

Rampion 2 Wind Farm
Category 8: Examination
Documents
Applicant's Response to
Horsham District Council
Deadline 1 Submissions
Date: March 2024
Rev A

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Executive Summary

At Deadline 1 of the Examination for Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project, Interested Parties were invited to submit Local Impact Reports and Written Representations following Issue Specific Hearing 1 (held 07 to 08 February 2024) into the examination. A total of six Local Impact Reports and Written Representations were received from Local Authorities.

Rampion Extension Development Limited (the 'Applicant') has taken the opportunity to review each of the Local Impact Reports and Written Representations received from Local Authorities, this document provides the Applicant's response to Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report and Written Representation and has been submitted for Examination Deadline 2.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

- 1.1.1 Rampion Extension Development Limited (hereafter referred to as 'RED') (the 'Applicant') is developing the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project ('Rampion 2') located adjacent to the existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Project ('Rampion 1') in the English Channel.
- 1.1.2 Rampion 2 will be located between 13km and 26km from the Sussex Coast in the English Channel and the offshore array area will occupy an area of approximately 160km². A detailed description of the Proposed Development is set out in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-045], submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.

1.2 Purpose of this document

- 1.2.1 Interested Parties were invited to submit Local Impact Reports, Written Representations, and Post-hearing submissions at Deadline 1 (28 February 2024) following Issue Specific Hearing 1 (held 07 to 08 February 2024) to provide further information and to expand on views provided in Relevant Representations previously submitted in accordance with the Examination timetable in the Rule 8 letter [PD-007]. Please see below for a summary of the submissions received at Deadline 2, as categorised by the Planning Inspectorate:
- 6 submissions from Local Planning Authorities;
 - 5 submissions from parish and towns councils and Members of Parliament;
 - 6 representations from prescribed consultees;
 - 28 representations from and on behalf of Affected Parties;
 - 44 representations from members of the public or businesses; and
 - 8 representations from non-prescribed organisations.
- 1.2.2 The Applicant has taken the opportunity to review each of the Local Impact Reports, Written Representations, and Post-hearing submissions received. This document provides the Applicant's responses to Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report and Written Representation and has been submitted for Examination Deadline 2.

1.3 Structure of the Applicant's Responses

- 1.3.1 For ease of referencing and to facilitate future cross-referencing, the Applicant has included references for the Applicant's responses to the Local Impact Reports, Written Representations, and Post-hearing submissions received from other Interested Parties, as follows:
- Local Authorities (including both host and neighbouring authorities):

- ▶ Arun District Council (**Applicant's Responses to Arun District Council Deadline 1 Submissions (Document Reference: 8.44)**);
- ▶ Brighton and Hove City Council (**Applicant's Responses to Brighton and Hove City Council Deadline 1 Submissions (Document Reference: 8.48)**);
- ▶ Horsham District Council (this document: **Applicant's Responses to Horsham District Council Deadline 1 Submissions (Document Reference: 8.45)**);
- ▶ Mid Sussex District Council (**Applicant's Responses to Arun District Council Deadline 1 Submissions (Document Reference: 8.46)**);
- ▶ South Downs National Park Authority (**Applicant's Responses to South Downs National Park Authority Deadline 1 Submissions (Document Reference: 8.47)**); and
- ▶ West Sussex County Council (**Applicant's Responses to West Sussex County Council Deadline 1 Submissions (Document Reference: 8.43)**).
- Parish Councils and Members of Parliament (**Applicant's Responses to Parish Councils and MP's Written Representations (Document Reference: 8.37)**);
- Prescribed Consultees (as set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2010, noting that Parish Councils are also Prescribed Consultees) (**Applicant's Responses to Prescribed Consultee's Written Representations (Document Reference: 8.49)**);
- Affected Parties (Category 1, 2 and 3 Land Interests as identified in the **Book of Reference [PEPD-014]**) (**Applicant's Responses to Affected Parties' Written Representations (Document Reference: 8.51)**);
- Members of the Public and Businesses (**Applicant's Responses to Members of the Public and Businesses' Written Representations (Document Reference: 8.52)**); and
- Non-Prescribed Consultees (**Applicant's Responses to Non-Prescribed Consultee's Written Representations (Document Reference: 8.53)**).

1.3.2 Each section below includes responses to the submissions received from Mid Sussex District Council. Each response is identified in the relevant table:

- Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report: **Table 2-1 to Table 2-4**; and
- Horsham Council's Written Representation: **Table 2-5**.

2. Applicant's Response to Horsham District Council Local Impact Report and Written Representation

Table 2-1: Applicant's Response to Horsham District Council Local Impact Report

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
1. Executive Summary		
1.1	1.1 The purpose of this Local Impact Report (LIR) is to set out in Horsham District Council's view, those identified local impacts on the residents, businesses, and the environment within Horsham District that are raised by the proposed development Rampion 2 Wind Farm, and the extent to which the Applicant addresses these within the DCO application submission to comply with relevant local planning policy and other local material planning considerations.	The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.
1.2	1.2 Horsham District Council (HDC) supports renewable energy generation and carbon reduction objectives to meet climate change commitments. However, HDC has some concerns regarding the potential for negative environmental impact within its district. Despite the Applicant's DCO documentation submitted to date, including presentation of commitments and requirements to reduce the magnitude of impacts and the overall significance, it is HDC's view that there remains a lack of certainty to support the efficacy of a number of these mitigation measures. As consequence, there is some instance of non-compliance and/or conflict with local policy.	The Proposed Development will help meet the urgent need for new renewable energy infrastructure in the UK and supporting the achievement of the UK Government's climate change commitments and carbon reduction objectives. The Proposed Development type is recognised as being a critical national priority in the revised National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), 2023a) and NPS EN-3 (DESNZ, 2023b), which came into force in January 2024 and are considered to be relevant to the determination of the DCO Application.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>This additional generating capacity will contribute towards meeting the urgent need for new energy infrastructure in the UK, provide enhanced energy security, support the economic priorities of the UK Government and, critically, make an important contribution to decarbonisation of the UK economy.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will contribute materially towards meeting the urgent national need for renewable electricity, significantly reducing carbon emissions from energy. The assessment set out in Chapter 29: Climate change, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-070] concludes the Proposed Development has a lifetime GHG emissions saving of 35,901ktCO₂e. The Proposed Development will continue to offset greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions until 2050, and therefore make a positive contribution the UK Government target to reach net zero emissions in 2050.</p> <p>Section 104 of the Planning Act 2008 outlines that the DCO Application must be decided in accordance with the relevant NPS (in this case: NPS EN-1 (DECC, 2011a), NPS EN-3 (DECC, 2011b) and NPS EN-5 (DECC, 2011c) with NPS EN-1 (DESNZ, 2023a), NPS EN-3 (DESNZ, 2023b) and NPS EN-5 (DESNZ, 2023c), that came into force in 2024, relevant considerations in the decision-making process) unless (inter alia) the adverse impacts of a proposal would outweigh its benefits. Section 5.4 of the Planning Statement [APP-036] summarises the potential environmental, social and economic benefits and the</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
1.3	<p>1.3 HDC has requested firmer commitments and appropriate mitigation and compensation to delivering social, economic and environmental benefits that are specific to the district. Where mitigation is not possible, HDC seeks appropriate compensation. HDC will continue to engage with the Applicant to secure these outcomes required during the Examination period and beyond. The table on the next page sets out HDC's view on the local impacts associated with the proposed scheme, as submitted. This table assumes the delivery of all currently proposed mitigation measures. The table is ordered by topic area and represents a summary of the points made in this Local Impact Report. It is colour coded to denote the degree of accordance with local policy (Red: conflict; Amber - non-compliance; Green – accordance).</p>	<p>adverse impacts of the Proposed Development drawing on relevant information in line with NPS EN-1 (DECC, 2011a and DESNZ, 2023a). Section 5.5 of the Planning Statement [APP-036] sets out the planning balance where the potential benefits and impacts of the Proposed Development are weighed up. Although, inevitably, there are adverse impacts associated with the scale and type of infrastructure that forms the Proposed Development, the Applicant considers that the planning balance is firmly in favour of the Proposed Development and the benefits outweigh the adverse impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant is reviewing the requests for mitigation and/or compensation by way of development consent obligation in relation to the relevant policy set out in EN-1 (both 2011 and 2023 versions): any such obligation must be relevant to planning, necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms, directly related in scale and kind to the proposed development and reasonable in all other respects. The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders in relation to how residual impacts can be mitigated and where compensation is identified as required the Applicant is committed to the programme established in ISH 1 of providing Heads of Terms (HoTs) for Deadline 3.</p>

Ref Local Impact Report comment
Applicant's Response

Topic Area	Positive Impact	Limited Impact (required mitigation/compensation)	Negative Impact
Climate Change			
Socio-Economic			
Landscape and Visual Impact			
Terrestrial Ecology			
Noise and Vibration			
Air Quality			
Historic Environment			
Water Environment			
Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)			

2. Introduction

2.1 to 2.9 2.1 Rampion Extension Development Limited (the 'Applicant') has applied for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate (including maintenance) and decommission an offshore wind farm, located approximately 13km off the Sussex Coast. This is known as Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm and herein referred to as the 'Project'.

2.2 This is the Local Impact Report from Horsham District Council (HDC) in its function as Local Planning Authority, which sets out the likely impacts of the Project within the administrative area of HDC, beyond the South Downs National Park. HDC is a host authority for the Project, with buried onshore cables proposed through the district, terminating at a new substation at Oakendene, east of Cowfold.

