rampion Extension Development Site, with a dedicated link to the Rampion 2 website from one of the kiosks in the Visitor Centre.
- 3.6.11. The other key area where ongoing communication and liaison is required relates to fishing, with recent meetings held on 9 January 2023 between the Applicant, RED's Commercial Manager and the ROW Production Manager regarding claims of boulder damage to nets and recent engagement regarding claims of shallow buried cables becoming exposed.
- 3.6.12. In formulating its proposals for Rampion 2, the Applicant has also liaised with ROW concerning the provisions of article 7 of the draft DCO which would limit further development of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm beyond the 116 turbines and 1 offshore substation already constructed, so as to ensure alignment with the design rationale for Rampion 2 that Rampion Offshore Wind Farm remains "as built".

- 3.6.13. ROW have confirmed their consent to the inclusion of article 7 of the draft DCO which is reflected in the signed letter included in the application. A copy of their letter of consent is attached as an appendix to the Explanatory Memorandum to the draft DCO.
- 3.6.14. **Focused engagement in Cowfold**
- 3.6.15. On 23 November 2022, Cowfold Parish Council invited the Applicant to attend a public event hosted by the parish to discuss the proposals. The project team attend and approximately 50 members of the public attended the meeting.
- 3.6.16. On 21 June 2023, the Applicant held an Information Event for the Cowfold community, close to the proposed Oakendene Onshore Substation site for the Project.
- 3.6.17. The Applicant held this event to provide an opportunity for residents to see how the design and mitigations had evolved in response to local feedback as well as to meet face-to-face, which had not been possible during the statutory Project-wide consultation in summer 2021 due to Covid restrictions. Materials were produced for the event and made available online.
- 3.6.18. Leaflets to promote the event were sent by Royal Mail to all homes and businesses within 1km of the perimeter of the Oakendene Substation site work area boundary, while also extending to a few more homes in the extreme west of Cowfold village to ensure the whole village was included. Posters were also displayed in the local area and a social media piece was posted on the local Facebook page. An email was sent to Cowfold Parish Council to help promote the event with a request that they upload the poster onto their website and on any other channels.
- 3.6.19. 140 people attended the event to speak to the Rampion 2 Project Team. Exhibition banners illustrating the evolved plans and mitigations were exhibited at the event – these are reproduced in Appendix 2.2.

4. NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION (14 JANUARY TO 11 FEBRUARY 2021)

4.1. Purpose and scope of the consultation

Consultation period	14 January to 11 February 2021
Type	Non-statutory consultation on early proposals

4.1.1. The first stage of consultation carried out on the Rampion 2 project was carried out to gather initial views on proposals that could help inform decisions regarding the boundary for preliminary environmental information assessments. In addition, the consultation presented a number of options for onshore substation locations and cable routes.

4.1.2. The Department for Communities and Local Government document “Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process”, issued pursuant to section 50 and for which there is a statutory requirement for applicants to have regard to it, sets out the context for this type of early, non-statutory consultation.

*“70. To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large projects with long development periods. **For example, applicants might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options are still being considered.** This will be helpful in informing proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.”*

4.1.3. Information to support this section of the Consultation Report can be found in Appendix 3 in the Consultation Report – Annex 1 (application reference 5.1.1.).

4.1.4. Terminology

4.1.5. Consultation undertaken during this period was referred to at the time and in material as the ‘informal consultation’, it is referred to throughout the Consultation Report as the ‘non-statutory consultation’ insofar as it refers to the consultation not undertaken under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

4.1.6. Consultation scope

4.1.7. The primary objectives of the non-statutory consultation were as follows:

- To gather early insight on the key interests, priorities and issues that communities have in advance of formulating more refined proposals with smaller areas of search and options to consider;
- To unearth additional local considerations and constraints that may not previously have been known to the project development team, to inform further EIA; and
- To increase awareness of the Project among local communities and the wider public, to drive more wide-spread interest in the statutory consultation.

4.1.8. As well as introducing the plans for the project, the Applicant was seeking specific feedback on:

- The proposed offshore area of search for wind turbines;
- The area of search for the subsea offshore export cables;
- The proposed landfall site at Climping beach;
- Comments on the indicative onshore cable area of search and route options; and
- Comments on the pros and cons of each of the three search areas identified for the proposed onshore substation, including any comments on helping identify the least impact site for the substation equipment within each search area.

4.1.9. This consultation was primarily focused on engaging with the public. Engagement with technical stakeholders had already started this point via the Evidence Plan Process and additional engagement as set out above.

4.2. Promotion

4.2.1. A publicity campaign targeting the coast from Beachy Head to Selsey Bill, and from Climping up to Bolney about Rampion 2 along and around the proposed cable route and substation sites, was used to promote this consultation in the run up to and during the non-statutory exercise. This included extensive media news coverage on regional TV including BBC South TV and ITV Meridian, as well as BBC Sussex radio and newspapers across East and West Sussex, supported by a newspaper advertising campaign and a paid for Instagram posting campaign reaching over 63,000 individual accounts with 162,000 views.

4.2.2. 300 posters about the non-statutory consultation were placed on community noticeboards in the affected areas, and provided to parish councils to post, and flyers were hand delivered to homes and businesses in key areas including Climping and the neighbours of proposed substation sites in Wineham and Cowfold. See more at Appendix 3.1.

4.2.3. Emails were sent to addresses that had subscribed for email updates through the Project website, as well as key organisations and elected representatives. These emails were sent between 15 January and 27 January 2021, with a total of 839 recipients. A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 3.1.

- 4.2.4. Organisational and technical stakeholders were also informed of the consultation via email, directed to the consultation material available on the website and asked to comment.
- 4.2.5. Land interests were in the process of being identified via contact land referencing methods and landowners were contacted by email or written to with requests for information and to introduce Carter Jonas and communicate initial project information and direct them to the Rampion 2 website from the end of 2020. Information was given to landowners by letter, email or phone and onsite meetings took place from February 2021 subject to Covid restriction rules. On 30th March 2021 an online forum was held with land agents representing landowners that had been contacted previously to provide information about the project, survey requirements and agent's remuneration for arranging survey licenses.

4.3. Consultation activity

- 4.3.1. Due to Government restrictions in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in-person events were carried out to support this non-statutory consultation. In addition, the provision of printed material was highly limited due to concerns about contamination. Instead, the consultation was primarily online with information presented in a virtual exhibition space.
- 4.3.2. Over 6620 unique visitors accessed the virtual town hall online exhibition throughout this four-week period.
- 4.3.3. In addition, through the promotional material the Applicant offered members of the public the opportunity to have a virtual meeting with members of the Project Team, through an interactive booking system through the Project website.
- 4.3.4. If a member of a community group or member of the public that had any family, friends or colleagues who were interested in the project, the Applicant encouraged them to convene a group meeting with the project team. This helped the Applicant maximise their reach to a wider audience during the COVID19 restrictions.
- 4.3.5. Two individuals used the interactive booking system on the Virtual Village Hall and the Applicant met with two individuals, one on 26 January 2021 and the other on 4 February 2021. Any response to the consultation was asked to be submitted through the formal consultation channels.
- 4.3.6. The following presentations were also held to support this stage of consultation.

Table 4.1: Meetings and presentations held to support the non-statutory consultation.

Date	Organisation or group	Attendees
20 January 2021	Country Land and Business Association	Group members

26 January 2021	Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum	Forum members
1 February 2021	Washington Parish Council	Nine councillors and a school representative
3 February 2021	Bognor Town Council Community Engagement & Environmental Committee	10 councillors
3 February 2021	West Sussex County Council Elected Members	10 councillors
5 February 2021	Mid Sussex District Council Elected Members	Five councillors
5 February 2021	Twineham Parish Council	Three councillors
8 February 2021	Wiston Parish Council	Chair and Vice Chair
8 February 2021	Help our Kelp	Group members
9 February 2021	West Grinstead Parish Council	Six councillors
9 February 2021	SIFG	Two attendees
10 February 2021	CFWG	Five attendees
10 February 2021	Ashurst Parish Council	18 attendees including councillors, landowners and members of the community
11 February 2021	Storrington & Sullington Parish Council	10 councillors
Please note, while these subsequent parish council meetings were after the close of the non-statutory consultation, the same material was presented in the same spirit to introduce the project elements and raise awareness of the issues and process to come		
12 February 2021	Selsey Fisherman's Association	Seven attendees
16 February 2021	Lyminster & Crossbush Parish Council	Two councillors
18 February 2021	Warningcamp Parish Council	13 attendees
24 February 2021	Angmering Parish Council	10 councillors
24 February 2021	Woodmancote Parish Council	Seven councillors
25 February 2021	Bolney Parish Council	Four councillors and the clerk
15 March 2021	Steyning Parish Council	12 councillors and 20 members of the public
17 March 2021	Burpham & Wepham Parish Council	11 councillors

4.4. Consultation material

4.4.1. A range of consultation materials were prepared as part of this consultation giving a non-technical summary of the proposals, factsheets and map books, as well as videos, including a virtual fly over of the proposed cable route in order to provide enough information for informed responses. Material was prepared to enable stakeholders to understand the potential benefits and impacts of the Project in an accessible manner, while also then being able to find more detailed information if they wanted to.

4.4.2. Consultation materials have been reproduced where possible in Appendix 3.2.

4.4.3. Virtual village hall exhibition information boards

4.4.4. Information about the Applicant's proposed onshore and offshore infrastructure, including rationales for decisions taken to date and key considerations that resulted in the locations of work being proposed, were presented on a series of information boards presented in a digital/virtual 'village hall' exhibition.

4.4.5. The information boards contained the following key topics:

- Why we're considering expanding Rampion
- The Development Process
- Rampion 2 Initial Proposals
- Connecting to the grid
- Onshore Cable Route
- Cable route construction & Onshore substation
- Project benefits
- Current Status & next steps
- How to respond to the consultation and contact the team.

4.4.6. Maps and plans

4.4.7. Detailed maps showed overviews of the substation search areas being consulted on and the proposed cable route (including options).

4.4.8. Videos

4.4.9. Four videos were made available to explain the consultation and project proposals in an easy-to-digest format, including:

- A welcome video explaining the purpose and scope of the consultation;
- An introductory video explaining the need for Rampion 2 and the process for developing proposals and seeking consent;
- A route flyover showing explaining the Applicant's early thinking and decisions taken regarding cable route alignment and substation site options; and
- A construction video depicting the methods for constructing Rampion 1.

4.4.10. **Additional documents and FAQs**

4.4.11. Additional information was provided for those who wanted more details not covered in the information boards, maps and videos. The additional documents included in the Virtual Village Hall included:

- Information for Landowners
- the Rampion 2 Scoping Report
- Background information about the Rampion 1 and the Rampion 1 Visitors Centre
- FAQs.

4.4.12. **Consultation response form**

4.4.13. A digital response form, consisting of a series of eight proposal focused open questions was provided for respondents to express their views and submit to the project team. There was no text limit on the response form. Consultation responses were also accepted via email and by post.

4.5. **Response to the consultation**

4.5.1. **Responses**

4.5.2. 200 responses to the consultation were received. An Interim Consultation Report was published in July 2021 summarising the findings from the consultation. This has been included in Appendix 3.3.

4.5.3. **Evolution of the Project**

4.5.4. Feedback received to the non-statutory consultation helped to inform the development of the Project to the proposals that were subsequently presented at the Statutory Consultation stage, and assessed in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report

4.5.5. The following as a result of the consultation refinement was made with regard to the **offshore** elements of the proposals:

- The Applicant reduced the offshore Area of Search from 315km² at Scoping phase, to 270km², which includes reducing the area on the eastern edge to reduce the impact on the Sussex Heritage Coast; and

4.5.6. The following refinements and commitments were made with regard to the **onshore** elements of the proposals:

- Commitment to drill underneath Climping Beach, in order to minimise disturbance to people and the environment;
- Removed the two westerly route options at Warningcamp to minimise impacts to environmental sensitivities;
- Removal of one of the Norfolk Clump route options, which was understood to have greater archaeological features;

- Commitment to drill under Sullington Hill and Washington Parish recreation ground, to minimise environmental and community impacts; and
- Removed the Wineham Lane South Substation site option from consideration to minimise local community impacts potentially created by the onshore substation in this location.

5. PROJECT WIDE STATUTORY CONSULTATION 14 JULY TO 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

5.1. Introduction

Consultation period	14 July to 16 September 2021, plus extension 7 February to 11 April 2022
Type	Full statutory consultation

- 5.1.1. Following the non-statutory consultation, a statutory consultation in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 was carried out on more detailed proposals including preliminary environmental information (as per the requirements of the EIA Regulations). This section of the Report covers each of the applicable section of the Act as it relates to the consultation.
- 5.1.2. This consultation was carried out on the Project as a whole, both offshore, onshore cable route and substation sites as presented in the consultation materials. Respondents were specifically encouraged to comment on:
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), including identification of potential additional impacts, issues or mitigations that should be considered;
 - The offshore wind farm proposals;
 - Details of any specific local / seasonal events or activities that could be considered in a future construction timetable; and
 - The options presented for landfall, the underground cable route and substation site.
- 5.1.3. Information to support this section of the Consultation Report can be found in Appendix 4 in the Consultation Report – Annex 1 (application reference 5.1.1.).
- 5.1.4. **Alignment of dates:** The deadline for responses in relation to consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 was aligned.
- 5.1.5. **COVID-19**
- 5.1.6. Government restrictions in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic were still in place during this consultation, One to one meetings were offered in the landowner consultation letter and meetings were held outside with landowners subject to Covid social distancing rules, and where appropriate landowners were also able to meet with the project team inside, by appointment, in public locations, following the regulations in place at the time. Government guidance regarding the provision of printed material was relaxed during this period and printed materials were made available on demand. The consultation was primarily online with information presented in a virtual exhibition space.

5.2. Consultation material

5.2.1. Documents were published to set out the proposals, their potential benefits and impacts, and additional background information, including the Preliminary Environmental information Report. The full list of consultation materials is set out below.

Table 5.1: Consultation materials for Project Wide Statutory Consultation

Document	Description
Consultation 'factsheets'	Information about the proposed onshore and offshore infrastructure, including rationales for decisions taken to date and alternatives that have been evaluated.
Maps and plans	Detailed maps which show the location of anticipated temporary and permanent land impacts.
Drawings and/or visual simulations	Visualisation of the potential visual impacts of the offshore and onshore works and depiction of technical concepts and processes in a digestible format.
Information about our approach to minimising construction impacts	Information about the Applicant's plans and proposed methods for construction of Rampion 2 including principles and commitments to be considerate to local communities during construction.
Rampion Legacy Document	The Applicant's experiences in planning and constructing the existing Rampion 1 scheme, and how the project plans to build on success and learn from mistakes.
The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	Preliminary information about the environmental considerations and assessments that have taken place to establish the least impactful proposals by avoiding, minimising and mitigating various environmental and community impacts.
A non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR	A high-level summary of the preliminary environmental information prepared that have taken place in plain English.
Report of findings from early stakeholder engagement and the non-statutory consultation	The feedback received on the Applicants early proposals and non-statutory consultation, responding to the issues and ideas raised, and highlighting where input has influenced the proposals being consulted on.

