RAMPION 2
ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION

Adequacy of Pre-Application Consultations (AoC)on the Rampion 2 Windfarm Development Consent Order (DCO) Proposal

CowfoldvRampion and Cowfold Residents
cowfoldvrampion@gmail.com

Version 5.
10 Aug 2023

Contents

Item 1-Communication to Planning Inspectorate 21 Dec 2022

Covering Letter

Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of local residents in Cowfold to voice our serious concerns about the significant failures of the whole consultation process for the Rampion 2 off-shore wind farm. The Parish Council confirms that there has been almost no consultation with this parish and that there is a very low level of awareness and understanding of the project in the community despite two years of supposed consultation.

Please see the attached letter detailing the reasons why we feel that, with respect to this community at least, the process has not met the statutory requirements of adequate consultation and should be rejected.

yours faithfully
Meera Smethurst

[redacted]

15th December 2022

Dear Sir

Reasons to reject the validity of the Rampion 2 consultation process:

I am writing on behalf of the residents of Picts Lane, Kent St, Moatfield/Kings Lane and the A272 adjacent to the proposed Oakendene substation. (To be referred to as the group most affected).

We do not believe the Rampion 2 consultation process has complied with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008, sections 47-50. It has failed on all 4 of the Gunning Principles, with respect to its duty to inform the residents of the whole parish of Cowfold, and therefore should be rejected in its entirety to allow informed and meaningful consultation to take place.

We believe that Rampion has a statutory duty to complete the consultation to a certain pre-determined standard, which they have failed on a number of points. Neither have they complied with the Gunning Principals. Please refer to Appendices 1 and 2.

The Cowfold community has not been adequately consulted at any stage of this process, which seems to be largely due to the ineffective nature of the publicity and insufficient efforts to distribute it.

The preconsultation stage:

In August 2020 Rampion submitted their Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. In it (Page 2 of appendix 1 of that document) they listed the councils with whom they had 'Formally Consulted'. What form that formal consultation took is not specified, but Cowfold Parish Council were among those they apparently contacted but who did not respond. The clerk to the Parish Council tells me that they have no record of any email or letter sent to them from Rampion at that time. This would not then appear to have been a significant effort at consultation, if at all. At best, if indeed Cowfold Parish Council did receive some sort of communication from Rampion, the information received by them would not appear to have been formal enough or clear enough for them to appreciate the significance of what they were sent. Locally, only those parish councils previously affected by Rampion 1 appear to have understood this, and replied. i.e., not by the clarity of the information received, but from their previous experience.

The first round of consultation:

We are encouraged to participate in a consultation process from an early stage. That is only possible if made aware the consultation is taking place. There is significant disconnect between what the residents of the roads around the vicinity of Oakendene have received and what Rampion claim to have sent out, but what they cannot dispute is their own Statement of Community Consultation [attachment 1], in particular pages 11-16 showing the population they have supposedly contacted in

a way which can enable an informed understanding of the proposal. That should include all those properties within a 3km radius of the proposed substation sites. The parish of Cowfold falls within a 3km radius of the proposed Oakendene substation site and those of us in the most affected group actually live within a 3km radius of **all three** substation sites considered in the initial proposal. [Attachment 2]. We therefore all live within Zone 1, and some of us also live within Zone 2 being within 1 km of the proposed cable route.

Some residents, but not all, of Kings Lane and Kent Street would appear to have received a leaflet in 2021, but again, it was not apparent to them, from the vagueness of the information, how the proposals might affect them and they did not recognise it as something important. The information was not designed to encourage engagement. It would appear not to have been designed to inform. It would appear to have been sent out as a tick-box exercise to show they had consulted. Only those in the neighbouring parishes of Bolney and Twineham, and along the previous route of the Rampion 1 cable, understood the significance of what they received. They engaged because of their previous experience, not because of the clarity of the information sent. It has to be investigated whether the literature was designed to manipulate the responses, to favour the Oakendene site.

The remainder of the parish, including the arguably most affected locations around the proposed substation site, received nothing at this stage. This leaflet would appear to have been the totality of the engagement with Cowfold residents until the final 6 weeks of the whole consultation process i.e., October 2022. The Parish Council confirm that no public meetings with residents were held in the village hall, there were no posters, no documents for perusal in Cowfold, no pictures of the substation, no artist's impression or model. The closest location to this parish where documents were on public display was Henfield Library, some 5-6 miles away, but nothing in Cowfold to indicate it was there.

Yet the parish of Cowfold, and in particular the group most affected, should have been amongst the populations who were engaged with the most, being a principal location where onshore infrastructure will remain above ground. Rampion are required by law to take into account the responses from the public. This must include a lack of response. Their publicity team should have picked up on this a year ago and realised their failure to comply with their duty to publicise, inform and meaningfully engage with those people in the vicinity.

The final round of consultation:

The decision would appear to have been made at some stage to use the Oakendene site for the substation. We in Cowfold therefore fall well within the original 3km consultation area Zone 1 (for those most affected) and should therefore have been involved from the very outset of the process. Yet almost **nobody** who falls within this 3km radius in the Cowfold segment of the circle seems to have heard anything about it. For this final consultation period, Zone 1 was reduced to 1km from the substation. This still includes most residents to the east of Cowfold, including the businesses on the industrial estate. [attachment 3].

Some, but not all, of us directly adjacent to the Oakendene site received a letter from Carter Jonas sent on 14th October 2022, and some areas of Cowfold received an innocuous looking leaflet from Rampion. Many people had thought the latter was junk mail as it arrived in a bundle of unsolicited advertisements and they discarded it; it certainly did not look like anything important. At best it complied with a tick box exercise to 'inform' people. For such a significant project,' junk mail' leaflets of this kind, sent out just a month before the end of the 18-month consultation period, cannot constitute adequate consultation. People cannot be considered to have been informed unless they

received, in an acceptable timeframe, a letter with either their name on the envelope or at the very least an appellation of 'the occupier' at each named address concerned. And most importantly the leaflet [attachment 4] is misleading: the route of the cable is clearly shown as going all the way to Wineham, not stopping at Oakendene, and **it does not even mention the substation,** in either words or pictures; the graphic on the front was of an off-shore windfarm. Cowfold is the only place where there will be any lasting infrastructure above ground and the leaflet was of a generic nature, yet the guidance suggests that the information provided should be a "high level description of the type and size of the development and include a map of sufficient size and scale to clearly identify the proposed location of the development". If their argument is that the site of the substation had already been identified by this stage, then Rampion should be closely questioned as to when that appropriate information about the substation proposals was previously sent out and to whom, and what form it took.

The envelope from Carter Jonas contained a large quantity of irrelevant maps with street names, numbers, and house names, even the word Cowfold and land mark labels, greyed out or removed. It was extremely difficult to understand what they meant or where they referred to.

We have consulted businesses on the Oakendene estate. They received the same large envelope but many found it too difficult to make sense of and some discarded them. The information sent out was contrary to the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, which calls for clear, accessible and non-technical information. Some of those who tried to respond to the consultation online failed to be able to complete the process as they found it too difficult and gave up. Indeed, this would appear to be a common complaint. I would add that the online form requires a two-step confirmation via email, which will also reduce the number of successful submissions. The businesses on the Oakendene industrial estate are very much against the substation as they are concerned for their livelihoods but they do not feel they have had a voice.

The leafletting of Zone 1 residents seems to have been patchy and only at the eleventh hour. Yet **all** the residents will be affected by the serious congestion on the A272 for several years. I know that residents who live in the areas which have not been leafletted, are very concerned they have not been contacted. They do not appear to have been aware of the consultation process taking place over the recent years. It is facile for Rampion to suggest that, just because the lorries will not come through the village, there will be no impact on it. It also does not reflect their promise in the statement of community consultation.

The only meeting to have been held in a location at all close to Cowfold, was in Ashurst on 11th November. By this stage the decision to locate the substation at Oakendene had already been made and so their discussion focussed on the cable route. There was nothing to convey in an accessible way any idea of what the substation might look like: no pictures or artist's impression, no diagrams or even plans of the substation itself. Certainly not the video of the construction of Rampion 1, which we managed to find on the consultation website after the end of the consultation process. At that meeting the representatives from the Rampion team seemed to be unaware of the fact that Kent Street was a single-track lane and unsuitable for HGV traffic. They did not seem to be aware that the A272 at this particular stretch of the road was backed up with queuing traffic all the way to Cowfold twice a day at rush hour, or that it is the exact part of this road with the worst traffic accident data for some distance largely due to the speeds and the fact that people travelling along it do not expect vehicles to turn in and out of the several side roads along this part of the A272. Their ignorance of these facts would strongly indicate that up to that point they had had little meaningful engagement with, or responses from, the local people, as those are issues of major local concern.

Consistently, throughout the process, much of the information when it has been received, has been either too technical or too vague, and has not been presented in a way which would encourage engagement as it has seemed at best complicated or irrelevant, and often misleading and disarming. Almost all references to the location of the substation in their consultation information which is available online referred to it as the substation at Bolney or more recently at Oakendene. Yet Oakendene falls well within the parish of Cowfold, and should be referred to as such in a clear way for the avoidance of doubt.

When RWE were emailed by a local resident requesting details of the substation plans, he received a reply listing numerous large documents where 'a graphic' might be located. It took over an hour to find this in an incomprehensible mire of paperwork and, once discovered, it turned out to be a complicated diagram, incomprehensible to most lay people, and certainly not clearly conveying the extent of the construction. This is another example of their failure to use plain English, clear pictures and to present information in an easily accessible way.

The same email, [attachment 5], states that 'Picts Lane had not been identified as being impacted by the traffic'. This proves that the residents of Picts Lane had not previously been consulted, even though within the 1km Zone 1 consultation boundary, because if they had been, they would certainly have made their concerns known, as indeed they are now doing. Picts Lane is a single-track lane, with mud verges which is used as a cut through when there is an accident on the A272 or when the road is not moving well. This lane then becomes gridlocked and impassable and dangerous to navigate.

A public meeting was organised by Cowfold Parish Council on 23rd November with Rampion as a result of these concerns. A show of hands at the meeting demonstrated that very few people knew anything about this project until the meeting and therefore certainly not before the Consultation Exercise had already discounted 2 of the 3 possible sites. It was also far too late to allow 'intelligent consideration' and fails the first three Gunning Principles. Please refer to Appendix 2.

This meeting with Rampion was held less than a week before the end of the final consultation period. Most of the intervening days were covered by a postal strike. They agreed at the meeting to extend the deadline by two weeks. Whether they did this for postal responses, we do not know, but the online response service closed at midnight on 29th November as originally planned.

The people of Cowfold are not against the idea of wind-powered energy, but they have clearly not been given the opportunity to have participated in this consultation, including in the earlier stages of the process when important decisions were made. They have therefore not been given a chance to influence the plan. Few people in the village had any knowledge of the previous consultation which appears to have imposed this decision on us. This cannot be deemed adequate consultation, even by their own criteria, for a project of this magnitude.

The delivery of information even within the area immediately adjacent to the proposed substation has been very poor. Only some of these residents ever received the Carter Jonas letter; this is not good enough. Furthermore, why, if deemed necessary to inform us in this way as we are so closely affected, was this letter not sent out at the very beginning, not almost at the end? A major landowner immediately to the north of the A272, and well within the 3km radius, has received nothing at all and yet he will be severely affected. It is not good enough when considering a population amongst those most likely to be severely affected both by the final result, but also by the traffic during the construction, for Rampion to argue that there were articles in local papers and on

their website. Such publicity mainly focussed on the offshore site and the cable route, rather than the substation.

Rampion tell us that the people they employed to send out information at the earlier stage of consultation assured them that all local people had been contacted. Surely if the consultation had been properly conducted, data regarding the responses would have been collected and the lack of response from anyone so close to the only part of this development which will remain above ground should have rung alarm bells. Perhaps this is the reason behind Carter Jonas sending letters to us on 14th October? Given the significant number of responses they had from Cowfold residents in the final stages of the consultation, once some of them had finally become aware the consultation was taking place, it would not be unreasonable to believe that, if we had heard about it earlier on, we would have made our views known sooner, i.e., in the original consultation.

They have failed in their duty to engage properly with this community and failed to make their publicity truly informative or easy to understand. What they have sent has not been delivered in a timely manner. It should be noted that even if they are somehow able to prove that they contacted **all** the residents within Zone 1 in each consultation period, that communication, by its presentation and lack of clarity, clearly failed in its obligation to meet the requirements to give sufficient information to allow intelligent consideration.

We plan to reinforce this evidence by surveying the parish to ascertain their level of understanding of the project, but believe there is a significant percentage of the village who even now remain unaware of the project. Unfortunately, time is not on our side, so we are obliged to submit this without such data. However, Rampion should be asked to demonstrate with detailed facts and figures, exactly who was consulted and how and when, what their responses were and where they came from. In September 2021 our MP Andrew Griffith, wrote to Rampion [attachment 6] highlighting many concerns about the failure of the consultation process and including a survey showing widespread ignorance of the plans across the county. Perhaps the maps and leaflets received here were a further tick-box exercise to show they had improved. But if the information was not fit for purpose, and that was all they did to engage locally, they have failed again.

Environmental survey of proposed substation sites:

In 2021 Rampion conducted a ‘desktop ‘environmental survey of the proposed offshore and on shore sites to be considered. This was heavily criticised in its rationale in the report by the Wildlife Trusts and Sussex wildlife Trust in September 2021. Rampion stated that they would carry out a proper environmental survey and that the decision as to which site would be used for the substation location would take into account community feedback, environmental, technical and economic considerations [attachment 7]. Community feedback has been heavily skewed to support the use of the Oakendene site for the reasons detailed above. Whilst they appear to have carried out further surveys on the offshore site and cable route, they **do not appear to have surveyed the potential substation sites**, yet they have made the decision to use Oakendene. Without a proper survey, the public were unable to participate in making informed comments regarding which site they preferred and the consultation should be revisited once a survey has been carried out. Sussex Wildlife Trust have noted the presence of a significant number of Nightingale breeding sites in this area. It is also the only location with an adjacent lake, which might therefore also have a unique environmental significance. The owner of Oakendene confirms that Rampion have not yet completed an Environmental Survey of the site on his land and that the results so far have not been made available to him.

Failure of transparency:

Finally, but perhaps most worryingly, there are landowners along the cable route, who have been willing to speak to us, and no doubt many more who are too scared to speak, who have been threatened with compulsory purchase if they did not agree to sell. This threat is of course simply not true at this stage of the consultation, before it has even been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. When they were frightened into acceptance, they were forbidden to talk about it and made to sign non-disclosure agreements. This bullying behaviour cannot be considered acceptable practice in what is supposed to be an open, fair and informed public consultation about a major infrastructure project.

Relevant Details of the 2008 Planning Act

The Government's stated underlying approach is one of transparency, information participation and access to justice. We do not recognise these features within Rampion's approach.

We understand that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) must be satisfied that the promoter has properly complied with the pre-application requirements of the Planning Act before it can accept the application, and promoters must be prepared to justify how they have fulfilled them.

We do not believe that the provisions of the Act have been met for the following reasons:

- The system should be transparent and accessible to all and allow members of the public to influence the way projects ae developed by providing feedback on potential options.
- It is important for communities to participate early, when proposals and options are still being developed. In principle, therefore, the promoters should consult initially as soon as it is possible to provide sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the proposal properly.
- It is important to have an effective process in place for information sharing, in both directions.
- Rampion have not effectively informed local communities as to what they can expect and the impact it will have on their livelihoods and communities, nor actively encouraged them to get involved in the process and have their views heard; quite the contrary.
- Sections 42-44 of the Act requires promoters to consult with local authorities, people with interest in the land or who may be significantly affected by the proposals.
- It is recommended that promoters engage early with bodies with technical information, ideally as part of the project design development process. There has been limited if any information regarding technical data/reports from expert bodies to identify and comment on the social, environmental and economic impacts of the proposals, with respect to the substation.
- Promoters will also need to identify and consult people who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question or who could be affected by proposals in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation. This will give such parties early notice of the proposals and an opportunity to express their views regarding them. On the contrary, compulsory land orders have been threatened at this early stage.
- The consultation process must be legitimate. Local authorities will have to consider the adequacy of the consultation under Section 55(5), which defines an adequate consultation representation as a representation about whether the applicant has complied with Sections 42,47 and 48 of the Act. Any such representations must be about how the promoter carried

out the consultation, and may not be about how the promoter has had regard to responses to consultation.

- According to Section 55 of the act, it is important that Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the Act and in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: prescribed forms and procedures) regulations 2009 are complied with during the process, before the application can be accepted.

The Consultation should have consisted of:

- A map of sufficient size and scale to clearly identify the proposed location of the development
- A high-level description of the type and size of the development
- An outline of the project options, including alternatives already considered
- Information sufficient for the relevant consultee to assess the impacts of the proposals on the area of interest
- Details of any hazardous materials needed during the construction or operation of the development
- Information regarding any compulsory purchase of land that may be needed and where relevant, any land to be given in exchange
- The document should be written in clear, accessible and non-technical language. The document sent from Carter Jonas was far from clear.

We urge you to reject the validity of the consultation process and to require it to be reopened from the beginning

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

On behalf of the residents of Cowfold neighbouring the proposed Oakendene substation site.

Appendix 1

The Planning Act 2008 - Extracts

Sections 42-44 of the Act require promoters to consult local authorities, people with an interest in the land or who may be significantly affected by proposals, and bodies prescribed in secondary legislation (statutory consultees are set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms & Procedures).

47. Duty to consult local community

(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.

Section 47 of the Act requires promoters to consult people living in “the vicinity of the land”.

Promoters are encouraged to view this requirement from a broad perspective, and aim to capture the

views of those who work in or otherwise use the area, as well as those who live there (for example consulting with small businesses, leisure users and other groups as appropriate to the area in question).

48. Duty to publicise

1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.

2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.

Under S48 of the Act, Regulation 4(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: prescribed forms and procedures) Regulations 2009 sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail. This publicity is an integral part of the local community consultation process and where possible, the first of the two

required advertisements should approximately coincide with the beginning of the consultation with communities under S 47

Section 50(3) of the Act, guidance for pre-application: promoters must have regard to any guidance issued under this section, when complying with the provisions in relation to the pre-application procedure for applications to the IPC

Appendix 2

The Gunning Principles:

A consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

1. proposals are still at a formative stage; a final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by

the decision makers

2. there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration' The information provided must

relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to

provide an informed response

3. there is adequate time for consideration and response There must be sufficient opportunity for

consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation, despite the

widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond

can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation

4. 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is

made Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into

account

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Attachment 1 – Original Rampion 2 Statement of Community Consultation

https://rampion2.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rampion-2-Statement-of-Community-Consultation-07062021-2.pdf

Attachment 2 – Map showing three Substation Locations

Attachment 3- Rampion 2 Updated Statement of Community Consultation

https://rampion2.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Updated-SoCC-Oct-2022.pdf

How to have your say

Response form
Our response form can either be completed online or downloaded and sent by email or via our Freepost address. Printed copies can be collected from libraries and at drop-in events.

Freepost
Send your response form or comments to:
FREEPOST: RAMPION 2

This freepost address is the only text needed on the envelope, no stamp is required.

Email
Comments or electronic copies of the response form should be emailed to:
Rampion2@rwe.com

Please note, we cannot guarantee that responses sent to any other addresses will be considered.

Do you have questions?
Call us free on 0800 2800 886 or email us at **rampion2@rwe.com**

Drop-in events
Meet the team at one of our four drop-in events.

For more information on our consultation visit: **Rampion2.com/consultation**

Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this flyer

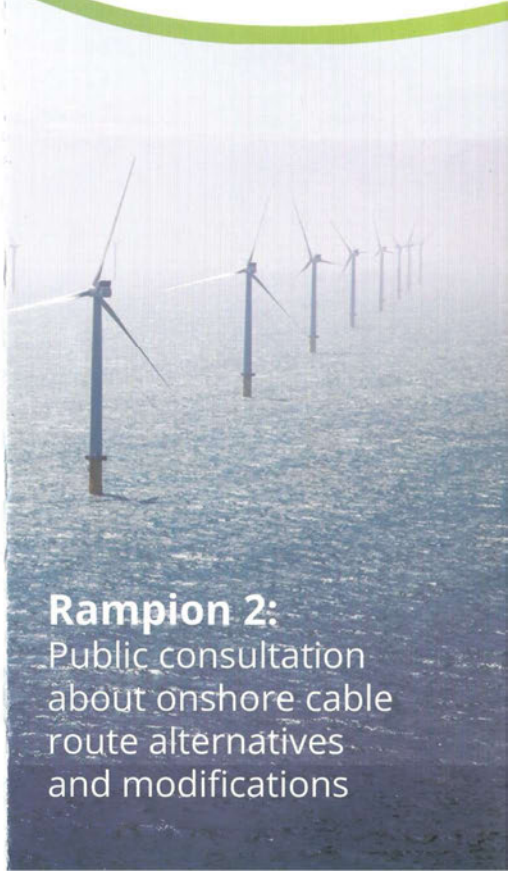
During reinstatement after main construction

This is what our normal cable route looks like as we reinstate the surface after temporary construction. During construction, our work includes excavations, drilling areas, construction compounds and accesses.

After reinstatement

The electricity cable installation would be a temporary impact as all cables are buried underground. We are committed to reinstating the land back to its former condition as soon as we can.

Rampion 2
WIND FARM



Rampion 2:
Public consultation about onshore cable route alternatives and modifications

Over the past months we've been addressing feedback from local communities, organisations and landowners about our proposed offshore wind farm and onshore electrical cable route.

As a result of this feedback, ongoing engagement and further environmental assessments, we want to ask you about some potential alternatives and modifications to our cable route, trenchless crossings with associated construction compounds, and vehicle accesses.

This consultation provides an opportunity to comment on potential changes to our onshore cable route which may be local to your home or business or be somewhere that you visit.

Your feedback will help shape the final proposed route which we expect to take forward to our Development Consent Order application next year (a special type of planning process for large infrastructure projects).

Our consultation is open from 18 October to 29 November 2022

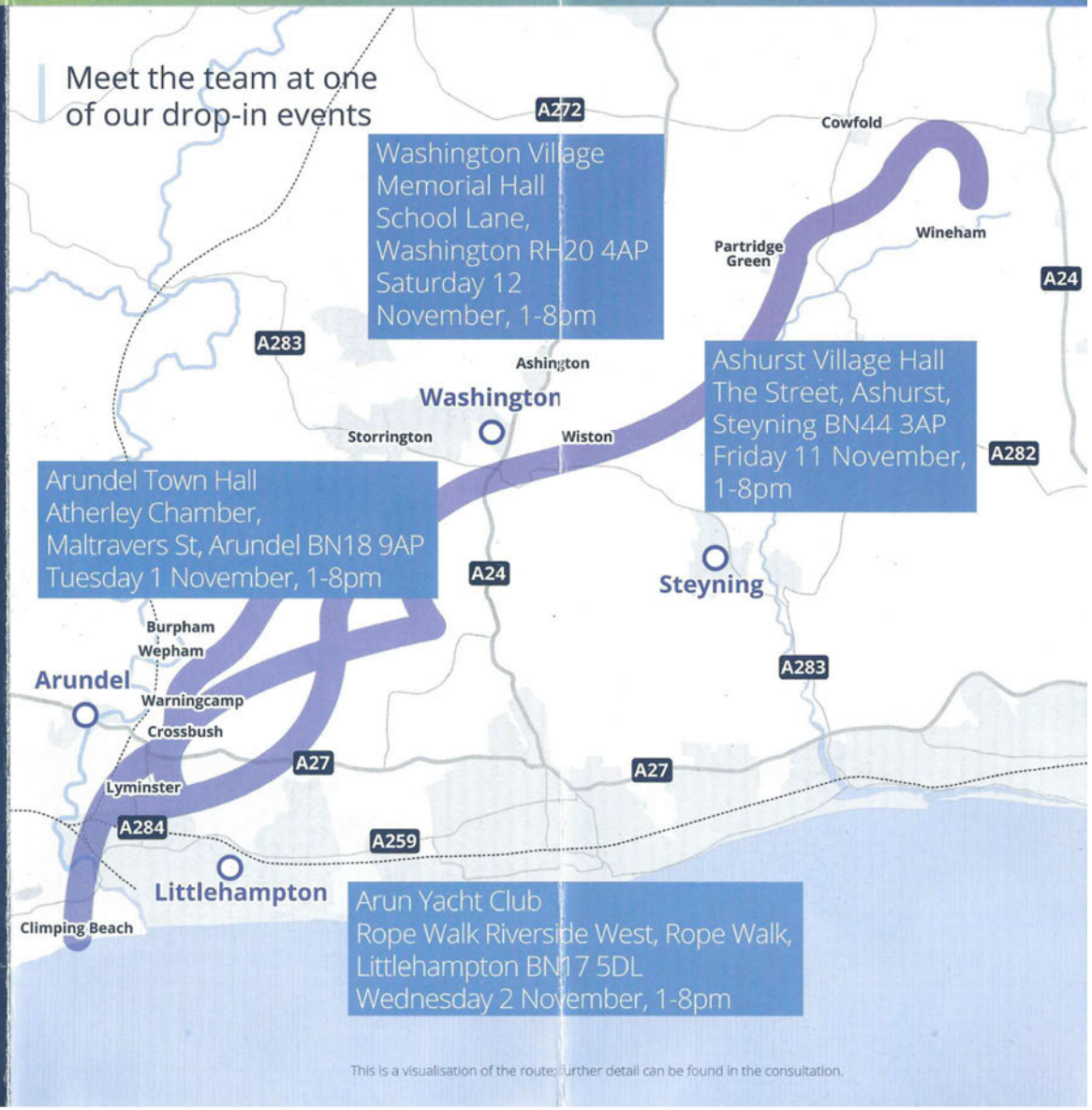
Meet the team at one of our drop-in events

Washington Village Memorial Hall
School Lane, Washington RH20 4AP
Saturday 12 November, 1-8pm

Ashurst Village Hall
The Street, Ashurst, Steyning BN44 3AP
Friday 11 November, 1-8pm

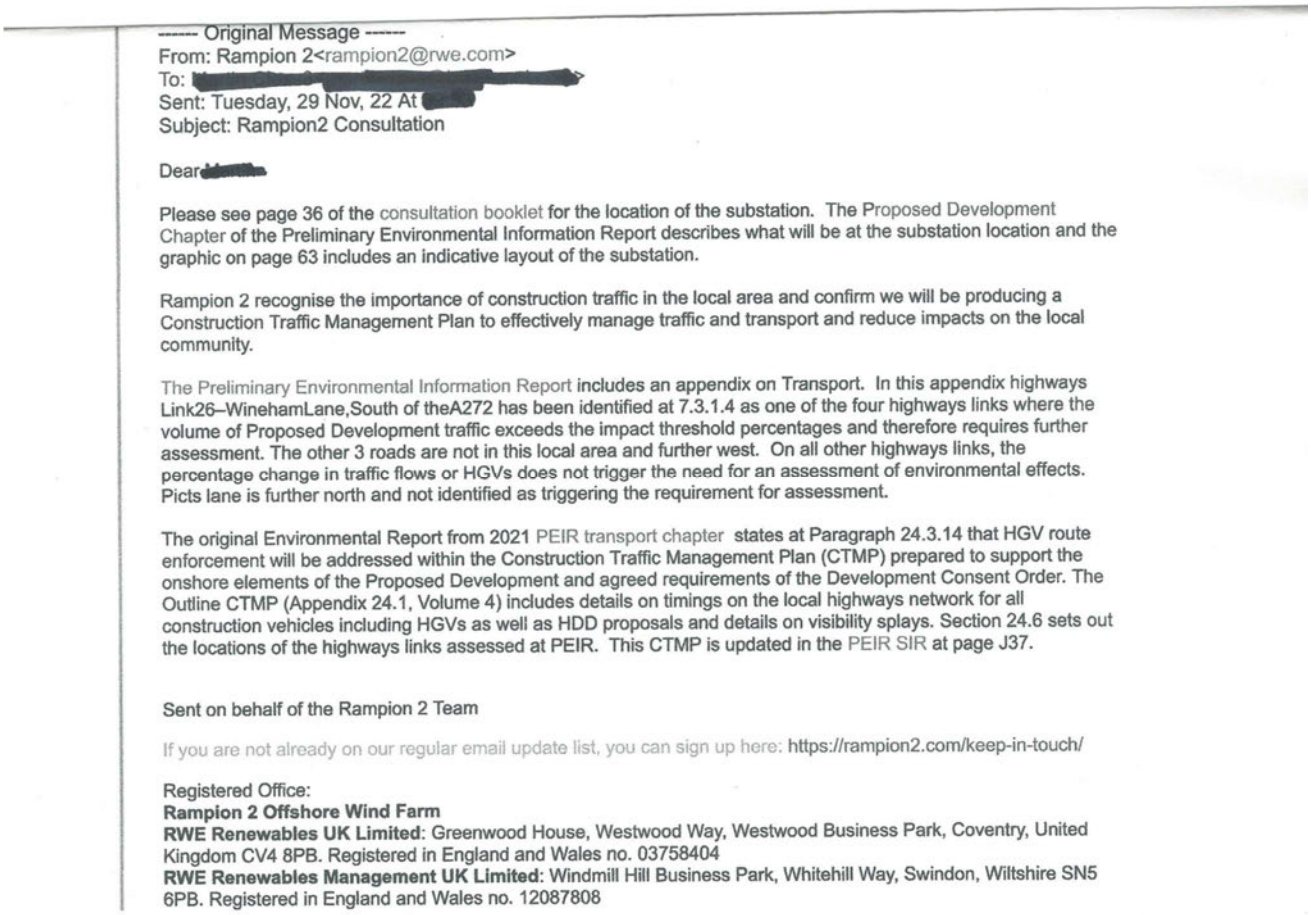
Arundel Town Hall
Atherley Chamber, Maltravers St, Arundel BN18 9AP
Tuesday 1 November, 1-8pm

Arun Yacht Club
Rope Walk Riverside West, Rope Walk, Littlehampton BN17 5DL
Wednesday 2 November, 1-8pm



This is a visualisation of the route; further detail can be found in the consultation.

Attachment 5 – Rampion email re Picts Lane



------ Original Message ------
From: Rampion 2<rampion2@rwe.com>
To: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 Nov, 22 At [redacted]
Subject: Rampion2 Consultation

Dear [redacted]

Please see page 36 of the consultation booklet for the location of the substation. The Proposed Development Chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report describes what will be at the substation location and the graphic on page 63 includes an indicative layout of the substation.

Rampion 2 recognise the importance of construction traffic in the local area and confirm we will be producing a Construction Traffic Management Plan to effectively manage traffic and transport and reduce impacts on the local community.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report includes an appendix on Transport. In this appendix highways Link26–WinehamLane,South of theA272 has been identified at 7.3.1.4 as one of the four highways links where the volume of Proposed Development traffic exceeds the impact threshold percentages and therefore requires further assessment. The other 3 roads are not in this local area and further west. On all other highways links, the percentage change in traffic flows or HGVs does not trigger the need for an assessment of environmental effects. Picts lane is further north and not identified as triggering the requirement for assessment.

The original Environmental Report from 2021 PEIR transport chapter states at Paragraph 24.3.14 that HGV route enforcement will be addressed within the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) prepared to support the onshore elements of the Proposed Development and agreed requirements of the Development Consent Order. The Outline CTMP (Appendix 24.1, Volume 4) includes details on timings on the local highways network for all construction vehicles including HGVs as well as HDD proposals and details on visibility splays. Section 24.6 sets out the locations of the highways links assessed at PEIR. This CTMP is updated in the PEIR SIR at page J37.

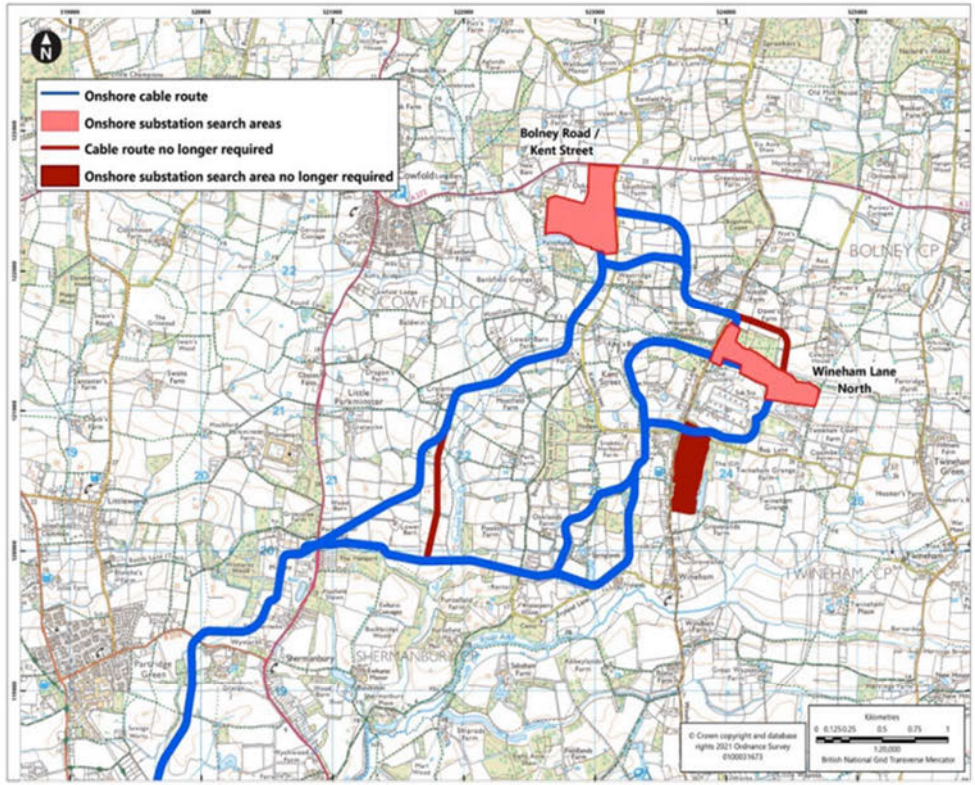
Sent on behalf of the Rampion 2 Team

If you are not already on our regular email update list, you can sign up here: https://rampion2.com/keep-in-touch/

Registered Office:
Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
RWE Renewables UK Limited: Greenwood House, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry, United Kingdom CV4 8PB. Registered in England and Wales no. 03758404
RWE Renewables Management UK Limited: Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 6PB. Registered in England and Wales no. 12087808

Attachment 6 – Andrew Griffith MP – Comments on 2021 Rampion 2 Consultation.

https://www.washingtonparish.org.uk/media/Andrew%20Griffith%20MP%20-%20Comments%20on%202021%20Rampion%202%20Consultation.pdf



Changes since first 'informal' consultation

- Having listened to the feedback from local parish councils and residents, alongside the results of technical and environmental surveys, Wineham Lane South was discounted as it was found to have the most environmental constraints and local community concerns.
- Both Bolney Road / Kent Street and Wineham Lane North substation search areas have been retained within the PEIR Assessment Boundary. Options for the cable route to connect to the substation have been included in the PEIR, as the final cable route selection depends in part on the substation location.
- Final decision will need to take into account community feedback, environmental, technical and economic considerations

RWE

Item 2 Letter to Mike Elkington WSCC – 11 Jan 2023

Dear Sir

I am writing as a resident of Cowfold regarding the consultation process undertaken by Rampion, as I believe it has failed on almost all its obligations to meet the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and the Gunning Principles of Consultation, with regards to the people of Cowfold, and to ask for the consultation to be reopened.
Despite two years of supposed consultation there is widespread ignorance of the project in this village, there having been no engagement with this parish, even those living right next to the proposed substation site, until the eleventh hour. Yet this is the only place where any infrastructure will remain above ground. Some of us did hear before the final deadline, but it was only a few weeks before the end and it is widely agreed that the 'information' was uninformative and even misleading, with no mention of the substation in the leaflet which they sent.

Anxious to get some sort of response in before the cut-off date, some people sent in responses, but then found themselves unable to add further thoughts by sending a second online response because the system did not allow it. This is absolutely contrary to the requirement in the Planning Act to allow time for 'adequate reflection' and **if the process is reopened, permitting multiple responses must be ensured.**

Since the deadline we have had the opportunity to investigate further and would wish to highlight issues which **have not previously been considered** and which may have materially affected the decision -making process had they been able to be raised in the earlier stages, such as

1) The unsuitability of Kent St to take HGVs as it is a single-track lane
2) The A272 at this point is extremely busy, with twice daily queueing traffic and the highest accident rate for some miles. There are already unacceptably high levels of pollution exposure for the houses directly on the A272, as determined by the Imperial College modelling tool, and worsening the queues of stationary traffic will make this worse, putting further put lives at risk
3) Kent Street and Bulls Lane will be used as a 'rat run' to avoid the congestion, again, unsuitable single-track roads
4) There are a considerable number of businesses at the Oakendene industrial estate and along the north side of A272, and they fear for their livelihoods.
5) Wineham Lane is a two-lane road from A272 to the existing substation, i.e. the same size as the A272, but much quieter. Presumably designed so in the 1960s when the original substation was built. There are far fewer businesses there and we would challenge the glib way that Rampion have said that just because their vehicles will not go into Cowfold it won't affect the residents. Of course, it will; and the thousands of other people who use this busy route on a daily basis.
Some, but not all, of the above comments were made before the end of the consultation period, but too late to impact on the decision making as they had already chosen the substation site

Furthermore, since the deadline we have had the time to uncover the extent of the ignorance locally and to realise that the thrust of the consultation has been about the offshore site and the cable route, not the substation sites. **If the consultation is reopened, this must be addressed, with proper engagement of the local communities in the 3km substation zones as they originally promised.**

We have also since been able to recognise the failings in the Environmental Impact Report, in that it did NOT include the substation sites, apart from a desktop search, before choosing the

final site. This is despite saying in their consultation that they would take the full environmental survey into account. We understand it is only now being carried out, at a time of year when they are least likely to find much significance. Yet Sussex Wildlife Trust highlight Nightingale nesting sites at this location, and Natural England's Surveys show evidence of Great Crested Newts. Neither of the other sites originally included in the earlier part of the consultation showed evidence of either of these species. Further, it is the only one of the three sites with a lake, which is therefore likely to have its own unique ecosystem. Without access to the full facts, how can anyone be expected to give the required 'intelligent consideration' to the choice of substation site during any phase of the consultation, even if they had been able to engage early enough. They certainly did not provide the obligatory detail to "enable consultees to develop an informed view of the proposed development" or provide "clarity to all consultees".

Please reject the validity of the consultation at least with regards to the location of the substation site as their legal obligations to consult according to legal standards have clearly not been met.

Thank you
Meera Smethurst

Item 3-Further Adequacy of Consultation Challenge

Sent to Mr Mike Elkington WSCC and the Planning Inspectorate – 13 Feb 2023

Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of a significant number of Cowfold residents regarding the inadequacy of the Rampion 2 consultation from the outset. I have previously provided evidence regarding these failings but we learn more on an almost daily basis Although the following relates largely to the earliest stages of the consultation process it is important to appreciate that we were completely unaware of the consultation at all, until almost the very end, and therefore have been unable to engage with the consultation at any point where we might have been able to influence its outcome. This is due to the failure of Rampion to meet any of their legal obligations under sections 47 or 48 of the Planning Act 2008 or the Gunning Principles of Consultation.

The preconsultation stage:

In August 2020 Rampion submitted their Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. In it (Page 2 of appendix 1 of that document) they listed the councils with whom they had 'Formally Consulted'. What form that formal consultation took is not specified, but Cowfold Parish Council were among those they apparently contacted but who did not respond. The clerk to the Parish Council tells me that they have no record of any email or letter sent to them from Rampion at that time. This would not then appear to have been a significant effort at consultation, if at all. At best, if indeed Cowfold Parish Council did receive some sort of communication from Rampion, the information received by them would not appear to have been formal enough or clear enough for them to appreciate the significance of what they were sent. Locally, only those parish councils previously affected by Rampion 1 appear to have understood this, and replied. i.e., not by the clarity of the information received, but from their previous experience.

The first consultation:

We have recently learned of the concerns of MOSCA and Climping residents after the first consultation, echoed by WSCC and Andrew Griffiths. It is now clear that these issues were far more widespread than just Zone 3. Under Zone 1 and 2 arrangements Rampion had a clear duty to deliver effective and informative leaflets and documents to almost every household in this parish. They failed to meet this obligation.

Having met the chairman of Twineham Parish Council on 10th February 2023, it is clear that Twineham residents in Zones 1 and 2 were contacted on a number of occasions throughout the entire consultation, and even in the preconsultation stage. In January 2021 they received a clear set of maps and documents explaining the 3 substation sites. We did not. This information was so clear that there could have been no doubt as to the importance of the information. On 14/7/21 they also received the first Section 42 notice from Carter Jonas with greyed out maps and a list of meetings being held in the county. We did not.

After the end of the whole consultation, we have ourselves delivered 2000 leaflets locally. Not a single person to whom we spoke, apart from some residents of Kent Street or Moatfield Lane along the cable route, had received any leaflets or correspondence, or seen any publicity prior to the final consultation in October 2022, by which time the decision to use the Oakendene site had already been made.

We know of landowners locally, whose land was going to be used, who were told by Rampion that they must sign agreements to let them use it or they would be compulsorily purchased. And when they were frightened into doing this, they were forced to sign non-disclosure agreements. This is not the behaviour expected in an open and transparent consultation for a national infrastructure project.

Rampion claim to have sent out section 42 notices to all adjacent properties. None of us Cowfold in Zones 1 or 2 received these in 2021, unlike Twineham. Some, but not all of us received one in October 2022 accompanying the pile of incomprehensible maps, but far too late to influence the project.

