

Rampion 2 Wind Farm
Category 6:
Environmental Statement
Volume 2, Chapter 5:
Approach to the EIA
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Executive Summary

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process for identifying and assessing the likely significant environmental effects (positive and negative) of a proposed project to inform the decision-making process for development consent to be granted. The EIA process culminates in the provision of an Environmental Statement (ES) written in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations 2017'). It helps inform the determination of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Proposed Development. In compliance with the EIA Regulations 2017, an EIA has been undertaken for Rampion 2 and is reported in this ES. This ES has been submitted in support of the application for development consent.

To ensure that the EIA and resultant ES are robust and focused to help inform the decision-making process, the EIA has taken into consideration the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)'s guidance document *Delivering Proportionate EIA: A Collaborative Strategy for Enhancing UK Environmental Impact Assessment Practice* (IEMA, 2017).

This chapter sets out the overall approach to the EIA undertaken for Rampion 2 which subsequent aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal Processes** to **29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)) are based upon. This represents the approach upon which subsequent aspect assessment chapters are based upon that form this ES. The chapter outlines the overall approach taken throughout the pre-application stage; the overall EIA assessment including environmental measures, significance, cumulative effects assessment, transboundary effects assessment, and inter-related effects assessment; and provides an overview of the consultation process undertaken.



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5. Approach to the EIA

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process for identifying and assessing the likely significant environmental effects (positive and negative) of a proposed project to inform the decision-making process for development consent to be granted.
- 5.1.2 The EIA process culminates in the provision of an Environmental Statement (ES) written in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations 2017'). It helps inform the determination of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Proposed Development. In compliance with the EIA Regulations 2017, an EIA has been undertaken for Rampion 2 and is reported in this ES. This ES has been submitted in support of the application for development consent.
- 5.1.3 The purpose of this ES is to help the decision maker, statutory consultees, other stakeholders, and the public properly understand the predicted likely significant effects (positive and negative) and the scope for avoiding, preventing, reducing, and if possible, offsetting them, before a decision is made as to whether to permit development. In particular, this ES provides an assessment of the likely significant effects associated with the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.
- 5.1.4 **Section 1.1, Chapter 1: Introduction, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.1) sets out the requirement for an ES to be submitted for Rampion 2, and this chapter sets out the overall approach to the EIA undertaken for Rampion 2 which subsequent aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)) are based upon. This represents the approach upon which subsequent aspect assessment chapters are based upon that form this ES. This ES has been submitted as part of the Rampion 2 DCO Application.
- 5.1.5 The aspect assessments have been carried out using the general approach and processes set out in this chapter. Where required, aspects have refined the approach set out here in order to properly address their particular requirements. Any changes to the approach set out in this Chapter are detailed in the appropriate aspect chapter (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)). This enables the ES to provide an assessment of the 'likely significant environmental effects' of the Proposed Development. The remainder of this chapter is structured as follows:
- **Section 5.2: The EIA process** – this section sets out an overview of the legislative and guidance background of the EIA process;
 - **Section 5.3: Delivering proportionate EIA** – this section describes the considerations and commitments being undertaken to ensure a robust yet focused and proportionate EIA;

- **Section 5.4: Progressing Rampion 2 during the COVID-19 pandemic** – sets out the measures that were taken by the project team to achieve as much as possible with regards to consultation activities and EIA site surveys within the EIA programme whilst working fully within the restrictions imposed by the UK Government during the pandemic;
- **Section 5.5: EIA Screening** – this section sets out the legislative and guidance background for the screening process;
- **Section 5.6: EIA Scoping** – this section sets out the legislative and guidance background for the scoping process, and a history of the scoping process undertaken for Rampion 2;
- **Section 5.7: Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion responses** – this section documents the Planning Inspectorate’s Scoping Opinion comments relevant to this chapter and how they have been addressed in this ES;
- **Section 5.8: Scope of the assessment** – this section describes the scope of the assessment in terms of the technical scope (aspects), the geographical area (spatial scope), and the time periods considered (temporal scope);
- **Section 5.9: Consultation and engagement** – this section sets out the Statutory Consultation and non-statutory consultation undertaken throughout the EIA process for Rampion 2.
- **Section 5.10: Statutory Consultation feedback** – this section documents the PEIR consultation comments relevant to this chapter and how they have been addressed in this ES;
- **Section 5.11: Approach to environmental measures** – this section describes the types of mitigation (embedded environmental measures) and how they are considered within this ES;
- **Section 5.12: Approach to assessment of significance** – this section outlines the overarching approach to evaluating significance of likely environmental effects of Rampion 2;
- **Section 5.13: Cumulative effects assessment** – this section details the approaches to the cumulative effects assessment for the offshore and onshore elements of the Proposed Development;
- **Section 5.14: Transboundary effects assessment** – this section identifies the need for a transboundary effects assessment and how it is addressed in this ES;
- **Section 5.15: Inter-related effects** – this section sets out how inter-related effects have been identified; and

5.1.6 This chapter is also supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix 5.1: Planning Inspectorate’s Scoping Opinion, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.1);
- **Appendix 5.2: Response to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2);

- **Appendix 5.3: Cumulative effects assessment detailed onshore search and screening criteria, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.3); and
- **Appendix 5.4: Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4).

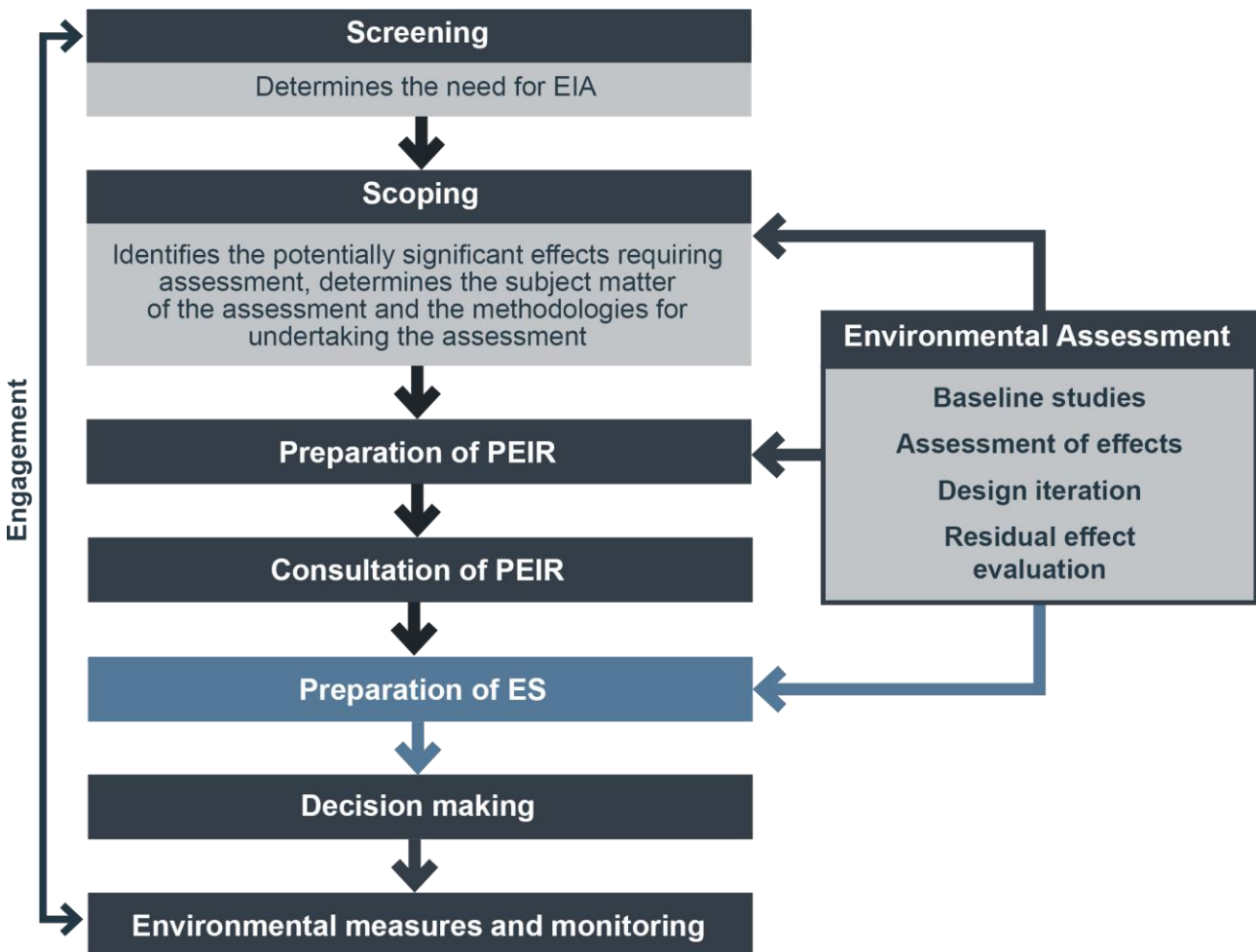
5.2 The EIA Process

- 5.2.1 As outlined in **Paragraph 1.1.4, Chapter 1: Introduction, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.1), the Proposed Development is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 14(1)(a) and Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008. The EIA Regulations 2017 set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIAs undertaken for NSIPs in England and Wales. The EIA for a DCO includes:
- the provision of a request for scoping opinion in a Scoping Report (RED, 2020a) to the Secretary of State (supported by the Planning Inspectorate) under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations 2017. This allowed Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED) to ask the Secretary of State to outline in writing its opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in this ES. **Section 5.6** provides an overview of this stage for Rampion 2;
 - the provision of preliminary environmental information in line with Regulation 12(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017. This includes the preparation of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to inform statutory consultation with the public and other stakeholders about the Proposed Development and its likely significant environmental effects. **Section 5.9** provides an overview of this stage for Rampion 2; and
 - the provision of an Environmental Statement (ES) in line with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to accompany the DCO Application.
- 5.2.2 A fundamental component of the Rampion 2 EIA has been the design evolution process. This iterative process has led to opportunities for the development of environmental measures that have been embedded into the design of Rampion 2. As discussed in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3), this process has involved engagement and provided opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback, to understand and to influence the design of Rampion 2 throughout the EIA process. The environment has been central to the design of Rampion 2 from the outset, and this is demonstrated through the **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22), initially presented in the Scoping Report, progressed throughout the Statutory Consultation exercises, and further developed for the DCO application submission.
- 5.2.3 In accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) (previously the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)) EIA Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG and DCLG, 2020) and Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven (Planning Inspectorate, 2020b) the assessment has focussed on aspects and matters where a likely significant effect may occur. This approach ensures that the EIA process is proportionate and

focuses effort in those areas where significant effects are likely as required by Regulation 14(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017.

- 5.2.4 The findings presented in this ES are based on a suite of surveys undertaken to inform the assessment and reflect the current stage in the design process and understanding of baseline conditions and have allowed for conclusions as to the likely significant effects to be drawn. Where the design is still evolving, a precautionary approach is applied to ensure a maximum design scenario (MDS) which represents the worst-case scenario for each aspect is assessed in this ES. In using this precautionary approach to the assessment, the level of effect may be overstated and subsequently reduced at the time of development. Each individual aspect chapter, **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29), provides commentary on the appropriate reasonable worst-case scenario adopted for the individual assessments.
- 5.2.5 The preparation of this ES is one of the key stages in the EIA process as it brings together information about any likely significant environmental impacts. The EIA process is summarised in **Graphic 5-1**. The remainder of this chapter provides further detail around the key stages of the EIA process for the Proposed Development.

Graphic 5-1 The EIA process



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- 5.2.6 This ES has been prepared to comply with Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017. The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven (Planning Inspectorate, 2020b) states that the ES should clearly explain the processes followed, the forecasting methods used, and the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and where possible offset any significant negative effects. **Table 5-1** signposts to where the information is provided in this ES pursuant to Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017.

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Table 5-1 Compliance with the EIA Regulations 2017 and location of the information in this ES

| Text from Schedule 4 requirement ¹ and Regulation 14 | Location in this ES |
|--|---|
| Text from Regulation 14 | |
| <p><i>“(2) An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least:</i></p> <p><i>(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;</i></p> <p><i>(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;</i></p> <p><i>(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;</i></p> <p><i>(d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;</i></p> <p><i>(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d); and</i></p> <p><i>(f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.”</i></p> | <p>2(a): Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).</p> <p>2(b): Aspect assessment Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) (see sections on assessment of effects).</p> <p>2(c): Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4), Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) (see sections on embedded mitigation measures), and presented in the Commitments Register (Document Reference: 7.22).</p> <p>2(d): Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3).</p> |

¹ Refer to Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017 for the full description of the requirements

| Text from Schedule 4 requirement ¹ and Regulation 14 | Location in this ES |
|---|---|
| | <p>2(e): Non-Technical Summary, Volume 1 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.1).</p> <p>2(f): Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4), Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29), Volume 3: Figures of the ES (Document References: 6.3.1 to 6.3.28); and Volume 4: Appendices of the ES (Document References: 6.4.1.1 to 6.4.29.1).</p> |
| <p><i>“(3) The environmental statement referred to in paragraph (1) must –</i></p> <p><i>(a) where a scoping opinion has been adopted, be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion);</i></p> <p><i>(b) include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which is reasonably available to the applicant with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.”</i></p> | <p>Chapter 1: Introduction, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.1), Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.5), aspect assessment chapters (Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)); and Volume 4: Appendices – Appendix 5.2: Response to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2).</p> |
| <p><i>“(4) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement –</i></p> <p><i>(a) the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and</i></p> | <p>Chapter 1: Introduction, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.1); and</p> |

| Text from Schedule 4 requirement ¹ and Regulation 14 | Location in this ES |
|--|--|
| <p><i>(b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.”</i></p> | <p>Appendix 1.1: Competent experts, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.1.1).</p> |
| <p>Text from Schedule 4</p> | |
| <p>“1. A description of the development, including in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a description of the location of the development; (b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases; (c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used; and (d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and sub soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.” | <p>Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2: of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and aspect assessment chapters (Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).</p> |
| <p>“2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific location in this PEIR characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.”</p> | <p>Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3).</p> |
| <p>“3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline</p> | <p>Aspect assessment Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume</p> |

| Text from Schedule 4 requirement ¹ and Regulation 14 | Location in this ES |
|--|--|
| <p><i>scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.”</i></p> | <p>2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| <p><i>“4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 5 (2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora) land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.”</i></p> | <p>Aspect assessment Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29); and Volume 3: Figures of the ES (Document References: 6.3.1 to 6.3.28) and Volume 4: Appendices of the ES (Document References: 6.4.1.1 to 6.4.29.1). Aspects that need to be assessed under the EIA Regulations 2017 and relevant ES Chapters:</p> <p>1. Population: Chapter 7: Other marine users, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.7), Chapter 10: Commercial fisheries, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.10), Chapter 13: Shipping and navigation, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.13), Chapter 14: Civil and military aviation, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.14), Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15), Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.17), Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18), Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES</p> |

Text from Schedule 4 requirement¹ and Regulation 14**Location in this ES**

(Document Reference: 6.2.19), **Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.21), **Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.23), **Chapter 27: Major accidents and disasters, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.27), and **Chapter 28: Population and human health, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.28).

2. Human health: **Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.19), **Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.21), **Chapter 24: Ground conditions, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.24), and **Chapter 28: Population and human health, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.28).

3. Biodiversity: **Chapter 8: Fish and shellfish ecology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.8), **Chapter 9: Benthic, subtidal and intertidal ecology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.9), **Chapter 11: Marine mammals, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.11), **Chapter: 12 Offshore and intertidal ornithology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document

Text from Schedule 4 requirement¹ and Regulation 14**Location in this ES**

Reference: 6.2.12), **Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.22), and **Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.26).

4. Land and Soil: **Chapter 20: Soils and agriculture, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.20), and **Chapter 24: Ground conditions, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.24).

5. Water: **Chapter 6: Coastal processes, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.6), and **Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.26).

6. Air: **Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.19), and **Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29).

7. Climate: **Chapter 6: Coastal processes, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.6), **Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.26), and **Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29).

Text from Schedule 4 requirement¹ and Regulation 14

“5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:

- (a) The construction and existence of the development including, where relevant, demolition works;***
- (b) The use of natural resources, in particular, land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;***
- (c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances and the disposal and recovery of waste;***
- (d) The risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);***

Location in this ES

8. Material assets: **Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.17), and **Chapter 28: Population and human health, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.28).

9. Cultural heritage: **Chapter 16: Marine archaeology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.16), and **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25).

10. Landscape: **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15), and **Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18).

Aspect assessment **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29); and **Volume 4: Appendices** of the ES (Document References: 6.4.1.1 to 6.4.29.1).

Text from Schedule 4 requirement¹ and Regulation 14
Location in this ES

(e) The cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;

(f) The impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change; and

(g) The technology and the substances used. The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5 (2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (a) and Directive 2009/147/EC (b)."

"6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved."

"7. A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided,

Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.5) and aspect assessment **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).

Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.5) and aspect assessment **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to

| Text from Schedule 4 requirement ¹ and Regulation 14 | Location in this ES |
|--|---|
| <p><i>prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.”</i></p> | <p>6.2.29) and presented in Commitments Register (Document Reference: 7.22)</p> |
| <p><i>“8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to Union legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council I or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom (d) or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.”</i></p> | <p>Chapter 27: Major accidents and disasters, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.27).</p> |
| <p>9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.</p> | <p>Non-Technical Summary, Volume 1 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.1)</p> |
| <p>10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.</p> | <p>Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA, Volume 2 (Document Reference: 6.2.5) of the ES and aspect assessment Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). Separate reference lists are provided within each Volume 2 chapter.</p> |

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- 5.2.7 On 19 July 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) designated the Energy National Policy Statements (NPSs) under the provisions of Section 5 of the Planning Act 2008. These NPSs set out guidance to inform the decision-making process for NSIPs. A summary of the main elements of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (DECC, 2011a); National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (DECC, 2011b), and the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (EN-5) (DECC, 2011c) which are relevant to the Project are set out in **Chapter 2: Policy and legislative context, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.2). Each aspect chapter (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)) also include policy context relevant to the aspect assessment.
- 5.2.8 A separate **Planning Statement** (Document Reference: 5.7) has been prepared to accompany the DCO Application, which outlines how the Proposed Development complies with the requirements of national and local planning policy.
- 5.2.9 A Biodiversity Net Gain assessment has been prepared to accompany the DCO Application, which outlines how the Proposed Development complies with the requirements of national and local planning policy. RED has made a commitment to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least ten percent for all onshore and intertidal (above Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)) habitats subject to permanent or temporary losses as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Whilst Marine Net Gain is not currently mandated in the same way as onshore (terrestrial) Biodiversity Net Gain, in recognition of the principles set out in the draft National Policy Statement EN-1 (DESNZ, 2023), RED is currently exploring opportunities to partner with organisations who are able to deliver marine benefits in the region. The approach to delivering BNG is outlined in **Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.22). This includes restoration and enhancement and the provision of off-site biodiversity units. **Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain information, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.22.15) provides further detail.