5.3. Section 42 consultation

5.3.1. Prescribed bodies – section 42(1)(a)

5.3.2. s42(1)(a) requires an applicant to consult with prescribed bodies. These are set out in regulations, and comprise bodies with specific expertise and/or statutory responsibility for a given discipline(s). Prescribed bodies cover the main statutory bodies that are to be consulted under section 42.

5.3.3. The starting point for identifying the prescribed bodies relevant to the Applicant was the list of consultees prescribed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. These include consultees that need to be consulted in specific circumstances, so the list was refined accordingly to reflect the consultees appropriate for the Rampion 2 project

5.3.4. This list of consultees was then augmented with additional bodies who were notified of the proposed application by the Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations (the Regulation 11 list) Appendix 4.2. Whilst the regulations only required host parish councils in England to be consulted, neighbouring parishes were also included for consultation.

5.3.5. As per section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation was included as a consultee due to the project comprising an offshore wind farm in waters adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea in accordance with section 42(2). No consultation was required with the GLA.

5.3.6. Local authorities – section 42(1)(b)

5.3.7. Section 42(1)(b) requires consultation with those local authorities within section 43. This section identifies host authorities in whose area the project is proposed to be located, and adjoining authorities at both upper and lower tier levels in order to identify the section 43(1) local authorities, the land for the proposed development was defined as the area within which the onshore infrastructure could be located. The onshore electricity cable corridor, onshore substation, accesses, as well as land required for environmental mitigation and enhancement, are all proposed to be situated on land within the jurisdiction of 'host authorities' for the project. The Applicant is required to:

- Consult the 'host authority' on the project under section 42; and
- Consult the 'host authority' on the contents of the SoCC under section 47(2).

5.3.8. Local authorities under section 43 also include those that share a boundary with the host authority, as above, these are both upper tier and lower tier authorities. Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three (2017) recommends that, where projects are located offshore, developers also consult local authorities that may be visually impacted by the offshore elements of the proposals, even if they are not captured within the definitions set out under section 43 of the Act. The section 50 guidance also emphasises the need to

consult the community in areas that may be affected by an offshore project and makes reference to consultation about the project itself.

5.3.9. Local authorities identified under section 43 are listed below and in Appendix 4.2.

Table 5.2: Local authorities identified under section 43.

Section 43 subsection	Local authorities
(1) A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Sussex District Council • Horsham District Council • Arun District Council • West Sussex County Council • South Downs National Park Authority
(2) A local authority ("A") is within this section if— (a) the land is in the area of another local authority ("B"), (aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council,] and (b) any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brighton and Hove City Council • Adur & Worthing District Council • Chichester District Council • Crawley Borough Council • Mole Valley District council • Tandridge District Council • Waverly Borough Council • Wealden District Council
(2A) If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council ("C"), a local authority ("D") is within this section if— (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area.]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex Sussex County Council • Hampshire County Council • Surrey County Council
Non-prescribed local authorities that may be visually impacted by the offshore elements of the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Havant Borough Council • Isle of Wight Council • Portsmouth City Council

5.3.10. Landowners and people with interest in land (PWILs)

5.3.11. Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 states that applicants must consult each person who is within one or more categories set out in section 44. These include any landowner, lessee, tenant, occupier, any person with an interest in the land or who has power to sell and convey the land and any person entitled to make a relevant claim.

5.3.12. The Applicant has, through its appointed land agents, undertaken diligent enquiring including land referencing to identify the persons within each of the categories under section 44 and has consulted them formally under section

42, but also carried out, and continues to carry out, engagement with these parties, managing communications with identified landowners.

- 5.3.13. The identification of potential PWILs was an iterative process. Due to changes in the Project proposals as well as the land referencing process, new interests have been identified throughout the pre-application process. All PWILs identified in the Book of Reference (application reference 4.3) have been consulted under section 42 of the Act at least once with an opportunity to comment on the project as a whole although not all PWILs will have been identified at each stage of consultation. Where PWILs have been identified later in the process, and so were not consulted under section 42 at the time of the project wide statutory consultation, each subsequently identified PWIL has been given the opportunity to make representations about the project as a whole, has been directed to all consultation material previously made available, and has also been offered an opportunity to meet with members of the project team to find out more about the project and any potential impacts on their land interest.
- 5.3.14. It should be noted that discussions are ongoing with several landowners and PWILs, and that the comments received, and the Applicant's response to them, represent a point in time during the Project wide statutory consultation in July 2021.
- 5.3.15. **Notification under section 42 (including section 44)**
- 5.3.16. All consultees listed in Appendix 4.2 and the PWILs were invited to provide comments on the proposed application under section 42 (note – the addresses of PWILs have not been included for data protection reasons). These consultees were provided with a letter dated 13 July 2021 containing a link to the online exhibition, a copy of the section 48 notice and a notification of the deadline for receipt of comments (Appendix 4.6). In addition, section 44 consultees were sent the notification with a covering letter explaining the enclosures and inviting them to meet the project team.
- 5.3.17. The consultation documents consisted of:
- Seven fact sheets on the proposal
 - A non-technical summary of the PEIR;
 - The full PEIR in 28 volumes, including visualisations;
 - The draft development consent order;
 - Works Plans;
 - Outline Code of Construction Practice;
 - The draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment;
 - Section 48 and community consultation notices.
- 5.3.18. An example of the notification sent to consultees identified under sections 42(1)(aa) and s42(1)(b) can be found in Appendix 4.2. An example of the notification sent to consultees identified under section 42(1)(d) – PWILs – can be found in Appendix 4.3.

5.3.19. Notifications were sent via recorded delivery, and also due to COVID restrictions and concerns that individuals may not be in offices, via email. Of the s42 consultation letters, 7 were returned undelivered, and these were then sent again by first class mail. In each instance there were still in excess of 28 days from delivery of the letter to allow recipients to respond to the consultation.

5.4. Notification under section 46

5.4.1. Prior to commencing the Project wide statutory consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent under section 46 of the Planning Act 2008. This notification was sent in a letter on 12 July 2021 (Appendix 4.5). This notification is made via the Planning Inspectorate.

5.4.2. In accordance with section 46(1), the notification to the Secretary of State was accompanied by the same information that was provided to section 42 consultees, consisting of hard copies of a cover letter (which included a link to the online exhibition and a notification of the deadline for receipt of comments) and copy of the Applicant's section 48 notice, and the PEIR and associated consultation documents uploaded to a USB stick. The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged receipt of the section 46 notification on 15 July 2021 (Appendix 4.5).

5.4.3. The Planning Inspectorate placed both the section 46 notification letter and its acknowledgment thereof on its website for the Project.

5.4.4. Landowners and PWILs have been consulted under section 42 and negotiations are ongoing.

5.5. Section 47 consultation

5.5.1. Statement of Community Consultation

5.5.2. In accordance with section 47 of the Act, a draft Statement of Community Consultation was produced that described how the Applicant would consult with 'people living in the vicinity of the land'. Applicants are required to consult the local authorities identified under section 43(1) of the Act regarding its contents, to help identify the best ways to engage with local communities and interested parties. These local authorities were:

- Arun District council
- Horsham District Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- West Sussex County Council.

5.5.3. In addition, and following section 50 guidance and the Planning Inspectorate Advice note, the draft SoCC was sent to the following local authorities and

organisations for comment due to the potential visual impact from the offshore wind turbines.

- East Sussex County Council
- Adur District Council
- Worthing Borough Council
- Chichester District Council
- Brighton and Hove City Council
- Eastbourne Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Isle of Wight Council
- Wealden District Council
- Marine Management Organisation.

5.5.4. The local authorities listed above were sent a copy of the draft SoCC on 25 March 2021 and asked to provide comments by 28 April 2021. This afforded the statutory period of 28 days for responses from the day after the day on which the local authority received the consultation document. A copy of the draft SoCC and email to local authorities can be found in Appendix 4.1.

5.5.5. Meetings were held with ten of the identified organisations to discuss the draft. These were:

- Arun District Council
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- East Sussex County Council
- Horsham District Council
- Lewes & Eastbourne District Councils
- Marine Management Organisation
- Mid Sussex District Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- Worthing and Adur District Council; and
- West Sussex County Council.

5.5.6. A summary of the issues raised from written feedback on the draft SoCC and the Applicant's consideration of them, along with the final SoCC can be found in Appendix 4.1. All suggestions were taken on board although requests to increase commitment to physical events could only be partially incorporated – outdoor events were ultimately held to support the consultation.

5.5.7. **Notices publicising the SoCC**

5.5.8. As required by section 47(6) the SoCC was published online on 7 June 2021 and then in a series of local newspapers. It was made available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land. It was accessible on the project website, and hard copies were made available at some deposit location, notwithstanding the continuing COVID restrictions, where appointments were required for some locations. Copies were available for inspection and to take away

Copies of these notices can be seen in Appendix 4.1. The SoCC was also placed in a number of deposit locations, see table 5.4 below.

Table 5.3: Notices of SoCC publication

Publication	Date
Mid Sussex Times	10 June 2021
Sussex Express	11 June 2021
The Argus	7 and 8 June 2021
West Sussex County Times	10 June 2021
West Sussex Gazette	9 June 2021

Table 5.4: SoCC deposit locations

Deposit location	Address
Seaford Library	15-17 Sutton Park Road, Seaford, BN25 1QX
Newhaven Library	36-38 High Street, Newhaven BN9 9PD
Peacehaven Library	Meridian Centre, Peacehaven BN10 8BB
Jubilee Library	Jubilee Street, Brighton BN1 1GE
Hove Library	182-186 Church Rd, Hove BN3 2EG,
Portslade Library	Old Shoreham Rd, Portslade BN41 1XR
Southwick Library	24 Southwick St, Southwick, BN42 4FT
Shoreham-by-Sea Library	St Mary's Rd, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5ZA
Worthing Library	Richmond Rd, Worthing BN11 1HD
Ferring Library	Ferring St, Worthing BN12 5HL
Rustington Library	Claigmar Road, Rustington, BN16 2NL
Littlehampton Library	Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5NA
Bognor Regis Library	London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DE
Selsey Library	School Lane, Selsey, PO20 9EH
Arundel Library	Surrey Street, Arundel, BN18 9DT
Storrington Library	Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA
Henfield Library	Off High Street, Henfield, BN5 9HN

5.5.9. Activity in line with Statement of Community Consultation

5.5.10. The table below sets out the commitments made in the SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled them.

Table 5.5: SoCC commitments and activity

Section	Commitment	Activity
Our approach to community consultation	Commitment to adhere to the four Gunning Principles.	<p>The Applicant’s general adherence to the Gunning Principles is set out in Section 3 of this Report. For this consultation, the principles were adhered to by:</p> <p>Principle 1: Consultation must be carried out when proposals are still at a formative stage Both the proposals and environmental information presented at this stage of consultation were preliminary. Feedback to this consultation influenced the development of the proposals and the final Environmental Statement.</p> <p>Principle 2: There is sufficient information to give ‘intelligent consideration’ A significant amount of material was published for the consultation including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which include assessments of the potential benefits and impacts of the proposals by environmental topic. In addition, maps and plans, fact sheets, and non-technical consultation document were published to ensure enough information was available at multiple levels of complexity to enable intelligent consideration of the issues raised.</p> <p>Principle 3: There is adequate time for consideration and response</p>

		<p>The consultation period was nine weeks (14 July to 16 September 2021). This length of time reflected the level of information being presented at this stage of consultation and responded to the requests from several local authorities</p> <p>Principle 4: ‘Conscientious consideration’ must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made</p> <p>The consideration of responses to this stage of consultation are set out in full in Appendix 4.8. Feedback from this stage of consultation led to the Applicant making changes to the proposals, some of which then triggered further consultation.</p>
	<p>1. To reach out to and engage with people and groups from a wide range of demographics which reflect the large and diverse population surrounding the project area;</p>	<p>The use of a combination of promotional materials from posted leaflets, advertising, to social media meant that the local community and other interested parties were reached and informed about the project and invited to take part in the consultation</p> <p>A summary of the publicity methods can be found in Appendix 4.4.</p>
	<p>2. To be proportionate in our engagement efforts and awareness campaign – targeting those who live or work in the vicinity of the Project and visitors who use the area for school and recreation;</p>	<p>In addition to the methods highlighted above, posters were placed in a range of locations including along Public Rights of Way in affected areas along the proposed cable route.</p> <p>The PLGs, which are made up of representative organisations of all kinds, were an additional method of distribution information about the consultation.</p>

		In addition five roadshow events were held between 24 and 28 August 2021 in areas with high visitor footfall.
	<p>3. To be transparent by:</p> <p>a) Making communities aware of the proposals and keeping them informed throughout the planning process</p> <p>b) Preparing communities for the consultation through early and ongoing engagement</p> <p>c) Making information available to those that responded to the consultation which sets out what we heard through the consultation and how input has informed our proposals</p>	<p>a) The Applicant provided an interim report summarising the outcomes of the non-statutory consultation to demonstrate how the project had evolved in response to feedback (and at this stage the project was not envisaging any more consultation).</p> <p>b) The consultation material published as part of the consultation included information about the consultation and consenting process. This information was made available on the Project website and has remained available throughout the consultations.</p> <p>c) This Report sets out the detailed consideration of the responses received to the community consultation held. A summary of the changes made to the Project as a result of feedback received to this consultation are set out in Section 6.8.</p>
Community consultation timeline	The community consultation for Rampion 2 will take place over a 9-week time period between 14 July and 16 September. We will publicise the dates of the consultation in local newspapers.	<p>The consultation was carried out during this period.</p> <p>The notices published under s47 publicising the SoCC confirmed the dates on which the consultation would be open. Notices were also published pursuant to section 48 (see below). For notices under section 47 (see Appendix 4.1) and publicity under section 48 (see Appendix 4.6).</p> <p>In addition, a press release was issued to local and regional media. A copy of the release and summary of media coverage can be found in Appendix 4.4.</p>