Some residents of Kent St and Moatfield Lane were aware something locally was happening as one of them reports seeing a Carter Jonas letter pinned in a field [Attachment 1] and a few received a leaflet [Attachments 2 and 3] which focussed on the offshore windfarm and mentioned **a second substation near the Bolney Substation** at Twineham where two potential sites were being considered. Nothing to suggest direct relevance to their area. Only the residents at Bolney and Twineham would have been alerted by this, thus skewing the response rate from the onset. If the leaflet had said' you are receiving this because you live within 1km of the proposed cable route or 3km of the substation sites' it might have had more effect. I do not believe this was a simple oversight on their part. There were no other communications with this parish of any kind during the first consultation and this is confirmed by the Parish Council.

The few residents who had recognised that the project was of significance to Cowfold and who registered to receive updates, record repeated attempts to find out more information, but their requests were ignored

In their letter to Cowfold Parish Council in January 2023 in response to their concerns, [Attachment 4] Rampion actually say that they delivered to households within a 300m radius of the substation boundaries. Firstly, this is not true as even at 300m not all of us received them and secondly, their section 47 agreement was a 3km radius.

The second consultation:

The consultation would appear to have been reopened from 7th February to 11th April 2022 as a result of the concerns raised by Middleton on Sea and Climping residents. Unfortunately, no residents of Cowfold parish within Zone 1 or 2 received any direct communication from Rampion during that time rendering it ineffective here, although Twineham residents did (on 9th February 2022), and **during that time the decision to use the Oakendene site seems to have been made.** Even though the consultation was reopened due to failure to consult properly with communities in the first round, they either did not recognise, or chose to ignore, their failings regarding Cowfold

Even attempts by anyone to find out more would not necessarily have resulted in them receiving 'sufficient information to give intelligent consideration' as, throughout the entire consultation, the media releases and other county wide promotional attempts focussed on the offshore windfarm and the cable routes. Very little was mentioned of the substation sites, and when they were, they were referred to as the Bolney substation in Twineham. Kent Street is well within the parish of Cowfold and should have been clearly mentioned as such from the beginning. Only after the decision to use the Cowfold site was made did it suddenly become known as the 'Oakendene site near Cowfold'. This means that, before that point, anyone living here who received any information about the proposals, would still not immediately recognise the relevance to themselves in the way that Bolney, Wineham or Twineham residents would, thus continuing to heavily skew the responses received

when key decisions were being made. It also leads us to the conclusion that the failure to consult with Cowfold until the decision to use Oakendene was made, was not an oversight, but a deliberate attempt to manipulate the consultation to favour the use of the Oakendene site

Any creditable consultation process should have picked up on the lack of response from such a key area i.e. the only one where any on shore infrastructure will remain above ground. It is not credible, given the level of objection now being raised from here, that if people had known then, they would have kept silent at that time. Instead, we believe they have deliberately kept their approach to Cowfold 'under the radar' until the key decisions were made, despite the first consultation being deemed inadequate.

The final Consultation:

Curiously, they communicated more with us, after the decision to use Oakendene had been made, than at any time before, when we might have been able to influence the process. However, do not imagine that their communications were any more informative from that point.

Some but not all of us in the immediate vicinity of the Substation site received a Section 42 notice from Carter Jonas in October 2022, accompanied by a series of incomprehensible and largely irrelevant maps which mainly concerned the southern cable route. All road names, village names and landmarks were greyed out, making them very hard to understand. The maps were from both Oct22 and July 21, whereas Twineham just received the October maps in October 22. **Presumably this reflects Rampion or Carter Jonas' realisation that they had failed to meet their legal obligations to Cowfold in 2021. Their action, however, does not put this right.**

Some areas of Cowfold received an innocuous looking leaflet from Rampion. Many people had thought the latter was junk mail as it arrived in a bundle of unsolicited advertisements and they discarded it; it certainly did not look like anything important. At best it complied with a tick box exercise to 'inform' people. For such a significant project,' junk mail' leaflets of this kind, sent out just a month before the end of the 18-month consultation period, cannot constitute adequate consultation. People cannot be considered to have been informed unless they received, in an acceptable timeframe, a letter with either their name on the envelope or at the very least an appellation of 'the occupier' at each named address concerned. And most importantly the leaflet [attachment 5] is misleading: the route of the cable is clearly shown as going all the way to Wineham, not stopping at Oakendene, and **it does not even mention the substation,** in either words or pictures; the graphic on the front was of an off-shore windfarm. Cowfold is the only place where there will be any lasting infrastructure above ground and the leaflet was of a generic nature, yet the guidance suggests that the information provided should be a "high level description of the type and size of the development and include a map of sufficient size and scale to clearly identify the proposed location of the development". If their argument is that the site of the substation had already been identified by this stage, then Rampion should be closely questioned as to when that appropriate information about the substation proposals was previously sent out and to whom, and what form it took. It did not come to Cowfold

Despite Rampion's assurances to the contrary, there has been no publicity in this Zone 1 area at any stage of the whole process; no posters, documents for perusal, pictures of the substation, or models showing what the impact might be. There have been no posts on the community Facebook page at all during the whole consultation until October 2022 when a generic message was sent out by their PR consultant Paula Seager. It only mentions the cable route and not the substation. They make

much of their communications on Instagram, on which they have indeed posted on a number of occasions. However to see these requires you to be 'following' them in the first place.

They mention engagement with 'hard to reach groups 'under section 47 obligations, but by this they mean the Allmond Centre and the village hall, and the local church. The centre and the hall are just buildings, with no communities or groups attached to them and especially not during Covid. Another desk-top exercise. We have spoken to several members of the church, none of whom were aware of any communication from Rampion. This is just another manipulation on their part intending to show that they are complying with their obligation to consult, whilst in reality doing nothing of the kind.

We have found a small post in the County Times from July 2022 [attachment 6] but it is overshadowed by the adjacent article advertising a new restaurant, and in fact it does not confirm the substation site would be in Cowfold but merely says it could be. This is not good enough information.

The first ever meeting advertised to us in this vicinity was arranged at the end of the consultation period in Ashurst, too late to influence the substation decision. We understand a meeting may have been held in Henfield in the first round but this was not publicised to Cowfold as we did not receive the first Section 42 documents. A few of us attended the Ashurst meeting, having received the Carter Jonas maps, and as a result demanded a meeting in Cowfold which the Parish council arranged. Approximately 50 people attended. Those few who had previously signed up to receive updates from Rampion were not notified by them of this meeting. A show of hands revealed that nobody knew about the proposals before the final consultation apart from some residents from Twineham who had come to ensure that Rampion were not 'economical with the truth' as they had been during Rampion 1.

The meeting took place just a week before the end of the final consultation. This did not allow time for adequate consideration of the facts. There was also a postal strike for most of that week. Rampion confirmed at the meeting that they would extend the consultation period but they did not do so as the online submission site closed at midnight on the 29th November. It was not possible to send a second submission as the system would not allow it so that people who were anxious to get some sort of response in on time and then thought of more things they wanted to say, could not do so. Many people found the submission process too difficult, for some it did not work, and the two-step verification required simply serves to reduce the number of successful submissions. It also discriminates against our older residents. This can hardly be considered an attempt to meaningfully engage with this community as they should under Section 47 and mirrors what has been said about previous consultations; nothing has changed.

Rampion are required by law to take into account the responses from the public. This must include a lack of response. Their publicity team should have picked up on this a year ago and realised their failure to comply with their duty to publicise, inform and meaningfully engage with those people in the vicinity. There are around 160 homes in Twineham. Cowfold has a population of approximately ten times this. One would therefore expect to see approximately ten times the number of responses in the early consultation period. The fact that this was not happening should have been flagged up and addressed in a timely manner

Environmental survey of proposed substation sites:

In 2021 Rampion conducted a 'desktop 'environmental survey of the proposed offshore and on shore sites to be considered. This was heavily criticised in its rationale in the report by the Wildlife Trusts and Sussex wildlife Trust in September 2021. A local wildlife enthusiast has kept detailed records over a number of years across the areas 6-7 of Zone 2 and of Zone 1, [attachments 7-13]. Rampion have ignored her messages about the extensive red list species which live in this area, and the fact that this meadowland is a unique habitat, unfarmed for decades and forming a wild life corridor all the way up to Oakendene. The other sites do not appear to have this level of species variety or special habitats, yet one of their stated reasons for discounting Wineham North was the sensitive wildlife habitats there. We know they had not even carried out an environmental survey at the time they made this decision. Their reassurances that they would use trenchless crossings to minimise damage is disingenuous. There are no roads to access the northern end of the cable route easily so the only way the equipment to install the trenchless crossings to preserve hedgerows and water ways can access the site is by cutting roads through precious meadowland and breaking through adjacent hedges!

Rampion stated that they would carry out a proper environmental survey and that the decision as to which site would be used for the substation location would take into account community feedback, environmental, technical and economic considerations. Community feedback has been heavily skewed to support the use of the Oakendene site for the reasons detailed above. Whilst they appear to have carried out further surveys on the offshore site and cable route, they **do not appear to have surveyed the potential substation sites**, yet they have made the decision to use Oakendene. Without a proper survey, the public were unable to participate in making informed comments regarding which site they preferred and the consultation should be revisited once a survey has been carried out. Sussex Wildlife Trust have noted the presence of a significant number of Nightingale breeding sites in this area. There are also great crested newts, toad migration routes and rare moths. It is also the only location with an adjacent lake, which might therefore also have a unique environmental significance. The unploughed fields represent a significant carbon capture resource. Replanting cannot hope to restore what has taken generations to develop. It is in fact an extension of the celebrated Knepp Castle rewilding area, containing many of the same species, but is does not require rewilding; it needs to be left alone. The owner of Oakendene confirms that Rampion have not yet completed an Environmental Survey of the site on his land and that the results so far have not been made available to him. Rampion have in fact now stated they are not going to be made available to interested parties such as Sussex Wildlife Trust until after the submission date. This is in **direct contradiction to the Overarching National Statement for Energy, EN-1 4.2.4, which states that all proposals must be accompanied by an environmental statement and must allow sufficient time for adequate assessment.**

This whole process appears to have been more of a 'tick box' exercise, completed remotely via an aerial view or desk top. It was certainly not one where Rampion wanted to know the views of residents or the community. The Oakendene site appears to have been selected as a default option and one of 'least resistance", as opposed to an environmental, technical or economic study. No consideration has been taken of the heavy volume of traffic, with over 18000 vehicles travelling along the A272 through Cowfold every day, nor the high level of accidents and air pollution that already exists on the Eastbound A272 to Cowfold. It was shocking to discover that the Rampion representatives didn't even realise that Kent Street was a single-track lane with mud verges and a narrow bridge, thus making it totally inappropriate for their proposals. They had no idea of the

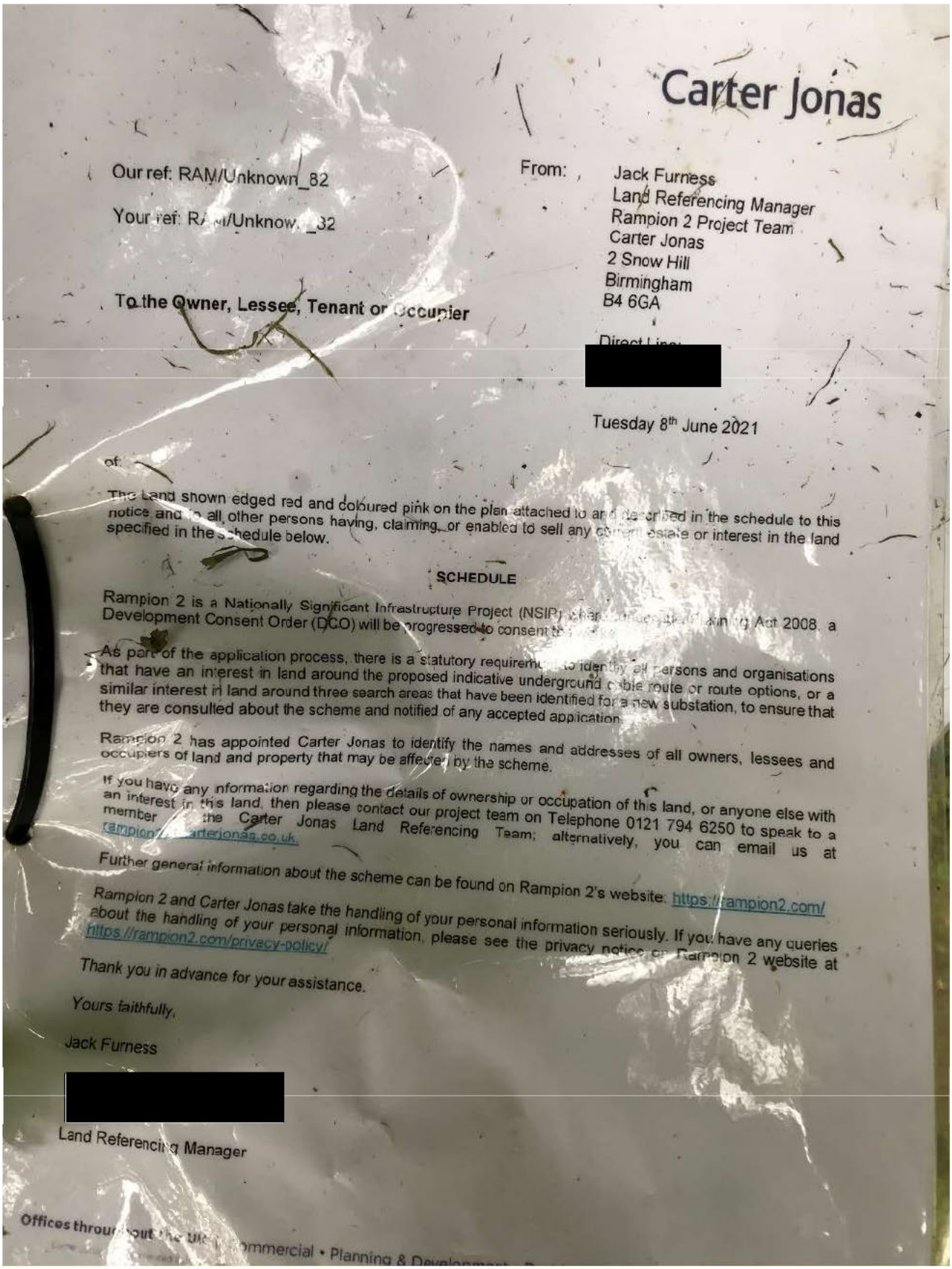
extent to which the surrounding lanes would be used as a cut through when traffic builds up on the A272. **Their ignorance of these facts shows how little engagement there has been with this community.**

We do not object to the windfarm in principle. What we do have issue with is the cynical manipulation of a small community, its ecologically sensitive landscape and the law, to get what in their view would seem to be the cheapest and easiest option. If they had carried out the consultation properly, they would understand that this might not necessarily be the case, and it is impossible to believe that the residents of Cowfold would not have engaged earlier if they had known, when they are so vocal now. Our experience closely mirrors the concerns raised about the consultation by MOSCA in 2021. Rampion have not remedied that with respect to Cowfold. That is why the consultation must be reopened from the start, at least with regards to Zone 1 and the northern part of the cable route.

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

Attachment 1 – Planning Notice Frylands



Carter Jonas

Our ref: RAM/Unknown_82

Your ref: RAM/Unknown_82

From: Jack Furness
Land Referencing Manager
Rampion 2 Project Team
Carter Jonas
2 Snow Hill
Birmingham
B4 6GA

Direct Line: [redacted]

To the Owner, Lessee, Tenant or Occupier

Tuesday 8th June 2021

of:

The Land shown edged red and coloured pink on the plan attached to and described in the schedule to this notice and to all other persons having, claiming, or enabled to sell any current estate or interest in the land specified in the schedule below.

SCHEDULE

Rampion 2 is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) [illegible] Planning Act 2008, a Development Consent Order (DCO) will be progressed to consent t[illegible]

As part of the application process, there is a statutory requirement to identify all persons and organisations that have an interest in land around the proposed indicative underground cable route or route options, or a similar interest in land around three search areas that have been identified for a new substation, to ensure that they are consulted about the scheme and notified of any accepted application.

Rampion 2 has appointed Carter Jonas to identify the names and addresses of all owners, lessees and occupiers of land and property that may be affected by the scheme.

If you have any information regarding the details of ownership or occupation of this land, or anyone else with an interest in this land, then please contact our project team on Telephone 0121 794 6250 to speak to a member of the Carter Jonas Land Referencing Team; alternatively, you can email us at rampion[illegible]carterjonas.co.uk.

Further general information about the scheme can be found on Rampion 2's website: https://rampion2.com/

Rampion 2 and Carter Jonas take the handling of your personal information seriously. If you have any queries about the handling of your personal information, please see the privacy notice on Rampion 2 website at https://rampion2.com/privacy-policy/

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Jack Furness

[redacted]

Land Referencing Manager

Offices throughout the UK • Commercial • Planning & Development

Attachment 2 – Rampion2, 2021 Leaflet

Attachment 3 – Rampion Consultation Invitation 2021 (Rear)

We have been investigating an offshore Area of Search to establish the best site for the wind farm and exploring an onshore cable route for the underground cables to carry the power from Climping Beach to Bolney Substation in Twineham, where two potential sites are being considered close by for a new substation, needed to connect the power to the National Grid.

Take a tour around our virtual exhibition at www.rampion2.com where you can explore our proposals with maps and videos, sign up to attend an online public forum with the project team, and complete our questionnaire to give us your feedback.

Next steps – we will consider all the consultation feedback alongside the results of technical and environmental surveys, to identify the optimum and least impact project proposals, which we will submit to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in early 2022. Should the project achieve consent, construction could start around 2025/26 with the wind farm fully operational before the end of the decade.

We look forward to hearing from you.

UKMail

Delivered by Royal Mail
C9 10001

44630|013794|D374|(29|38500)|NOO|C
The Resident
Oak Cottage
Moatfield Lane
Cowfold
HORSHAM
West Sussex
RH13 8BF

Return Address: Postal Administration, Elizabeth House, RG27 9PR

Rampion 2
WIND FARM

Rampion 2 Project Team contacts:
www.rampion2.com
rampion2@rwe.com
0800 2800 886

Rampion Extension Development Ltd
c/o RWE Renewables UK Limited-
Greenwood House
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB
Registered in England and Wales no. 12091939

Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this postcard.

Edit text & images

Promoting Rampion 2 Consultations in Cowfold 2021 -22
18th January 2023

Since early 2021, Rampion 2 has developed and delivered three consultations on its project proposals, a Non-Statutory Consultation and two Statutory Consultations in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

Commented [MS1]: Maybe lip service to this but not genuinely in accordance with the legal requirements as there remains widespread ignorance about the proposals in Zone 1 and the northern end of Zone 2

Section 47 of the Act requires that Rampion 2 carry out Statutory consultations in accordance with the provisions set out in a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC sets out how, when, about what and with whom we intend to consult and what promotional measures will be used to raise awareness of the consultation. Two versions of the SoCC were consulted (one for each Statutory Consultation) with the relevant Local Planning authorities, in this case with Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council, to ensure it meets those local authorities' requirements.

Commented [MS2]: It did not. Hence a second round of consultation. Unfortunately, remaining in ignorance until the end of the entire consultation period, we were not able to flag this up

The original and updated SoCC were each published during the respective Statutory Consultations and are public documents available on our website at www.rampion2.com, links as follows:-

http://www.rampion2.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rampion-2-Statement-of-Community-Consultation-07062021-2.pdf

https://www.rampion2.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Updated-SoCC-Oct-2022.pdf

Section 48 of the Act requires that a proposed application must be publicised as prescribed, with regulations setting out the details of the applicant and application that must be given. In addition, section 42 of the 2008 Act requires Rampion 2 to consult specified categories of people about the proposed application. These include prescribed bodies (which are set out in regulations), local authorities (with a formula for identifying the relevant authorities) and each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.

Commented [MS3]: If this had been effectively done, as required by law, there would be more people in this vicinity who were aware of it

Commented [MS4]: This has not happened in a meaningful way. Not one of the businesses or local groups in this community had been made aware of what you propose in the first rounds of consultation, unlike in Twineham

This briefing note summarises how we have adequately promoted our consultations in accordance with the proposals we set out in the SoCC, which details our overall approach to publicising consultation, developed with the support of directly affected Local Planning Authorities. It breaks down our activity into three areas, Non-Statutory Consultation, our first project wide Statutory Consultation and our most recent Onshore Statutory Consultation.

As an integral part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we are also required to submit a comprehensive Consultation Report, describing in detail all of the consultation activity undertaken and how these were promoted in line with the agreed requirements in the SoCC. The Consultation Report will also document the consultation feedback we received and our response to that feedback, including any changes made to our proposals as a result. As part of the application process all relevant Local Planning Authorities will be consulted by the Planning Inspectorate to confirm the consultations were carried out in line with the SoCCs.

Commented [MS5]: MOSCA and WSCC have previously highlighted your failure to do this. Nothing has changed

Commented [MS6]: You must make available where you received the comments from and when. Failure to receive comments from a particular area, especially Zone 1, the only area which will have above ground structures remaining, should have been flagged up by any credible consultation process

Given recent correspondence relating to concerns in respect of how the consultations were publicised, particular emphasis has been given to s47 of the Act and the promotional activity we delivered in line with the agreed SoCCs.

Rampion 2 have held three consultations to date:-

1. Non-statutory consultation: 14th Jan – 11th Feb 2021. A voluntary, non-statutory consultation held over four weeks to raise awareness of the project and seek feedback on three onshore substation site search areas, including one at Oakendene (then known as Bolney Road / Kent Street);

2. First statutory public consultation: 14th July – 16th Sept 2021. A project-wide consultation held over 9 weeks to formally consult statutory bodies and the wider community, which also sought feedback on two remaining onshore substation search areas including Oakendene (then known as Bolney Road / Kent Street); and

3. Second statutory public consultation: 18th Oct – 29th Nov 2022. A targeted onshore consultation held over 6 weeks, to formally consult statutory bodies and the wider community on potential changes to our onshore cable route, only.

Rampion 2 use a range of methods to reach those who live, work and visit the area in the vicinity of our draft proposals. This document highlights the key methods that were used to promote each of the consultations.

1. Non-statutory consultation, 14th Jan – 11th Feb 2021

The methods which we used to promote this consultation in the Cowfold area include the following:-

- Leaflets were hand delivered to a local area, which included all homes and businesses within a 300m radius from the boundary of the three substation search areas. This included the businesses at Oakendene Industrial Estate;
- Posters were provided to Cowfold Parish Council to put up on their locked notice boards and artwork was emailed;
- News coverage promoted the consultation with major pieces on ITV Meridian, BBC South TV, BBC Sussex Radio and More Radio, with newspaper coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus;
- A Social Media awareness campaign (Facebook and Instagram) was launched, which included Cowfold and Lower Beeding as target geographical locations; and
- Emails announcing the consultation were sent to key stakeholders including MPs, local authorities and parish councils, including Cowfold Parish Council, Horsham District and West Sussex County Councils. The email included a poster image to promote the consultation and encouraged the sharing of the email and/or image within the organisation and through their networks such as community newsletters, emails, websites, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter pages.

The following meetings and events were held during the consultation period:-

- 6 x Project Liaison Group meetings were held, which included the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council representation at the October 2020 meeting, although they gave their

Commented [MS7]: Absolutely nothing was received by Cowfold residents in Zone 1 or area 6-7 of zone 2 at this stage. Twineham Zone1 and 2 residents received clear maps and detailed information on 7/1/21

Commented [MS8]: The only communication received was to the landowners whose land you were proposing to use as the cable route/possible substation sites. They were prevented from talking about it. A letter from Carter Jonas was found by a resident on a pole during a country walk off Mostfield lane. The leaflets sent in July 2021 to a few residents in Zone 1 and the Zone 2 areas 6-7 did NOT refer to a substation at Oakendene or Kent Street, just the Bolney Substation in Twineham. No other communication of any sort was received. There was nothing to suggest this was of local concern or to encourage engagement; it utterly fails on all of the Gunning Principles of Consultation. Twineham Zone 1 and 2 received Section 42 notices but not Cowfold

Commented [MS9]: You had already made the decision to use Oakendene at this stage, Again, the very minimal communication sent out to a few households in these above Zones was either very hard to understand (the Carter Jonas maps) or misleading (the leaflet, which did not even mention the substation) The Carter Jonas letters contained 2 sets of maps dated Oct 22 and July 21. Twineham residents received only the Oct 22 maps. Carter Jonas presumably realised they had failed to meet the legal requirement to consult Cowfold in 2021and were trying to put this right. Unfortunately too late to allow us to influence the decision

Commented [MS10]: We have delivered leaflets to 2000 residents and businesses in this parish. Almost nobody we have spoken to knew anything about it

Commented [MS11]: YOUR INITIAL STSATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SAYS A 3KM RADIUS OF THE BOUNDARY. We have consulted all residents and businesses in Kent Street, Kings Lane, Mostfield Lane, the relevant stretch of the A272, and Picts Lane. Not one person remembers receiving this .

Commented [MS12]: Cowfold Parish Council deny receiving these, and we do not have any locked notice boards

Commented [MS13]: We have searched Facebook and Instagram. You have to be following on Instagram to be able to see anything therefore it does not communicate with people who don't already know about you. The earliest communication we can find is from 28th July 2021 which just invites people to have their say on the offshore windfarm. There are 9 more posts. The Cowfold Community Facebook Page has nothing on it regarding Rampion until Councillor Sarah Payne mentions it on 9/9/21. There is only one post on behalf of Rampion, posted anonymously on 19/10/22, far too late for us to influence the substation site. In any case it was an exact same copy of the post put out across west Sussex by your PR consultant Paula Seager. It does not mention the substation, just the cable route.This cannot constitute meaningful consultation with a specially identified, ie Zone 1 group

Commented [MS14]: They deny receiving this. It is possible that if they did, the quality of the information sent out was such that it did not seem relevant to them. This would be consistent with the leaflets you have sent in your attempts to 'fully communicate' with us.

apologies for the February 2021 meeting. All invitations, presentation and minutes were emailed to Cowfold PC.

- Stakeholder meetings were held with MPs and local authorities in advance of the consultation in November and December 2020, including meetings with Andrew Griffith MP, Mims Davies MP, Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council.

2. First statutory public consultation, 14th July – 16th Sept 2021

The methods which we used to promote this consultation in the Cowfold area included the following:-

- Leaflets were posted to promote the consultation, which is standard practice. We sent a leaflet via Royal Mail to all homes and businesses within a 3km radius of the boundaries of the two substation search areas, which picked up all properties in Cowfold with a postcode, amounting to over 800 addresses. The leaflet was posted on 12th July and would have arrived on doormats three days later;
- Posters were provided to Cowfold Parish Council to put on their locked notice boards and artwork provided by email;
- Section 48 Notices were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane;
- Letters were issued to affected parties including all landowners on land covered by our proposals plus an appropriate buffer around the two substation sites. In some instances, members of the local community would have received both the above leaflet and s42 letter;
- News coverage on ITV Meridian, BBC South TV, BBC Sussex Radio and More Radio with newspaper coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus. Additional reminder stories were published in the press which followed towards the end of the consultation;
- Statutory Public Notices were placed on full pages in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus;
- Online newspaper adverts were published;
- Adverts on the back and side of buses covering country routes to Mid Sussex from West Sussex depots;
- Social media awareness campaign (Facebook and Instagram) including Cowfold and Lower Beeding as target geographical locations;
- Section 48 Notices were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane; and
- Emails promoting the consultation and the associated materials and events were sent to:-

  - Section 42 statutory consultees including landowners;
  - Local authorities that our proposals pass through and neighbouring authorities;
  - Locally elected representatives, including those from Horsham and Mid Sussex Councils;
  - Parish councils that our proposals pass through and neighbouring parishes. This included emails to the Chair and Clerk of Cowfold Parish Council on 14th July and 6th September;

Commented [MS15]: A leaflet was received by some but not all residents within this area, as we have said it was misleading as it did not mention Kent Street or Oakendene, just the Bolney substation at Twineham . Nothing in this to suggest relevance to this parish. It should have said 'you are receiving this as you are within 1km of the possible cable route/3 km of the substation sites'. Most people do not remember receiving this at all, Most of those who do, did not think it relevant to them; it fails to meet Section 47 of the planning act or any of the Gunning Principles except as a cynical tick box exercise

Commented [MS16]: They deny this. They do not have any locked boards

Commented [MS17]: If seen at all, they were uninformative, especially with regards to any relevance to Oakendene. Kent Street, unlike Wineham Lane, is also a very rural area where few people walk, so they would not have been seen by many. Far better to have put them in Cowfold village

Commented [MS18]: Neither I not any of my neighbours received this, even though we are directly adjacent to the Oakendene site. The first Section 42 notice some of us received was in October 2022, far too late to influence the decision. Unlike Twineham who did receive the Section 42 letters

Commented [MS19]: If this had been effective, more people in this community would be aware of your proposals actually being likely to affect them. All the focus was on the offshore windfarm and the cable routes, not the substation sites

Commented [MS20]: Again, this is misleading as the focus is on the offshore windfarm and cable routes

Commented [MS21]: There is very little public transport in Cowfold and none at all in the most affected roads

Commented [MS22]: See comments already made about this: you simply didn't do this. Lower Beeding is not even within any of your Zone 1 or 2 groups so why claim you are targeting them. It is another example of your lack of awareness of this community and shows how little you have engaged with us

Commented [MS23]: No section 42 notices were received in Cowfold in 2021, but were extensively in Twineham

Commented [MS24]: This whole process appears to have been more of a 'tick box' exercise, completed remotely via an aerial view or desk top. It was certainly not one where Rampion wanted to know the views of residents or the community. The Oakendene site appears to have been selected as a default option and one of 'least resistance", as opposed to an environmental, technical or economic study. No consideration has been taken of the heavy volume of traffic, with over 18000 vehicles travelling along the A272 through Cowfold, nor the high level of accidents and air pollution that already exists on the East bound A272 to Cowfold. It was shocking to discover that the Rampion representatives didn't even realise that Kent Street was a single track lane with mud verges and a [1]

- MPs, including Andrew Griffith MP (Arundel & South Downs) and Mims Davies MP (Mid Sussex);

- 'Hard to reach' groups, which in Cowfold included churches, the village hall and Allmond Community Centre;

- Other stakeholders who have registered an interest to be kept informed via our website

- Rampion 2 Expert Technical Groups; and

- Rampion 2 Project Liaison Groups (including the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council represented).

The following meetings and events were held during the consultation period:-

- 6 x Rampion 2 Project Liaison Group meetings were held, which includes the Onshore Community PLG. Cowfold PC did not attend or send apologies but were emailed all invitations, presentation and minutes. The Clerk confirmed the Chair had received the invitation;
- 2 x Virtual Public Forums on 27th July and 6th September;
- 2 x Virtual Parish Council Forums on 28th July and 23rd August; and
- Local Authority and Parish Council online meetings including with West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council.

Onshore substation decision announcement, 14th July 2022

Following our consideration of all responses to the statutory consultation and decision to locate the onshore substation at the Oakendene site, we announced the location with a press release, issued to local newspapers on 14th July 2022. A day in advance of this on 13th July, the Rampion 2 Team sent an email to announce this decision (accompanied with a press release) to local MPs including Andrew Griffith and Mims Davies, local authorities including Horsham, Mid Sussex & West Sussex and parish councils including Cowfold, Shermanbury, Bolney and Twineham. Press release link is:

https://www.rampion2.com/site-chosen-for-rampion-2-wind-farms-new-onshore-substation/

The substation announcement was subsequently included in the Mid Sussex Times and West Sussex County Times, in addition to being in their online version, Sussexworld. BBC Radio Sussex and More Radio included the announcement in their news coverage.

Mims Davies MP also included the substation decision on her website: https://www.mimsdavies.org.uk/news/mims-davies-mp-update-rampion-2-onshore-electricsubstation-plans and in her column in the Mid Sussex Times in August 2022.

3. Second statutory public consultation, 18th Oct – 29th Nov 2022

Note that this consultation was specifically focussed on potential changes to parts of the onshore cable route only, with the onshore substation decision having already been announced. This was specifically targeted at those who live, work or visit the area local to the cable route and potential changes.

Commented [MS25]: The village hall and Allmond centre are not 'hard to reach groups' they are simple buildings, which due to Covid, would have been empty. I have spoken to many members of the local church; they do not remember any communication from you. Yet again, either you simply didn't do this, or the communication was so uninformative with regards to relevance to this community that it was ignored

Commented [MS26]: Possibly true, but you have not taken the concerns of SWT or RSPB etc into account, nor have you enabled them to see your environmental survey so they cannot have adequate time to reflect on it to make informed comments about it

Commented [MS27]: Cowfold PC is under the impression that the community PLGs will be formed once the proposals have been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate. The chairman of Twineham parish council confirms there are no regular liaison groups

Commented [MS28]: You actively sought a meeting with Twineham and Bolney parish councils but not Cowfold

Commented [MS29]: What happened between 16/9/2021 and 14th July 2022?? A responsible consultation process would have recognised the lack of response from this location, the only parish within 3km of all the substation sites and realised something was wrong.There was a repeat consultation in Feb22-Apr22 as a result of recognised failures to consult in Zone 3. During this time no communications were received by Cowfold residents, yet Twineham received updates on 9/2/22

Commented [MS30]: A resident spotted the article in the County Times. It was adjacent to, and smaller than an article advertising a new restaurant. Not designed to be easily spotted

Commented [MS31]: This is the first time you actually name it Oakendene near Cowfold; ie when it is too late for anyone in Cowfold to influence the location. The article in the County Times is overshadowed by the adjacent article advertising a new restaurant, and in fact it does not confirm the substation site would be in Cowfold but merely says it could be. This is not good enough information and does not constitute a decision announcement.

Commented [MS32]: This page has been taken down and in any case she is not our MP

Commented [MS33]: Even though the information received was not in the least informative, it is indeed true that you communicated with this parish more, when we could no longer influence the substation site, than at any previous stage. You even informed us, for the first time, that there would be a meeting in Ashurst

The methods which we used to promote this consultation in the Cowfold area included the following:-

- Leaflets presented the relevant information on how the public could take part in the consultation in a clear and concise manner. They were posted to promote the consultation, which is standard practice. We sent a leaflet via Royal Mail to all homes and businesses within 1km of the proposals, which picked up the majority of properties in Cowfold with a postcode. The leaflet was posted on 14th October and would have arrived on doormats three days later;

- Posters were sent by Royal Mail addressed to the Cowfold Parish Council Clerk (address published on Horsham DC website) and also artwork requesting them to put on their locked notice boards;

- Section 48 Notices were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane;

Section 42 letters were issued to affected parties including all landowners on land covered by our proposals. In some instances, members of the local community would have received both the above leaflet and s42 letter;

- News coverage on ITV Meridian, BBC South TV, BBC Sussex Radio and More Radio with newspaper coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette, West Sussex County Times and The Argus. Additional reminder stories were published in the press towards the end of the consultation;

- Statutory Public Notices placed in the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette and West Sussex County Times;

- Social media awareness campaign (Facebook and Instagram), including Cowfold and Lower Beeding as target geographical locations; and

- Section 48 Notices were erected on footpath signposts at both Kent Street and Wineham Lane.

- Emails were sent to:-

- Section 42 statutory consultees including landowners;

- Local authorities that our proposals pass through, plus neighbouring authorities;

- Locally elected representatives, including those from Horsham and Mid Sussex Councils;

- Parish councils that our proposals pass through and neighbouring parishes. This included emails to the Chair and Clerk of Cowfold Parish Council on 17th October and 17th November

- MPs, including Andrew Griffith MP (Arundel & South Downs) and Mims Davies MP (Mid Sussex);

- 'Hard to reach' groups, which in Cowfold included churches, the village hall and Allmond Community Centre;

- Other stakeholders who have registered an interest to be kept informed via our website
- Rampion 2 Expert Technical Groups; and

- Rampion 2 Project Liaison Groups (including the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council represented).

Commented [MS34]: This leaflet arrived with a pile of unsolicited mail and was perceived as junk mail by the majority of households who received it. There was nothing about it to appear relevant to Cowfold. It showed a nice neat cable going down to Bolney substation and did not even mention the Substation at Oakendene. It is another example of a nod to the legal requirements to consult but in fact failing to meet any of the required obligations to do it in a meaningful way
You do not mention this, but Carter Jonas also sent a large pile of maps to some people within the immediate vicinity of the Substation site. Most were completely irrelevant, all landmarks and place or road names had been greyed out and they were very hard to interpret, again not meeting the standard of clear, informative literature you are required to present
All far too late to influence the substation site anyway

Commented [MS35]: They deny this

Commented [MS36]: This was the Carter Jonas letter received by some of us. It was accompanied by a series of incomprehensible maps with the key details greyed out. It was the FIRST time any of us had received the section 42 notice. It contained maps from both Jul21 and Oct 22, yet Twineham received only maps from 2022. Presumably because you realised you had failed to meet your legal obligations to Cowfold in 2021

Commented [MS37]: Far too late to influence the substation choice

Commented [MS38]: See previous Facebook comment- this was a generic message by your PR consultant

Commented [MS39]: We did not receive emails. Some of us did receive Section 42 letters from Carter Jonas BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SUCH NOTICES HAD EVER BEEN RECEIVED; far too late to influence the decision

Commented [MS40]: All irrelevant as the substation decision had already been made

Commented [MS41]: This is a nonsense as previously explained and is another example of you trying to show you have met the criteria for adequate consultation, whilst in reality failing to do so

Commented [MS42]: The few Cowfold residents who were aware and had registered to receive updates did not get them, unlike Twineham .With regards to environmental experts, you have not yet published your environmental report. You have chosen the substation site even though the environmental report was to be a factor in its choice.

The following meetings and events were held during the consultation period:-

- Consultation Events (x4) were held along the cable route on 1st, 2nd, 11th and 12th November, with almost 600 people attending the events, including Cowfold Parish Council representation.
- A Cowfold Public Meeting hosted by the parish was held on 23rd November. It was promoted on the Parish Council website and via posters in the local area, which attracted around 50 attendees. Rampion Project Team members presented to the meeting and answered a wide range of questions.
- 5 x Rampion 2 Project Liaison Group meetings were held, which includes the Onshore Community PLG with Cowfold Parish Council representation and all invitations, presentation and minutes shared with Cowfold PC.
- Parish Councils Virtual online forum on 3rd November which included Cowfold Parish Council representation.

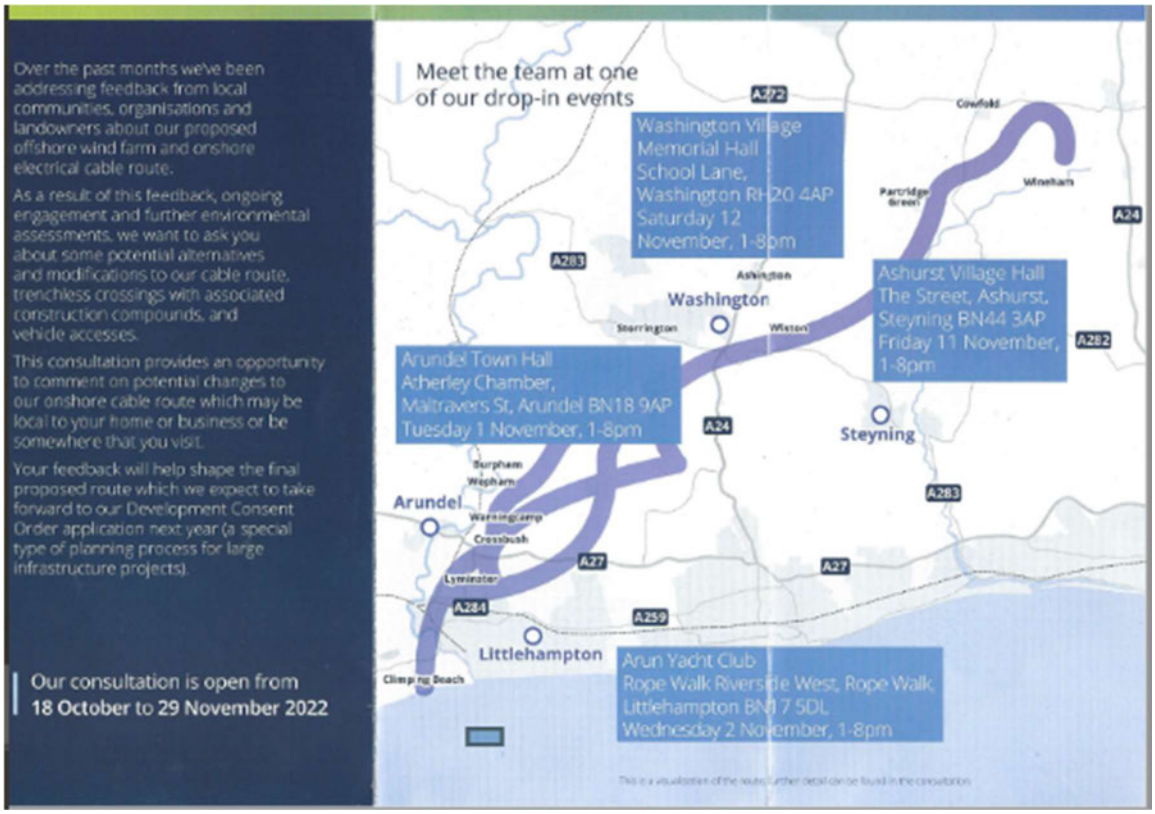
Commented [MS43]: This was the first meeting we were aware of throughout the whole process

Commented [MS44]: It was held at our request to the parish council, having been to the Ashurst meeting. Most of the 50 people had previously heard nothing about it, as you know from a show of hands, or they had come from Twineham to make sure you did not gloss over the reality of what this meant to Cowfold, based on their past experience of Rampion 1

Page 3: [1] Commented [MS24] Meera Smethurst 08/02/2023 17:43:00

This whole process appears to have been more of a 'tick box' exercise, completed remotely via an aerial view or desk top. It was certainly not one where Rampion wanted to know the views of residents or the community. The Oakendene site appears to have been selected as a default option and one of 'least resistance", as opposed to an environmental, technical or economic study. No consideration has been taken of the heavy volume of traffic, with over 18000 vehicles travelling along the A272 through Cowfold, nor the high level of accidents and air pollution that already exists on the East bound A272 to Cowfold. It was shocking to discover that the Rampion representatives didn't even realise that Kent Street was a single track lane with mud verges and a narrow bridge, thus making it totally inappropriate for their proposals.