2.3 In its preparation, Horsham District Council has had regard to the purposes of LIRs as set out in Section 60(3) the Planning Act 2008 (as amended), DCLG's Guidance for the examination of

The Applicant has provided a response to Horsham District Council's Relevant Representation **[RR-148]** in Table 2.5 of **Deadline 1 Submission – 8.24 Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP1-017]** and has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>applications for development consent (2015), and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 1. This Advice Note refers to the Planning Act 2008 and states that: 'The sole definition of an LIR is given in s60(3) of the Act as 'a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area (or any part of that area)'. The content of the LIR is a matter for the local authority concerned as long as it falls within this statutory definition'.</p> <p>2.4 The purpose of this LIR is to identify (positive, neutral, or negative) impacts of the Project during construction and operation, by referencing key issues from local knowledge and evidence and identifying relevant Development Plan policies and the extent to which the Project accords or does not accord with these. This report does this under topic-based headings, and by reference to the application documentation, including the DCO articles, requirements, and obligations.</p> <p>2.5 As set out in the Advice Note, it is for the Examining Authority to conduct a balancing exercise of the likely impacts. LIRs should not seek to balance or weigh the impacts, nor should appraisal be undertaken in relation to National Policy Statements (NPSs).</p> <p>2.6 Horsham District Council is the planning authority for Horsham district, beyond the area of the district within the South Downs National Park (SDNP), which falls under the planning responsibility of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). However, within its responsibilities for the planning needs for this area, the SDNPA refer to advice from the Environmental Health Department at Horsham District Council.</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>2.7 In addition, Horsham District Council is a 'B' Authority in the Development Control Order ('DCO') process. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) is the highways authority, education authority, minerals and waste authority, and the Lead Local Flood Authority that covers Horsham district. WSCC in its own LIR will consider the finer details related to local impacts related to these matters.</p> <p>2.8 This LIR focuses on the remit and administrative area which HDC has primary planning responsibility. Where there is common ground HDC's LIR is intended to compliment both authorities, but it is not intended that its LIR duplicate that of WSCC and SDNPA in their responsibilities.</p> <p>2.9 This LIR builds upon rather than duplicates the Relevant Representations (RR-148) and the initial Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement (AS-010) submitted by HDC to the Examining Authority in November 2023. Where relevant, content from these earlier documents is cross-referenced in this LIR.</p>	
<h3>3 Project Description</h3>		
3.1	<p>3.1 The proposed development within Horsham District beyond the SDNP is as the Applicant's submission in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) (Document Reference: 6.2.4):</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buried onshore cables in a single corridor using trenching and backfilling installation techniques and trenchless and open cut crossings. A new onshore substation, proposed near Cowfold, which will connect to an extension to the existing National Grid Bolney substation, via buried onshore cables. 	
3.2	<p>3.2 Other than already identified in the Applicant's ES, there is no relevant planning history to be described nor does the development does not directly affect any sites allocated in the Development Plan for Horsham District, or for which planning has been permitted.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
3.3	<p>3.3 Since DCO submission, HDC is in receipt of two pending full planning applications (details below) and would welcome update of the Applicant's DCO documentation in consideration of these.</p> <p>HDC Ref: Application Description and address:</p> <p>DC/24/0054 Installation of Battery Energy Storage System with associated infrastructure Land West of Kent Street Cowfold West Sussex RH13 8BB</p> <p>DC/23/2172 Construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure including transformers, inverters, DNO Substation, customer switchgear, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping Street Record Burnthouse Lane Cowfold West Sussex</p>	<p>The Applicant is aware of these applications, submitted after the Rampion 2 DCO Application. The proposal for a Battery Energy Storage System is on land partly within the Rampion 2 cable corridor. Rampion Extension Development Ltd is confident that the two schemes are compatible and can both be built. The Solar Photovoltaic Farm is proposed for land approx. 2.5km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 cable route.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response						
3.4	<p>3.4 Given up to four years duration of the onshore construction programme, there is a lack of construction phasing information to understand if impacts have been appropriately mitigated.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><i>Summary Box</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #90EE90; width: 10%; text-align: center;">Positive</td> <td>Construction and Communications Plan as part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (APP-224) welcomed given up to four years duration of construction.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700; text-align: center;">Neutral</td> <td>Very broadly outlined detail on commitment (C-19) (APP-254) to how construction of cables in discrete sections will be secured (detailed phasing, sequencing of construction activities). Lack of detail and clarity in CoCp and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (APP-228), to reduce the construction impact over the life of the Project.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FF0000; text-align: center;">Negative</td> <td>Detailed design for trenchless crossings (Horizontal Directional Drilling) to be confirmed only at detailed design stage as part of Construction Method Statements (DMS). This leaves uncertainty as potential for impacts on the duration of construction.</td> </tr> </table> </div>	Positive	Construction and Communications Plan as part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (APP-224) welcomed given up to four years duration of construction.	Neutral	Very broadly outlined detail on commitment (C-19) (APP-254) to how construction of cables in discrete sections will be secured (detailed phasing, sequencing of construction activities). Lack of detail and clarity in CoCp and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (APP-228), to reduce the construction impact over the life of the Project.	Negative	Detailed design for trenchless crossings (Horizontal Directional Drilling) to be confirmed only at detailed design stage as part of Construction Method Statements (DMS). This leaves uncertainty as potential for impacts on the duration of construction.	<p>Section 4.7 of Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES [APP-045] provides a summary of the indicative construction programme that has informed the assessments within the ES. Schedule 1, part 3, requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) secures that the detail of the stages (equivalent to phases) of works are to be submitted and approved by the relevant planning authorities.</p>
Positive	Construction and Communications Plan as part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (APP-224) welcomed given up to four years duration of construction.							
Neutral	Very broadly outlined detail on commitment (C-19) (APP-254) to how construction of cables in discrete sections will be secured (detailed phasing, sequencing of construction activities). Lack of detail and clarity in CoCp and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (APP-228), to reduce the construction impact over the life of the Project.							
Negative	Detailed design for trenchless crossings (Horizontal Directional Drilling) to be confirmed only at detailed design stage as part of Construction Method Statements (DMS). This leaves uncertainty as potential for impacts on the duration of construction.							

