

16 January 2024

Dear Mr Allen,

Subject: Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline – Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
PINS Reference: EN-010117
Unique Reference No: 20045298

Thank you for inviting the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) to respond to the Rule 6 Letter dated 14 December 2023. The SDNPA would like to comment on several points contained in the letter.

Attendance at Preliminary Meeting on 06 February 2024

I will be attending the Preliminary Meeting virtually in order to represent the SDNPA (contact details below). I would like to register to speak, but only for the purposes of answering any specific questions the Examining Authority may have for the SDNPA.

Attendance at Issue Specific Hearing(s) 07-09 February 2024

The following representatives of the SDNPA would like to the Issue Specific Hearings to cover the following areas of the agenda:

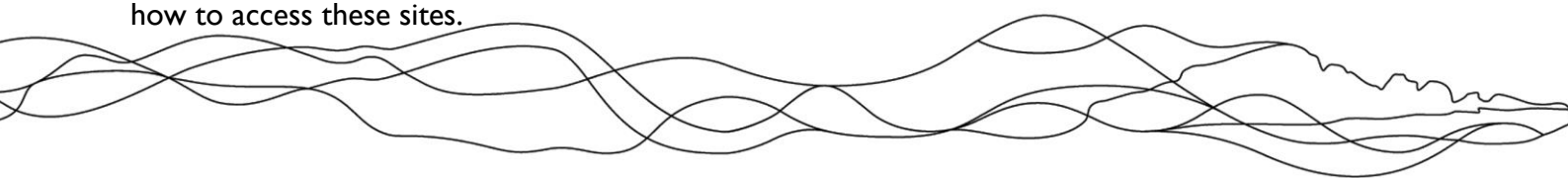
Name	Contact	Specialism	Attendance
Vicki Colwell	██████████@southdowns.gov.uk ██████████	Main Contact and Planning	In-person for all dates
Richard Turney	██████████@southdowns.gov.uk ██████████	Barrister	In-person for all dates
Robyn Butcher	██████@terrafirmaconsultancy.com ██████████	Landscape, Seascape and Visual Effects	Virtual – 07/02 In person – 08/02 and 09/02
Lynsey Robinson	██████████@southdowns.gov.uk ██████████	Onshore Ecology	In-person 08/02 and 09/02
Alex Pringle	██████████@southdowns.gov.uk ██████████	Transport and Public Rights of Way	Virtual (if required) 08/02

Attendance at Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

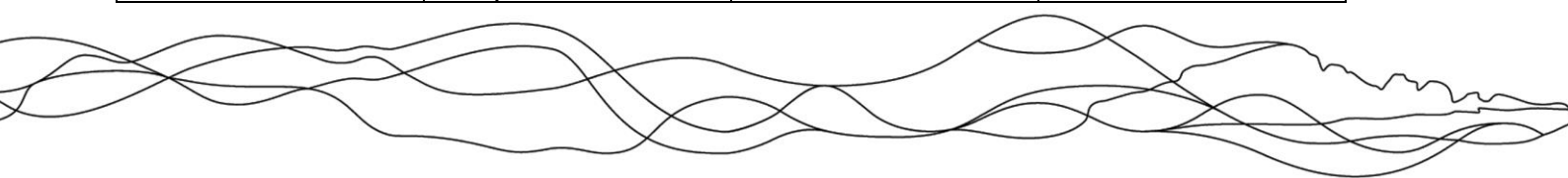
Robyn Butcher and Vicki Colwell (contact details above) would like to attend the ASI, depending on the location of these sites and their relevance to the South Downs National Park and its setting.

Suggested locations of ASI

The SDNPA has reviewed the list of sites visited in November 2023 as set out in EV1-001 of the Examination Library. In addition to these, we consider the following sites should also be visited. OS Grid References have been provided to give a general understanding of the areas we consider would be beneficial to visit. Should the Examining Authority consider it appropriate to visit, we can provide further information regarding the best places to park and how to access these sites.