How to have your say
Response form
Our response form can either be completed online or downloaded and sent by email or via our Freepost address. Printed copies can be collected from libraries and at drop-in events.
Freepost
Send your response form or comments to:
FREEPOST: RAMPION 2
This freepost address is the only text needed on the envelope, no stamp is required.
Email
Comments or electronic copies of the response form should be emailed to:
Rampion2@rwe.com
Please note, we cannot guarantee that responses sent to any other addresses will be considered.
Do you have questions?
Call us free on 0800 2800 886 or email us at
rampion2@rwe.com
Drop-in events
Meet the team at one of our four drop-in events.
For more information on our consultation visit: Rampion2.com/consultation
Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this flyer
During reinstatement after main construction
This is what our normal cable route looks like as we reinstate the surface after temporary construction. During construction, our work includes excavations, drilling areas, construction compounds and accesses.
After reinstatement
The electricity cable installation would be a temporary impact as all cables are buried underground. We are committed to reinstating the land back to its former condition as soon as we can.
Rampion 2
WIND FARM
Rampion 2:
Public consultation about onshore cable route alternatives and modifications


Over the past months we've been addressing feedback from local communities, organisations and landowners about our proposed offshore wind farm and onshore electrical cable route.
As a result of this feedback, ongoing engagement and further environmental assessments, we want to ask you about some potential alternatives and modifications to our cable route, trenchless crossings with associated construction compounds, and vehicle accesses.
This consultation provides an opportunity to comment on potential changes to our onshore cable route which may be local to your home or business or be somewhere that you visit.
Your feedback will help shape the final proposed route which we expect to take forward to our Development Consent Order application next year (a special type of planning process for large infrastructure projects).
Our consultation is open from
18 October to 29 November 2022
Meet the team at one of our drop-in events
Washington Village Memorial Hall School Lane, Washington RH20 4AP Saturday 12 November, 1-8pm
Ashurst Village Hall The Street, Ashurst, Steyning BN44 3AP Friday 11 November, 1-8pm
Arundel Town Hall Atherley Chamber, Maltravers St, Arundel BN18 9AP Tuesday 1 November, 1-8pm
Arun Yacht Club Rope Walk Riverside West, Rope Walk Littlehampton BN17 5DL Wednesday 2 November, 1-8pm
Washington
Steyning
Arundel
Littlehampton
A272
A283
A24
A282
A27
A284
A259

10 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY TIMES

NEWS

Windfarm substation site chosen

Joshua Powling

A new onshore electricity substation for an extension to a windfarm off Sussex's coast could be built near Cowfold.

This would be the only permanent above-ground structure on land in the planning proposal for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm, which could power more than one million home in the UK and reduce carbon emissions by around 1.8 million tonnes per year.

The substation would allow the new turbines to be connected to the national electricity network.

The project, led by RWE, shortlisted two potential substation sites last year at Bolney Road/Kent Street and Wineham Lane North, both south of the A272 near Cowfold and Wineham.

Following detailed studies the Bolney Road/Kent Street site has been chosen as the preferred location, near to the Oakendene Industrial Estate east of Cowfold.

Chris Tomlinson, development and stakeholder manager for Rampion 2, said: "Although the site is a bit further from the existing National Grid Bolney substation, it was found to be better overall from an engineering and environmental perspective than the more constrained site at Wineham Lane North."

There will be a further project update in the autumn to report on the offshore wind farm design and the onshore electricity cable route. All the cables would be buried underground so this would be a temporary impact during construction, as the project is committed to reinstate the land back to its former condition as soon as possible after the works.

Visit the project's website for more information at www.rampion2.com

Chef Ben Wilkinson with partner Monika Zurwaska

Top restaurant set to reopen

One of the Horsham area's most prestigious restaurants is to reopen next month with a new Michelin-starred chef at the helm.

The Pass at South Lodge Hotel in Lower Beeding has appointed Ben Wilkinson as head chef and he will be joined by his partner Monika Zurawska who will be leading the front of house team.

South Lodge general manager David Connell said: "Having held a Michelin Star at The Cottage in the Wood in Keswick, along with being listed at number 24 in the UK Top 100 Restaurants list 2021, Ben demonstrates the quality of menu he can bring to South Lodge."

Ben's menu will bring seasonal and local produce to diners' plates, including his Sussex Downs venison with fennel, caper, smoke and rye; and wild sea trout with cucumber, oysters, and roe.

***Janine Creaye** MRSS*

*** SCULPTURE * DRAWINGS * ART FOR PUBLIC PLACES ***

[redacted]

www.sculptureform.co.uk **E.mail** [redacted] **@sculptureform.co.uk**

12 August 2022

James D'Alessandro/ Eleri Wilce
Rampion Extension Development Ltd, c/o RWE Renewables UK Ltd
Greenwood house
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB

Dear James D'Alessandro

We are happy that wind farms are being proposed to supply 'green' energy, however we are devastated to hear about the final choice of onshore cable route for the Rampion 2 windfarm which was released to the press on 14th July this year, with no information given to the people effected except the direct landowners. The destruction of habitats for wildlife around this small quiet network of lanes leading to the new substation would take decades to put right and if the trees are cut down, many generations. How 'green' is this proposal with such destruction caused by its installation? There has been no information given to local people about how this is going to be managed when it will so impact our lives here. Even on the practical side, it crosses our privately maintained lane twice and the traffic is already often a serious problem on the A272 where the substation is proposed to be located. How will this be managed so that we can continue to live here?

I am shocked that there has been no consultation with local people about what the wildlife here actually is when we have been here all year round for many years but the surveyors are from another part of the country and just drop in for a few hours, largely at less active times of year. One example is that we have nightingales nesting at the bottom of our garden every year and the cables would be installed right across the field directly behind where they feed. The PIER report failed to note these red list species or the turtle doves and to my knowledge nobody visited during the nesting time. We need to know that wildlife is actually being considered and how it will be dealt with both in the construction timing as well as the speed and care of reinstatement. We know how poorly reinstatement was managed after Rampion 1 and can still see the plastic tubes in the struggling hedge on Bob Lane these 7 or so years on.

I sent RWE recorded evidence last August of nightingales, flood sites, toad migration down this lane, exceptional meadows at Crateman's farm where we all walk, and the double row of oak trees in the hedgerow directly behind us where at least 25 could be in the path of the cables. This led to a site meeting with Eleri Wilce and a member of the Carter Jonas team 2nd September last year. We walked round the location and she admitted that reinstatement had not been ideal with Rampion 1. She knew little about the flood meadows and how long the water remains across large areas of the cable route through winter and even flash floods regularly in summer. She promised that I would receive copies of what was passed on to add to the environmental reports but I received nothing. I totally refute that 'extensive consultation' has been carried out with local communities as is says on your website.

Please contact us and tell us how this is to be managed. Why should we be left like this, not knowing how issues can be mitigated? How will local people actually be included in working out the construction phase? Please send me copies of what was sent to the environmental surveyors following on from my meeting with Eleri last year. Please send me copies of the environmental reports so that we can understand what is actually being considered about the wildlife that we see every day. I look forward to a response.

Yours sincerely

Janine Creaye

Environmental cost of 'Green Energy'

Further to the earlier thread of letters on the proposed Rampion 2 wind farm and its high financial cost and unreliable energy output (July 22nd Robert Bishop, August 5th, Mick Bridle), I am sitting here in a rural pocket of the Horsham District, devastated by the biodiversity destruction which would come if one of the cable route options goes ahead, and the new substation is located next to the A272 at Oakendene (Bolney road/Kent Street option). If you care about the environment, endangered species or just walking in the quiet countryside in Sussex, and particularly around this area around Cowfold/Shermanbury take a good look at the Rampion proposals while there is time to respond to the consultation. There are still some options.

The cable construction would take out a 50m (164 ft) wide section of invaluable habitat of undisturbed hedgerow, blackthorn scrub, lichen and interconnected flood meadow round here – let alone what it does elsewhere along the route. It is apparently that wide to accommodate a road for construction vehicles and the excavated soil, as well as the cable channel. This location is home to nightingales (red list 91% decline in 40 years), cuckoos (65% decline since 1980's), sky larks, great crested newts (protected in law), turtle doves (77% decline since 1970's), purple hairstreak butterflies, adders and grass snakes, toad migrations, wild service trees, wild flower meadows and more. This habitat contains many small tributaries and follows a significant part of the Cowfold stream which feeds into the river Adur. All of this floods regularly to cope with water coming off the fields. It shares many elements with Knepp Castle's 'Wilding' project, yet it has not been a monitored process, but has just been left for flood meadow, grazed or cut for hay for decades. It has not needed rewilding. The undisturbed nature of the soil, trees and hedgerows is a great benefit, including for carbon storage, that will also be lost with this process.

Yes, Rampion contractors are meant to restore habitat or even improve biodiversity at the end of the construction phase, but it is just not possible without losing the continuity of habitat that builds this level of wildlife and the many trees in its path are irreplaceable. We know that Rampion 1 took years before field and hedge restoration, and some hedges at Wineham are still tiny plants in plastic tubes 5/6 years on from that. The sequence is the same this time, that restoration waits until the construction is complete, potentially years after it has begun. The work would start in 2025/2026 and is only planned to be complete 2030. The diversity of wild flowers and therefore insects, birds and mammals that rely on the meadows cannot just be put back. When the continuity is lost the birds like nightingales, cuckoos, turtle doves fail to breed and so do not return and decline further. Adders and grass snakes would be disturbed by the vibration of construction then find the habitat remains as soil heaps and trench for months or years so would likely not return. Toads that migrate on a very specific path, directly on the cable route would be crushed in the process. Yet none of this appears to be in the Rampion biodiversity reports presented for this consultation.

Many field boundaries which are to be crossed contain oak trees, and one boundary is a double row of oaks with a ditch between. These are right in the path of the cable construction and around 25 in this one field alone would either be cut down or drilled under where their tap roots are likely to be damaged. These cannot be put back in our lifetime. We are meant to be planting trees to aid carbon storage, not destroying them because that is the cheapest way to get through. The nightingales and turtle doves nest in thick thorny scrub which is often many metres wide and at least 3 metres high. It takes decades to get to this density. I have many recordings of nightingale song from over the last few years and they return to the same sites year after year. The cable route is all along and across their territory. This is a territory, which has already been reduced when one landowner cut back metres of scrub from along the Cowfold Stream last year. This compresses their territory further, even if they can survive the construction process.

The new substation in this option, would be constructed by the junction of Kent Street and the A272, just after Oakendene. There are likely to be security lights on all night and it will inevitably be massively visible from the road. Around this new substation are open fields, with hedges, oak trees and a large lake used by wildfowl, and all the other creatures like bats and dragonflies that depend on this quiet habitat. The lake is much enjoyed by local people as there are key footpaths along the perimeter. This would become dominated by industrial building, noise and light and the peace and wildlife lost.

Local people have not been asked to share their knowledge of this landscape, its use and its wildlife to create the 'Preliminary Environmental Information Report' (PEIR). During the consultation Rampion Extension Development Ltd is meant 'to be on hand to help with queries' yet to date they haven't responded to either phone calls or emails. They are based in Coventry and the land agent based in Birmingham. There

will be very few wildlife surveys done in this area to date as it is very undisturbed land and is largely private land with public footpaths across it, so the 'desk study' relied on in the report has yielded little of concern.

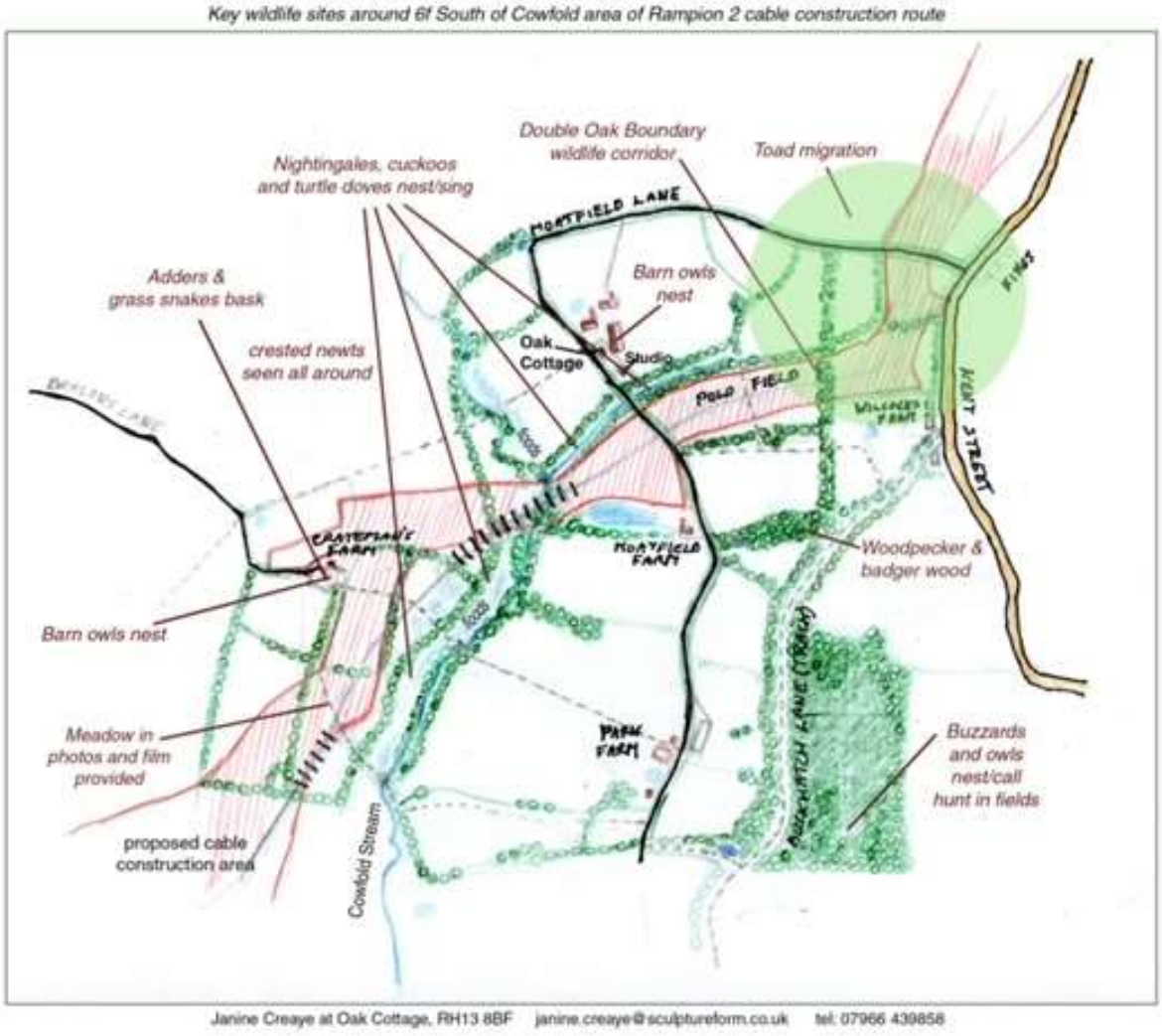
A final issue that may interest people even if they do not care about local biodiversity is that the construction traffic for this option brings obvious issues on the A272 and all through Kent Street, which is a single carriageway road with inadequate structure for any extra traffic, let alone construction vehicles to create the cable route. Whereas Rampion 1 substation (which we had no objection to) was built on a 2- way road and a fair distance from the A272.

We are all meant to welcome Green Energy options but the more people look into the details they realise that those championed by the government are not always proving to be so good financially and can also be devastating for endangered species, biodiversity, and public access for exercise and wellbeing. This proposal has to be far better researched and planned out.
Rampion2.com Public Consultation is asking for comments until 16th September.

Janine Creaye

Off Kent Street, Cowfold

Attachment 9 – Janine Creaye Biodiversity Map



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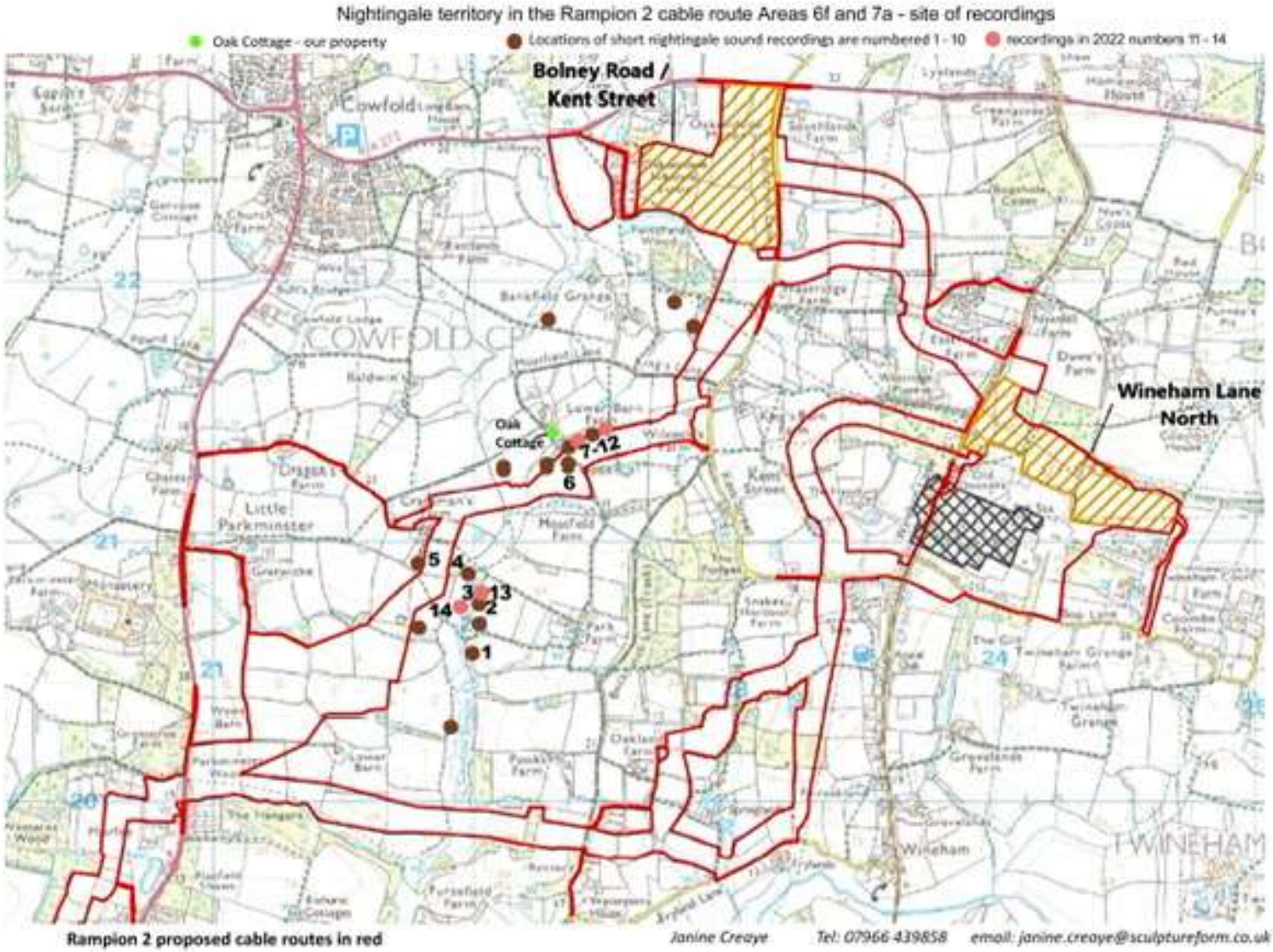
Attachment 10 – Cable Route Map, Nightingales



Attachment 11- Meadow Photos

Hedgerows and meadow at Moatfield Farm, in construction route

Badger path between double oak boundary, cable construction goes through not underneath

Meadow at Cratemans, not ploughed for decades, in construction route

Some of the meadow plants at Cratemans farm in the construction route

Little owl hunting in cable route below Oak Cottage, Moatfield Lane

Toad Migration every March on Moatfield Lane/Kent street right in cable construction route

Nightingale by the Cowfold Stream, which is crossed by cable construction

Crested newt on the tarmac at Oak Cottage, adjacent to cable construction route

Attachment 13 – Letter to the County Times

RAMPION 2 NEW SUBSTATION AT OAKENDENE – THE WRONG SITE

Further to the article in 1st November issue 'Cables threat to Royal Woodland' I am also questioning the choice of location for the new Substation that would serve the Rampion 2 Windfarm. There is the second consultation underway about the onshore cable route and the first since RWE decided to opt for a new substation at Oakendene, on the A272 near Cowfold. This brings the 50 metre wide construction route across the river Adur and all through the undisturbed patchwork of hedges and flood meadows around the Cowfold Stream (a named tributary that flows into the river Adur). With this comes the destruction of meadows that have not been ploughed for decades, many areas of species-rich hedgerow (some over 3 metres wide) and many mature oak trees. RWE say that it can be 2 years before the land is reinstated in any form. West Sussex County Times has reported that there is a River Adur Landscape Recovery project which has just received funding from Defra, is spearheaded by Knepp Estate's Wildland Foundation, and is supported by the Wilder Horsham District policy. This aims to improve the flood areas of the river, join up wildlife corridors and increase biodiversity along and around the tributaries, yet I cannot even get answers about how this massive construction project for Rampion 2 will mitigate against the loss of carbon, wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and biodiversity in this specific area. It is not so much rewilding that is needed here but mitigation and preservation.

There are red list bird species that nest all along and across the cable route around the Cowfold Stream from April to July. These include nightingales, turtle doves and cuckoos, which are not even mentioned in the published Preliminary or Supplementary Environmental reports for Rampion 2. We do not believe that the RWE environmental surveyors came here during nesting times. In March each year there is a toad migration on our narrow private lane which is to be crossed twice by the 164ft wide construction route, but this also gets no mention. There are adders that nest in nearby farm grounds where the cables come through, these are also a protected species, yet no surveys mention them or detail whether the vibration of construction will be a problem to them. I sent photos and recordings last year and in September 2021 I had a representative of the engineering company walk around the site with me, yet I have no evidence that any of this was added to the reports nor have I heard how things may be considered and protected. Copies of what was included in the surveys were promised at the time of the visit but I have asked by email last year and again by letter in August this year when the substation route option was confirmed. I have had no replies.

We saw for ourselves that restoration after Rampion 1 cable construction was poor and there are still struggling hedges 6 years on. A phrase in the Sussex Wildlife Trust's Response to the first Rampion 2 consultation was 'It is apparent in the aerial photography that there are still clear gaps in the hedgerows along the Rampion 1 cable route' and that reinstatement had clearly failed in a number of places. Lost mature oak trees cannot be reinstated in our lifetime, and most trees in the cable path would not be considered significant enough to merit the extra cost of sending cables deep under their roots to save them. There is a boundary behind our property that could stand to lose 25 mature oak trees in a double row. Between these rows is a sheltered and well-used route for wildlife that leads out from an area of woodland nearby. There are badger setts, rabbit warrens and deer are often seen. This boundary would have to be breached to get the cables and the construction vehicles through. Mature oaks are ecosystems of ivy, insects, fungi, caterpillars, birdlife as well as being impressive carbon stores. Even successful Jubilee Planting (like that proposed in the article mentioned above) cannot replace what will be lost if mature hedges and trees are not protected.

This is not just an issue for the landowners and very local residents, it is a much bigger environmental question which has not been adequately addressed by those who stand to profit so much from creating Windfarms.

Janine Creaye, Moatfield Lane, off Kent Street, Cowfold

Item 14 - Adequacy of Consultation Timelines Letter

Sent to WSCC and Planning Inspectorate 13 Feb 2023

Dear Sir

I have previously written highlighting the concerns of Cowfold residents about the inadequacy of the Rampion 2 consultation with respect to Cowfold and the widespread ignorance in the parish that the consultation was even taking place.

On 10th February 2023 I met with the chairman of Twineham Parish Council, Mrs Annie Hirst, and we compared the documents received by residents in Zones 1 and 2 of the Consultation boundaries. You can see from the attached table that there is a vast difference throughout the whole process in the information received by the two parishes. Most crucially, Twineham residents were sent a clear set of maps and written information as early as January 2021; Cowfold residents were not, nor did they receive the Section 42 notice from Carter Jonas in July 2021, and, when they did receive the one in October 2022, it contained both the set of maps from October 2022 **and** the set from July 2021, yet the residents of Twineham were only sent the October set. This is presumably because **Carter Jonas recognised that they had not previously met their legal requirements to consult with Cowfold.** Unfortunately, their action does not fulfil that requirement as, by then, it was far too late to influence the substation site.

I have also attached a timeline, independently written, by a resident of Moatfield Lane (Zone 1and 2) which mirrors the above findings.

It is hard to believe that the consistent failure to include Cowfold in the consultation process is an oversight. I am therefore led to the conclusion that it is a deliberate attempt to manipulate the consultation to favour the use of the Oakendene site.

Finally, on 11th January Cowfold Parish Council wrote to Rampion voicing their concerns regarding the adequacy of the consultation. I attach Rampion's response which we have reviewed point by point. It is clear that their claims regarding the level of consultation do not stand up to scrutiny with regards to meeting their legal duty to consult Cowfold

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

Attachment 1- Timeline Discussion, Annie Hirst, Chairman of Twineham PC, 10th Feb 2023

Date	Twineham Residents	Cowfold Residents
Jan 2020		
Jul 2020	Rampion letter. Not very comprehensible, no clear proposal. Significance understood by previous experience not by clarity of literature	Either not received or significance not recognised due to lack of meaningful information
Nov 2020	Carter Jonas letter. Not clear no substation mentioned, again not clarity	Nothing received
Dec 2020	First Feedback forms available to Twineham	Nothing received
7/1/21	Detailed letter from RWE to make aware of proposals and provide opportunity to share their views. Includes detail on substations and very clear maps, not greyed out.	No residents of Kings Lane, Moatfield Land, Kent Street, Picts Lane or A272 received this. If they had, there could have been no doubt of its importance
21/6/21	Rampion at their own request organised meetings with Twineham and Bolney PCs 'to tick a box'	No meeting scheduled with Cowfold PC
6/7/2021	Carter Jonas letter to Residents, discussing Routes and relevant structures. Very clear set of maps not greyed out.	Nothing received
14/7/21	Carter Jonas sect 42 notice accompanied by greyed out maps	Nothing received
7/21	Not sure if received	A low-key leaflet mentioning a substation at 'Bolney in Twineham'. No clear direct relevance to Cowfold and only received by very few people.
9/2/2022	Update letter from rampion 2.	Nothing received
24/8/2022	Update letter from rampion 2.	Nothing received
14/10/2022	Carter Jonas sect 42 notice accompanied by greyed out maps dated Oct 2022.	Carter Jonas sect 42 notice accompanied by greyed out maps. Including 2 sets of maps: dated Jul 2021 (PEIR) and Oct 2022 (PEIR with cable amendments). Received by a very limited number in the immediate vicinity, but even then, not all.
Nov 2022	Rampion Leaflet, no mention of substation	Rampion Leaflet, no mention of substation, received by only a few households. No clear relevance to Cowfold.
23 Nov 2022		First ever Cowfold meeting held.

Attachment 2-Janine Creaye , Timeline

RAMPION 2 - **What Happened When** - *Janine Creaye*		
Dates	What	Notes
29th July 2021	My neighbour at Crateman's Farm told me about the proposals for the wind farm cable route	This would go right through the Adur flood meadows and his farm, then past the bottom of my garden. The route was to be 50 metres wide 1 m deep. He had no choice – if he refused, they would compulsorily purchase the route right in the middle of his fields, so he would lose control of part of his land.
2/8/2021	I found a planning notice on a pole in Frylands Lane where one of the cable option would cross.	I phoned the direct line for **Jack Furness of Carter Jonas**, he answered but told someone else was dealing with Rampion and he would get them to phone back. They never did.
From July/August 2021 onwards	land and environment surveys	These were sent out from the land agent Carter Jonas based in Birmingham all around the cable options routes. The surveyors (mostly from London, none local) would not tell anybody anything, not even what they were looking for or recording. They did not want to hear any local experience of drainage, flooding, wildlife, biodiversity etc They had no means of recording that.
14th July – 16th September 2021	First consultation on Rampion Expansion including the 6 cable route options to the substation.	Information was very vague and the routes were much wider than they would eventually be There was little by way of public events and no local meetings
	I started conversations with Jess Price of Sussex Wildlife Trust who were consultants to the Rampion proposals	There seemed to be no wildlife surveys of the Cowfold Stream area already on record at Sussex Record Office, and Rampion were already too late to record the nesting birds like nightingales, sky larks and turtle doves or any rare spring flowers etc Even flooding was less likely when they came. The published Preliminary Environmental Report missed out the red list species of adders, nightingales and turtle doves.
23rd August	I sent information to add to surveys addressed to RWE and Carter Jonas.	Maps, recordings and photographs of nightingales, wildlife, trees and hedge boundaries, wildflower meadows and flooding patterns
2nd September	Meeting with Eleri Wilce of RWE and Lucy Tebbut of Carter Jonas and walk round cable route option near the Cowfold Stream	They were picking vociferous local people to visit, who had written in or phoned in during the consultation. They saw everybody separately and no public meetings were called. There were meetings for the landowners, but none for any other stakeholders or adjacent

		landowners. I was promised copies of what would be sent to add to the environmental surveys following the meeting. Nothing arrived
22nd September	Emailed Eleri Wilce to see where report of our meeting had gone	I got no reply I found subsequently that she had left the project if not RWE
14th July 2022	Oakendene/Kent Street option chosen	
21st July 2022	Option publicised in West Sussex County Times	Very small article
12 August 2022	Letter to James D'Alessandro	A response to the selection of the Oakendene site and appeal for environmental report copies. (I knew SWT had not been given them yet either). I got no response until after the consultation.
18th October – 29th November 2022	Rampion 2: Public Consultation about 'onshore cable route alternatives and modifications'	Very little warning about this, but a huge pack of unintelligible maps was sent out 14th October only to those who had been in touch. A very scant leaflet was finally sent out to all people in the cable route area. There were no public meetings scheduled only 'meet the team' events with exhibitions of the material that was already available on the website. Deliberately keeping local people apart.
11th November 2022	Ashurst Rampion drop in event	I spoke to Rob Gully – Senior consents Manager. Told him that nobody had replied to my letter in August. He took a photo of the letter to pass on the James Alessandro. There were still no copies of the environmental reports available to see, just massive vague maps.
23rd November	Cowfold public meeting arranged by Parish Council	I didn't hear about this until the day it was on and was not available to attend. I heard via a text from a neighbour and saw no advertising for it from the Parish Council or from Rampion - who must had noted by now that I was an interested party locally.
24th November	Sent further recordings and maps directly to RWE to add to consultation	Also filled in online form of response to consultation
24th November 2022	My second article appeared in the West Sussex County Times	Appeal to others to respond to second consultation
28th December 2022	Reply from James Alessandro dated 23rd December	Says very little but that nightingales have been noted round Cowfold Stream. No copies of environment reports or acknowledgement that the wildlife is much more interconnected and widespread. No word on the double boundary of oak trees that may be cut down.

Attachment 3 – Rampion 2 Challenge Document.

See attachment 4 of Item 3

Item 5 – Lack of Consultation with Cowfold

Letter to Mr Mike Elkington (WSCC) and Planning Inspectorate, 22 Feb 2023.

Dear Mr Elkington

I have written to you on a number of occasions to provide evidence for the lack of consultation with Cowfold, a Zone 1 and 2 community. I believe that evidence is now so significant as to be beyond dispute.

We know that Rampion recognised their early failure to consult when previously highlighted by other areas but during a second consultation, in February to April 2022, still nothing at all was received by Cowfold residents. In the final consultation period, they do indeed seem to have made some attempt to address this failing by sending maps to some residents and a leaflet to others, but as before, and as Cowfold people have made very clear to you, these communications were vague or misleading and still not received by all the people who should have had them. Also, we know that Rampion themselves realised they had not sent Section 42 letters to the appropriate residents in Cowfold in 2021 as they included the original maps in the 2022 packages sent to Cowfold, unlike other local parishes.

What makes Cowfold's situation different from that of any other consultees is the fact that, by the time they did at least try to right this wrong, the decision which most affects this community had already been made ie the location of the substation. This does not seem to have been recognised when the decision to extend the consultation period was made. Therefore, even if the final consultation had been properly carried out, which it was not, it cannot reasonably be considered sufficient to meet the consultation requirements in Cowfold and the whole thing should be reopened from the start. Simply extending the consultation does not address this issue; the substation site should be reviewed to allow Cowfold residents to meaningfully take part in what must be seen to be a transparent and democratic process

Yours sincerely

Meera Smethurst

Item 6 – Letter to RWE, Section 42 Letters.

Also sent to Planning Inspectorate and WSCC, 10 Mar 2023

Dear Mr Tomlinson

In October 2022 we received, in the post, Section 42 notices from you along with two sets of maps, dated July 2021 and October 2022. So did the business at Oakendene Industrial estate, being also in the RH13 8AZ postcode although it is not clear exactly when they received them, possibly considerably later as they were delivered by hand rather than by Royal Mail. They were told that it was all agreed and this was just to let them know, and they were asked to sign to confirm receipt. There are between 50 and 70 small businesses there, they tell us, all of whom will be significantly affected.

However, neither we, nor any of the businesses in Oakendene, received any such notifications in the July 2021 consultation, nor it would seem did any of our neighbours despite being in the vicinity of one of the proposed substation sites from the outset of the consultation; nothing had changed in this respect as Oakendene was clearly under consideration from the start, so we all should have received them in both consultations. Twineham and Wineham residents did receive them in 2021. In 2022 Twineham residents received only one set of maps (dated Oct 22), suggesting the failure to consult us in 2021 was in fact recognised by you.

Even in October 2022, neither of the immediate neighbours in between our two houses, at Applecross and Wealden barn, nor the neighbour directly to the east at Barnfield House (RH13 8AT), nor any other dwellings in the RH13 8AZ post code received the letter and maps. This includes New Barn Farm, Brighthelmstone, Coopers Cottage, Allfreys, Averys and Long Barn House. Yet all of these homes are close to Oakendene and are directly accessed from the stretch of the A272 opposite Oakendene.

The document below (attachment 1) would suggest that you used a mail merge with data containing addresses for particular postcodes. You therefore must have records to show to whom you sent the letters in 2021 and 2022. These records should confirm that these addresses were not written to at all in July 2021 and only a few of them in October 2022. Our own Unique Reference Numbers are shown below.

We have seen copies of the notices sent out in 2021, and even if leaflets or letters had been received in 2021, or statutory notices seen, the substation is described only as ‘in the vicinity of the existing substation at Bolney in Twineham’ or ‘near the existing Bolney substation’ (attachments 1-2: section 42 letter, statutory notices, and 2021 leaflet), and the maps were very difficult to understand.

There was nothing therefore to alert residents in Cowfold that this might have affected them, whereas it would have been quite clear to those in Bolney, Twineham or Wineham that they should pay attention. This, together with your failure to send letters to us in 2021, would have skewed the consultation responses significantly towards the choice of the Oakendene site.

To further distort the responses, you were capable of clarity in the letters and maps you sent to Twineham residents in January 2021(attachment 3), so they would already have been alert to look out for the consultation, yet for some reason you did not continue with this clarity in the first consultation, failing in your obligation to meet the consultation standards required under the Planning Act 2008, the Gunning Principles or your own Statement of Community Consultation.

It cannot be acceptable that this community, amongst the most impacted by this project, can have had so little attempt at meaningful consultation from Rampion, and the consultation should therefore be restarted

Yours sincerely

Jeremy and Meera Smethurst Unique letter references: RAM-738, 739 - Coopers Farm

Ron and Ann Leggett Unique letter references: RAM-736, 737 - South Lodge

Rampion 2 WIND FARM

RWE

Ms Paige Hanlon
Case Manager
National Infrastructure Planning
Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Rampion 2 Project
Rampion Extension Development Ltd

c/o RWE Renewables
Greenwood House
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB

12th July 2021

Dear Paige

Notice of Proposed Application to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 46 Planning Act 2008

The Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Order 20xx

Forthcoming Consultation under Section 42 Planning Act 2008

I am writing to notify you that Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED) intends to develop and construct a new offshore wind farm located around 13km from the Sussex coast at its nearest point. The Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm (the **Project**) will cover an offshore array area of approximately 270km^2. The Project will connect to the National Grid via underground cables from a landfall at Climping, West Sussex, to the existing power station at Bolney Substation in Mid-Sussex via a 'satellite' substation in its vicinity.

The Project will have an installed capacity of over 100MW and therefore falls within the definition of a "nationally significant infrastructure project". As a result, RED is required to submit an application for a development consent order (**DCO**) to the Secretary of State.

Please accept this letter as notice to the Secretary of State under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (the **Act**), of RED's proposed application in relation to the Project and that it intends to carry out its statutory consultation pursuant to section 42 of the Act commencing on **14 July 2021** and closing on **16 September 2021**.

Accordingly we enclose the following

...

1. A copy of the letter being sent to all consultation bodies pursuant to sections 42, 43 and 44 of the Act; and

2. A copy of the section 48 press notice.

As confirmed in the above, the consultation materials are being made available via the Project website at website www.rampion2.com/consultation .

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to the PEIR;
- Documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposal;
- Consultation factsheets; and
- the Consultation Response form.

The documents will be made available to consultees (subject to availability) on a USB stick to be at libraries and otherwise on request pursuant to RED's duty to consult under Section 42 of the Act. Should you wish a copy of the USB stick, please let me know.

For the avoidance of doubt, we confirm that the Applicant prepared a Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") and consulted with the following local authorities in respect of the content thereof ;

Arun District Council,

Horsham District Council,

Mid Sussex District Council,

Adur District Council,

Chichester District Council,

Lewes District Council

Wealden District Council

Worthing Borough Council,

Eastbourne Borough Council

Brighton and Hove City Council,

Isle of Wight Council

South Downs National Park Authority

West Sussex County Council and

East Sussex County Council.

The Marine Management Organisation were also consulted.

The Applicant published a notice in the Sussex Express, West Sussex County Times, the Mid Sussex Times, West Sussex Gazette and the Argus between 9th and 11th June 2021 pursuant to section 47(6) of the Act advising that Paper copies of the SoCC were made available for pickup from 7 June until 12 July 2021 at the following:

East Sussex Libraries

- Seaford Library
- Newhaven Library
- Peacehaven Library

Brighton and Hove Libraries

- Jubilee Library
- Hove Library
- Portslade Library

West Sussex

- Southwick Library
- Shoreham-by-Sea Library
- Worthing Library
- Ferring Library
- Rustington Library
- Littlehampton Library
- Bognor Regis Library

- Selsey Library
- Arundel Library
- Storrington Library
- Henfield Library

The SoCC was also available to review on the Rampion Website. We have enclosed a copy of that notice for your information.

We would be grateful for your confirmation that this letter and the accompanying documentation fully satisfy the requirements of Section 46 of the Act. If you wish to discuss this or any other issues in connection with the Project, please contact Eleri Wilce on [redacted] or [redacted] We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Eleri Wilce
Senior Consents Manager

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Rampion 2
WIND FARM

RWE

Name/organisation
Address 1
Address 2
Address 3
Address 4
Address 5

Rampion 2 Project
Rampion Extension Development Ltd

c/o RWE Renewables
Greenwood House
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB

Unique letter reference number: [party ID mail merged]

13 July 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposals for an offshore wind farm off the coast of West Sussex (known as Rampion 2).

Notice pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to consult you on proposals for an offshore wind farm, known as Rampion 2, to be located adjacent to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm in the English Channel off the south coast of England. The current consultation is a statutory consultation carried out pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act). Notice of the proposed application is also being publicised under the requirements of Section 48 of the Act.

You are being specifically consulted on the proposals because either;

- **You have, or may have, an interest in land which is the subject of the current proposals. You may have already been separately contacted by the applicant, or land agent acting on behalf of the applicant in that regard;**
- **You are a statutory consultee, in respect of Section 44; or**
- **You are a–person(s) or body to whom we believe this proposal may be of interest.**

The Act introduced new procedures for applications for categories of development that are identified as 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (NSIPs). The categories of development are set out within the Act and the Rampion 2 proposals fall within the categories described in Sections 15 as an offshore generating station with a capacity of more than 100 megawatts. Rampion Extension Development Limited (the Applicant) will be submitting to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and maintenance of an offshore windfarm. The development will comprise both onshore and offshore infrastructure and will be EIA Development pursuant to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The application, if accepted, will be Examined by the PINS

...

and a recommendation will be made to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy who will then decide whether or not to approve the DCO.

Consultation

This Consultation is being carried out to inform the design of the scheme. Responses to the consultation will be considered and details of how the consultation has influenced the final proposals will be explained in the Consultation Report to be submitted with the Application.

The Land Affected

The application relates to an offshore area adjacent to the existing Rampion 1 offshore wind farm, comprising a seabed area awarded in 2019 under the Crown Estate wind farm extension process (to the west of Rampion 1) and development within the remainder of the original Round 3 Zone 6 seabed area award (to the south east of Rampion 1), comprising an array area of 270km2, together with a small link area for cabling. Export cables from the array area will make landfall at Climping, West Sussex. The onshore elements of the proposal comprises a transmission cable running approximately 36km from landfall at Climping, to a 'satellite' substation located in the vicinity of the existing Bolney Substation, at Twineham, Mid Sussex to which it will then be connected.