4. District Overview

4.1	<p>4.1 Except for the paragraph 4.2 immediately below, this section of the Council's LIR is unchanged from the Council's Relevant Representation (RR-148).</p> <p><i>Updated:</i></p> <p>4.2 In January 2024, HDC adopted its Climate Action Strategy to support the whole of Horsham District to become carbon neutral by 2050.</p> <p>4.3 Horsham District is located within the northwest part of West Sussex. The district is predominantly rural in character and contains several small villages and towns. 95km² (36.49 square miles) of the district falls within the South Downs National Park.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the update that Horsham District Council adopted its Climate Action Strategy (Horsham District Council, 2024) to support the whole of Horsham District to become carbon neutral by 2050.</p> <p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
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Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
4.4	<p>The onshore cable corridor would pass through several National Character Areas (NCA) on route through Horsham District. This includes the Low Weald (NCA) that comprises of a mosaic of irregular pastoral and arable fields enclosed by a strong framework of mature trees, woodland shaws and Ancient Woodlands, which makes a significant contribution to district character. Two Valued Landscapes in the district are of national importance: the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covering the eastern part of the District and the South Downs National Park in the southern part. The cable corridor would pass through the latter.</p>	
4.5	<p>Habitats and species found across the development area is varied, including arable, and grassland as well as rivers and associated environments but a key characteristic is the network of woodland blocks (some Ancient and Semi-Natural) and dense hedgerows linking wildlife habitats across the district. The south-west of the district provides an important feeding ground for the internationally important Barbastelle bats, a qualifying feature of The Mens SAC. The Arun Valley floodplain is a distinctive habitat of both national and international importance within the district.</p>	
4.6	<p>The development area itself is largely rural countryside, mostly in agricultural use and managed rural estate, but sections of the cable corridor would pass close by settlements and their valued open space and green infrastructure, including the villages of Washington, Storrington and Sullington, and Cowfold. The latter is near to where the cable route would terminate to form a new substation to connect to the existing National Grid substation at Bolney.</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
4.7	<p><i>Economy and Housing</i></p> <p>4.7 The rural surroundings of the district support a rural economy. Additionally, employment opportunities in the district are generated from leisure, tourism, and retail businesses.</p> <p>The majority of Horsham District is located within the Gatwick Diamond economic area.</p> <p>Transport access and ease of movement is a key factor in the performance of the local economy, enabling residents to travel to their place of work, and allows the movement of goods and services. Cowfold Road (A272) is a key local distributor, taking traffic east-west across the district and linking several other strategic road networks (A23 to the east and the A24 to the west) with quieter, rural lanes. The district has seen a significant development in recent years with strategic-scale housing schemes under construction particularly in the northern and central parts of the district. The larger settlements have also accommodated developments of scale in recent years, however, pressure for housing development remains.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
4.8	<p><i>Environmental Quality and Climate Change</i></p> <p>4.8 Horsham District is in an area of serious water stress, as identified by the Environment Agency Water Stressed Areas Classification. Horsham District is supplied with water by Southern Water from its Sussex North Water Resource Zone.</p>	<p>The Applicant has responded in regards to water neutrality and the Natural England Position Statement 2021 in reference 9.21.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>This supply is sourced from abstraction points in the Arun Valley, which includes locations such as Amberley Wild Brooks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Pulborough Brooks SSSI and Arun Valley Special Protection Area/Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site. In September 2021, the council received a Position Statement from Natural England. The Natural England position is that it cannot be concluded that existing abstraction within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone is not having an impact on the Arun Valley sites. It advises that development within this zone must not add to this impact.</p>	
4.9	<p>4.9 The district benefits from a high-quality natural environment, some of which is designated for its international and national importance (including the Arun Valley SPA and The Mens SAC and its qualifying feature of Barbastelle bats). However, alongside much of the UK, biodiversity has been impacted by changing land management practices, increased pressure for development and climate change. In this regard, HDC is working with the Sussex Wildlife Trust in a five-year partnership called Wilder Horsham District. The main objective of this partnership is to deliver a district level Nature Recovery Network which will seek to reverse the decline in species and habitats and enrich the district's natural environment.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
4.10	<p>4.10 There is a high reliance on car travel in the district. In addition to traffic congestion, this also contributes to emissions of air pollutants. The district has two Air Quality Managements Areas (AQMAs) in Cowfold and Storrington. HDC has declared the whole of the district an 'Emission Reduction Area' and is a member of the Sussex Air Quality Partnership.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
4.11	<p>Monitoring of air quality in the district has revealed that some areas have high levels of nitrogen dioxide and therefore a key consideration for the Council is the impact of development on air quality.</p> <p>4.11 On 23 March 2023, Horsham District Council approved the draft version of its Climate Action Strategy for consultation and engagement. In the meantime, in June 2023, the Council declared a climate and ecological emergency, to move forward with its carbon neutral agenda, enabling it to achieve its own carbon neutral target for 2030 and the Horsham District carbon neutral target for 2050. The consultation and engagement confirmed the draft Strategy reflected the priorities of the local community.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
5. Local Policy		
5.1 to 5.3	<p>Statutory Development Plan</p> <p>5.1 The Development Plan for the area within the administrative area of Horsham District in which the Project is located, comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) (excluding South Downs National Park) and accompanying Policies Map, was adopted in November 2015 and covers the period up to 2031; and • The West Sussex Waste Local Plan adopted 2014 and the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan, adopted 2018 (Soft Sand Review adopted 2021); and 	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the following 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Storrington Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2031 (SSWNP), made September 2019. The SSWNP designated area covers both within and outside of the South Downs National Park. ▶ West Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2031 (WGNP), made June 2021. ▶ Wineham and Shermanbury Plan 2014 – 2031 (WASP), made March 2017 	
	<p>5.2 With respect to the Waste and Minerals Local Plan, WSCC will provide detailed comments in their own LIR.</p>	
	<p>5.3 The designated Washington Conservation Area Boundary is identified on the HDPF Policies Map.</p>	
<p>5.4 to 5.6</p>	<p>Other local Material Planning Considerations <i>Natural England Position Statement September 2021</i></p> <p>5.4 Horsham District Council is continuing to consider and determine planning applications. As part of our decision-making process an assessment of water neutrality is now needed for many of our applications.</p> <p>5.5 Where an increase in water consumption is likely, the application is required to be accompanied by a water neutrality statement setting out the strategy for achieving water neutrality within the development. Water neutrality can be achieved by</p>	<p>The Applicant has responded in regards to water neutrality and the Natural England Position Statement 2021 in reference 9.21.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>developers building significant water efficiency measures into new development and by providing offsetting measures to reduce water consumption from existing development.</p>	
	<p>5.6 If an application cannot demonstrate water neutrality is reasonably achievable this will mean the development will not meet the requirements of section 63 of the Habitats Regulations, and the application could not be determined positively.</p>	
<p>5.7 to 5.9</p>	<p><i>Cowfold Neighbour Plan Planning Advice Note</i></p> <p>5.7 Cowfold Parish have produced a neighbourhood plan which have been subject to successful Examination but cannot proceed to Referendum because of the legal requirements in relation to Water Neutrality and the Habitat Regulations.</p> <p>5.8 To support the hard work of the Cowfold community, Horsham District Council has prepared a Planning Advice Note. This Advice Note highlights how the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to align with National Planning Policy.</p> <p>5.9 When the strategic solution to Water Neutrality is implemented, the Council will proceed to take the Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan to Referendum and upon a successful result the Council will 'make' the plan at full Council at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
5.10	<p><i>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Planning Advice Note</i> 5.10 In advance of the production of a new Local Plan and prior to the statutory biodiversity net gain requirements coming into force, the Council has produced the Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Planning Advice Note. It sets out expectations to how Applicants are to demonstrate compliance with the requirement for measurable net gains for biodiversity, a 'get ready approach' for the emerging statutory requirements and promotes provision of 10% biodiversity net gain within development.</p>	<p>The Applicant has committed to provide biodiversity net gain with further details provided in Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain Information, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-193] which provides an overview of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across the Proposed Development. Requirement 14 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] secures the delivery of BNG.</p>
5.11	<p>5.11 The new Horsham District Local Plan 2023 - 2040 will set out planning policies and proposals to guide development in the district, excluding the South Downs National Park, up to 2040. The Council's Regulation 19 Local Plan has been published for a six-week period of representation from 9am Friday 19 January until 5pm Friday 1 March 2024.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
5.12	<p><i>Planning Policy Evidence Base Documents</i> 5.12 Relevant background documents which support the existing Local Plan (the Horsham District Planning Framework), and the Local Plan review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Wide Carbon Reduction Study & Carbon Audit of the Local Plan Review (2022) • Habitats Regulations Assessment (Nov 2023) • Sussex North Water Neutrality Study JBA Consulting Parts A, B, and C (2022) 	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Infrastructure Strategy (April 2014) Addendum: Green Infrastructure Strategy 2014 (Jan 2021) • Horsham Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (Temple Jan 2023) • Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (2003) • Open Space, Sport & Recreation Review (June 2021) • Sussex Air Quality Guidance (2021) • Storrington Air Quality Management Area (declared in 2010) • Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (declared in 2011) • Air Quality Annual Status Report (2022) • Storrington-Sullington Parish Design Statement 	
5.13	<p><i>South Downs National Park Policy and Guidance Documents</i></p> <p>5.13 South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment, and the South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis are documents that the SDNPA will provide commentary on in their own LIR.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
5.14	<p><i>Horsham District's Climate Action Strategy (January 2024)</i></p> <p>5.14 The focus of Horsham District's Climate Action Strategy is to map a pathway for HDC, its key strategic partners, local communities, residents, and businesses to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and start to adapt to climate change. This</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges Horsham District Council's (2024) Climate Action Strategy, and considers that the provision of significant new renewable energy projects, such as the Proposed Scheme, is a key part of reducing carbon emissions, consistent with this strategy.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>Strategy provides an overarching 10-year plan (with regular review periods) for the area to decarbonise, whilst delivering multiple co-benefits to local businesses and communities. It builds on existing work, lessons learnt and successes in the district to address the climate crisis, reduce carbon emissions and improve climate resilience.</p>	
6. Alternatives		
6.1 to 6.3	<p>6.1 Local Planning Policies</p> <p>6.1 HDPF Policy 2 Strategic Policy: Strategic Development sets out the Council's strategy to achieve a sustainable distribution of development, and maintenance of the district's rural character.</p> <p>6.2 Policy 26 Strategic Policy: Countryside Protection seeks to protect the rural and undeveloped nature of the countryside against inappropriate development. To be acceptable, a proposal in the countryside, including renewable energy infrastructure, must be essential to its location and it must meet one of four criteria.</p> <p>6.3 SSWNP Policy 1: A Spatial Plan requires development outside of the Built-Up Area Boundaries conform to Development Plan policies in respect of the management of development in the countryside.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
6.4 to 6.7	<p>6.4 Local Issues and Impacts</p> <p>6.4 As part of the statutory consultation process, HDC advised the site selection process for considering the main</p>	<p>The Applicant refers to the response provided in reference 6.8 below where the requested actions are set out.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>alternatives for project infrastructure based on evidence and justification, should have been presented to stakeholders in a robust, transparent, and detailed manner, setting out why alternatives have been discounted in favour of preferred sites.</p>	
	<p>6.5 HDC raises some issue with the limited demonstrated consideration in the DCO application documentation (Chapter 3 of the ES) of environmental, social and economic effects including, where relevant, technical and commercial feasibility for the choice of the Oakendene substation and construction compounds, which, in its view, presents the site selection process poorly to be understood fully.</p>	
	<p>6.6 HDPF Policy 26 makes clear the restrictions that it imposes are directed to the aim of protecting the countryside's distinctive character and quality. The site is located within the countryside as defined by HDPF Policy 2 but insofar as Policy 26 sets out criteria for consideration of development in such cases, the specific locational concern is the effect that the development would have on the character and appearance of the area.</p>	
	<p>6.7 It is important to continue to manage development and change within the district, considering the need for infrastructure requirements to meet the Council's Climate Action Strategy. It is preferable to do this in a proactive way rather than a reactive way. All Development Plan policies are inter-related to one another, and should be read as a whole, including the vision, spatial objectives, and spatial strategy.</p>	
	<p>Summary Box</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Positive</td> <td>Evidence in the DCO application documentation of site selection process</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neutral</td> <td>Onshore Substation Options and Selection: Applicant states there was only a marginal preference for Oakendene site (taking account environmental effects). Construction Compound Options and Selection: Washington compound would potentially represent some three years of construction presence in proximity to sensitive receptors (residential, school, and village hall).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negative</td> <td>Chapter 18 of the ES indicates the Construction Compounds as containing welfare facilities/offices, parking, construction plant and storage of materials and equipment (up to 7m high) and a concrete batching plant up to 20m high.</td> </tr> </table>	Positive	Evidence in the DCO application documentation of site selection process	Neutral	Onshore Substation Options and Selection: Applicant states there was only a marginal preference for Oakendene site (taking account environmental effects). Construction Compound Options and Selection: Washington compound would potentially represent some three years of construction presence in proximity to sensitive receptors (residential, school, and village hall).	Negative	Chapter 18 of the ES indicates the Construction Compounds as containing welfare facilities/offices, parking, construction plant and storage of materials and equipment (up to 7m high) and a concrete batching plant up to 20m high.	
Positive	Evidence in the DCO application documentation of site selection process							
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Negative	Chapter 18 of the ES indicates the Construction Compounds as containing welfare facilities/offices, parking, construction plant and storage of materials and equipment (up to 7m high) and a concrete batching plant up to 20m high.							