	During this consultation period, the latest information about our proposals will be available for view on www.rampion2.com .]	The consultation materials listed above were available from 14 June 2021 and are still available to view on the Project website.
What will be consulted on	<p>We encourage local communities to give their views about how Rampion 2 proposals may affect them or their local area. We will be seeking specific feedback to help develop our proposals regarding, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on our preliminary assessment of the onshore and offshore environmental, community and economic impacts and proposed mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts; • Feedback on our early thinking on a construction methodology and the measures we would require of our contractors and sub-contractors to minimise any impacts of construction on local communities; and • Comments on the merits or disbenefits of substation and cable route alignment proposals where there are options being considered. 	<p>The response form made available online, for inspection in physical copy at deposit locations and on USB sticks (included in Appendix 4.7) specifically included prompts to respond on these issues.</p> <p>In addition, the consultation materials presented as part of the consultation (included in Appendix 4.7) included enough information to enable an informed response to the consultation on these issues. The materials were presented in varying level of details, i.e. user-friendly factsheets to the technical details within the PEIR.</p>
Who we will consult in the community	We will strive to reach out to all local communities and those who visit the area with the opportunity to participate in the consultation.	<p>Over 1.5 million people across Sussex were reaching through media activity on regional TV, radio, press and online.</p> <p>Notices in the local newspapers had a readership of over 280,000.</p>

		<p>A radio campaign reached an estimated 125,000 people across West Sussex, Mid Sussex and parts of East Sussex.</p> <p>Facebook and Instagram campaigns reached over 512,000 people in Sussex and the Isle of Wight.</p> <p>In addition, outdoor advertising was used, including billboard and bus advertising on the coast and cable route.</p> <p>A summary of the reach of the promotional activity is included in Appendix 4.4.</p>
	We will carefully consider the views of members of the public who feel they have an interest in or will be impacted by Rampion 2 proposals.	Appendix 4.8 sets out the detailed consideration of the views expressed in response to the consultation proposals.
	Our consultation will be accessible to any member of the public as it will be available online all day, every day during the consultation period.	The Project website was live throughout the consultation period, where interested parties could access the materials at their leisure, and similarly complete a response form at a time to suit them. The materials have not been removed and whilst the consultation period concluded on 16 September, people are still able to access the consultation materials now.
Publicising the consultation	Consultation leaflets distributed to postal address with information about the consultation and how people can have their say.	<p>A copy of the leaflet and distribution maps can be found in Appendix 4.4.</p> <p>18,588 leaflets were sent on 12 July 2021. The Applicant worked with a mailing house associated with Royal Mail called Sharpcat who helped organise the posting. They were all sent by Royal Mail on 12 July by 2nd class post to arrive by 14 July 2021.</p>

		<p>However, it was subsequently identified that not all people and groups with property in the Coastal Area (Zone 3) identified in the SoCC had received notification by leaflet of the community consultation due to an error in the leaflet distribution. In order to remedy this and ensure that members of the community in Zone 3 were aware of the consultation, leaflets were sent to those addresses which had been missed and the recipients invited to make representations as part of a re-opened consultation exercise - see section 6.7 of this Report.</p>
	<p>Raise awareness of the consultation with posters at local information points within consultation zones 1, 2 and 3, and the wider area, including notices boards along the South Downs Way and other Public Rights of Way. We will also seek to inform the wider public about the consultation through news releases, social media and providing promotional materials to Parish Councils and other community groups and organisations to disseminate.</p>	<p>Posters were displayed in accordance with the commitments given in the SoCC. Photographs of posters in place can be found in Appendix 4.4.</p> <p>A summary of the wider promotional activity can be found at the start of Appendix 4.4.</p> <p>A press release was issued to local and regional media on 14 July 2021. A copy of the release and summary of media coverage can be found in Appendix 4.4.</p>
	<p>Publish statutory notices in local and national newspapers giving details about the consultation.</p>	<p>Notices were placed in newspapers under section 48 (see Appendix 4.6).</p>
	<p>Use our existing stakeholder database to send a PLG update email in the run up to consultation and a targeted email newsletter at the start of the consultation to local community groups and</p>	<p>PLG update email An update email was issued to Project Liaison Group members on 1st June 2021, updating them on the SoCC, the forthcoming public consultation and inviting</p>

	<p>organisations who have signed up for project updates or otherwise provided permission to be contacted about the project.</p>	<p>to July virtual engagement meetings which focused on the latest information on the project and upcoming consultation.</p> <p>Targeted email newsletter On 14 July 2021, an email announcing the statutory consultation was sent to 1221 addresses. This was a combination of subscribers to the Project’s update database and additional organisations including statutory consultees under s42(1)(a), local authorities (this was in addition to the formal notification to the local authorities under s42(1)(b)), elected representatives, land and property interest holders, and interest groups in the consultation zones identified in the SoCC. Zone 1; Area of proposed substation sites, Zone 2; Area of proposed cable route; Zone 3; Coastal area and the wider area.</p> <p>A list of organisations, including hard to reach organisations, were also contacted with details of the consultation and a request to help encourage people to take part. A list of the organisations can be found in Appendix 4.4.</p> <p>Parish councils in the consultation zones were emailed with publicity materials and an invitation to participate in the two parish council online forums. These were one off online forums, two live online meetings offering any members of Parish Councils the opportunity to join.</p>
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	<p>Engage with groups and organisations that represent local communities, businesses and recreational and tourist activities within consultation zones 1, 2 and 3 (set out in the SoCC), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council and residents' associations • Local interest groups and businesses • Groups that represent different demographics, such as young people and faith and culture groups • Intertidal groups such as fisheries, recreational sea users and marine organisations. 	<p>A list of organisations contacted at the start of the consultation can be found in Appendix 4.4. This includes hard to reach groups and other groups including residents' associations, faith groups, and LGBTQ groups. In addition, representative groups were included in the various Project Liaison Groups.</p> <p>Groups were engaged with through a combination of the promotional activities outlined throughout this table. Notwithstanding the effects of COVID restrictions, the Project sought to reach as many groups as possible by employing a range of communication methods from social media to more traditional print and audio-visual media.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation materials, or translation of materials to another language, large print, audio or braille format could be requested, and other enquiries in respect of these materials may be raised with the project team.</p>
	<p>Methods of engagement may include virtual meetings, phone calls, emails, and social media.</p>	<p>In addition to the communications activity set out in this table, a dedicated freephone number and email</p>

	<p>We will provide project information and request that they disseminate to their communities and networks.</p>	<p>address were available throughout the consultation to enable members of the public to contact the Project team directly.</p>
<p>The Consultation Arrangements</p>	<p>We will prepare a number of documents, maps and plans showing the nature and location of the proposed scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Maps and plans • Drawings and/or visual simulations • Information about our approach to minimising construction impacts • Rampion Legacy Document • The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) • A non-technical summary of the PEIR • Report of findings from early stakeholder engagement the informal consultation. 	<p>The materials published as for the consultation have been reproduced in Appendix 4.7 with the exception of the longer technical documents (such as the PEIR). These documents were made available on the website throughout the consultation period, and remain available for members of the community to access now.</p>
	<p>These consultation materials will be presented on our website www.Rampion2.com. Every effort will be taken to ensure the information is accessible to participants with all levels of digital proficiency, by ensuring the navigation to documents is clear and intuitive and is functional for those who have lower internet speeds or lack IT knowledge. Additionally, all consultation documents will be available in PDF versions, which can be downloaded directly from the website or requested by emailing us at rampion2@rwe.com or calling our freephone</p>	<p>The Project website has included the material for the consultation since launch (where it is still available).</p> <p>The Freephone number and email was available for members of the public who may have needed assistant navigating that material. The phonenumber was operational throughout not just during the consultation period.</p>

	telephone line 0800 2800 886 (Freephone line hours of operation 7am-9pm Monday to Saturday).	
Methods for delivering consultation	<p>Website A dedicated website will be available to find out more information about the project and latest proposals at www.Rampion2.com. The website will be updated with our consultation documents, including links to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), the PEIR Non-Technical Summary and the Consultation Questionnaire. The aim of this platform is to provide a wide-reaching way of engaging with anyone interested in the project.</p>	The Project website has included the material for the consultation since launch (where it is still available).
	Briefings and Q&A sessions will be arranged with local Parish Councils and local community groups. These meetings will be held via online meetings and webinars due to restrictions on public gatherings.	Two virtual presentations were held for parish councils on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 July 2021 • 23 August 2021
	Virtual project presentations open to the wider public to allow people to ask questions about the consultation and our proposals directly to members of the project team. The details of these virtual presentations will be promoted on our website and in our targeted email newsletter.	Two virtual presentations were held for the public on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 July 2021 • 6 Sept 2021 <p>These were one off on-line forums, two live online meetings offering any Members of Parish Councils the opportunity to join. Participants were invited to submit written questions during the presentation, and these were answered during the sessions.</p>
Reacting to the evolving social distancing guidelines	Provided that Government guidance allows for public buildings to remain open during the community consultation period, we will provide computer access to the consultation	Guidance did not restrict the use of public buildings during this period. In some cases, people had to

	documents at select publicly accessible venues. These venues and their opening hours and any arrangements required for viewing the information will be publicised on our website www.Rampion2.com and in statutory public notices beginning 14 July 2021.	register to attend the venues in advance. and pick the date they wanted to attend.
Using feedback to inform Rampion 2 proposals	To capture participants' feedback, we will provide a consultation questionnaire inviting comments. The questionnaire will be made available on our website www.Rampion2.com alongside the other consultation documents, but participants may also request fillable copies by email or a hard copy by mail.	A copy of the response form can be found in Appendix 4.7.
	Any comments received will be analysed and may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the DCO process. We will ensure that any personal details are not placed on public record, will be held securely by Rampion Extension Development Ltd and its agents in accordance with the data protection laws and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.	This Consultation Report sets out a summary of the issues raised during the consultation and how they have been taken into account. Appendix 4.8 contains this detail.

5.5.11. Virtual events

5.5.12. Four virtual events were held during the consultation period to give stakeholders an opportunity to see a presentation by the Project team and then to ask questions. Two of the events were primarily attended by members of the public, and two of the events were held for parish councils and councillors in the potentially affected areas.

5.5.13. The presentations were freely available but required registration via the Project website. Attendance was free, people would register prior to the event, questions were asked via Chat and answered live during the session.

Table 5.6: Virtual events held during the consultation

Method/Location	Dates	Description
Public Forum	27 July 2021	Presentation and Q&A opportunity with project team, held online and public could register on website
Public Forum	6 Sept 2021	As above
Parish Councillor Forum	28 July 2021	Presentation and Q&A opportunity for all Parish Councillors interested in registering – Isle of Wight east coast, Sussex coast from Selsey Bill to Beachy Head and on cable route
Parish Councillor Forum	23 August 2021	As above

5.5.14. Additional activity – consultation awareness roadshows

5.5.15. Covid restrictions prevented typical in-person events during the consultation period. The South Downs National Park Authority requested that visitors to the area should be engaged with, so the publicity programme to support the consultation was supplemented by a one-week Consultation Awareness roadshow during the statutory consultation in late August 2021, when restrictions were lifted for outdoors events. The consultation period ended on 16 September, so people had time after this to respond to consultation.

5.5.16. A pop-up branded gazebo and van, with an information stand, toured high footfall locations on the coast and South Downs Way, including Worthing, Climping and Brighton seafronts and the South Downs Way at the Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre at Cuckmere Haven. Members of the project team handed out the consultation flyer, summary materials and feedback forms and talked with the public, answering questions and encouraging people to give their feedback on the forms or online.

5.5.17. Pop up event days:

- 24 August 2021 – Worthing Seafront (between pier and lido)

- 25 August 2021 – Climping Seafront (beach car park)
- 26 August 2021 – Worthing Seafront again
- 27 August 2021 – Brighton Seafront (next to BAi360, by Rampion Visitor Centre)
- 28 August 2021 - Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre on South Downs Way.

5.5.18. Additional activity – meetings

5.5.19. In addition to the section 47 activity outlined above and a round of meetings with the PLGs, the following additional meetings were held with stakeholder organisations to support the consultation and continue engagement.

Table 5.7: Stakeholder meetings during the consultation period.

Date	Organisation	Attendance
14 July 2021	Coastal West Sussex Board	
22 July 2021	South Downs National Park Authority	30 members
22 July 2021	Lewes & Eastbourne District Council	Cabinet members
22 July 2021	Landowner surgeries in Henfield	PWILs
26 July 2021	Chichester District Council	19 councillors
26 July 2021	West Sussex County Council	29 councillors and one senior officer
28 July 2021	Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council	Nine councillors and three residents
12 August 2021	Lewes & Eastbourne District Council Democratic Services	Seven
17 August 2021	Aquind	
24 August 2021	Horsham District Council	13 councillors and two officers
24 August 2021	Littlehampton Society public event	Open session
25 August 2021	Middleton-On-Sea public meeting	Open session
31 August 2021	Twineham Parish Council	Four councillors, four residents and clerk
2 September 2021	Mims Davies MP	
2 September 2021	Andrew Griffith MP	
2 September 2021	Washington Parish Council and residents	24
6 September 2021	Mid Sussex District Council	Six councillors
7 September 2021	Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership	
7 September 2021	Greening Steyning	Well attended public meeting
7 September 2021	Arun District Council	Seven councillors
7 September 2021	Greater Brighton Economic Forum	

9 September 2021	Tarmac, Cemex & Hanson Aggregates	
9 September 2021	GWEC Presentation at Shoreham Port	
9 September 2021	South Downs National Park Authority	Planning committee
13 September 2021	Eastbourne Labour Party	
14 September 2021	Protect Coastal England (in Newhaven)	Two
14 September 2021	Bolney Parish Council	Eight councillors and six residents
6 September 2021	Commercial Fisheries Working Group	Three
7 September 2021	Shoreham (& Brighton) Independent Fisherman's meeting	One
8 September 2021	Selsey Fisherman's Association meeting	Two
8 September 2021	Independent Fisherman's Group meeting	Three

5.6. Section 48 publicity

5.6.1. Section 48 of the Act requires the Applicant to publicise the proposals in the 'prescribed manner'. The prescribed manner is set out in the APFP Regulations, in which Schedule 1 details the publications that the notice is required to be published in. Note that the notice contained all of the information required in the Regulations.

5.6.2. Copies of the published notices can be found in Appendix 4.6.

Table 5.8: Notices published to fulfil the requirements of section 48

Requirement under Schedule 1 of the APFP regulations	Newspapers	Dates
a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	Isle of Wight Press Mid Sussex Times Sussex Express The Argus West Sussex County Times West Sussex Gazette	16 and 23 July 2021 15 and 22 July 2021 16 and 23 July 2021 14 and 21 July 2021 15 and 22 July 2021 14 and 21 July 2021
b) once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	19 July 2021
c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette	19 July 2022
d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development –	Lloyd's List Fishing News	19 July 2022 15 July 2022

(i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?		
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5.6.3. Deposit locations

- 5.6.4. All of the consultation materials were available from the start of the consultation on the Project website. The documents made available at deposit locations included the consultation factsheets, the consultation response form, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to the PEIR which will be available for inspection, free of charge,
- 5.6.5. Eleven local information points were identified with free public access internet which could be used to access the consultation information. These locations were set out in the s48 notice and promoted in printed s48 public notices and were chosen to provide a geographic range of options to reflect the communities consulted with.
- 5.6.6. All of the consultation materials were also made available on a USB drive on request. In addition these were placed in three 'USB deposit locations, Rampion Visitor Centre, Littlehampton Town Council and Mid Sussex District Council' from where members of the public could collect a USB drive with all of the consultation materials.
- 5.6.7. In addition, hard copies of the consultation materials could be requested directly from the Project. Hard copies could also be requested in another language, large print, audio or braille format (although no requests were received). As per the section 48 notice, people were advised that there may be fee associated with request material.