5.3 Delivering proportionate EIA

Overview

- 5.3.1 To ensure that the EIA and resultant ES are robust and focused to help inform the decision-making process, the EIA has taken into consideration the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)'s guidance document *Delivering Proportionate EIA: A Collaborative Strategy for Enhancing UK Environmental Impact Assessment Practice* (IEMA, 2017). This aims to help ensure that 'proportionate' EIA is delivered in support of projects in the UK. IEMA guidance specifically highlights industry-wide concerns relating to "...individual EIAs being too broadly scoped and their related Environmental Statement (ES) to be overly long and cumbersome" (IEMA, 2017).
- 5.3.2 The following key tools / approaches have been adopted from the scoping stage for Rampion 2, to assist in the delivery of a proportionate EIA:
- use of existing evidence base;
 - **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) (informed by the site selection exercise, the existing Rampion 1 project, the ongoing design evolution process, good and standard practices); and
 - approach to appropriate level of assessment.
- 5.3.3 A proactive, early-stage scoping process was undertaken in 2020 to ensure that the EIA and ES would be robust whilst suitably focused on aspects of the environment likely to be subject to significant effects. Responses to the Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2020a), and Statutory Consultation exercises (first: Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), second: Preliminary Environmental Information Report Supplementary Information Report (PEIR SIR), third: Preliminary Environmental Information Report Further Supplementary Information Report (PEIR FSIR), and fourth: Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) – Bolney Substation Extension Works) response comments, detailing how they have been addressed within this ES are provided within each of the aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)), and a full list is presented in **Appendix 5.2: Response to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2).

Existing evidence base

- 5.3.4 There is a considerable existing evidence base for Rampion 2 in the form of data and information relating to baseline conditions and previous environmental assessments. Much of this data and information has been collated as part of the ongoing design refinement process (outlined in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3)), ongoing environmental surveys, and the previous EIA for carried out for Rampion 1. This existing evidence base has been collated, supplemented, and drawn upon to help develop the scope of the environmental assessments and establish the robustness of survey data collected for the EIA especially during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

- 5.3.5 The evidence base has been regularly discussed with relevant stakeholders to ensure that it is appropriate. Further details are provided in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) for each of the relevant individual environmental aspects.

Commitments Register

- 5.3.6 As part of the EIA process, RED has built on the Commitments Register that was established at the Scoping and HRA Screening stage, this has been developed into the **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22). The **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) identifies environmental measures that RED will implement as part of the Proposed Development and that will be embedded into design, also referred to as ‘embedded environmental measures’ and/or ‘primary mitigation’ (please also refer to **Section 5.11: Approach to environmental measures**).
- 5.3.7 This **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) has been populated with a range of embedded environmental measures including proposed avoidance measures which have been informed by the design evolution process (see **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3)), best practice commitments which were adopted as part of the existing Rampion 1, and/or are considered to be sectoral practices and procedures for NSIPs and in particular offshore wind farm development. An example is at sensitive crossing locations the construction working width will be reduced as far as practicable.
- 5.3.8 Additionally, the **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) identifies how each embedded environmental measure will be secured (through provisions in the DCO, deemed Marine Licence(s), or other documents such as management plans). Where required, commitments have been established in consultation with key stakeholders.
- 5.3.9 The commitments where relevant to individual aspect assessments are outlined in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). The **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) is presented in full as a standalone document included in the application for development consent and has been regularly updated and maintained throughout the EIA, forming an intrinsic part of the design evolution narrative.

Appropriate level of assessment

- 5.3.10 The assessment of whether an effect has the potential to be of likely significance has been based upon:
- review of existing evidence base;
 - consideration of commitments made (embedded measures);
 - professional judgement; and
 - where relevant, recommended aspect specific methodologies and established practice.

- 5.3.11 In applying this judgement, use has been made of a simple test that to be significant an effect must be of sufficient importance that it should be taken into consideration when making a development control decision.
- 5.3.12 For those matters ‘scoped in’ for assessment, the approach to level of assessment is tiered. For each matter it was identified at the Scoping stage whether this would be a ‘simple’ or ‘detailed’ assessment within each environmental aspect as follows:
- the ‘**simple assessment**’ approach for an environmental aspect / effect which may include secondary baseline data collection (for example desk-based information) and qualitative assessment methodologies; and
 - the ‘**detailed assessment**’ approach for an environmental aspect / effect which may include primary baseline data collection (for example through site surveys) and quantitative assessment methodologies (for example modelling).
- 5.3.13 The judgement of whether to adopt a ‘simple’ or ‘detailed’ assessment has taken into account the potential for both standalone and cumulative effects. The level of assessment has been adjusted where appropriate to take onboard Scoping Opinion, and Statutory Consultation exercises response comments. Responses to the Scoping Opinion comments, detailing how they have been addressed within this ES are provided within each of the chapters, and a full list is presented in **Appendix 5.2: Response to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2). Key themes from the Statutory Consultation exercises relevant to this chapter are provided in **Section 5.10**.
- 5.3.14 Effects that are considered to not be significant were scoped out of further assessment in the EIA during the scoping stage (RED, 2020). Full justification for scoping out of effects and any amendments made since receipt of the Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2020a) is provided for each relevant environmental aspect chapter in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).

5.4 Progressing Rampion 2 during the COVID-19 pandemic

- 5.4.1 The restrictions imposed by the UK Government in 2020 to 2022 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have had implications for Rampion 2, in particular with regard to traditional consultation activities and conducting EIA site surveys. The following measures were taken by the Rampion 2 project team to enable the EIA programme to progress whilst complying with the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and being mindful of and managing any potential implications.
- The use of remote sensing habitat classification enabled early, rapid, and robust information gathering on the habitats present at the Scoping stage in 2020. This proved valuable where full land access was not available. Further details regarding this approach and the results can be found in **Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.22).
 - Environmental baseline surveys that required land access proceeded as far as possible within appropriate seasons of the calendar year in 2020 and 2021, whilst applying social distancing measures to keep surveyors and members of the public safe. A watching brief was maintained to record the progress of data

collection throughout the EIA, and regular progress updates were shared with the appropriate stakeholders.

- Monthly aerial surveys collecting offshore bird and marine mammal data were undertaken in April 2019 – April 2021, these followed the implementation of additional health and safety measures, in line with industry and company guidelines, put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further details regarding this approach and the results can be found in **Chapter 11: Marine mammals, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.11) and **Chapter 12: Offshore and intertidal ornithology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.12).
- A number of EIA surveys that do not require land access but rely on the baseline environment to reflect the normal situation such as noise, onshore transport, and offshore navigation surveys that were significantly hindered between 2020 – early 2022 because of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These surveys were carried out, in agreement with key stakeholders relevant, during periods when results would be reflective of a more normal pattern. Flexibility where needed was sought from stakeholders regarding the timely completion of surveys and the provision of this information. Limitations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are set out in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).
- In accordance with the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note Seven: EIA: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements, version 7 (Planning Inspectorate, 2020b), RED conducted early targeted consultation with some stakeholders. The purpose of this engagement was to share and seek agreement on survey and assessment approaches and to obtain as much relevant environmental information as possible in advance of key project milestones such as Scoping, PEIR, and ES. In turn, the Planning Inspectorate expected consultation bodies to be pragmatic in finding suitable approaches to aid the robust preparation of applications and RED engaged with stakeholders on this basis.
- As a result of guidelines put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to 2022, the non-statutory consultation held between 14 January 2021 and 11 February 2021 and the first Statutory Consultation exercise held between 14 July 2021 and 16 September 2021 were hosted virtually through the Rampion 2 website². These consultations included relevant supporting information along with online virtual consultation exhibition material and used a series of videos, infographics, maps, and information sheets allowing visitors to move around the exhibition as they would in a face-to-face setting. Digital communication methods promoted through the website invited feedback through multiple methods.

5.4.2 Throughout 2020 to early 2022, the Rampion 2 project team kept up-to-date with and followed advice issued with regard to site surveys and consultation activities such as that issued by the National Infrastructure Planning Association, Natural

² Available at: www.rampion2.com [Accessed 27 July 2023]

England, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), and the Planning Inspectorate. All activity associated with the EIA followed relevant UK Government guidance on the COVID-19 pandemic at the time.

- 5.4.3 The UK Government removed all of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on 3 March 2022 (Planning Inspectorate, 2022) and Rampion 2, where applicable, resumed normal working practices.

5.5 EIA Screening

- 5.5.1 The Proposed Development falls within paragraph 3(i) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, as it comprises “*Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)*”. The development projects defined in Schedule 2 only require EIA if they are likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of their nature, size, or location. As set out in Paragraph 3.5.7 of the Scoping Report (RED, 2020), considering the nature and size of Rampion 2, RED gave notice in line with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017 that an EIA will be prepared for the Project and that the application for a DCO will be accompanied by an ES.

5.6 EIA Scoping

- 5.6.1 A Scoping Report (RED, 2020) was submitted by RED to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) administered by the Planning Inspectorate on 2 July 2020. The Scoping Report presented a Scoping Boundary which combined the search areas for the offshore and onshore infrastructure associated with Rampion 2. It was defined as the area within which the Proposed Development and associated infrastructure would be located, including the temporary and permanent construction and operational work areas. This set out the potentially significant environmental effects that would be assessed in more detail (i.e. scoped-in) as well as those that were unlikely to be significant and could therefore be scoped-out of the assessment.
- 5.6.2 A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 11 August 2020 (The Planning Inspectorate, 2020b). The Scoping Opinion and the statutory consultee responses have subsequently informed the assessment work and the evolution of the design of the Proposed Development. Response to the Scoping Opinion comments, detailing how they have been addressed within this ES are provided within each of the aspect chapters, and a full list is presented in [Appendix 5.2: Response to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2). [Appendix 5.2: Response to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2) does not include responses to each of the comments raised in consultation bodies individual responses to the SoS as part of the scoping exercise (attached to the Scoping Opinion itself), however, regard has been had to those responses in the preparation of this ES. A summary of the engagement undertaken as part of the EIA is set out later in [Section 5.9](#).
- 5.6.3 Regulation 14(3)(a) of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires an ES to “*be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to*

that opinion)". The iterative assessment process and stakeholder engagement has resulted in updates to the design of the Proposed Development and scope of the environmental assessments from that which was provided for in the Scoping Report (RED, 2020) and/or Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2020a).

- 5.6.4 In response to Statutory Consultation feedback, RED developed a number of potential modifications and alternative cable routes. Some of the longer cable routes options would have been close to, but outside of, the Scoping Boundary (see **Figure 3.6, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference 6.3.3)). Prior to consulting on these alternatives, RED discussed the potential updated design of the Rampion 2 onshore cable route and change in scope of environmental assessments in response to Statutory Consultation feedback and the potential requirements for re-scoping with the Planning Inspectorate in May 2022. It was acknowledged that the requirement for a full EIA re-scoping would be dependent on the specific updates to the design of the Proposed Development and/or changes to the scope of the environmental assessments.
- 5.6.5 Accordingly, the updates to the design of the Proposed Development and associated potential changes to the environmental assessments were outlined in the consultation material and the PEIR SIR (see **Section 5.9**). The PEIR SIR (RED, 2022) was published as part of the second Statutory Consultation exercise in October 2022 (see **Section 5.9**) and focused on targeted alternatives and modifications as part of the onshore design of the Proposed Development. In addition, further onshore technical engagement with key stakeholders was also carried out as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings (see **Section 5.9** and relevant sections in **Chapters 18: Landscape and visual impact to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.18 to 6.2.29)) carried out in November 2022 to further discuss the PEIR SIR and the wider scope of the environmental assessments in the ES.
- 5.6.6 Further targeted Statutory Consultation exercises (third: PEIR FSIR, fourth: PEI (RED, 2023a; 2023b)) were undertaken to seek feedback on potential targeted changes to the onshore cable route proposed and the inclusion of the extension works at the existing National Grid Bolney substation within the Proposed Development (see **Section 5.9**). The alternatives proposed in these Statutory Consultation exercises was developed through responses to the PEIR SIR (RED, 2022) and discussions held with the National Grid, and these alternatives fell within the Scoping Boundary. Onshore technical engagement with key stakeholders was also carried out as part of the EPP ETG meetings for the third and fourth Statutory Consultation exercises.
- 5.6.7 Further details regarding the Statutory Consultation exercises are provided in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) where appropriate.
- 5.6.8 Although changes to the design of the Proposed Development have been considered since the initial scoping of the EIA, the extent of deviation from the Scoping Boundary is limited, and the features and receptors encountered are similar to those within the Scoping Boundary. RED have discussed the evolution of the Proposed Development throughout the pre-application stage during the EPP process with stakeholders. Therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Development remains materially the same as that on which scoping was

undertaken. The scope of the environmental assessments has continued to be discussed and refined through consultation as part of the iterative EIA process since the receipt of the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2020a).

- 5.6.9 The design of the Proposed Development and associated environmental assessments are presented in this ES and explained further where appropriate in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2 of the ES** (Document Reference: 6.2.3), **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and environmental aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).
- 5.6.10 Details of technical engagement with stakeholders on aspect-specific matters are set out in each of the aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).

5.7 The Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion responses

- 5.7.1 **Table 5-2** sets out the comments received in Section 3 of the Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion (2020a) relevant to the approach to the EIA and how these have been addressed in this ES. A full list of the Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion (2020a) comments and responses is provided in **Appendix 5.2: Response to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2). Regard has also been given to other stakeholder comments that were received in relation to the Scoping Report. These comments have been addressed within this ES.

Table 5-2 Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion (2020a) responses relevant to the approach to the EIA