The Proposals

The proposals comprise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance of up to 116 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 325m above lowest astronomical tide and their foundations;
- Up to three offshore substations;
- Cables laid on or beneath the seabed between the wind turbines and offshore substations and between the substations themselves;
- Export cables to transmit electricity from the offshore substations to the shore;
- A landfall located at Climping Beach using Horizontal Directional Drilling installation, with transition joint bays to connect the offshore and onshore cables;
- Onshore underground cables with jointing pits to transmit electricity to a new onshore substation. It is expected that the onshore cables will be laid within a corridor, the majority of which shall have a temporary working width of up to 50m;
- The construction and operation of an onshore substation on land in the vicinity of the existing National Grid Bolney Substation in Twineham, Mid Sussex;
- Underground cables between the new substation and the existing Bolney substation to connect the offshore wind farm to the National Grid;

Further information

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the Section 48 Notice that will be published in the following publications:

- the Argus, Sussex Daily and the West Sussex Gazette on 14 July;
- the West Sussex County Times and Mid Sussex Times on 15 July; and
- the Sussex Express, and Isle of Wight County Press on 16 July.

Notice of the application will also be published for a second time in each publication a week after the above dates.

The notice will also be published in the Fishing News on 16th July 2021 and in The Guardian, and the London Gazette, as well as Lloyds List on 19th July 2021.

Consultation materials are available to view or download from the project website www.rampion2.com/consultation. This includes the following:

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to the PEIR;
- Documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposal;
- Consultation factsheets; and
- the Consultation Response form

Consultation responses

Comments are invited on the proposals. The Act allows a period of 28 days for this consultation from the day after receipt of this letter and enclosures. We anticipate, from the posting date, that you will receive this letter on 14th July 2021 which would give a deadline for responses of 11th August 2021.

However, although the consultation officially commences on **14th July 2021** we have decided to provide for more than the statutory minimum consultation period and accordingly please note the deadline for receipt of responses is **15th September 2021**

Please could you respond using one of the following methods:

By Post:
Rampion 2 Extension Development Limited
Consultation Response
c/o RWE Renewables
Greenwood House
Westwood Way

Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB

By e-mail: Rampion2@rwe.com

Online via the comments form on the project website:
www.Rampion2.com/consultation

Freephone: 0800 2800 886

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Eleri Wilce
Senior Consents Manager

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Rampion 2
WIND FARM

More information about the project can be found on our website
www.Rampion2.com

Notice Publicising a Statement of Community Consultation

SECTION 47 PLANNING ACT 2008

Notice is hereby given that Rampion Extension Development Limited ('RED'), a joint venture company comprising RWE, a Macquarie-led consortium (comprising Macquarie European Infrastructure Fund 5, the Green Investment Group and the Universities Superannuation Scheme) and Enbridge, is promoting the development of an offshore wind farm project known as Rampion 2.

Rampion 2 is a proposed expansion of the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, located in the English Channel off the Sussex coast. The broad offshore area of search being reviewed for development, which is adjacent to the existing wind farm, was initially established by the Crown Estate who own and lease the seabed.

The infrastructure being proposed as part of the development includes:

- Up to 116 wind turbines, up to three offshore substations and an export cable search area to bring the power to shore at Climping Beach
- An underground electricity cable connection from Climping Beach to Bolney, Mid Sussex, where the electricity would need to connect into the National Grid transmission system
- One new substation located near the existing Bolney substation, which would be required to transform the power from the wind farm up to the required voltage (400kV), in order to connect to the transmission grid

About the application process

Rampion 2 is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. This means that RED must apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for statutory powers to build and operate the project.

RED will submit the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate who will only accept the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for examination if it complies with the relevant statutory formalities and standards.

About the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out how RED intend to consult with local communities within the vicinity of the project about the proposed development, and the preliminary environmental information which will inform the Environmental Statement, during the pre-application process. It provides details on how the project information can be accessed and how to respond to the consultation.

Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 RED has a statutory duty to consult the local community about its proposals in accordance with its SoCC.

The SoCC is available for inspection free of charge on the project website Rampion2.com/consultation.

Paper copies of the SoCC are available for pickup (subject to availability) from 7 June until 12 July 2021 at the following publicly accessible facilities:

Location	Address	For information about access & opening hours*
Seaford Library	15-17 Sutton Park Road, Seaford BN25 1QX	https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries
Newhaven Library	36-38 High Street, Newhaven BN9 9PD	
Peacehaven Library	Meridian Centre, Peacehaven BN10 8BB	
Jubilee Library	Jubilee Street, Brighton BN1 1GE	www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-arts
Hove Library	182-186 Church Rd, Hove BN3 2EG,	
Portslade Library	Old Shoreham Rd, Portslade BN41 1XR	
Southwick Library	24 Southwick St, Southwick, BN42 4FT	https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/
Shoreham-by-Sea Library	St Mary's Rd, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5ZA	
Worthing Library	Richmond Rd, Worthing BN11 1HD	
Ferring Library	Ferring St, Worthing BN12 5HL	
Rustington Library	Claigmar Road, Rustington, BN16 2N	
Littlehampton Library	Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5NA	
Bognor Regis Library	London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DE	
Selsey Library	School Lane, Selsey, PO20 9EH	
Arundel Library	Surrey Street, Arundel, BN18 9DT	
Storrington Library	Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA	
Henfield Library	Off High Street, Henfield, BN5 9HN	

*Due to evolving social distancing guideline it is advised to visit the website provided to find out about potential restrictions and safety measures before attending the facility.

If you are unable to access the SoCC as prescribed above or you required it in another language, large print, audio or braille format, please contact RED using these details:

Email: rampion2@rwe.com
Free phone information line: 0800 2800 886
hours of operation 7am-9pm Mon-Sat.

Rampion 2
WIND FARM

More information about the project can be found on our website www.Rampion2.com

Notice Publicising a Statement of Community Consultation

SECTION 47, PLANNING ACT 2008

Notice is hereby given that Rampion Extension Development Limited ("RED"), a joint venture company comprising RWE, a Macquarie-led consortium (comprising Macquarie European Infrastructure Fund 5, the Green Investment Group and the Universities Superannuation Scheme) and Enbridge, is promoting the development of an offshore wind farm project known as Rampion 2.

Rampion 2 is a proposed expansion of the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, located in the English Channel off the Sussex coast. The broad offshore area of search being reviewed for development, which is adjacent to the existing wind farm, was initially established by the Crown Estate who own and lease the seabed.

The infrastructure being proposed as part of the development includes:

- Up to 116 wind turbines, up to three offshore substations and an export cable search area to bring the power to shore at Climping Beach
- An underground electricity cable connection from Climping Beach to Bolney, Mid Sussex, where the electricity would need to connect into the National Grid transmission system
- One new substation located near the existing Bolney substation, which would be required to transform the power from the wind farm up to the required voltage (400kV), in order to connect to the transmission grid

About the application process

Rampion 2 is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. This means that RED must apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for statutory powers to build and operate the project.

RED will submit the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate who will only accept the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for examination if it complies with the relevant statutory formalities and standards.

About the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out how RED intend to consult with local communities within the vicinity of the project about the proposed development, and the preliminary environmental information which will inform the Environmental Statement, during the pre-application process. It provides details on how the project information can be accessed and how to respond to the consultation.

Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 RED has a statutory duty to consult the local community about its proposals in accordance with its SoCC.

The SoCC is available for inspection free of charge on the project website Rampion2.com/consultation.

Paper copies of the SoCC are available for pickup (subject to availability) from 7 June until 12 July 2021 at the following publicly accessible facilities:

Location	Address	For information about access & opening hours*
Seaford Library	15-17 Sutton Park Road, Seaford BN25 1QX	
Newhaven Library	36-38 High Street, Newhaven BN9 9PD	https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries
Peacehaven Library	Meridian Centre, Peacehaven BN10 8BB	
Jubilee Library	Jubilee Street, Brighton BN1 1GE	
Hove Library	182-186 Church Rd, Hove BN3 2EG,	www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-arts
Portslade Library	Old Shoreham Rd, Portslade BN41 1XR	
Southwick Library	24 Southwick St, Southwick, BN42 4FT	
Shoreham-by-Sea Library	St Mary's Rd, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5ZA	
Worthing Library	Richmond Rd, Worthing BN11 1HD	
Ferring Library	Ferring St, Worthing BN12 5HL	https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/
Rustington Library	Claigmar Road, Rustington, BN16 2N	
Littlehampton Library	Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5NA	
Bognor Regis Library	London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DE	
Selsey Library	School Lane, Selsey, PO20 9EH	
Arundel Library	Surrey Street, Arundel, BN18 9DT	*Due to evolving social distancing guideline it is advised to visit the website provided to find out about potential restrictions and safety measures before attending the facility.
Storrington Library	Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA	
Henfield Library	Off High Street, Henfield, BN5 9HN	

If you are unable to access the SoCC as prescribed above or you required it in another language, large print, audio or braille format, please contact RED using these details:

Email: rampion2@rwe.com
Free phone information line: 0800 2800 886
hours of operation 7am-9pm Mon-Sat.

Section 48 Planning Act 2008
Regulation 4 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

RAMPION 2 OFFSHORE WIND FARM
NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER (DCO)

Notice is hereby given that Rampion Extension Development Limited ("RED") (**'the Applicant'**) of Greenwood House, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry, CV4 8PB proposes to apply to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order for the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm known as Rampion 2 (**'Rampion 2'**).

Rampion 2 will have a proposed generating capacity in excess of 100 MW, and will be located around 13km from the Sussex coast at its nearest point. The proposed wind turbines and offshore substations will be constructed within an offshore array area of approximately 270 km^2 Export cables from the offshore array area will make landfall at Climping and will then connect to the National Grid via underground cables to a Project substation and then to the Electricity Transmission System at the National Grid Bolney Substation in Twineham, Mid Sussex.

The proposed development consent order will, amongst other things, licence and authorise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance of up to 116 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 325m above lowest astronomical tide and their foundations;
- Up to three offshore substations;
- Cables laid on or beneath the seabed between the wind turbines and offshore substations and between the substations themselves;
- Export cables to transmit electricity from the offshore substations to the shore;
- A landfall located at Climping Beach using Horizontal Directional Drilling installation, with transition joint bays to connect the offshore and onshore cables;
- Onshore underground cables with jointing pits to transmit electricity to a new onshore substation. It is expected that the onshore cables will be laid within a corridor, the majority of which shall have a temporary working width of up to 50m;
- The construction and operation of an onshore substation on land in the vicinity of the existing National Grid Bolney Substation in Twineham, Mid Sussex;
- Underground cables between the new substation and the existing Bolney substation to connect the offshore wind farm to the National Grid;
- The permanent compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights for the Project, where required;
- Overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land as required for the Project;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory purchase;
- If required, the closure and diversion of public rights of way and streets on a temporary and permanent basis
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits or consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

Rampion 2 is an EIA development for the purposes of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed development requires an Environmental Impact Assessment and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES). Accordingly, the Applicant will be making preliminary environmental information available as part of the consultation.

Consultation on the Rampion 2 Wind Farm will begin on **14 July 2021** and end on **16 September 2021.** During this time copies of the consultation materials comprising documents, plans and maps showing the

nature and location of the proposal will be made available. These include consultation factsheets, the consultation response form, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to the PEIR which will be available for inspection, free of charge, on the project website www.Rampion2.com/consultation. Electronic copies of the materials may also be inspected on computers accessible to the public at the following libraries during the consultation period:

Venue	For information on computer access and opening hours*
East Sussex	
Seaford Library 15-17 Sutton Park Road, Seaford BN25 1QX	https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries/local/locations/seaford
Peacehaven Library Meridian Centre, Peacehaven BN10 8BB	https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries/local/locations/peacehaven
Brighton and Hove	
Jubilee library Jubilee Street, Brighton, BN1 1GE	www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/directories/local-libraries/jubilee-library
West Sussex	
Shoreham-by-Sea Library, St Mary's Rd, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5ZA	www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/shoreham-by-sea-library/
Worthing Library Richmond Road, Worthing, BN11 1PW	www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/worthing-library
Littlehampton Library Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5NA	www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/littlehampton-library/
Bognor Regis Library London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DE	www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/bognor-regis-library/
Storrington Library Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA	www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/storrington-library/
Mid Sussex	
Henfield Library Off High St, Henfield, BN5 9HN	www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/henfield-library/
Hurstpierpoint Library Trinity Rd, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, BN6 9UY	www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/library-details/hurstpierpoint-library/
Isle of Wight	
Sandown Library 119 High St, Sandown, PO36 8AF	www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Libraries-Cultural-and-Heritage/Local-Libraries/Sandown-Library/

*Opening hours and computer access are subject to Covid-19 policies and practices at each venue. Please call the library or check the library's website provided prior to your visit

Hard copies of the consultation materials, or translation of materials to another language, large print, audio or braille format may be requested, and other enquiries in respect of these materials may be raised, during the consultation period using the email address, telephone number and 'Contact us' form on the project website provided below:

- Email: rampion2@rwe.com
- Freephone number 0800 2800 886
- Project website: www.rampion2.com/keep-in-touch/

Requests for reproduction of any of these consultation materials in a hardcopy paper format may be subject to a fee, subject to the specifications of the request. Copies of the consultation documents on a USB card will be provided free of charge on request, and (subject to availability) are available for collection at the following venues:

USB Deposit location	For information on access and opening hours
Rampion Visitor Centre 76-81 Kings Road Arches, Brighton BN1 2FN	https://www.rampionoffshore.com/contact/ Contact the Visitor Centre at 0800 2800 886 to arrange collection

Littlehampton Town Council The Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5EW	https://www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk/contact-us Contact reception at 01903 732063 to arrange collection
Mid Sussex District Council Oaklands Rd, Haywards Heath RH16 1SS, United Kingdom	https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus-community-business-support/ Contact reception at 01444 458166 to arrange collection

Responses to or other representations in respect of Rampion 2 should be submitted to the Applicant via the consultation feedback form on the project website www.rampion2.com/consultation. Consultation responses may also be received by email to rampion2@rwe.com or in writing to the Applicant at: Rampion 2 – Consultation Response, Greenwood House, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry, CV4 8PB stating the grounds of the response or representation. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed Development Consent Order must be received by the Applicant **no later than 23:59 on 16 September 2021**, indicating who is making the response or representation, and giving a postal or email address to which correspondence relating to the response or representation may be sent.

Details of responses and other representations will be made public at a later date, however any personal details or comments will not be attributed to any individual.

Attachment 2- 2106 Flyer V7 low res copy

We have been investigating an offshore Area of Search to establish the best site for the wind farm and exploring an onshore cable route for the underground cables to carry the power from Climping Beach to Bolney Substation in Twineham, where two potential sites are being considered close by for a new substation, needed to connect the power to the National Grid.

Take a tour around our virtual exhibition at www.rampion2.com where you can explore our proposals with maps and videos, sign up to attend an online public forum with the project team, and complete our questionnaire to give us your feedback.

Next steps – we will consider all the consultation feedback alongside the results of technical and environmental surveys, to identify the optimum and least impact project proposals, which we will submit to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in early 2022. Should the project achieve consent, construction could start around 2025/26 with the wind farm fully operational before the end of the decade.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Rampion 2
WIND FARM

Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this postcard.

Rampion 2 Project Team contacts:
www.rampion2.com
rampion2@rwe.com
0800 2800 886

Rampion Extension Development Ltd
c/o RWE Renewables UK Limited-
Greenwood House
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB
Registered in England and Wales no. 12091939

Rampion 2
WIND FARM

RWE

Katherine Anne Hirst
[redacted]

Rampion 2 Project
Rampion Extension Development Ltd

c/o RWE Renewables
Greenwood House
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB

Party ID: 354

7th January 2021

Dear Madam,

We contacted you in November 2020 regarding proposals we are developing for Rampion 2, an expansion of offshore wind generating capacity adjacent to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm. We are contacting you again to make you aware of our early proposals and an opportunity to share your views during our first consultation, prior to a more detailed second consultation in late spring.

Additionally, our appointed land agents from Carter Jonas have begun confirming ownership and occupancy details for parties who have an interest in land around the indicative underground cable route or route options we have identified, or a similar interest in land around three search areas we have identified for a new substation. We have enclosed material from Carter Jonas about this process and a Request for Information form that will inform their engagement with you regarding land and property matters.

Project details

The current proposals include:

- An offshore search area adjacent to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm off the Sussex Coast, where we are considering layout options for up to 116 wind turbines and an export cable search area to bring the power to shore
- An underground electricity cable connection from Climping Beach to Bolney, Mid Sussex, where the electricity would need to connect into the National Grid transmission system. The majority of the cable route would be installed within a corridor that is up to 50 metres wide and would be reinstated to its original condition following construction
- One new substation located near the existing Bolney substation, which would be required to transform the power from the wind farm up to the required voltage (400kV), in order to connect to the transmission grid. We will be consulting on 3 search areas with the aim of identifying a preferred option later this year

Routes and substation sites selection

When identifying preferred cable routes and substation site options, we take several factors into consideration to find solutions with low overall impacts. Some of the impacts we seek to minimise include:

- Proximity to residences
- Potential impacts to environmental and ecological designations, sensitivities or features
- Potential visual impacts

...

- Temporary effects during the construction phase including construction traffic, construction compounds and installation works
- Ability to access the infrastructure for construction, repairs and maintenance
- Temporary agricultural impacts, including potential impacts to farming usage

We have begun conducting surveys to assess the potential impacts of our proposals in more detail and will be continuing with this important work throughout the year.

First public consultation on Rampion 2 proposals

We are taking this early opportunity to carry out an informal consultation exercise to raise awareness of the project and invite feedback on any local issues you think we should be taking into account.

Visit our website www.Rampion2.com to view information about the proposals and our Virtual Village Hall, where you can submit your views through an online feedback form. This consultation will be open from 14 January to 11 February 2021.

If you are not able to access the information online, please contact our Freephone line at 0800 2800 886 and a member of the team will follow up with you.

This will not be your only opportunity to have your say. We will consider this feedback alongside the results of our technical and environmental surveys to produce refined draft proposals for a second consultation in late spring 2021. This will comprise more detailed information, including a defined onshore cable route and information on how we intend to construct the project and mitigate impacts.

What happens next?

We ask that you review the materials contained within this package, which includes:

- A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document which answers some initial queries that you may have
- Maps showing the onshore cable area of search or 'scoping boundary', and three substation search areas that we are seeking feedback on
- Details about the Land Referencing process and a Request for Information form

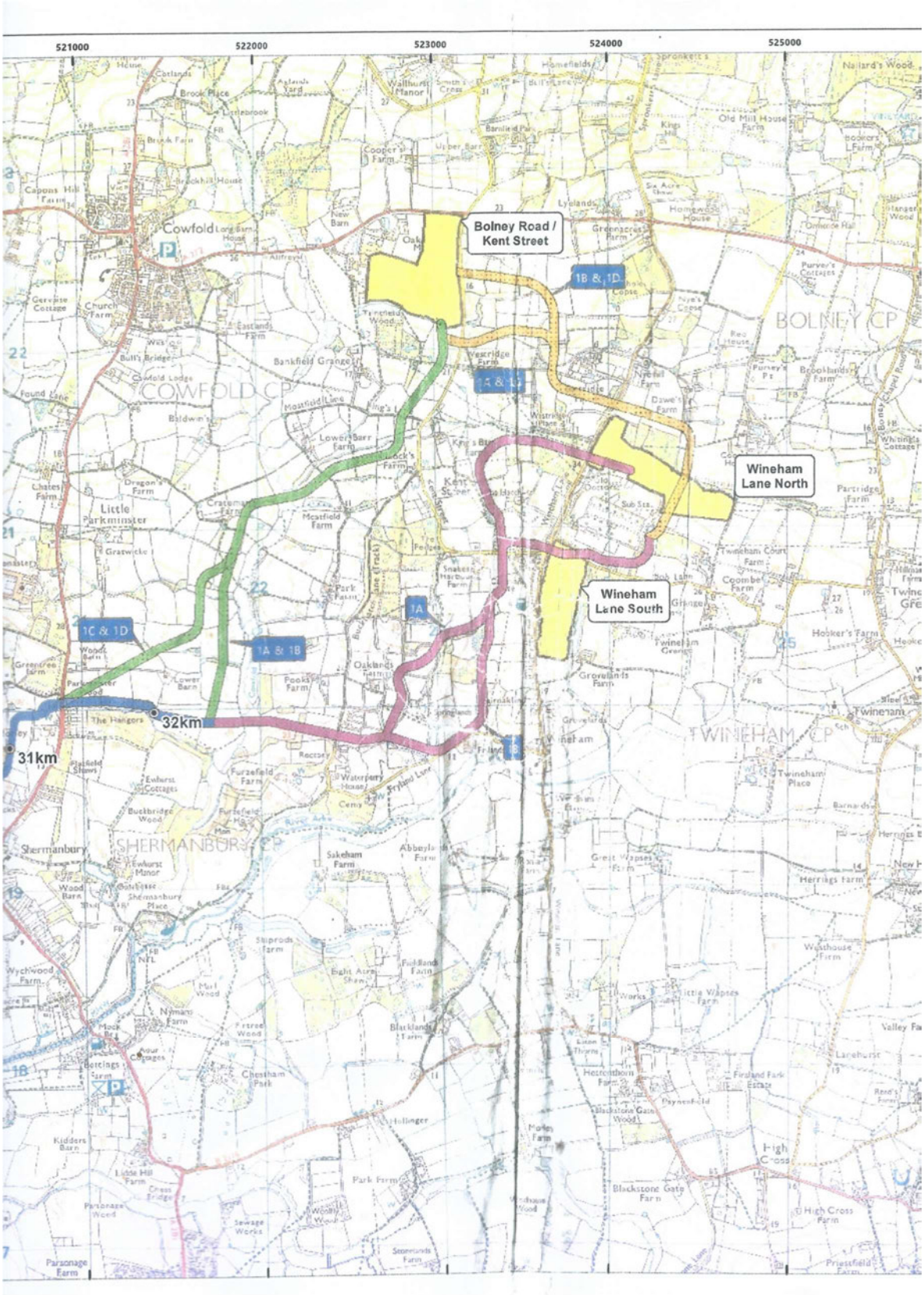
As our proposals develop Carter Jonas will also begin commercial negotiations with landowners in places where it will be necessary for us to acquire specific rights to build or operate the infrastructure for Rampion 2. Information gathered through the two rounds of public consultation and ongoing landowner engagement conducted by Carter Jonas will be used to help shape our proposals. It is our intention to seek permission to build Rampion 2 via a Development Consent Order (DCO) application in late 2021. Should the project be awarded a DCO, the earliest that construction would start is 2025.

Many thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Vaughan Weighill
Project Manager, Rampion 2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COWFOLD CP
BOLNEY CP
TWINEHAM CP
SHERMANBURY CP
Cowfold
Little Parkminster
Shermanbury
Twineham

Item 7 – Letter to Natural England 27 Mar 2023

Dear Dr Bardsley,

I was given your name by our Horsham District Councillor, Lynn Lambert.

I am writing to you on behalf of a large group of Cowfold residents to ask your advice and seek your help regarding the Rampion2 proposals to build a 15-acre substation at Oakendene in Cowfold (see attached map). This is part of the national infrastructure project to build another offshore wind farm on the South coast. The cable routes are expected to cross the meadowland to the south west of the site, crossing Cowfold stream, which feeds into the Adur. We are trying to get the consultation reopened before these proposals are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, and in this we have the support of Andrew Griffiths MP, as we do not believe that Rampion have met their legal requirements to adequately consult with this community, they also have not listened to the concerns of the Sussex Wildlife Trust or RSPB

We are concerned about the environmental impact on the meadowland and its wildlife. Janine Creaye, a local wildlife enthusiast, has meticulously recorded her findings over a number of years and has explained to us that the land from Gratwicke to Oakendene is effectively a wildlife corridor, marsh land and floodplain and home to many of the same wildlife species as Knepp, to which of course it is very close geographically. In this case however, it has evolved as such because the land has not been farmed for decades. It does not need rewilding; it needs to be left alone. Janine can explain to you far better than I can what makes this area so precious and why it is under threat. I attach a copy of her excellent summary for your information.

We are also concerned about the impact of the 8000 HGVs, plus many other support vehicles, which will be accessing the site and the cable routes. To the immediate south of the Oakendene site lies ancient woodland at Taintfield, and, whilst not directly on the substation site or the cable route, may be affected by the noise, vibration and artificial light coming from the construction, and indeed afterwards from the substation itself. The vast raft of concrete underlying the substation will affect surface water flooding; already an issue at this point of the A272. Also, we know that there was an oil spill from Rampion 1 at Twineham which got into the nearby river. This may happen again here. Cowfold stream is a tributary of the river Adur and as such should be considered as important as the Adur as the latter is dependent on the former. There is also the issue of the damage to the wildflower habitat on the flood meadow. Oakendene is also the only site which was under consideration to have a large lake; this will no doubt support its own unique wildlife and could be put in jeopardy.

Rampion have not yet published their environmental report and say they will not do so until they submit their application to the Planning Inspectorate. This does not allow sufficient time for SWT and other experts to make a considered response to their findings, which Rampion are legally obliged to make possible.

Despite you making it clear in your scoping report of 2020 that they should listen to the evidence from residents regarding wildlife species locally, as biodiversity registers may not be up to date, they have refused to take Janine's photographic and sound evidence into account despite repeated requests for them to do so.

They have said that they will try to minimise the damage to trees and hedgerows by the use of trenchless crossings in the flood meadow. However, whilst they say they can use the extensive network of farm tracks on the south downs to bring their equipment in, in this untouched area there simply aren't any tracks, so access will have to be by the destruction of other parts of the very hedgerows they are trying to preserve, and creating roads across the meadowland! The additional number of kilometres of cable route resulting from the choice of the Oakendene site will result in the unnecessary loss of many more ancient trees and hedgerows than a more direct route to Bolney. Their track record of reinstatement for Rampion 1 is very poor, where many replacement hedgerow plantings have failed to regrow. In any case, new planting cannot hope to support the same biodiversity for decades to come.

I have also attached the report we submitted to the planning inspectorate and WSCC adequacy of consultation team for your information (without attachments, for your sanity, but I can send them if you wish!). However, I am concerned that most of the environmental focus, not necessarily from yourselves, has been on the coast and the Downs, and that this area has not really been thought to be of importance by the organisations involved; certainly not by Rampion themselves. Janine's data clearly shows that it deserves

more attention and protection. She has far more data than I have included here and would be happy to share it with you. We are continuing to record the wildlife on the cable route near Cowfold and now have access to Oakendene itself so we can start there.

We feel very strongly that the choice of this site is not sound, and ironically represents the most environmentally devastating option they could possibly have chosen to achieve their green energy aims.

Thank you for any help you can offer us.

Item 8 – Letter to WSCC and Planning Inspectorate dated 19 Apr 23

Further Evidence Regarding Rampion 2 Failure of Consultation with Cowfold:

Dear Sir

I have previously written outlining the general failure of Rampion to consult with Cowfold residents both in the October 2022 consultation, but most crucially, in the 2021 consultation, when the decision to use the Oakendene site for the substation was made. WSCC has received around 300 letters from Cowfold saying they had received no meaningful consultation from Rampion. There are approximately 750 households in the parish.

I am writing now to highlight confirmatory evidence of the specific failings regarding adequate consultation with those most affected by the location of the substation at this site.

Preconsultation stage

Even before the consultation started, discussions were taking place with those whose emails they already had; by definition largely those people around the previous Rampion 1 cable route and substation site. This immediately skewed the pre-consultation feedback. PEIR Ch 4 Alternatives: 'Local residents provided feedback that they would prefer this option to be removed'. No such opportunity for feedback was provided to Cowfold residents including those in the vicinity of Oakendene.

In their promoting Consultation in Cowfold document, (https://www.cowfold-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2301-Promotion-of-Rampion-2-Consultations-in-and-around-Cowfold-2021-22.pdf,) Rampion state that during the January-February 2021 preconsultation 'Leaflets were hand delivered to a local area, which included all homes and businesses within a 300m radius from the boundary of the three substation search areas. This included the businesses at Oakendene Industrial Estate'. We have spoken to all residents in the immediate vicinity of the substation and north end of the cable route, on the roads marked in green on the attached map, [attachment 2], NOBODY remembers receiving this, including the people on the industrial estate. I myself did not receive one. The leaflet itself, [Attachment 1] which I have since seen, even if it was indeed sent to very specific households close to the proposed development, does nothing to inform the receiver of that fact. It appears to be a general notification, not about something which might directly impact on the receiver. The only people likely to take notice would be those with previous experience of Rampion 1. It is not designed to be informative, merely to tick a box.

(NB the promoting Cowfold Document itself has been challenged, item by item, in an email sent to Mr Elkington and the Planning Inspectorate on 13/2/23, title Adequacy of consultation challenge; see item 3 attachment 4).

The first consultation; July to September 2021

In the first statutory consultation, Rampion claim to have sent leaflets to all households within 3km of the substation. Very few people in Cowfold believe they received one. I have found one person on Moatfield Lane who did, and there appears to have been some leaflet distribution along the cable route options. However, the leaflet mentions the search for a substation site 'in the vicinity of the existing substation at Bolney in Twineham'. Again, this would not have alerted Cowfold residents to the fact that a site in Cowfold was under consideration. It would however have been immediately obvious to Twineham, Wineham and Bolney residents that they should pay attention. This would further have skewed the consultation responses. The leaflet was, again, not designed to inform, but merely to tick a box that 'consultation' had taken place: it failed to meet any requirements under the 2008 Planning Act or the Gunning Principles. It focuses on the offshore windfarm and the cable route, as indeed has much of the publicity about the project in general.

CowfoldvRampion inquiry into Section 42 letters received

In April 2023 we conducted a survey of properties in the immediate vicinity of the Oakendene substation site and the northern end of the cable route. 53 homes and businesses were surveyed. This is not a complete list as several people were away on the days the survey was carried out, especially at the industrial estate.

As you can see from the attached forms [Attachment 3], out of the 52 people questioned nobody in the immediate vicinity of the substation and northern part of the cable route, apart from four residents of Kent Street, (whose land was directly affected by the cable route), received a section 42 letter and maps in the 2021 consultation, despite Rampion's insistence that they sent them. (See map [Attachment 2] for location of people questioned). Only 23 people received one in the second consultation, including the same four Kent Street residents, so only 4 people could be said to have been properly consulted. These final consultation packages contained both the maps sent with the 2022 letter and the 2021 letter. People in Twineham, who had received the letter in 2021, were only sent the 2022 maps in October 2022. Presumably this was because Rampion recognised their failure regarding Cowfold in the first round. However, this cannot make up for that failure, as, by then, the decision to use Oakendene had already been made. Oakendene has been under consideration as a substation site from the outset, so there is no justification for sending the letters and maps only in October 2022. Also, many people who did receive them, felt the maps were impossible to read as the landmarks and street names were all greyed out.

Final Consultation October to November 2022

As laid out in previous correspondence, almost nobody in the wider Cowfold community felt that they knew anything about the consultation until receiving a leaflet in October 2022, despite living within 3km of Oakendene. Even then, most people thought it was a junk mail leaflet. It certainly was not informative, and did not even mention the substation. Even if they had received one in 2021 it would have made no impact on them and was therefore not fit for purpose; the 2021 leaflet should have mentioned the two possible substation sites as being 'in the vicinity of the existing substation, in Bolney or Cowfold'. Then it would have had similar meaning to the residents of both parishes.

I have asked Rampion for the numbers of responses received from Cowfold by postcode during the first consultation, but they have refused to supply this information. However, Cowfold Parish Council confirm that during the whole of the first consultation they received only a handful of letters from residents voicing their concerns about the proposals, and most of these came from worried landowners directly affected by the project, such as the owner of Oakendene manor, and a resident of Kent Street. This compares to the several hundred sent to WSCC during and after the second consultation, when people started to become aware of it due to our campaigning. This strongly suggests that the lack of awareness in Cowfold of the project was widespread and people were not properly informed or in a position to influence the substation choice in a way that residents close to the existing substation were.

Failure to Consult with Oakendene industrial estate

Of most serious concern perhaps is the failure to consult in a meaningful way at any stage of the process with the people who live or work on the Oakendene industrial estate. We managed to survey just 21 of the dwellings and businesses there, as the nature of their work means they are often absent for days at a time, but the estate manager confirms there are several dwellings on the site, and approximately 70 industrial units, 50 containers and 20 compounds. They are thriving businesses with a waiting list for the sites. They are extremely concerned for their livelihoods because of the disruption that will occur during the several years of construction and feel they have not been consulted by Rampion even though they are perhaps the most affected by this project of anyone in the county. As you can see from the attached forms, and this is confirmed by the Estate Manager, not one business or resident there received any communication from Rampion during the entire consultation, until some people received the second Section 42 letter. This was delivered by hand but only to the people who were in the industrial estate on the day of the delivery. This was far too late for them to influence the project in any way. Those who are marked as 'email 2023' on

Attachment 3 did not receive either sets of letters; they heard from the owner of Oakendene after the consultation was over

The people on the industrial estate are mainly highly skilled artisans, more at home with kilns, chisels, lathes and forges than computers, social media and complicated official-looking documents and maps. Rampion make much of their attempts to inform 'hard to reach groups such as the Allmond Centre and the Village Hall'. These are not groups of people, just empty buildings. In contrast, the people on the Oakendene industrial estate are, perhaps, one of the most hard to reach groups anywhere along the project route, yet they had no communication from Rampion until far too late or not at all. They are also amongst the most to be adversely impacted by the project. At the very least, Rampion should have held a meeting at the Industrial Estate at the very start of the project, or even at the preconsultation stage as happened in Wineham, for them to hear what was proposed and how to make representation. But once again, we have a tick box exercise to comply with the regulations rather than any meaningful attempt to seriously inform residents.

Third Section 42 letter

In early April 2023 the residents of Moatfield Lane and Kings Lane received a Section 42 letter regarding a third, targeted, consultation. [Attachment 4]The letter states that 'The Applicant had previously consulted you in respect of proposals'. In fact for many residents(see attached list) this was the first letter they had received from Rampion. Even at this stage, three out of the eight dwellings still did not receive a letter. Yet ALL of them will be affected by the proposals as it is their only access to their homes. The letter states that the information from previous consultations, and the results of ongoing environmental and engineering work have informed the identification of this land as being necessary, yet they do not say what this information is, there is nothing about this consultation on the website, and repeated attempts to speak to them on the phone have been unsuccessful; they do not return calls. The letter does not explain what 'operational access' might entail, or what outcome there may be of the consultation. How can this possibly be considered meaningful consultation. It would seem that in fact they have suddenly realised a problem with their decision to use this route and are trying to 'consult' after the fact. From information received from the receptionist at Rampion, this would appear to be being repeated at numerous sites as 'lots of these letters had been sent out so they were receiving high numbers of calls'.

Admitted failure to consult; Section 42 letter for whole consultation

This total failure to consult is in fact admitted by Rampion, because, on 14th April 2023 the remaining 3 households on the lane received a letter [Attachment 5] this time inviting them to consult on the whole project as it was recognised that they should have been consulted earlier. However, they can hardly imagine that this puts things right, when they have already made key decisions about the siting of the substation and the cable route. It has to be wondered how long they can go on pretending that the consultation has been conducted to an acceptable standard.

The Consultation Report

During the final consultation, when Rampion did at last make some attempt to engage with the Cowfold community, there was a meeting at Ashurst Village Hall in November 2022 and another called at the last minute in Cowfold, one week before the end of the consultation; far too late to influence the choice of substation site. Even then, no models, artists impressions, diagrams or plans of the Oakendene site were shown. We were told that the exact location on the site was not decided, but that it would not be visible from the A272. They said they had not decided whether the access would be from Kent Street, via a new road from the A272 or from the industrial estate. Yet in PEIR Ch 24, appendix 24.1, p 19 it is clearly recognised that Kent Street is a single-track lane and totally unsuitable, and the decision is clearly made to construct a permanent access directly from the A272 to the west of Kent Street, requiring a visibility splay which will take out a considerable length of hedge and ancient oaks. This is very destructive, and cannot

then allow the substation to be hidden from view. Furthermore, this economy with the truth is directly against all principles of consultation.

When residents did eventually meet with or submit a response to Rampion a large number of concerns were raised about the lack of consultation, the choice of substation site, the environmental impacts from traffic, the use of local lanes as cut-throughs, the biodiversity at this location, flooding, pollution and much more. None of this appears in the consultation report

In accordance with section 37 of PA2008, the Applicant must submit a Consultation Report with the application. This Consultation Report should set out the Applicant's Pre-application consultation processes, a summary of the relevant responses to its consultation and how it has taken account of responses received in developing the application.

In our view there has been highly selective use of the consultation responses to fit the Rampion narrative, rather than an attempt to raise relevant concerns that should be highlighted to adequately inform the Acceptance stage decision to be made by PINS.

The repeated failures of consultation with Cowfold would appear to be mirrored by the experiences of the South Coast residents in Littlehampton, Climping and Middleton on Sea. They voice similar concerns about failure to listen to residents, to properly inform them, even when asked for specific details, the lack of visual representations of the proposals and the direction to enormous, complicated chapters of the PEIR report when asking for specific information, rather than directing them to the relevant pages, and the selective use of consultation responses in the Consultation Report.

Conclusion

The Oakendene substation site has the longest and least accessible cable route, resulting in the maximum damage to the environment, it has the greatest number of residential properties surrounding it. Its construction will have the worst economic impact as it has the largest number of businesses adjacent to it, who will be affected, plus the thousands of businesses who will face delays on the A272. It has no current direct access, unlike Wineham Lane which was purpose built in the 1960s. It will surround a Grade 2 listed building, environmentally it is the most damaging, as it and the cable route along the Cowfold Stream are full of red list species, and it is the only site with a large lake and ponds. Access from the A272 is dangerous, being at a high speed, high accident location with poor visibility; years ago, access to Oakendene manor was moved from this location for safety; the traffic on the road is now very much faster and busier. Traffic regularly backs up here whenever there is the slightest obstruction; temporary traffic lights will impact on the Cowfold AQMA area. The properties opposite the site on the A272 are at high risk of surface water flooding. The concrete will make this worse. There is also a 132kv cable running under the site.

And yet they chose this site. They chose it because it had the fewest number of objections in the first round. It had the fewest objections because nobody here was properly consulted.

PINS guidance makes it clear that the onus is on the Applicant to identify and consult the people who own, occupy, or have an interest in the land and could be affected. This includes those who live or work in the vicinity, including small businesses, and who have a reasonable fear that they might be directly affected. PINS guidance on the Planning Act 2008 warns that the Applicant needs to develop an understanding of the community, and recognise that it may not be a homogeneous entity, especially rural communities, business communities or people who work or visit the area but don't live there. They must ensure that people are not disadvantaged in the process and should consider face to face meetings with difficult to reach groups, and early engagement with them. The promoter cannot demonstrate with respect to Cowfold that the consultation has been proportionate to the impacts of the project in this area. Construction will be highly disruptive, and it will be the only onshore part of the project to remain above ground. This community

should have been among the most consulted, not the least. Simply paying lip service to this is not to be tolerated; it is a legal requirement. The law must be obeyed and the consultation must be seen to be legitimate. The only way this can be achieved is by reopening the consultation from the beginning. Please reject the adequacy of the consultation; the evidence is clear that it has been wholly inadequate with respect to Cowfold.