Table 5.9: Deposit locations

Location	Address	Deposit type
Seaford Library	15-17 Sutton Park Road, Seaford, BN25 1QX	Publicly available online access
Peacehaven Library	Meridian Centre, Peacehaven, BN10 8BB	Publicly available online access
Jubilee Library	Jubilee Street, Brighton, BN1 1GE	Publicly available online access
Shoreham-by-Sea Library	St Mary's Rd, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5ZA	Publicly available online access
Worthing Library	Richmond Road, Worthing, BN11 1PW	Publicly available online access
Littlehampton Library	Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5NA	Publicly available online access
Bognor Regis Library	London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DE	Publicly available online access

Storrington Library	Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA	Publicly available online access
Henfield Library	Off High St, Henfield, BN5 9HN	Publicly available online access
Hurstpierpoint Library	Trinity Rd, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, BN6 9UY	Publicly available online access
Sandown Library	119 High St, Sandown, PO36 8AF	Publicly available online access
Rampion Visitor Centre	76-81 Kings Road Arches, Brighton, BN1 2FN	USB deposit location
Littlehampton Town Council	The Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton, BN17 5EW	USB deposit location
Mid Sussex District Council	Oaklands Rd, Haywards Heath, RH16 1SS	USB deposit location

5.7. Extended project wide statutory consultation (7 February to 11 April 2022)

- 5.7.1. The consultation was reopened between 7 February and 11 April 2022 for members of the public after the Applicant became aware that some coastal residents did not receive consultation leaflets as intended at the launch of the consultation.
- 5.7.2. To address this issue, the Applicant wrote directly to the coastal addresses which were omitted to explain that they should have received a leaflet previously, included a copy of the leaflet, and explained that the consultation would be re-opened from 7 February to 11 April, to reflect the period they would have had to make representations had they received the leaflet as intended. This included Zone 3 the coastal area, those person or groups whose property is within 100m of the Sussex Coastline between Beachy Head and Selsey Bill, and the eastern coastline of the Isle of Wight between Seaview and Ventnor.
- 5.7.3. Whilst the re-opened consultation was specifically for those persons who should have received a leaflet the consultation was effectively re-opened for anyone who wished to make representations and all responses during this period were taken into account. No additional notifications were sent out under section 42 or publicity carried out in line with section 48. This was to ensure we met our stated commitment in the SoCC to engage with people in Zone 3.
- 5.7.4. The extended Project wide statutory consultation sought feedback on exactly the same set of proposals presented during the July to September 2021 consultation period, with the addition of an updated response form with the adjusted consultation dates (Appendix 5.2).

- 5.7.5. Two virtual public forums were held to match the level of community engagement during the initial stage of consultation. There were held on 12 February and 28 February 2022.
- 5.7.6. A copy of the leaflet and distribution zone can be found in Appendix 5.1.
- 5.7.7. All stakeholders and interested parties were welcome to provide feedback during this period and responses to the initial and extended consultation were treated equally.

5.8. Responses to the consultation

- 5.8.1. In total 1,473 responses were received to this consultation.
- 1,391 were received from members of the public or organisations under s47/s48 of the Act
 - 39 were received from local authorities or statutory bodies under s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) of the Act
 - 43 were received from PWILs under s42(1)(d) of the Act.
- 5.8.2. A summary of the responses and demonstration of the Applicant's consideration of them is included in full in Appendix 4.8. Responses received to the extended consultation period were treated in the same way as responses to the initial period of consultation and have been presented together. Below is an explanation of the methodology used to summarise the responses.
- 5.8.3. **Response analysis approach**
- 5.8.4. As per Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (The Planning Inspectorate, February 2021) when reporting on responses to statutory consultation it is considered appropriate to group responses under headline issues providing care is taken to ensure that in doing so responses are not presented in a misleading way.
- 5.8.5. As recommended by the Advice Note, below is a description of the methodology used to summarise the issues identified in responses to the consultation to create those headline issues. This methodology has been used to summarise the responses to each stage of consultation covered in this Consultation Report. This includes s42 consultees that responded to the consultation.
- 5.8.6. **Summarising and responding:** Each response to the consultation is read individually and assigned thematic codes based on the issues raised within. Those codes relate to a two-tier code frame covering the key topics/themes that relate to the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Project more generally such as 'Offshore – fish and shellfish ecology' or 'Offshore – construction') and sub-issues within those topics. Each response can have more than one code if it covers multiple issues.
- 5.8.7. Once all of the responses to a consultation are assigned as code, response flagged with each code are reviewed as a whole so that issues within those

topics can be summarised effectively in an ‘issue statement’ without losing relevant information.

- 5.8.8. That issue statement has then been set out in a table (in Appendix 4.8) along with details of how the Applicant considered the issue and its response to it, and whether it led to any change in the Project. The codes, issue statements and responses are presented together in a series of tables which are categorised under each consultation. These response tables present the response data thematically.
- 5.8.9. Where an issue has not led to a change in the Project, an explanation to how the issue has been considered and evaluated, and the decision reached is given. **Subjectivity:** By its nature, preparing thematic summaries large quantities of qualitative feedback is a subjective process.
- 5.8.10. In addition to the above approach, the Applicant has also presented the response data to reflect the section 42 consultees, the key issues they have raised and project’s formal response. This can be found in Appendix 11, Annex 3 (Application reference 5.1.3.). Consultation responses from the statutory consultees referenced in the Environmental Statement.
- 5.8.11. The Applicant is confident that the responses presented represent a fair representation of the content of the responses and representations made to these consultations. In considering and responding to each issue, the Applicant has taken as broad an understanding of the issue raised as possible to reduce the risk that nuance has been lost in the process.
- 5.8.12. **Summary of changes to the Project following consultation**
- 5.8.13. Responses to this consultation, along with ongoing technical work, environmental surveys and design development, lead to a number of changes in the Project from what was presented at this stage of consultation. These changes are summarised below.
- 5.8.14. **Offshore:** Below is a summary of some key changes the Applicant made to the offshore proposals as a result of feedback to this consultation from statutory consultees, other stakeholders and the wider community. When the Applicant first announced the project and the initial ‘Area of Search’ the project committed to refining proposals over time and through the course of consultation and engagement to a proposal which would be located somewhere within that Area of Search (i.e. not the entire area initially identified).
- The initial boundary used for the project’s Scoping Opinion in 2020 was 315km². A reduction of the overall boundary of the offshore wind farm by over 40% from 270km² in the non-statutory consultation.
 - Based on feedback on ongoing technical engagement the now proposed maximum footprint is 160km² (in terms of the area where wind turbines may be located) in the 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.

5.8.15. **Onshore:** Below is a summary of some key changes the Applicant made to the onshore proposals as a result of feedback to this consultation from statutory consultees, other stakeholders and the wider community.

- The Applicant selected a site for the onshore substation, from the two that we consulted on. Feedback from the public and statutory bodies was helpful in reaching this decision. The Applicant's preferred site is Oakendene, at Bolney Road/Kent Street; and
- The Wineham Lane North site option was dropped, as were the associated cable routes and accesses from the south which would have served that site.

6. ONSHORE STATUTORY CONSULTATION (18 OCTOBER TO 29 NOVEMBER 2022)

6.1. Introduction

Consultation period	18 October to 29 November 2022
Type	Full statutory consultation (onshore)

- 6.1.1. Following on from the Project wide statutory consultation (14 July to 16 September 2021, plus extension 7 February to 11 April 2022), the Applicant conducted an onshore supplementary statutory consultation between 18 October to 29 November 2022, which focused on potential changes to the proposed onshore cable route as well as updated preliminary environmental information (as per the requirements of the EIA Regulations). This was essentially a full consultation but targeted on the onshore element of the project proposals, the cable route but not the substantiation, as the Applicant consulted on those components in the project wide statutory consultation.
- 6.1.2. Many of these were designed in response to consultation feedback, as well as further environmental and technical development. These changes took the form of alternative and modified cable routes or accesses, or entirely new trenchless crossings or accesses. The new accesses could be for use during construction, operation or both. In some areas the Applicant proposed much longer alternative cable routes.
- 6.1.3. This consultation sought feedback on seven areas of the proposals:
- Area 1: Climping Beach (landfall) to Lyminster
 - Area 2: Lyminster to Sullington Hill (Modified Route)
 - Area 3: Crossbush to Michelgrove (Central Route)
 - Area 4: Lyminster to Sullington Hill (Eastern Route)
 - Area 5: West and North of Washington
 - Area 6: Wiston to Kings Lane
 - Area 7: Substation Approach
- 6.1.4. **Alignment of dates:** The deadline for responses in relation to consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 was aligned.
- 6.1.5. **COVID-19:** Government restrictions in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic were lifted by this consultation period, however the Applicant monitored the situation closely in case of changes to rules at short notice.

6.2. Consultation material

- 6.2.1. Documents were published to set out the proposals, their potential benefits and impacts, and additional background information. The full list of consultation materials is set out below.

Table 6.1: Consultation materials for Onshore Statutory Consultation

Document	Description
Supplementary Information Report to the Preliminary Information Report (PEIR SIR)	<p>The PEIR provides information on the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development and was produced for consultation in July 2021. The Supplementary Information Report to the PEIR presented as part of this consultation, outlined the Applicant’s preliminary assessment of impacts to the potential changes the project was consulting on. The PEIR SIR considered the changes as additions to the project, or as an alternative added to the project. As preliminary reports, they are not final but were provided at the stage of consultation to allow consultees to consider the Applicant’s current understanding of the potential impacts of the project. Further detailed information is provided in the Environmental Statement that accompanies the application for development consent.</p>
Consultation booklet	<p>Information about the additional areas and any changes to construction methodologies being assessed to determine potential changes along the onshore cable corridor between the landfall at Climping Beach and the connection to the National Grid near Bolney. Each change presented included a visual depicting the previous proposal and additional area being consulted on, describing the reasons the Applicant was considering a potential change.</p> <p>The Applicant also presented information about the project and onshore cable route to inform feedback about the changes being consulted on, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Consultation; • Background to Rampion 2; • Consents Process; • Onshore Construction Methodologies and; • Managing Impacts.
Videos	<p>An introductory video that described what is being consulted on and how people could have their say, as well as an informational video demonstrating the process for reinstating land following construction of the onshore cable route.</p>

Response form	A form for respondents to express their views on the changes and submit to the project team for consideration. Consultation responses were also be accepted via email and post.
First round of statutory consultation 2021 – 2022	Summary of feedback and high-level changes from the project wide statutory consultation held in July 2021.

6.3. Section 42 consultation

- 6.3.1. The Applicant revised and updated its list of consultees that required notification under section 24 of the Act. A full list of these consultees under sections 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) are included in Appendix 6.2.
- 6.3.2. The list of PWILs was also updated to include those newly identified and newly affected. Newly identified PWILs had not previously been consulted for a number of a reasons, primarily due to the land not being newly included in the project boundary and refreshes of land registry searches since initial referencing in mid-2021.
- 6.3.3. New parties both with freehold interest in land and with rights over land, for example tenants or people with rights of access were identified. It was also brought to RED’s attention that not all of the tenants at Oakendene Industrial Estate had been consulted. Addresses for Oakendene Industrial tenants were not available via Royal Mail and discussions were held with the freeholder owner to identify the best method of providing the information.
- 6.3.4. Further to these discussions, consultation packs were sent to the Oakendene Industrial Estate office on Friday 28th October 2022, which were delivered on the morning of Tuesday 1st November 2022. As discussed, and agreed with the landowner, Carter Jonas visited the industrial estate on 1st November between 11:45 and 15:00 to issue packs, attempting to hand deliver the packs to occupiers. If the occupier was not on site these packs were placed in their designated post tray. If they did not have a designated post tray, the pack was left in the industrial estate office. While on site there were 11 units identified which had not been included in the initial batch of consultation packs. Carter Jonas returned to the industrial estate on 7th November between 14:00 and 14:45 to issue these additional packs, which included a covering letter confirming they had an extended deadline of 6th December to respond. 9 unaddressed packs were also left in the estate office in case any occupiers had misplaced their packs.
- 6.3.5. As with the previous stage of consultation, all consultees listed in Appendix 6.2 were invited to provide comments on the proposed application under

section 42. These consultees were provided with a letter dated 13 October 2022 containing a link to the consultation material, a copy of the section 48 notice and a notification of the deadline for receipt of comments (Appendix 6.6).

- 6.3.6. An example of a notification sent to prescribed bodies and an example of a notification sent to a PWIL can be found in Appendix 6.2 and Appendix 6.3 respectively. Where the PWILs comprised persons who had not been included in the previous consultation, they were offered the opportunity to make representations on the project as a whole and directed to the consultation material that had been made available during the previous consultation. PWILs were also offered a meeting with the project team.
- 6.3.7. PWIL Letters were sent via Letters were issued 1st class tracked delivery. The tracking number and royal mail evidence of delivery with signature was logged. Any letters that were returned, were resent by tracked delivery to an identified alternative address or re-sent to the original address via 1st class.
- 6.3.8. All letters had a consultation period at least of 28 days from delivery even if we resent with a new date.
- 6.3.9. Prescribed bodies were sent letters via Royal Mail special delivery and were tracked. If letters were returned, they were re-issued to the original address or an alternative address if one could be identified. All letters had a consultation period of 28 days from delivery even when resent with a new date.

6.4. Notification under section 46

- 6.4.1. Whilst the Applicant had previously notified the SoS about the intention to submit an application, as this onshore consultation was undertaken in respect of the whole cable corridor and all s42 consultees were consulted, a second notification was sent under s46. Prior to commencing the Project wide statutory consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent under section 46 of the Planning Act 2008. This notification was sent in a letter on 13 October 2022 (Appendix 6.5). This notification is sent via the Planning Inspectorate.
- 6.4.2. In accordance with section 46(1), the notification to the Secretary of State was accompanied by the same information that was provided to section 42 consultees, consisting of hard copies of a cover letter (which included a link to the online exhibition and a notification of the deadline for receipt of comments) and copy of the Applicant's section 48 notice. The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged receipt of the section 46 notification on 20 October 2022 (Appendix 4.5).
- 6.4.3. The Planning Inspectorate placed both the section 46 notification letter and its acknowledgment thereof on its website for the Project.

6.5. Section 47 consultation

6.5.1. Updated Statement of Community Consultation

6.5.2. The Applicant prepared an updated version of the SoCC that was consulted on and published for the first state of statutory consultation (set out in section 5.5 of this Report the Updated SoCC has been provided to explain how we will consult the public during further statutory community consultation on the proposed Rampion 2 project.