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 3.1.3 | <p><i>“The Inspectorate has set out in this Opinion where it has/ has not agreed to scope out certain aspects/ matters on the basis of the information available at this time. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of a Scoping Opinion should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects/matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects/ matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.”</i></p> | <p>Section 5.8: Scope of the assessment sets out the aspects / matters considered in this ES. Each aspect chapter (Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)) sets out activities or impacts scoped out of assessment and the rationale to justify the approach.</p> |
| 3.1.4 | <p><i>“The Inspectorate has made effort to ensure that this Scoping Opinion is informed through effective consultation with the relevant consultation bodies. Unfortunately, at this time the Inspectorate is unable to receive hard copy consultation responses, and this may affect a consultation body’s ability to engage with the scoping process. The Inspectorate also appreciates that strict compliance with COVID-19 advice may affect a consultation body’s ability to provide their consultation response. The Inspectorate considers that Applicants should make effort to ensure that they engage effectively with consultation bodies and where necessary further develop the scope of the ES to address their concerns and advice. The ES should include information to demonstrate how such further engagement has been undertaken and how it has influenced the scope of the assessments reported in the ES.”</i></p> | <p>Details of the consultation and engagement undertaken is set out within this chapter and Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) also provide further detail on technical engagement.</p> |
| 3.1.5 | <p><i>“Where relevant, the ES should provide reference to how the delivery of measures proposed to prevent/ minimise adverse effects is secured through</i></p> | <p>Section 5.11: Approach to environmental measures identifies</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | <i>DCO requirements (or other suitably robust methods) and whether relevant consultation bodies agree on the adequacy of the measures proposed.</i> | the overarching approach to environmental measures presented in Commitments Register (Document Reference: 7.22) sets out the commitments being made as part of the Proposed Development. |
| 3.2.1 | <i>“Sector-specific NPSs are produced by the relevant Government Departments and set out national policy for NSIPs. They provide the framework within which the Examining Authority (ExA) will make their recommendation to the SoS and include the Government’s objectives for the development of NSIPs. The NPSs may include environmental requirements for NSIPs, which Applicants should address within their ES.”</i> | The planning policy, legislation and guidance, including sector-specific National Policy Statements (NPSs), and how they are considered in this ES are detailed in Chapter 2: Policy and legislative context, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.2). Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) also provide further detail on NPSs relevant to the technical assessments. |
| 3.3.2 | <i>“General The Inspectorate recommends that in order to assist the decision-making process, the Applicant uses tables:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>to demonstrate how the assessment has taken account of this Opinion;</i> | A standard chapter structure, including tables, has been applied throughout this ES to ensure clarity. Each chapter of this ES where relevant includes a table which sets out the Planning Inspectorate Scoping |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>to identify and collate the residual effects after mitigation for each of the aspect chapters, including the relevant interrelationships and cumulative effects;</i> • <i>to set out the proposed mitigation and/ or monitoring measures including cross-reference to the means of securing such measures (eg a DCO requirement);</i> • <i>to describe any remedial measures that are identified as being necessary following monitoring; and</i> • <i>to identify where details are contained in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA report) (where relevant), such as descriptions of European sites and their locations, together with any mitigation or compensation measures, are to be found in the ES.”</i> | <p>Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2020b) comments relevant to that chapter and how they have been addressed in this ES and Chapter 31: Summary, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.31) provides an overview of any likely residual effects.</p> <p>Each aspect chapter includes a summary of residual effects table which sets out effects following mitigation (which is all embedded into the design of the Proposed Development).</p> <p>Each aspect chapter includes a table of all relevant environmental measures that are embedded into the design and how they will be secured.</p> <p>The Commitments Register (Document Reference: 7.22) is provided alongside this ES as a standalone document.</p> <p>The Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (Document Reference:</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 3.3.3 | <p><i>“Baseline Scenario The ES should include a description of the baseline scenario with and without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.”</i></p> | <p>5.9) is provided alongside this ES as a separate document.</p> <p>The details of the baseline and future baseline scenarios for each aspect are set out in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| 3.3.4 | <p><i>“The concept of ‘future baseline’ conditions is introduced in the context of a number of aspect chapters (e.g. landscape, air quality and ecology). In light of the number of ongoing developments within the vicinity of the Proposed Development application site, and potential evolution of the onshore and offshore environments prior to construction and operation of the Proposed Development, the Applicant should clearly define their overarching approach to the prediction of future baseline conditions against the project programme”.</i></p> | <p>The approach to future baseline is discussed in paragraph 5.8.2 and considered as appropriate within relevant aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| 3.3.5 | <p><i>“Some aspect chapters of the Scoping Report have identified specific receptors, whereas others identify broad categories of receptors only. Specific receptors should be clearly identified within the ES, alongside categorisation of their sensitivity and value. Section 4.4 of the Scoping Report explains the generic approach to defining receptor sensitivity in order to assess the potential impacts upon each receptor. The Inspectorate expects a transparent and reasoned approach to be applied to assigning receptor sensitivity to be defined and applied across the aspect chapters.”</i></p> | <p>Specific receptors and aspect approaches to the identification of receptor sensitivity are identified in aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 3.3.6 | <p><i>“Forecasting Methods or Evidence The ES should contain the timescales upon which the surveys which underpin the technical assessments have been based. For clarity, this information should be provided either in the introductory chapters of the ES (with confirmation that these timescales apply to all chapters), or in each aspect chapter.”</i></p> | <p>Timescales upon which the surveys which underpin the technical assessments have been based are provided in each of the aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| 3.3.7 | <p><i>“The Inspectorate expects the ES to include a chapter setting out the overarching methodology for the assessment, which clearly distinguishes effects that are 'significant' from 'non-significant' effects. Any departure from that methodology should be described in individual aspect assessment chapters.”</i></p> | <p>This chapter sets out the overarching methodology for the assessment, with further details and any necessary variations set out in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| 3.3.8 | <p><i>“The ES should include details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.”</i></p> | <p>The details of any technical difficulties or limitations for each aspect are set out in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> <p>Section 5.2 sets out some of the challenges and subsequent measures whilst working within the restrictions of</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 3.3.9 | <p><i>“The approach to assessing and interpreting significance levels should be consistent across aspect chapters where possible. Where matrices are used in combining magnitude of impact and sensitivity of receptor they too should be consistent in the determining overall significance. The ES should clearly explain where and how professional judgement has been applied in assessing the significance of effects.”</i></p> | <p>the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022.</p> <p>This chapter sets out the overarching approach to assessing and interpreting significance levels, with further details, use of professional judgement and any necessary variations set out in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| 3.3.10 | <p><i>“Paragraphs 4.4.10 – 4.4.11 set out that there is a considerable existing evidence base in the form of data from the previous assessment carried out for Rampion 1. This existing evidence base has and will continue to be used “to help inform the scope of the forthcoming environmental assessments and establish the robustness of survey data collected during the COVID-19 period”. The Inspectorate generally welcomes the Applicant’s intention that the evidence base will be regularly discussed with relevant stakeholders to ensure it remains appropriate. Particular consideration should be given to the methods and the spatial and temporal scope of previous surveys given the time that has elapsed since the Rampion 1 application, particularly in justifying the continued validity and relevance of information to the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate also notes the relative geographical separation between the onshore cable routes for Rampion 1 and the Proposed Development which may also affect the applicability.”</i></p> | <p>Section 5.4 sets out some of the challenges and subsequent measures whilst working within the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022.</p> <p>The existing evidence base and its application to Rampion 2 has been discussed with stakeholders as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) as described in Section 5.9. The use of existing evidence base is detailed where appropriate within relevant aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change,</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 3.3.11 | <p><i>“The Inspectorate understands that the maximum height to blade tip of the Proposed Development’s WTGs is 325m, whereas those installed as part of Rampion 1 are 140m to blade tip. This is likely to be a key consideration across the aspect chapters of the ES (particularly landscape and visual, cultural heritage and socio-economics), and the ES should be clear as how the magnitudes of effects of the Proposed Development (within the design envelope) account for the relationship with the Rampion 1 project”</i></p> | <p>Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> <p>Details of the maximum assessment assumptions are set out in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and within each aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). The full assessment of effects of the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) in relation to seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, landscape and visual impact assessment, historic environment and socio-economics, is provided in Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15), Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.17), Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18), and Chapter 25:</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 3.3.12 | <p><i>“Paragraphs 4.3.10 – 4.3.12 of the Scoping Report explains that an Evidence Plan Process with specialist stakeholders is being progressed in effort to agree the approach and information required to support the assessment of certain environmental aspects relating to HRA matters and “relevant components of the EIA process”. This approach to agreeing the finer details of the assessment is welcomed. The Applicant should ensure that any agreements reached during this process are evidenced within the ES.”</i></p> | <p>Historic environment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25).</p> <p>This chapter sets out the EPP for Rampion 2. Agreements achieved through the EPP are documented in the relevant aspect chapters (Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).</p> |
| 3.3.13 | <p><i>“As set out in paragraph 2.3.11 of this Scoping Opinion, the ES should be clear as to the potential construction programme options where the installation of all onshore cables may not occur in a single operation. Paragraph 4.4.26 and Figure 2.7 of the Scoping Report states that the construction of the Proposed Development will have a duration of approximately 5 years although it does not clearly state how this accounts for flexibility in the onshore construction programme and whether this accounts one or more cable installation operations.”</i></p> | <p>An outline construction programme is provided in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).</p> |
| 3.3.14 | <p><i>“Residues and Emissions The EIA Regulations require an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions. Specific reference should be made to water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases, where relevant. This information should be provided in a clear and consistent fashion and may be integrated into the relevant aspect assessments. “</i></p> | <p>Information on anticipated emissions from the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and relevant aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change,</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 3.3.15 | <p><i>“Mitigation and monitoring Any mitigation relied upon for the purposes of the assessment should be explained in detail within the ES. The likely efficacy of the mitigation proposed should be explained with reference to residual effects. The ES should also address how any mitigation proposed is secured, with reference to specific DCO requirements or other legally binding agreements.”</i></p> | <p>Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). An Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.3) has been prepared and submitted as part of the DCO Application.</p> <p>The approach to environmental measures is set out in Section 5.11. Each aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) includes a table of all relevant environmental measures which are embedded into the design and how they will be secured and reports any residual effects. The environmental measures are also presented in the Commitments Register (Document Reference: 7.22).</p> |
| 3.3.16 | <p><i>“The ES should identify and describe any proposed monitoring of significant adverse effects and how the results of such monitoring would be utilised to inform any necessary remedial actions.”</i></p> | <p>Monitoring required of significant adverse effects is detailed in aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) where relevant.</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 3.3.17 | <p><i>“The ES should clearly demonstrate how the Applicant has had regard to the mitigation hierarchy, for example by giving consideration to the avoidance of key receptors. In this regard, Paragraphs 4.4.19 – 4.4.20 set out the Applicant’s proposed approach to setting out avoidance, best practice and design commitments and classifying them against the IEMA ‘Guide to Shaping Quality Development’ (2015) definitions.”</i></p> | <p>This chapter sets out the overarching consideration of environmental measures and how they will be used for Rampion 2, with specific measures and requirements set out in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| 3.3.18 | <p><i>“The Inspectorate also notes that Appendix A of the Scoping Report provides a list of certain “commitments” that have already been identified by the project team for the purpose of mitigating potential effects of the Proposed Development. Many of those measures are in the form of management or mitigation plans or other documents. Whilst this approach is generally welcomed and the principles of how the measures listed would likely be beneficial in terms of environmental effects understood, limited detail is provided as to the content of the management and mitigation plans that are listed, and many of the matters included are suffixed by statements such as “where possible” or “as far as practicable”. It is therefore difficult for the Inspectorate to gain confidence as to the likely efficacy of such plans at this stage. The ES should therefore set out these plans (or the reliance placed on them) in sufficient detail so as to understand the significance of residual effects. This should also include identification of any monitoring and remedial actions (if relevant) in the event that predicted residual effects differ to actual monitored outcomes Further comments on these are made in sections 4 and 5 of this Scoping Opinion as appropriate.”</i></p> | <p>The Commitments Register (Document Reference: 7.22) has been updated through the iterative design evolution process and is supported by additional information where appropriate. Where relevant, aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) set out plans and reliance in order to understand the significance of residual effects.</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 3.3.19 | <p><i>“The ES should also identify and describe any proposed monitoring of significant adverse effects and how the results of such monitoring would be utilised to inform any necessary remedial actions within the framework of the Commitments Register and other mitigation measures.”</i></p> | <p>Monitoring required of significant adverse effects will be detailed in aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) where relevant.</p> |
| 3.3.20 | <p><i>“Risks of Major Accidents and/or Disasters The ES should include a description and assessment (where relevant) of the likely significant effects resulting from accidents and disasters applicable to the Proposed Development. The Applicant should make use of appropriate guidance (e.g. that referenced in the Health and Safety Executives (HSE) Annex to Advice Note 11) to better understand the likelihood of an occurrence and the Proposed Development’s susceptibility to potential major accidents and hazards. The description and assessment should consider the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to a potential accident or disaster and also the Proposed Development’s potential to cause an accident or disaster. The assessment should specifically assess significant effects resulting from the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment. Any measures that will be employed to prevent and control significant effects should be presented in the ES.”</i></p> | <p>Risk of major accidents and/or disasters has been included in this ES and is set out in Chapter 27: Major accidents and disasters, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.27).</p> |
| 3.3.21 | <p><i>“Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to European Union legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom or relevant assessments carried out pursuant to national legislation may be</i></p> | <p>Risk of major accidents and/or disasters has been included in this ES and is set out in Chapter 27: Major accidents and disasters, Volume 2</p> |

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| 3.3.22 | <p><i>used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.”</i></p> <p>“Climate and Climate Change <i>The ES should include a description and assessment (where relevant) of the likely significant effects the Proposed Development has on climate (for example having regard to the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change. Where relevant, the ES should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. This may include, for example, alternative measures such as changes in the use of materials or construction and design techniques that will be more resilient to risks from climate change”</i></p> | <p>of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.27).</p> <p>Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29) provides an assessment of greenhouse gases from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. It compares emissions from a scenario where the Proposed Development is not built; and the scenario where the Proposed Development with embedded environmental measures is built.</p> <p>Consideration of vulnerability to climate change has been included within relevant chapters of this ES and in further documentation supplied for planning purposes. Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29) provides a summary of the policy and</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 3.3.27 | <i>“The Inspectorate expects that the ES will therefore provide further detail as to the Proposed Development’s potential for significant transboundary effects and to confirm which EEA States could be affected.”</i> | <p>climatic baseline relevant to the Proposed Development. Where climate change may exacerbate any potential environmental effects, it is incorporated into all relevant chapters within this ES, as described in Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29). Where environmental measures for climate change resilience have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, these are described in the Design and Access Statement (Document Reference: 5.8).</p> <p>The approach to the assessment of transboundary effects is set out in Section 5.14: Transboundary effects assessment, and where relevant, is discussed in aspect Chapters 6: Coastal Processes to 29: Climate Change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 3.3.28 | <p><i>“A Reference List A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments must be included in the ES.”</i></p> | <p>The transboundary assessment approach was agreed at the scoping stage see the Scoping Report, Appendix B (RED, 2020)</p> <p>A reference list is provided with each chapter of this ES.</p> |
| 3.5.2 | <p><i>“Where documents are intended to remain confidential the Applicant should provide these as separate electronic documents with their confidential nature clearly indicated in the title and watermarked as such on each page. The information should not be incorporated within other documents that are intended for publication or which the Inspectorate would be required to disclose under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.”</i></p> | <p>No confidential documents are to be provided within this ES.</p> <p>Information within this ES which is required to be confidential is clearly marked and produced as separate documents.</p> |
| 4.1.6 | <p>Cumulative effects – sediment transport regime (Coastal processes)</p> <p><i>The Scoping Report does not address the likelihood of the potential impacts to the sediment transport regime to act cumulatively with other developments and/or infrastructure (including the Aquind interconnector). The ES should include an assessment of the cumulative impacts on the sediment transport regime where significant effects are likely to occur.”</i></p> | <p>Potential cumulative changes and impacts on the sediment transport regime are assessed in Section 6.12 of Chapter 6: Coastal processes, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.6), including the Aquind interconnector.</p> |
| 4.6.10 | <p>Cumulative assessment study area and scope (Marine mammals)</p> | <p>Consideration of cumulative effects on marine mammals is presented within Section 11.12 of Chapter 11: Marine</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 4.7.7 | <p>Cumulative effects (Offshore Ornithology)</p> <p><i>The ES should contain details of other developments assessed in the cumulative effects assessment. Given the far-ranging nature of breeding and migratory birds, justification should be provided as to the spatial and temporal extent of the other projects considered.</i></p> | <p>Cumulative effects on offshore ornithology are assessed in Section 12.15 of Chapter 12: Offshore and intertidal ornithology, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.12). Full justification is given for the spatial and temporal extent of the other developments considered.</p> |
| 4.8.5 | <p>Cumulative effects: Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) (Underwater noise)</p> <p><i>The possible modelling of noise from UXO is not referenced in this section. Elsewhere in the Scoping Report there is reference to UXO surveys yet to be conducted and that UXO removal may be required.</i></p> <p><i>“The ES should therefore consider the potential for UXO underwater noise impacts of the Proposed Development where significant effects are likely to</i></p> | <p>The predicted impact ranges from UXO clearance for a range of sizes has been modelled and is presented within (Appendix 11.3: Underwater noise assessment technical report, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.11.3)). The potential effects arising from underwater noise from a range of sources including UXO</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| | <p><i>occur (including cumulative effects with other underwater noise producing activities)."</i></p> | <p>have been assessed within Sections 11.9 to 11.12 of Chapter 11: Marine mammals, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.11) and Section 8.9 of Chapter 8: Fish and shellfish ecology, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.8).</p> |
| 4.9.5 | <p>Cumulative effects: Marine aggregate dredging areas (Shipping and navigation)</p> <p><i>The ES should explain how the assessment has factored in shipping and navigation effects on the nine marine aggregate dredging areas intersecting the study area.</i></p> <p><i>It is unclear if such effects are to be considered part of the 'baseline' conditions or whether a future baseline is required accounting for changes in dredging activity. Such effects may also need to be considered as part of the cumulative effects assessment of combined effects of the Proposed Development and aggregate activity on other receptors.</i></p> <p><i>The Inspectorate notes the Applicant's identification of a "significant marine aggregate dredging route...within the north-west of the study area" in this regard.</i></p> | <p>Consultation with marine aggregate dredging stakeholders has been undertaken and marine aggregate dredgers have been considered as a receptor in the impact assessment, both for the assessment of Rampion 2 in isolation and as part of the CEA. The assessment (which includes consideration of marine aggregate dredgers) is provided in Sections 13.9 to 13.11 of Chapter 13: Shipping and navigation, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.13).</p> |
| 5.1.9 | <p>Cumulative effects: Impacts of the substation (Landscape and Visual Amenity)</p> | <p>Details on the maximum assessment assumptions in regards to the onshore substation are provided in Chapter 4:</p> |

| Planning Inspectorate ID number | Scoping Opinion comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
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| 5.1.12 | <p>Cumulative assessment (Landscape and Visual Amenity)</p> <p><i>“The ES should include all different types of development which may lead to a cumulative impact, not just those which are similar in nature to the Proposed Development. Details of agreements with relevant consultation bodies as to the scope of projects to be included should be presented as part of the ES.”</i></p> | <p>The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). Cumulative effects on landscape and visual amenity are considered in Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18).</p> <p>The approach to the CEA and cumulative developments included in this ES are reported in Section 5.13, and Appendix 5.4: Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4). Cumulative effects on landscape and visual amenity are considered in Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18).</p> |

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5.8 Scope of the assessment

Baseline

- 5.8.1 Determining the existing environmental conditions is an important part of the EIA process. This is established through desk-based study and/or surveys of the study area and provides a 'baseline' against which changes potentially caused by the Proposed Development can be compared. This is explained within the individual aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).
- 5.8.2 It is also considered whether in the absence of Rampion 2, there is likely to be a change in the baseline conditions (relating to particular aspects or receptors), over the lifetime of the Proposed Development (future baseline). For some aspects such as transport, there will be traffic growth based on regional or national trends, and this would normally be applied consistently across all road transport-related receptors. However, for other aspects, it is possible that a specific part of a study area is predicted to change, by virtue of other potential development being likely to take place therefore introducing new future receptors.
- 5.8.3 All obtained data is reviewed to ensure it is robust and allows the required level of assessment in order to determine the significance of any potential effect with sufficient confidence. Detailed methodology for baseline data gathering specific to each aspect assessment can be found in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).

Technical scope

- 5.8.4 The technical scope of the EIA has been set as part of the EIA process and has been informed by the Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, 2020) and subsequent consultation. This has determined the extent to which aspects are likely to give rise to significant effects.
- 5.8.5 The Scoping Report (RED, 2020) originally proposed that a stand-alone human health ES chapter would not be required on the basis that the main interactions with human health will likely be through ground conditions, noise and vibration, air quality, landscape and visual, socio-economics, and transport effects, and that human health is addressed through the individual assessments for these aspects. There were no specific comments in relation to the stand-alone human health assessment provided in the main Scoping Opinion, however comments were received from stakeholders in *Appendix 2: Respondents to consultation and copies of replies* (Planning Inspectorate, 2020). In response to the stakeholder comments received, a standalone health chapter has been included within this ES (see **Chapter 28: Population and human health, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.28)).
- 5.8.6 The Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, 2020) identified the requirement to consider climate and vulnerability to climate change in the ES. As a result of this, a full assessment of greenhouse gases from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development has

been undertaken and consideration of vulnerability to climate change is provided in **Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29).