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

On behalf of CowfoldvRampion

coastalwestsussex.org.uk

Rampion 2 could generate clean, green electricity for the equivalent of over 1 million homes and offset around 1.8 million tonnes of CO_2 every year, in addition to what Rampion already provides. It can make a significant contribution to tackle climate change and meet Government targets to quadruple the UK's offshore wind capacity by the end of the decade. On Thursday 14 January, we are launching the first of two consultations, seeking feedback from local communities on our initial proposals. Visit our website www.rampion2.com to view further information about the project and then take a tour of our Virtual Village Hall exhibition (both go live online tomorrow), where you can study maps and charts, watch a video flying over the onshore cable route options, find out how the operating Rampion Wind Farm was built and book a virtual meeting with members of the Project Team. The Rampion 2 team would very much welcome feedback on our initial proposals so that they are aware of all local issues, concerns and constraints as they prepare more detailed proposals for a second consultation in late spring. You can submit your views in an online feedback form during your visit to the Virtual Village Hall exhibition, at any time during the consultation period being held from **14 January to 11 February 2021**.

apprenticeship? Interview with Conor Stevens at Inpress

March 21, 2023 11:13 am

A27 improvement plans

March 15, 2023 10:51 am

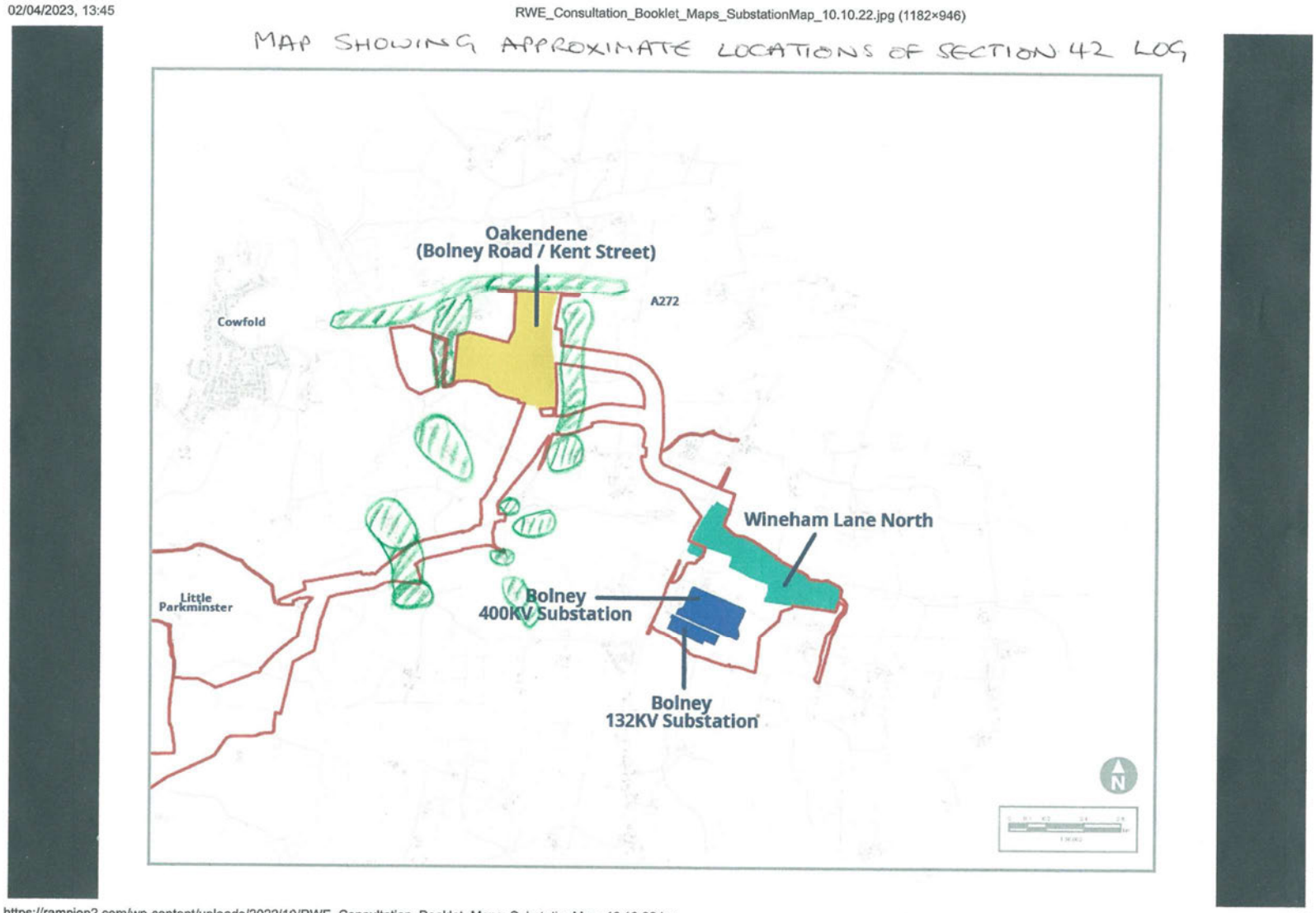
Tourism and the Visitor Economy: Ideas Exchange 2023

March 7, 2023 11:59 am

Worthing roadshow to showcase digital job opportunities

March 7, 2023 9:54 am

Attachment 2 – Map showing approximate locations of Sect 42 letter log



Receipt of Section 42 Letters and Maps July 2021 and Oct 2022

A272 + Oakendene Industrial Estate

Name	2021	2022	Address (including postcode)	Proximity to		Signature
				Oakendene	Cable route	
MRS S. H. RUSSELL-SMITH	X	X	[redacted]	✓		[redacted]
MR R. R. RUSSELL-SMITH	X	X		✓		
~~J~~ ME SMETHURST	X	✓		✓		
JR SMETHURST	X	✓		✓		
Ron Leggett	X	✓		✓		
EA Leggett	X	✓		✓		
JANE CLIFFORD	X	X		✓		
R. CLIFFORD	✓	X		✓		
R+J CLIFFORD	✓	✓		✓		
ROB THORPE	X	X		✓		

Receipt of Section 42 Letters and Maps July 2021 and Oct 2022

A272

Name	2021	2022	Address	Proximity to		Signature
				Oakendene	Cable route	
Aron Phillips	X	X	[redacted]	✓		[redacted]
Gary Lee	X	X		✓		
Terry Wells	X	X		✓		
Hatice Smith	X	✓		✓		
Philip Alton	X	✓		✓		

Receipt of Section 42 Letters and Maps July 2021 and Oct 2022

Oakendene Industrial Estate.

Name	2021	2022	Address (including postcode)	Proximity to		Signature
				Oakendene	Cable route	
SWALLEY	NA	? Dec 22 Jan 23	[redacted]	BUSINESS ON ESTATE		[redacted]
Andy Thompson	X	? Dec Jan 2023		✓		
C. WILLIAMSON	X	Dec 22 Jan 23		✓		
P IRELAND	X	email Dec 22 Jan 23		✓		
D SINGERS	X	email Dec 22 - Jan 23		✓		
N. CASS	X	✓		✓		
J. Binnington	X	✓		✓		
ANTHONY LOFT	X	✓		✓		
PHILIP TIDD.	N/A	? email Dec 22		✓		
JOSE FLOR	X	email Dec 22		✓		

Receipt of Section 42 Letters and Maps July 2021 and Oct 2022

KINGS LANE (HOATFIELD LANE)

2023 LANE SECTION 42	Name	2021	2022	Address (including postcode)	Proximity to		Signature
					Oakendene	Cable route	
✓	J. CREAYE	X A5 FLYER	✓	[redacted]		ADJACENT	[redacted]
X	RICHARD & BERENICE CHRISTIAN	X	X			CROSSES ACCESS TO PROPERTY TWICE	
X	CLARE & STEVE CHRISTIAN	X	X			" "	
X	PAUL + ANGELA LIGHTBURN	X	X			" "	
✓	ANDREW PORTER	X	✓			ADJACENT	
✓	MAGGIE JOHNSTON	X	X			ADJACENT	
✓	JULIAN & EMMY THORPE	X	✓			IN VIEW OF SUBSTATION	
✓	IAN & JO HIGGINS	X	X			" "	

Receipt of Section 42 Letters and Maps July 2021 and Oct 2022

A272 + Oakendene Industrial Estate

Name	2021	2022	Address (including postcode)	Proximity to		Signature
				Oakendene	Cable route	
[redacted]	X	✓	[redacted]	✓		[redacted]
Gary Larkin	X	✓		✓		
JIM BOWDEN	X	? Email Rec		✓		
JANE FINTON	X	✓		✓		
ALISON HAYNES	X	✓		✓		
Chris Adkins	X	✓		✓		
TERESA RICHARDS	X	X		✓		
IAN ATHERSMITH	X	✓		✓		
JANE LAMB	X	✓		✓		
J Simpson	X	X		✓		

Receipt of Section 42 Letters and Maps July 2021 and Oct 2022

X = Pamphlet only, No Maps
XX = Nothing

Kent Street

Name	2021	2022	Address (including postcode)	Proximity to Oakendene	Proximity to Cable route	Signature
John Hughes	✓	✓	[redacted]	½ Mile	50 Metres	[redacted]
Fred Turpin	✓	✓		"	40 "	
Andy Morrison	X	X		¾ Mile	100 "	
Owl Barn Cottage	XX	XX		"	"	
1 Barracks "	X	X		"	"	
Jake Dobson	X	X		1 Mile	120 "	
Don Harrison	✓	✓		1½ "	170 "	
Nigel Holden	X	X		1¼	150 "	
Chris Waller	✓	✓		⅔ mile	70 "	

Mary Eagles

Rampion 2 WIND FARM

RWE

Ref: S42 - 23

Janine Helen Creaye

[redacted]

Rampion 2 Project
Rampion Extension Development Ltd
c/o RWE Renewables
Trigonos
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon
SN5 6PB

4th April 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposals for an offshore wind farm off the coast of West Sussex (known as Rampion 2).

Targeted consultation pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008

Rampion Extension Development Ltd (the Applicant) is writing to you as a consultee for the purpose of section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act"), as it believes you have an interest in a property or land within the area that may be affected by the proposed Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm and minor changes to the electricity cable route now proposed, as set out below.

The Applicant has previously consulted with you in respect of proposals for an offshore wind farm, known as Rampion 2, to be located adjacent to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm in the English Channel off the south coast of England. The formal statutory consultation on the proposed application for a development consent order for Rampion 2 and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report took place in summer 2021 (and was re-opened in early 2022), and supplementary consultations on potential amendments to the onshore electricity cable route have subsequently been undertaken in October to November 2022 and February to March 2023.

The Applicant has considered the responses to those previous consultations, along with the results of ongoing environmental and engineering work. Together, this information has resulted in the identification of some further small areas of land required to be included within the project boundary for access to the cable route for either construction or for operation of the Rampion 2 project.

The purpose of this letter is to consult you on a potential amendment to the project boundary because you have, or may have, an interest in land which is the subject of the proposed change. This current consultation is also a statutory consultation carried out pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act).

As you will be aware from previous consultations, the Act sets out procedures for applications for categories of development that are identified as 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (NSIPs). The categories of development are set out within the Act

and the Rampion 2 proposals fall within the categories described in Section 15 as an offshore generating station with a capacity of more than 100 megawatts. The Applicant will be submitting to the Planning Inspectorate an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and maintenance of an offshore windfarm. The development will comprise both onshore and offshore infrastructure and will be EIA Development pursuant to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The application, if accepted, will be Examined by the Planning Inspectorate and a recommendation will be made to the relevant Secretary of State, who will then decide whether or not to approve the DCO.

The Proposals

As you will be aware. the offshore windfarm proposals comprise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance of up to 90 offshore wind turbines and associated foundations;
- Construction of up to three offshore substations;
- Cables laid on or beneath the seabed between the wind turbines and offshore substations and between the substations themselves;
- Export cables to transmit electricity from the offshore substations to the shore;
- A landfall located at Climping Beach using Horizontal Directional Drilling installation, with transition joint bays to connect the offshore and onshore cables;
- Onshore underground cables with jointing pits to transmit electricity to a new onshore substation. It is expected that the onshore cables will be laid within a single corridor for the maximum route length of up to approximately 40.5 km;
- The construction and operation of a new onshore substation at the Oakendene Site near Cowfold in Horsham District;
- Underground cables between the new Oakendene substation site and the existing National Grid Bolney substation to connect the offshore wind farm to the national electricity transmission system.

The Land Affected

The minor change that we are writing to you about now relates to a small area of land proposed to be included in the project boundary which is relevant to your land interest.

The new area relevant to your land interest proposed to be included in the operational access is shown in pink on the enclosed Targeted Works Plans. The land is identified as "operational access" and "new areas of affected land" in the key. The inclusion of the road within our project boundary will result in the project being able to utilise the road for operational requirements only (but not for construction).

The Applicant is undertaking this targeted consultation with relevant landowners and those with other interests in the land affected to seek their views on the inclusion of this area in the electricity cable route boundary.

Consultation

The purpose of this letter about the consultation is to invite you, as someone with an interest in a property or land affected by the proposed amendment, to submit your comments / representations on the proposed inclusion of the land shown in Pink on the attached Targeted Works Plan as part of the cable route associated accesses.

Please therefore find enclosed a hard copy plan 10 of 10, 42285-WOOD-PE-ON-PN-MD-0004 showing the location of the land proposed to be included in the onshore cable corridor boundary.

Copies of this plan in electronic format can be provided on request made via the contact details below and may be subject to a fee.

Please provide any responses to this letter by email to rampion2@rwe.com or in writing to Rampion 2, Freepost by 9th May 2023. This allows you in excess of 28 days to respond as required by the Planning Act 2008.

If you have responded to a previous consultation in respect of the proposed Rampion 2 project you do not need to repeat your responses as part of this consultation. Your response to this consultation will be considered, and details of how the final project proposals have had regard to this and other responses at each stage of the consultation process, will be presented in the Consultation Report to be submitted with the DCO application.

Further Information

Further information about the project that was available during the previous consultation periods, including environmental information and works plans for the whole cable route, is also available on the project website www.Rampion2.com/consultation.

Please do contact the Rampion 2 team at Rampion2@rwe.com or freephone 0800 2800 886 if you would like to discuss the proposed project and how your land interest may be affected by this proposed amendment to the electricity cable route boundary. You can also contact our land agent Carter Jonas on telephone 0121 7946250.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, the DCO application for the offshore wind farm and its electrical connection will be finalised and it is planned to be submitted in summer 2023. Once submitted the application will be considered in a process managed by the Planning Inspectorate before a decision on approval is made by the relevant Secretary of State.

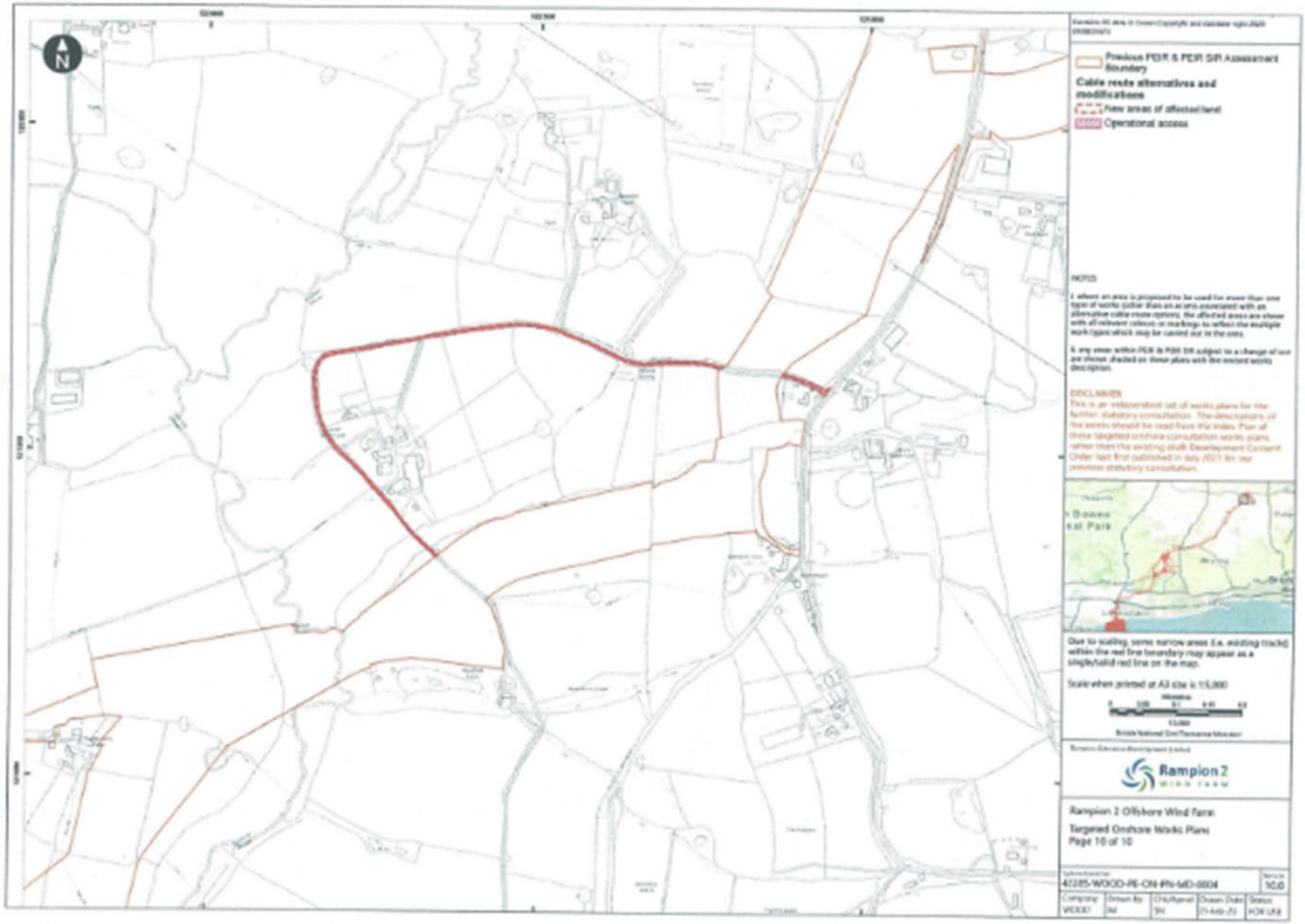
Should the project achieve consent, construction is expected to start around 2026/27, with the wind farm fully operational before the end of the decade, helping meet the Government targets for a fivefold increase in offshore wind capacity by 2030.

The Rampion 2 team look forward to receiving your comments to enable them consider their final onshore electricity cable route proposals.

Yours faithfully

The Rampion2 Project Team

Enc:
Works Plan Sheet 10 of 10


Previous PEIR & PEIR SIR Assessment Boundary
Cable route alternatives and modifications
New areas of affected land
Operational access
NOTES
DISCLAIMER
This is an independent set of works plans for the further statutory consultation. The descriptions of the works should be read from the Index Plan of these targeted onshore consultation works plans, rather than the existing draft Development Consent Order text first published in July 2021 for our previous statutory consultation.
Due to scaling, some narrow areas (i.e. existing tracks) within the red line boundary may appear as a single/solid red line on the map.
Scale when printed at A3 size is 1:5,000
Rampion 2
Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
Targeted Onshore Works Plans
Page 10 of 10
42285-WOOD-PE-ON-PN-MD-0004
10.0

The Rampion 2 Project

The Act sets out procedures for applications for categories of development that are identified as 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (NSIPs). The categories of development are set out within the Act and the Rampion 2 proposals fall within the categories described in Section 15 as an offshore generating station with a capacity of more than 100 megawatts. The Applicant will be submitting to the Planning Inspectorate an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and maintenance of an offshore windfarm. The development will comprise both onshore and offshore infrastructure and will be EIA Development pursuant to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The application, if accepted, will be Examined by the Planning Inspectorate and a recommendation will be made to the relevant Secretary of State, who will then decide whether or not to approve the DCO.

The Proposals

The offshore windfarm proposals comprise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance of up to 90 offshore wind turbines and associated foundations;
- Construction of up to three offshore substations;
- Cables laid on or beneath the seabed between the wind turbines and offshore substations and between the substations themselves;
- Export cables to transmit electricity from the offshore substations to the shore;
- A landfall located at Climping Beach using Horizontal Directional Drilling installation, with transition joint bays to connect the offshore and onshore cables;
- Onshore underground cables with jointing pits to transmit electricity to a new onshore substation. It is expected that the onshore cables will be laid within a corridor. It is expected that the onshore cables will be laid within a single corridor for the maximum route length of up to approximately 40.5 km.
- The construction and operation of a new onshore substation at the Oakendene Site near Cowfold in Horsham District.
- Underground cables between the new Oakendene substation site and the existing National Grid Bolney substation to connect the offshore wind farm to the national electricity transmission system;

Consultation

The purpose of this letter about our consultation is to invite you, as someone with an interest in a property or land affected by the Rampion 2 project identified since the previous consultations to submit your comments / representations on the Rampion 2 project as a whole.

The consultation information about the project that was available during the previous consultation periods, including the:

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR),
- the PEIR Supplementary Information Report (PEIR SIR)
- subsequent PEIR Further Supplementary Information Report (PFSIR)
- Other documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the wider proposal and the potential alternative cable routes which have been consulted on

are available on the project website www.Rampion2.com. The 'consultation' tab on the project home page has a drop down menu with the key consultations listed on that menu. We enclose hard copy sets of the originally proposed and latest works plans for the project which were made available during the previous consultations in Summer 2021 and October - November 2022.

Hard copies of the consultation documentation can be provided on request made via the contact details below and may be subject to a fee. Consultation materials can also be provided on a USB drive on request.

The Applicant would also like to offer you, as a person whose land interest is newly identified as potentially affected by the project, an opportunity to meet a member of the project team at a face-to-face private meeting and discuss the wider project proposals during the consultation period which runs to the 17th May 2023. If you would like to attend a meeting, we anticipate that it may cover, the proposed project and how your property may be affected, work undertaken to date and the consultation documents made available during each of the previous consultations. Please contact the Applicant's land agent Carter Jonas on 0121 794 6250 if you would like to arrange a meeting.

The Rampion 2 team invites you to submit your comments / representations on the Rampion 2 project by **17th May 2023**

- By Email to Rampion2@RWE.com or
- In writing to Rampion 2, FREEPOST

If you have any questions, you can also get in touch using the email address above or by calling us on Freephone 0800 2800 886. You can also contact the Applicant's land agent Carter Jonas on 0121 794 6250.

Your response to this consultation will be considered, and details of how the final project proposals have had regard to this and other responses at each stage of the consultation process, will be presented in the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the offshore wind farm and its electrical connection will be finalised and it is planned to be submitted in summer 2023. Once submitted the application will be considered in a process managed by the Planning Inspectorate before a decision on approval is made by the relevant Secretary of State.

Should the project achieve consent, construction is expected to start around 2026/27, with the wind farm fully operational before the end of the decade, helping meet the Government targets for a fivefold increase in offshore wind capacity by 2030.

Yours faithfully

The Rampion 2 Project Team

Full set of Sept 2021 Works Plans for the whole cable route
Set of Works Plans – October 2022 consultation

Item 9- Rampion Adequacy of Consultation; Latest Section 42 letter

Meera Smethurst[redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, 15 Apr

to Andrew Griffith MP,

Dear Andrew

Thank you for the interest you have taken in the residents' concerns about the adequacy of the Rampion consultation with regards to Cowfold.

I am writing to alert you to the latest issue. Some, but not all, of the residents of Moatfield Lane and King's Lane close to the cable route to the immediate south of Oakendene, have recently received a Section 42 letter. They are very concerned and anxious about this. It states as fact that they have previously been written to; this is simply not true. Apart from those whose land was under direct consideration for use in the project, none had letters during the first consultation, and only some had letters during the second. Yet they will be severely affected as this private lane is the only access to their properties, but also much of the nearby cable route, and as such should have been under consideration since the start of the consultation process.

As you can see from the attached copy, there is very little detail about what the 'consultation' is actually about apart from the use of the lane for 'operational' reasons. It does not explain what this means or how frequent the use might be or for how long. The letter is a generic one which, I believe, has been sent to numerous other people along the cable route and elsewhere about different consultations. They have until 9th May to make a response.

The letter states the consultation is as a result of 'previous consultations, along with the results of ongoing environmental and engineering work'. The residents have a right to understand what this evidence is. However, there is nothing on the website to inform them. They have been given two telephone numbers to ring. I have rung both of these every day for 4 days and been told someone would ring back either that day or within 48 hours; nobody has returned my calls. The receptionist eventually admitted that they were receiving a lot of calls, presumably because of the number of people they have realised they have failed to consult properly.

I believe this letter is indicative of the covert way in which Rampion have been behaving throughout. It is an attempt to cover their failings by seeming to comply with the consultation requirements, yet again however, it is just a tick box exercise. With so little time left, and no information available to them, how can residents possibly understand what they are being asked to decide on and how can they respond in an informed, meaningful way? It is also not clear what would happen if they all refuse Rampion access to the road. But I suspect if this were to be the case, Rampion will simply use this exercise as a means to say they have consulted but find they need to use the road anyway.

I would be grateful for any help you can give in raising these concerns

Best wishes

Meera Smethurst

CowfoldvRampion

Item 10 – Letter to Rampion2 31st Mar 2023

31st March 2023

James D'Alessandro
Rampion Extension Development Ltd
c/o RWE Renewables UK Ltd
Greenwood house
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB

Dear James D'Alessandro

Following on from my letter dated 12 August 2022 and your response dated 23rd December (arrived 28th December after the consultation) I absolutely refute your statement that you have 'gathered information from landowners …and members of the public' on the biodiversity of where the proposed Rampion 2 infrastructure would be installed. If you are relying on who responds to the consultations, many did not realise that the cable could come to this substation site in consultation one, and the second consultation was about 'cable route modifications as if it was all agreed already. Where is the evidence of how you have deliberately asked and listened to the people who live on or adjacent to your proposed cable route and at the substation site, of their local biodiversity knowledge? The Oakendene substation site was only announced as chosen 14th July 2022 in a small article in the local press that few noticed. My neighbours only received a leaflet with offshore wind turbines on the front when the subsequent consultation was advertised, yet it crosses our dead end, private lane twice, and cuts through the small flood meadow fields all round us. I have talked to the three key landowners in this section of the proposed cable route, none of whom feel that they have be asked about wildlife and biodiversity in this area. I will repeat again that the people surveying would neither tell us what specifically they were looking for in our lane, nor listen to a word we were trying to tell them, and there has been little place in either official consultation for adding the extensive knowledge people like myself and my neighbours have on the local ecology, flood patterns and wildlife.

I have no reassurance that what has been given is being acted on as no reports have been sent to me. A case in point is that I have sent in evidence of adders and grass snakes at Cratemans Farm in both 2021 and 2022. I pointed the basking sites out to Eleri Wilce, and Lucy Tebbut when they visited 2nd September 2021. The proposals show a line all around the field next to the farmhouse at Cratemans on the Rampion 2 plan and there is extensive construction work through the fields to install cables. How does this impact the reptiles? Had you asked Mr Facer at Cratemans he would have told you about how he commonly sees adders and has given the shed skins away to friends. These are UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and are protected from disturbance in law. There is a legal obligation to survey where planning applications are made, yet I can see no survey here in your list. My neighbour has seen adders here in Moatfield Lane and we commonly see grass snakes (I submitted evidence of grass snakes each consultation), yet you list no reptile survey here for Moatfield Lane. How have you responded to my local evidence? I was assured again at the Ashurst drop in event 11th November 2022 that my evidence would be taken into account. How have you fulfilled your obligations to assess the situation?

There is a toad migration that converges at the property Kings, in Kent Street which the residents down this lane and on Kent Street have witnessed over decades and I submitted photo and map evidence to Rampion,

both 22nd August 2021 and again 2022 (signed as received 28 November). The cable construction crosses the migration route on Kings lane. Toads are also are UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and there is again a legal obligation to survey the site if a migration is present, yet I see no survey listed in your letter. How has this been responded to?

I have sent you evidence of nightingale locations and recordings both in 2021 and 2022. They were not even featured in Pier report as significant or the supplementary report and finally you say that they are only being considered at the Cowfold Stream and Tributaries. They are far more wide-spread than this in this area and right up to the Oakendene site. At the tributary that crosses Moatfield Lane you are constructing all along their nesting sites. What are the assessments of how this impacts their ground level breeding? These are a Red List species, both habitat and nesting sites are protected in law and they must be taken seriously. I will be collaborating with Sussex Ornithological Society and in the next 3 months we will be adding new evidence to public record, as they are already very concerned about this situation. They have now verified my retrospective nightingale, cuckoo, swallow and skylark sightings and added them to the SOS database. All these are endangered species and this is precious remaining habitat for them. Other route options did not have this density of nightingales.

I have also submitted my retrospective evidence of sightings of other notable species like adders, toads and stoats, through iRecord and most have already been verified, so will also enter Sussex Records Office database.

I want to draw attention again to the loss of oak trees and hedgerow in this specific section of the cable route to Oakendene. This substation option brings the worse devastation because it is a patchwork of tiny fields and flood meadows with many Oak, hawthorn and blackthorn boundaries. We need to know how many oak trees are under threat. We know of at least 33 mature oaks that would be lost in this chosen option and it is possibly many more. Please correct this if this is not so. How is this the least devastating choice of substation location? I will ask again about the boundary between the polo field (off Moatfield Lane) and Wilcocks Farm, where there is a potential loss of 25 oak trees and the destruction of a badger path and rabbit warrens in between. Why is there no trenchless crossing marked for here? How will the wildlife corridor be protected as well as the whole ecology of all those trees? We are now in dialogue with the Knepp Wildlands Foundation who are very concerned about reinstating linked wildlife corridors, and now they see that here there is such an unnecessary loss of wildlife corridors in this proposal. We question that any 'net gain' for ecology can ever compensate for this level of loss. How does this notably inconsistent windfarm energy merit the loss of so much carbon storage by destroying so many trees, hedges, and undisturbed meadows?

You say that it has been your 'focus to minimise these effects when comparing between options on the basis of biodiversity or when focused on an individual stretch of cable'. How was this section the right choice? You have to listen to local people, not just put out a poorly advertised consultation on a different subject, and then pay little heed to those who do respond. Had ecological information been properly and proactively gathered from the local people who are affected, a balanced overview would have come to light, then we would have listened your justifications for making this the site of substation and cable approach. As it stands due process has not been followed and it is completely wrong to proceed.

I look forward to answers to my questions and ask again for copies of the surveys you have done in advance of the Development Consent Order application, so that we can put forward our informed and balanced representation.

Yours sincerely

Janine Creaye

Item 11 – Cowfold Parish Council Letter to Rampion2 – Jan 2023

Subject: Rampion 2 in Cowfold Date: Wednesday 11 January 2023

To: Rampion 2 Team Members, Sarah Payne, County Councillor (WSCC), Jonathan Chowen and Lynn Lambert, District Councillors (HDC), Michael Elkington, WSCC, Andrew Griffith, MP

Good Morning/Afternoon,

Following on from the Public Meeting (23 November 2022) sponsored by Cowfold Parish Council in which members of the Rampion 2 team addressed residents of the parish and a subsequent Parish Council Meeting held on 12 December 2022 the Parish Council wishes to make direct representation to the Rampion 2 project on behalf of a number of households within the parish.

Concerns have been reiterated to Rampion 2 team members in person, via letters and emails of members of the parish's dissatisfaction with the manner in which the aims and objectives of the project will be achieved. At the Public Meeting attendees were informed that a third-party communications company had been employed by Rampion 2 to engage directly with affected residents by means of letters and posters sent directly to the Parish Council, the latter were not received by the Parish Clerk or any other councillors. These communications were supported by a leaflet, which in itself some residents felt lacked clarity, alerting members of the parish at an unduly late date to the consultation period relating to the proposed alteration of the cable route path. This includes the access point to the nominated Oakendene substation site.

There is within the parish community a marked degree of scepticism as to the efficacy with which this process was expedited. Many households have stated that they did not receive either the direct communication by letter, as required by law, to those properties which will be impacted upon by the Rampion 2 project works or the information leaflets for the wider parish. Thus, many residents were unaware of the consultation period and the associated public drop-in options. The presence of Rampion 2 team members at the Parish Council's public meeting enabled a degree of outreach to residents, albeit this took place towards the end of the public consultation period.

Whilst Cowfold Parish Council wishes to support the promotion of wider green energy initiatives for the long-term future benefit of our community, it finds itself unable to champion a project which, to date, appears to have been less than effectively open and engaged with the residents of Cowfold and their justifiable concerns. Given these stated issues voiced by a growing number of residents, Cowfold Parish Council calls upon Rampion 2 to engage intelligibly with the community. The purpose of this being to provide additional information in a comprehensive and clearly understandable format and to re-open or initiate a further consultation period focusing on the implications and impacts for the parish of Cowfold.

Yours etc.

Stephen Reading, Chairman, Cowfold Parish Council

Item 12 - Cowfold Parish Council Letter to Rampion2 – Apr 2023

Subject: Rampion 2 in Cowfold Date: Monday 24 April 2023

To: Chris Tomlinson, Sarah Payne, County Councillor (WSCC), Jonathan Chowen and Lynn Lambert, District Councillors (HDC), Michael Elkington, WSCC, Andrew Griffith, MP

Good Morning/Afternoon Chris,

Further to our correspondence earlier in the year (Reading/Rampion 2, dated 11 January 2023 and Tomlinson/Reading, dated 18 January 2023) I wish to strongly reiterate Cowfold Parish Council's ongoing concerns on behalf of residents as to the poor standards of Rampion 2's community communications strategy. The Parish Council is aware of the forthcoming Rampion 2 Community (Onshore) Project Liaison Group and has indicated its wish to participate, which has been acknowledged by your Project Liaison Group Chair and Facilitator. However, certain residents in the Parish continue to feel that a paucity, or absence, of information has been disseminated within the community.

Cowfold Parish Council is aware that Rampion 2 has received a variety of communications from within the Parish dating back several years voicing dissatisfaction and distress over this perceived lack of information. However, wishing to highlight the Parish Council's ongoing unease I include below a number of extracts from some of the many emails directed and copied to us to reinforce the considerable misgivings voiced in this email.

1. *18 July 2021: "Illegibility of Rampion 2 maps, particularly the background detail fade on sheet 20".*
2. *6 August 2021: "This is a major infrastructure project, much larger than Rampion I, and I do not think local residents are aware of the consequences yet for their village for years".*
3. *3 November 2021: The impression was given that the Oakendene estate was outside the boundaries of the parish and that the plan to churn up land for a cable 10 kilometers more than is needed and affecting all the welcome and many walkers from Cowfold within the parish south of the village was irrelevant to the parish.*
4. *30 November 2022: "Despite being explicitly told at the (public) meeting in Cowfold that I could submit multiple online responses, I find this not to be the case as the system will not allow a second submission from the same email address".*
5. *3 February 2023: "One of the most unsettling aspects has been the apparent lack of consultation So many residents of Cowfold, and within the surrounding 3km area, have known nothing about the proposed development".*
6. *3 February 2023: "The Rampion leaflet that some residents received, (in October/November 2022) but certainly not all, was misleading. Analysis of such will reveal that it failed to disclose relevant information and did not even mention the sub-station. It lacked adequate detail and was misleading at best".*
7. *10 February 2023: "There was apparently a two year consultation process and yet only a few people were aware of this massive proposal."*
8. *10 February 2023: "In October 2022 we received in the post Section 42 notices from you (Rampion 2) along with two sets of maps, dated July 2021 and October 2022. So did the*

businesses at Oakendene Industrial estate, being also in the RH13 8AZ postcode although it is not clear exactly when they received them, possibly considerably later as they were delivered by hand rather than by Royal Mail. They were told that it was all agreed and this was just to let them know, and they were asked to sign to confirm receipt… However, neither we, nor any of the businesses in Oakendene, received any such notifications in the July 2021 consultation, nor it would seem did any of our neighbours despite being in the vicinity of one of the proposed substation sites from the outset of the consultation".

In addition, further concerns have been voiced on behalf of residents in Moatfield Lane and Kings Lane. These householders are in receipt of a letter from the Rampion 2 Project Team, dated 4 April 2023, entitled Targeted consultation pursuant to section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Residents are questioning the iteration of prior consultation and the clarity of the information contained within the letter.

I am sure you will agree that Cowfold Parish Council, having been in receipt of these and other emails reiterating the recurrent themes of poor standards of communications and community interaction, is fully entitled to require Rampion 2 to consider its protocols in respect of Cowfold residents and radically enhance the standards of engagement we have seen to date.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Reading

Chairman, Cowfold Parish Council

Item 13 – Adequacy of Consultation – Bolney Consultation 2023

Comments on the Rampion Bolney 2023 Consultation in relation to Inadequacy of Consultation overall. To Planning Inspectorate and WSCC submission 4 May 2023

Dear Mr Elkington,

Rampion were asked by WSCC to look at this in 2021 yet they have only now begun to consider it. An increase of 6% on the original substation footprint is not insignificant and will require a considerable amount of work and disruption locally. We do not agree that this is a minor amendment and therefore, in line with PINS recommendation, this should lead to the reopening of the consultation from the start. This information should have been available for the public to think about when commenting on the substation sites in 2021. The lack of information about this may have led the population around the main substation to believe that if they pushed for the Oakendene site, they would be largely left alone. This is even more significant given the lack of consultation with Cowfold at that time, the evidence for which is now overwhelming. it also materially affects the consideration of the environmental impact on the two sites.

Rampion have recently carried out a number of minor consultations with local residents in various locations along the cable route. Unusually, this time they have actually stated on the consultation website that they believe the consultation is about a minor matter and does not warrant a full reopening of the consultation.

Why, if they consider it such a minor amendment, are they not simply leaving it for the local liaison group to decide, in the same way that they have said that they will leave far more impactful things to the Cowfold liaison group, such as screening, the building of bunds, even the overall height and size of the substation. The only plausible explanation can be that they have only just noticed that WSCC in 2021 pointed out that there was no mention of the connection in PEIR, and they do not want to risk the consultation being rejected because they have not listened to the observations made. Once again, they are attempting retrospectively to make an inadequate consultation adequate, when they know that that cannot be done.

Of course, it needs to be reopened; nobody has had a chance to say that if there needs to be this level of disruption to people and damage to the environment, at Wineham, then surely there is a stronger case for ALL of it to be constructed at Wineham rather than destroying two sites, plus the impact of the extra 5km of cable route on hedgerows, flood meadows and ancient trees. This, too, is a significant fact, which has not been previously brought to the consultation, and therefore, in line with PINS guidance, should result in a full consultation

We do not accept that on the current consultation website pages the environmental issues are adequately considered, the local impact appears to be significantly played down; several acres are in fact involved. Both an extension to the main substation is required, and a temporary compound of similar size, plus the digging up of the Wineham Lane North site anyway to lay the cable which will connect to the substation. It therefore becomes much more difficult on sustainability grounds to justify the environmental damage to an additional location at Oakendene plus the extra 5km of cable needed to reach it, and the damage to the ecologically sensitive flood meadow and wildlife corridors it must pass through. It also becomes more difficult to justify the serious disruption on the A272 at Oakendene. Again, the consultation really needs to be properly reopened as Cowfold residents have not had the opportunity to raise these issues. It could reasonably be argued that the most logical and simplest answer would be to carry out both substation and connection construction at one site, adjacent to the main station.

Whilst pleased that Rampion has, albeit at such a late stage, finally listened to the concerns about lack of visual representations of the substations, the images used in this consultation are chosen to manipulate the consultation, not to inform. They have chosen a view point from where the substation, and the new

extension is hardly visible, and the 'representation' is just a small outline rather than a photomontage or similarly informative representation.

Throughout all the consultations there has been a lack of good visual representation of the onshore station, or of the visual impact from both residential and heritage sites. There has been a lack of provision of additional data available to the public throughout, including both that requested by statutory bodies and by individuals. It has led to a lack of clarity and trust regarding the decision-making process

WSCC's very detailed and carefully thought-out response to Rampion in 2021 pointed out a number of areas, including this one, where information had not been provided or where more was needed to inform the consultation adequately. They have not acted upon this.

This has culminated in the almost farcical situation where RWE are holding a consultation in Bolney (Consultation 2023 Bolney) about what sort of socket to connect the cable to the main substation, but they refuse to reopen the consultation properly even when they have not provided the much more significant information regarding photomontages and visuals, and detailed assessments of the heritage and environmental impacts, especially at Oakendene, as requested by WSCC to inform the actual consultation which decided the choice of substation site itself. Nor have they considered it necessary when their failure to send Section 42 letters in the first round to those residents or businesses in Cowfold immediately affected by the proposals was pointed out, or that they failed to consult with a significant number of these Cowfold residents at all, or when they held a 'consultation' about the use of Moatfield Lane and Kings Lane, without providing any meaningful explanation of how, when and why they needed to use it. Some of the more minor of these have also resulted, as in Bolney, in box-ticking retrospective consultations. This cannot be considered to be an acceptable interpretation of their legal requirement to consult adequately

Yours sincerely

Meera Smethurst

CowfoldvRampion

Item 14 – Adequacy of Consultation with WSCC

Rampion Adequacy of Consultation with WSCC. Letter sent to Mike Elkington WSCC and Planning Inspectorate 30 Apr 2023

Dear Mr Elkington

I am sorry to trouble you when I know you will be extremely busy with the preparation of the WSCC Adequacy of Consultation Document. However, I have reread the WSCC responses to the 2021 and 2022 Rampion consultations (see links below) and have some questions please.

The first consultation response by WSCC is exceptionally detailed and expertly done and WSCC raised several very important issues, but I have listed those of specific concern to Cowfold in Appendix 1 below. You will be relieved to know I am not asking for a detailed answer to each question (although, if you are able to provide any answers, it would be greatly appreciated), but more importantly whether Rampion have addressed your concerns as requested. The concerns raised in your 2022 response about remaining issues with the cable route would suggest they have not. Also strongly supporting this belief is the fact they are only now holding a consultation about the connection to the main substation at Bolney, when you raised this in Appendix D P7 in 2021:

"4.4.55 This section details the required cabling from the substation to the National Grid substation at Bolney. The chapter does not outline any required enabling works at the National Grid substation, what form this would take and whether this has been included within the assessments undertaken. Further clarity is needed on this. This was also raised by PINS in para 2.3.13, as reference in Table 4-26."

The WSCC 2022 response is only about issues related to the cable route and therefore whether or not there was adequate response from Rampion to your initial questions and concerns regarding the substation sites is not apparent. In the PEIR SIR reports there is no evidence that they have addressed them, but I wonder whether you could please confirm whether or not Rampion have adequately addressed these issues and provided you with the information you needed? Our concern is that these issues have simply been conveniently forgotten in the subsequent cable-focussed consultation, particularly with regard to ecological assessment, heritage, traffic and transport

Also, given the lack of consultation with local residents in the first round, at that stage the impact of HGVs turning on and off the A272, or of temporary traffic lights does not seem to have been brought up for your consideration, and the assumption was made by Rampion, and not challenged, that because of the high numbers of vehicles already on this road, a few thousand more would not make much difference. You do address the lesser amount of traffic which would be coming to temporary compounds at Oakenden (sic) East and West and the dangers of access to them from the A272(see Appendix D p6). But nowhere, because Rampion did not raise it, does your report raise what must be much greater concerns about the impact of the construction of the Oakendene substation site itself on the A272. Therefore, the resulting tailbacks on the A272, or the effect on the AQMA area of Cowfold (the latter a HDC matter I believe), or the use of Picts Lane and Bulls Lane in the AONB as rat runs were not considered or requests made for more detailed studies. Nor the fact that this road is already highly congested at least at peak times and whenever there is even the slightest obstruction on the road. Also, it is not clear either how Rampion's request for such lengthy working hours can be compatible with this

WSCC 2021 Response:

https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32165/Proposed%20extension%20to%20Rampion%20Offshore%20Windfarm%20consultation%20response%20report.pdf

Appendix D – Detailed comments on PEIR

https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32321/Appendix%20D%20Detailed%20Comments%20on%20PEIR.pdf

WSCC 2022 Response:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/18215/rampion2_cons_response.pdf

Thank you for your help

Kind regards

Meera Smethurst, CowfoldvRampion

Appendix 1 – Questions/concerns raised in Appendix D 2021 response by WSCC related to Oakendene and nearby cable route; many requiring answers before substation site chosen:

P4 3.4.157 -request that visual amenity surveys and heritage asset impacts are fed into the decision-making process regarding the substation

P5 4.4.27- concerns raised about the suitability of Oakendene as a safe access from the A272 for a temporary compound. Note-this does not consider the access for the use of Oakendene as the actual substation site

4.4.42-the involvement of the bat conservation trust advice about substation lighting

4.4.46-the size of the site

4.4.55-the lack of detail regarding the cabling from the substation to the National Grid substation at Bolney

The lack of drawings of the substation

P8 5.2 efforts to mitigate carbon from all phases, especially construction

P13 18.6.29 PRoWs. Nb there is a PRoW along the north side of the lake at Oakendene, very well used by local people for leisure. No mention of it in the 2021 response

P16, table 19-9-visual impact of construction compounds

Table 19-6 and Fig 19.3a-visual impacts of the substation at Oakendene from settlements, including immediate vicinity

19.7.8-request for a design principles document Table 19-19-concerns regarding the inconsistency of the information about the substation size

P17 19.9.46-the need to avoid removal of mature trees, hedges and woodland. Too much leeway in the language used

19.10.16 -removal of vegetation for the creation of visibility splays on A272 and Kent St

19.5.5-photomontages to help steer further consultation on the two substation locations

P18 19.10-heritage receptors: unclear whether there has been any assessment on the impact on Oakendene Manor, a grade 2 listed building

P19 21.9.3-loss of agricultural land at the onshore substation site

Chapter 22 Noise and vibration:

-creeping impact at the substation site, further discussion on methodology needed.