6.5.3. A draft of the updated SoCC was initially sent to local authorities on 23 March 2022 before being withdrawn following discussions regarding resource availability. A draft of the updated SoCC was then sent for consultation on 20 April 2022 to the local authorities listed below with a deadline of 18 May 2022 for responses.

- Arun District council
- Horsham District Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- West Sussex County Council.

6.5.4. In addition, the draft SoCC was sent to the following local authorities and organisations for comment as they are potentially affected by onshore proposals.

- East Sussex County Council
- Adur District Council
- Worthing Borough Council
- Chichester District Council
- Brighton and Hove City Council
- Eastbourne Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Isle of Wight Council
- Wealden District Council
- Marine Management Organisation.

6.5.5. A copy of the draft updated SoCC and email to local authorities can be found in Appendix 6.1. Comments in response to the consultation on the draft updated SoCC were received from local authorities. The comments and the Applicant's consideration of them, along with the final SoCC can be found in Appendix 6.1

6.5.6. Notices publicising the SoCC

6.5.7. As required by section 47(6) the SoCC was made available online on 12 October 2022 and then published in a series of local newspapers. Copies of these notices can be seen in Appendix 6.1. The SoCC was also placed in a number of deposit locations, see table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2: Notices of SoCC publication

Publication	Date
Isle of Wight Press	14 October 2022
Mid Sussex Times	13 October 2022
Sussex Express	14 October 2022
The Argus	12 October 2022
West Sussex County Times	13 October 2022
West Sussex Gazette	12 October 2022

Table 6.3: SoCC deposit locations

Deposit location	Address
Ferring Library	Ferring St, Worthing BN12 5HL
Littlehampton Library	Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5NA
Bognor Regis Library	London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DE
Arundel Library	Surrey Street, Arundel, BN18 9DT
Storrington Library	Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA
Henfield Library	Off High Street, Henfield, BN5 9HN
Steyning Library	Church Street, Steyning, BN44 3YB

6.5.8. **Activity in line with update Statement of Community Consultation**

6.5.9. The table below sets out the commitments made in the updated SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled them.

Table 6.4: Updated SoCC commitments and activity

Section	Commitment	Activity
Our approach to community consultation	Commitment to adhere to the four Gunning Principles.	<p>The Applicant’s general adherence to the Gunning Principles is set out in Section 3 of this Report. For this consultation, the Principles were adhered to by:</p> <p>Principle 1: Consultation must be carried out when proposals are still at a formative stage Additional preliminary environmental information was presented at this stage of consultation. In addition, the topics of the consultation were on suggested changes to the proposals that demonstrate the Project’s evolution in response to feedback. Further alternative design options were identified as a result of feedback to this consultation.</p> <p>Principle 2: There is sufficient information to give ‘intelligent consideration’ A significant amount of material was published for the consultation including the Supplementary Information Report to the PEIR, which include assessments of the potential benefits and impacts of the proposals by environmental topic. In addition, maps and plans, fact sheets, and non-technical consultation document were published to ensure enough information was available at multiple levels of complexity to enable intelligent consideration of the issues raised.</p>

		<p>Principle 3: There is adequate time for consideration and response The consultation period was six weeks (18 October to 29 November 2022). This length of time was less than the nine weeks for the Project wide consultation to reflect the reduced amount of information, and increased public awareness of the Project.</p> <p>Principle 4: ‘Conscientious consideration’ must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made The consideration of responses to this stage of consultation are set out in full in Appendix 6.8. Feedback from this stage of consultation led to the Applicant making changes to the proposals, some of which then triggered further consultation.</p>
	<p>1. To reach out to and engage with people and groups from a wide range of demographics which reflect the large and diverse population surrounding the project area;</p>	<p>The use of a combination of promotional materials from posted leaflets, to newspaper notices, to social media meant that a broad spectrum of the population was targeted.</p> <p>A summary of the publicity methods can be found in Appendix 6.4.</p>
	<p>2. To be proportionate in our engagement efforts and awareness campaign – targeting those who live or work in the vicinity of the Project and visitors who use the area for school and recreation.</p>	<p>In addition to the methods highlighted above, posters were placed in a range of locations including along Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>The PLGs (set out in Section 4 of this report), which are made up of representative organisations of all kinds, were an additional method of sharing information.</p>

	<p>3. To be transparent by:</p> <p>a) Making communities aware of the proposals and keeping them informed throughout the planning process</p> <p>b) Preparing communities for the consultation through early and ongoing engagement</p> <p>c) Making information available to those that responded to the consultation which sets out what we heard through the consultation and how input has informed our proposals</p>	<p>a) As laid out in this Consultation Report, the community was engaged throughout the development of the proposals, for this consultation it was on a targeted basis as the emphasis was on the onshore cable route. An Updated SoCC was provided to explain how the Applicant will consult the public during the further statutory community consultation on the project</p> <p>b) The consultation material published as part of the consultation included information about the consultation and consenting process. This information can be found on the 'Consents Process' section of the consultation project webpage. This information was kept available on the Project website.</p> <p>c) This Report sets out the detailed consideration of the responses received to the consultation. In addition, feedback received in response to this consultation directly influenced the consideration of a further alteration to the cable corridor, as was explained in the subsequent targeted consultation.</p>
<p>Community consultation timeline</p>	<p>The second round of statutory community consultation for Rampion 2 will take place over a six-week time period (18th October to 29th November). As a minimum, we will publish statutory notices under s48 of the Planning Act 2008 promoting the dates of the consultation in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Argus • Isle of Wight Press • West Sussex Gazette • West Sussex County times 	<p>The consultation was carried out during this period.</p> <p>Notices were placed in the relevant papers including the consultation dates. This included notices under section 47 (see Appendix 6.1) and publicity under section 48 (see Appendix 6.6).</p> <p>In addition, a press release was issued to local and regional media. A copy of the release and summary of media coverage can be found in Appendix 6.4.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sussex Express • Fishing News • London Gazette • The Guardian • Lloyd's List. 	
What will be consulted on	<p>We encourage local communities to give their views about how the Rampion 2 proposals may affect them or their local area. We will be seeking specific feedback regarding the alternatives and our assessment of the environmental, community and economic impacts we've assessed in a Supplementary Information Report to the PEIR (PEIR SIR).</p>	<p>The response form (included in Appendix 6.7) specifically included prompts to respond on these issues.</p> <p>In addition, the consultation materials presented as part of the consultation (included in Appendix 6.7) included enough information to enable an informed response to the consultation on these issues.</p>
Second round of statutory community consultation timeline	<p>The second round of statutory community consultation for Rampion 2 will take place over a six week time period (18 October to 29 November).</p>	<p>This was the period for this stage of consultation.</p>
	<p>As a minimum, we will publish statutory notices under s48 of the Planning Act 2008 promoting the dates of the consultation.</p>	<p>Section 48 notices were published in those publications. The dates for publication and the notices are reproduced in Appendix 6.6.</p>
	<p>During this consultation period, the latest information about our proposals will be available to view and download www.Rampion2.com.</p>	<p>The Project website has included the material for the consultation since launch (where it is still available).</p>
What will be consulted on	<p>We encourage local communities to give their views about how the Rampion 2 proposals may</p>	<p>The consultation booklet and response form published as part of this consultation (and reproduced in Appendix</p>

	<p>affect them or their local area. We will be seeking specific feedback regarding the alternatives and our assessment of the environmental, community and economic impacts we've assessed in a Supplementary Information Report to the PEIR (PEIR SIR).</p>	<p>6.7) set out the specific scope of the consultation and what feedback was being sought.</p> <p>In addition, the consultation materials presented as part of the consultation (included in Appendix 6.7) included enough information to enable an informed response to the consultation on these issues. The response form presented a set of questions on the seven areas that made on the onshore cable route proposals.</p>
Who we will consult in the community	We will strive to reach out to all local communities and those who visit or work in the areas which may be affected by the proposed changes.	Groups were engaged with through a combination of the promotional activities outlined throughout this table.
	We will carefully consider the views of members of the public who feel they have an interest in or will be impacted by Rampion 2 proposals.	Appendix 6.8 sets out the detailed consideration of the views expressed in response to the consultation.
	Our consultation will be accessible to any member of the public as it will be available online all day, every day during the consultation period.	The Project website has included the material for the consultation since launch (where it is still available).
Publicising the second round of statutory community consultation	<p>Consultation leaflets distributed to postal address with information about the consultation and how people can have their say. As a minimum, the direct mailing will target addresses within the targeted consultation zone.</p> <p>The targeted consultation zone includes persons or groups most likely to have a direct interest in or experience impacts from the onshore cable corridor and associated works.</p>	<p>A copy of the leaflet and distribution maps can be found in Appendix 6.4.</p> <p>The leaflets were sent on 14th October 2022 by first class Royal Mail. The address database included the standard address data (Royal Mail PAF – Household / Postcode level coordinates) as well as the enhanced address data (Royal Mail PAF – Multiple Residency) and informational address data (Royal Mail PAF – Not Yet Built) – Multiple Residency - These are properties which are located behind a single delivery point – for example, a block of</p>

	<p>The zone was defined as those 1km either side of the previously defined PEIR boundary, within which some changes to construction methodology are proposed, plus the boundaries of the areas newly identified, which are the subject of this consultation. This zone extends along the onshore cable corridor between the landfall at Climping beach to the northern end of the proposed cable routes to the selected onshore substation.</p>	<p>flats where the postman is only able to put envelopes through the front door of the block of flats, as opposed to being able to put envelopes through each individual's flat door.</p> <p>Not Yet Built - These are properties which Royal Mail have been informed are in the process of being constructed – this dataset is updated every 3 months and was last updated 5 weeks before the consultation We were informed by Sharpcat that a 'test leaflet' was received on Monday Sat 15th and Mon 17th October 2022.</p>
	<p>Raise aware of the consultation with posters at local information points within the consultation zone.</p> <p>We will also seek to inform the wider public about the consultation through targeted news releases, social media and providing promotional materials to Parish Councils and other community groups and organisations.</p>	<p>Posters were placed in line the SoCC, at local information points within the consultation zone, including notice boards (where the Applicant had access) along the South Downs Way and other Public Rights of Way. Photographs of posters in place can be found in Appendix 6.4.</p> <p>A summary of the wider promotional activity can be found at the start of Appendix 6.4.</p> <p>A press release was issued to local and regional media on 18 October 2022. A copy of the release and summary of media coverage can be found in Appendix 6.4.</p>
	<p>Publish statutory notices in local and national newspapers giving details about the consultation.</p>	<p>Notices were placed in newspapers under section 47 (see Appendix 6.1) and under section 48 (see Appendix 6.6).</p>

	<p>Use our existing stakeholder database to send a targeted email newsletter at the start of the consultation to local community groups and organisations who have signed up for project updates or otherwise provided permission to be contacted about the project.</p>	<p>On 17 October 2022, emails announcing the statutory consultation on cable route alternatives were sent to 2469000 project update database addresses comprising of all contacts registering an interest in receiving information about Rampion 2 via the Rampion 2 website plus 807 emails on targeted lists comprising of the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert Topic Group, Local Authority and other S.42 public body representatives • Hard to Reach organisations • Parish Councils (directly impacted by the proposed modifications and neighbouring Parish Councils) • Elected Representatives <p>Variations of the email, adjusted to include appropriate information, were sent to a combination of subscribers to the Project’s update database and the above additional organisation contacts which had been identified through previous consultation and engagement on the project or through contacts registering to receive updates to the project directly via the Rampion 2 website. The Parish Council email included information to register for a parish councillors’ online forum).</p> <p>Whilst section 42 letters had been sent in the post to fulfil consultation requirements, section 42 letters were also emailed to ETG, Local Authority and section 42 public bodies on 21 October further to email copy requests. A reminder of the consultation period deadline for responses was sent out to 2460 recipients on 17 November 2022. Lists of organisations which received these emails can be found in Appendix 6.4.</p>
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<p>The Consultation Arrangements</p>	<p>To ensure that communities have sufficient project and background material to enable informed consideration of and feedback on our proposals, we will prepare a number of documents, maps and plans showing the nature and location of the changes being consulted on.</p> <p>[The consultation documents are then listed and explained in detail, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplementary Information Report to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report • Consultation booklet • Videos • Consultation response form.] 	<p>The materials published as for the consultation have been reproduced in Appendix 6.7 with the exception of the SIR PEIR and videos. These materials are still available on the Project website.</p>
	<p>These consultation materials will be presented on our website www.Rampion2.com. Every effort will be taken to ensure the information is accessible to participants with all levels of digital proficiency, by ensuring the navigation to documents is clear and intuitive and is functional for those who have lower internet speeds or lack IT knowledge. Additionally, all consultation documents will be available in PDF versions, which can be downloaded directly from the website or requested by emailing us at rampion2@rwe.com or calling our freephone telephone line 0800 2800 886</p>	<p>The Project website has included the material for the consultation since launch (where it is still available). The consultation booklet was designed to be user friendly and accessible, and it signposted to the technical information presented in the PEIR SIR for those who wanted more information.</p> <p>The Freephone number and email was available for members of the public who may have needed assistant navigating that material.</p>

	(Freephone line hours of operation 7am-9pm Monday to Saturday).	
	We encourage people and groups to review the consultation documents in digital format, but we will accept requests for hard copies of consultation materials via phone or email, which will be managed on a case-by-case basis. Where reasonable and depending on the specific consultation document(s) requested, we may charge a fee for printing and mailing.	Requests were honoured were made to the Project. No requests were made of a level requiring a fee to be charged.
Methods for delivering the second round of statutory community consultation	<p>Website</p> <p>A dedicated website will be available to find out more information about the project and latest proposals at www.Rampion2.com. The website will be updated with our second round of statutory consultation documents, including links to the PEIR SIR, a consultation booklet which outlines our proposed alternatives grouped by location that describe the technical changes being assessed, and video content. Links to the other documents previously consulted on, such as the PEIR, Non-Technical Summary (NTS) Vol 1 of the PEIR and all other consultation documents presented in the former consultation will remain available for those who wish to learn about background information. The aim of this platform is to provide a wide-reaching way of engaging with anyone interested in the project. And the ability to be kept informed upon request.</p>	The Project website has included the material for the consultation since launch (where it is still available).