5.8.7 The aspects that are addressed in this ES as giving rise to likely significant effects are presented in the aspect chapters:

6. **Coastal processes, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.6);
7. **Other marine users, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.7);
8. **Fish and shellfish ecology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.8);
9. **Benthic, subtidal and intertidal ecology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.9);
10. **Commercial fisheries, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.10);
11. **Marine mammals, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.11);
12. **Offshore and intertidal ornithology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.12);
13. **Shipping and navigation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.13);
14. **Civil and military aviation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.14);
15. **Seascape, landscape, and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15);
16. **Marine archaeology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.16);
17. **Socio-economics, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.17);
18. **Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18);
19. **Air quality, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.19);
20. **Soils and agriculture, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.20);
21. **Noise and vibration, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.21);
22. **Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.22);
23. **Transport, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.23);
24. **Ground conditions, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.24);
25. **Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25);
26. **Water environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.26);
27. **Major accidents and disasters, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.27);

28. Population and human health, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.28); and

29. Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29).

Identification of receptors

- 5.8.8 The EIA undertaken for Rampion 2 has used the conceptual ‘source-pathway-receptor’ model for the identification of receptors, where appropriate to do so. This model identifies potential effects resulting from Rampion 2 on sensitive receptors within the environment. This process provides an easy-to-follow assessment route between impact sources and potentially sensitive receptors ensuring a transparent impact assessment. The aspects of this model are defined as follows:
- **Source** – the origin of a potential impact (an activity such as dredging of an offshore works area and a resultant effect such as release of suspended sediments from the area of works);
 - **Pathway** – the means by which the effect of the activity could impact a receptor such as, for the example above, changes to the suspended sediment concentrations of the surrounding watercourses / ocean); and
 - **Receptor** – the element of the receiving environment that is impacted (this could either be a component of the physical, ecological or human environment such as water quality or benthic habitat, such as, for the above example, species living on or in the watercourses affected).
- 5.8.9 Where a different approach has been necessary to reflect the specific assessment requirements of a particular aspect, this is described in the corresponding technical chapter.

Spatial scope

- 5.8.10 The geographical context within which Rampion 2 (the proposed DCO Order Limits) is shown in **Figure 1.1, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.1). The proposed DCO Order Limits has developed as a result of the iterative project design process, Scoping Opinion, and consultation feedback.
- 5.8.11 The proposed DCO Order Limits includes areas both offshore and onshore. The term 'offshore' refers to the receptors on the seaward side of MHWS and 'onshore' refers to the receptors on the landward side of MHWS. The offshore assessment covers impacts from the offshore project elements up to MHWS and is included in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 16: Marine archaeology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.16). The onshore assessment covers impacts from the onshore project elements on receptors and resources that are landward of MHWS and is included in **Chapters 18: Landscape and visual impact to 26: Water environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.18 to 6.2.26). The assessments for socio-economics (**Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.17)), major accidents and disasters (**Chapter 27: Major accidents and disasters, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.27)), population and human health (**Chapter 28: Population and human health, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.28)), and climate change (**Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES

(Document Reference: 6.2.29)) cover both intertidal and offshore impacts as well as onshore impacts.

- 5.8.12 The spatial scope for each aspect assessment is dependent on the nature of the potential effects and the location of receptors that could be affected. Relevant aspect study areas are described for each of the environmental aspects in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). For a majority of the environmental aspects the Study Area is the proposed DCO Order Limits, however for environmental aspects that are required to take account of wider Zones of Influence (Zol) due to the potential receptors a wider study area has been used. Where environmental aspects that have considered a wider study, this is specified in the 'spatial scope and study area' section of the aspect chapter. The spatial scope of the technical assessments have therefore taken account of:
- physical area of the Proposed Development;
 - nature of the baseline environment; and
 - manner and extent to which environmental effects may occur.

Temporal scope

- 5.8.13 The temporal scope refers to the time periods over which impacts and effects may be experienced by sensitive receptors which may be permanent, temporary, long term or short term. This has been established for each aspect in discussion with relevant consultees. The EIA assesses effects during the construction, operation and maintenance, and where appropriate, decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. Further details on the different phases is provided in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

Design envelope

- 5.8.14 In order to establish the scope of environmental assessment, this ES adopts what is termed a 'Rochdale Envelope' or parameter-based design envelope approach. The Planning Inspectorate's *Advice Note Nine: Using the Rochdale Envelope* (Planning Inspectorate, 2018a) outlines the approach that can be taken, in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations 2017, where some details of the Proposed Development have not yet been confirmed when the DCO Application is submitted and where flexibility is sought to address this uncertainty.
- 5.8.15 Assessing using a parameter-based design envelope approach means that the assessment considers a MDS which represents the worst-case scenario for each aspect whilst allowing the flexibility to make improvements in the future in ways that cannot be predicted at the time of submission of the DCO Application. Development permitted by the DCO will not extend beyond the clearly defined parameters assessed in this ES. Further details of this approach are provided in **Chapter 2: Policy and legislative context, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.2) and the maximum assessment assumptions for Rampion 2 are defined in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). Where applicable, the maximum assessment

assumptions are outlined within **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) respectively.

5.9 Consultation and engagement

- 5.9.1 Central to the delivery of the EIA has been the focus on engagement with consultation bodies³, additional consultees notified by the Secretary of State through the Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, 2020a)⁴, community stakeholders, other interested organisations, and individuals. Since 2020, RED has undertaken consultation to help shape the route, layout, and design of the Proposed Development, refine the EIA, and assist in the development of any required mitigation. Further details are provided in the **Consultation Report** (Document Reference: 5.1).
- 5.9.2 RED has carried out a range of Statutory Consultation and non-statutory consultation as part of the pre-application phase of the DCO Application which has helped to inform the EIA and ES. RED carried out a non-statutory consultation exercise to raise awareness of the project in early 2021. Then, under the Planning Act 2008, RED carried out four Statutory Consultation exercises with statutory bodies (under Section 42), and local communities (under Section 47). This Section summarises the Statutory Consultation and non-statutory consultation exercises along with consultation specific to the EIA.

Statutory Consultation exercises

- 5.9.3 RED has prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and undertaken four Statutory Consultation exercises under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

Statement of Community Consultation

- 5.9.4 In accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, a SoCC was prepared. The SoCC set out details of the Proposed Development, and how RED would consult with the local community, the consultation methods to be used, the scope of the Statutory Consultation and the consultation period. The SoCC was updated in consultation with Local Authorities to permit supplementary Statutory Consultation exercises (PEIR SIR, PEIR FSIR, PEI).
- 5.9.5 The content of the SoCC was discussed and agreed with all local authorities in whose area the Proposed Development is situated (as prescribed by Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008), as well as the coastal authorities adjacent to the offshore elements of Rampion 2. As part of this, the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for each of the local authorities' have been reviewed, to ensure

³ Consultation bodies are those listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, and local authorities listed in section 43 of the *Planning Act 2008*, and as notified by the Secretary of State pursuant to regulation 11(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017.

⁴ Additional consultees are those notified pursuant to Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations 2017.

that the SoCC aligns with the work already undertaken by local authorities in identifying communities and organisations. The SoCC was consulted on and agreed with relevant local authorities.

First Statutory Consultation exercise (2021 and 2022): PEIR

- 5.9.6 The EIA Regulations 2017 require the Applicant to consult on 'preliminary environmental information' (where the proposed development is 'EIA development'). This is information that is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development). In July 2021, RED published the PEIR as part of statutory pre-application consultation process required under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Statutory Consultation). The PEIR was prepared in line with the requirements of the EIA Regulations 2017 and it set out the preliminary environmental information and assessment findings of the EIA based on the available information at the time of publication.
- 5.9.7 The PEIR was published as part of the first Statutory Consultation exercise, which was held from 14 July 2021 to 16 September 2021, for a period of nine weeks. Following feedback to this Statutory Consultation exercise in 2021 and after further analysis, it was identified that some coastal residents did not receive consultation leaflets as intended. Therefore, the first Statutory Consultation exercise was reopened between 7 February 2022 to 11 April 2022 for a further nine weeks for those identified residents. The PEIR published as part of the first Statutory Consultation exercise in 2021 was unchanged and re-provided alongside the reopened first Statutory Consultation exercise in early 2022.
- 5.9.8 From the outset, the environment has been central to the design of Rampion 2, and this is demonstrated further through the development of the Commitments Register initially presented in the Scoping Report (RED, 2020), updated throughout the Statutory Consultation exercises (PEIR, PEIR SIR, PEIR FSIR, and PEI (RED, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b)), and further updated and presented in the DCO Application as the **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22).

Second Statutory Consultation exercise (2022): PEIR SIR

- 5.9.9 The design of the Proposed Development has been developed as part of an iterative design process which is a fundamental element of the EIA (DCLG, 2015). This allowed opportunities for stakeholders to understand, provide feedback, and to influence the design of the Proposed Development throughout the process. Following publication of the PEIR (RED, 2022) in support of the first Statutory Consultation exercise, further alternatives and modifications were identified for the onshore part of the original PEIR Assessment Boundary. These were generated as a result of:
- further design evolution which has been informed by Statutory Consultation;
 - having regard to stakeholder and landowner feedback, and

- further engineering considerations and environmental assessment information that has arisen since the publication of the first Statutory Consultation exercise.

5.9.10 The PEIR SIR (RED, 2022) was prepared to inform a second Statutory Consultation exercise that was held 18 October 2022 to 29 November 2022. It provided supplementary environmental information associated with new alternatives and modifications to the Rampion 2 onshore part of the original PEIR Assessment. The second Statutory Consultation exercise was a targeted consultation relating to changes to the onshore design of the Proposed Development only. Therefore, the PEIR SIR was focused on onshore elements of the Proposed Development and included no changes to offshore design.

Third Statutory Consultation exercise (2023): PEIR FSIR

5.9.11 The PEIR FSIR (RED, 2023a) was prepared to inform a third Statutory Consultation exercise (focused on a further single onshore cable route alternative), which was held from 24 February 2023 to 27 March 2023, for a period of four weeks. The PEIR FSIR provided supplementary environmental information associated with the new proposed alternative to the Rampion 2 onshore part of the original PEIR Assessment Boundary. The proposed new alternative was identified in response to consultation feedback received following the publication of the PEIR SIR in October 2022 (RED, 2022).

Fourth Statutory Consultation exercise (2023): PEI

5.9.12 The first Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) included a buried cable connection required from the proposed onshore substation to the existing National Grid Bolney substation as the National Grid interface point. However, the first Statutory Consultation exercise did not include any extension works to the existing National Grid Bolney substation as it was anticipated that this would be included within a separate planning application and would therefore not be required in the Rampion 2 DCO Application.

5.9.13 Through the design evolution process and further discussions with National Grid, new infrastructure and extension works required at the existing National Grid Bolney substation to connect the Rampion 2 onshore cable route to the existing National Grid network (**Figure 3.3, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.3)) was to be incorporated into the DCO Application to ensure grid connection is available immediately upon completion of Rampion 2.

5.9.14 Two potential types of infrastructure were considered for the National Grid Bolney substation extension in the fourth Statutory Consultation exercise: Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS); or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) (RED, 2023b) (see **Figure 3.13, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.3)). The fourth Statutory Consultation exercise was undertaken from 28 April 2023 to 31 May 2023. Only one of the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension options (AIS or GIS) will be required in the final Proposed Development. The final choice of infrastructure and its design will be determined by National Grid Electricity Transmission therefore both AIS and GIS options have been considered and are

described in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

- 5.9.15 The PEIR, PEIR SIR, PEIR FSIR, and PEI (RED, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b) have enabled consultees and other interested parties to develop an informed view of the environmental effects of the Proposed Development and provide comments on the proposals. Where relevant to this ES, stakeholder comments are summarised, in the aspect **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29), together with an explanation of where they are addressed in this ES. Feedback and responses relating to this chapter are provided in **Section 5.10**.

EIA consultation

- 5.9.16 A programme of ongoing non-statutory consultation was undertaken throughout the EIA process with key stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England, National Highways, Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and local authorities including South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), and West Sussex County Council (WSCC), to inform the Proposed Development. In addition, RED has met with the Planning Inspectorate to provide updates on scoping, the design evolution activities (further discussed in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3)). Further details of the non-statutory consultation are discussed in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).

Non-statutory consultation exercise

- 5.9.17 RED carried out a non-statutory consultation exercise from 14 January 2021 to 11 February 2021. This was a virtual exhibition was to raise awareness of the Proposed Development, the development process, and share information on the emerging design process inviting feedback from stakeholders. Detail of this non-statutory consultation exercise is provided in the **Consultation Report** (Document Reference: 5.1) that has been submitted as part of the DCO Application.

Evidence Plan Process

- 5.9.18 The Evidence Plan Process (EPP) commenced in September 2020 to seek agreement on the evidence required to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Rampion 2 DCO Application. In common with several recent Offshore Wind Farm DCO applications, the EPP for Rampion 2 has been broadened beyond solely Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) matters to include relevant components of the EIA process.
- 5.9.19 Noting that this is a voluntary and non-legally binding process, the EPP aimed to provide a forum for discussion and a framework for recording areas of agreement / disagreement between RED and the relevant statutory authorities, advisers, and other relevant stakeholders with regard to:
- those matters to be addressed by the EIA and HRA process;

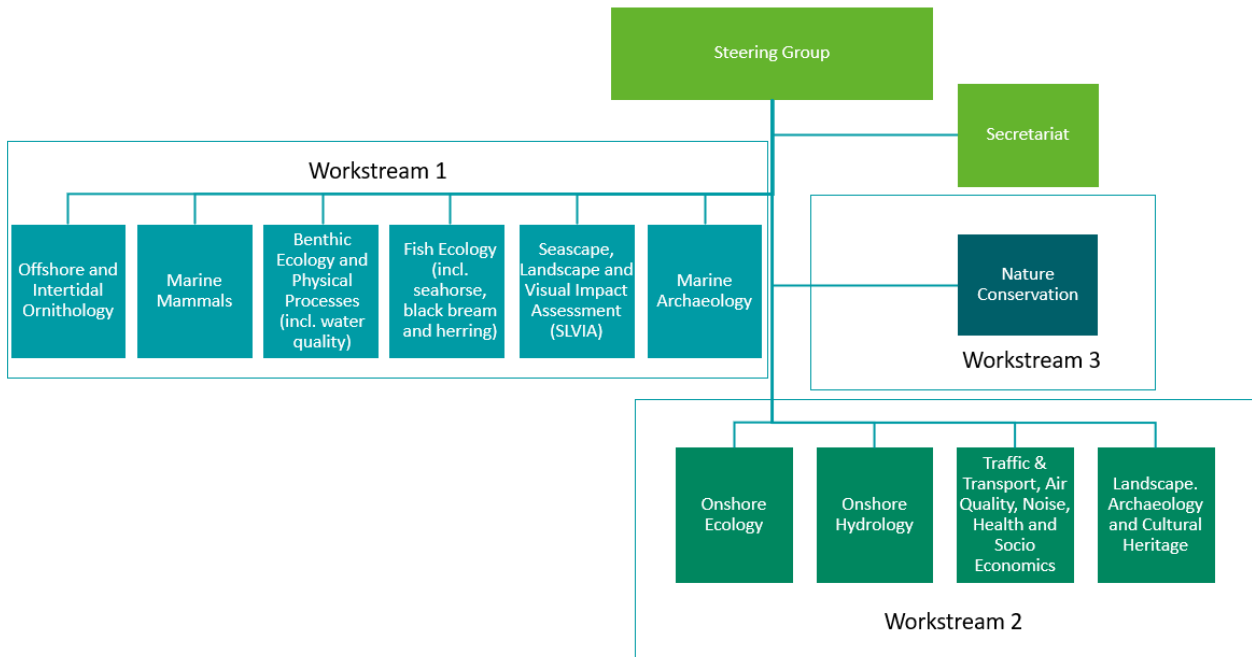
- the data that will be used to support the assessments;
- reviewing latest scientific evidence and guidance relevant to aspects;
- the methods to be applied in collecting and analysing the data and assessing the potential impacts of a scheme together; and
- such other matters as the parties to the EPP seek to cover during the process (this could, for example, extend to discussions around mitigation or management of impacts).

5.9.20 The EPP was overseen by a Steering Group, whose main function was to ensure continual progress of the EPP, and individual topic focused Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). The ETGs are formed of experts from relevant organisations relative to the topics considered. These groups are established to discuss and agree the evidence and assessment requirements for each EIA and HRA topic area identified. **Evidence Plan** (Document Reference: 7.21) sets out the Rampion 2 EPP structure. This comprises of three workstreams, within which there are several ETGs:

- **Workstream 1** – covering all offshore and intertidal topics of interest to be assessed within the EIA and HRA up to and including MHWS;
- **Workstream 2** – covering all topics of interest to onshore stakeholders landward of MHWS; and
- **Workstream 3** – Nature Conservation which seeks to cover all aspects of the HRA assessment both above and below MHWS.

5.9.21 Through the EPP, key stakeholders have been provided with clarity on the Proposed Development and the material that has been presented within the DCO Application. The EPP has also allowed RED to understand the any issues to address during the pre-application stage. The EPP, documented within an **Evidence Plan** (Document Reference: 7.21), has provided the evidence base of agreement for a range of documents that has been produced during the application process and will help form the basis of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) that may be required by the Planning Inspectorate during the Examination of the DCO Application.

