



The Planning Inspectorate

Application by Rampion Extension Development Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the scheme Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

Case reference: EN010117

Examining Authority's (ExA) note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) to which the Application or Specified Matters relates on 15 and 16 November 2023

Examining Inspectors Richard Allen, Steven Rennie, Claire Beloe, Joe O'Sullivan and Richard Morgan (the Panel appointed as the Examining Authority for the application for Rampion Offshore Wind Extension) undertook the inspections on 15 and 16 November 2023.

The inspections took place by car or on foot, from public roads and public rights of way. The routes were planned having regard to the Applicant's application documents and the USI enabled the ExA to obtain views of, and to become familiar with the application site and surrounding area.

Viewpoints (VP) referred to relate to those identified in the Applicant's Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) [[APP-056](#)]. The Applicant's photomontages [[APP-091](#) to [APP-095](#)], were used to assist with the visualisation of the Proposed Development from viewpoints.

The ExA (or a combination of its members) may undertake further USIs in due course.

DAY 1 - Wednesday 15 November 2023

Weather: Sunny

Visibility: Fair to Good

The USI began at 08:15.

In the morning, the ExA first visited **VP 40 (Climping Beach)** and walked along the shore between the Order limits. The ExA, noted the shifting sand and shingle banks as the existing sea defences are allowed to deteriorate, the proposed corridor for the onshore cable route running north and the adjacent Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The ExA then visited **VP 12 (Bognor Regis Seafront)** to visualise the Proposed Development from that location. The ExA then travelled to the proposed location of the temporary construction compound at Climping. The ExA walked along the A259 on the proposed compound's southern boundary and noted the location of Climping Village Hall and Playing Fields adjacent to its western boundary and the static caravan park to the east. The ExA, concluded its morning itinerary with a visit to Kingley Gate, Wick. Using public footpaths and walking west from the housing estate the ExA viewed the proposed line of the onshore cable corridor between the proposed crossing of the river Arun and railway line to the south and second proposed railway crossing to the north. The ExA also walked the line of the Applicant's proposed operational access route to the onshore cable corridor running between the northern edge of the housing estate and Brook Barn Farm.

In the afternoon the ExA visited **VP 19 (Highdown Hill), VP 2 (Birling Gap) and VP 4 (Seaford Head)**, to visualise the Proposed Development from those locations.

The USI ended at 16:20 as light faded.

Day 2 – Thursday 16 November 2023

Weather: Heavy rain in the morning becoming lighter and more intermittent in the afternoon

Visibility: Poor

The USI began at 08:15.

In the morning the ExA first travelled to Decoy Lane just to the south of the A27. From the lane, the ExA noted the point at which the proposed onshore cable corridor crosses the lane from the direction of Lyminster to the west and then the compound of a private contractor before heading north under the A27. The ExA then drove along Michelgrove Lane, to view the line of the proposed onshore cable corridor through Michelgrove Park. Finally, parking on “The Pike” the ExA crossed the A283 to view the proposed location of the Washington construction compound.

In the afternoon, the ExA followed the line of the proposed onshore cable corridor running parallel to the western side of the B2135 stopping in Ashurst to view the point at which it crosses the route to run parallel to its eastern side. The ExA then travelled along the A281 to view its junction with Dragons Lane a private road and bridleway which the Applicant proposes using as a construction and operational access. Next, the ExA drove to the entrance of the Oakendene Estates just off the A272 to the east of Cowfold. From this location the ExA viewed the proposed construction compound and the location of Oakendene Manor a Grade II Listed Building. Continuing on the A272 towards Kent Street, the ExA walked a considerable portion of the road to ascertain the size and scale of the proposed construction compound and proposed onshore sub-station. The ExA noted the size of the proposed compound and sub-station, the point at which the proposed connection to the National Grid sub-station to the east at Bolney crosses Kent Street and the watercourse at the southern end of the site. The ExA then travelled to the National Grid sub-station located on Wineham Lane and walked along its southern boundary on Bob Lane, noting the location of the proposed extension to the sub-station. Finally, the ExA drove north along Wineham Lane stopping at the location the proposed connection from the onshore sub-station crosses the lane and viewing the point it enters the National Grid sub-station.

The USI finished at 13:15.

The ExA is satisfied that it had obtained a good understanding of the application, and of the surrounding character of the landscape and seascape.

Note

The ExA was approached twice during the USI by members of the public. The first occasion was on Day 1 on the Kingley Gate estate, the second on Day 2 when the ExA was walking along Kent Street adjacent to the site of the proposed onshore sub-station. On both occasions, the ExA engaged purely on factual or procedural information. The ExA did not discuss the merits of the Proposed Development.

End of USI1