	<p>Virtual public forum - 15th November 18:00 to 19:30</p> <p>Open to the public to allow people to ask questions about the changes directly to members of the project team. Attendees can expect an explanation of our latest onshore proposals and ask questions online during the session.</p> <p>There will be opportunity to submit questions to the team using a Q&A tool. We will also invite attendees to submit questions that they would like the project team to address in advance of the virtual public forum. Information about the virtual public forum will be promoted on our website, through email and on social media.</p>	<p>This virtual public forum was held on the date and time advertised.</p>
	<p>Events - face to face drop in events</p> <p>Where people will be able to view our targeted consultation proposals, talk to our project team in person and ask questions. All dates and/or venues are subject to change, although comparable venues, days and times will be sought where possible. [Four events listed – see right hand column]</p>	<p>The events were held as set out in the updated SoCC. Covid restrictions had been lifted at this time, so it was possible to hold face to face events. The project team were available and answered questions on the project as a whole as well as the proposed alterations. Consultation materials were available at the events including the consultation booklet, response forms, preliminary environmental information. Dates, times, locations and attendance is set out below.</p> <p>Tuesday 1 November 1:00pm - 8:00pm Arundel Town Hall, Atherley Chamber, Maltravers St, Arundel, BN18 9AP Attendance: 123</p>

		<p>Wednesday 2 November 1:00pm – 8:00pm Arun Yacht Club, Rope Walk Riverside West, Rope Walk, Littlehampton BN17 5DL Attendance: 163</p> <p>Friday 11 November 1:00pm - 8:00pm Ashurst Village Hall, The Street, Ashurst, Steyning, BN44 3AP Attendance: 160</p> <p>Saturday 12 November 1:00pm - 8:00pm Washington Village Hall, School Lane, Washington, RH20 4AP Attendance: 125</p> <p>In total 571 attendees at the in-person events.</p>
	<p>Hard copies will be available to view, and the materials may also be inspected on computers accessible to the public at the following libraries during the consultation period from 18th October to 29th November 2022.</p>	<p>Materials were provided at the deposit points listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferring Library • Littlehampton Library • Bognor Regis Library • Storrington Library • Henfield Library • Arundel Library • Steyning Library
<p>Using feedback to inform Rampion 2 proposals</p>	<p>To capture participants' feedback, we will provide a consultation questionnaire inviting comments. The questionnaire will be made available on our website www.Rampion2.com</p>	<p>The response form is reproduced in Appendix 6.7.</p>

	<p>alongside the other consultation documents, but participants may also request fillable copies by email or a hard copy by mail. A freepost return address is available for us to receive written responses and hardcopy response forms.</p>	
<p>The Consultation Report</p>	<p>Following the consultation, we will consider all the views that we receive and continue to develop our design for the proposed Rampion 2 ahead of submitting our DCO Application to the SoS. Our DCO application will include a Consultation Report setting out how we have had regard to all responses received.</p> <p>Any comments received will be analysed and may be made available in due course to the SoS, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the DCO process. We will ensure that any personal details are not placed on public record, but held securely by Rampion Extension Development Ltd and its agents in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (relevant data protection laws) and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.</p>	<p>This Consultation Report sets out a summary of the issues raised during the consultation and how they have been taken into account. Appendix 6.8 contains this detail.</p>

6.5.10. Additional activity

6.5.11. The table below sets out meetings that were held with organisations and groups in addition to the activity set out in accordance with the published updated SoCC.

Table 6.5: Additional engagement meetings

Date	Organisation	Attendance
17 October 2022	Friends of South Downs	48
21 October 2022	Shoreham Society Committee	40
3 November 2022	Online parish councils event	One
7 November 2022	Washington Parish Council	10
8 November 2022	Chartered Institute for Logistics & Transport	21
11 November 2022	Bolney & Twineham Parish Councils	Three
15 November 2022	Online public forum	No attendees
16 November 2022	Clymping Parish Council	Four
21 November 2022	Washington Parish Council open spaces & rec ground committee	Five
22 November 2022	Polling Parish Meeting	60
23 November 2022	Cowfold Public Meeting hosted by the Parish council	50
9 November 2022	Shoreham Independent Fisheries Group	Four
9 November 2022	Commercial Fisheries Working Group	Five
10 November 2022	Selsey Fisheries Working Group	Three
10 November 2022	Littlehampton Fishermen	Six
10 November 2022	Independent Fisheries Group	10
25 November 2022	IET & IMechE	60

6.6. Section 48 publicity

6.6.1. Section 48 of the Act requires the Applicant to publicise the proposals in the 'prescribed manner'. The prescribed manner is set out in the APFP Regulations, in which Schedule 1 details the publications that the notice is required. Copies of the notices can be found in Appendix 6.6.

Table 6.6: Notices published to fulfil the requirements of section 48

Requirement under Schedule 1 of the APFP regulations	Newspapers	Dates
a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	Mid Sussex Times Sussex Express The Argus West Sussex County Times West Sussex Gazette	20 and 27 October 2022 21 and 28 October 2022 18 and 25 October 2022 20 and 27 October 2022 19 and 26 October 2022

b) once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	19 October 2022
c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette	18 October 2022
d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.	Lloyd’s List Fishing News	18 October 2022 20 October 2022

6.6.2. Deposit locations

6.6.3. All of the consultation materials were available from the start of the consultation on the Project website.

6.6.4. As per the information set out in the section 48 notice, the following materials were placed at seven deposit locations (listed below) throughout the consultation period:

- Consultation booklet
- Response form
- The PEIR published to support the previous statutory consultation; and
- The Supplementary Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

6.6.5. In addition, hard copies of the consultation materials could be requested directly from the Project. Hard copies could also be requested in another language, large print, audio or braille format (although no requests were received). As per the section 48 notice, people were advised that there may be fee associated with request material.

Table 6.7: Deposit locations.

Venue	Address	Open hours
Ferring Library	The Street, Ferring, BN12 5HL	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesday & Friday 1:00pm- 5:00pm
Littlehampton Library	Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5NA	Monday - Friday 10:00am-6:00pm Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
Bognor Regis Library	London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DE	Monday - Friday 9:30am-6:00pm Saturday 9:30-5:00pm

Storrington Library	Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA	Monday - Friday 9:00am-5:00pm Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
Henfield Library	Off High Street, Henfield, BN5 9HN	Monday - Friday 10:00am-5:00pm
Arundel Library	Surrey Street, Arundel, BN18 9DT	Monday - Wednesday 1pm-5pm Thursday - Saturday 9am-1pm
Steyping Library	Church Street, Steyping, BN44 3YB	Monday - Friday - 10am-5pm Saturday - 10am-2pm

6.7. Responses to the consultation

6.7.1. In total 506 responses were received to this consultation.

- 388 were received from members of the public or organisations under s47/s48 of the Act
- 42 were received from local authorities or statutory bodies under s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) of the Act
- 76 were received from PWILs under s42(1)(d) of the Act.

6.7.2. A summary of the responses and demonstration of the Applicant's consideration of them is included in full in Appendix 6.8. Responses received to the extended consultation period were treated in the same way as responses to the initial period of consultation and have been presented together.

6.7.3. The Applicant's approach to response analysis and consideration was the same as the approach in section 5.8 of this Report.

6.7.4. Summary of changes to the Project following consultation

6.7.5. The key finding from this consultation, as well as ongoing engagement and engineering and environmental work, was that a further potential alternative to a section of our onshore cable route, LACR 1D, was identified as requiring further consultation (which is covered in the next section of this Report).

6.7.6. Other key issues and changes have been captured in Appendix 6.8.

7. TARGETED ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE CONSULTATION – LACR 01D (24 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 27 MARCH 2023)

7.1. Introduction and purpose

Consultation period	24 February 2023 to 27 March 2023
Type	Statutory consultation under section 42, non-statutory consultation with the community

7.1.1. This consultation was about a proposed alternative for an approximately 3km section of the underground cable route in the South Downs, north of Patching. The Longer Alternative Cable Route (LACR) 1D, a further potential cable corridor in the South Downs in the vicinity of Longfurlong, north of Patching; had been identified following the previous Onshore statutory consultation.

7.1.2. The components of the Project presented during the consultation were:

- LACR 1D,
- The southern end;
- The northern end; and
- Construction and operational accesses.

7.1.3. Updated supplemental preliminary environmental information. This considered how the conclusions in the PEIR would be affected by the inclusion of the new alternative route.

7.1.4. Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback to a series of questions related to the proposed alternative route.

7.1.5. This consultation was carried out in line with the statutory requirements of section 42 to ensure prescribed and statutory bodies, and newly affected PWILs had an opportunity to comment on the proposed alternative route. The change arose from the project wide statutory consultation exercise, it was limited to a discrete part of the proposed project, a short stretch of the onshore cable route, it brought in new PWILs, and so the project undertook a targeted consultation exercise in respect of the PWILs that were affected in accordance with section 42. All prescribed consultees were also consulted in respect of the change but only directly affected parish councils. A targeted consultation was undertaken, in accordance with the section 50 guidance (para 76). This then leads on to the allowance for this in the updated SoCC as described in the following para.

7.1.6. The Updated SoCC, October 2022, (Appendix 6.1) stated the following;

7.1.7. “It may be necessary to make further changes to the proposed project following the public consultation process. Should this be necessary, we will

consider further targeted consultations beyond what is specified in this document, to help inform our decision on the final design of the project. If further consultation is carried out, we will provide appropriate notification to relevant stakeholders who may be affected by the change(s) in question.”

- 7.1.8. The community was therefore engaged with on these principles. As the consultation was targeted to a discrete part of the project and did not materially affect the project proposals the SOS was not formally notified under section 46 of this consultation exercise but was made aware of it.

7.2. Consultation material

- 7.2.1. Documents were published to set out the proposals, their potential benefits and impacts, and additional background information. The full list of consultation materials is set out below.
- 7.2.2. A capture of the information presented online along with other elements of the consultation materials are presented in Appendix 7.4.

Table 7.1: Consultation materials for the Targeted onshore cable route consultation (LACR 1D)

Document	Description
Proposals (online)	The project proposals were available throughout the consultation period on the Rampion 2 website.
PEIR FSIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report – Further Supplementary Information Report, presented any changes to the conclusions reached in the PEIR as a consequence of the inclusion of the alternative route.
Work Plans	Detailed maps which show the location of anticipated temporary and permanent land impacts.
Response form	A method available throughout the consultation period to provide feedback to the Applicant.
Print versions	Print versions of the materials were available on request – including material from previous consultations (some subject to fee).
USB Drive	The consultation materials could also be provided on a USB drive on request.

7.3. Section 42 consultation

- 7.3.1. Whilst it was a targeted consultation in respect of the change it was determined that all prescribed consultees should be invited to comment on the proposed alternation. only the Parish councils affected by the change were consulted. The Applicant revised and updated its list of consultees that required notification under section 42 of the Act. A full list of these consultees under sections 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) are included in

Appendix 7.2. The list of PWILs was also updated to include those newly identified and newly affected. Only PWILs affected by the proposed change were consulted. Also, where this involved new PWILs who had not been consulted previously were offered the opportunity to make representations in respect of the project as a whole, were directed to the consultation material that had been made available previously, and offered an opportunity to meet with a member of the project team .

- 7.3.2. As with the previous stages of statutory consultation, all consultees listed in Appendix 7.2 were invited to provide comments on the proposed application under section 42. These consultees were provided with a letter dated 22 February 2023 containing a link to the consultation material and a notification of the deadline for receipt of comments (Appendix 6.6). Print copies of materials were offered (potentially subject to a fee) and an USB drive containing the materials was offered free of charge.
- 7.3.3. An example of a notification sent to prescribed bodies and an example of a notification sent to a PWIL can be found in Appendix 7.2 and 7.3 respectively. Prescribed body letters were sent via Royal Mail special delivery using the same process as the previous October 2022 consultation. PWIL Letters were sent via Letters were issued 1st class tracked delivery. The tracking number and royal mail evidence of delivery with signature was logged. Any letters that were returned, were resent by tracked delivery to an identified alternative address or re-sent to the original address via 1st class.
- 7.3.4. All letters had a consultation period at least of 28 days from delivery even if we resent with a new date.

7.4. Consultation with the community

7.4.1. Publicity

- 7.4.2. To promote the consultation a tailored approach was adopted., a range of promotional methods were used. These are set out in the table below. Copies of the material used for publicity can be found in Appendix 7.1

Table 7.2: Methods used to publicise the consultation to the community.

Channel	Description
Community letter	A letter publicising the consultation to the public and businesses within 1km of the potential alternative route, which is in line with the approach taken during the onshore statutory consultation.
Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and relevant notice boards	Notices erected along PRoW and on relevant notice boards in the community. The change would impact on PRoWs, which lead to the display of notices on the PROWs
Rampion 2 newsletter email	On 22 February 2023, an email was sent to 14 addresses which included elected representatives from one political constituency, three local authorities

	<p>and four parish councils. This represented those areas within which cable route proposal '1d' and associated accesses passed through, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political constituency – Arun & South Downs • Local Authorities with elected representatives – West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council and Horsham District Council • Parishes – Clapham, Findon, Patching and Storrington & Sullington <p>An email was also sent to 14 representatives from the Public Right of Way Project Liaison Group, given the proposed 1d and potential associated accesses cross 14 bridleways, four restricted byways and a footpath.</p>
News release	<p>The Applicant informed the wider public about the consultation through a locally targeted news release. Whilst this was a targeted consultation, the wider community were also able to respond.</p>
Social Media	<p>The poster promoting the consultation and weblink was placed on local community Facebook groups.</p>

7.4.3. Consultation activity

7.4.4. This was a very focused consultation and direct engagement was undertaken with those potentially directly affected, no public events were held

7.5. Responses to the consultation

7.5.1. In total 116 responses were received to this consultation.

- 96 were received from members of the public or organisations under s47/s48 of the Act
- 17 were received from local authorities or statutory bodies under s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) of the Act
- 3 were received from PWILs under s42(1)(d) of the Act.

7.5.2. A summary of the responses and demonstration of the Applicant's consideration of them is included in full in Appendix 7.5.

7.5.3. The Applicant's approach to response analysis and consideration was the same as the approach in section 5.8 of this Report.

7.5.4. Summary of changes to the Project following consultation

- LACR-1d was selected as the preferred cable route (see section 3.4 of 6.2.3 Rampion 2 ES Volume 2 Chapter 3 Alternatives for explanation)
- The cable corridor was refined to avoid areas most likely to contain archaeology following feedback;

- Proposed construction access AA-33 was downgraded to be used only as operational access A-27; and
- There has been further engagement with statutory bodies on dealing with potential archaeology.