Graphic 5-2 Rampion 2 Evidence Plan structure



5.9.22 A summary of EPP meetings held is provided in **Table 5-3**.

Table 5-3 EPP Meetings held to date

| Date | Activity | Stakeholders attended |
|------------|--|---|
| 09.09.2020 | Steering Group Meeting 1. | PINS, MMO, Natural England, Historic England, SDNPA, WSCC. |
| 15.09.2020 | Onshore and Offshore Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)/SLVIA ETG Meeting 1. | Natural England, Historic England, WSCC, SDNPA, Brighton and Hove City Council, Horsham District Council, Isle of Wight Council, Arun District Council, Mid-Sussex District Council, High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnerships, Chichester Harbour Conservancy AONB and the National Trust. |
| 17.09.2020 | Physical Processes, Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish Ecology ETG Meeting 1. | Environment Agency, MMO, Centre for Cefas (via MMO), The Wildlife Trusts, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA) and Seahorse Trust. |

| Date | Activity | Stakeholders attended |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 18.09.2020 | Offshore Ornithology, Marine Mammals and HRA ETG Meeting 1. | MMO, Cefas (via MMO), Sussex Ornithology Society, The Wildlife Trusts and Adur and Worthing District Council. |
| 13.10.2020 | Additional ETG Meeting for Marine Mammals, Offshore Ornithology, HRA, Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology. | Natural England, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). |
| 21.10.2020 | Additional ETG Meeting for Fish and Shellfish Ecology. | Natural England, MMO, Cefas (via MMO). |
| 16.03.2021 | Steering Group Meeting 2. | PINS, MMO, Natural England, Historic England, SDNPA, WSCC. |
| 18.03.2021 | Onshore and Offshore Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and LVIA/SLVIA ETG Meeting 2. | MMO, Natural England, Historic England, WSCC, SDNPA, National Trust, Arun District Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, Chichester Harbour Conservancy AONB, Chichester District Council, East Sussex County Council (ESCC), High Weald AONB Partnerships, Horsham District Council and Mid-Sussex District Council. |
| 23.03.2021 | Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Nature Conservation (onshore) ETG Meeting 2. | WSCC, Adur & Worthing District Council, Environment Agency, Sussex Ornithology Society, Sussex Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Mid Sussex Council and Natural England. |
| 24.03.2021 | Physical Processes, Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish Ecology ETG Meeting 2. | Natural England, Environment Agency, MMO, Cefas (via MMO), The Wildlife Trusts, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex IFCA. |
| 26.03.2021 | Offshore Ornithology, Marine Mammals and HRA ETG Meeting 2. | Natural England, MMO, Cefas (via MMO), Sussex Ornithology Society, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts and Sussex Wildlife Trust. |
| 28.04.2021 | Additional ETG Meeting for SLVIA. | Natural England, SDNPA, WSCC and National Trust. |

| Date | Activity | Stakeholders attended |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 01.11.2021 | Steering Group Meeting 3. | PINS, MMO, Natural England, Historic England, SDNPA, WSCC. |
| 02.11.2021 | Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Nature Conservation (onshore) ETG Meeting 3. | WSCC, Adur & Worthing District Council, Environment Agency, Sussex Ornithology Society, Sussex Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Mid Sussex Council and Natural England. |
| 02.11.2021 | Offshore Ornithology, Marine Mammals and HRA ETG Meeting 3. | Natural England, MMO, Cefas (via MMO), Sussex Ornithology Society, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts and Sussex Wildlife Trust. |
| 03.11.2021 | Physical Processes, Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish Ecology ETG Meeting 3. | Natural England, Environment Agency, MMO, Cefas (via MMO), The Wildlife Trusts, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex IFCA. |
| 04.11.2021 | Onshore and Offshore Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and LVIA/SLVIA ETG Meeting 3. | MMO, Natural England, Historic England, WSCC, SDNPA, National Trust, Arun District Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, Chichester Harbour Conservancy AONB, Chichester District Council, ESCC, High Weald AONB Partnerships, Horsham District Council and Mid-Sussex District Council. |
| 15.02.2022 | Additional ETG Meeting for Benthic Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology. | Natural England, Environment Agency, MMO, Cefas (via MMO), The Wildlife Trusts, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex IFCA. |
| 02.03.2022 | Additional ETG Meeting for SLVIA. | Natural England, SDNPA and WSCC. |
| 03.03.2022 | Additional ETG meeting for WFD. | Environment Agency. |
| 08.11.2022 | Additional ETG meeting for Terrestrial Ecology and Nature Conservation. | Natural England, WSCC, Environment Agency, SDNPA, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex Ornithological Society and RSPB. |
| 10.11.2022 | Additional ETG meeting for Historic Environment and LVIA. | WSCC, SDNPA, Natural England, Historic and Historic England. |

| Date | Activity | Stakeholders attended |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 17.11.2022 | Additional ETG meeting for Noise and Vibration and Air Quality. | Mid Sussex District Council, WSCC, Arun District Council. |
| 21.11.22 | Additional ETG meeting for Soils and Agriculture and Ground Conditions. | WSCC and Environment Agency. |
| 22.11.22 | Additional ETG meeting for Water Environment. | Arun District Council, Environment Agency, WSCC, Horsham District Council, Mid Sussex District Council. |
| 25.11.22 | Additional ETG meeting for Transport and Socio-economics. | WSCC, East Sussex County Council, Highways England, SDNPA, Arun District Council, Mid Sussex District Council. |
| 21.02,2023 | Additional ETG meeting for Transport and Socio-economics | National Highways, WSCC, SDNPA, Icen Projects (on behalf of Arun District Council). |
| 01.03.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for LVIA and Historic Environment | Natural England, SDNPA, WSCC, Icen Projects (on behalf of Arun District Council), Mid Sussex District Council. |
| 02.03.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, Soils and Agriculture and Ground Conditions | Environment Agency, SDNPA, WSCC, Arun District Council, Icen Projects (on behalf of Arun District Council). |
| 07.03.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for Terrestrial Ecology and Water Environment | Environment Agency, Natural England, Arun District Council, SDNPA, Poling Parish Council, WSCC, Mid Sussex District Council. |
| 21.03.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for LVIA and Historic Environment | WSCC |
| 14.06.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for LVIA and Historic Environment | WSCC, Arun District Council, Natural England, SDNPA, Icen Projects (on behalf of Arun District Council) |
| 16.06.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, Soils and | SDNPA, WSCC, Arun District Council, Horsham District Council, Natural England, Environment Agency. |

| Date | Activity | Stakeholders attended |
|------------|--|---|
| | Agriculture and Ground Conditions | |
| 20.06.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for Transport and Socio-economics | National Highways, SDNPA, WSCC, Brighton and Hove City Council, Icen Projects (on behalf of Arun District Council). |
| 22.06.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for Terrestrial Ecology and Water Environment | Sussex Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, SDNPA, Southern Water, WSCC, Arun District Council, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Mid Sussex District Council. |
| 27.06.2023 | Additional ETG meeting for Terrestrial Ecology | Natural England |

Early engagement

5.9.23 Early non-statutory consultation began prior to the submission of the Scoping Report (RED, 2020) up to July 2020. This was undertaken with a number of prescribed and non-prescribed consultation bodies and local authorities to introduce the project and to seek feedback on the proposed approach to scoping the EIA. This is referred to as 'early engagement' throughout this ES.

Project Liaison Groups

5.9.24 RED set up a series of Project Liaison groups (PLGs) that brought together various interest groups to allow for the sharing of information, discussion, and feedback with the Rampion 2 project team as proposals for an extension of the offshore wind farm were scoped and developed. RED actively encouraged members of the PLG to share information within their wider community and to provide feedback to the project for their specific areas of interest. PLGs met regularly as part of the development process, with meetings held in October 2020, February 2021, July 2021, and October 2022. There were five PLGs in total - covering Business & Tourism, Sea Users, Public Rights of Way, Onshore Community, and Offshore Community. Further details relating to PLGs are provided in the [Consultation Report](#) (Document Reference: 5.1).

Consultation for the EIA

5.9.25 The engagement, non-statutory consultation, and the Statutory Consultation exercises have been considered in the preparation of this ES. Those of particular relevance to this ES, in so far as it informed the approach and content were the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion, PEIR, PEIR SIR, PEIR FSIR, and PEI.

- 5.9.26 In preparation of this ES, stakeholder engagement has included further aspect specific meetings and one-to-one meetings with a range of stakeholders and prescribed consultees across the environmental aspects, to inform a more detailed assessment and identification of appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of the Proposed Development. Further details of the consultation and engagement of relevance to the evolution of the design of the Proposed Development are provided in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 5.2.3). Specific information on any feedback received is also presented in the individual environmental aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) which include a 'Consultation and engagement' section which provides a record of all relevant comments received in relation to that aspect.

5.10 Statutory Consultation feedback

- 5.10.1 **Table 5-4** provides a summary of the key themes of the feedback received in relation to the approach to EIA and outlines how the feedback has been considered in this ES chapter as a result of the Statutory Consultation exercises. All of the key themes raised during Statutory Consultation and responses provided in relation to them are provided within the **Consultation Report** (Document Reference: 5.1).



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Table 5-4 Statutory Consultation feedback relevant to the approach to the EIA

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|--|---|---|---|
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) MMO | Priority issues should be aligned with Stakeholders and discussed within Expert Topic Groups. | Issues have been discussed throughout the pre-application stage of the Project which has provided opportunity for stakeholders to be aligned and any issues to be resolved with RED. Further information on the consultation undertaken is provided in the Consultation Report (Document Reference: 5.1). |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England | Stakeholders welcome the opportunity to provide ongoing feedback throughout the design evolution process. | Stakeholder engagement has been carried out throughout the design evolution of Rampion 2 with feedback taken into consideration. Further information on the consultation undertaken is provided in the Consultation Report (Document Reference: 5.1). |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England | The Applicant should endeavour to refine the Rochdale Envelope and provide as much certainty as possible by the DCO | The Proposed Development has been refined throughout the pre-application stage to ensure a robust Rochdale Envelope. Chapter 3: Alternatives, |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---|--|--|--|
| | | <p>application stage to minimise the risk of unforeseen or location specific effects. The parameters associated with the optionality of smaller and larger WTGs vary significantly. These should be accounted for within the ES.</p> | <p>Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.3) provides information regarding how alternatives and design decisions have been made, and Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 (Document Reference: 6.2.4) of the ES provides a clear summary of the Proposed Development and the parameters for the DCO Application. Where optionality is present, a maximum design scenario is implemented to inform the technical assessments. Details on the maximum design scenario is provided in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and the aspect Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29).</p> |
| <p>First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021)</p> | <p>Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England and Mid Sussex District Council</p> | <p>Stakeholders requested that where expert judgement has been used in the environmental assessments it is made clear.</p> | <p>Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29) provide detail on how each</p> |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|--|---|---|---|
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC | The evidence base from the construction and operation of Rampion 1 should feature prominently within the environmental assessment of Rampion 2. | technical assessment has been undertaken and the approach to the resultant conclusions and decisions. Where expert judgement has been used this has been outlined in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England | The EIA should clarify where impacts are relevant to certain receptors with regards the landfall, cable route, compounds, and substation. | Evidence from Rampion 1 has been considered throughout the design evolution and environmental assessment. Reference to where the Rampion 1 evidence has been used is outlined in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England | The EIA should clarify where impacts are relevant to certain receptors with regards the landfall, cable route, compounds, and substation. | The technical assessments provide clarity on potential impacts to receptors from each part of the Proposed Development where possible, see Chapters 6: Coastal processes |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|--|--|--|--|
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England | Stakeholders identified concerns in response to the first Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) regarding baseline data collection and assessments due to available data. Updated site and project specific data should be provided within the ES. | to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). Section 5.4 provides an overview of the approach taken to collecting baseline data and the aspect chapters (Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)) provide information on how the baseline data has been collected and incorporated into the environmental assessment. |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England and WSCC | Stakeholders requested that commitments should avoid vague language and should include how mitigation measures will be secured and delivered. | The embedded environmental measures have been phrased to ensure clarity on their aim and to avoid vague language. The full list of proposed embedded environmental measures and how each is to be secured and delivered is provided in Commitments Register (Document Reference: 7.22). |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---|--|---|---|
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC | The statement of competence should be updated for inclusion within the ES. | Appendix 1.1: Competent experts, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.1.1) provides information regarding the competency project team. |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC and Natural England | Stakeholders expressed a preference for the climate change to be incorporated into the cumulative section of each technical assessment and an understanding on how carbon can be mitigated throughout the project lifetime. | Following stakeholder feedback and the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2020), a standalone climate change chapter (Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.29) has been included in the ES. This chapter includes information from the greenhouse gas assessment and climate vulnerability appendices provided in the PEIR (RED, 2021). |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC, Natural England, Highways England South East, MMO, | Stakeholders identified multiple projects to be considered within the cumulative effects assessment (including: A27 Arundel Bypass, Aquind interconnector cable, Ford Circular Technology Park, aggregate extraction sites, and Rock Common Quarry) and | The projects raised have been included within the cumulative effects assessment see Section 5.13 and Appendix 5.3: Cumulative effects assessment detailed onshore search and screening criteria , Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.3) and Appendix 5.4: |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|--|---|---|--|
| | | provided further information on these projects. | Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4). The development timescales and likely operational periods of these other projects has been included within the assessment and updated with publicly available information since the first Statutory Consultation exercise was undertaken in 2021. |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England | The operation and maintenance phases of Rampion 1 should not just be considered part of the baseline and therefore should be assessed within the cumulative effects assessment. | Rampion 1 is considered part of the baseline as it is already constructed and operational. The operational / maintenance activities associated with Rampion 1 are included within the cumulative effects assessment as outlined in Appendix 5.4: Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4). |
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) MMO | The cumulative effects assessment should not | The cumulative effects assessment is outlined in |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|--|--|--|---|
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England, MMO, WSCC | Stakeholders noted that matrices will be used to define receptor sensitivity and magnitude, and that these may vary depending on the technical aspect. Stakeholders requested that, where possible, consideration should be given to align matrices to ensure clarity of inter-related effects across aspects and where this is not possible, a precautionary approach to assessing inter-related effects should be adopted. | <p>Section 5.13 and is presented within each aspect chapter (Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)). This assessment has followed industry guidance and best practice.</p> <p>The matrices used in the technical assessments are based on best practice and guidance, the overarching approach to the environmental assessments is outlined in this chapter, see Section 5.12. Where technical assessments differ from this approach, reasons for this and how the assessment is approach is provided in the aspect chapters (Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)). The approach to the potential inter-related effects assessment and how technical assessments that utilise differing</p> |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|---|---|---|--|
| First Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2021) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not limited to) MMO | The Applicant should indicate what additional information and methods will be used to undertake an inter-related effects assessment. | matrices is provided in Chapter 30: Inter-related effects, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.30). |
| Second Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2022) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Twineham Parish Council | Stakeholders highlighted the proposed use of the field to the north of the Rampion 1 substation. It is understood that there is an intention to develop the land into a solar farm. | The methodology used to undertake the inter-related effects assessment is provided in Chapter 30: Inter-related effects, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.30). The cumulative assessment has taken the solar farm project (One Planet) into consideration. An overview of the other development is provided in Appendix 5.4: Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4). |
| Second Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2022) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC | Stakeholders noted that some of these cable route proposals are outside of the Scoping Boundary. Recommend that further discussion with the | Prior to consulting on the modifications and alternatives presented in the second Statutory Consultation exercise, RED discussed the potential update design with the Planning |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | Planning Inspectorate is undertaken. | <p>Inspectorate. It was acknowledged that the requirement for a full EIA re-scoping would be dependent on the specific updates to the design of Rampion 2 and/or changes to the scope of the environmental assessments and if, depending on the extent of deviation, the changes could be explained in the ES.</p> <p>The extent of deviation from the Scoping Boundary is limited, and the features and receptors encountered are similar to those within the Scoping Boundary. RED have discussed the evolution of the Proposed Development throughout the pre-application stage during the EPP process with stakeholders. Therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Development remains materially the same as that on which scoping was undertaken. Further information is provided in Section 5.6.</p> |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|--|---|---|---|
| Second Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2022) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC | Stakeholders highlighted concerns in relation to agricultural/farming and landscape impacts possible as a result of the Proposed Development. | Effects and embedded environmental measures relating to agriculture / farming and landscape have been assessed and are provided in Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18) and Chapter 20: Soils and agriculture, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.20). |
| Third Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2023a) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) Natural England | Stakeholders highlight a paucity of data presented for the environmental assessments. The Applicant is advised to provide any outstanding data and resolve stakeholder concerns prior to DCO submission. | RED has continued to consult with stakeholders and provide data where possible as the design has evolved throughout the pre-application stage of the DCO. |
| Fourth Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2023b) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC | Stakeholders welcomed the inclusion of the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension works within the DCO application stating that this approach would provide the local community clarity regarding | The existing National Grid Bolney substation extension works have been incorporated into the environmental assessments in Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). |

| Statutory Consultation | Stakeholder | Theme / Comment | How this is addressed in this ES |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | the proposals and ensuring a full assessment of likely effects and required mitigation is secured through the DCO. | Further details on the existing Nation Grid Bolney substation works are included in Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3) and Chapter 4: The Proposed Development , Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). |
| Fourth Statutory Consultation exercise (RED, 2023b) | Multiple stakeholders including (but not restricted to) WSCC, Horsham District Council, and Historic England | Stakeholders agreed with the methodologies and assessments that were set out in the PEI, welcomed the update to the PEIR Assessment Boundary to the north of the Rampion 1 substation and the access from Bob Lane, and stated that the use of either AIS or GIS options proposed would have a limited potential impact. | Comment acknowledged. |

