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Direct Dial: 0207 973 3630

Our Ref: PL00794484

Mr Allen
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

16 January 2024

Dear Mr Allen

Your ref: EN010117
Interested Party Reference no: 20045343
Historic England response to:

**Planning Act 2008 - Section 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 - Rules 4, 6, 9 and 13**

**Application by Rampion Extension Development Ltd for a new offshore
windfarm with up to 90 wind turbine generators, offshore and onshore
substations and electricity transmission infrastructure.**

**Appointment of the Examining Authority and invitation to the Preliminary
Meeting and Notification of Hearings**

Thank you for letter of 14th December 2023 regarding the above application. We are writing in response to your invitation to the Preliminary meeting and request for written submissions about how the application should be examined.

Introduction

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment. It is our duty under the National Heritage Act 1983 to secure the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment. This extends to monuments in, on, or under the seabed within the seaward limits of the UK Territorial Sea adjacent to England. Our objective is to ensure that the historic environment generally, and marine and designated heritage assets especially, are fully considered in the determination of this DCO.

If any part of the proposed Rampion II development extends into the English Offshore



4TH FLOOR, CANNON BRIDGE HOUSE, 25 DOWGATE HILL, LONDON EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700
HistoricEngland.org.uk





Marine Planning Area, we offer our advice in reference to the policies of the published South Marine Plans (Inshore and Offshore).

We have provided substantive pre-application advice about the scope of environmental assessment and the PEIR. We submitted a Relevant Representation in November 2023 (provided as an appendix to this letter), and now provide comment below on various matters referred to in the Rule 6 letter.

Historic England Position

1. Response to the Rule 6 letter: Attendance at Preliminary Meeting

We confirm that Historic England do not wish to participate in the Preliminary Meeting and won't attend in person. However, this letter provides our written submission for you to consider.

2. Responses (if applicable) to the Rule 9 letter of 20 September 2023 [PD-005]

We note that Historic England was addressed as a Statutory Party and recipient at the beginning of this letter. However, HE is not included in the main text of the letter as a party being expected to produce a Statement of Common Ground. We think this may be an oversight, and we confirm HE intends to agree a SoCG with the applicant.

The SoCG is not yet in place, but we are in discussion with the applicant, and have agreed a format for the SoCG. We have indicated to the applicant that our Relevant Representation should be used as a basis for drafting it.

3. Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words

Our RR is under 1500 words and we understand that no summary will therefore be required. For ease of reference we have attached it as an Appendix to this letter for information.

4. Applicant's submission of draft Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground

See our comments above in point 3.

We note that a SoCG between HE and the applicant has not yet been agreed.

5. Notification of intention to attend the Issue Specific Hearing(s) under which part of the agenda set out in Annex F



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6. Request for changes to be made to the draft Examination Timetable

Issue specific hearing dates:

We have raised concern in section 5 above, that the issue specific hearing will take place at an early stage in the Examination timetable, and before more detailed comments have been submitted. We would suggest a further date is set aside for an Issue Specific Hearing and an alternative could be to use the 14th May deadline for a hearing, allowing for response to Written Representations submitted on 29th February, and Local Impact Reports on 20th February.

Examining Authority questions deadline:

We note from the programme that you intend to issue your written questions to interested parties on 28 March. This is adjacent to the Easter Bank Holiday weekend and could raise issues regarding availability to produce the necessary response.

We therefore request that this deadline is moved to 30th April to allow sufficient time for responses from all parties to be submitted.

7. Request by Interested Parties to attend Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

We are checking availability of staff to attend an ASI, but if we attend it would be with the intention of advising on matters in relation to the designated heritage assets identified in our Relevant Representation.

8. Suggested locations for the ASI including justification, and whether such locations can be seen from public land or requires private access, for



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Historic England

consideration by the ExA

We draw attention to our response for point 7 above. We think that reviewing the designated heritage assets that are impacted by the scheme, would help in understanding the issues raised in relation to heritage.

The scheduled monuments of Blackpatch prehistoric flint mine and barrow cemetery and the New Barn Down monument, are in an area of the South Downs that has very high potential for discovery of archaeological remains of equal significance to, and potentially directly related to, the scheduled sites. A site visit would ensure the landscape context the scheduled monuments sit within, and the potential impacts on them from the proposals, are fully understood. The area is publically accessible by footpaths.

Yours Sincerely

Rebecca Lambert
Inspector of Ancient Monuments
E-mail: [REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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