6.8 Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments

6.8 For demonstration of the site selection process to be fully understood (taking account of environmental effects), HDC seeks further justification regarding the size and location of Oakendene substation and the construction compounds within its district, including the following issues: (See table below)

	Issue	Recommended Action	Applicant's Response
1	Additional justification required to explain why the Wineham Lane	Applicant to provide further evidence and better presentation of the evidence testing of alternative substation sites, such	The Applicant has provided further requested evidence has been submitted in Deadline 1 Submission – 8.25.2 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
2	<p>North site was discounted for the onshore substation, with a focus on the engineering and environmental constraints of site</p> <p>Additional justification to the location choice of the construction compounds within Horsham district.</p>	<p>as inclusion of the BRAG appraisal referred by the Applicant as undertaken at 3.6.23 as appendix. DCO, ES Volume 2 Chapter 3 para. 3.6.23.</p> <p>Applicant to provide further evidence and better presentation of the evidence testing of alternative compound sites.</p> <p>The Applicant requires three temporary construction compounds as bases to support the construction of the onshore cable corridor to reduce the distance travelled between the compounds and cable work sites, and another two to support onshore substation works. This includes for logistics, preparing materials, equipment maintenance, project management and to support mitigation works. Compounds must have sufficient space for the required purposes, be close to major roads, be outside of protected areas, be near the cable corridor and key construction activities, and be on level clear ground.</p> <p>Four temporary construction compound (TCC) locations were considered in the Washington area, following the Scoping stage of the project. Following further engineering design review, environmental and land reviews, these were refined to the three alternatives presented at PEIR (RED 2021), Washington TCC Option D, Washington TCC Option E and Washington TCC Option F were consulted on as part of the first Statutory Consultation.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
3	Need for greater certainty of the use	<p>i) Application to provide description of Work No. 10 of comparable detail to other Work No.</p> <p>(i) The approach to the description of the construction compounds as Work No. 10 is consistent with the approach adopted in a number of made development</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response	
4	<p>of Construction Compounds.</p> <p>Firmer commitments to mitigation measures specific to Construction Compounds sought, in a single control document for ease of reference and reassurance to</p>	<p>descriptions in the DCO of use or another document so there is a commitment to comply with the description.</p> <p>ii) Prior to commencement on related land, approval sought from HDC for use of construction compounds as part of the detailed design and stage specific control docs, for exact positioning of the concrete batching plant and soil/aggregate stockpiles and be placed to mitigate impacts onto residents/other sensitive Receptors. This must be accompanied with justification to demonstrate the proposed positions put forward are the least harmful.</p> <p>Provision of an additional Requirement for submission and approval of tailored stage specific management plans for each individual Construction Compound, informed by site-specific mitigations, to include but not limited to: -</p>	<p>consent order. It is not considered appropriate to provide any further description as it is not possible to predict at this stage exactly what the compound will be required to be used for. However a worst case assessment of the use of the compounds has been undertaken and reported in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>(ii) The Applicant will provide further detail with regards the use of the compounds in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice, to be provided in accordance with the measures in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033], as per Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>The Applicant will provide further detail with regards the use of the compounds in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice, to be provided in accordance with the measures in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033], as per Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2. Where relevant to the stage, this will include further detail on the temporary construction compound.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	affected communities.	i) appropriate landscaping/boundary treatments which must include advance planting; and ii) ecological mitigation and compensations; and iii) Communications Construction Plan, iv) a Dust Management Plan, which should take into account emissions of off-road construction vehicles, NOx and particulate matter
Climate Change		
7.1 to 7.3	<p>Local Planning Policy</p> <p>7.1 HDPF Policy 35 Strategic Policy: Climate Change supports development where it makes a clear contribution to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and to meeting the district's carbon reduction targets.</p> <p>7.2 HDPF Policy 36 Appropriate Energy Use sets out that the Council will permit schemes for renewable energy where it does not have a significant adverse effect on landscape and townscape character, biodiversity, heritage or cultural assets or amenity value.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
7.3	HDPF Policy 37 Sustainable Design and Construction states development should integrate the use of decentralised, renewable, and low carbon energy.	
7.4 to 7.5	<p>Local Issues and Impacts</p> <p>7.4 Horsham District Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions. The need to mitigate and adapt to climate change is a Spatial Objective of the HDPF in fulfilment of its Vision. As the Council's district wide Climate Action Strategy identifies, the development of renewable and low carbon energy is a key means of reducing the district's contribution to climate change and sustainable design has a key role to play in mitigating the environmental impact of new development both at the time of construction and in the future.</p> <p>7.5 Given all this, HDC will support renewable energy development, subject to policy-specific criteria. As HDPF Policy 36 requires, renewable energy proposals will need to consider the impact that they may have on Valued Landscapes, including the need to consider views from Valued Landscapes to proposals which lie outside but in the setting of the South Downs National Park or High Weald National Landscape.</p>	Please see above response reference 1.2.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
Summary Box		
Positive	Contribution to renewable energy generation in contributing to the UK's national target of net zero by 2050 and to responding to climate change	
Neutral	Energy from the Project would be to the national grid, rather than for local use within Horsham District	
Negative	Location of project infrastructure within the countryside will have effects on the spatial pattern of development in the district.	
7.6	<p>Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments</p> <p>7.6 The DCO is adequate with respect to whether the development is an appropriate contribution to assist in mitigation of climate change which it proposes to authorise.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes the conclusion drawn by Horsham District Council.</p>
Socio-Economics		
<p>8.1</p> <p>to</p> <p>8.10</p>	<p>Local Planning Policy</p> <p>8.1 HDPF Policy 10 Rural Economic Development encourages sustainable rural enterprise in order to generate local employment opportunities and economic, social and environmental benefits for local communities. In the countryside, development should be appropriate to the location and must: contribute to the wider rural economy; and, if there are exceptional cases where new buildings are involved, result in</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>substantial environmental improvement; and reduce the impact on the countryside; and support sustainable economic growth towards balanced living and working communities.</p>	
	<p>8.2 Proposals that would result in the loss of existing green infrastructure will be resisted under HDPF Policy 31 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity unless it can be demonstrated that new opportunities will be provided that mitigates or compensates for this loss.</p>	
	<p>8.3 HDPF Policy 39 Infrastructure Provision stipulates the release of land for development will be dependent on there being sufficient capacity in the existing local infrastructure to meet the additional requirements arising from new development, or suitable necessary mitigation arrangements for the improvement of the infrastructure, services and community facilities caused by the development being provided.</p>	
	<p>8.4 HDPF Policies 40 Sustainable Transport and Policy 41 Parking support development if, amongst other things, it maintains the existing transport system and provides safe and suitable access for all, adequate parking, and accompanied by an agreed Green Travel Plan because of a need to address an existing local traffic problem.</p>	
	<p>8.5 HDPF Policy 43 Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation sets out proposals that would result in the loss of sites and premises used for the provision of community facilities or services, and leisure will be resisted unless equally usable facilities can be conveniently provided nearby.</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
8.6	<p>SSWNP Policy 16: Local Green Spaces lists Local Green Spaces designated in the SSWNP and shown on the Policies Map, including (10) Washington Recreation Ground, (12) The Triangle, and (13) Jockey's meadow. Policy 16 sets out proposals for development in a Local Green Space will be resisted other than in very special circumstances, unless they are ancillary to the use of the land for a public recreational purpose or are required for a statutory utility infrastructure purpose (e.g., small areas of car parking).</p>	
8.7	<p>SSWNP Policy 17: Traffic & Transport supports development proposals provided it is demonstrated residual traffic impacts on the local road network are not severe.</p>	
<p>Other Material Planning Considerations</p>		
8.8	<p>Emerging Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) Policy 14 Employment supports proposals for business development where they would not have an unacceptable effect on the local road network in terms of highway safety or residual cumulative impacts</p>	
8.9	<p>CNP Aim 12: Traffic Management supports improvements to traffic management in the Parish including but not limited to traffic calming measures, reduction in HGVs routeing through the Parish, improvements to road layouts and signalling.</p>	
8.10	<p>CNP Aim 13: Road Safety supports developments which do not adversely affect road safety; and ensure appropriate visibility splays.</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
8.11	<p>Local Issues and Impacts</p> <p><i>Overview</i></p> <p>8.11 The Project has potential to impact the district by negative or neutral effects arising from disruption, of which some will not be able to be mitigated. Whilst the Project has the potential to align with local policy around sustainable rural economic development to offset these effects, based on the current DCO documentation there is uncertainty to achieving this. For example, the ES does not estimate construction or operational employment impact of the Project at the district level.</p>	<p>The environmental effects of the construction on socio-economic receptors have been assessed in Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-058]. This assessment concluded that the Proposed Development would not generate any significant environmental effects in relation socio-economics.</p> <p>Given the assessment of economic impacts at the Sussex level, the anticipated impact of Rampion 2 at the district level for all districts in the Study Area are anticipated to be negligible when assessed in the context of total employment in the districts.</p>
8.12	<p>8.12 Construction works would give rise to localised disturbances, including for those not living on main roads but affected by construction routes such as around the village of Cowfold, and temporary road closures and/or diversions during the construction period would cause further disruption for residents of the district, businesses, and the visitor experience. Parts of the cable route are underlain by minerals, safeguarded through the JMLP, notably soft sand aggregate, which is a scarce resource. As the planning authority for minerals and waste, WSCC will detail their comments on this in their own LIR.</p>	<p>The environmental effects of the construction traffic have been assessed in Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-064] and Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006]. This assessment concluded that the Proposed Development would not generate any significant environmental effects on the A24, A272 or within Cowfold village centre, Storrington or Washington.</p> <p>A range of embedded environmental measures have been provided by the Applicant as detailed within the Commitments Register [REP1-015] which has been updated at the Deadline 1 submission and secured through the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [REP1-010]. The production of a stage specific CTMP in accordance with the Outline CTMP [REP1-010] is</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>secured through Requirement 24 of the Draft DCO [PEPD-009]. The Outline CTMP [REP1-010] has been updated at the Deadline 1 submission including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment C-157: The proposed heavy goods vehicle (HGV) routing during the construction period to individual accesses will be developed to avoid major settlements of Storrington, Cowfold, Steyning, Wineham, Henfield, Woodmancote and other smaller settlements where possible; and• Commitment C-158: The proposed heavy goods vehicle (HGV) routing during the construction period to individual accesses will avoid the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Cowfold where possible. <p>These commitments are also reflected in Table 5-1 of the Outline CTMP [REP1-010] which has been updated at the Deadline 1 submission and confirms prescribed local Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) access routes for all sections of the onshore cable corridor and Table 5-2 which details specific local constraints and proposed management of construction traffic routes.</p> <p>The Applicant has responded to comments from West Sussex County Council in their Local Impact Report with respect to minerals resource.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
8.13	<p><i>Disruption to landowners</i></p> <p>8.13 Landowners have expressed to HDC their concerns over implications for their land holding operations, including uncertainty to the risk of degradation of land (soil) where the onshore cable route passes through, with consequential impacts for ongoing financial stability and viability for the holding, the character of the worked landscape and food security, should land use change during the construction phase be enforced by the terms of future easement. In the view of HDC, these negative effects are tempered by the DCO requirements and commitments to reinstate and re-establish the land post construction, albeit with certain planting restrictions directly above the cable corridor. HDC supports the provision of a Soil Management Plan (SMP) and note Natural England has provided extensive commentary of Defra 2009 Code of Construction Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites Document used: (APP-224) 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice C-27.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council's support for the provision of a Soil Management Plan (SMP).</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to developing a Soil Resource Plan (as defined in the Outline Soils Management Plan [APP-226]), during pre-construction, which will form part of the suite of management plans including the stage specific Soils Management Plan (SMP), Materials Management Plan (MMP), and Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Commitment C-183 of the Commitments Register [REP1-015] (provided at Deadline 1 submission) states that an '<i>Outline Soils Management Plan (SMP) has been developed (included in the Outline CoCP) to enable construction works to be completed in accordance with the Defra Code of Construction Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites 2009 to protect soil resources from damage during the construction phase</i>' and is secured by Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 5.1 of the Defra Construction Code of Practice (Defra, 2009), the Soil Resource Plan will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maps showing topsoil and subsoil types, and the areas to be stripped and left in-situ. • schedules of volumes for each material. • expected after-use for each soil whether topsoil to be used on site, used or sold off site, or subsoil to be