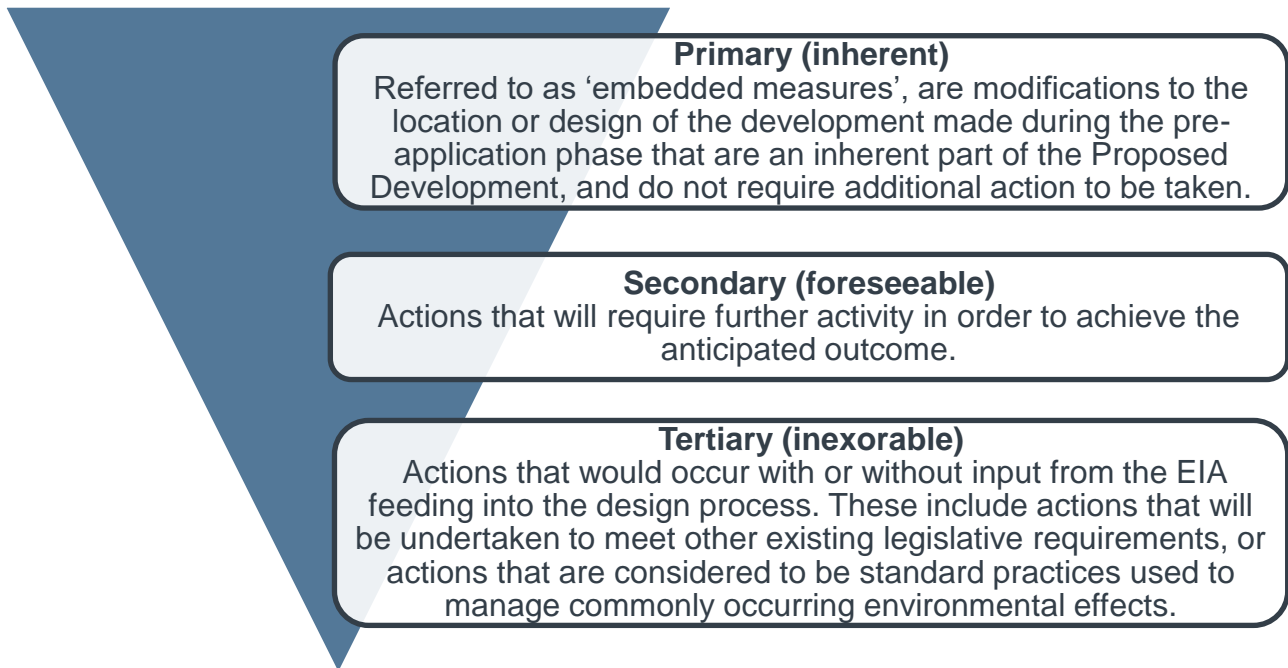
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5.11 Approach to environmental measures

Embedded environmental measures

- 5.11.1 EIA is an iterative process and opportunities for mitigation, referred to as 'embedded environmental measures' have been considered throughout the design development of Rampion 2 and in the assessment undertaken for this ES where likely significant effects have been identified. Where possible, these measures have been developed with input from key stakeholders together with appropriate technical standards, policies, and guidance.
- 5.11.2 These embedded environmental measures include both avoidance, best practice, and design commitments, which are classified into primary or tertiary measures in accordance with the IEMA 'Delivering Quality Development' (2016) definitions and set out in **Graphic 5-3**. Good practice consideration and application of environmental measures involves a hierarchal approach, considering avoidance of negative effects as the primary objective.
- 5.11.3 In the context of this ES, embedded environmental measures incorporate all types of measure as set out in **Graphic 5-3**. The iterative design evolution process followed has been driven by collaborative working between the design, environment and landowner teams, and in consultation with key stakeholders. This may have been through the consideration and adoption of alternatives or through measures incorporated within the design itself.
- 5.11.4 The **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) described in **Section 5.3: Delivering proportionate EIA** has been used as the primary tool to capture and agree all embedded environmental measures and the mechanism of securing them. As the intention is to implement all measures as part of Rampion 2 design, the assessment of likely significant effects is based on this assumption.

Graphic 5-3 Embedded environmental measures



Monitoring measures

- 5.11.5 Monitoring measures may be required in relation to any significant negative effects on the environment caused by Rampion 2, including any environmental measures that are committed to and imposed as a requirement. Any monitoring proposed at this stage with respect to significant negative effects will be identified in the aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).

Securing mitigation and monitoring measures

- 5.11.6 The **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) acts as the primary tool to capture and agree all embedded environmental mitigation measures, and the mechanisms for securing them. The ES is based on the assumption that all of these measures will be implemented as part of the Proposed Development. Implementation of the embedded environmental measures relied upon in the assessment are secured in the DCO or deemed Marine Licence (dML). For example, through the setting of Limits of Deviation or specifying mitigation measures via a DCO requirement or dML condition.

5.12 Approach to assessment of significance

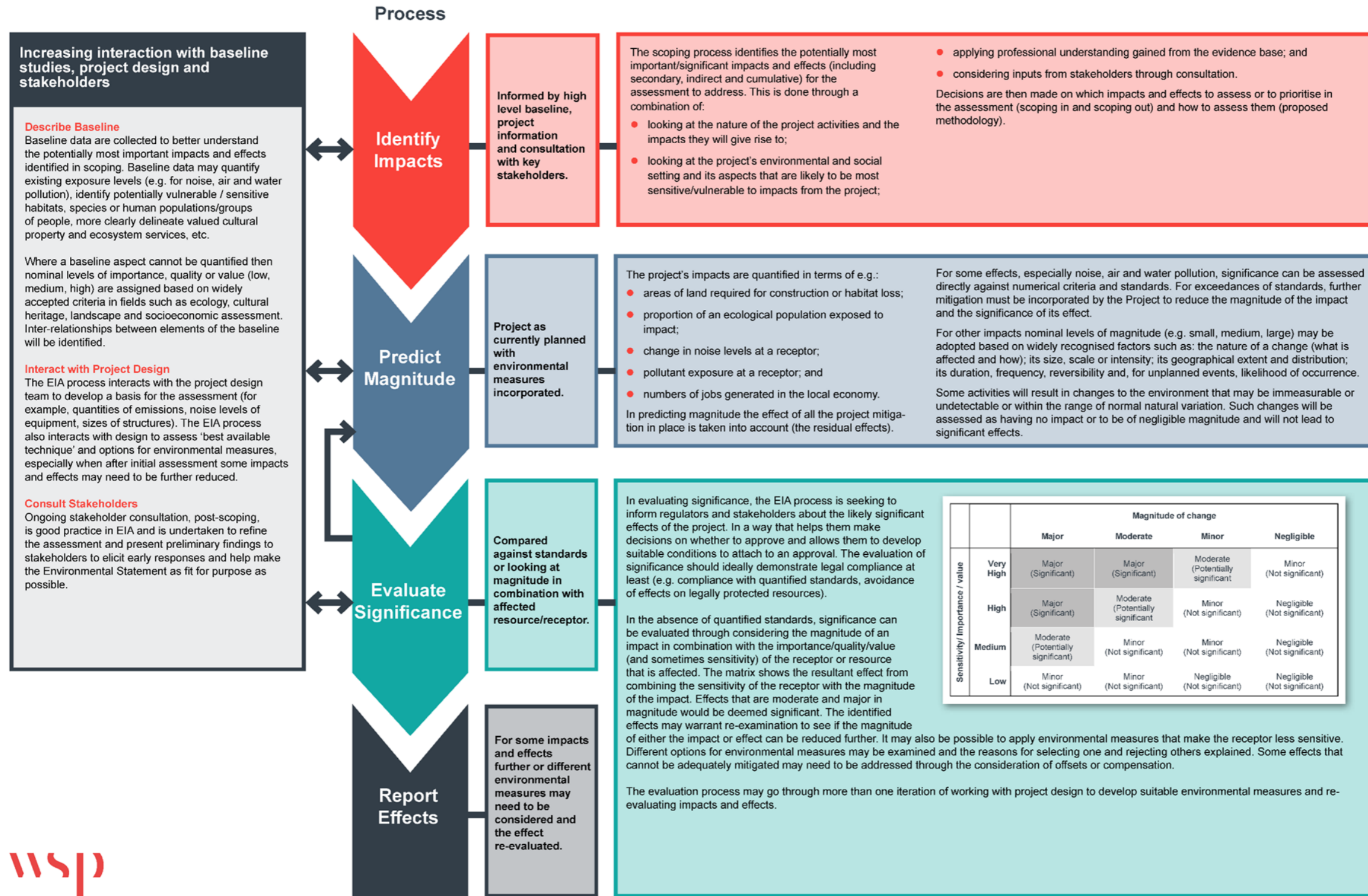
- 5.12.1 **Graphic 5-4** sets out the approach to the evaluation of significance of likely environmental effects that may arise from Rampion 2. The graphic sets out the general process of evaluating significance incorporating the consideration of magnitude of impact, value or sensitivity of receptor, and any environmental measures that are embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to reduce likely effects. This approach, informed by the EIA Regulations 2017, and

the MHCLG's EIA Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG and DCLG, 2020) that has been applied when undertaking the EIA, and has also applied for this ES.

- 5.12.2 Variations to the approach, which may be applicable to specific environmental aspects, are detailed in each environmental aspect chapter (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).

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Graphic 5-4 Approach to assessment of significance



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5.13 Cumulative effects assessment

Overview

- 5.13.1 A cumulative effects assessment (CEA) has been carried out in accordance with the EIA Regulations 2017 and Planning Inspectorate's *Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative effects assessment* relevant to NSIPs (The Planning Inspectorate, 2019). In relation to the offshore elements, the CEA is consistent with the guidance provided by RenewableUK and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) published guidelines (RenewableUK and NERC, 2013) on the undertaking of the cumulative impact assessment. In particular, in relation to Rampion 2, the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (DECC, 2011a) also states at paragraph 4.2.5:
- 'When considering cumulative effects, the ES should provide information on how the effects of the applicant's proposal would combine and interact with the effects of other development (including projects for which consent has been sought or granted, as well as those already in existence).'*
- 5.13.2 The PINS and RenewableUK guidance suggest that other developments that are deemed likely to go ahead or are going ahead (reasonably foreseeable) and for which sufficient information is available, should be taken forward for consideration. For the purposes of the CEA, the types of 'other developments' include:
- projects that are under construction;
 - projects that have planning permission or Marine Licences;
 - projects for which planning or Marine Licence applications have been submitted to the relevant authority;
 - projects which are on the Planning Inspectorate's Programme of Projects whether a scoping report has been submitted or not; and
 - projects that are identified in development plans and in other plans and programmes as may be relevant.
- 5.13.3 The CEA focuses on other developments in proximity to Rampion 2 which may have effects on the same resources and receptors. Generally, only other developments where an EIA is required are considered appropriate for inclusion in the CEA. The CEA includes other developments that may begin construction, operation or be decommissioned within the same period as Rampion 2 construction or operation. Decommissioning of Rampion 2 is considered to be too far into the future for any meaningful consideration of cumulative effects with other developments and is therefore not addressed.
- 5.13.4 As part of the cumulative screening process, other developments were reviewed periodically up until document finalisation of the DCO Application to determine whether the other developments should fall within the CEA, to allow for adequate time for incorporation of the other developments into the assessment. In line with the Planning Inspectorate's *Advice Note Seventeen* (Planning Inspectorate, 2019), where other developments are expected to be completed before construction of Rampion 2, and the effects of those other developments are fully determined,

effects arising from them have been considered as part of the current baseline and therefore included as part of both the construction and operational assessment.

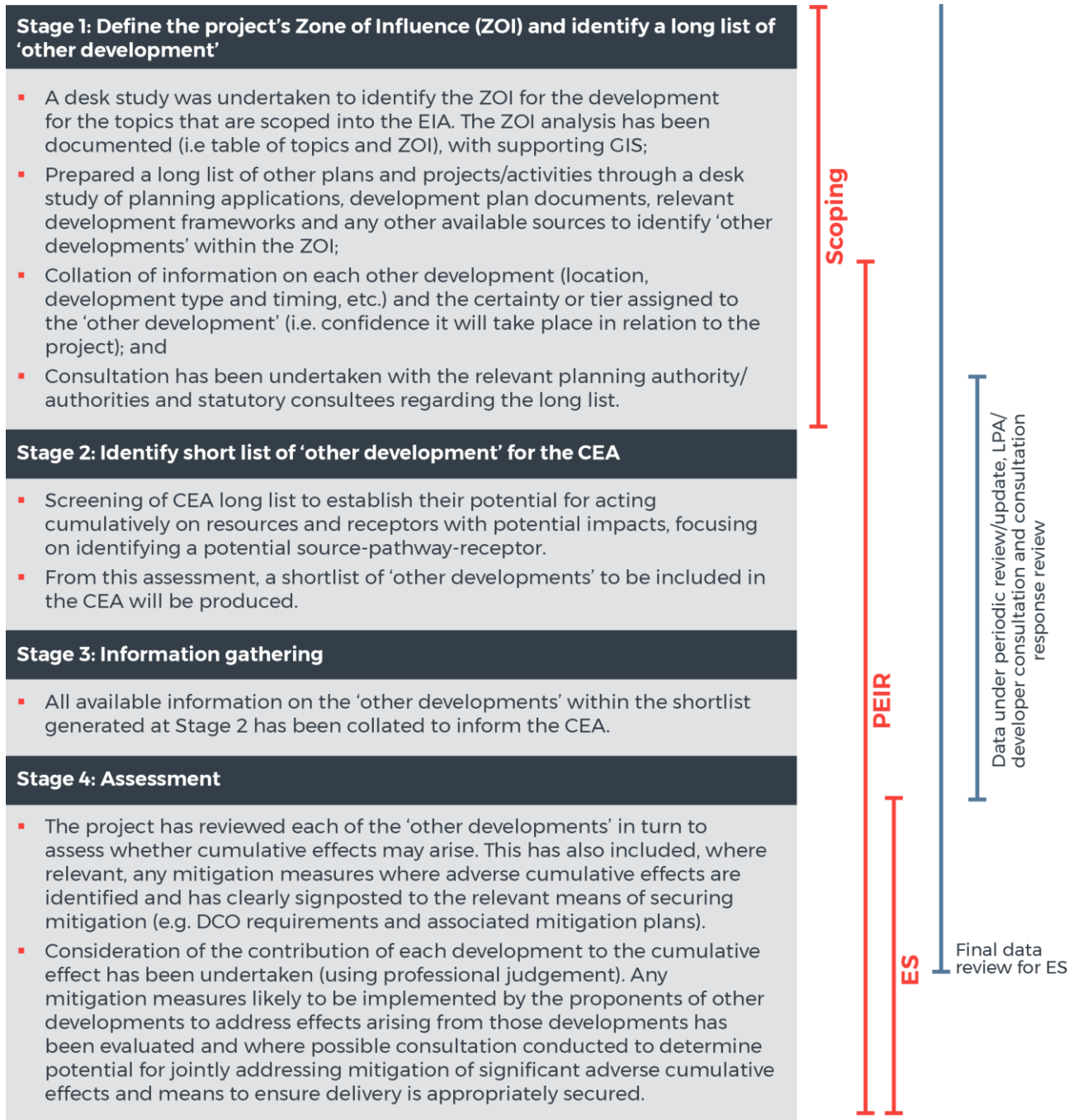
- 5.13.5 Where there may be changes caused by other developments that will occur over time and will be representative of the anticipated baseline at the start of each assessment phase (construction, operation, and decommissioning), these changes are considered in the future baseline.
- 5.13.6 The Rampion 2 CEA considers impacts upon receptors during each project phase arising from Rampion 2 alongside all past (unless incorporated within the baseline), present or reasonably foreseeable projects, programmes or plans that result in an additive effect with any element (onshore or offshore) of Rampion 2. The assessment also considers the contribution of Rampion 2 to those impacts.
- 5.13.7 The other developments identified by each technical aspect as having a potential cumulative effect are detailed and assessed in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). The list of developments has been reviewed periodically as the EIA progressed to ensure that new developments which arise up until submission of the DCO Application for development consent were included in this ES.
- 5.13.8 The CEA methodology is generally divided into screening and assessment stages with the offshore and onshore assessment requiring slightly different approaches. The offshore screening approach followed Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate 2019) which is an accepted process for NSIPs, with additional relevant aspects from the RenewableUK (RenewableUK and NERC, 2013) accepted guidance, which is specific to the marine elements of an offshore wind farm in consideration of mobile wide-ranging species (foraging species, migratory routes, etc.). The onshore screening approach follows Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate 2019) and is based upon the four-stage approach set out in the guidance.
- 5.13.9 The CEA for each aspect is detailed in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29). Further details on the criteria used to identify other developments for the onshore CEA are included in **Appendix 5.3: Cumulative effects assessment detailed onshore search and screening criteria, Volume 4** (Document Reference: 6.4.5.3), and the short list of other developments considered in the assessment for both onshore and offshore are set out in **Appendix 5.4: Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4** (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4).

Offshore CEA approach

Offshore CEA methodology

- 5.13.10 The CEA for the offshore element of Rampion 2 has been conducted in four stages and corresponds to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate), also taking into account the Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines published by RenewableUK and NERC (2013) and the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Nine (Planning Inspectorate, 2018). **Graphic 5-5** outlines the offshore CEA process.

Graphic 5-5 Offshore CEA process



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Stage 1: Offshore Zone of Influence development and 'long list' identification

Approach to the long list

5.13.11 The first stage of the offshore CEA produced a 'long list' of other relevant projects, plans and activities ('other developments') happening within a large study area around the Rampion 2 site. The long list includes those in the UK and adjoining international jurisdictions and is based on publicly available information available

at the time of preparation. It considers the scale of the other developments, and the potential for these to produce cumulative effects with Rampion 2.

- 5.13.12 The search area defined in **Table 5-5** was applied in developing the long list of other developments. It should be noted that these initial screening ranges are based on what are considered to be the maximum extents of potential impacts from those activities and are therefore considered to be highly precautionary. Impact-specific screening ranges used for individual topics may use reduced ranges depending on topic-specific criteria. The offshore search area is shown in **Figure 5.1, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.5).

Table 5-5 Search area extents for the offshore elements of the CEA

| Offshore elements | Search area extent |
|---|---|
| Aggregate, dredging and disposal | Up to 50km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |
| Cables and pipelines | Up to 50km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |
| Commercial fisheries | Up to 200km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |
| Coastal | Up to 200km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |
| Military, aviation, and radar | Up to 200km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |
| Offshore energy | Up to 500km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |
| Oil and gas | Up to 200km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |
| Shipping | Up to 200km from the Rampion 2 array area and offshore export cable corridor. |

- 5.13.13 All other developments located within the search area as defined in **Table 5-5** were identified through a desktop study using the following data sources:
- The Planning Inspectorate website including applications and the scoping stage (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/>);
 - The Crown Estate website (<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/what-we-do/on-the-seabed/marine-planning/>);

- European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) data (<http://www.emodnet-humanactivities.eu/view-data.php>);
- Oil and Gas UK website (<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/data-centre/interactive-maps-and-tools/>);
- The MMO website; and
- Developers and project proponents’ websites where available.

