

Further to the written representation submitted on 20 October 2023, Ancleggan Limited is submitting the Arboricultural Impact Assessment prepared by arboricultural consultants Barton Hyett Associates referred to in that representation. At the time the written representation was submitted the portal did not allow for supporting documentation to be uploaded.

The report discusses the local impact that the cable route proposed by the Applicant will have on the trees on the land on the north side of Coombe Farm, Bob Lane, Twineham, Haywards Heath (RH17 5NH) near Bolney Substation, and how this might be mitigated by using the cable route proposed by Ancleggan Limited over the same land.

Ancleggan Limited continues to discuss this proposal with the Applicant.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment in relation to a proposed cable route serving the Rampion 2 off-shore wind farm

20 October 2023

Site: Coombe Farm, Bob Lane, Twineham, West Sussex, RH17 5NH

Prepared for: One Planet

1. I am Ian Howell, an arboriculturist with over twenty years of experience within the arboricultural industry, and am a member of the Arboricultural Association. I have worked as director of an arboricultural contracting firm for fifteen years and as a consultant for Barton-Hyett Associates for five years. I have a large portfolio of work within the energy sector and have served as a project arboriculturist for numerous solar and BESS schemes. These projects have typically required the assessment of arboricultural impacts relating to development proposals and the preparation of detailed arboricultural method statements to plan, manage and negate potentially harmful works within close proximity to trees.
2. Barton Hyett Associates were instructed by Aardvark EM on behalf of One Planet to survey trees at the above site in August 2022 and I have worked alongside the design team throughout and prepared the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) report which is to be submitted as part of a planning application.
3. I have been asked to provide an assessment of potential arboricultural impacts that might arise from the routing of a cable connection proposed by RWE that is to serve the Rampion 2 off-shore wind farm.
4. The aerial imagery mark-up and the Barton-Hyett Tree Survey Plan markup on the next page show the approximate routing for the RWE proposed cable route in blue, with an alternative route, proposed by One Planet, shown in green. This is then followed by an arboricultural impact assessment for both proposals.