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>retained for landscape areas, used as structural fill or for topsoil manufacture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification of the person responsible for supervising soil management. <p>Machinery to be used for soil handling is specified in paragraph 5.2.19 of the Outline Soils Management Plan [APP-226] which states that soil stripping, stockpiling, and removal from storage will be carried out in accordance with Section 5.4 in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Construction Code of Practice (Defra, 2009), and that soils will be reinstated, or placed, by tracked hydraulic excavator using the loose tipping method (Section 6.1 in the Defra Construction Code of Practice (Defra, 2009), with only gentle firming by tracked vehicles.</p> <p>The stage specific SMP(s) are to be used in conjunction with the SRP and MMP to maximise the restoration of excavated soils to their pre-existing condition and location, and if this is not possible, to maximise the reuse of soils within the Proposed Development, minimising soils being relocated outside the Proposed Development or becoming waste.</p> <p>Section 6 paragraph 6.1.2 within the Outline Soils Management Plan (SMP) [APP- 226] secured via Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-009] (updated at Deadline 2) states <i>'A pre-construction drainage programme will be necessary to divert drainage systems which will be intercepted by the</i></p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
8.14	<p><i>Disruption to Communities</i></p> <p>8.14 Many Public Rights of Way (PRoW) will be affected, through temporary closure and diversion, as result of the proposal, albeit The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (APP-230) sets out measures to manage and mitigate effects on PRoW network are accepted by HDC.</p>	<p><i>works, in order to prevent waterlogging of the trench during working. This work is likely to involve the installation of one or more land drains complete with permeable fill installed parallel to intercept soil and groundwater before it reaches the trench. The Outline CoCP (Document Reference: 7.2) includes measures to ensure that the condition of existing drainage systems are appropriately maintained and restored.</i></p> <p>The Applicant welcomes the conclusion drawn by Horsham District Council in regard to the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-230] and the acceptance of the measures to manage and mitigate effects on the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-230] is secured through Requirement 20 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p>
8.15	<p>8.15 Assets to the local community (Village Hall and playing fields and Primary School) would be near the Washington Construction Compound. This means that the negative effects to these assets during the construction period would also affect the local community.</p>	<p>A number of management plans [APP-223 to APP-242] have been included in the DCO Application such as the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033] and Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (PRoW) [APP-230], which has been developed alongside the EIA process and provide the details of the proposed embedded environmental measures to manage effects during the construction stage. This includes measures that will be implemented to ensure minimal disruption to the local community, such as C-22 (working</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
8.16	<p>8.16 Within the district, the A272 runs in a broadly west-east direction from Billingshurst to Haywards Heath. The A24 runs in a north-south direction down the western side of the district and crosses the A272 to the north. At Cowfold, the natural restriction created by the staggered A272/A281 junction, combined with the volume of traffic using the A272 as a major link road, results in significant standing traffic during morning and evening peak periods. This is reflected in congestion being raised as a key issue by the community.</p>	<p>hours), C-32 (crossing schedule), and C-105 (site lighting) secured via requirement 22 and 20 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>The environmental effects of the construction traffic have been assessed in Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-064] and Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006]. This assessment concluded that the Proposed Development would not generate any significant environmental effects on the A24, A272 or within Cowfold village centre, Storrington or Washington.</p>
8.17	<p>8.17 The number, size, timing, and routeing of construction vehicles (in particular, HGVs) is the most widespread concern of local communities expressed to HDC in relation to the Project. HDC is aware of the particularly strong feeling on this issue expressed by parishes at Storrington, Washington, and Cowfold and their local communities, and regard should be had to their concerns. The concerns also relate to the suitability of such vehicles on rural roads as well as 'A' roads, and general disturbance from increased level of activity.</p>	<p>Furthermore, the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [REP-1-010] includes details of required construction traffic routing for the Proposed Development. Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic will avoid travelling through Cowfold and Storrington where possible as detailed in Table 5-2 of the Outline CTMP [REP-1-010] and commitments C-157 and C-158 in the Commitment Register [REP-1-015]. The Outline CTMP [REP-1-014] is secured through Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>
8.18	<p>8.18 HDC shares the communities' concerns over the need for safe access to works and capacity of the local highway network. HDC considers it paramount that an extremely rigorous Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is implemented and enforced for the construction programme to ensure impacts of development traffic</p>	<p>The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [REP-1-010] details the control mechanisms and mitigation that will be employed during the construction phase to limit the impacts of construction traffic associated with the Proposed Development. Stage-specific CTMPs,</p>

Ref Local Impact Report comment

remain within the parameters of the transport assessment and accounts for other concerns. WSCC’s LIR will address these matters in greater detail, amongst all other technical highways and transport matters, reflective of their role as Local Highway Authority.

Summary Box

Positive	<p>iii) Outline Code of Construction Practice (COCP REV B) (PEPD-033) sets out how construction methods to be deployed to ensure drainage patterns are interrupted as little as possible and that, where possible, trenches will be backfilled with onsite arising, with material returned in the order they were extracted. Consequently, to the best of HDC’s understanding, impacts on agricultural activities should be minimised.</p> <p>ii) Washington Recreation Ground would remain open during construction. Therefore, the development complies with SSWNP Policy 16, which seeks protection of open access land and public open space.</p> <p>iii) Applicant has undertaken a range of engagement initiatives with key stakeholders in the skills and business sectors and proposed to continue these. The DCO provides for an Outline Skills and Employment Strategy</p>
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Applicant’s Response

which will need to be accordance with the **Outline CTMP [REP-1-010]**, will be submitted for the approval of the highways authority (West Sussex County Council) in consultation with Horsham District Council in accordance with Requirement 24 of the **Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]**.

Summary Box

Positive

The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council’s following comments:

- that the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033]** sets out how construction methods will be deployed such that impacts on agricultural services should be minimised;
- that the Proposed Development complies with SSWNP Policy 16;
- that the Applicant has undertaken a range of engagement initiatives with key stakeholders in the skills and business sectors and proposed to continue these and the DCO provides for an **Outline Skills and Employment Strategy [PEPD-038]** document, with a commitment to a Supply Chain Plan;
- that all site operative parking is to occur within the site, including deliveries;
- that the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010]** contains some necessary measures, such as operational restrictions and

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>document, with a commitment to a Supply Chain Plan. HDC is a consultee of the development of the OSES.</p> <p>iv) All site operative parking is to occur within the site, including deliveries.</p> <p>v) draft CoCP and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan REV B (PEPD-036a) contains some necessary measures, such as operational restrictions and procedures to ensure deliveries are managed into and out of the site.</p> <p>vi) Travel plan contains sufficient detail to assure HDC that appropriate initiatives will be undertaken to support sustainable travel.</p>	<p>procedures to ensure deliveries are managed into and out of the site; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the Outline Construction Workforce Travel Plan [APP-227] contains sufficient detail to assure HDC that appropriate initiatives will be undertaken to support sustainable travel.
Neutral	<p>iii) Job creation is likely to be neutral based on current estimates (low levels of supply chain expenditure are expected to be retained within Sussex)</p> <p>ii) A Sussex level estimate of job creation not assessed at the district level.</p> <p>iii) HDC defers to the expert opinion of WSCC as Local Highway Authority on whether the proposed visibility splay improvements and swept path diagrams, and proposed delivery numbers across the construction period, demonstrate the development area is accessible safely by way of temporary construction access and access routes</p>	<p><u>Neutral</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> please see response below reference 8.20 with respect to job creation, the Applicant has entered discussions with West Sussex County Council regarding junction design with a view of overcoming any areas of concern before the end of the Examination. <p><u>Negative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> please see below responses references 8.19 and 8.20 with respect to Community Benefits and the Outline Skills and Employment Strategy [PEPD-037]. please see responses below reference 8.20 with respect to controls and checks expected for the flows of traffic travelling through the area during the construction phase of a scale of project of this type.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Limited offset benefits of the Project during construction and lack of secured Community Benefit Fund; and in details of provisions and outputs of the Outline Skills and Employment Strategy (OSSES Rev b). ii) Whilst HDC is now listed as a consultee to the development of the Skills and Employment Strategy., the Outline Skills and Employment Strategy still provides very limited detail. iii) current CoCP lacks sufficient controls and checks expected for the flows of traffic travelling through the area during the construction phase of a scale of project of this type, with such consequential impact on a highway network already experiencing peak time queuing. 	
8.19	<p>Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments</p> <p>8.19 A Community Benefits Package is referred to in the Outline Skills and Employment Strategy (OSSES REV B) (PEPD-037). Whilst described as 'remaining separate' from the planning process, HDC strongly advocates its potential role as a consultee to the funding criteria of this Package to help ensure it is tailored to address negative effects within Horsham District identified by the Project, as a commitment and secured through the DCO.</p>	<p>Community benefits are not a legal or DCO requirement and are quite distinct from the consenting process, a point reiterated in the UK Government (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) response to the consultation on Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission Network Infrastructure (December 2023), which stated: "The proposals on community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure discussed within this document will remain separate to the planning process. It will not be a material consideration in planning decisions, and not secured through those decisions."</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>That said, Rampion 2 will be a permanent neighbour in the Sussex community and the Applicant intends to develop and implement a community benefits package of proposals. In the second half of 2024, the Applicant will therefore be consulting key stakeholders and local communities on how a community benefit package could best support Sussex communities. The final package may include a range of initiatives to benefit business, education and residential communities.</p>