5.13.14 Any additional sources specific to an individual aspect are outlined in the offshore CEA in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 16: Marine archaeology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.16).

Tiered approach

5.13.15 The tiering structure used for screening and assessment of other developments is in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate 2019) (**Table 5-6**). The Tiers are listed in descending order of level of detail likely to be available (and certainty of effects arising). Appropriate weight may therefore be given to each scenario (Tier) in the decision-making process when considering the potential cumulative impacts associated with Rampion 2. For example, it may be considered that greater weight be attributed to Tier 1 than Tier 2. It is noted in Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate 2019) that, where other developments are expected to be completed before the construction of the proposed NSIP and the effects of those projects are fully determined, effects arising from them should be considered as part of the baseline and may be considered as part of assessment in the construction and operational phases (noting that the assessment should clearly distinguish between other developments forming part of the baseline and those in the CEA).

Table 5-6 Tiers used for screening and assessment of other developments offshore (from Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate 2019))

| Tier | Criteria |
|----------------|--|
| Tier 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other developments “<i>under construction;</i> • <i>permitted application(s), whether under the Planning Act 2008 or other regimes, but not yet implemented; and</i> • <i>submitted application(s), whether under the Planning Act 2008 or other regimes, but not yet determined.</i>” |
| Tier 2: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other developments “<i>on the Planning Inspectorate’s Programme of Projects where a Scoping Report has been submitted.</i>” |
| Tier 3: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other developments “<i>on the Planning Inspectorate’s Programme of Projects where a scoping report has not been submitted.</i> • <i>other developments identified in the relevant Development Plan (and emerging Development Plans - with appropriate weight being given</i> |

| Tier | Criteria |
|---------|---|
| | <p><i>as they move closer to adoption) recognising that there will be limited information available on the relevant proposals;” and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“identified in other plans and programmes (as appropriate) which set the framework for future development consents/approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.”</i> |
| 5.13.16 | <p>In assessing the potential for cumulative effects from Rampion 2, it is important to bear in mind that other developments, predominantly those ‘proposed’, may or may not be taken forward for development. Therefore, there is a need to build in a consideration of certainty (or uncertainty) with respect to the potential impacts which might arise from such proposals, in line with the approach set out by PINS in Advice Note Seventeen (2019). For example, other developments which are already under construction have a higher degree of certainty that will contribute to cumulative effects than those other development applications that are at an early stage.</p> |
| 5.13.17 | <p>For these reasons, all of the relevant other developments on the long list are allocated into ‘Tiers’, reflecting their current status within the planning and development process. This allows the CEA to present several scenarios, reflecting the varying levels of certainty of an activity proceeding and therefore the potential for impacts to arise that might act cumulatively with the impacts arising from Rampion 2.</p> |

Stage 2: Screening of offshore long list

Screening of offshore long list - interactions

- 5.13.18 Following creation of the long list, all other developments are screened based on the potential for interaction with Rampion 2; either temporal, spatial, or potential (i.e. identifying a potential source-pathway-receptor); and on the level of detail available (tiered approach). This screening produces EIA aspect-specific short-lists of other developments which are considered further within the offshore CEA in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 16: Marine archaeology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.16) (and are reviewed again in this ES).
- 5.13.19 The following criteria were applied to the screening of the long list for other developments offshore:
- Screened into the CEA:
 - ▶ other developments which are considered as part of the baseline but the effects of which are not fully determined in the marine environment (in line with **Paragraphs 5.13.4 to 5.13.6**); and/or
 - ▶ where there is a potential for a cumulative impact to occur (based upon available information and professional judgement).
 - Screened out of the CEA:

- ▶ other developments which are considered as part of the baseline environment;
- ▶ where there is low data confidence (therefore a meaningful assessment cannot be undertaken);
- ▶ where no potential impact-receptor pathway exists (see **Table 5-7**);
- ▶ where there is no potential for a spatial effect interaction (see **Table 5-7**); or
- ▶ where there is no potential for a temporal effect interaction (see **Table 5-7**).

5.13.20 These criteria ensure a clear justification for screening other developments in or out. Further detail on the other development screening criteria is given in **Table 5-7**.

Table 5-7 Other development specific screening criteria

| Term | Criteria |
|--|---|
| Potential impact-receptor pathway | There is the potential that a pathway exists whereby an impact could have an effect on a receptor. For example, increases to suspended sediment concentration could have an impact on fish and shellfish receptors, however there is no pathway for underwater noise to have an effect on aviation and radar receptors. |
| Spatial effect interaction | The impacts on a receptor from Rampion 2 and one or more other plans/projects have a geographical overlap. For example, underwater noise contours from piling at Rampion 2 could overlap with those of another offshore wind farm project, if it is sufficiently close to Rampion 2. If there is no spatial interaction, there is no potential for a cumulative effect. |
| Temporal effect interaction | The impacts from Rampion 2 and one or more other plans/projects have the potential to occur at the same time. If there is no temporal interaction, there is no potential for a cumulative effect. |

5.13.21 Only where there is the potential for both spatial and temporal interaction between effects arising from Rampion 2 and from one or more of the other developments identified, is a cumulative impact taken forward for consideration in the CEA. The screening process for the long list of other developments provides a record of those screened in or out for further consideration within the CEA on the basis of one or more of these criteria.

Aspect specific screening list – impact ranges

5.13.22 The screened long list identifies all the other developments that might give rise to cumulative effects when considered alongside the potential impacts arising from

Rampion 2 but does not detail the differences in impact ranges for different environmental receptors.

- 5.13.23 In order to focus the aspect specific CEAs presented in **Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 16: Marine archaeology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.16), the screened long list is subject to further aspect specific screening to identify those relevant other developments within the Zols of Rampion 2 for each aspect. The aspect specific screening distances used to refine the screened long list into aspect specific short lists (along with justifications for the distances used) are provided in **Table 5-8**.

Table 5-8 Screening extents for offshore CEA purposes

| Receptor | Maximum extent of impact and justification |
|---|---|
| Aviation, military, and communications | Distance at which disturbance from the Rampion 2 array would interact with that of an 'other development' (45km). |
| Benthic and intertidal ecology | Based on the marine physical processes' assessment (pending topic baseline assessment). |
| Commercial fisheries | Extent of the relevant fishing grounds. |
| Fish and shellfish ecology | For sedimentary impacts, based on the marine physical processes (pending topic baseline assessment). Greater distance for underwater noise related impacts based on underwater noise modelling (100km). |
| Infrastructure and other users | Based on the extent of the proposed DCO Order Limits plus any relevant safety zones (i.e. maximum 500m from the edge of the proposed DCO Order Limits). |
| Marine archaeology | Dependent on the archaeological receptor in question. |
| Marine geology, oceanography, and physical processes | Based on the distance of one tidal excursion ellipse (pending topic baseline assessment). |
| Marine mammals | Dependent on the reference population extent (e.g. 'the North Sea' for harbour porpoise). |
| Offshore and intertidal ornithology | Dependent on the mean maximum foraging range of the species in question (e.g. 315.2km for gannet). |
| Seascape and visual resources | Based on the maximum extent of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). |

| Receptor | Maximum extent of impact and justification |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Shipping and navigation | Based on shipping lanes and available sea room around relevant components of Rampion 2. |

Stage 3

- 5.13.24 All available information on the ‘other developments’ within the short list generated at Stage 2 is collated to inform the CEA (see **Appendix 5.4: Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4).

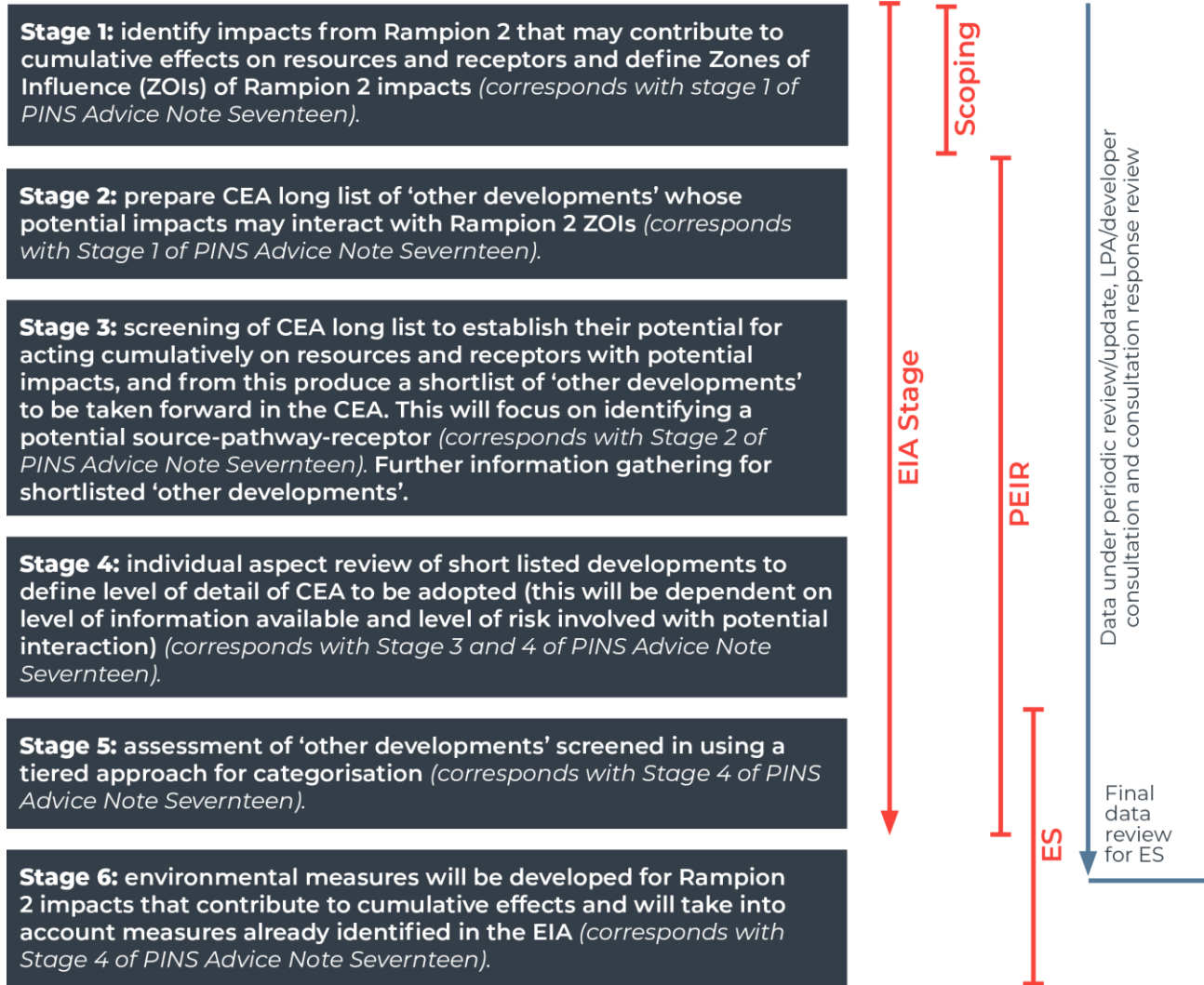
Stage 4

- 5.13.25 As part of each aspect’s assessment, a review is undertaken of each of the ‘other developments’ in turn to assess whether cumulative effects may arise. This also includes, where relevant, any environmental measures where negative cumulative effects have been identified and clearly signposts to the relevant means by which required mitigation will be secured (for example, draft DCO requirements and associated mitigation plans).
- 5.13.26 In developing potential environmental measures that may be required of Rampion 2 in relation to cumulative effects, appropriate consideration of measures likely to be implemented by the proponents of other developments to address effects arising from those developments has been undertaken to ascertain the contribution of each development to the effect (using professional judgement). Where appropriate, RED engaged other developers to identify means to jointly address mitigation of significant negative cumulative effects and means to ensure delivery where this is practicable.

Onshore CEA approach

- 5.13.27 The onshore CEA has been conducted in the stages set out in **Graphic 5-6** that correspond to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate, 2019).

Graphic 5-6 Onshore CEA process



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Stage 1: Onshore impacts and Zols

- 5.13.28 The main impacts of Rampion 2 that have the potential to contribute to cumulative effects with impacts from other developments will arise during the construction and operation of the onshore substation, construction of the landfall and the construction of the onshore export cable.
- 5.13.29 The aspects and impacts detailed in **Table 5-9** have been identified as having the potential to contribute to cumulative effects.

Table 5-9 Onshore impacts with potential to contribute to cumulative effects

| Aspect | Potential impacts and effects |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Air quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction activity from Rampion 2 and other developments resulting in effects on dust. • Changes to road traffic during construction resulting in effects on air quality. |
| Climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment: all global cumulative GHG sources are relevant to the effect on climate change. Effects of GHG emissions from specific cumulative projects are not assessed, as there is no basis for selecting any particular cumulative project that has GHG emissions for assessment over any other. Additionally, the contextualisation of GHG emissions, by its nature, incorporates the cumulative contributions of other GHG sources which make up that context. • Climate change resilience assessment: the In-combination climate impacts assessment considers the extent to which climate change exacerbates the identified effects on identified receptors resulting from the Project, and also considers whether climate change effects the efficacy of proposed environmental measures. It is the combination of effects from both the Proposed Development and climate change on environmental receptors. |
| Ground conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilisation of contamination (for example through generation of dusts, spillages, and leaks etc.) resulting in impacts to human health and controlled waters receptors in combination with construction activities for other developments. • Damage to geodiversity sites resulting in effects on geodiversity receptors in combination with construction activities for other developments. • For ground conditions, UK legislation requires all developments to be suitable for their proposed use in which risks to human health and controlled waters from land contamination and risks from damage to geodiversity sites have been appropriately managed. Therefore, there are not considered to be any impacts from the operation and maintenance phase of Rampion 2 that have the potential to act cumulatively with impacts from other developments to contribute to cumulative ground conditions effects. |
| Historic environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and operation of onshore elements of Rampion 2 and other developments resulting in potential effects on historic landscape character. |

| Aspect | Potential impacts and effects |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of onshore elements of Rampion 2 and other developments resulting in potential effects on buried archaeological remains within the construction footprint. • Construction and operation of Rampion 2 and other developments resulting in potential effects on significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets through changes to setting. |
| Landscape and visual impact assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole project effects resulting from the combined effects of the onshore and offshore elements of the Proposed Development. • Construction activities, operation and decommissioning of the onshore substation, and construction of the onshore cable corridor and landfall of Rampion 2 resulting in potential effects on landscape character, elements, and characteristics. • Construction activities, operation and decommissioning of the onshore substation, and construction of the onshore cable corridor and landfall of Rampion 2 resulting in potential effects on landscape designations (special landscape qualities and integrity). • Construction activities, operation and decommissioning of the onshore substation, and construction of the onshore cable corridor and landfall of Rampion 2 resulting in potential effects on visual receptors. |
| Noise and vibration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent onshore construction from Rampion 2 and other developments resulting in potential noise and vibration effects. • Operational noise from the onshore substation in relation to other developments including the existing National Grid Bolney substation resulting in potential noise and vibration effects. |
| Population and human health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The human health Zol differs for each health determinant and is consistent with the Zol used for each inter-related technical cumulative assessment that is used to inform the human health cumulative assessment. |
| Socio-economics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other developments that could result in loss or change (permanent and/or temporary) to the UK / Sussex economy (jobs & GVA). • Other developments that could result in loss or change (permanent and/or temporary) to the Sussex tourism economy (volume and value). • Other developments that could result in loss or change (permanent and/or temporary) to Recreation (onshore, offshore, and inshore) in the relevant study area. |

| Aspect | Potential impacts and effects |
|--|---|
| Soils and agriculture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development at the Rampion 2 onshore substation site resulting in potential permanent loss of agricultural land. |
| Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent and temporary habitat loss and degradation of notable habitats with corresponding effects on local populations. Permanent and temporary fragmentation of the landscape reducing the viability of some local populations to access sufficient resources. Temporary disturbance caused by construction activity resulting in the displacement of local populations. |
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitted / committed developments within and in the vicinity of the transport study area that will result in additional traffic on the road network. Committed transport schemes that will affect the transport network, such as junction improvements and new road links. |
| Water environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and operation and maintenance activities of onshore elements of Rampion 2 and other developments affecting water quality in rivers and groundwater. Dewatering activities in construction resulting in effects on groundwater levels. Construction and operation and maintenance of onshore elements of Rampion 2 and other developments and permanent developments resulting in effects on flood risk. Construction and operation and maintenance activities of onshore elements of Rampion 2 and other developments resulting in effects on hydro-morphology. |

5.13.30 The search area for the onshore element of the CEA has been determined through identification of Zols by each aspect, taking into consideration the areas / receptors likely to be affected by Rampion 2 activities and facilities. Effects from unplanned but predictable potential effects caused by Rampion 2 that may occur later or at a different location have also been considered. The overall onshore search area shown in **Figure 5.2, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.5). Individual aspect Zols are shown within each aspect chapter.