-more detail on works undertaken outside stated working hours.

-as part of the site selection process, consideration of the orientation of the substation in relation to PROWs and sensitive receptors. Clearly none of these had been done by the time the meeting was held in Cowfold at the end of November 2022

P21 22.67-inclusion of the Oakendene Industrial estate when referring to noise sources around the Oakendene search areas

P21 Ch 23-application of strict biosecurity policies, poor experience with Rampion 1 reinstatement

Table 23-11-lack of assessment of ponds including the lake at Oakendene and adjacent ponds

-inadequate assessment of ancient trees and broad-leaved woodland

23.10.85-need to reduce working width of cable route in the vicinity of ponds because of habitats. (NB substation is adjacent to a large lake, and the cable route passes directly along a pond at Bankfield)

P23-cable route-request to see ecological surveys

Transport:

24.6.51-traffic data needs to be up to date

24.8.83-HGV movement clarification

Table 24-42-transport assessment required and stage 1 Road Safety Audit for the more substantial accesses and those onto high-speed roads NB eg A272

Appendix 24.1 Construction management plan:

Table 3.1-multiple access points on same road need to be discussed with WSCC. NB proposing Kent St, new access at Oakendene adjacent to Kent Street, and access via Oakendene Industrial Estate to compound and substation site

7.4.19- highways inspection area needs to be extended. In fact, needs to be looked at specifically at Cowfold to Kent Street to get true picture of traffic behaviour at this location

P 25 General- the construction of the substation site needs to be dealt with separately to the cable route and associated works. The substation would potentially present a more intensive construction operation for the highway in the immediate vicinity

No consideration has been given to work needed for the use of certain roads such as Kent Street-width is insufficient to allow a car and an HGV to pass

Chapter 26 Historic Environment:

P26 C-9- have they done the recommended trial trenching prior to DCO application?

26.9.7 and 26.9.12-drilling beneath hedgerows recommended as replanting takes many years to restore

26.9.16-the direct impact of the substation will result in the destruction of archaeological deposits and cannot be mitigated. RED must undertake appropriate assessment to inform the ES

P27 26.9.35-the proposed substation site close to Oakendene Manor would have a significant impact on the surviving historic parkland. More detailed assessment needs to be undertaken to understand both site options. Did they do this before choosing Oakendene? No evidence in their PEIR SIR

P28 Table 26-5 5.8.1-No methodology provided for the 2km buffer for the onshore substation

26.4.7-adequate scoping of LVIA around substation sites

26.4.18 and Table 26-8- has consideration been made to heritage impact of not just Oakendene, but the two other listed buildings in close proximity ie Bankfield and Allfeys?

Table 26-10-were proper walkover studies done?

PP28-30 numerous other requests by WSCC that further discussions take place with them about heritage concerns related to both this site and nearby assets

P31-statement from WSCC-Built heritage impact at Oakendene likely to be greater {than at Wineham North} Assessment insufficient at time of report" the selection of the substation site cannot take place until this baseline assessment is completed". This is then followed by a detailed list of what this should entail. Is there any evidence that this was carried out; nothing is available for public view.

Ch 27 Water Environment

Crossing Schedule-the detailed mapping of all water crossings

P36-general datasets-Ecology. WSCC expects to see survey reports as they become available. Has this happened? SWT and other wild life charities have expressed frustration that further information will be 'made available in the ES when the DCO is submitted

Item 15 – Data Provision Requests to Rampion – Mar to Apr 2023

email 16/3 cowfold village inadequate consultation with the parish council and failure to provide data

From: Susan Davies

Sent: 16 March 2023

To: Tomlinson, Chris [redacted]@rwe.com>

Cc: Lynn. Lambert [redacted]@horsham.gov.uk>; rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk; Rampion2 <rampion2@rwe.com>; Michael Elkington [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk>; Sarah Payne [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk>

Subject:Cowfold Village inadequate consultation with the parish council

Dear Mr Tomlinson

Please find attached communication from our Cowfold Parish clerk, Jan Wright. She is a very experienced paid member of the Parish council, who has confirmed on numerous occasions that "the Parish Council had no more communication that the rest of the village". You announced your selection of the Kent St/Oakendene site without any detailed studies in July 2022 and without any consultation with the village of Cowfold. As you know, only a select few people in Cowfold received a misleading leaflet in October 2022, which didn't even mention the word "substation" and was misleading at best.

This week on 13.3.23, we attended another parish council meeting, where the subject of "inadequate communication with Rampion" was raised once again. We advised the Parish council that over 250 households have written to say they have not been adequately advised of the substation. The council members were specifically asked about their communication with Rampion and they had nothing to add to their previous declaration, as confirmed in writing below, and Donna Everest also confirmed that there was no "local liaison group" meetings, as promised in your consultation booklet of 2021 on p57.

We are very grateful to our parish council committee members who give up their valuable time in order to help make our village a lovely place to live. As you can see from the written communication below, Jan Wright, who was supported by the chairman Steve Reading confirmed once again that they had not received any other information. I believe that Rampion were under a duty to consult the Parish Council and evidently have not done so. Please could you re open the consultation with Cowfold Village, and provide the necessary and relevant reports and studies specifically for the Kent St/Oakendene site, which are not included in your existing PEIR. These detailed studies including those for transport (including accident and pollution reports) environment (including species and biodiversity reports), and water investigations (surface water flooding and impact on the River Adur) amongst others.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you.

Kind regards

Sue Davies

From [redacted]@rwe.com

Date: 16 March 2023 at 16:35:07 GMT

To: [redacted]@googlemail.com

Cc [redacted]@horsham.gov.uk, Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk, rampion2@rwe.com, [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk, [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk, rampion@tractivity.co.uk

Subject: RE: Cowfold Village inadequate consultation with the parish council

Dear Ms Davies,

Thank you for your latest email dated 16th March 2023.

As set out in our report of the promotion of our consultations in and around Cowfold, which I attach again here, please note in the first paragraph of section 3. Second statutory public consultation, 18th Oct – 29th Nov 2022 that, 'this consultation was specifically focussed on potential changes to parts of the onshore cable route only, with the onshore substation decision having already been announced.' The leaflet therefore did not include mention of the substation as this was not being considered in the consultation last autumn.

The substation sites were considered in detail during the statutory public consultation, please see section 2. First statutory public consultation, 14th July – 16th Sept 2021 in our attached report. There were a significant number of methods used to promote this consultation in and around Cowfold which are set out in this section of the report, but I would like to draw your attention to the first bullet point, which says:

Leaflets were posted to promote the consultation, which is standard practice. We sent a leaflet via Royal Mail to all homes and businesses within a 3km radius of the boundaries of the two substation search areas, which picked up all properties in Cowfold with a postcode, amounting to over 800 addresses. The leaflet was posted on 12th July and would have arrived on doormats three days later.

Please see attached the double-sided leaflet, which states the following in the first paragraph of one side:

'We have been investigating…and exploring an onshore cable route for the underground cables to carry the power from Climping Beach to Bolney Substation in Twineham, where two potential sites are being considered close by for a new substation, needed to connect the power to the grid'.

The leaflet clearly sets out the consultation dates and where to view our proposals and have your say.

In terms of our plans to establish a Local Liaison Group (LLG) for the local community close to the onshore substation site, at Oakendene, we will be establishing the LLG soon after we submit our development consent order (DCO) application, later this year. We are currently finalising our proposals and environmental impact assessment (EIA) for application submission. However, please note that there will be an opportunity for the LLG to input into the detailed design of the substation and associated mitigations. Our engineers and environmental consultants will work together with the LLG to consider design changes to minimise the impact to local residents.

Please refer to the Promotion of Rampion 2 Consultations document attached to see how we have consulted with Cowfold Parish Council, throughout.

In terms of your final points regarding traffic, environment and water studies, please refer to the answers I provided in response to your questions 13, 15, 16 & 17 on 16th February and consult chapters 23, 24 and 27 of the PEIR at rampion2.com for further information.

Many thanks for your interest,

Chris

Chris Tomlinson, Development & Stakeholder Manager Rampion 2

[redacted]

Susan Davies [redacted]@googlemail.com>

17 Mar 2023, 07:26

to chris.tomlinson.extern, Lambert, rampion2, rampion2, Michael, Sarah, rampion, andrew.griffith.mp

Dear Mr Tomlinson

Thank you for your email of 16.3.2023 @16.35. The first five paragraphs of your email refer to a leaflet that was NOT sent to residents of Cowfold, however it was sent to the residents of Bolney. We have advised you of this fact numerous times and yet you still ignore this information.

You were sent a comprehensive reply detailing the failings of your consultation with Cowfold, and so I will not repeat these again. Please refer to the email sent from Meera Smethurst on 5.1.2023

According to your consultation booklet of 2021 on p57, you should have set up a local liaison group shortly after deciding on the proposed substation site. Cowfold Parish Council have confirmed that they were not involved in any such group and neither were any other Cowfold residents. In your email of 16.3.2023, you propose to establish such a group "after we submit our DCO" which will be far too late for local people to influence the proposal in any meaningful way. Your proposal is directly contrary to the PA 2008 and Gunning principals of consultation, where residents should be involved at the early stages of any proposal and certainly not after you have submitted your application.

You refer to your email response of 16.2.2022, which unfortunately does not adequately answer the points raised. We have examined the PEIR and the appendices and it does not contain the necessary and detailed information that is required. You announced the selection of Kent St/Oakendene as the proposed substation site in mid July 2022, without completing any detailed environmental studies, traffic studies or water studies on that site, which was contrary to your public statement. Also, you certainly did not consult with Cowfold, as detailed in the email of 5.1.23.

Taking just one example, your Traffic report referred to the Oakendene site as "temporary compound 3" and none of the traffic or accident analysis incorporated the "accident hot spot" section of the A272 which runs alongside the Oakendene site in Cowfold. The report was based on the working assumption that the substation would be based on Wineham Lane in Bolney and did not extend to Cowfold. The PEIRs report made no mention of the dozen or so properties which are prone to "high risk" of surface water flooding on this proposed Oakendene site. The environmental study was a very limited "desk top" study, missing vital red and protected species and makes no mention of the enormous biodiversity, the negative impact on the water courses relating to this proposed site selection.

Prior to the consultation being re-opened with Cowfold, we would like you to provide us with the relevant and necessary detailed data and analysis specifically covering the Oakendene site, including those for Transport, Environment and Water investigations, amongst others. I understand from the RSPB, Woodlands Trust and Sussex Wildlife Trust that you have withheld your survey findings. They have asked on numerous occasions for this data to be released, so that they have ample opportunity to assess your findings and examine your mitigation proposals.

Please can you provide us with this essential detailed data.

Regards

Sue Davies

From: [redacted]@rwe.com

Date: 21 March 2023 at 06:02:59 GMT-4

To: [redacted]@googlemail.com

Cc [redacted]@horsham.gov.uk, Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk, rampion2@rwe.com, [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk, [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk, rampion@tractivity.co.uk, [redacted]@parliament.uk

Subject: RE: Cowfold Village inadequate consultation with the parish council

Dear Ms Davies,

Many thanks for your latest email dated 17th March.

Please see Formal Consultation Detailed Documents 2022 - Rampion 2 to find the environmental, traffic and water data and analysis, as requested. This is taken from our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Supplementary Information Report (SIR).

To help you find the information you're looking for, please note that traffic counts were reported in the PEIR (Chapter 24, Table 24-27) and SIR Appendix J, Table J-8. Ecology and Water surveys complete at the time were reported in the PEIR (in the appendices – the contents page at the beginning of the chapters lists these – eg Chapter 23, Tables 23-17, Figures 23.10-17, Appendix 23.3; Chapter 27, Tables 27-10-11, Appendix 27.1). Further surveys have since been undertaken and will be presented in the ES as part of our DCO application later this year.

We continue to engage with the named stakeholders through our Expert Topic Groups and other channels.

Many thanks for your interest,

Chris

Chris Tomlinson

Development & Stakeholder Manager

Meera Smethurst [redacted]@gmail.com>

Attachments

Wed, 29 Mar, 10:50

Dear Mr Tomlinson

I refer to your response to Sue Davies, copied below. As with most of the residents who ask perfectly reasonably for information, you have hidden your failure to actually address her concerns in a mire of complicated documents. I have read the references you refer to, and include them as attachments for ease of reference (which you should have done yourself if genuinely attempting to inform, rather than hide behind the references). Your duty to provide information in an accessible form has once again not been met.

As you can see, the attachments do not address her concerns at all, and indeed they confirm her statements. The data you have provided in the PEIR reports are all about the impact on the roads assuming Wineham Lane to be the main substation construction point. The A272 is simply looked at from the point of view of traffic travelling along it. Nowhere (and I have read all your published documents) do you provide any data for the impact of traffic TURNING on and off at the Oakendene stretch of the A272. This is an accident hot spot, where vehicles travel fast after speed restrictions for some miles in both directions. They do not anticipate vehicles coming in and out of the side roads at this point and visibility is extremely poor due to the

curvature of the road. The numerous holes in the hedges are testament to the number of cars and HGVs which have driven off the road here.

Also, it is far more congested than any other point between Cowfold and the A272, with daily tailbacks for 1 mile heading into Cowfold at peak times, and any time there is the slightest hold up from vehicles waiting to turn or from temporary traffic lights. The impact is quite different from that of traffic merely travelling along the road

If you had properly consulted with Cowfold residents in the first round of consultation it is inconceivable that you would rationally have continued with this choice as you would have understood the true behaviour of this stretch of road. Desk top surveys are no substitute for local knowledge

The references regarding ecology and flooding are in a similar vein and do not address her concerns, nor those of the wildlife charities and local wildlife enthusiasts who have been pressing you for more information. If you leave the presentation of the environmental survey until submission of the DCO, (and indeed, you did not even carry out anything other than a desk top environmental survey before choosing Oakendene), how can people, including yourselves, make informed comments about the choice of site?

Yours sincerely

Meera Smethurst

(Attached documents were PEIR Chapter 24 Transport pp88-93 and PEIR SIR App J pp J19-20, table J-8)

Susan Davies

Sat, 29 Apr, 06:33

to chris.tomlinson.extern, Lambert, rampion2, rampion2, Michael, Sarah, rampion, andrew.griffith.mp

Dear Mr Tomlinson

I am very disappointed not to have received an adequate reply to my letters of 18.4.2023, nor 17.3.2023 requesting information relating to the proposed Oakendene site. I can only assume that if you had this information, then you would have provided it. This leads me to conclude that when you announced your "decision" regarding the location of the proposed substation at Oakendene in mid July 2022, you did so without completing or analysing any detailed investigations or studies relating to the Oakendene site, which is very troubling. This is contrary to your public statement and appears both negligent and careless and does not comply with the necessary procedures or protocols. I believe that you "chose" Cowfold, because no one objected and it was the route of least resistance. No one objected, because they didn't know about your proposals and the few that did, had gagging orders because you had threatened compulsory purchase orders.

Had you completed any detailed investigations on the site, you would have found that it is an outstanding site with natural undisturbed beauty, which is rich in biodiversity and is home to numerous protected species, dozens of veteran trees, huge ponds and ancient woods. There are several grade II listed buildings on the site and over 70 businesses will be directly affected, not to mention dozens more in the village. You have obviously not completed any traffic modelling or assessed the negative implications for neighbouring lanes or villages.

Given the mounting evidence, it would appear beyond reasonable doubt, that Rampion did not consult with Cowfold regarding their proposed substation site at Oakendene/Kent Street. We would therefore ask you to

complete the necessary investigations, provide us with the independent findings and re-open the consultation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Sue Davies

On behalf of CowfoldvRampion

Item 16 – Adequacy of Consultation and Data Provision

Sent to WSCC and Planning Inspectorate – 12 May 2023

Dear Sir

I am writing to highlight the frustrations of both statutory consultees and members of the public regarding Rampion's insistence that further data will only be provided once the DCO is submitted. This will be submitted as part of a vast raft of information and there will be a very small window of opportunity to sift through and meaningfully comment on the particular information the individual is seeking. As part of the Applicant's statutory consultation duty, they are obliged to consult on 'preliminary environmental information' as defined in the EIA Regulations.

Unfortunately, much of this information which has been either withheld or not collected has been required to adequately inform the consultation process and yet it has not been made available in a timely manner, if at all. This is particularly important when people are being asked to consult on the merits of different possible locations for the substation, unlike for Rampion1. If meaningful consultation is to take place in accordance with the Gunning Principles, there must be an adequate body of evidence available to weigh up. There have been repeated complaints from many sides that even when specifically requested, the evidence is either not given, or members of the public are fobbed off with vague suggestions to look up references 'within chapter x or y' and if the substantial effort required is in fact made, often this does not lead to the data requested as it simply isn't there. It is also clear that significant decisions have been made BEFORE getting the data Rampion say they will use to inform the decisions they make, and that data provided by local people is not being taken into account.

West Sussex County Council

WSCC's very detailed and carefully thought-out response to Rampion in 2021 pointed out a number of areas where information had not been provided or where more was needed to inform the consultation adequately.

https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32321/Appendix%20D%20Detailed%20Comments%20on%20PEIR.pdf

Rampion have not acted upon this, or are only now doing so in the case of the new consultation at Bolney where they are holding a consultation about how to connect the cable to the main substation, which will require the use of several more acres of land and access by over 500 HGVs.

Information of even more significance to inform the public consultation, when deciding the choice of Substation site, was requested by WSCC, (see Item 13 Inadequacy of Consultation with WSCC) but they have not provided this even though they have chosen the site.

Similarly, we wrote to Rampion on 24th February 2022 asking for the evidence they had used to inform their decision to use the Oakendene site as their presentation stated (See Item 1, attachment 7) that the site would be chosen on the basis of 'community feedback, environmental, technical and economic considerations'. They have refused to supply this. And WSCC response to our local councillor, Sarah Payne, would imply that they had not received it either:

"With regards to the onshore substation, as you know the Oakendene site was taken forward as the preferred substation location for Rampion 2, with an announcement made earlier this year (Site chosen for Rampion 2 Wind Farm's new Onshore Substation - Rampion 2).

Although encouraged to do so by a number of stakeholders (including WSCC), RED decided not to include any further information regarding the evidence and assessments behind this decision as part of the targeted consultation recently closed, which was focussed on certain elements of the onshore cable route only.

The only information regarding both substation sites therefore, is that previously presented in the Summer 2021 consultation as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which can be found here: Consultations 2021 - Rampion 2. Chapters 19-27 of this report outlines the surveys and investigations undertaken (some of which were desktop only) up to that point for both substation sites. This is the latest publicly available data RED have shared."

None of the above Chapters provide the information requested by WSCC to inform the consultation regarding the substation choice, therefore it cannot have been conducted in an adequate manner, giving evidence sufficient to properly inform public responses

I myself, along with another resident, was told at the Ashurst meeting in 2022 by Rampion that they had chosen the Oakendene site 'due to the level of opposition from Bolney and Wineham in the first round'. Cowfold residents were largely unaware of the consultation and so were not able to object as we have demonstrated in previous correspondence. A local environmental campaigner, who walked the cable route approach to the Oakendene site with a representative from Rampion, was told that they had 'chosen the path of least resistance'. At the Bolney Consultation drop in on 15th May, Paula Seagar, Rampion's PR consultant, admitted to us that they had had no responses from Cowfold in the 2021 consultation. This does not suggest that environmental, economic and engineering factors played much part in the decision.

Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT)

In their excellent 2021 report, SWT complained about the lack of information provided by Rampion, which limited their ability to make detailed, informed comments about the proposals. They highlighted the failure of Rampion to use suggested sources such as the Biodiversity Register, and their selective use of ecological data. They also warned them that woodlands may be ancient yet not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as it is not comprehensive, especially with regards to woodlands of less than 2 hectares:

https://dnu7gk7p9afoo.cloudfront.net/Files/rampion2peir-swt-twt-responsesept21.pdf

The 2022 consultation was only about the cable route, which meant that few of the concerns raised about the substation area or offshore wildlife were discussed by SWT in their 2022 report. PEIR or PEIR SIR documents do not appear to address their 2021 concerns about these areas so remain unavailable for public or SWT view to inform responses. Many of the cable route questions raised by SWT in 2021 remained unanswered in 2022:

https://dnu7gk7p9afoo.cloudfront.net/sussex-wildlife-trust-responserampion2-onshore-targeted-consultationoct22.pdf

In December 2022 the owner of Oakendene confirmed that Rampion had not yet completed an Environmental Survey of the site on his land and that the results so far had not been made available to him. Yet they had supposedly chosen the site on grounds which included environmental assessment. Sussex Wildlife Trust raised concerns that ecological report data was not available to them and noted the presence of nightingale nesting sites around Oakendene

SWT continue to express their dismay about the lack of ecological reports provided by Rampion. This is echoed by members of the public and local wildlife enthusiasts. Moatfield Lane resident and environmentalist Janine Creaye, has throughout the consultation process, expressed her concerns about Rampion's failure to respond to her questions and their refusal to take her wild life data into account (See

Item 3, Attachments 7 and 8, and Item 10). Other local residents also report that when they have provided Rampion with species information, and data regarding trees and hedgerows, it is ignored, contrary to the recommendations of Natural England in their scoping report.

Moatfield/Kings Lane consultation

In the recent consultation held with the residents of this lane about the need to use it 'for operational reasons', the Section 42 letter received stated that the consultation was necessary as a result of "previous consultation responses, along with the results of ongoing environmental and engineering work". However nowhere did it explain what these results were, there was nothing on the website and it proved extremely difficult to speak to anyone on the phone as a result of the numerous other small consultations being held at the same time. Nor did they provide any explanation of how, when or why they needed to use the lane. In reality there was nothing to meaningfully consult on or understand what would be different if they did or did not reply. How can any sort of intelligent response be expected when so little information is provided? The exercise can only have been carried out to 'tick a box' regarding adequate consultation.

Duty to provide details of the consultation responses to inform the AoC assessment

There is a legal duty on the Applicant to demonstrate that they have had regard to consultation responses received under section 49 of the Planning Act. In a properly conducted review, surely this must include a lack of responses. However, our request for postcode information about where responses had actually come from during the 2021 and 2022 consultations was refused. We were told that postcode information would be provided in the Consultation Responses section of the EIS when the DCO was submitted. Concerned that it will be submerged in a large quantity of other information, we have asked that, when submitted, its location within the submission is pointed out to us; we will see whether this in fact happens. The request was made in order to confirm our belief that they had not received more than a handful of responses from the area around Oakendene and the village of Cowfold itself, due to lack of consultation. The refusal to supply this data, suggests an intent to conceal. We request that this investigation is undertaken as part of the Adequacy Assessment. Maps should be used to assess responses, rather than just Cowfold and Bolney postcodes, as the west side of Wineham Lane is in Cowfold and yet is entirely interested only by the Wineham Lane substation sites. Paula Seagar's admission above should also be noted.

There have been widespread concerns that the responses being provided in the submission are highly selective and used to support the application rather than a genuine attempt to inform the assessment of the consultation process. Numerous complaints have been made that when comments are made, they are not taken in to account, as in the environmentalist's comments above. Some representative examples are included below:

When residents have raised issues of traffic on the A272, they have frequently been told it won't be an issue as in the following replies by Rampion to emails about this:

1) *"The Preliminary Environmental Information Report includes an appendix on Transport. In this appendix highways Link26–Wineham Lane, South of theA272 has been identified at 7.3.1.4 as one of the four highways' links where the volume of Proposed Development traffic exceeds the impact threshold percentages and therefore requires further assessment. The other 3 roads are not in this local area and further west. On all other highways links, the percentage change in traffic flows or HGVs does not trigger the need for an assessment of environmental effects."*

2) *"The original Environmental Report from 2021 PEIR transport chapter states at Paragraph 24.3.14 that HGV route enforcement will be addressed within the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) prepared to support the onshore elements of the Proposed Development and agreed requirements of the Development Consent Order. The Outline CTMP (Appendix 24.1, Volume*

4) includes details on timings on the local highways network for all construction vehicles including HGVs as well as HDD proposals and details on visibility splays. Section 24.6 sets out the locations of the highways links assessed at PEIR. This CTMP is updated in the PEIR SIR at page J37. "

These links provided do not in fact address the issues raised.

Many residents of Picts Lane and Long House Lane have expressed concern about the use of these single-track lanes in the High Weald AoNB as rat runs when the A272 is congested. The reply was *"Picts Lane is further north and not identified as triggering the requirement for assessment. "*

Local comments include concerns about the lack of information on visual impact of Substation from the High Weald AONB. Instead of trying to address this, the AONB is simply dismissed in the PEIR as being *"0.5km away and therefore irrelevant"*. In fact, it is elevated compared to Oakendene and therefore looks directly down on to it.

These dismissive comments are hardly the replies expected in a consultation which genuinely seeks to understand the local geography or to take the views of those with local knowledge into account.

Confusing replies to requests for information and data omissions

Numerous residents have highlighted the many traffic problems on the A272 which would ensue from the construction of the substation at Oakendene. We have pointed out that there is no assessment in PEIR, PEIR SIR or Appendices of the traffic on this stretch of the A272, other than as part of the general assessment of numbers using the part of the A272 between Cowfold and Wineham Lane. No assessment of the effect of turning traffic at this point, or of temporary traffic lights has been done. There has been a glib dismissal of the effect that the HGVs could have on the AQMA in Cowfold. Indeed, the assumption of the traffic data is that Wineham Lane would be the substation choice (eg PEIR vol2 Ch24, Transport Table 24-18). There have been responses (eg Item 15) but they have directed people to complicated, ill-defined parts of the chapters, which do not in fact address the questions raised at all. The very fact that the data they are directed to does not actually answer the questions asked suggests they do not have the data and that there is an attempt to hide this behind the complex mass of chapters and documents.

When RWE were emailed by a local resident requesting details of the substation plans, he received a reply listing numerous large documents where 'a graphic' might be located. It took over an hour to find this in an incomprehensible mire of paperwork and, once discovered, it turned out to be a complicated diagram, incomprehensible to most lay people, and certainly not clearly conveying the extent of the construction. This is another example of their failure to use plain English, clear pictures and to present information in an easily accessible way. At the one meeting they held in Cowfold at the end of November 2022, some mention was made of the possibility of different heights and footprints but no visuals of the different options were provided, yet this has a far bigger impact than the socket connection which was deemed worthy of a new consultation. Indeed, the consultation booklet 2021 states that *'the onshore substation layout {will be decided} following more detailed investigations and engagement with local community, approx. 2024'*. In other words, not used to inform the consultation, and after the substation site had been chosen.

On 14th April 2023, given our concerns about lack of information when requested, Carter Jonas offered a meeting with Rampion where *'we could ask questions and they would give answers'*. Carter Jonas contacted us a week later to say that Rampion had refused as their policy was that we should continue to write in with our concerns and they would respond. Unfortunately, they do not always respond, or if they do, rarely in a meaningful way as shown above.

The Consultation Process

In the latest consultation taking place at Bolney, April to May 2023, it is clear that the two-step process of on-line submission still has not changed despite numerous complaints made in previous consultations. Nowhere, except in the email itself does it say this is necessary, the on-line submission form itself gives the impression you have successfully submitted after stage 1. This reduces the chance of successful response submission.

Throughout all the consultations, despite requests by WSCC at the start, there has been a lack of good visual representation of the onshore station, or of the visual impact from both residential and heritage sites. There has been a lack of provision of additional data available to the public throughout, including both that requested by statutory bodies and by individuals. It has led to a lack of clarity and trust regarding the decision-making process, which can only be restored by reopening the consultation.

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

CowfoldvRampion

PS As I write, Rampion have today arranged an Information Meeting in Cowfold for 21st June. Whilst this is welcome, it remains to be seen how open they will be with providing the genuine information we are seeking. Also, this can in no way be accepted as a true consultation as it is far too late, and the key decisions about Cowfold i.e., the choice of site, have all been made without involving Cowfold. Nor can it alter the fact this information was not available when such decisions were being made. It is not even a listening exercise; it is a presentation of their proposed plan. It is yet another attempt to cover their failings retrospectively

Item 17- Letter to WSCC and Planning Inspectorate Sent 17/5/2023

Rampion 2 Adequacy of Consultation Cowfold and Review of Media Reports 2021

Dear Sir,

The National Infrastructure Consultation Process is front loaded in nature. In this particular case, the frontloading effect, combined with the fact that key choices and decisions were to be made at an early stage, meant that it was absolutely critical to the effectiveness and adequacy of the consultation that the earliest stages of the consultation needed to be balanced in their audience, crystal clear and equally informative to all participants. This is quite different to the Rampion 1 consultation, where there was only one location under consideration.

The use of email addresses largely obtained from the Rampion 1 consultation, meant that most consultees in the pre consultation process were from the area in the vicinity of the Wineham lane sites. The letters sent to this selected group were absolutely detailed and clear in their mapping of the then 3 sites under consideration (Item 6, Attachment3)

Yet the naming of the search area in the media and early leaflets as 'at Bolney /Twineham meant that early clarity and equity was impossible. We have already provided images of the preconsultation and 2021 leaflets, (see Item 3, Attachment 3 and Item 8, Attachment1) and even the Section 42 letters, (see Item 6, Attachment 1) all of which show that the search area was referred to as at Bolney in Twineham (or indeed not at all-see preconsultation leaflet; Item 8, Attachment 1) until the site had actually been chosen.

Please see below examples of the media presentation of the Consultation from 2021, all of which refer to the substation site as 'at Bolney':

- Sussex World 10.5.2021:

"… the 116 wind turbines which will also have on shore features such as underground cabling and a substation at Twineham, Mid Sussex, and would be taller than those at Rampion 1."

- More Radio Online 15.7.2021:

"An underground cable route is proposed to carry the power under Climping Beach to Bolney Substation in Twineham, to connect to the National Grid via a new substation required close by."

- Littlehampton Gazette published 25.8.2021:

https://www.littlehamptongazette.co.uk/news/environment/tourism-fears-over-rampion-wind- farm-expansion-you-will-see-them-almost-everywhere-3359191 Littlehampton Gazette published 25.8.2021:

"A nine-week public consultation on plans for the expansion of the Rampion offshore wind farm runs until September 16. The new plans could see 325-metre-high turbines – the same height as the Eiffel Tower and taller than the highest peak of the South Downs — installed and a new 11-acre substation built in Bolney.

An underground cable route is proposed to carry the power under Climping Beach to Bolney Substation in Twineham, to connect to the National Grid via a new substation required close by."

- Littlehampton Gazette published 1.9.2021

"The new plans could see 325-metre-high turbines – the same height as the Eiffel Tower and taller than the highest peak of the South Downs — installed and a new 11-acre substation built in Bolney."

- Sussex Gazette published 26.8.2021

"The expansion of the existing wind farm would involve the construction of a 22-mile onshore cable corridor, up to 50 metres wide, running through Climping beach and cutting diagonally through a large swathe of the South Downs National Park to a new sub-station at Bolney."

- Sussex World 1.12.2021

https://www.littlehamptongazette.co.uk/news/people/debate-continues-over-rampion-wind- farm-proposals-on-west-sussex-coast-its-like-something-out-of-war-of-the-worlds-3367977

"The new plans could see 325-metre-high turbines – the same height as the Eiffel Tower and taller than the highest peak of the South Downs — installed and a new 11-acre substation built in Bolney."

- Littlehampton Gazette 10 Sep 2021

https://www.littlehamptongazette.co.uk/news/politics/reservations-about-rampion- wind-farm-extension-voiced-by-arun-councillors-3378155?amp=

"However, the 116 wind turbines which will also have on shore features such as underground cabling and a substation at Twineham, Mid Sussex, and would be taller than those at Rampion 1."

And finally:

- BBC news 20 Nov 2019:

Rampion say "Any potential extension would be subject to the same rigorous planning and consultation processes as previously undertaken, during which time we would work closely with both the community and local stakeholders before any proposal is submitted for consent."

If only this were true:

As soon as the substation site was decided, it was consistently referred to as Oakendene near Cowfold, see:

- County Times 21.7.22 (Item 3, Attachment 6):

"A new onshore electricity substation for an extension to a windfarm off Sussex's coast could be built near Cowfold…..near to the Oakendene Industrial Estate to the east of Cowfold"

This consultation needed to be equitable, fair and open. Instead, it has been skewed towards a particular choice of substation site. Please reject the adequacy of consultation.

Yours Faithfully

Meera Smethurst

CowfoldvRampion

Item 18 - Preconsultation responses letter

Sent to WSCC an Planning Inspectorate on 23/5/2023

Dear Mr Elkington,

We have previously expressed concern that the consultation regarding the cable route and substation has been skewed from the outset by the use of email addresses from Rampion1 (ie centred around the Rampion 1 substation and cable route) and by the use of a misleading leaflet which referred to the search area as 'in the vicinity of the existing substation at Bolney'. Furthermore, these leaflets did not even appear to have been delivered to most residents in the Cowfold area, and media coverage at the time was centred on the offshore windfarm and again, when it did refer to the substation, it referred to it as 'at Bolney'. Some crucial decisions were made at this point, such as the removal of Wineham Lane South from the search.

The attached extract from Rampion's Informal Consultation Analysis Interim Report 2021 shows quite clearly that the responses regarding the north end of the cable route and substation came only from residents in the Wineham Lane area. There are no negative comments listed about the Oakendene site at all.

Properly conducted analysis of the responses should have looked at where the responses were received from, and also where they were NOT received from. It is not conceivable that, as the only place where any lasting infrastructure will remain onshore, the people of Cowfold would not have expressed any interest in, or concern about, the project if they HAD known at the time; especially when they are so vocal now

Relevant Comments

Cable route:

- Preference for a cable route via the Kent Street / Bolney Road substation option, to minimise further impacts to the community around Wineham Lane, who have been subject to the construction of Rampion 1.

Substation:

- Concerns about local community impacts on the basis that the construction of the substation for Rampion 1 is / was a poor experience;

- Concerns about noise, dust, construction traffic and lights that would result from construction and operation of the 2 Wineham Lane substation site options;

- Specific concerns about the impacts of construction to the Royal Oak Pub business.

- Preference for the Kent Street/Bolney Road options, due to the other options' proximity to residences and feeling that the local community has experienced enough development and disruption during construction of Rampion 1;

Unfortunately, Rampion have refused to supply us with details of the responses from the first consultation, but we strongly believe they will show the same bias due to failure of information delivery in the Cowfold area and the nature of the information given in their publications. This consultation cannot be deemed to be adequate by any reasonable interpretation and must be repeated.

yours sincerely

Meera Smethurst

on behalf of CowfoldvRampion

2.4 Onshore cable route

In the consultation feedback form, we asked for comments on the indicative onshore cable area of search and route options presented in our flythrough video. This question was in open text format, allowing people to write in their views in an open text box.

Positive comments

Support for the onshore cable route could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that the proposals were welcomed, without further explanation as to the reason;
- Support on the basis that the Rampion 1 construction and remediation was performed well;

Negative comments

The primary concerns about the onshore cable route could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that the proposals were not acceptable, without further explanation as to the reason;
- Statements that the cable route should not be placed within South Downs National Park;
- Assertions that the route is not acceptable on the basis that the wind farm should not be located in this region;
- Concerns that there wasn't enough foresight during planning of the original Rampion 1 project to future proof infrastructure requirements for Rampion 2;
- Concerns that the cable route is too long, resulting in unnecessarily large impacts, and that a shorter, more direct route to the National Grid should be sought.
- Concerns about the business and community impacts of route options around Washington Parish, particularly with options B and C.

Neutral comments

Some responses to this question could not be classified as either positive or negative because of the phrasing or tone, or because they posed a question or suggestion. These could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that the proposals seemed adequate;
- Requests for more detailed plans on avoiding, minimising and/or mitigating impacts to the South Downs National Park, SSSI, and ancient woodlands

- Requests to ensure that we prioritise remediation, restoration, and/or enhancement of the environment;
- Suggestion to drill the entire length of the route to avoid surface impacts;
- Suggestion to route the underground cable south of Sullington Hill to minimise impacts to the sensitive environmental features and wildlife;
- Preference for a cable route via the Kent Street/Bolney Road substation option, to mimimise further impacts to the community around Wineham Lane, who have been subject to the construction of Rampion 1.

2.5 Potential substation locations

In the consultation feedback form, we asked for comments on the pros and cons of each of the three search areas identified for the proposed onshore substation, including any comments on helping identify the least impact site for the substation equipment within each search area. This question was in open text format, allowing people to write in their views in an open text box.

Positive comments

Support for the onshore cable route could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that the proposals were welcomed, without further explanation as to the reason;
- Support on the basis that the Rampion 1 construction and remediation was performed well;

Negative comments

The primary concerns about the onshore cable route could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that the proposals were not acceptable, without further explanation as to the reason;
- Concerns about local community impacts on the basis that the construction of the substation for Rampion 1 is / was a poor experience;
- Concerns about noise, dust, construction traffic and lights that would result from construction and operation of the 2 Wineham Lane substation site options;
- Specific concerns about the impacts of construction to the Royal Oak Pub business.

Neutral comments

Some responses to this question could not be classified as either positive or negative because of the phrasing or tone, or because they posed a question or suggestion. These could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that the proposals seemed adequate;
- Preference for the Kent Street/Bolney Road options, due to the other options' proximity to residences and feeling that the local community has experienced enough development and disruption during construction of Rampion 1;
- Requests to avoid construction works at night;
- Requests to provide sufficient screening/landscaping or take other measures to minimise visual impacts of the infrastructure in a rural area.

2.6 Quality of the consultation

In the consultation feedback form, we asked for comments on about this consultation? Specifically, we asked respondents if they had any feedback on the Virtual Village Hall platform as a method for communicating project information digitally during Covid-19 restrictions.

Positive comments

Supportive comments could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that the consultation was welcome due to their support of the proposals;
- Comments that the Virtual Village Hall platform was well presented and accessible;
- Comments that the platform provided a suitable alternative to traditional engagement methods during Covid-19.

Negative comments

The primary concerns about the quality of the consultation could be summarised by the following top themes:

- General comments that respondents did not like the virtual platform;
- Comments that the platform was difficult or slow to navigate and concerns that it wasn't accessible for those who have limited IT skills, or those viewing it on smaller tablet or smartphone screens;
- Concerns that public consultation should not take place in an exclusively virtual format and should only proceed when we are able to engage with communities face-to-face;
- Comments that respondents found it difficult to find the place where they could submit their consultation response.

Neutral comments

Item 19- Letter to Rampion, WSCC, Planning Inspectorate 11 Jun 23

A272 Visibility Splay, Further evidence of Inadequacy of Consultation

Dear Rampion,

Further evidence of failure to send communications to directly affected residents

I am writing to you as my husband and I are the owners of Coopers Farm which has land running along most of the A272 directly opposite the proposed Oakendene substation site. Our neighbours on either side, at South Lodge and Barnfield House, recently received a very uninformative letter from Carter Jonas asking for information about ownership of their properties. (See attached) It seems the letters are in relation to a proposed visibility splay. We are in fact right in the middle of the section of road under consideration, yet did not receive this letter. It is a simple matter to find out ownership of land from the Land Registry; there is no excuse.

On Thursday, Lucy Tebbutt of Carter Jonas expressed surprise that we had not received the letter and that they had not been requested by you to send one to us. This failure to identify and communicate with residents as you should is representative of the chaotic and haphazard nature of your communications throughout the entire consultation process. It is also consistent with, and lends weight to, our evidence previously provided about the failure to send Section 42 letters and leaflets to most of the people in Cowfold who should have received them, from the very outset of the consultation, even though Rampion claim to have done so.

Ongoing ineffective nature of communications and failure to comply with Gunning Principles

The letter did not explain what the purpose of requesting the information regarding ownership was. It did not explain what the consequences to the recipients might be for failing to respond by the deadline imposed by Carter Jonas. It was not accompanied by any maps to clarify which property was referred to (just a land registry reference) or plans to explain what was proposed. The recipients tried several times to call Carter Jonas to find out more. Each time they were told someone would phone them back. They waited in all day on more than one day for a return call, which never came. They felt frightened and alarmed as they were to be away until the imposed deadline and had no idea what would happen. I emailed Rampion and had a message back from Lucy Tebbutt to say she would arrange to meet me at the site. She later back tracked from this and refused to pass on any information to me despite my showing her evidence of the fact that I have power of attorney for the couple. She eventually agreed instead to phone them at a convenient time to arrange a site meeting.