8.20 8.20 Additionally, to secure appropriate mitigation and offset for negative effects, further refinement of certain requirements within the DCO is necessary, particularly in the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms needed to ensure controls and restrictions embedded in the documents are adhered to, and to that end, HDC expects: (See table below)

Issue	Recommended Action	Applicant's Response
1	<p>More robust evidence to how measures in OSES will realise positive employment effects at district level during the life of the Project</p>	<p>As part of the stage specific OSES, the Applicant undertakes full assessment to inform various actions and initiatives developing skills and employment opportunities within the district, detail be provided on the OSES, including linking to apprenticeships and local education institutes in</p>
		<p>The outline Skills & Employment Strategy (oSES) [APP-256] was intentionally high-level and the Applicant was not in a position to document concrete commitments without further consultation with key skills & employment stakeholder organisations in Sussex. The first tranche of consultation took place between July and October 2023, the results of which have fed into the second iteration of the oSES [PEPD-037], submitted to the Examining Authority (ExA) in January 2024.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>Horsham District, and opportunities for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to access the supply chain.</p>	<p>This latest version of the oSES [PEPD-037] includes seven additional key skills & employment stakeholder organisations, including Horsham District Council and the Institute of Technology Sussex. Following this series of consultation meetings and the examination itself, the Applicant will produce a further iteration of the Skills & Employment Strategy and ultimately produce the final SES which will outline key objectives, initiatives and activities, which will also include greater detail on timelines, monitoring and commitments. These are likely to include details regarding an apprenticeship scheme and engagement with educational institutions. The oSES [PEPD-037] is secured through Requirement 33 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Supporting existing local business is integral to the ultimate delivery of skills and employment objectives which will be set out in the final SES. The oSES [PEPD-037] already documents the intended industry leadership in this area in para 2.3.3, which sets out four related initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Encouraging and supporting growth and employment in local supply chain companies;2. Increasing visibility of local Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) within the employment market;3. Promoting training and employment opportunities to local residents;

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
2	More evidence that measures robust to compensate for socio-economic disruption to affected communities in the district during the life of the Project	Amend commitment C-35 so HDC is a consultee to the formation of the Community Benefits Package, including its tailored funding criteria, so the Community Benefits Package can be targeted to help compensate and offset adverse effects within the district that cannot be otherwise mitigated (particularly along the cable route and vicinity of substation).
3	Maximising efforts to avoid socio-economic disruption to affected communities in the	Following elements set out and are committed to in the DCO control documents, e.g., the CoCP REV B (PEPD-033) and Outline
		<p>4. Providing work experience, apprenticeships, traineeships/internships.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue engaging with local authorities and education institutions on further iterations of the oSES [PEPD-037] and the subsequent delivery of the strategy post consent. The final SES and delivery of the obligations within it will be discharged under Requirement 33 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Please refer to above response reference 8.19.</p> <p>The Applicant has sought to minimise effects on local communities during construction, using the mitigation measures identified by Horsham District Council.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
district during the construction phase	<p>Construction Traffic Management Plan REV B (PEPD-036a), but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •detailed Phasing Strategy of the project. • monitoring and management details, with penalties and mitigation set out for exceeding limits. •co-ordinated traffic flows limit, duration limits, time periods limits (e.g. limits on all vehicular traffic movements and measures to adhere to these limits; confirmation of the size of vehicles to access each part of the construction route network; restriction on movements between temporary compounds to outside the peak hours; requirement upon the Applicant to secure agreement on the number of vehicles that can access the temporary compounds during peak hours; provide for HGV timing restrictions to be implemented where access routes coincide with access to school routes and to account for variations associated 	<p>The provision of a programme of works to local planning authorities is secured by requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009].</p> <p>The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [REP1-010] includes measures to manage impacts of construction traffic associated with the onshore elements of the Proposed Development. This includes information on access, routing and traffic management, working hours and limits on timing of movements along with details of management and enforcement structure to be employed as part of stage-specific CTMPs. The likely significant transport effects associated with the construction phase of the Proposed Development have been assessed in Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-064], Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006] and Appendix 23.2: Traffic Generation Technical Note, Volume 4 of the ES [REP1-008]. These assessments concluded that the Proposed Development would generate only very limited significant effects on traffic and transport, limited to peak construction traffic periods. The Applicant therefore does not consider it necessary to apply overall construction traffic limits as part of the Outline CTMP [REP1-010]. However, it is noted that the Applicant is currently considering the addition of local specific construction traffic controls (such as in the vicinity of schools) following a similar request received by West Sussex County Council. Relevant updates will be</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
4	Avoidance of future disruption to affected	Existing commitments C-9 and C-19 to access for routine checking and maintenance will be via manhole covers to the buried joint
	<p>with the agricultural and tourism seasons;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •measures to ensure HGVs are marked in such a way that the public can associate them with Rampion 2 for monitoring and enforcement purposes. •pre and post construction surveys to ensure any damage to the highway is remediated. •review mechanisms should be set up to full range of impacts monitor and unforeseen consequences as the project develops, to review the adequacy of mitigation or compensation measures and adjust as necessary. 	<p>made to the Outline CTMP [REP1-010] to reflect this as appropriate.</p> <p>Furthermore the Delivery Management System (DMS) referenced within the Outline CTMP [REP1-010] will record and monitor all construction traffic movements associated with the proposed development. This will provide a basis for the enforcement of construction traffic movements and corrective measures should they be required. Further details of the requirements of the DMS will be included within stage-specific Construction Traffic Management Plans secured pursuant to Requirement 24(1)(a) of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p> <p>A commitment to the completion of pre and post construction highway condition surveys is provided in Section 8.4 of the Outline CTMP [REP1-010] and C-160 within Commitments Register [REP1-015] secured via Requirement 24 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p>
		<p>The use of trenchless crossing under the Washington Recreation Ground, The Triangle and Jockeys Meadow is secured through Appendix A Crossing Schedule of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] and</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>communities during operational phase.</p> <p>bays, should be extended to apply to the Local Green Spaces in the SWWNP namely; Washington Recreation Ground, The Triangle, and Jockey's meadow (Work No.9). In the unlikely event that cable repairs and/or replacement is required, this will be implemented via the existing joint bays and will not require new excavation.</p>	<p>Requirement 22 in the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2), meaning that there will not be any joint bays within the Local Green Spaces Identified, so any repair work would be initiated from east of the A283 or west of the A24.</p>

Terrestrial Ecology

9.1 Local Planning Policies

to

9.5

9.1 HDPF Policy 31 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity sets out the principles of maintaining and enhancing existing networks of green infrastructure, biodiversity, and woodland, along with introducing compensatory ecological mitigation measures where appropriate. Where felling of protected trees is necessary, replacement planting with a suitable species will be required.

9.2 Policy 31 also sets out that where development is anticipated to have a direct or indirect adverse impact on sites for biodiversity, development will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the reason for the development clearly outweighs the need to protect the value of the site; and that appropriate mitigation and compensation measures are proposed.