8. TARGETED RAMPTION 2 EXTENSION TO THE NATIONAL GRID BOLNEY SUBSTATION CONSULTATION (28 APRIL TO 30 MAY 2023)

8.1. Introduction and purpose

Consultation period	28 April to 30 May 2023
Type	Statutory consultation under section 42, non-statutory consultation with the community

- 8.1.1. This consultation was about an extension of the National Grid Bolney substation in West Sussex, close to Wineham village and located in the Parish of Twineham. The Project requires a small extension to the existing substation, representing an increase of up to 6% of the footprint of the existing site. This is required to upgrade the infrastructure at the site to receive power from the proposed offshore wind farm and connect it to the national electricity transmission network.
- 8.1.2. The components of the Project presented during the consultation were:
- The Bolney substation extension of up to 0.6ha for infrastructure to enable a connection, representing a 6% increase to the existing National Grid site area.
 - Construction and operational access; and
 - Environmental mitigation.
- 8.1.3. Updated preliminary environmental information were also included as part of this consultation. Note that this provided a preliminary environmental information about the proposed extension works by reference to the conclusions in the PEIR produced and consulted upon as part of the project wide consultation.
- 8.1.4. Consultees were invited to provide feedback to a series of questions related to the proposed extension, construction compound and construction and operational access route, and environmental mitigation proposals.
- 8.1.5. This consultation was carried out in line with the statutory requirements of section 42 to ensure prescribed and statutory bodies, and newly affected PWILs had an opportunity to comment on proposed extension. The consultation not carried out in line with sections 47 or 48 of the Planning Act.
- 8.1.6. Only the PWILs potentially affected by the extension were consulted. The substation is located in the Twineham Parish Council area, and adjacent to the parish council areas of Bolney, Cowfold and Shermanbury. The proposed extension was unlikely to have a significant impact on parish council areas beyond these four, as such these were the only parish councils consulted as part of this consultation.

- 8.1.7. The Updated SoCC, October 2022, (Appendix 6.1) stated the following;
- 8.1.8. “It may be necessary to make further changes to the proposed project following the public consultation process. Should this be necessary, we will consider further targeted consultations beyond what is specified in this document, to help inform our decision on the final design of the project. If further consultation is carried out, we will provide appropriate notification to relevant stakeholders who may be affected by the change(s) in question.”
- 8.1.9. As per the DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation (DCLG 2015) paragraphs 73 to 76, small changes to the proposals should not necessitate full re-consultation on the entire project. In line with that advice, the consultation has been targeted to seek the views of the those potentially affected by the changes.
- 8.1.10. The community was therefore engaged following the principles set out in the updated SoCC.

8.2. Consultation material

- 8.2.1. Documents were published to set out the proposals, their potential benefits and impacts, and additional background information. The full list of consultation materials is set out below.
- 8.2.2. A capture of the information presented online along with other elements of the consultation materials are presented in Appendix 8.4.

Table 8.1: Consultation materials for the Targeted rampion 2 extension to the National Grid Bolney substation consultation.

Document	Description
Proposals (online)	The project proposals were available throughout the consultation period on the Rampion 2 website.
Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Main document	Presented any changes to the conclusions reached in the PEIR as a consequence of the inclusion of the substation extension. The previously published PEIR was also made available as the PEI referred back to it.
PEI Appendix A	Location plans.
PEI Appendix B	Statutory and non-statutory environmental designations.
PEI Appendix C	A series of visualisations of the proposals.
Work Plans	Detailed maps which show the location of anticipated temporary and permanent land impacts.

Response form	A method available throughout the consultation period to provide feedback to the Applicant.
Print versions	Print versions of the materials were available on request – including material from previous consultations (some subject to fee).
USB Drive	The consultation materials could also be provided on a USB drive on request.

8.3. Section 42 consultation

- 8.3.1. Whilst it was a targeted consultation in respect of the change it was determined that all prescribed consultees should be invited to comment on the proposed alternation. NB relevant parishes are prescribed consultees so suggest that it is confirmed that only the parishes affected by the change were consulted (assuming that this was the case under s42) The Applicant revised and updated its list of consultees that required notification under section 42 of the Act. A full list of these consultees under sections 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) are included in Appendix 8.2. The list of PWILs was also updated to include those newly identified and newly affected.
- 8.3.2. Given the limited scope of the change to the project proposal and that it was entirely contained within the previously proposed Order limits, notice was not given to the Secretary of State under section 46.
- 8.3.3. As with the previous stages of statutory consultation, all consultees listed in Appendix 8.2 and PWILs were invited to provide comments on the proposed application under section 42. These consultees were provided with a letter dated 26 April 2023 containing a link to the consultation material and a notification of the deadline for receipt of comments (Appendix 6.6). Print copies of materials were offered (potentially subject to a fee) and an USB drive containing the materials was offered free of charge. Any newly affected PWILs were invited to provide comments on the project as a whole and offered a meeting with a member of the project team
- 8.3.4. An example of a notification t to prescribed bodies and an example of a notification sent to a PWIL can be found in Appendix 8.2 and 8.respectively. PWIL Letters were issued by Carter Jonas by 1st class tracked delivery. The tracking number and royal mail evidence of delivery with signature was recorded. For any returned letters either alternative addresses were identified and re-sent tracked delivery or resent. Any letters that were re-sent to the original address were sent 1st class only. All letters had a consultation period at least of 28 days from delivery even when resent with a new date. Letters to prescribed bodies were sent Royal Mail Special Delivery and delivery was tracked. If letters were returned, they were re-issued to the original address or an alternative address if one could be identified. All

letters had a consultation period of 28 days from delivery even when resent with a new date.

8.3.5. Notification of relevant parish councils under section 42

8.3.6. It has come to the Applicant’s attention that the host parish council (Twineham) and adjacent parish councils (Bolney, Cowfold and Shermanbury) were not sent a physical letter with notification under section 42. The chair and clerks of each parish council were however sent an email (see Appendix 8.1) at the start of the consultation inviting them to participate. The exception was for Bolney Parish Council, where only the clerk was emailed. The email contained the same information as in the formal section 42 letter with regards to the dates of the consultation and deadline for responses, the nature of the proposals being consulted, where consultation materials could be accessed, and an invitation to the public event.

8.3.7. The notification sent under section 42 (see Appendix 8.2) did not contain any other documents, and directed the consultee to the Project website in the same manner as the email sent to the parish councils. Representatives of all four parish councils attended the public event that was held on 15 May 2023 in order to engage with the consultation.

8.3.8. The table below is a summary of the engagement with the relevant parish councils around the consultation.

Table 8.2: Engagement with relevant parish councils.

Who	Date	Method / activity
Twineham, Bolney, Cowfold and Shermanbury Parish Councils	28 April 2023	<p>Email (attached example) sent to parish clerks and chairs (with the exception of Bolney – only sent to clerk).</p> <p>Email included a copy of a promotional poster.</p> <p>Email included details of the consultation, where to access material, how to respond and the consultation deadline.</p>
General public	28 April 2023	<p>Press release issued promoting the consultation (covered by the Sussex World Online, West Sussex County Times and the Bognor Regis Gazette).</p> <p>Letter sent to residents and businesses within 1km of the substation site with details of the consultation, where to access</p>

		<p>material, how to respond and the consultation deadline.</p> <p>An in-person public event was held on 15 May 2023 at The Royal Oak in Wineham to support the consultation. In addition to the wider public, representatives from each of the parish councils attended (see below). Total attendance at the event was 50 people.</p>
<p>Cllr Donna Everest – Cowfold Parish Council (leads on Rampion 2 issues)</p> <p>Cllr Nicky Hanley – Bolney Parish Council (leads on Rampion 1 & Rampion 2 issues)</p> <p>Cllr Annie Hirst – Twineham Parish Council Chair (leads on Rampion 1 & Rampion 2 issues)</p> <p>Cllr Paul Everest – Cowfold Parish Council</p>	15 May 2023	<p>Listed parish councillors talked with the project team on a range of issues related to the substation construction and operation.</p> <p>Unnamed Shermanbury parish councillors also reportedly in attendance.</p>
Bolney Parish Council	By close of consultation	Formal response to the consultation.

- 8.3.9. For the avoidance of doubt the four parish councils were all consulted as part of the previous non-statutory consultation and as section 42 consultees as part of the Project wide statutory consultation, and Onshore statutory consultation.
- 8.3.10. Bolney Parish Council responded to the consultation, indicating that the contact method used was sufficient to enable an informed response to the consultation. Twineham Parish Council has only responded to the 2021 Project wide statutory consultation, and not later consultations, therefore the Applicant does not consider it unusual that the parish council did not respond to the consultation.
- 8.3.11. The Applicant acknowledges the error, however despite not receiving a print copy of the section 42 letter, it has been demonstrated the host parish council was not prejudiced in their ability to respond to the consultation or access material to inform their responses. Indeed, it is clear that all four Parish Councils successfully engaged with the consultation through their

attendance at the in-person event in The Royal Oak pub and the response received from Bolney Parish Council. In addition, representatives from the four parish councils attended the Community Onshore PLG meeting on 14 June 2023. The consultation was discussed and no concerns were raised about the level of engagement with the parishes at the PLG meeting. Minutes of the meeting are included in Appendix 2.1.

8.3.12. The Applicant will continue to engage with all parish councils affected by construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project.

8.4. Consultation with the community

8.4.1. Publicity

8.4.2. To promote the consultation and public event to the local community, a targeted approach was considered appropriate. An event was considered appropriate as the change involves a permanent structure and the project team wanted to have the opportunity to dispel any concerns or fears about the proposals in a face-to-face context within the affected community. A range of promotional methods were used. These are set out in the table below. Copies of the material used for publicity can be found in Appendix 8.1

Table 8.3: Methods used to publicise the consultation to the community.

Channel	Description
Community letter	A letter publicising the consultation to the public and businesses within 1km of our proposals (following the approach taken at previous rounds of consultation), providing details of where you can find information about our proposals and how to provide feedback.
Posters on relevant notice boards	Posters erected on relevant notice boards in the community.
Email	Emails raising awareness of consultation to local MPs and affected parish councils.
News release	The Applicant informed the wider public about the consultation through a news release.

8.4.3. Consultation activity

8.4.4. The Applicant delivered an in-person drop-in session as part of the consultation, the event was held near to where the proposed extension was location at the Royal Oak Wineham, close to Wineham village and located in the Parish of Twineham, on Monday 15th May 2023. The event was open from 4pm to 8pm.

8.4.5. The event was publicised alongside the details of the consultation using the methods set out above.

8.4.6. 50 people attended the event.

8.5. Responses to the consultation

8.5.1. In total 26 responses were received to this consultation.

- 6 were received from members of the public or organisations under s47/s48 of the Act
- 16 were received from local authorities or statutory bodies under s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) of the Act
- 4 were received from PWILs under s42(1)(d) of the Act.

8.5.2. A summary of the responses and demonstration of the Applicant's consideration of them is included in full in Appendix 8.5. Responses received to the extended consultation period were treated in the same way as responses to the initial period of consultation and have been presented together.

8.5.3. The Applicant's approach to response analysis and consideration was the same as the approach in section 5.8 of this Report.

8.5.4. Summary of changes to the Project following consultation:

- The substation extension was incorporated into the proposed scheme;
- The potential for mitigation planting was added to the Bob Lane boundary; and
- The construction access route A-68 was tweaked to avoid a field boundary.

8.5.5. Other key issues and changes have been captured in Appendix 8.5.

9. MINOR HIGHWAYS AND ACCESS CHANGES AND NEW PARTIES CONSULTATION (FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2023)

9.1. Introduction and purpose

Consultation period	Multiple batches from February to April 2023
Type	Targeted statutory consultation under section 42

- 9.1.1. Updated detailed information about adopted highway boundaries was commissioned from West Sussex County Council by Carter Jonas in December 2022 in . Further to a review of the update highway boundary plans alongside the latest boundaries for the proposed DCO, several changes were implemented to ensure that the DCO boundary extended fully to the adopted highway m maintained by West County council.
- 9.1.2. Additional proposed minor access changes included:
- Alternative operational access at Clymping
 - The inclusion of land forming part of a housing development masterplan submitted with a planning application at Clymping, (the small area of land is likely to form a new highway junction and would facilitate the connection of the project to the highways network0; and
 - Additional passing places for HGV's to manage construction traffic movements along Longfurlong Lane and Michelgrove Lane
- 9.1.3. As a result of the extension to the proposed Order limits in these discrete locations a number of new PWILs were identified as well has PWILs who had previously been consulted but may as a result of the amendments be affected in a different way by the project. This also included West Sussex County Council by virtue of their interest in the land as local highway authority.
- 9.1.4. PWILS were consulted, under section 42(d), to ensure that all parties identified in the Book of Reference (application reference 4.3) had been consulted with in respect of all land within the proposed Order limits.
- 9.1.5. Due to the focused and highly localised nature of the changes and the lack of significant change to the Project as a whole, it was not considered proportionate to consult more widely. As such, consultation with the community or prescribed consultees was not carried out alongside the targeted consultation with PWILs.
- 9.1.6. In parallel to the consultation on the highway boundary and access changes, correspondence was also issued to PWILs who had been consulted but the capacity in which they had been consulted may not have been clear. For the avoidance of any doubt they were offered a further opportunity to make representations in respect of the project as a whole but advised that there was no need to repeat comments made previously.

9.2. Consultation material

9.2.1. The Applicant consulted on and sought feedback on several small areas of land proposed to be included in the access for construction and operation areas. These areas are identified as “new areas of affected land” in the Targeted Works Plan[s] which were enclosed with the letters consulting the PWILs. The inclusion of this land will ensure that the accesses for construction and operation run to the adopted public highway, with required vehicle passing bays for construction only, subject to reinstatement on conclusion of works.

9.2.2. The minor changes were organised into three sub-categorises;

- **Construction access:** the use of the existing access for construction.
- **Operational access:** new areas relevant to land interest proposed to be included in the operational access. The inclusion of these areas will ensure that the accesses run to the adopted public highway.
- **Construction and operational access:** proposed amendments to facilitate the use of the existing access for construction, amended operational access and or an amended combined construction and operational access and visibility splays.

9.2.3. As part of this consultation the Applicant also offered those with property or land interests potentially affected by the Project which had been identified since the project wide statutory consultation or as a consequence of the potential changes to the electricity cable corridor the ability to comment on the Project as a whole. These parties were directed to the consultation material produced as part of the previous consultations and were provided with copies of the previous sets of works plans.

9.3. Section 42 consultation

9.3.1. Due to the limited nature of the changes and proposals, the Applicant issued a letter confirming that they were being consulted in respect of their land interest under section 42 and directing them to the consultation material - which in this instance comprised the works plans the explanation and a direction to the consultation material available on the project website. The letter to the affected parties included a targeted land plan[s] and an explanation of the proposals as it related to the individual recipient.

9.3.2. Information on the previous consultations was still available on the Rampion 2 project website and recipients were directed to this material to in the letters issued for the consultation. Hard copies of the previous consultation documentation were available on request, some subject to a fee. Consultation materials could also be provided on a USB drive on request. Consultees could respond via letter or email.

9.3.3. The letter included an offer to those affected PWILs by the changes an opportunity to meet the Project team to discuss the specific and/or wider project proposals during the consultation period.

- 9.3.4. If consultees had responded to a previous consultation in respect of the proposed Rampion 2 project, they were advised that they did not need to repeat their responses as part of these consultations.
- 9.3.5. The statutory section 42 consultation for these minor highways changes were conducted in batches, the first began on 4 April 2023. The consultations had a minimum duration of 28 days each from the day after the date of receipt of the consultation materials. Letters were sent tracked via Royal Mail. Below is a table of the launch and close dates of the batches of consultation.