Table 5-10 Search area extents for the onshore elements of the CEA

| Aspect | Search area extent |
|--------------------|--|
| Air quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generation of dust during the construction phase. The Zol extends to 350m. Generation of air quality emissions from the other development, either during the construction or operation and maintenance phases. For these effects, the Zol is less |

| Aspect | Search area extent |
|---|---|
| | well defined, but based on the results of the main air quality assessment, is conservatively taken as 200m. |
| Climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrinsically considered as part of the assessment of climate change. |
| Ground conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500m from the edge of the onshore cable corridor and 1km around the land required for the onshore substation to take into account impacts either through introduction of a new contaminative source or sensitive receptor or to a receptor shared with another development. |
| Historic environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1km radius around the onshore cable corridor for construction and operational effects of onshore development on the setting of heritage assets. 2km radius around the onshore substation for construction and operational effects of onshore development on the setting of heritage assets. 25km radius from the offshore design envelope, for construction and operational effects of offshore development (turbines / substation) on onshore heritage assets. |
| Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2km from the proposed DCO Order Limits. 60km search area aligning with Seascope, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) will be considered for onshore wind farms. |
| Noise and vibration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction phase: 500m from the temporary construction compounds and onshore substation. Operation and maintenance phase (onshore substation): 1km from the onshore substation site boundary. Operation and maintenance phase (wind turbine generators (WTGs)): 20km from the offshore WTGs. |
| Population and human health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other developments that could result in an environmental and/or socio-economic change that is additive to the effects associated with the Proposed Development. Other developments that result in EMF which are located within 30m of transmission infrastructure (onshore cable corridor, Oakendene substation and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension) associated with the Proposed Development. |
| Socio-economics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK wide (which therefore excludes the Irish Republic land mass). For different receptors different ZoI have been applied for the CEA to ensure direct and indirect cumulative |

| Aspect | Search area extent |
|--|---|
| | effects can be appropriately identified and assessed (see Table 17.8, Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.17)). |
| Soils and agriculture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area within the proposed DCO Order Limits. |
| Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2km radius around the proposed DCO Order Limits to identify plans and projects where cumulative effects associated with direct disturbance or changes in hydrology may be realised. This 2km ensures that the 1km Zol for Rampion 2 alone is accounted for, as would be the overlap of this Zol with the Zol of any other development should the same distance criteria be applied. |
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrinsically considered as part of the assessment of transport effects. |
| Water environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based upon the watercourses which intersect the proposed DCO Order Limits, including a 1km upstream extent from the proposed DCO Order Limits, and the downstream extents of the watercourses to their discharge to sea. |

Stage 2: Long list of other developments onshore

5.13.31 Information has been gathered where possible on other developments from the following data sources:

- The Planning Inspectorate website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/>);
 - ▶ DCOs under the Planning Act 2008; and
 - ▶ Material Changes and Non-Material Changes (NMC) to DCOs under the Planning Act 2008.
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), energy infrastructure portal for Section 36 and Section 37 Electricity Act applications: <https://itportal.beis.gov.uk/EIP/pages/recent.htm> (2005 to 2017) & <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-infrastructure-development-applications-decisions> (2018 - present):
 - ▶ applications for consent under section 36 (s.36) of the Electricity Act 1989;
 - ▶ variations to existing s.36 consents under s.36C of the Electricity Act 1989;
 - ▶ applications made under the Transport and Works Act 1992;
 - ▶ overhead line applications under section 37 (s.37) of the Electricity Act 1989 following a Public Inquiry;
 - ▶ Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) for electricity infrastructure;

- ▶ Directions under section 35 (s.35) of the Planning Act 2008;
- ▶ EIA screening and scoping opinions under the Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017;
- ▶ Safety Zones for offshore renewable energy installations under the Energy Act 2004;
- Requests made to the Transport and Works Act 1992 Orders Unit at the Department for Transport (DfT) for Transport and Works Act 1992 applications: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/transport-and-works-act-team>;
- Local authorities' direct requests and planning portals (or appropriate methods) and Local Plans⁵. Local authority boundaries in the locality of the Rampion 2 development area are mapped in **Figure 2.1, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.2) and **Figure 5.2, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.5):
 - ▶ South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), working in partnership with local authorities within the National Park (<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-applications/>);
 - ▶ West Sussex County Council (WSCC) (minerals and waste applications; <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/find-a-planning-application/>);
 - ▶ Arun District Council (<https://www.arun.gov.uk/weekly-lists/>);
 - ▶ Horsham District Council (<https://public-access.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/>);
 - ▶ Mid Sussex District Council (<https://pa.midsussex.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple>);
 - ▶ Adur District Council (shares planning site with Worthing Borough Council) (<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning/applications/view/>);
 - ▶ Worthing Borough Council (shares planning site with Adur District Council) (<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning/applications/view/>);
 - ▶ Chichester District Council (<https://chichester.gov.uk/viewplanningapplications>); and
 - ▶ Lewes District Council (<https://planningpa.lewes.gov.uk/online-applications/>); and
- Developer and/or project proponent websites, where available.

5.13.32 The following criteria has been applied to the search for other developments onshore:

⁵ Sites identified within Local Plans will generally not be assessed directly due to lack of detailed information, but any planning applications for allocated sites are included.

- Spatially, the search area is defined by the largest extent of the individual Zols identified in **Table 5-10**. This may be refined as the design develops.
- Temporally, the search is limited to the five years preceding the date of this ES. Five years is selected as planning permissions typically expire after a period of three to five years (unless an application for extension is permitted). Any permissions prior to this will be presumed to have elapsed or have been implemented and therefore form part of the baseline.

Stage 3: Screening of the onshore long list

Screening process

- 5.13.33 The initial screening exercise of the other developments collated for the long list is based upon the following:
- the location and proximity to Rampion 2 with respect to the relevant Zols for each type of impact;
 - Tier 1 or 2 developments under Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate, 2019) ‘other existing development and/or approved development’, and Tier 3 where sufficient information is available to include in the assessment under the themes of (refer to **Table 5-6** for definitions of Tiers):
 - ▶ residential developments of >50 dwellings;
 - ▶ energy infrastructure (all);
 - ▶ developments which fall under Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations 2017; and
 - ▶ local plan sites.
 - Professional judgement of the likely impacts based on the nature and scale of the development and information available in the public domain at the time of assessment.
- 5.13.34 The search and screening criteria for the onshore CEA are further described in **Appendix 5.3: Cumulative effects assessment detailed onshore search and screening criteria, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.3). Following screening of the long list, the onshore CEA short list was produced (see **Appendix 5.4: Cumulative effects assessment shortlisted developments, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.4)).

Stage 4: Level of detail of onshore CEA

- 5.13.35 Following generation of the screened short list in Stage 3, it is reviewed by each technical aspect in relation to their Zols (shown in **Table 5-9**) to identify the ‘other developments’ which have the potential to result in cumulative effects with Rampion 2. All ‘other developments’ falling outside the Zol will be excluded and not carried forward for assessment. The aspect specific shortlists are set out in **Chapters 17: Socio-economics to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.17 to 6.2.29).

Stage 5: Assessment of other developments onshore

- 5.13.36 **Chapters 17: Socio-economics to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.17 to 6.2.29) set out the assessment of 'other developments' screened in using a tiered approach for categorisation identified in **Table 5-6** and **paragraphs 5.13.15 to 5.13.17**.

Stage 6: Environmental measures

- 5.13.37 Environmental measures have been developed for Rampion 2 impacts that contribute to cumulative effects and measures already identified in the EIA will be considered. Where appropriate, additional measures have been identified where practicable to avoid, minimise, or reduce the contribution of Rampion 2 impacts to significant cumulative effects. These additional measures have been embedded into the design. Where appropriate, monitoring has been suggested to deal with uncertainty in conclusions and would be discussed and agreed with consultees and other stakeholders. **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) sets out those measures identified at this stage.

5.14 Transboundary effects assessment

- 5.14.1 Transboundary effects arise when impacts from a development within one European Economic Area (EEA) state affects the environment of another EEA state(s). The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) '*Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*' was adopted in 1991 and entered into force on 10 September 1997 and is known as the 'Espoo Convention'. The Espoo Convention was negotiated to enhance the cooperation between EEA states in assessing environmental effects in a transboundary context. The Espoo Convention has been implemented by the EIA Directive and transposed into UK law for NSIPs by way of the EIA Regulations 2017, specifically under Regulation 32 which sets out the process for consultation and notification.
- 5.14.2 Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that where the SoS is of the view that a development that is the subject of an EIA is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another EEA State a notification is made by the SoS to that other EEA State.
- 5.14.3 As set out in Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Process (Planning Inspectorate, 2020c), the role of the Planning Inspectorate, where an NSIP has been identified as an EIA development, includes the screening for likely significant effects on the environment of another EEA State. Screening may take place at any time when new relevant information becomes available. Where a likely significant effect on the environment of any other EEA State(s) is identified, the role of the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS includes the identification of EEA State(s) to be notified, notification of these states, consultation with EEA States, and notification to the EEA State(s) of the outcome of the application for development consent.
- 5.14.4 Whilst the UK is no longer an EEA state the relevant regulations have been amended to reflect this change and to ensure that they continue to apply in terms of the need to assess transboundary effects.

- 5.14.5 The scoping exercise undertaken for the Proposed Development and presented in the Scoping Report identified that Rampion 2 may potentially have transboundary interactions with EEA States, France, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The Scoping Report identified six environmental aspects in relation to which a transboundary effect on other EEA States could conceivably arise as a result of the Proposed Development. The Scoping Report concluded that on the basis of the current information, there was the potential for significant effects arising from the Proposed Development on the interests of EEA States and as such transboundary effects may arise. Those impacts for which a transboundary effect may arise, and which are therefore have been screened into the EIA, are as follows:
- fish and shellfish ecology;
 - marine mammals;
 - ornithology;
 - commercial fisheries;
 - shipping and navigation; and
 - other marine users.
- 5.14.6 The transboundary assessment for each aspect has been progressed and is set out in the relevant technical aspect chapters (**Chapters 6: Coastal processes to 29: Climate change, Volume 2** of the ES (Document References: 6.2.6 to 6.2.29)).

5.15 Inter-related effects

- 5.15.1 Paragraph 5(2)(e) of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that the EIA consider the interaction of environmental effects associated with the Proposed Development. The inter-related effects assessment considers likely significant effects from multiple impacts and activities from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of Rampion 2 on the same receptor, or group of receptors. The inter-related effects assessment does not include effects on receptors as a result of Rampion 2 and other developments, which is assessed within the CEA.
- 5.15.2 Inter-related effects can be the following:
- **Project lifetime effects:** i.e., those arising throughout more than one phase of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning) to interact to potentially create a more significant effect on a receptor than if just one phase were assessed in isolation; and
 - **Receptor led effects:** assessment of the scope for all effects to interact, spatially and temporally, to create inter-related effects on a receptor (or group). Receptor-led effects might be short term, temporary or transient effects, or incorporate longer term effects.
- 5.15.3 Common receptors for environmental aspects have been identified, and consideration given to whether the aspect effects on any common receptors are likely to combine. This consideration looked at:

- identification of the common receptor(s) from the individual aspect assessments;
- identification of impact source pathways that can affect the common receptor(s);
- identification of potential effects on the identified common receptor(s); and
- the inter-related effects across the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases where appropriate.

- 5.15.4 It should be noted that some elements of the assessment inherently consider inter-related effects. For example, the terrestrial ecology and nature conservation assessment of effects takes into account the potential for multiple impacts affecting particular features such as disturbance effects on faunal receptors resulting from noise and vibration, visual disturbance, and lighting. Where this is the case, this is described within the individual aspect chapter.
- 5.15.5 The inter-related effects assessment identifies any significant residual inter-related effects (and non-significant effects, greater than negligible or neutral significance, which could combine to create a perceivably significant effect) on common receptors or receptor groups set out in individual aspect assessments, and qualitatively comment on the potential for actual or perceived significant residual effects for such receptors. This has been informed by an over-arching matrix setting out where aspects have reached an assessment of relevant effects per receptor or receptor group, followed by a narrative explaining the effects for each receptor.
- 5.15.6 The inter-related effects assessment for each environmental aspect is set out in **Chapter 30: Inter-related effects, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.30).

5.16 Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Table 5-11 Glossary of terms and abbreviations

| Term (acronym) | Definition |
|--|--|
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) | Land protected for conservation and preservation under section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for its natural beauty. |
| Aspect | Used to refer to the individual environmental topics. |
| Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) | International membership organisation for ecology and environmental management professionals. |
| Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) | The process of the government, Councils or statutory bodies taking rights over, or purchasing property. |
| Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) | Assessment of impacts as a result of the incremental changes caused by other past, present and reasonably foreseeable human activities and natural processes together with the Proposed Development. |
| Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) | Department of His Majesty's Government responsible for handling climate change and energy policy. DECC became part of Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in July 2016. |
| Department for Transport (DfT) | Department of His Majesty's Government responsible for the English transport network. |
| Development Consent Order (DCO) | This is the means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, under the Planning Act 2008. |
| Early engagement | Engaging with stakeholders in the early stages of the EIA process for the Proposed Development. |
| Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline'). |
| Environmental Statement (ES) | The written output presenting the full findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment. |
| European Economic Area (EEA) | Member States of the European Union (EU) and three countries of the European Free Trade Association |

| Term (acronym) | Definition |
|--|---|
| Evidence Plan Process (EPP) | (EFTA) (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; excluding Switzerland). |
| Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) | Expert groups established as part of the Evidence Plan Process to discuss and agree the evidence and assessment requirements for each EIA and HRA topic area identified. |
| Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) | The assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European Site, the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site. |
| Habitat Regulations | EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC, known as the Habitats Directive, was transposed in the UK by the Habitats Regulations 1994. Since 1994 the Habitats Regulations have been amended to The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Offshore Marine Regulations') (for plans and projects beyond UK territorial waters (12 nautical miles), also as amended). The Habitats Regulations apply to UK land and territorial waters and act to ensure biodiversity of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna through a range of measures including designation of SACs. |
| Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) | A trenchless crossing engineering technique that uses a drill steered underground without the requirement for open trenches. This technique is often employed when crossing environmentally sensitive areas, major water courses and highways. This method is able to be carried out underground for the installation of pipes and cables with minimal surface disruption. |
| Institute of Environmental management and Assessment (IEMA) | International membership organisation for environment and sustainability professionals. |
| Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) | The maximum design scenario represents the worst case scenario for each aspect whilst allowing the flexibility to make improvements in the future in ways that cannot be |

| Term (acronym) | Definition |
|--|---|
| | predicted at the time of submission of the DCO Application. |
| Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) | The average throughout the year, of two successive high waters, during a 24-hour period in each month when the range of the tide is at its greatest. |
| Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) | The UK Government department responsible for housing supply, public services and local planning. |
| National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) | The Commission carries out in-depth studies into the UK's major infrastructure needs and makes recommendations to the government. |
| National Policy Statements (NPSs) | <p>Part 2 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out the national policy against which NSIP applications are assessed. NPSs set out guidance to inform the decision-making process for NSIPs. NPSs relevant to energy generation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (DECC, 2011a); • National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (DECC, 2011b); and • National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (EN-5) (DECC, 2011c). |
| Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) | Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are major infrastructure developments in England and Wales which are consented by DCO under the Planning Act 2008. These include proposals for offshore wind farms with an installed capacity over 100MW. |
| Non-Material Changes (NMC) | NMCs are considered substantial yet minor changes to a DCO. These changes must be reflected however, do not pose a requirement for re-application, as would be the case within a material change. |
| Non-statutory consultation | A process by which consultees are provided with information on the Proposed Development. This is not a legal requirement, but consultees are assumed to have an interest in the Proposed Development. |
| Non-statutory consultee | Bodies that are not required to be consulted by law but are likely to have an interest in the proposed development. |
| Planning Inspectorate (PINS) | The Planning Inspectorate is the government agency supervising the planning process for NSIPs under the |

| Term (acronym) | Definition |
|---|--|
| | <p>Planning Act 2008. The purpose of the PINS is to provide expertise on planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England and Wales.</p> |
| <p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)</p> | <p>The written output of the preliminary environmental assessments as required under the Infrastructure Planning ‘Environmental Impact Assessment’ Regulations 2017. It is developed to support public statutory consultation and presents the preliminary findings of the assessment to allow an informed view to be developed of the Proposed Development, the assessment approach that has been undertaken, draw preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development and environmental measures proposed.</p> |
| <p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report Supplementary Information Report (PEIR SIR)</p> | <p>The PEIR SIR was prepared to inform the second Statutory Consultation exercise held between 18 October 2022 to 19 November 2022. The PEIR SIR provides supplementary environmental information associated with further alternatives onshore routing options and modifications as a result of design evolution from the consultation process. The PEIR SIR is to be read in conjunction with the PEIR.</p> |
| <p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report Further Supplementary Information Report (PEIR FSIR)</p> | <p>The PEIR Further Supplementary Information Report (FSIR) identified and provided further preliminary environmental information associated with the proposed alternative route option identified since the publication of the original PEIR and PEIR SIR in July 2021 and October 2022 respectively (RED, 2021; 2022).</p> |
| <p>Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)</p> | <p>The written output of the Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken for the fourth Statutory Consultation exercise on the Proposed Development.</p> |
| <p>Project Liaison Groups (PLGs)</p> | <p>Groups provided to bring together various interest groups to encourage the sharing of information, discussion and feedback relating to the Proposed Development with the Rampion 2 project team. PLGs are encouraged to share information with the wider community to provide feedback to the project across various areas of interest.</p> |
| <p>Proposed Development</p> | <p>The development that is subject to the application for development consent, as described in Chapter 4: The</p> |

| Term (acronym) | Definition |
|---|---|
| SDNPA | <p>Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).</p> |
| Secretary of State | <p>The Secretary of State of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy oversees the planning system and decision making with regards to development consent. This agent works within the relevant government department relating to the application.</p> |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | <p>Sites designated at the national level under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They are a series of sites that are designated to protect the best examples of significant natural habitats and populations of species.</p> |
| SoCG | <p>Statement of Common Ground</p> |
| Statutory consultation | <p>A process by which consultees are provided with information and are given the ability to comment on the Proposed Development. This is required by law under the Planning Act 2008.</p> |
| Statutory consultee | <p>Specific bodies legally required to be consulted on the Proposed Development under the Planning Act 2008.</p> |
| Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) | <p>Unexploded ordnance are explosive weapons (bombs, shells, grenades, land mines, naval mines, etc.) that did not explode when they were deployed and still pose a risk of detonation, potentially many decades after they were used or discarded.</p> |
| UNECE | <p>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</p> |
| WSCC | <p>West Sussex County Council</p> |
| WTG | <p>Wind turbine generator</p> |

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5.17 References

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