Refusal to give information which should be in the public domain

I was with the couple when Lucy Tebbutt rang them. She was extremely reluctant to explain why the uninformative letter had been sent to them, choosing every word extremely carefully as if she had something to hide, but eventually admitted it was 'to do with the ownership of the substrate of the unregistered road in relation to a visibility splay'. She would not explain what the consequences might be if they did not reply by the deadline, which in fact was the day she phoned. She would not explain the plan any further, refused to agree to meet them after all, and said they must speak instead to Chris Tomlinson at the Cowfold Information Event on 21st June. They remain confused and worried. Why the secrecy? Any plans should be freely available to the public and specially to people potentially directly affected by them. They should not be expected to have such a conversation in a public meeting. This sort of unwillingness to give out information has led to a great deal of mistrust between the applicant and local residents. How can they be expected to engage in a correspondence with Rampion or Carter Jonas if they do not understand the nature or purpose of the communications received?

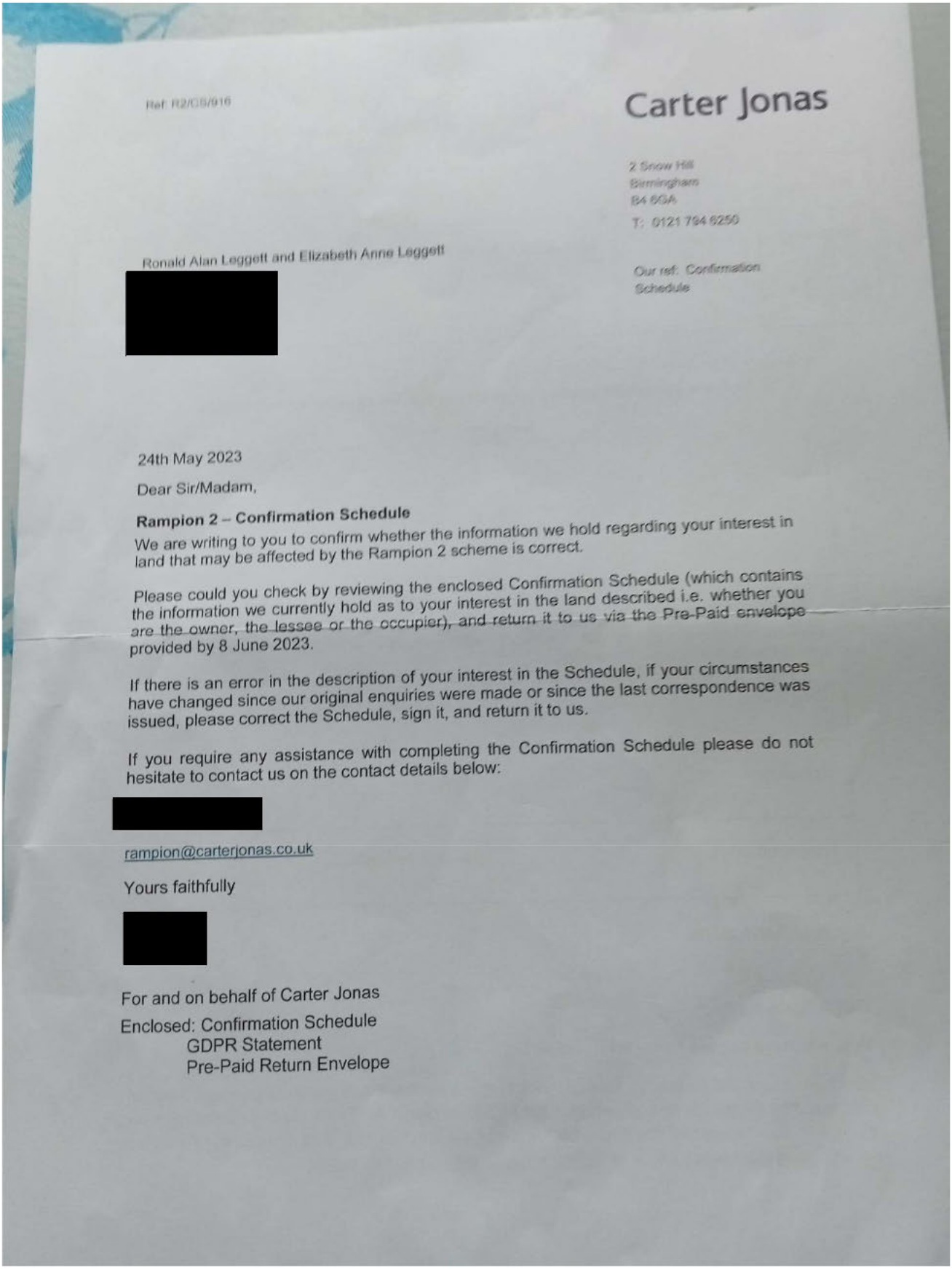
At the Ashurst and Cowfold meetings in November 2022, although the intended purpose was to discuss the cable route, the primary focus of the concerned residents of Cowfold was the substation. Access and traffic were very much amongst the concerns raised. Yet there was no mention by Rampion of a huge visibility splay and its attendant destruction of 300m of mature hedge and trees; probably because of the outcry it would have caused. Instead, quite the opposite; it was clearly stated by Vaughan Weighill at the Cowfold meeting that nothing was decided as to access and that people should write in with their views. They mentioned Kent Street and Oakendene Industrial estate as possible access points. Yet since the consultation closed, we have had the opportunity to read the PEIR documents and find that this vast visibility splay was in the proposals from the outset, and that Kent Street, quite rightly, had been flagged up as unsuitable for HGVs.

Mr Leggett raised his fears that he would not be able to get back into his property from the A272 because of the standing traffic outside his home. We were astonished by the response from Lucy Tebbutt that this would not be a problem as the HGVs would not be both entering and leaving from this point as they would also be using the cable route for access. That would mean huge vehicles travelling along newly made roads across untouched pasture, with even more destruction of the wildlife corridors and habitats, and somehow having to cross precious flood meadows. If there are temporary traffic lights to access the site, traffic will not be travelling at the national speed limit. Indeed, you will be able to totally control movements, speed and directions within the lights section, so there is no need for such a wide splay, but traffic will build up in both directions to unmanageable levels. If, however, in order to calm concerns about backing up into the AQMA of Cowfold, you are proposing some kind of one-way system, then, if they only entered from this point, again a huge visibility splay would not be needed, although presumably it would be elsewhere, just pushing the problem to a different location. At Wineham Lane there is already a suitable visibility splay, with no need to destroy more hedges and trees, and ready access from the main substation site route.

One of the purposes of a well-conducted consultation is to make sure that the site chosen is the least damaging environmentally and the most suitable in terms of disruption to many people. Because of your failure to properly engage with local people in the early stages, this did not happen, and now you find yourselves firefighting, having to dig ever deeper and more destructive holes to deal with one unforeseen issue after another, yet making things worse.

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst



Ref: R2/CS/916

Carter Jonas

2 Snow Hill
Birmingham
B4 6GA
T: 0121 794 6250

Ronald Alan Leggett and Elizabeth Anne Leggett

[redacted]

Our ref: Confirmation Schedule

24th May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Rampion 2 – Confirmation Schedule

We are writing to you to confirm whether the information we hold regarding your interest in land that may be affected by the Rampion 2 scheme is correct.

Please could you check by reviewing the enclosed Confirmation Schedule (which contains the information we currently hold as to your interest in the land described i.e. whether you are the owner, the lessee or the occupier), and return it to us via the Pre-Paid envelope provided by 8 June 2023.

If there is an error in the description of your interest in the Schedule, if your circumstances have changed since our original enquiries were made or since the last correspondence was issued, please correct the Schedule, sign it, and return it to us.

If you require any assistance with completing the Confirmation Schedule please do not hesitate to contact us on the contact details below:

[redacted]

rampion@carterjonas.co.uk

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

For and on behalf of Carter Jonas

Enclosed: Confirmation Schedule
GDPR Statement
Pre-Paid Return Envelope

Rampion2 Development Consent Order
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Title Number(s)	Tenure	Description of Property
WSX310088	Freehold	South Lodge, Bolney Road,Cowfold, Horsham (RH13 8AZ)

Any new Tenants/Occupiers on your land that we have not been informed of. Name and Address

I/We confirm that the interests set out in the above schedule, as amended, are complete and accurate to the best of my/our knowledge:

Print Name:	Position/Title:
Signature:	Date:
Telephone Number:	E-Mail Address:

Reference: **R2/CS/916**

GDPR Statement

Who will have access to my information?

Your information will be held by Carter Jonas LLP in a secure database. Your personal data will be processed by Carter Jonas LLP, who will act as a Data Controller in the Land Referencing process. You can obtain full details about how Carter Jonas will process your data and details of your rights by accessing our privacy policy at https://www.carterjonas.co.uk/policies

Vicky.Portwain.extern@rwe.com [redacted]@rwe.com> 20 June 2023 at 23:38
To: [redacted]@gmail.com
Cc: rampion2@rwe.com, chris.tomlinson.extern@rwe.com

Dear Mrs Smethurst

I am the Land Transaction Manager for Rampion 2 and I am emailing in response to your email dated 11th June 2023 addressed to Rampion 2.

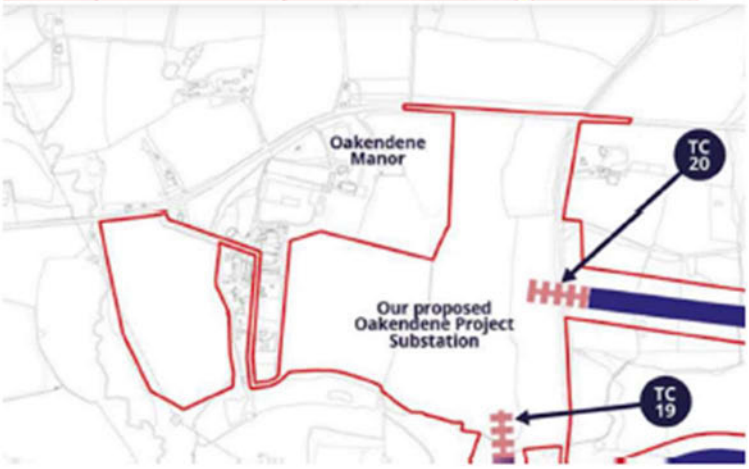
I note your comments on the Rampion 2 project in your capacity as the owner of Coopers Farm and I set out below your headline points and our response. I also note your comments relating to your neighbours' interest (Mr and Mrs Leggett) at South Lodge. For clarity I will respond on the points raised relating to Mr and Mrs Leggatt's property under a separate email and I will copy you in as you have confirmed you have Power of Attorney in relation to their financial matters.

Point 1) Further evidence of failure to send communication to directly affected residents

A letter addressed to you and Mr Smethurst as the owners of Coopers Farm (title no. WSX184673) was issued on 14th October 2022 as part of the Rampion 2 Second Round of Statutory Consultation: Potential Onshore Cable Route Changes. You were consulted because you were identified as potentially having a land interest affected by the project and you were sent 2 sets of works plans, the first set being the original set of works plans published in 2021 (which you had not previously been sent) and the second set comprising the plans subject to the Autumn 22 consultation (18th October – 29th November 2022).

The letter dated 14th Oct 2022 was issued to you as owners of Coopers Farm because it was considered that there was potential for the Coopers Farm title to include rights to the half width of subsoil to the northern edge of the A272. The Rampion 2 project boundary in this location, includes a visibility splay for the access from the Oakendene substation onto the A272. The Rampion 2 project may interfere with these potential rights depending on the detailed design of traffic management measures which will be set out in the Construction Traffic Management Plan to be prepared before any construction takes place. Signage and vegetation management is currently proposed at this location.

The plan below shows your land interest at Coopers farm in green. The plan adjacent to the right shows the land impacted by the Rampion 2 project outlined in red which includes the A272 and verge due to the above mentioned potential works requirements associated with a visibility splay and traffic management.



For clarification, Planning Act (2008) Section 42 letters have been issued to people because either:

- **they have, or may have, an interest in land which is the subject of the current proposed potential route alterations or / and new proposed works methods.**
  You may have already been separately contacted by the applicant, or land agent acting on behalf of the applicant in that regard;

- **They are a statutory consultee, pursuant to of Section 42 of the Planning Act (2008); or**

- **They are a person(s) or body to whom we believe the proposed Rampion 2 project changes may be of interest.**

In our letter dated 14th October 2022 we set out clearly the proposed Rampion 2 project infrastructure and you were invited to comment on the project as a whole.

Point 2) Nature of Communications and failure to comply with Gunning Principles and Refusal to Give information which should be in the public domain

In your email, you state that you did not receive a confirmation statement letter from Carter Jonas. The purpose of Carter Jonas issuing confirmation statements was to secure further details about land interests that may not be sourced from the Land Registry. I understand that you confirmed to Giles Lister that you owned title WSX184673 on a telephone call. This was prior to the date that the confirmation statements were sent out on 24th May. If you have any further information relating to the subsoil rights please do let us know. Please note the confirmation statement is not a consultation letter informing landowners about the project but a request for detailed land ownership information not publicly available.

I understand from Lucy Tebbutt that she explained, whilst she could answer questions regarding the land interest, any wider questions about the project could be answered at the forthcoming consultation event on 21st June. Carter Jonas and the Rampion 2 team would be happy to either respond to any further specific queries you have regarding the plans by email or phone or talk through the plan with you at the consultation event to resolve outstanding questions. The project has taken the approach that anyone with potential subsoil rights are included in the S.42 consultation.

Point 3) Refusal to give information which should be in the public domain

Your comments on this point appear to be mainly concerned with Mr and Mrs Leggett. As noted above we will be writing to the Leggetts with regard to their land interest under a separate email. That email will ask for clarification of any remaining questions further to the conversation with Lucy Tebbutt. Please do let me know if the Leggetts would prefer a letter sent in the post with the email sent to you.

Point 4) Access to Oakendene Industrial Estate

The works plans published in Oct 2022 which were the subject of the onshore project modifications consultation show the proposed substation site adjoining the A272. These plans were sent to you and published on the Rampion 2 website. As noted above, the consultation invited comments on the project as a whole and we received your consultation responses dated 29th November 2022 (and 1st December 2022) setting out your concerns relating to the level of consultation undertaken, the location of the proposed substation, impacts on cultural heritage, landscape, visual impact, traffic congestion and safety.

You have raised a number of comments relating to traffic and access into Oakendene substation. As you are aware and as referred to above we are holding a consultation event on 21st June 2023 and there will be information boards setting out information relating to traffic and access into Oakendene. A road junction is proposed to be created off the A272 into the Oakendene substation site with visibility splays designed in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges standards, as agreed with West Sussex County Council. It is proposed that one way traffic lights will not be needed during the construction period and the A272 would remain open in both directions. There will also be information regarding proposed landscaping of the substation site at the consultation event.

I hope this provides some further clarity on the Rampion 2 project proposals. Please do let me know if you have outstanding questions at this stage.

Vicky Portwain

External Consultant

Land Transaction Manager

mailto:[redacted]@rwe.com

Sent 23 Jun 2023

Dear Ms Portwain,

Thank you for your reply. I am delighted that RWE admit their fundamental failing to send Section 42 letters and maps to us in 2021, at a time when we might have influenced the choice of substation site. This failing, of course, as we have previously demonstrated, applies to almost everyone in Cowfold who received these maps in 2022, including the Oakendene Industrial Estate. How can you consider this acceptable consultation, especially when you held an additional consultation in February-April 2022 as a result of a similar failing, but one with, perhaps, less significant consequences.

I will address your points under your chosen headings:

Point 1) Further evidence of failure to send communication to directly affected residents

The letters we received on 14th October did NOT mention the title number WSX184673, or any other title number. The title number you have given does in deed relate to the land in green on your map, but not to Coopers Farm itself.

The letter did NOT specifically explain that we were being sent the letter as "we had been identified as having a land interest affected by the project". It was a generic letter sent out to cover a variety of different options, including that but several other options were also given and no indication of which was relevant to us. Why was the letter not sent in 2021 as the visibility splay was 'on the table' from the start?

At no point did the letter mention that it had been sent because "it was considered that there was potential for the Coopers Farm title to include rights to half the width of the subsoil to the northern edge". Indeed, if it had been so considered at that time, why did Lucy Tebbutt express surprise that we owned that land and why would she not explain to us anything about the soil substrate or why you need to know? Furthermore, why did you feel the need to send the latest letter to the Leggetts and not us, when they had also, like us, received the October 2022 letter. Surely, they had also at that point therefore been adequately "identified".

In fact, the generic letter only talks about proximity to the cable route NOT the substation site at all: "the purpose of this letter is to consult you on the potential amendments to the onshore cable corridor."

What exactly do you mean by "Signage and Vegetation Management"? We own the hedge, where any such signage and vegetation are likely to be and so that is not the same as 'subsoil on the northern edge'. It is very unclear whether the verges themselves are included in this.

The plan you have sent, showing the field in green has never been shown to us before; it was NOT included with the maps and letter in October. Nor is it clear from this map how far the visibility splay extends-the green line appears to go far west of the extent of the boundaries of South Lodge, yet when I questioned Lucy about why the neighbour to the west of South Lodge had not received the latest letter, or indeed ANY letter, she said it was because it didn't extend that far.

I absolutely refute that your letter of 14th October "clearly set out the proposed Rampion 2 project". The Carter Jonas letter said that" If you would like to attend a meeting, we anticipate it will cover: the proposed project and how your property may be affected…"

We went to the Ashurst meeting, and the later Cowfold meeting, believing from the letter that it was sent because we were close to the proposed site. We told the Rampion representatives at both venues where we lived. Nobody mentioned the visibility splay. Indeed, they said there was 'all to play for' and that the access had not yet been decided!

Point 2) Nature of Communications and failure to comply with Gunning Principles and Refusal to Give information which should be in the public domain

Details of ownership of land is easily accessible from the Land Registry so why the need to contact the Leggetts twice?

I spoke to Giles Lister on 14th April. As you can see from the quote below, from an email written to the person who gave me his contact details, it is highly unlikely that Mr Lister would have discussed a land title by number and I certainly did not have the title number to hand. I may have explained that I lived on the opposite side of the A272 to the substation, but that hardly comprises adequate legal confirmation:

"I rang him [Giles Lister} this afternoon. I think he may have done a bit of homework since he spoke to you as he backtracked a bit on the substation being in Bolney, but also admitted that being high level he doesn't know all the details. Interesting though that even he hadn't grasped from the information put out during consultation that the substation was to be in Cowfold, not Bolney. Part of my argument has been that leaflets and publicity in the media implied it would be in Bolney.

However, he has agreed to arrange a meeting with us, with himself and Rampion representatives. He said we could ask questions and they would give answers." (This meeting was also later 'backtracked' on after a discussion between him and Rampion)

Why, if the "project has taken the view that anyone with potential subsoil rights are included in the Section 42 consultation" did Lucy Tebbutt express such unwillingness to talk to me? Why has nobody at any meeting, or in response to my numerous emails, ever thought to mention this before. Why did the Section 42 letter not expressly say so, and WHY did you not send the letters to any of us in 2021; nothing has changed in terms of possible plans to affect us? At the 'information' meeting on 21st we were told that only people with a direct land interest had been sent the Section 42 letters in 2021; this cannot be true as residents in Bolney without a direct land interest , but close to the site, DID receive them as evidenced in my previous correspondence. This response would therefore appear to have been made up to try to explain why you failed to send the 2021 letters to us.

Point 3) Refusal to give information which should be in the public domain

This section does not just deal with comments to Mr and Mrs Leggett but includes the remaining paragraphs about failure to be clear with the residents of Cowfold and reluctance to give pertinent information

With regards to the Leggetts, however, they would indeed appreciate a letter of clear explanation, as well as the email to me

Point 4) Access to Oakendene Industrial Estate

At no point have the residents of Cowfold expressed concerns about the risk of one-way traffic lights specifically. We expect that traffic lights will be needed to allow safe turning in and out of the site if permission is granted; without them the risk of accidents would be extremely worrying. With them, however, the already queueing traffic will be even worse, pushing pollution levels up to unacceptable levels and causing misery to the thousands who will face delays. To have misunderstood the fundamental concerns about traffic expressed by so many residents confirms a lack of engagement with this community over the whole consultation.

It is clear to me, when examining your 'explanations' in the above points, that they do not stand up to close scrutiny are in fact retrospectively manufactured to try to appear to have acted in a way which might be seen to constitute adequate consultation.

Yours sincerely

Meera smethurst

CPRE Sussex
Brownings Farm
Blackboys
East Sussex TN22 5HG
Telephone 01825 890975
info@cpresussex.org.uk
www.cpresussex.org.uk

The countryside charity
Sussex

Mr Chris Tomlinson
Development and Stakeholder Manager: Rampion 2
c/o RWE Renewables UK Ltd
Greenwood House
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry
CV4 8PB

24th May 2023

Dear Sir

RAMPION 2: proposals to build a 15-acre substation at Oakendene, Cowfold, West Sussex

You shortly plan to seek permission for onshore and offshore works linked to the nationally significant Rampion 2 development through the DCO planning process.

We believe the consultation process your company has undertaken has been flawed in important respects.

Central to this process is consultation with affected communities and residents.

At Cowfold in West Sussex the local community's residents were not advised of the consultation until almost the very end leaving too little time for them to examine and consider in the detail the documentation provided by the company before the consultation closed.

There is concern, too, that environmental information required to inform the consultation process has been either withheld or not collected, and that significant decisions may have been made by the company despite the lack of data obtained by onsite surveys.

This precludes sound decision taking. After all, to enable sound decision taking there must be an adequate body of up-to-date evidence available to weigh up, and desk-top surveys and assessments are not sufficient.

The Rampion 2 consultation should accord with the four Gunning Principles.

The Gunning Principles are the founding legal principles from which the legitimacy of public consultations in the United Kingdom is assessed and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.

They were first laid down in 1985 by Mr Stephen Sedley QC Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

1. proposals are still at a formative stage. A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers

2. there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'. The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response

3. there is adequate time for consideration and response. There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation, despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation

4. 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made and decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account.

The Gunning Principles.pdf (local.gov.uk)

Gunning can work in a more digital world (The Gunning Principles and Digital First – Staying out of Court in an Online World, see link below signature) and applying these principles would help ensure people have enough time to respond in an informed way. Unfortunately, the current consultation has not allowed for this sufficiently.

To enable a sound DCO process we therefore ask you to reopen the consultation for the Cowfold community and residents.

This should cover both the substation and all cable works in the area, which cross valuable landscape features and habitats, and would have substantial and permanent impacts on them.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Prof Dan Osborn
Chair CPRE Sussex

Cc: Tony Whitbread, President Sussex Wildlife Trust
rampion2@rwe.com
Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
[redacted]@parliament.uk
clerk@cowfold-pc.gov.uk

The Gunning Principles and Digital First – Staying out of Court in an Online World
https://www.consultationinstitute.org/consultation-news/the-gunning-principles-and-digital-first-staying-out-of-court-in-an-online-world/#:~:text=The%20Gunning%20Principles%20are%20the%20founding%20legal%20principles,public%20consultations%20that%20take%20place%20in%20the%20UK

Item 21 – Further Evidence Regarding Rampion Adequacy of Consultation

Sent to Planning Inspectorate and WSCC 13 Jun 2023

Dear Sir

Please find attached an email from SWT expressing their frustrations at the lack of survey information from Rampion, which prevents them, and indeed members of the public also, from making informed comments about the choice of substation site.

Jess Price's quote from the Planning Inspectorate expresses this failing very clearly. It is also against the Gunning Principles of consultation and lends weight to the evidence against adequate consultation by Rampion

yours faithfully
Meera Smethurst
CowfoldvRampion

From: "Price, Jess"[redacted]@sussexwt.org.uk>
Subject: Rampion2
Date: 2 February 2023 at 16:49:36 GMT
To: [redacted]@gmail.com'" [redacted]@gmail.com>
Resent-From: Susan Davies [redacted]@googlemail.com>
Resent-To: [redacted]@gmail.com

Dear Sue

It was good to talk to you about the Rampion2 proposal. I have attached copies of the Sussex Wildlife Trust's responses to the two formal consultations that have happened to date. The one dated Sept21 is our response to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This was a statutory consultation as part of the pre application stage as required by the Planning Inspectorate. For more information on the application process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), please see their website:https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/

As you can see from our Sept21 response, we were concerned about a number of issues. Particularly, the lack of detailed ecological information to allow us to assess impacts on habitats and species. Although we have attended Expert Topic Group Meetings since then, we have still not been provided with the full survey data or ecological evidence. RWE (the developers) have said that all the detailed information will be provided in the Environmental Statement when they submit their application for Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate. We think this is much too late, however this does seem to be standard practice for NSIPs recently (we are having the same issue for the Arundel Bypass and Gatwick Airport applications).

That said, there is guidance from the Planning Inspectorate about the level of information that should be provided. Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements is what we tend to refer to:https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-

notes/advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-and-environmental-statements/

In particular it says that whilst there is no prescribed formation as to what 'Preliminary Ecological Information' should comprise, it should include 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)'.* It further states that '*A good PEI document is one that enables consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and helps to inform their consultation responses on the Proposed Development during the pre-application stage'*.

The second response attached, dated Oct22, relates to the target consultation on the changes to the cable route. As you can see we still raised the issue of the lack of full survey information, although RWE did provide some more information on issues such as impacts on hedgerows.

I'm not sure that other organisations make their responses public, however I did find this draft response from the South Downs National Park Authority to the 2021 PEIR consultation. In it you can see they raise the issue of the Rampion1 habitat restoration failing. I know this is something the SDNPA have been talking to RWE about a lot: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/PC2021Sept09-Agenda-Item-10-v3.pdf

As I mentioned, you can get existing species information for free from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre - https://sxbrc.org.uk/services/dataRequests.php. However, I would caveat that you may get a report that doesn't include much data. In this case, it doesn't mean there is no wildlife in that area, only that it hasn't been recorded and submitted to the SxBRC.

You might also find this guidance on NSIPs from Friends of the Earth helpful:https://cdn.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/NSIP%20Guide%20for%20Campaigners_final_1.pdf.

Finally, if you have further questions about the Rampion2 proposal or anything related to wildlife, please do use our WildCall service: https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/wildlife-advice/wildcall

All the best,
Jess

Jess Price (she/her)
Conservation Officer

Item 22 – Letter to Planning Inspectorate – 14 Jun 2023

Cowfold Parish Council and Rampion2 Adequacy of Consultation

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you on 13th February 2023 regarding further inadequacies of the consultation which has taken place with the residents of Cowfold regarding the Rampion 2 proposals. Attached was a document challenging Rampions 'Promoting Rampion 2 consultations with Cowfold 2021-22 'letter.

It now appears that Cowfold Parish Council have revised their original statement regarding communications between Rampion and the Parish Council (see attached document). Their denial of receiving any more than the residents themselves was originally made to members of the public at Parish Council meetings in December 2022 and January 2023 and reiterated in the attached email form the parish clerk.

This means that Rampion are correct in their statement that the scoping report was received, that Donna Everest attended zoom meetings and that a poster was placed on the Council noticeboard in 2021 (however it was the only poster, and on display at a time when most people were still making only essential journeys). However, it does **not alter in any way the main points the parish council raised in public letters to Rampion, nor does it exonerate Rampion from any of the other inadequacies of consultation we highlighted in the critique, or the body of evidence we have sent to the Planning Inspectorate and WSCC. Also, it is Rampion's responsibility to communicate the consultation to the public, not the Parish Council's**

It also confirms our view that almost nobody in the parish was aware of the proposals in 2021 as the only correspondence they have listed from residents in the first round of consultation was from the owner of Oakendene himself.

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

CowfoldvRampion

Attachment 1 – Cowfold PC, Timeline for Rampion Communications

Created 17 March 2021
Revision 1 – 31 March 2023
Revision 2 – 10 April 2023
Revision 3 – 12 April 2023
Revision 3 – 16 April 2023
Revision 4 – 17 April 2023
Revision 5 – 26 April 2023
Revision 6 – 29 April 2023
Revision 7 – 15 May 2023
Revision 8 – 7 June 2023

Cowfold Parish Council (CPC) & Rampion 2 (R2) Timeline to the best of my email retrieval, other exchanges may have been deleted.

Date	Addressees/Email Title/Content Summary
06/07/2020	Donna Everest (DE) to Jan Wright (JW). Acknowledgement of Forward ENo1o117 R2 Offshore Windfarm EIA Scoping Notification & Consultation
27/09/2020	DE to CPC. "I'll take on being the R2 point of contact".
28/09/2020	DE to CPC. "I'll send notes around to the PC once the proposed meeting has taken place".
07/10/2020	DE to Steve Reading's (SR) Forward of R2 online Community Project Liaison Group (CPLG) Tuesday 22 October 2020. "I'll respond to Paula Seager (PS) at R2".
07/10/1010	DE to PS. R2 CPLG "I am CPC's representative".
14/10/2020	DE to SR. "Confirmed my participation in CPLG on 22 October".
16/10/2020	DE to SR. "Thanks for supplementary information".
26/10/2020	DE to CPC. Notes from HALC and R2 CPLG meetings noting official minutes will be circulated from both.
28/10/2020	DE to JW & CPC. "May be a little late joining CPC Zoom as have another, earlier online meeting scheduled".
03/11/2020	DE to JW & CPC. Reminder that general background notes on R2 CPLG were circulated on 26 October.
05/11/2020	DE to SR & JW. "Thanks for shifting Zoom meeting start time to 19.30".
06/11/2020	DE to JW & CPC. "R2 Zoom meeting information, also sent to SR & JW, slides will follow".

10/11/2020	Emails from Jerry Hooper (JH) & DE reference R2 Zoom. Looking for formal response/CPC feedback after PC meeting on 14 October 2020.
07/03/2021	DE to CPC. Bolney Green Energy Hub, proposals concomitant with R2 project.
04/2021	SR to CPC, no email received from Mr. Griffiths.
06/06/2021	**** to JW. Request for point of contact on CPC to speak with reference R2 development proposal (Kent Street option).
07/06/2021	JW to ****. "Email forwarded to one of the parish councillors asking if he can speak with you on this topic".
08/06/2021	Jenn Bryden (JB) to JW. Notification from R2 that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for R2 proposals has been published. SoCC is available on the R2 website. Please circulate to your Parish Council, post on parish website and notice board*. ** R2 poster advertising the SoCC (14/07/2021-16/09/2021) remains in situ on CPC notice board.* 
22/06/2021	JH to Joanne Knowles (JK) & DE. Greening questionnaire & objectives, mentioning R2 and green energy.
14/07/2021	SR to CPC, generic flyer received. Not addressed to CPC/Chairman (overlooked as not addressee specific).
15/07/2021	R2 to DE. Registration for public forum, 27 July 2021.
15/07/2021	PS to JW. Following up R2 communications about public consultation. Are there parish/public noticeboards in your area where the R2 poster delivery driver can affix posters?
18/07/2021	**** to JW. Request to see any parish maps showing the R2 construction areas as ones provided by R2 are almost illegible.
19/07/2021	JW to ****. Link to R2 website and request to contact JW further if the information is not what is required.
19/07/2021	JC to ****. Have checked website & found route. Background details still fades, does the parish have any further map detail, especially for sheet 20?
19/07/2021	JK to JH & DE. Greening Steyning Newsletter, R2 Latest Plan Talk on 7 September 2021.
21/07/2021	DE to JK. "Thanks".
26/07/2021	R2 to DE. Reminder of Virtual Public Forum.
03/08/2021	Paul Everest (PE) to DE. Forward, Sustainable Henfield Newsletter, R2 grant funds purchase of converted milk float into an Inspiration Eco Station.

13/08/2021	3 emails, DE to Josh Funnell (JF), Parliamentary Researcher, Cc JW. Accepting Andrew Griffiths (AG) MP's invitation to a Zoom R2 Roundtable on 3 September 2021.
13-14/08/2021	DE to SR & JW. Email from **** concerning R2 in Cowfold. Draft response.
17/08/2021	DE to CPC. Response to **** & CPC proposed communications options to Parish.
10-22/08/2021	DE to Lynn Lambert (LL). Request for any future R2 information to be shared by Horsham District Council (HDC).
23/08/2021	DE to CPC. Agreement to paraphrase LL's R2 response & circulate.
25-26/08/2021	DE to CPC. Synopsis of proposed response to DB.
28/08/2021	DE to ****. Removal of Wineham Lane option from R2 proposal.
31/08/2021	DE to ****, Cc JW and Sarah Payne (SP). CPC has an ongoing information exchange with HDC and West Sussex County Council (WSCC).
31/08/2021	DE to JW. Reference email to DB.
02-03/09/2021	JF to DE. Zoom link for AG's Roundtable meeting.
06/09/2021	SR to CPC, generic flyer received. Not addressed to CPC/Chairman (overlooked as not addressee specific).
10/09/2021	R2 to DE. Registration for online public forum.
10/09/2021	**** to JW. Summary of conversation with JH relating to concerns over R2 proposals for Oakendene & alternative proposals put forward by **** for the Oakendene Enterprise Park.
11/09/2021	DE to CPC. "Should we put the R2 presentation link on to the CPC website and Cowfold Community Facebook page?"
13/09/2021	DE to JF, BCc CPC. Details of synopsis sent to CPC members from AG's Roundtable meeting.
13/09/2021	JW to CPC. Forwarding ****'s email of 10/09/2021.
13/09/2120	JH to CPC. Iterating that no opinion on behalf of CPC was given to **** in the discussion cited in the email of 10/09/2021.
21/09/2021	DE to CPC. Link to R2 article on BBC News website.
06/10/2021	**** to CPC. Email chain requesting opportunity to address CPC on 11 October 2021 over R2 impact on the Oakendene estate.
03/11/2021	**** to JW. Inquiry as to a R2 content at the forthcoming CPC Meeting on 08/11/2021 and opportunity to attend. Question about a possible Parish Council circular for disseminating information.
03/11/2021	JW to ****. Clarification of how CPC information is shared with parish residents and stating all members of the public are welome to attend CPC meetings.

09-10/11/2021	JH to CPC. Emails to **** reference ****'s proposal for the Oakendene estate.
22-24/01/2022	JH to JW & DE. CPC's stance on green energy & R2.
26/01/2022	JW to CPC. WSCC consultation response to R2 (link).
21/07/2022	**** to JW. Requesting that as the resident of ****, on the proposed R2 cable route, CPC can provide assurance that the Parish Council will provide its support to residents concerns and give open access to any local liaison groups.
22/07/2022	JW to . Confirming his email will be included under correspondence at the next CPC meeting on 08/08/2022.
05/08/2022	DE to JH. "In favour of transparency when communicating information received about R2 with the parish".
08/08/2022	JW to DE, Cc PS. Reference a presentation from Annie Hirst (AH) and Nicola Hanley(NH), Twineham, to CPC on 8 August 2022.
16-17/08/2022	JW to DE, Cc PS. Invitation to R2 Onshore CPLG on 13 September 2022.
09-10/09/2022	PS to DE. R2 CPLG postponed to 12 October 2022.
29/09/2022	PS to DE. Confirming R2 CPLG on 12 October 2022.
12/10/2022	DE to CPC. Precis of R2 CPLG meeting.
17/10/2022	R2 – DE. R2 launches public consultation on potential onshore cable route changes.
18/10/2022	JW & DE. Information on registering for R2 virtual forum.
18-19/10/2022	DE to PS. Request a place on R2 virtual forum.
27/10/2022	DE to CPC. R2's draft notes from forum on 12 October 2022. CPC's initial suggestion that R2 personnel come to Cowfold to address in person, posting information received on CPC website and Cowfold Community Facebook.
31/10/2022	PS to DE. Microsoft Teams Meeting invitation, 3 November 2022.
03-08/11/2022	DE to CPC. Formal request to sponsor R2 public meeting on 23 November 2022 + draft meeting poster.
06/11/2022	Cowfold Village Hall (CVH) to DE. Booking request for public meeting on 23 November 2022.
06/11/2022	CVH to DE. Booking request approved.
14/11/2022	JW to DE. Revised poster draft.
14-15/11/2022	Chris Tomlinson (CT), R2, Cc JW. Participation of R2 personnel at public meeting.
15/11/2022	DE to SP, Jonathan Chowen (JC) & LL. Invitation to the R2 public meeting on23 November 2022.
17/11/2022.	SP to DE. Invitation acceptance.

Rampion 2

Meera Smethurst [redacted]@gmail.com> 17 December 2022 at 15:3
To: Jan Wright <clerk@cowfold-pc.gov.uk>
Bcc: Sue Davies [redacted]@googlemail.com>

Thank you for looking Jan.

In their scoping report (attached) , which they submitted to the planning inspectorate at the start of the consultation, they give a list of which councils they contacted ,who replied and who did not.Their exact terminology is ' a list of consultation bodies FORMALLY consulted' . although it does not say when or how.Bolney, Twineham , Henfield all replied in July/Aug 2020. I do not know exactly when the original letter or email was sent,but perhaps you could ask your colleagues in Twineham and Bolney what they received and when? But 'formally consulted' should mean some sort of significant communication, not a junk leaflet

I would be very grateful if you could find out whether you received anything and if so what the contents were as I am suspicious that it would be as uninformative as the 'junk mail' leaflet the village recently received. IF YOU DID NOT receive anything, then that is very serious and must be highlighted to the Planning Inspectorate and WSCC urgently

best wishes
Meera

On Sat, 17 Dec 2022 at 14:53, Jan Wright <clerk@cowfold-pc.gov.uk> wrote:

> Hi Meera
>
> Just to say that I have looked back at correspondence from Rampion and cannot find anything in 2020 from them. Where did you get that information from? Also, when Alexander presented his plans for Oakendene, it was suggested that he organise a public meeting and invite Rampion 2 representatives. He thought that was a good idea, but we never heard anything more from him so I do not know why he changed his mind.
>
> Kind regards
>
> Jan

Item 23-email from Horsham DC, dated 4 Jul 2023

The attached email from HDC is indicative that no significant flood data was obtained for inclusion in the decision making process when choosing Oakendene and that therefore full studies were not carried out before the site was chosen:

From: Amy Harrower [redacted]@alhcs.co.uk>

Date: 4 July 2023 at 12:56:26 BST

To: [redacted]@googlemail.com

Cc: Rampion 2 <Rampion2@westsussex.gov.uk>, Kevin Macknay [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: Water pollution regarding Rampian 2 Oakendene application - RH13 8Z

Hi Sue,

Many thanks for your email. I have been asked to reply to your query regarding information that WSCC have been provided from Rampion 2, on the subject of flood mitigation measures and how RED propose to control water pollution.

WSCC have been engaging with RED via a series of Expert Topic Working Groups (ETGs) through the pre-application phase of the project. This has included the topics of flood risk management and pollution control. **Technical documentation provided to date from RED has been via the statutory rounds of consultation, which for the substation site, was included within the summer 2021 PEIR and associated documentation.** I am sure you are aware, these can be found here:

Consultations 2021 - Rampion 2

Chapter 27 Water Environment and figures, can be found here:

Formal Consultation Detailed Documents - Rampion 2

PEIR Chapter 27 Water environment (rampion2.com)

This assessment was based upon both substation sites, as the decision on the chosen site to take forward had not been made at that point. Table 27-15 gives the list of relevant water environment embedded environmental mitigation measures. Another useful document is the Outline Code of Construction Practice, which can be found here: Outline Code of Construction Practice (rampion2.com)

The assessment of the water environment, specific to the chosen substation site, including a Flood Risk Assessment and updated Outline Code of Construction Practice (including details on pollution prevention planning) will be included with the DCO submission documents, which will be available for review if the application is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate to take forward into examination.

Further elements of the project will be controlled through DCO Requirements (akin to planning conditions), if the project is given consent by the Secretary of State.

Best wishes

Amy

Item 24 – Further Evidence of Preconsultation Bias

Further Evidence that the preconsultation process was biased to favour comments from Wineham and Bolney residents

From PEIR Ch 26 Historic Environment

"Informal consultation and further engagement

26.3.16 RED carried out an Informal Consultation for a period of four weeks from 14 January 2021 to 11 February 2021. This Informal Consultation aimed to engage with a range of stakeholders including the prescribed and non-prescribed consultation bodies, local authorities, Parish Councils and general public with a view to introducing the Proposed Development and seeking early feedback on the emerging designs.

26.3.17 The key themes emerging from Informal Consultation in January 2021 relating to historic environment are:

 concerns over the location of the Wineham Lane substation search area options;

 concerns over the use of Wineham Lane for construction traffic; and

 onshore substation design and potential screening. "

It is clear that all comments related to Wineham Lane, yet WSCC's response to the first consultation made clear that the historic environment at Oakendene was likely to be of more significance. It is not credible that the residents of Cowfold, had they known about the proposals would have remained silent about the building of the substation in the parkland of this local landmark.

Item 25 – email from Horsham DC, dated 27 Jun 2023

From: Lee.Money [redacted]@horsham.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Public Health- pollution . Proposed Development at Oakendene RH13 8AZ

Date: 27 June 2023 at 10:15:49 BST

To: [redacted]@googlemail.com"[redacted]@googlemail.com>

Cc: PublicHealth.Licensing <publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk>, Diane Lambert [redacted]@horsham.gov.uk>

Dear Madam

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the Rampion 2 development.

This authority is consultee to this process and has not received any additional information other the documents made available during the public consultation which ended on the 30th May 2023.

Information on the proposed development and the consent process is available at the Rampion 2 Windfarm website at: https://rampion2.com/consultation-2023-bolney/

Once the application is formally submitted representations can be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will be determining the application for the Development Consent Order.

West Sussex County Council are the Lead Local Flood Authority for the proposed development and I suggest you highlight your concerns to the relevant officer at that authority.

The Environment Agency are responsible for protecting controlled waters from pollution and for regulating the bulk storage of fuel oils and you may also wish to seek their comments on the concerns you have raised.