The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
9.3	<p>SSWNP Policy 15: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity supports development provided layout and landscape schemes have appropriate regard to a list of criteria, including retention of important landscape and natural features; hedgerow and tree replacement being of indigenous species; and achieving ecological connectivity with surrounding and existing biodiversity corridors.</p>	
9.4	<p>WGNP Policy 4 Green Infrastructure: Existing Trees, Hedgerows, Habitats and Wildlife supports development which uses traditional native species; promote landscape buffers to complement green infrastructure; conserve and enhance wildlife habitats where practicable, connect habitat and wildlife populations; and provide for biodiversity gain.</p>	
9.5	<p>WASP Policy 2: Protect and Enhance Biodiversity requires development to retain existing mature trees and hedges; provide bird and bat nesting boxes; protect Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats; and include hedgerows of native species for screening.</p>	
9.6 to 9.7	<p>Local Issues and Impacts</p> <p>9.6 Local communities have expressed concern to HDC on ecological impacts of the Project, and securing adequate mitigation for this purpose of minimising these impacts has been the subject of scrutiny. The Project is reliant on a package of avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures to address ecological impacts on the protection and</p>	<p>The Applicant has addressed local community concerns regarding terrestrial ecology in responses to their written representations (for example the response to CowfoldvRampion). The Applicant has undertaken a range of field surveys in the area, alongside a desk study. These are reported in the following documents:</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>enhancement of biodiversity and the protection of trees, and of designated European, national and local status sites.</p> <p>9.7 HDC's stated in its Relevant Representation (RR-148) that sufficient baseline survey efforts and proposed mitigation/compensation plans had been done to begin making an assessment, in accordance with good practice guidance. This comment did not refer to the assessment itself and does not discount that further survey and modifications would be likely to be required. Having reviewed the DCO documentation, the submission of a mostly complete set of data and survey results is welcomed. However, survey data is still lacking in the proposed areas of the construction compounds at Oakendene West and Washington.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 22.2: Terrestrial ecology desk study, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-180]; • Appendix 22.3: Extended Phase 1 habitat survey report, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-181]; • Appendix 22.4 : National Vegetation Classification survey report 2021-2023, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-182]; • Appendix 22.5: Hedgerow survey report, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-183]; • Appendix 22.6: Fisheries habitat survey report, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-184]; • Appendix 22.7 Great crested newt environmental DNA survey report 2021-2023, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-185]; • Appendix 22.8: Passive and active bat activity report, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-186]; • Appendix 22.9: Hazel dormouse report 2020-2022, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-187]; • Appendix 22.11: Badger, otter and water vole survey report, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-189]; • Appendix 22.12: Reptile survey, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-190]; • Appendix 22.13: Breeding bird survey, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-191]; and • Appendix 22.16: Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-194]. <p>There is also a range of mitigation measures in place to minimise, mitigate and compensate for effects that are</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
9.8	<p>Oakendene West Construction compound</p> <p>9.8 The Oakendene West construction compound is proposed within an area ecologically assessed as having very high biodiversity potential within the Wilder Horsham District Nature Recovery Network and is associated with a high risk of surface water flooding from the Cowfold Stream to the immediate West of the red-line boundary (Figure 26.2.5e in Appendix 26.2 Flood Risk Screening Assessment APP-216). Additionally, the compound also borders a hedgerow running along the western edge, a potentially important hedgerow running along the eastern edge (H513 on Figure 22.5.4q of Appendix 22.5 Hedgerow Survey Report APP-183), and traditional orchards and lowland deciduous woodland (priority habitats identified on MAGIC, listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, with some pockets listed as ancient woodland in the Natural England ancient woodland inventory) are located nearby to the site, to the north-east, south and south-east of the site.</p>	<p>detailed in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232]. Further compensation and biodiversity net gain is also secured through Requirement 14 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] and detailed in Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain Information, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-193].</p> <p>The Applicant agrees with the summary provided regarding habitats, and notes that there is no intention to remove the hedgerows present at the Oakendene West compound (see vegetation retention plan in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033], secured via Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>With regard to flood risk, the Applicant notes that the Oakendene West compound borders the Cowfold Stream which runs southwards along the western boundary as shown in Figure 26.2.5e of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement [APP-216]. The Applicant acknowledges that an area of high risk of surface water flooding associated with the Cowfold Stream is located to the west. However, it is worth clarifying that the compound itself is situated entirely in Flood Zone 1, and the Environment Agency Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) mapping indicates that the vast majority of the site is at 'Very Low' (< 0.1% annual exceedance probability (AEP)) surface water flood</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
9.9	<p>9.9 The linear features of the Cowfold Stream and hedgerow have the potential to act as commuting and foraging habitat for bats and otter, and the hedgerows are suitable foraging and refuge habitat for great crested newt (and other amphibian species), common reptiles, and hazel dormouse (all known to be within the local area, see Chapter 22 Terrestrial Ecology APP-063). However, bat activity surveys, hazel dormouse surveys and reptile surveys were not conducted within the red line boundary of the Oakendene West Construction compound or on any immediately adjacent habitats, and the scoping out of this area for further survey for these species is not clear.</p>	<p>risk. Flood risk associated with the Cowfold Stream to the Oakendene West compound is therefore deemed to be low.</p> <p>As noted in reference 9.8 none of the linear habitats will be directly lost to the Oakendene West compound, and therefore there will not be direct loss of habitats that dormouse, bats or reptiles (edge habitats). Sufficient distance around the compound will be maintained to ensure root protection areas (see commitment C-282 of the Commitments Register [REP1-015] secured via Requirement 22 (5) (a) of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009]) and indirect effects can be managed effectively for both habitats and species.</p> <p>The following commitments will be in place to manage potential effects – C-76, C-104, C-105, C-106, C-107, C-135, C-196, C-199, C-203, C-207, C-208, C-209, C-211, C-214, C-215 and C-220. These embedded environmental measures are secured through Requirements 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] via Requirement 22, Schedule 11, Part 2, Condition 14 and Schedule 12, Part 2, Condition 14 of the Draft DCO [PEPD-009].</p>
9.10	<p>9.10 According to the survey results along the AT09 manual transect (version 1), there was high bat activity around the Taintfield Wood area, including Myotis species, which is very close and has commuting habitat linking to the proposed site. Furthermore, according to the habitat suitability index (HSI) assessment, waterbody ID's 199 and 195 have excellent</p>	<p>Please note that Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [APP-063] outlines the Applicant's commitment to apply for a place on the District Level Licence scheme for great crested newts for the Proposed Development. This application will be on the basis that no breeding ponds will</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>suitability to support great crested newt (see Figure 22.7.5n of Appendix 22.7 Great Crested Newt Environmental DNA Survey Report 2021-2023 APP-185). However, no eDNA surveys were carried out on these waterbodies. Waterbody 195 is approximately 200m from the red line boundary, with suitable connecting habitat for commuting. Breeding bird surveys found chaffinch using the eastern boundary of the site (see Figure 22.13.4zj of Appendix 22.13 Breeding Bird Survey APP-191) and evidence of otter spraint was found at the nearby fishing pond (see Figure 22.11.7 of Appendix 22.11 Badger, otter and water vole survey report APP-190).</p>	<p>be lost but that suitable terrestrial habitat will be lost. The survey results to date show the areas where great crested newts occur and persist in a metapopulation, whilst commitment C-214 (see the Commitments Register [REP1-015]) ensures further survey prior to construction. Any other protected species licence required will be determined during post-construction surveys as described in commitments C-203, C-208, C-209, C-211, C-214 and C-215 (see Commitments Register [REP1-015] secured via Requirement 22 (5) (g) of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]).</p>
9.11	<p>Washington Construction Compound</p> <p>9.11 The proposed site for the Washington Construction Compound is located within the Central Downs Arun to Adur Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA), and in areas identified as having very high biodiversity potential within the Wilder Horsham District Nature Recovery Network. Bordering the east of the red line boundary of the Washington Construction Compound is lowland deciduous woodland (priority habitat, as identified on MAGIC), and the periphery of the site comprises hedgerow, both of which have potential to support protected species, including bats. However, bat activity surveys were not conducted within the red line boundary or on immediately adjacent habitats, and the reason for this is not clear.</p>	<p>Please see references 9.9 and 9.10 as they equally apply to the Washington Compound.</p>
9.12	<p>9.12 Breeding bird surveys found wren, robin, song thrush, great tit, and blackbird utilising the hedgerows of the site (see Figure 22.13.4t of Appendix 22.13 APP-191). Waterbody IDs 43</p>	<p>Please see references 9.9 and 9.10 as they equally apply to the Washington Compound.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>and 47 have been classified as having excellent suitability for great crested newt, as per the results of the HSI assessment (see Figure 22.7.5h of Appendix 22.7 APP-185), however were not surveyed further for eDNA. The waterbodies are approximately 135m away from the red line boundary, with there being particularly good commuting habitat between waterbody 47 and the compound site.</p>	
9.13	<p>9.13 The proposed areas for the Oakendene West and Washington construction compounds are 5ha and 3.91ha, respectively (Table 18-24 in Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact APP-059) and are estimated to be operational for up to 3.5 years (Para 18.4.7 of Chapter 18), therefore having a greater temporal impact than that of the cable route. HDC does not oppose the location of the temporary construction compound sites, however, these sites border ecologically sensitive and important habitats and have potential to support protected species., It is therefore requested that the proposed layout and works of the construction compounds are provided in advance of the works commencing, and the layout design is informed by updated ecology surveys, reduced in size where possible and away from these habitats to further mitigate any adverse impacts of chemical, dust, noise, and light pollution on biodiversity. A distance greater than 10m from watercourses as per Commitment 8 should be implemented. It is also requested that an Ecological Clerk of Works is present during vegetation and soil stripping and approved by HDC.</p>	<p>Detailed design of the temporary construction compounds will be undertaken considering constraints identified (including ecological constraints identified by future surveys – see reference 9.10). The results will be described in a stage specific Code of Construction Practice that is secured under Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]. This would need to be agreed by Horsham District Council in consultation with the Environment Agency, statutory nature conservation body (Natural England), the highway authority and lead local flood authority. Therefore, the Applicant is confident that the necessary safeguards are in place to ensure the temporary construction compounds can be delivered and operated whilst minimising the level of effect on adjacent areas and the flora and fauna present within them.</p>
9.14 to	The Wider Project	With regards water neutrality please see reference 9.21 .

