



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES

2010

**Appendix K to the Relevant Representations of Natural England
Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement**

For:

The construction and operation of the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm located approximately 13km off the Sussex coast in the English Channel.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN010117

6th November 2023

Appendix K Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement (PADS)

Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CHAONB	Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ES	Environmental Statement
FFC	Flamborough and Filey Coast
FLL	Functionally Linked Land
IoWAONB	Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
NE	Natural England
SDNP	South Downs National Park
SHC	Sussex Heritage Coast
SPA	Special Protection Area
TTS	Temporary Threshold Shift

The **Principal Areas of Disagreement (PADS) table** highlights key issues that would benefit from detailed consideration during Examination. Further detail of the outline areas defined in the PADS is provided in the summary letter and in Natural England's Relevant Representations.

The principle issue in question	The brief concern held by Natural England which will be reported on in full in WR / LIR	What needs to; • change, or • be included, or • amended so as to overcome the disagreement	Likelihood of the concern being addressed during Examination
Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA) - in-combination impacts on kittiwake	Kittiwake – the additional impact from Rampion 2 risk furthering adverse effects from existing and proposed windfarms.	Further detail is needed in relation to the proposed compensatory measures for kittiwake.	It is possible this issue could be progressed with further provision of information.
Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA – in-combination impacts on guillemot and razorbill and Farne Islands SPA – guillemot.	The effects of Rampion 2 in-combination with other projects on these qualifying features need to be fully considered.	A full in-combination assessment of impacts on these qualifying features is required.	Once an in-combination assessment is provided, NE can advise on adverse effects and whether a derogations case is needed or not.
Coastal Processes	Sea defences at Climping have failed in recent storms, causing further coastal erosion and flooding. It is imperative that landfall HDD burial depths and cable protection options are adequately interrogated to future proof the asset integrity and minimise the need for future cable protection in the coastal zone.	We advise further consideration needs to be given to this within the assessment.	It is possible this could progress with further information/ assessment.
Black seabream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>) in Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) - impacts of piling on underwater noise levels	Natural England does not agree with that there will be no significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of Kingmere MCZ due to Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) and behavioural impacts due to piling noise.	Piling activities from 1st March to 31st July inclusive have the potential to hinder the conservation objectives of Kingmere MCZ for black seabream, and therefore a full seasonal restriction is needed.	This matter could be resolved by a commitment to a full seasonal restriction, as was required for Rampion 1. Otherwise, this issue is highly unlikely to be addressed.
Short snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>) features of MCZs – impacts of piling on underwater noise levels	Natural England does not agree with that there will be no significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives in relation to Beachy Head West MCZ (TTS and behavioural impacts due to piling),	Further evidence is required on the modelling impacts and the efficacy of noise abatement measures.	There is potential for resolution if evidence is provided to demonstrate that TTS and behavioural impacts will not arise within the MCZs.

	and Beachy Head East MCZ, Selsey Bill and the Hounds MCZ and Bembridge MCZ (behavioural impacts).		
Impacts on priority habitats and species in the intertidal and subtidal environment.	Habitats of Principal Importance (including but not limited to <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> , chalk, and peat and clay exposures), Annex I habitats (stony reef, bedrock reef) and black seabream nests could be affected. It is currently unclear whether the proposed mitigation will be effective.	We advise that geotechnical information is collected to inform a Cable Burial Risk Assessment and is submitted into the Examination. Comprehensive pre-construction surveys will also need to be agreed with Natural England to inform mitigation proposals.	It is possible this could progress with further information/ assessment.
Significant seascape impacts on the South Downs National Park (SDNP), including the Sussex Heritage Coast (SHC).	Critical issues remain around the magnitude of impact due to size, proximity, and lateral spread of the turbines that will cause harm to the statutory purposes of the SDNP and SHC.	No turbines should be constructed in the eastern array/Zone 6. Reduce the combined horizontal extent (lateral spread) of turbines associated with the combined R1 and R2 schemes. Further impact assessment is needed to clarify specific impacts on the SDNP and SHC.	Unless a fundamental design change is presented, it is highly unlikely that this issue can be resolved.
Significant seascape impacts on the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (IoWAONB) and Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (CHAONB)	Critical issues remain around the potential for the lateral spread of the turbines to cause harm to the statutory purposes of the AONBs.	Further assessment of the westward expansion is required when considering the effects on the seascape setting of the CHAONB and the eastern portions of IoWAONB.	It is possible this could progress with further information/ assessment.
Significant landscape impacts on SDNP due to onshore cable installation.	Natural England advises that due to the substantial lack of credible and detailed evidence in relation to the mitigation proposed, the assessment of effects as set out in the LVIA cannot be relied upon, and that there will be significant residual adverse landscape and visual effects on the	Further information needs to be provided to evidence that the proposed mitigation measures are feasible and effective.	It is possible this issue could be somewhat addressed if further information is provided.

	SDNP and on its special qualities, setting or integrity.		
Terrestrial Ecology and Nature Conservation – feasibility of trenchless techniques	Natural England has major concerns regarding the feasibility of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and therefore its likely effectiveness in mitigating impacts.	Geotechnical information needs to be provided to understand the feasibility and effectiveness of this approach.	It is possible this could progress with further information/ assessment.
Impacts on Arun Valley SPA and Ramsar site – loss of functionally linked land (FLL) used by waterbirds.	There is the risk of a temporary loss of FLL (during the construction phase) lasting for several years longer than predicted before it is returned to its previous agricultural condition.	We advise that this extended timeframe needs to be further assessed with the ES.	It is possible this could progress with further information/ assessment.
Impacts on Arun Valley SPA and Ramsar site – requirement for water neutrality.	Natural England advise that development proposals within the <u>Sussex North Water Supply Zone</u> area that would lead to an increase in water demand will need to demonstrate and robustly evidence 'water neutrality.'	An assessment of water neutrality is required.	We advise it is possible this could progress with further information/ assessment.