Regards

Lee Money

Team Leader Environmental Protection

Telephone: [redacted]

0[redacted]

Emai [redacted]@horsham.gov.uk

Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RL

Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton

Item 26 – Letter from Lynn Lambert, Horsham District Councillor.

Lynn.Lambert[redacted]@horsham.gov.uk>

4 Mar 2023, 11:05

to Jonathan.Chowen, Elizabeth.Kitchen, me

Good Morning Mrs Smethurst,

The only correspondence I can find regarding Rampion during the week before Christmas was the letter to be forwarded to WSCC by Sarah Payne, regarding the adequacy of the consultation report.

We are all deeply concerned by the inadequate consultation provided to residents by Rampion and Jonathan Chowen, Sarah Payne and I attended the consultation in Cowfold village Hall, where we all endeavoured to hold their representatives to account.

I will of course forward the additional correspondence to HDC to help inform their response regarding the adequacy of consultation.

Should you have any further information or observations please do get in touch and I will of course be happy to support you.

Kind regards

Lynn

Cllr Lynn Lambert

Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead Parishes

Item 27 – Letter to Rampion2, 25 Jun 2023

Rampion 2- Cowfold information meeting -21.6.2023

to chris.tomlinson.extern, Michael, joy.dennis, elizabeth.kitchen, paul.marshall, matthew.porter, kate.Rowbottom, Sa

Dear Chris

It was good to finally meet you on Wednesday (21st June) at the information meeting in Cowfold and please thank your colleagues for their time. It was encouraging to see so many of our neighbours attending the meeting. I think that there were approximately 140 households, which was about three times as many as attended the Bolney information meeting.

During the meeting at Bolney on 15th May, I was assured that Rampion would reveal their new plans for a road traffic scheme to be introduced along the A272 (adjacent to Oakendene), which would deal with our traffic congestion and Road Traffic Accident (RTA) concerns. However, I was incredibly disappointed to find that this new scheme involved merely introducing an "access provided with visibility splays", which simply does not address or solve any of the issues raised. Your proposed solutions totally ignore the fact that when leaving the site, hundreds of Rampion's HGVs and ancillary vehicles will have to cross two lanes of fast-moving traffic (18,500 vehicles per day) and go back onto the A272. We had expressed our concerns about the disruption that temporary traffic lights may cause and your answer, on the presentation board was "One-way traffic lights will not be needed during the construction period and the A272 would remain open in both directions". I pointed out that this was a rather misleading statement, and someone at Rampion suggested that they put a "post-it note" over that particular sentence, but this was not done.

Rampion has also stated that the HGV's will travel from the A23, along the A272 to the Oakendene site and will leave the site by turning right onto the A272 towards the A23, thus not entering the village of Cowfold. However, during the meeting this week, Nicholas Coombes said that the HGVs will have to go through the village to the cable route and that a rubble road will go through the nightingales' nesting sight. These two statements seem to contradict previous reassurances.

During the Bolney meeting, we were told that Wineham Lane, in Bolney, was not chosen for the sub-station site, because although clearly large enough, the site was a different shape and that the Oakendene site was less constraining. We were also told that Bolney residents had objected to another substation, but Cowfold residents had not. It's difficult to know how the residents of Cowfold could object to something that they knew nothing about.

During the Cowfold meeting this week, you told me that the Wineham Lane site was never considered as a substation site, because the site was too small (neither of these points is factually correct), and it was in close proximity to a thriving business, the Royal Oak. You seem to fail to appreciate that the Oakendene site has over 70 businesses which will be negatively impacted, it is within close proximity of several listed buildings, ancient woodlands, several valuable historic hedgerows and the Cowfold Stream that feeds the River Adur, which you appear to dismiss as insignificant. However, each of these items and several other environmental aspects are very significant and should be investigated further and protected. The proposed installation of the substation and the adjacent battery farms that will follow will industrialise this very precious landscape and destroy numerous habitats.

Highways
I stood and watched as a number of local people tried to explain to you the existing difficulties regarding traffic and RTA's in Cowfold. A gentleman who has lived two miles outside of the village for the past 40 years

explained that the slow-moving queuing traffic often extends past the Oakendene site. He explained in a great deal of detail that when there are either temporary lights, an accident, or road works along this stretch of the A272, the entire village of Cowfold grinds to a halt and the queues extend several miles in both directions, both East and West. I was very disappointed to see that even though you were being given these first-hand detailed accounts of everyday life, you simply ignored the information and pointed to your picture boards and read out the wording of your proposals, "One-way traffic lights will not be needed during the construction period and the A272 will remain open in both directions". Local residents could see that you were not listening to their concerns and left the meeting frustrated.

You were also advised that when there are any types of road works along the A272, drivers take alternative routes to avoid the queues and go along Picts Lane, Spronketts Lane, and John Bulls Lane. These are single-track rural lanes, which do not have the capacity to take heavy traffic. Indeed when there are accidents or road works, these lanes become gridlocked and impassable. Your response was to point to your picture board as if you had found the solution to these problems and state that "The A272 will remain open in both directions".

It's little wonder that people have no faith in the process, because you say that you are listening to them, whereas, in fact, you are simply playing lip service, ticking a box and ignoring local knowledge and concerns.

The biggest difference between the Wineham Lane turning and Oakendene turning is that Wineham Lane already has a visibility splay and has two lanes which were built originally to accommodate the National Grid sub-station. Wineham Lane is situated closer to the A23, and significantly, the traffic doesn't back up at Wineham Lane. That section of the A272 is straight with better visibility and has fewer RTA's. Further west, parallel to the Oakendene site, the A272 becomes windier and dips down, making it more dangerous, which could account for the highest number of RTA's in the area. It's this section of the A272 which consistently suffers from traffic backing up from the village of Cowfold to Kent Street. This problem appears to be mirrored on the other side of the village, as traffic often backs up from the roundabout outside the Co-op towards Stonehouse Lane.

As you know we are very concerned about the impact of your proposals on a variety of issues, including traffic. You have simply said that we should refer the matter to WSCC Highways Dept, because it will ultimately be their responsibility, so effectively passing the buck. Presumably when drivers complain of sitting in lengthy queues, there is gridlock in the surrounding lanes, and businesses lose millions of pounds in lost productivity, they will be complaining to the local council and not yourselves. Surely, you should be making suitable proposals based on accurate traffic modelling and survey information, and not just relying on desktop studies, which have failed to identify the problems raised by local residents.

Environmental information

As you know Janine Creaye has completed a tremendous number of environmental studies including the ancient woodlands and historic hedgerows, which in some instances are 5m wide and are the habitats for nesting nightingales and several badger sets. It was heartbreaking to hear that Vicky Portwaine made the comment to several people that the loss of the nightingales was worth it compared to the number of species that would die if they did not do this. The cavalier attitude was very disappointing, especially given that nightingale numbers have fallen so dramatically in recent years, and the likes of David Attenborough are raising awareness and trying to protect them.

Survey Information

I find it very difficult to understand how Rampion could have chosen Oakendene as their preferred site, without first completing detailed surveys and assessing the results. Examining the contents of the PEIR, Rampion were not aware that the meadows (where the substation is proposed) are flood meadows (which are not recommended for substations), nor that this area suffers from surface water flooding, nor that there is a high voltage electricity cable running underneath the site. Please find attached a photo taken, from what would potentially be the middle of the proposed substation at Oakendene. You will see that the Grade II listed Oakendene Manor is clearly visible. The photo was taken on 27.4.2023, which was the first time we

could get onto the flooded meadows, as the level of the water had reduced to about 10 inches, making it possible to wade across. It seems extraordinary that you have chosen a flood meadow for the location of the new substation, which appears contrary to recommended industry advice. We understand that it will be necessary for weed killer to be used extensively and frequently within the substation site, and would like to raise yet another concern relating to the surface water runoff that could potentially be very damaging for the water courses and tributaries that feed the River Adur. According to the PEIR, Oakendene was only mentioned in passing as it was supposed to be "temporary storage compound No 3" and not a substation site. This is yet another indicator that Oakendene wasn't a clear contender at the time of the assessment.

We, together with several organisations, have been asking for the results of detailed studies including the environmental surveys since November 2022, when we discovered your substation proposals, however, have received nothing. On Wednesday 21.6.2023, your colleague Nick Coombes advised that the survey information will be sent this week to the RSPB, SWT, and Natural England, although he wasn't sure about Woodlands Trust. I do hope that he keeps his promise and releases this information in order for these organisations to have enough time to assess the findings and recommend effective mitigation measures.

You advised that 20-25 trees will be destroyed, please can you specify which trees and where are they located?(are you referring to the 200-year-old oaks?). The removal of these will make way for the substation which has a potential life of around 30 years, however, what happens after the 30 years? Will the substation be de-commissioned, or updated? Or expanded? On Wednesday (21.6.2023) you stated that Rampion is trying to learn from their past mistakes, however looking at the minutes of meetings for the Liaison Group (PLG) for Rampion 1, dated 14.11.2011, your action point stated "Action points: The Rampion Team should ensure accurate visuals (montages) are included in consultation exhibitions". However, the visuals provided for the Cowfold meeting did not show an accurate illustration of the proposed substation. We've asked for this on several occasions and would like to see what the proposed substation would look like from the A272 (where over 18,500 vehicles pass each day) after 1 year and 10 years. According to minutes of the PLG on 23.4.2012, a number of Bolney residents raised concerns about the screening of Rampion 1 and that it could take 20 years for trees to grow high enough to act as an effective screen. Bolney had suggested planting mature trees as they would act as a more effective screen. These concerns were noted by Rampion and further investigations were to be made, with letters being sent to all residents of Bolney. It all sounded very encouraging. A decade later, no mature trees were planted, and the screening and replanting failed in several places, with nothing done by Rampion to rectify the situation even though apparently "environmental and land mitigation was a top priority" for Rampion. Please could you provide the montages which illustrate the three-storey, 15-acre substation, so that we see the visual impact from the A272. We also learned that due to more power being generated, these would be stored in adjacent battery farms and that there would be more pylons carrying overhead lines - please can you provide more details on these plans?

Lack of Consultation - The substation will be the only permanent structure.
We have discussed this matter at length and you still maintain that Rampion consulted adequately with Cowfold. I would just like to confirm that very few Cowfold residents have seen a leaflet with a picture of a wind farm on the cover, which I understand was sent in October/November 2022. However, the leaflet did not even mention the word "substation" and was incredibly vague and uninformative. It gave no indication whatsoever that a substation would be built or was proposed for Cowfold.

We've gathered a great deal of evidence from both Bolney and Cowfold residents, and have discovered that the information that was provided by yourselves and Carter Jonas, to Bolney, was detailed and adequate, however, the same information was not provided to Cowfold. The comparative analysis clearly demonstrates that Cowfold was not adequately consulted and a number of households (over 300) have confirmed this in writing. We believe that the correct procedures have not been followed and inadequate information has been supplied, relating to the Planning Act 2008, and the Gunnings Principals, and feel that we have no choice but to prepare for a Judicial Review on procedural grounds.

Apologies Chris, this was supposed to be a very short follow-up email, therefore all the inconsistencies and

misinformation will be highlighted in a more lengthy document, to follow. It just seems a great pity that you are proposing this major unnecessary disruption and destruction in Cowfold when a perfectly adequate site is available in Bolney, which has better access. In fact, according to a letter from Horsham District Council on 29.7.2020 it is stated that "HDC's strong view is that the existing sub-station site should be utilised and expanded for Rampion 2 to limit its visual impact." They also point out "A major cause of air pollution in the Cowfold AQMA is the build-up of traffic leading into the double roundabouts in the village centre", which will be made worse by more traffic and standing HGVs.

In order to comply with your Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) criteria and gain investors, presumably you should be demonstrating compliance with your environmental policy. However, by deliberately choosing the Oakendene site instead of utilising the site adjacent to the existing Bolney substation, you are deliberately choosing to unnecessarily damage an additional 5km of hedgerows and trees, whilst additionally destroying an untouched carbon store of open meadows at Oakendene. This is completely unnecessary and more damaging to the environment. Instead of supporting biodiversity and supporting the existing ecosystem, you appear to be deliberately choosing to disrupt and destroy it. How can investors or the local community support such a proposal?

We would really appreciate the environmental, geotechnical, and engineering survey information, together with the traffic modelling, and water pollution prevention measures relating to the Oakendene site, as previously requested. Please also provide specific details of how you propose to deal with the flood meadows and surface water flooding issues. Surely you should have had this detailed information relating to the Oakendene site, in order to make an informed decision about your proposed site selection, but they do not appear anywhere in your PEIR or the appendices.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Kind regards

Sue Davies
CowfoldvRampion

Item 28 – Adequacy of Consultation Issues and clarity of information

Sent to RWE and copied to Planning Inspectorate and WSCC 7th July 2023

Dear Sir,

The information meeting in Cowfold, on 21st June 2023, was held in part because of concerns by many residents about traffic. We were told that a detailed explanation of how the traffic might safely turn on and off the road would be given. Instead, the script which was largely stuck to was that 'there would be no single lane traffic lights during the construction'

I don't think any of us ever thought they would be 'single lane'; this is an example of your deliberately misleading choice of words, which might lead a casual observer into thinking there would be no traffic lights at all, when of course there will have to be some significant traffic management in order to ensure traffic safety. This will inevitably lead to congestion.

Another source of seemingly deliberately vague information, was whether there would be a visibility splay and the extent of the destruction of hedges and ancient oaks to achieve this, ranging from ‘we may just have to cut the hedge right down for a while’ to ‘everything will have to come out to create a 300m visibility splay’.

How can the public, during the decision-making stage about the substation site, have had the ability to make an informed choice, without knowing either of these things, and how can you have included meaningful engineering advice about something so fundamental when you chose the site, as you have said you had, if you genuinely have not even decided yet?

Indeed, at the same meeting, when speaking with a Rampion representative regarding why Oakendene was a superior site compared to Wineham Lane North, , all that we could really glean from an engineering perspective, was that it would have better access for bringing in the transformers; but other than that Rampion were not able to demonstrate further reasonable grounds as to why Oakendene would be the better site from an engineering stand point.

Another area of misleading information is that ‘HGVs will not go through the AQMA area to the substation site unless necessary’. This gives the impression that the AQMA of Cowfold will be unaffected. But what does ‘unless necessary’ mean? And what about the ones going down Kent Street, or to and from the compound, or the ones which need to get to the cable route from the A281? In fact, for the latter, there is no other realistic route, which Chris Tomlinson admitted at the meeting. Nor have they said this for any of the many thousands of ‘light support vehicles’ which will be needed for all these areas, or the workers cars etc.

Another area of economy with the truth is in relation to the cable route. Much has been made of the use of trenchless crossings to preserve hedges and limit destruction to the nightingale breeding areas and reptile habitats from Cratemans to Oakendene, and of your intention to use existing farm tracks to access the cable route over the downs and other areas. We have pointed out to you on a number of occasions that there *are* no farm tracks, or indeed any access across this land for vehicles and yet you have persisted in telling us that hedges and landscapes will be preserved by the use of tunnelling. We heard for the first time on 21st June that in fact a haul road, wide enough for 2 HGVs, will need to be constructed between the A281 and Oakendene to transport the cables and tunnelling equipment! How can anyone, including wildlife bodies, be expected to comment meaningfully about this without clarity regarding such an important fact?

Finally, I would like to mention again the email correspondence I have been having with Vicky Portwain about the lack of information in official letters from Carter Jonas received by my elderly neighbours. To provide further explanation, she wrote to them a somewhat more informative letter which related to some maps for clarification. However, the maps were not actually included in the envelope. Given that this was in connection with a complaint about the poor quality of information provided, I feel that both this, and the

above issues arising at the meeting are representative of the casual and cavalier approach which has been taken to the consultation process as a whole

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

Item 29 - Cowfold Information meeting and accurate data provision

Letter to Chris Tomlinson 11th July 2023

Dear Mr Tomlinson,

I was very concerned to hear from residents about some of the answers they received from Rampion at the Information Event on 21st June. Some of these concerns I have already highlighted to RWE on 7th July. As yet I have received no reply.

Further unusual responses have come to light, which require further clarification please:

Firstly, one of our district councillors was told at the meeting that traffic lights outside the Oakendene site would be on the A272 for just 1.5 weeks. Please can you confirm this in writing? She questioned this statement repeatedly but the Rampion member insisted it was true. She also felt that a number of other residents were coming out with this impression. It is difficult to understand how over 8000 HGVs will be moved into and out of the site in 1.5 weeks, or indeed, how anything much could be constructed in such and extraordinarily short time frame.

Secondly, one resident asked how they were proposing to cope with the traffic flow at such a busy point. He reminded you that for Rampion 1 the much less problematic access onto Wineham Lane had required a holding area to the east in order to control the movement of HGVs. This area is no longer available. However, to his surprise, both James D'Alessandro and Vicky Portwain said that you had not considered a holding area and were not planning to do so.

This would indicate that nobody raised this in the first round of consultation, ie because nobody from Cowfold knew so they were unable to respond. Also, that you do not seem to have considered in a responsible way, the substation related concerns raised during the cable route consultation in 2022, as I know that a number of residents raised this point when they responded to the final consultation so Rampion had been made aware of such concerns before.

Regards
Meera Smethurst
CowfoldvRampion

Item 30- Rampion2 – Natural England

To the planning Inspectorate 10 Jul 2023

Dear Sirs

Chris Tomlinson of Rampion publicly announced on 14.7.2022 that the decision to build the substation at Oakendene was based on engineering and environmental studies. We do not believe that at the time of the announcement such studies had been completed, as there is insufficient evidence of such studies in the PEIR or the appendices. Also, during an "information meeting" with Cowfold on 21.6.2023, John Chamberlain (who worked on the original installation of the NG substation in Bolney during the 1960's), discovered that Rampion have not yet decided whether their facility will be AC or DC, which is a basic fundamental engineering question and would determine the size of the site required.

As you will see from the email trail, Natural England (received yesterday) and RSPB have not received detailed environmental information/surveys and so have not had an opportunity to discuss detailed mitigation measures. We also have confirmation from others, such as WSWT and Woodlands Trust that they have requested detailed survey information, but received nothing.

During a Bolney "consultation meeting" on 15.5.2023, I was told that although the proposed Rampion 2 substation would fit in a site adjacent to Rampion 1, some Bolney residents objected to another substation and so they chose Cowfold. Apparently, the reason they chose Cowfold was that the residents of Cowfold did not object. They did not object, because they knew nothing of the proposal, until late October 2022, (the entire 2yr consultation closed mid November 2022), when some land owners received information packs, which were incredibly difficult to decipher with heavily edited maps. At around this time, a very misleading leaflet was sent by Rampion, to some households in Cowfold, it didn't even mention the word "substation" and the cable route "appeared" to avoid Cowfold, so there was nothing to alert Cowfold residents of the proposal. We subsequently discovered that Rampion had been having private discussions with a number of different land owners in both Bolney and Cowfold, who could potentially be affected by either the cable route or the proposed substation. These land owners were threatened with compulsory purchase orders and asked to sign non-disclosure agreements.

We have compared the information sent to Bolney residents to that sent to some residents of Cowfold and there is no comparison between the two. We have clear evidence to demonstrate that Cowfold were not adequately consulted. This is further confirmed by over 300 Cowfold households taking the trouble to email the councillors at WSCC. Many people in the Cowfold are disillusioned and do not believe that this process will be conducted properly or fairly, we hope that you will prove them wrong.

Please can you take this information into consideration when assessing this proposal for Cowfold. Thank you.

Kind regards

Sue Davies
CowfoldvRampion

From: "SM-NE-Consultations (NE)" <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: FW: Survey data relating to Oakendene site as the proposed substation
Date: 9 July 2023 at 19:31:56 BST
To: [redacted]@googlemail.com" [redacted]@googlemail.com>

Dear Susan

Thank you for your email. Sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

We note your concerns regarding the process followed by the developer to date. We suggest that you raise these concerns with the Planning Inspectorate prior to the application being submitted (contact details can be found here). We also suggest you register as an interested party to present your views/evidence during the public hearings at the appropriate time.

We await the Environmental Statement, which will be submitted as part of the application, to gain a fuller and more up to date understanding of the Applicants assessment and what information they have taken into account.

Kind regards

Sally

From: Susan Davies [redacted]@googlemail.com>
Sent: 30 April 2023 15:37
To: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Survey data relating to Oakendene site as the proposed substation

Dear Sally

Many thanks for your email. I wondered if you would be so kind as to check the detail of the information that you have received from Rampion, regarding the proposed Oakendene site. It would appear that at the time of their announcement, in July 2022, Rampion had not actually completed any detailed investigations on the Oakendene site, contrary to their statement. Wood Group consultants who completed much of the research recommended not using Kent Street because it was “inappropriate” for such traffic, and the PEIR research is focused on the working assumption that the substation site would be located in Wineham Lane, Bolney.

The studies were desk top studies which failed to identify major short comings. There is absolutely no traffic data extending to the Oakendene site, as it was all focused on Wineham Lane. There were no detailed environmental studies completed at that time, only basic desk top studies, which failed to identify the rest list, and protected species. There was no mention of the dozens of veteran oaks, ancient woods, badgers, great crested newts or the extensive biodiversity on the site. Local residents have been very concerned to advise Rampion of the nightingales nests and extensive wildlife, but Rampion have not accepted this data.

We understand that organisations such as RSPB, Woodlands Trust and Sussex Wildlife Trust have asked for survey data and details of the proposed mitigation measures, but Rampion are simply not providing this data. They have failed to investigate the surface water flooding, and have a very poor track record of leaking diesel from Rampion I. If that occurs at the Oakendene site, it could affect the water courses which feed the River Arun.

There are over 70 businesses on the Oakendene site and dozens more in Cowfold who will be adversely affected by the sever traffic and congestion and no account has been taken of these businesses or their livelihoods. Over 18,000 vehicles use the A272 to Cowfold on a daily basis and the Oakendene site is an accident hot spot. Any type of road works or accidents along this stretch of road, always cause vast and immediate congestion. Rampion are proposing traffic control measures for a number of years, which will

have a devastating impact on local people, businesses and the surrounding area, as drivers try and find cut throughs to avoid the congestion.

Please could you encourage Rampion to supply the appropriate and relevant survey data to the villagers of Cowfold, RSPB, Woodlands Trust and West Sussex Wildlife Trust, so that we may have an opportunity to understand their proposals and for them to demonstrate how and why they chose the Oakendene site. I'm not sure if you are aware, but the residents of Cowfold were not consulted about this proposed substation and so many are very worried and concerned that this large organisation is just going to come in and crush the community.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help in this matter.

Kind regards

Sue
On 30 Apr 2023, at 12:12, SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk> wrote:

Dear Sue
Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm proposal for a substation at Cowfold. Sincere apologies for the delay in responding to this enquiry.
Natural England's remit as a Statutory Nature Conservation Body as defined under the NERC Act 2006, is as an adviser to the Secretary of State on all associated potential ecological impacts of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects such as Rampion 2. Throughout the process we provide impartial, evidence-based advice on the scale and significance of impacts to designated sites, protected habitats and species, and nationally designated landscapes.
Natural England have been actively engaging in the developer's pre-application evidence plan process since the EIA Scoping Report was published in the summer of 2020 and continue to do so. We provided the developer with detailed comments on their Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) consultation in the Summer of 2021, their PEIR SIR in November 2022 and their PEIR FSIR in March 2023. We continue to provide further advice in meetings with RWE on the potential impacts.
In relation to the overall project Natural England have highlighted the risk to the developer of stakeholders not seeing their full set of analysed and assessed survey data until the Environmental Statement stage. However, we would highlight that there will still be the opportunity to provide feedback after the application is submitted. During the Examination process, impacts of the development will be fully considered by all relevant parties. At this stage, as a consultee, it will be for Natural England to present on the facts in regards to whether the new development has an acceptable impact across all aspects of the project relevant to our remit. It will then be for the Secretary of State to decide what weight to give these findings in the decision. It is worth noting that all interested parties will have a chance to present their views/evidence during the public hearings and we suggest you register your interest at the appropriate time to enable you to do so.

Should you have any concerns regarding the process followed by the developer to date, that you wish to raise prior to the application being submitted, we suggest you raise these with the Planning Inspectorate.

Kind regards

Sally Tainton
Natural England
www.gov.uk/natural-england

From: Sue Davies [redacted]@googlemail.com>
Sent: 06 February 2023 11:59
To: SM-NE-Enquiries (NE) <enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: Fwd: "Adequate time for Assessment." Rampion 2- Cowfold

Dear Sirs

I'm writing to enquire whether Rampion have been in contact with you regarding their Rampion 2 proposal for a substation at Cowfold.

I understand that West Sussex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB have requested that Natural England and the Woodland Trust are contacted because of the impact on a significant number of trees and the Sussex Countryside.

Would you kindly confirm if you have been contacted and whether you have received any survey results. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help in this matter.

Kind regards
Sue Davies

From: Sue Davies [redacted]@gmail.com>
Subject: "Adequate time for Assessment." Rampion 2- Cowfold
Date: 6 February 2023 at 08:07:15 GMT
To: Jess Price [redacted]@sussexwt.org.uk>, enquiries@rspb.org.uk, enquiries@woodlandtrust.org
Cc: Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Jess
Thank you so much for your help and advice last week.

Please find attached a link to the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Please refer to 4.2.4, where in the first paragraph it states that "When considering a proposal, the IPC should satisfy itself that likely significant effects, including any significant residual effects taking accounts of any proposed mitigation measures or any adverse effects of those measures, have been adequately assessed".

Rampion have stated that they plan not to disclose their survey findings or full details of their mitigation measures until they submit their plans to the Planning Inspectorate. However, we are also aware that by deliberately withholding this information until this very late stage, the RSPB, Sussex Wildlife Trust, The Woodlands Trust will not be given an opportunity to "adequately assess" the surveys to make recommendations on the mitigation measures, which is contrary to the guidelines stated in the ONPS for Energy.

Please can you investigate this matter further and ask that Rampion supply you with data and survey findings that you require in order to make an "adequate assessment". These guidelines and rules are intended to safeguard the environment and ensure that a thorough investigation is completed and the correct process followed.
You will also note that "The IPC should request further information where necessary to ensure compliance with the EIA Directive".

It may be useful to share this information with the RSPB or other interested associations. Please can you let us know how you get on, thank you.

Kind regards
Sue

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47854/1938-overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf

4.2.4 When considering a proposal, the IPC should satisfy itself that likely significant effects, including any significant residual effects taking account of any proposed mitigation measures or any adverse effects of those measures, have been adequately assessed. In doing so the IPC should also examine whether the assessment distinguishes between the project stages and identifies any mitigation measures at those stages. The IPC should request further information where necessary to ensure compliance with the EIA Directive.

74 Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, amended by Directives 97/11/EC and 2003/35/ EC. In respect of energy NSIPs, Annex 1 of the directive applies to thermal power stations, nuclear power stations, waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or land fill of toxic and dangerous wastes. Under Annex 2 it applies to industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (i.e. CHP), industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water; transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables, surface storage of natural gas, underground storage of combustible gases and installations for hydroelectric energy production.

75 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2263).

76 The effects on human beings includes effects on health.

Item 31- Rampion Adequacy of Consultation and Horsham DC

Letter to Planning Inspectorate, West Sussex County Council, Horsham DC

Dear Sir,

I am writing further to the evidence I have previously submitted that the nature of much of the information sent out by Rampion during the first consultation with regards to the substation location was misleading. Please refer to the examples of leaflets and newspaper articles in that evidence, which gave the impression that the proposed substation site was at 'Bolney in Twineham' , or 'in the vicinity of the existing substation at Bolney' and not in Cowfold.

In August 2021, i.e., during that first consultation, Horsham District Council responded to Mid Sussex Council about a Battery storage farm application in Wineham. The final paragraph of that letter, headed Cumulative Impact, clearly demonstrates that even HDC had understood the substation was to be located in Wineham. How then can the general population have been expected to have understood otherwise?

"Cumulative Impact.

It is noted that Wineham Lane is already home to the existing National Grid substation north of the site, including the existing Rampion Windfarm substation directly adjacent to the north-east. Furthermore, it is noted that the proposed Rampion Windfarm 2 substation is currently proposed to be located just north of the existing substation site. Whilst this proposal is yet to come forward, and it is acknowledged that each and every planning application is considered with its individual merits, the scale of development of this kind on Wineham Lane would likely result in some form of cumulative impact. All of these sites are located within the authority of MSDC, on the boundary to Horsham District.

As above, the Council does not object to the principle of the development. However, it is vital that MSDC considers the cumulative impact that this proposal would have in addition to the existing development north of the site, which also appears to have been expanded over the last few years.

Yours faithfully
Emma Parkes
Head of Development"

Yours faithfully
Meera Smethurst

Item 32- Rampion Misleading Consultation responses.

Sent to Planning Inspectorate, West Sussex County Council 0n 22/7/23

Dear Sir,

I attach below further evidence of the highly misleading responses which were given by Rampion representatives at the Cowfold Information meeting on 21st June, and which I believe is indicative of the way they have in fact behaved throughout the consultation process. This does not allow people access to the evidence to make informed responses to the proposals and a such is a failure to comply with the Planning Act 2008 or the Gunning Principles of Consultation.
With regards to the response, it is difficult to imagine what possible traffic measures could be implemented to enable HGVs to safely pass along this tiny single-track road. There must be 30 households along Kent Street and Moatfield/Kings Lane who will effectively be unable easily to leave their homes for up to six years; there is no other way out. Rampion make much of not using 'country lanes such as Wineham Lane' by choosing Oakendene, yet it has resulted in far greater disturbance for far more people. Wineham Lane is not a narrow country Lane; it is the same size as the A272. This is a problem which has arisen by failing to consult with Cowfold before choosing the site.

From Mr and Mrs JH of Kent Street:
"When I recently attended your information event at the Almond Centre in Cowfold I was very specifically told by one of your representatives that Kent Street, Kings Lane and Moatfield Lane would only be used for operational access to your cable workings, in other words no HGVS, plant equipment and diggers coming down these very narrow lanes. However today I have received a copy of a map sent by Vicky Portwain showing that these lanes will be used for construction access after all despite all the concerns that have been expressed to you about the total unsuitability of these lanes for such a purpose. Could you please confirm if you intend using these lanes for construction purposes or not."

Response from Vicky Portwain regarding Kent Street:

*"Cable route construction traffic, including HGVs, **will** use Kent Street to access the cable route which runs East and West from Kent Street. There are two exits (from Kent Street) onto the Cable route at distances 200m and 700m from the A272. Traffic measures will be implemented to ensure safe passage of all construction and public vehicles."*

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst
CowfoldvRampion

Item 33- Adequacy of Consultation; availability of consultation report

Letter to Planning Inspectorate 31/7/23

Dear Sir,

In March this year, concerned that there had been a failure of consultation with Cowfold residents, I wrote to Chris Tomlinson asking for post code data for the informal consultation and the July-September 2021 consultation as I did not believe they had taken into account **the lack of consultation** responses from the residents of Cowfold and that they should be looking into why that might have occurred if they were fulfilling their **legal duty under PINS guidance note 8.1 and the Planning Act 2008 to "*take account of responses to consultation and publicity".***

My request was as follows:

Tue, 7 Mar, 11:02

Dear Mr Tomlinson

Please could you send me details of the following:

1) The numbers of consultation responses you received from people with a Cowfold postcode since the consultation process began, up to and including September 2022. Please separate by postcode, and the numbers within each postcode.

2) The numbers of consultation responses received from people with a Cowfold postcode from the start of the final consultation in October 2022 until the consultation closed at the end of November 2022. Again, please separate by postcode, and give the numbers within each postcode.

You do have access to this data as you have stated in your 'Promoting Rampion 2 Consultations in Cowfold 2021-22' document that you' delivered leaflets in 2021 to over 800 addresses with a Cowfold postcode'. Also, all responses had to give their addresses and postcodes when submitted, so again, this information is readily available to you.

I thank you for your cooperation and prompt response

The response that same day was:

Dear Ms Smethurst,

We will be publishing the data regarding consultation responses in our Consultation Report, which will form an integral part of our development consent order (DCO) application submission, later this year. The report will present issues raised at each of our consultations and related project responses. It will contain both qualitative and quantitative data, and those that provided post code data will be represented within the relevant chapter of report.

Chris Tomlinson

Development & Stakeholder Manager

And again, from 6th April:

As I set out in my email of 7th March, the Consultation Report is a very detailed document and an integral part of the development consent order (DCO) application, which will contain both qualitative and quantitative data, and those that provided post code data will be represented within the relevant chapter of report.

Chris

Despite several attempts to get more information, it was refused. The implication, although not explicitly stated, was that the information would be available when the DCO was submitted. He knew I wanted to use it to assess the adequacy of the consultation. Our MP, Andrew Griffith, also attempted to obtain this data from RWE as he recognised its significance in terms of proper consultation procedures. Rampion still refused to provide it.

However, yesterday Mr Tomlinson sent the following to another member of the public, which suggests that at best, he had been a little economical with the truth in his initial responses:

The Consultation Report and Appendices along with all the other DCO documentation such as the final proposed plans and Environmental Statement, will all ***be available after we have submitted the DCO application and the Planning Inspectorate have accepted it for examination.*** *We will of course inform all key stakeholders including yourselves when this has happened and the documentation is available.*

You will then be able to review all documentation and follow the DCO process on a dedicated Rampion2 page on Planning Inspectorate website here: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/rampion-2-offshore-wind-farm/.

Many thanks,

Chris

There is clearly no intention to publish the consultation report until after the point when anyone, other than the Planning Inspectorate, can use it to assess the Adequacy of the Consultation. One has to assume, therefore, that there is an attempt to cover a lack of thoroughness in the examination of the consultation responses, including in the assessment of any *lack* of responses. There is certainly no possibility of the public or statutory consultees such as WSCC and the various District Councils being able to use it to inform their responses with regards to the adequacy of the consultation.

In their Updated Statement of Community Consultation P14, Rampion write:

"Gunning 4: Feedback taken into account:
We will collect and review all responses received and analyse key themes to identify opportunities to inform and improve our proposals. At the time of consultation launch, we will publish a document summarising our responses to key issues raised during the preceding consultation. **The Statutory Consultation Report containing responses to issues raised from consultation will be part of the DCO application and be available at submission."**

The applicant has a duty under section 47 of the Planning Act to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation, and then to conduct its consultation in line with that statement. It appears they have decided not to carry out this duty. This is not the first time this has occurred, as we have previously recorded their failure to send Section 42 letters as also specified in the SoCC.

Recently, some residents from the northern end of the cable route have come forward to say they had in fact raised concerns in the early consultations about the impact on red list species locally if Oakendene were to be chosen as the substation site. These comments do not appear in the published comments from the informal consultation or the 2021 consultation. **The published responses appear to be highly selective,** a

view shared and previously expressed by the Protect Coastal Sussex Alliance and others with regard to their own experiences.

The Planning Act 2008 preapplication guidance states that "It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has been used to shape and influence the project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed **before an application is submitted to the Inspectorate**." Again, this has not happened.

Members of the public and other consultees will therefore be reliant on, and most grateful for, the careful scrutiny by the Planning Inspectorate Panel as we will not be able to fact check the claims made by Rampion for ourselves until it is too late.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Meera Smethurst

CowfoldvRampion

Additional comments made to Planning inspectorate 8/8.23

Dear Sir,

Today I received an email from a neighbour who had been discussing with Carter Jonas his concerns about the proposed use of the totally unsuitable Kent Street Lane by construction traffic. The reply he received from Toby Swindells of Carter Jonas included the following comment:

"Further information on traffic can be found in the **Environmental Assessment, which will be available when the Development Consent Order application is submitted.** You will be notified of this when this happens."

It would appear, therefore, that either Carter Jonas do not agree with RWE's strategy about when to make the Environmental Impact Assessment available, or that there is no coordinated policy, leading to different agents making different statements.

This would seem to have been an issue throughout the consultation about various claims Rampion have made both here and amongst the coastal communities and is a further reflection of their dismissive approach to the seriousness and importance of the consultation process.

Meera Smethurst

Item 34- Lack of Clarity from Rampion during the Consultation

Letter to the Planning Inspectorate, WSCC, HDC 9/8/23

Dear Sir,

Below is a list, although not exhaustive, of examples of where Rampion have given limited or misleading information to try to give false reassurance or actively misinform the public in Cowfold:

- The first interaction almost any of us had with Rampion was at the Ashurst meeting in November 2022. I attended with my husband. We had received our one and only Section 42 letter, having failed to be sent one in the first round of consultation. At no point in the lengthy discussions we had with members of the Rampion team did anybody explain why we had received the letter. It actually says it was sent because we 'may be affected by the cable route' which is simply untrue; we are not near the cable route.
  It would appear we had been sent it because we own land adjacent to the visibility splay which we found out about much later, and that Carter Jonas had realised we should have received it in 2021. However, we have been unable to get any meaningful response from Rampion as to how such a Visibility Splay might affect us.

- At both that event and the meeting held in Cowfold, 1 week before the final 2022 consultation ended, no mention was made of the visibility splay or access on to the A272 from the proposed substation. We were told there was 'everything to play for' in terms of where it could be situated at Oakendene and whether access could be from the Industrial estate or the A272. Yet I have since, from the PEIR reports seen that the access directly from the A272 and the visibility splay formed part of the proposals from the outset; they would appear to have been trying, by not being clear about the truth, to quieten down any objections.

- Similarly, they have, at both of those meetings, and the Cowfold information meeting on 21st June 2023, and in writing, stated that the HGVs to the substation will not use the centre of the village 'where possible'. The Parish Council, and several people at the information event, were under the impression, therefore, as was clearly Rampion's intention, that no construction traffic would be coming through the Cowfold AQMA at all. This is clearly not true: they did not explain what 'where possible' meant; they have not mentioned the many lighter goods and other support vehicles which will need to access the site; they have not mentioned the traffic accessing the compound to the west or the cable route traffic going to Kent Street or Dragons Lane. Indeed, for the latter, there is no other realistic route.

- Their own reports recognise that Kent Street is unsuitable for HGVs being a small single-track lane. Residents were also repeatedly reassured that it would not be used. Yet now there is a clear intent to use it for the cable route construction after all.

- Similarly, Dragons Lane residents were promised that the cable construction vehicles would not use their tiny private lane, yet now that is the plan after all as illustrated by the map sent by Vicky Portwain to a resident. It is the only access to their homes and they will experience major disruption for a number of years.

- Kings Lane and Moatfield Lane residents now also find there is an intention to use their private dead-end lane for operational access. This was not in the original proposals, but failure to conduct a proper consultation led to its requirement being realised at only a very late stage

- At the Cowfold information event, and in emails to residents, they again provided intentionally misleading information*: "We are aware of concerns by many residents about the traffic on the A272, so we are pleased to announce that we will not be using single lane traffic lights on the A272"*.Again, this led to a

number of people coming away with the understanding that there would not be ANY traffic lights. This cannot be true for safety reasons. None of us had ever raised concerns about 'single lane' lights; there will need to be lights however, so they have falsely reassured those concerns for many people.

- At the Bolney consultation event, Cowfold residents who attended were told that all the traffic management plans for the A272 at Oakendene would be finalised and presented at the Cowfold Information Event. In fact, it was clear that they had no idea what they would do and simply told us that it would be for WSCC to decide!

- Trenchless crossings are another source of misinformation; they are presented as a damage limiting way of going under hedges and streams. However, in the case of the A281 to Oakendene stretch of the cable route in particular, there are no farm tracks, so a haul road will have to be built for the HGVs and cable laying machinery and for the trenching equipment, resulting in huge destruction of hedges and habitats. They have also avoided explaining how they will cross the Cowfold Stream.

- In the Updated SoCC 2022 they said that:" The *Statutory Consultation Report containing responses to issues raised from consultation will be part of the DCO application and be available at submission."* This statement was reiterated only yesterday in writing by Carter Jonas to a resident . They now tell us that it will *"be available after we have submitted the DCO application and the Planning Inspectorate have accepted it for examination"*

- At the Cowfold Information event there were highly misleading photomontages of the view from the A272 and from the south. (See applicant's website). The substation was shown as a small green box, not the 6 hectare, 12m high construction it will be. The A272 view was from the side, not directly from the road and with all the current vegetation removed for the visibility splay and access road.

- I asked Chris Tomlinson for postcode data for Cowfold responses received in order to assess a concern over the adequacy f the consultation with Cowfold. He wrote back saying that the information would be available when the DCO was submitted. A clearly disingenuous response as he knew perfectly well, we also now do, that the Consultation report would not be available to anyone other than the Planning Inspectorate until **after** the acceptance stage. A more honest response would have been to say it would not be available to me in the timeframe I was expecting.

- In his letter of 23 December 2022, to wildlife enthusiast JC, James d'Alessandro says that they have included information from affected landowners about the wildlife on their land to inform the surveys which Rampion have commissioned. JC refuted this saying that she "had talked to the three key landowners in this section of the proposed cable route, none of whom feel that they have been asked about wildlife and biodiversity in this area". Chris Tomlinson, in his reply to her, refuses to confirm in fact that landowners had been asked, so it would seem, after all, that they had not.

Many of the comments from Rampion, such as the latter, are clearly misleading; a frustration echoed in other areas of the county. Others appear to be the result of changing ideas, such as the illogical need to use the small lanes around Oakendene, having previously been pleased to announce, when the substation location was 'chosen', that they would not be needing to use country lanes such as Wineham Lane (which is in fact nearly the width of the A272). The impact on the single-track lanes such as Kent Street, Dragons Lane and Moatfield/Kings Lane, the traffic problems on the A272, and the realisation that there were no farm tracks on the cable route in this area have all come about because of failure to consult with local people in the early stages of the process. If they had done so, they would have realised the inappropriateness of this choice. There is no good reason for the flexibility and last-minute changes they are making. The Rochdale Envelope should not be used to justify the inadequately thought-out proposals. It should not be used to explain the

holes in their understanding of the situation around the Oakendene site; they could have been foreseen if proper consultation with local residents had taken place.

Meera Smethurst

CowfoldvRampion