



ANDREW GRIFFITH MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ARUNDEL AND SOUTH DOWNS

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Planning Inspectorate
Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm

By email: Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

6th September 2023
Our ref: 230815/MT/001

Dear Planning Inspector,

Inadequacy of consultation on Rampion 2 offshore windfarm

I am writing regarding the DCO for RWE's Rampion 2 offshore windfarm which includes plans to build a 40km cable motorway through communities within the Arun and Horsham Districts and across the South Downs National Park protected landscape. In places, this cable motorway will be up to 50 metres wide. It will be hugely damaging to communities within Arun and Horsham districts and its construction phase alone is expected to disrupt households and businesses in West Sussex for many years.

Whilst I am supportive of renewable energy in general and offshore wind in particular, there are many other and better sites around the UK's coastal waters which benefit from greater wind and where the onshore cable motorway can be constructed without the issues presented by the denser communities of the Arun valley or our very special natural landscape.

I do not believe that RWE have delivered an adequate consultation at all – a view which is widely shared by the villages most impacted and which you will be aware of from the representations shared through the process. RWE have obfuscated the process by providing a poor standard of information and public engagement. The maps they have provided have lacked the detail needed for most residents to make an informed assessment of the route. There has been a comprehensive failure to engage properly with those landowners, businesses and residents affected. All of these are points which I have already made in my own detailed submissions to both consultations on behalf of my constituents.

I am deeply disappointed by RWE's lack of real engagement or interest in the views of my constituents with landowners commenting that they have struggled to engage with RWE and their agents. Lyminster Parish Council have advised that they also consider the level of RWE's public engagement and information to be inadequate. They said that members of their community have previously responded to the consultation exercise yet their views



appear to have been disregarded in some of the latest proposals. Namely routes traversing higher quality farming land.

In the Horsham District, the parishes of Cowfold, Ashurst, Wiston, Washington and Sullington are all impacted by the Onshore Cable Corridor route (OCC).

In Cowfold, residents have been able to demonstrate that they were not informed of the proposal to locate the Rampion substation at Oakendene Farm until the second consultation. Complaints have been raised directly to Rampion, including from Cowfold Parish Council, regarding the lack of consultation materials for residents. Those residents who would be most affected by the substation and the OCC route were not in receipt of the proper notices in advance of the second consultation. The residents had just weeks to respond to the consultation and the new information which did not give them time to collate the ecological and geographical information needed to evidence their objections, and this is of great concern. I think this serious lack of engagement will have had some impact on the level of response to the consultation, in a village that will have the only lasting overground infrastructure as part of the Rampion project.

Cowfold Parish Council wrote to Rampion in January 2023 to state that they also consider the level of RWE's public engagement and information to be inadequate. The Parish Council called for a fresh period of consultation for the parish of Cowfold, given the identifiable failures of communication. This request was not agreed to. The parish council also highlighted the lack of detail and clarity in the maps provided. A common theme throughout my constituency in areas which are impacted by the Onshore Cable Route.

Washington Parish Council also wrote to RWE in the second consultation to express their dissatisfaction with the consultation and engagement. They also highlighted the technical level of the documents which were unfathomable for the majority of residents. They stated: "Route and access plans in particular have been produced in such a way that it is difficult to identify the underlying map information."

In a recent meeting between Wiston Parish Council and RWE to discuss the final route, one landowner pointed out to RWE that they did not appear to have given the alternative route any serious consideration. RWE said that they "could not really recall any detail about the alternative Southern route". This further demonstrates the RWE Project directors' lack of assessment of information during the consultation phase.

The most recent proposals for the OCC, which were consulted on in October/November last year, were a significant departure from the original ones proposed.



Rampion's PR company emailed notice of the DCO submission 10 days after it was submitted, sending their email on 18th August to state the DCO had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 10th August.

In summary, the consultations have been very poor indeed and I do not think meet the standards required to progress with the Development Consent Order application. I would be grateful if you could include my comments in your consideration and I associate myself with any comments submitted by the local councils.

Kind regards,



Andrew Griffith MP