Location	Issues to be Observed	Access	Reason for Suggestion
The Trundle OS Ref 487763E 111038N SLVIA Viewpoint 50	Extent of visual impact on South Downs National Park	Public Right of Way and Access Land	To allow the ExA to understand the breadth of the impact on seascape and in views.
Halnaker Hill OS Ref 492020E 109600N SLVIA Viewpoint 30	Extent of visual impact on South Downs National Park	Public Right of Way and Access Land	As above. Would suggest on or other could be visited.
Angmering Park Stud Farm (footpath to south) OS Ref 506747E 106915 N and Selden Fields OS Ref 507102E 106726N	The number of hedgerows and treelines impacted in one area.	Public Rights of Way	The extent to which removal of hedgerows and treelines would have on landscape character and habitats.
Blackpatch Hill OS Ref 509280E 110070N	Visibility of cable corridor and key landscape features (down valley and across Downs)	Public Rights of Way and access track	Extent of impact on National Park including landscape character and habitats, as well as the relationship to areas of historic significance.
Michelgrove Park OS Refs 107520E 507908N, 108180E 507620N, 507800E 108280N	Area proposed for use of HDD trenchless crossing. Area of ancient woodland and mature hedgerow / tree lines	Public Rights of Way	Constraints associated with Ancient Woodland and topography are better understood on site. This would require accessing the Ancient Woodland itself via the public right of way network.
Chantry Hill and along South Downs Way OS Refs 508565E 111760N, 560845E 111450N 509480E 111810N	Area proposed for use of HDD trenchless crossing as well as sequential views and intervisibility with offshore elements.	Public Rights of Way (including South Downs Way)	Constraints associated with the Local Wildlife site and topography are better understood on site. Also allows key views from National Trail along the construction corridor and to offshore elements.
Barns Farm, Sullington 510180E 112990N	View from base of scarp slope and HDD compound	Public Right of Way	Constraints associated with the Local Wildlife site



			and topography are better understood on site.
Cissbury Ring OS Ref 513952E 107874N	Extent of visual impact on South Downs National Park and cumulative effect on seascape.	Public Right of Way and Access Land	One of several examples within the National Park of the landscape and seascape effects arising from the development and the cumulative effect with the existing offshore array.
Cuckmere Haven and Seven Sisters Country Park OS Ref 552063E 97536N and 552593E 97387N	Extent of visual impact on South Downs National Park and Heritage Coast and cumulative effect on seascape.	Public Right of Way and Heritage Coast	Whilst it is noted that Birling Gap has been visited, this area also allows the ability to experience the sequential views from both high on the cliffs and below on the shoreline.

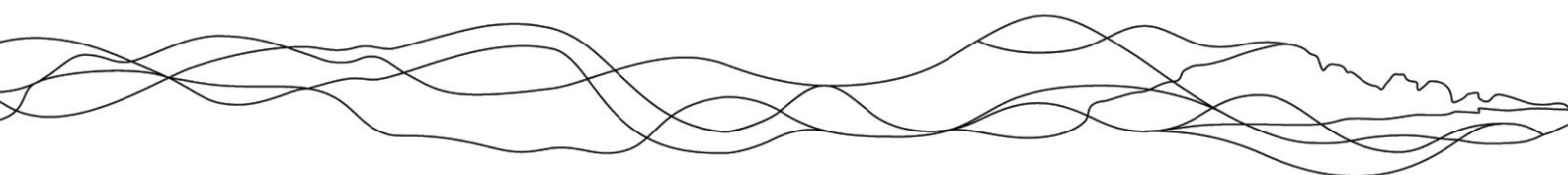
Response to Rule 6 Letter

The SDNPA would like to ensure that we are able to support and facilitate the Examining Authority's requests throughout the examination period. To this end, if any further clarification regarding the expectations of the SDNPA at Issue Specific Hearing I available to be provided ahead of the preliminary meeting, that would be welcomed. We would like to ensure that the most relevant officers are available to answer questions and provide valuable information on the day, although do appreciate that it will be possible to follow up in writing at later Deadlines.

It has also been noted that the period between the issuing of the first set of written questions from the Examining Authority and Deadline 4, includes the Easter bank holiday. If there is any scope to extend this period without causing upset to the remainder of the examination timetable, this would be appreciated.

Statement of Commonality for Statement of Common Ground with SDNPA

The SDNPA notes that the Examining Authority has requested the submission of a Statement of Commonality for the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the applicant and ourselves. This has been undertaken by the applicant without any engagement with the SDNPA prior to submission, other than to agree the format of the SoCG (i.e. not the content itself). Whilst it is expected this would be based on our discussions through the pre-application period, the SDNPA reserves the right to make comments at Deadline I on the submitted statement.



Please let me know if there is any further information you require at this stage.

Yours sincerely,



Vicki Colwell - Principal Planning Officer

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