Table 9.1: The batches of consultations carried out with PWILs as part of the Minor highways changes consultation process.

Topic/Area	Launch	Close
Highways Consultation (Previously Consulted Parties): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittle Land • Kings Lane • Church Lane 	4 April 2023	9 May 2023
Highways Consultation (Previously Consulted Parties): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Sussex County Council • Ministry of Defence • Nash Land • Michelgrove Land • Lyminster Trustee Land • Land East of Lyminster Road • Ferry Road • Baird Land Highways Consultation (New Parties Consulted): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nash Land • MoD – Baird Trustee Land Letter • Ferry Road – Baird Trustee Land Letter • Michelgrove Land • Land at Arundel • Land at Blakehurst Lane, Warningcamp 	14 April 2023	17 May 2023
Highways Consultation (New Parties Consulted): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nash Land • Michelgrove Land • Kings Lane Land 	24 April 2023	26 May 2023

- 9.3.6. A template letter was prepared and adapted for each consultee depending on the nature of their land interest and the way the changes affect their interest. That template and an example letter can be found in Appendix 9.1.

9.4. Responses to the consultation

- 9.4.1. In total 11 responses were received to this consultation.
- 9.4.2. A summary of the responses and demonstration of the Applicant's consideration of them is included in full in Appendix 9.2.
- 9.4.3. The Applicant's approach to response analysis and consideration was the same as the approach in section 5.8 of this Report.
- 9.4.4. For the minor changes forming part of this consultation, the majority of proposed changes were integrated into the updated onshore cable design for the following reasons:
- they were required for the deliverability and/ or operation of the project
 - they would contribute positively towards traffic management
 - they overcame previously identified concerns and no new concerns overriding the previously identified concerns were raised.
- 9.4.5. The proposed passing places along Longfurlong Lane were however not taken forward as it was determined this construction access was not essential for the Project and using it for operational access only would reduce construction traffic impacts, and not require passing places.

10. PROJECT REFRESH CONSULTATION (APRIL TO JUNE 2023)

10.1. Introduction and purpose

Consultation period	Multiple tranches April to June 2023
Type	Targeted statutory consultation under section 42

- 10.1.1. As part of the Applicant's ongoing land referencing refresh exercise which included the Land Registry Edition Date checks and further stakeholder engagement, new parties and land interest changes were identified. In addition, the Book of Reference (application ref 4.3) and Land Plans (application ref 2.1.1. and 2.1.2.) developed since earlier rounds of consultation due to design and access detail developments leading to additional titles and interests being identified.
- 10.1.2. It was therefore considered necessary to consult, under section 42(d), with affected and newly identified PWILs to ensure that all parties identified in the Book of Reference (application reference 4.3) had been consulted with.

10.2. Consultation material

- 10.2.1. The Applicant offered those consulted as part of this consultation the opportunity to comment on the Project as a whole. New consultees were therefore directed to all the consultation materials online that had been provided as part of the previous consultations.

10.3. Section 42 consultation

- 10.3.1. The Applicant issued letters to affected parties which included initial Works Plans subject to consultation in 2021 and Works Plans October 2022.
- 10.3.2. Information on the previous consultations was still available on the Rampion 2 project website and recipients were directed to the previous consultation material to in the letters issued for the consultation. Hard copies of the previous consultation documentation were available on request, some subject to a fee. Consultation materials could also be provided on a USB drive on request.
- 10.3.3. The letter included an offer to those affected by the changes an opportunity to meet the Project team to discuss the project during the consultation period.
- 10.3.4. If consultees responded to a previous consultation in respect of the proposed Rampion 2 project, they were advised that they did not need to repeat their responses as part of these consultations, however the parties were invited to comment on the project as a whole in any event.

10.3.5. The Project refresh consultation was conducted in four batches, the first began on 14 April and the final began on 8 June 2023. The consultations had a minimum duration of 28 days from the day after the date of receipt of the consultation materials. Letters were sent tracked via Royal Mail. Letters marked return to sender were reissued on 30 May 2023. Below is a table of the launch and close dates of the batches of consultation.

Table 10.1: The batches of consultations carried out with PWILs as part of the Project refresh consultation process.

Launch	Close
14 April 2023	17 May 2023
24 April 2023	25 May 2023
Return to sender re-issues only 30 May 2023	8 June 2023
8 June 2023	7 July 2023

10.3.6. A template letter was prepared and adapted for each consultee depending on the nature of their land interest and the way the changes affect their interest. That template and an example letter can be found in Appendix 10.1.

10.4. Responses to the consultation

10.4.1. In total 5 responses were received to this consultation.

10.4.2. A summary of the responses and demonstration of the Applicant's consideration of them is included in full in Appendix 10.2.

10.4.3. The Applicant's approach to response analysis and consideration was the same as the approach in section 5.8 of this Report.

10.4.4. This consultation was carried out further to the identification of a number of new parties not previously having been consulted about the project for a number of reasons, primarily due to a refresh of land registry searches-given time lapse since previous searches in October 2022 and prior.

10.4.5. Whilst new parties consulted had different types of interest in land including assumed rights to subsoil under roads, the consultation letters predominantly related to PWILs with rights of access.

10.4.6. A significant number of the parties identified and consulted had acquired category 2 'rights of access' interest on the spine roads in Kingley Gate new housing development. Further discussions, primarily by telephone and email have been held with parties to explain the Project requirement for the rights which in the case of Kingley Gate are restricted to operational access rights. No changes have been made as a result of this consultation.

10.4.7. Other consultation issues raised (April to June 2023)

10.4.8. In total 9 other responses were received to this consultation.

- 8 were received from members of the public or organisations under s47/s48 of the Act
- 1 was received from local authorities or statutory bodies under s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) of the Act
- 0 were received from PWILs under s42(1)(d) of the Act.

10.4.9. A summary of the responses and demonstration of the Applicant's consideration of them is included in full in Appendix 10.2.

11. CONSULTATION UNDER THE EIA REGULATIONS AND THE HABITATS REGULATIONS

11.1. EIA consultation

- 11.1.1. The Applicant requested a formal Scoping Opinion (in line with Regulation of the EIA Regulations) from the Planning Inspectorate on 2 July 2020, which was accompanied by a Scoping Report containing the relevant information required under Regulation 10(3) of the EIA Regulations. A Scoping Opinion was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 11 August 2020.
- 11.1.2. Scoping responses received from stakeholders have been considered during the development of the PEIR and subsequently the ES, with detail described within the consultation sections of the topic-specific ES chapters.
- 11.1.3. **Regulation 8** requires that applicants, before carrying out consultation under section 42, must notify the Secretary of State that they propose to provide and Environmental Statement for the proposed development. The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate on 2 July (Appendix 1).
- 11.1.4. **Regulation 10** sets out matters relating to the request for a Scoping Opinion. The Applicant provided a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on 2 July 2020, and received an opinion on 20 August 2020. The Scoping Opinion provided by the Planning Inspectorate is appended to the Environment Statement at **6.4.5.1 Rampion 2 ES Volume 4 Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Opinion**. The Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised and has conducted the environmental impact assessment accordingly. A detailed response to the opinion is described in each relevant chapter of the ES, and collated at **6.4.5.2 Rampion 2 ES Volume 4 Appendix 5.2 Response to the Scoping Opinion**. Further engagement with regulatory bodies has continued using the Evidence Plan Process, as set out in **6.2.5 Rampion 2 ES Volume 2 Chapter 5 Approach to the EIA**. Notes from the resultant Expert Topic Group meetings are provided at **7.21 Rampion 2 Evidence Plan**.
- 11.1.5. **Regulation 11** sets out the procedure to facilitate preparation of Environmental Statements and includes provisions for the notification of consultation bodies of their duties in providing information to facilitate the Environmental Statement, the provision of a list of those bodies so notified to the applicant and notifying the applicant of those person considered likely to be affected or have an interest in the Project or unlikely to be aware of the proposed development by other means set out in the Planning Act 2008. The Regulation 11 list of consultees was included in the appendix of the Scoping Opinion provided by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 11.1.6. **Regulation 12** requires that the SoCC prepared under section 47 identify if the proposed applicant constitutes an EIA development and how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental

information. The two SoCCs prepared for the Project (Appendix 4.1 and 6.1) provided the relevant information.

11.1.7. **Regulation 13** requires that the Applicant, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48, must send a copy of that notice to the 'consultation bodies' and to any person notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c). The Applicant issued a copy of the section relevant 48 notice (Appendix 4.6 and 6.6) to the relevant bodies as part of notification under section 42. The section 42 list had been amplified to include all bodies identified by the Planning Inspectorate's regulation 11 list.

11.1.8. **Regulation 32** deals with matters relating to transboundary effects (see below).

11.2. Transboundary consultation

11.2.1. Under regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations, the Planning Inspectorate identified a potential significant impact on the environment in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Spain. The letter confirming this from the Planning Inspectorate (dated 20 May 2021) and a copy the Regulation 32 notice can be found in Appendix 1.2.

11.2.2. One response was received, from the government of France. This has been considered as part of the development of the Environmental Statement and the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment. The Applicant's consideration and response to the matters raised is in Table 4.2 of **5.9 Rampion 2 Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment**.

11.3. Compliance with the Habitats Regulations Assessment

11.3.1. As per the Conservative of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as the Habitats Regulations), the Applicant consulted the relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in order to gain evidence to inform its Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA), which accompanies the DCO application (application reference 5.9). The RIAA will inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment, which will be carried out by Natural England.

11.3.2. HRA Stage One screening for Rampion 2 was completed in September 2020 and a draft RIAA accompanied the PEIR as part of the suite of documents published for the Project wide statutory consultation (14 July to 16 September 2021). Consideration of responses to the consultation on the draft RIAA is included in the final RIAA submitted as part of the application.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1.1. The Applicant has carried out multiple stages of consultation in the development of the proposals for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm supported by engagement throughout the process. Consultation included a combination of statutory and non-statutory consultation under the Planning Act 2008.

12.1.2. Below is a table of the consultations that were carried out, the statutory requirements they fulfilled, the status of preliminary environmental information consulted and the changes to the Project as a result of that consultation (more information is included in each of the respective sections of this Report.

Table 12.1: Summary of changes to the proposals as a result of consultation.

Stage of consultation	Type of consultation and PEIR status	Summary of changes to the Project as a result of consultation
1. Non-statutory consultation	Non-statutory No preliminary environmental information published.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offshore Area of Search was reduced from 315km² to 270km²; • Commitment to drill underneath Climping Beach; • Reduced the two westerly route options at Warningcamp; • Commitment to drill under Sullington Hill and Washington Parish; and • Removed the Wineham Lane South Substation site option.
2. Project wide consultation	Statutory consultation under sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 PEIR published and consulted on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further reduction of the overall boundary of the offshore wind farm by over 40% from 270km² in the previous consultation, to 160km²; • Reduction of the maximum number of wind turbines to a maximum of 90 turbines - 26 fewer than in the previous proposal; • Introduction of separation channels between the turbine areas for Rampion 2 and the existing operational Rampion Offshore Wind Farm; • The Applicant selected a site for the onshore substation at Oakendene, Bolney Road/Kent Street; and • The Wineham Lane North site option had been dropped, as have the associated cable routes and

		accesses from the south which would have served that site.
3. Onshore consultation	<p>Statutory consultation under sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008</p> <p>Supplementary Information Report to support the PEIR published and consulted on.</p>	A potential alternative to a section of our onshore cable route, LACR 1D, was identified as requiring further consultation (which was the focus of the next stage of consultation.)
4. Targeted onshore cable route consultation – LACR 01d	<p>Statutory consultation under section 42, non-statutory consultation with the community</p> <p>Further Supplementary Information Report to support the PEIR published and consulted on.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LACR-1d was selected as the preferred cable route (see section 3.4 of 6.2.3 Rampion 2 ES Volume 2 Chapter 3 Alternatives for explanation); • The cable corridor was refined to avoid areas most likely to contain archaeology following feedback; • Proposed construction access AA-33 was downgraded to be used only as operational access A-27; and • There has been further engagement with statutory bodies on dealing with potential archaeology.
5. Targeted Rampion 2 extension to the National Grid substation consultation	<p>Statutory consultation under section 42, non-statutory consultation with the community</p> <p>Standalone Preliminary Environment Information document published consulted on.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The substation extension was incorporated into the proposed scheme; • The potential for mitigation planting was added to the Bob Lane boundary; and • The construction access route A-68 was tweaked to avoid a field boundary.
6. Minor highways changes and new parties consultation	<p>Targeted consultation under section 42, no consultation with the community</p> <p>Existing PEIR and supporting documents consulted on.</p>	Minor changes were implemented further to the consultation to facilitate operational and construction access for the project. Passing places on Michelgrove Lane were not included further to the consultation The responses are set out in Appendix 9.2.

<p>7. Project refresh consultation</p>	<p>Targeted consultation under section 42, no consultation with the community</p> <p>Existing PEIR and supporting documents consulted on.</p>	<p>No changes were made as a result of consultation. These are set out in Appendix 10.2.</p>
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12.1.3. All responses received to the consultation, whether they were received by the deadline or after the statutory period, have been considered by the Applicant when preparing the application for a DCO. Where appropriate, responses have resulted in changed to the design of the proposed Project and, where this has not been possible, justification has been provided for not doing so.

12.1.4. Due to the complex nature of the proposals, multiple rounds of consultation were required to ensure that all relevant consultees had an opportunity to review both the Project proposals and preliminary environmental information, and make an informed response based on the potential benefits and impacts of the Project.

12.2. Compliance

12.2.1. Compliance with the Planning Act 2008, EIA Regulation, APFP Regulations, and supporting guidance is set out in Section 2 of this Report.

12.2.2. These checklists demonstrate that all relevant requirements set out in the legislation and guidance documents have been adhered to.

12.2.3. In conclusion, the Applicant has undertaken extensive pre-application consultation in accordance with the relevant legislation and guiding principles, and in accordance with its published SoCCs.

12.2.4. The Applicant has endeavoured to accurately reflect the various stages of consultation have been carried out and to represent the issues and feedback from consultees that have responded to them.

12.2.5. It can also be concluded from the information presented in this Consultation Report that the feedback received to pre-application consultation has directly influenced the final proposals that has been submitted as part of the application.

12.3. Statements of Common Ground

12.3.1. The Applicant is seeking to establish Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with key consultees to assist the Planning Inspectorate, the Secretary of State and the Marine Management Organisation (in respect to the marine licence application) in understanding which issues regarding Rampion 2 have been resolved and which remain unresolved.

12.3.2. The SoCGs will set out a record of engagement undertaken to date with each stakeholder (including but not limited to responses to consultations detailed in this Report), and the key areas of agreement and any outstanding issues. The SoCGs will be updated throughout the Examination period to reflect ongoing engagement with stakeholders.