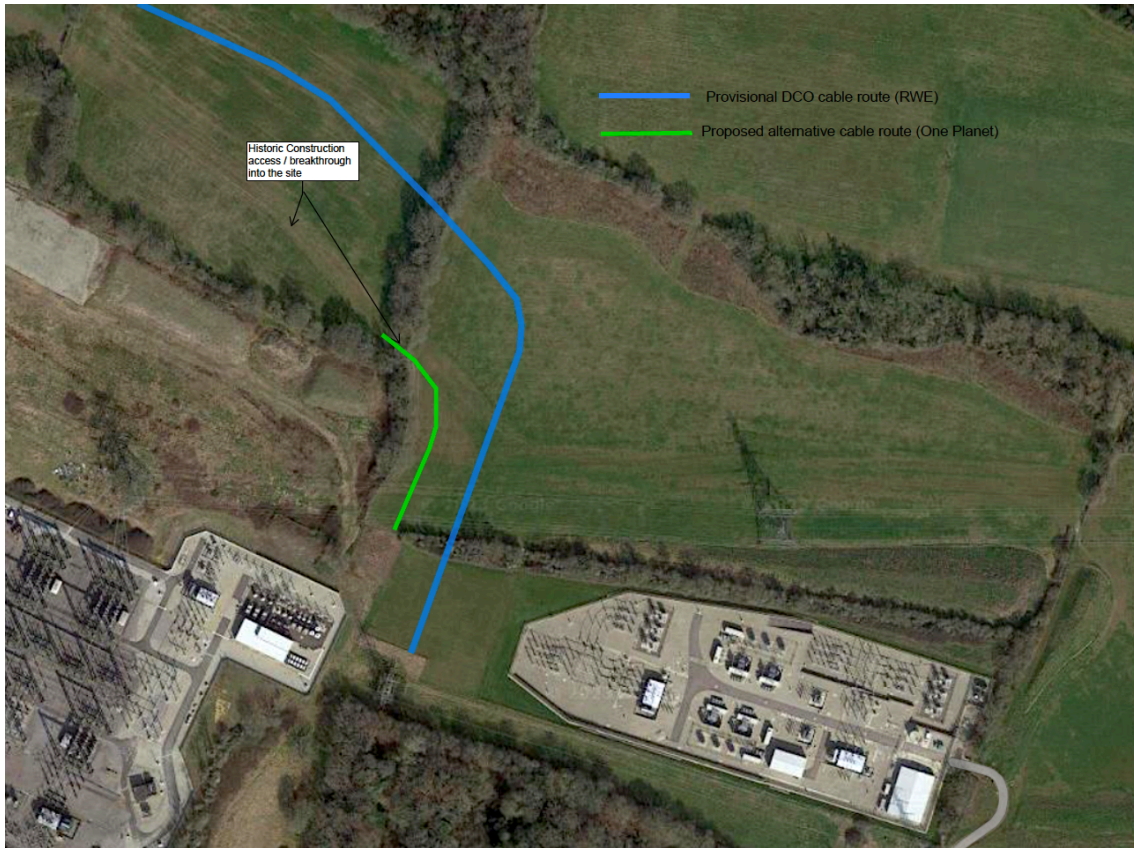


Figure 1: Aerial image taken from GoogleMaps illustrating the RWE proposed cable route and alternative One Planet proposed cable route

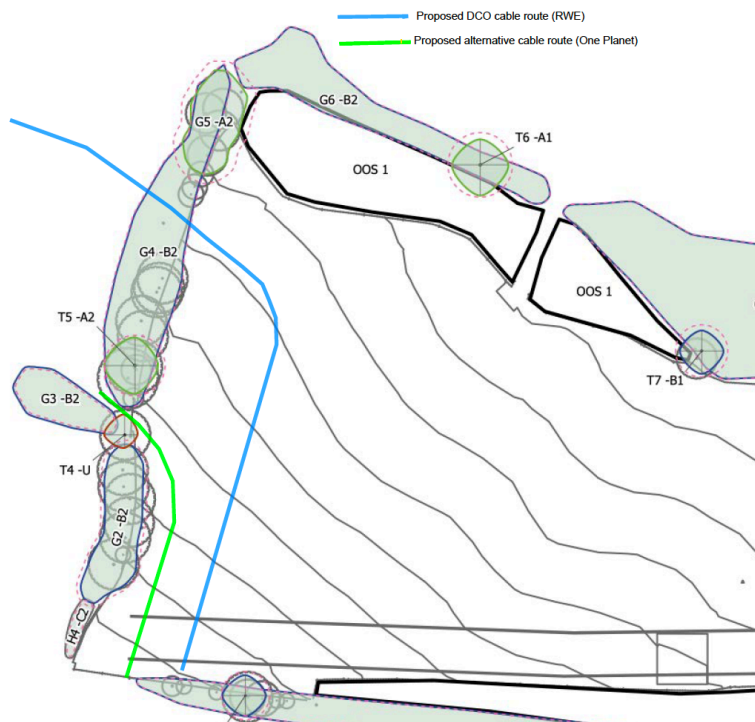


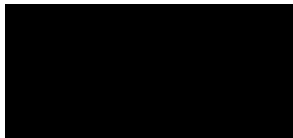
Figure 2: Excerpt from the Tree Survey Plan illustrating the RWE proposed cable route and alternative One Planet proposed cable route



Figure 3: Site photo taken during the August 2022 tree survey illustrating the RWE proposed cable route and alternative One Planet proposed cable route

5. The arboricultural impacts associated with the RWE proposed cable route (blue line) will amount to the requirement for open trench installation of cables through the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of Mature English oak and common ash trees (G4). These works would have the potential to result in harmful severing of anchoring roots and feeder roots of mature English oak and common ash trees that are part of an important landscape and habitat feature for the site. There is also the potential for tree removals to be required to facilitate the works or as the result of the works being carried out. This would equate to high arboricultural impacts for the sites arboricultural resource that could easily be avoided by utilising an alternative cable route.
6. The alternative cable route, proposed by One Planet, would utilise a historic breakthrough point that had previously been created for Rampion 1 construction works, where the sum of

the tree losses would equate to a single Category U common ash tree that was in a state of acute decline during the August 2022 survey. The Rampion 1 construction access track can still be seen quite clearly within the aerial imagery as a lighter green corridor of grass running west to south-east across the neighbouring field. Where this reached the tree-line it broke through a natural, and then previously widened, gap in the tree-line. As mentioned above utilising the route of this previously established (and now restored) construction track would avoid the potential for significant negative impacts on the sites arboricultural resource all together, and is by far the preferred option from an arboricultural perspective. I would therefore strongly advise that the proposed One Planet cable route (green line) be adopted into the proposals in order to avoid unnecessarily impacting on this prominent tree group (G4).



Ian Howell
Arboriculturist