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
9.15	<p>9.14 Owing to the terrestrial ecology on or within proximity to the Project, the key ecological impacts relate to construction activities and once operational, these being loss of integrity of the Arun Valley Sites by way of not demonstrating the Project is water neutral; risk to protected species such as hazel dormouse and commuting/foraging bats from habitat fragmentation and disturbance from noise, vibration and lighting, and lack of biodiversity net gain and habitat enhancement secured within the district.</p> <p>9.15 This is particularly relevant at the Oakendene substation site.</p>	<p>With regard fragmentation for bats: In most instances the gaps created in hedgerows, tree lines and woodland will be six metres (m) or less in width (e.g. a 14m notched hedgerow is up to four 2m wide trenches for the cables and one 6m gap created for the haul road with sections of hedgerow in between them). The Joint Nature Conservation Committee's (JNCC) '<i>Habitat management for bats: a guide for land managers, land owners and their advisors</i>' (JNCC, 2001) outlines that '<i>even gaps as small as 10m may prevent bats using hedgerows and tree lines</i>'. Similarly, the Bat Conservation Trust (2012) in their guidance '<i>Landscape and urban design for bats and biodiversity</i>' recommend avoiding the opening of gaps greater than 10m in extent. Pinaud et al. (2017) modelled landscape connectivity for greater horseshoe bats and recommend that gaps are kept to less than 38m.</p> <p>Therefore, in the majority of instances the gaps created in linear habitat are considered likely to be crossed by bats (just as existing gappy hedgerows are used and farm tracks are crossed). However, to reduce the potential effect during the construction phase, a new commitment has been included in the Commitments Register [REP1-015]. The commitment C-291 states '<i>Where hedgerow, tree lines or belts of scrub are temporarily lost to facilitate the installation of cable ducts, suitable material (such as straw bales, dead hedging, willow hurdles etc.) will be placed in the gaps overnight to facilitate bat movement along linear corridors until such time as reinstatement begins.</i>' secured through the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033]</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>(to be updated at Deadline 3) via Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>It is acknowledged that where reinstated habitats are covering lengths in excess of 10m the level of bat activity may reduce. However, the landscape being traversed and the number of similar features being retained in all locations (see the Vegetation Retention Plans in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033]) there will always remain opportunities for bats to move across the landscape.</p> <p>With regards hazel dormouse, the Applicant notes that commitment C-232 (see Commitment Register [REP1-015]) ensures further survey will be undertaken pre-construction on all suitable habitat where detailed design highlights losses to ensure legal compliance and is secured through the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033], Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]. It is already acknowledged within both Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [APP-063] and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] that a European Protected Species licence will likely be required at the Oakendene substation site. Allowances in the indicative design of habitats has been made within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] (secured via Requirement 12 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2)</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
9.16 to 9.17	<p>9.16 No red listed or UK BAP bird species were identified on the Oakendene substation site during the breeding bird surveys (Appendix 22.13 APP-191), however nightingale (red- listed), song thrush, dunnock (both UK BAP) and skylark (red-listed and UK BAP) were identified along the cable route within the local area (Cowfold). Legally protected species such as bats, breeding birds, hazel dormouse, and common reptiles were identified as present on site. As a result of the protected species surveys done on the site, including (but not limited to) bats and hazel dormice, the loss of hedgerow habitat is being compensated for onsite, with temporary loss of other hedgerows are to be reinstated, either via removal, stored, and returned, or replacement planting to the same condition, and connectivity between the north and the south of the site being retained and strengthened with additional planting, however HDC is of the view that more is needed as explained below.</p> <p>9.17 It is positive to see that the retained hedgerows are to be strengthened, and connectivity between the north and south enhanced with additional advance planting of scrub, comprising favourable flora species for hazel dormouse (Figure 1, Outline LEMP APP- 232). However, there currently remains a gap to the south-west of the site, where presumably access for machinery to the adjacent field was previously necessary. Given that the remaining wet woodland planting on site is sub-optimal habitat for hazel dormouse, HDC request that the connectivity is fully restored with further scrub planting in the gap identified to ensure</p>	<p>for this species to maintain connectivity and minimise potential disturbance.</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Plan [APP-232] (secured via Requirement 12 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2) will be updated for Deadline 3. The indicative landscape plan within it will be revisited in light of the comments raised by Horsham District Council.</p> <p>It is noted that National Grid operate a variety of substations across England and Wales. Within planning applications for these substations, it is frequently demonstrated that species including dormouse (for example at Bramley substation in Hampshire), bats (roosting within buildings in Canterbury West Substation in Kent) and breeding birds (for example peregrine nesting on the substation building at Dungeness in Kent) occur in very close proximity to operational substations. Therefore, the Applicant is confident that the potential for an operational substation to dissuade activity by these species once in operation is negligible.</p> <p>It is considered by the Applicant, that 9.17 appears to be drawing conclusions relating to impacts upon non-human taxa off the outcomes of the initial estimation of a BS4142:2014 +A1:2019 assessment of commercial and industrial noise. There are a number of reasons why this interpretation is incorrect:</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>mitigation is robust. Furthermore, with proposed mitigation, the difference in noise compared to background levels during the operational phase at the Oakendene substation at night-time (23:00 – 07:00) are +4 dB at two receptor sites, and +5 dB at one receptor site (Table 21-39. Chapter 21 APP-062). Given that the habitat creation on-site is proposed mitigation for hazel dormouse, commuting/foraging bats, and breeding birds, noise impacts on these species within the vicinity of the on-site habitats should be considered. Bat and dormice foraging hours and the dawn chorus during the spring and summer months, with male nightingales singing during day and night from April to early June to defend their territories, overlap with the increase in noise during night-time hours. Therefore, any adverse noise impacts on these species' behaviours may affect the viability of the mitigation proposals and further measures may be required.</p>	<p>Principally, BS4142 is predicated upon "A-weighted" sound levels that are a correction of the acoustic frequency spectrum to approximate sound levels to humans' acoustic perception, centred around the 1kHz centreband.</p> <p>The standard applies corrections to assessed sound levels to penalise sound that humans, specifically, would find annoying due to tonality (amongst other characteristics that are not applicable to the substation noise). The assessment applies an arithmetic subtraction of the underlying LA90 (a statistical determination of the entire dataset for a period to present the level exceeded 90% of the time, termed the background sound level, but not to be confused with the "ambient sound level" which is more representative of the acoustic environment).</p> <p>Therefore the +4 and +5 dB assessment levels are the outcomes of a construct that is an empirically derived from human studies (and only represents the initial estimate of impact, as the assessment found no significance once the assessment was carried through to its conclusion).</p> <p>Although A-weighted levels are not appropriate to assess non-human species response to noise, if it were to be used as a general proxy for determination of an impact upon on the taxa mentioned, a use of the ambient noise with and without the substation would be the least incorrect approach.</p>

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9.18	HDD Operations 9.18 HDD operations are being considered for use at several locations within the district and whilst the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) in principle, as an alternative to open-cut trenches is supported, if this method is not viable, the application documents are not clear on what other options remain. Furthermore, information relating to mitigation measures within the Outline Construction Method Statement are limited, and therefore the pollution risk on ecologically sensitive receptors is difficult to ascertain.	<p>Taking that approach Table 21-39 within Chapter 21: Noise and vibration: Volume 2 of the ES [PEPD-018] has maximum increases of lower than 0.5dB, which are negligible.</p> <p>Trenchless crossing (such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is a mitigation that has been used routinely for linear projects (electrical transmission cables and pipelines (e.g., gas, oil and water) for both large infrastructure and smaller scale projects. Trenchless crossing has been used frequently to cross a range of sensitive ecological features including designated sites, ancient woodland, rivers and other priority habitats and make landfall for both offshore wind farm transmission cables and electrical interconnectors. For example, an HDD crossing of 550m through chalk substrate, with a sizeable change in elevation (80 to 90m difference) was successfully completed at Dunstable Downs on the Kensworth to Rugby Pipeline project for CEMEX in 2008 (including crossing part of Dunstable and Whipsnade Downs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)). It is also notable that HDD within chalk substrate was carried out successfully on the route of the transmission cable for the Rampion 1 Offshore Wind Farm, as was an HDD to make landfall. The approach to minimising and effectively managing the risks of trenchless crossings is outlined in the Outline construction method statement [APP-255] and the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] secured via Requirement 22 and 23 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] respectively. Further,</p>

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9.19	<p>Appropriate Assessments</p> <p>9.19 Likely significant effects on the integrity of the habitats sites listed below as a result of the development cannot be excluded, and in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations) an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required:</p>	<p>consideration of the risk is provided in Section 22.9 of Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [APP-063].</p> <p>Commitment C-5 (Commitments Register [APP-254] (provided at Deadline 1 submission) has been updated at the Deadline 1 submission to clarify that Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) or other trenchless technology will be deployed in accordance with Appendix A: Crossing Schedule of the Outline of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] secured via Required 22 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]. The Applicant will not switch to open-cut trenching at these locations. The appropriate realistic Worst-Case Scenario has been assessed in the ES. Note, that in the unlikely event that another trenchless technology is deployed at a specific crossing, this would require demonstration that there are no materially new or materially different environmental effects. Any change will need to be approved by the relevant planning authority through amendment to the stage specific Code of Construction Practice and Crossing Schedule.</p> <p>The Mens Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 12km area (defined by the Sussex SAC Bat Protocol) falls outside any area where the Proposed Development would result in losses of typical barbastelle bat (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>) habitat (such as hedgerows, scrub and woodland edge). Lighting at any trenchless crossing (such as horizontal directional drill (HDD)) compound will be temporary and</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the 12km conservation zone defined around The Mens and Ebernone Common Special Area of Conservation (SACs), identified as being in use by Barbastelle bats where minimisation of disturbance and maintenance of habitat connectivity (hedgerows) is important; and the Sussex North Water Supply Zone, in relation to which an existing adverse effect on the Arun Valley SAC, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site was identified by Natural England in 2021 due to water abstraction. 	<p>highly localised (I.e. within a 50 x 70m area). Therefore, it would seem reasonable to conclude that barbastelle could navigate around one of these areas, especially given that the lighting would be located in open habitat areas not favoured by this species. During the construction phase, the lighting design will also be controlled (see commitment C-105 in the Commitments Register [REP1-015]) to ensure it is wildlife friendly. Commitment C-105 is secured in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] which is secured through the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>Noting that barbastelle cross roads or navigate other areas disturbed by human activity was simply used to demonstrate that they have some flexibility to operate in environments where artificial light is used. It should be noted that the vast majority of the onshore works will require no temporary or permanent lighting.</p> <p>A response on water neutrality is outlined in reference 9.21 with respect to the Proposed Development's water neutrality strategy. The strategy will ensure that water neutrality is achieved for both the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, and potential adverse effects on the Arun Valley SAC, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site due to increased abstraction in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone avoided.</p>

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9.20	<p>Arun Valley Sites and Water Neutrality</p> <p>9.20 Designation of the Arun Valley Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Site relates to aspects of the underlying wetland habitat. Conservation objectives seek to maintain or restore integrity, including that of qualifying features.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
9.21	<p>9.21 In its 2021 Position Statement Natural England set out that it cannot be concluded with certainty that existing abstraction within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone, which draws its water supply from groundwater abstraction at Hardham, is not having an adverse impact on the integrity of the Arun Valley sites, and advises that projects will be required to demonstrate, with sufficient certainty, that they will not contribute to this existing adverse impact. If water demand cannot be met without mains supply, a method endorsed by Natural England to achieving this is to demonstrate and robustly evidence 'water neutrality', defined as 'the use of water in the supply area before the development is the same or lower after the development is in place'. Having reviewed the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA, APP-038), HDC welcomes efforts to demonstrate water neutrality, however there is limited detail on how this will be achieved. HDC notes Natural England advice that it would be appropriate to conduct a screening exercise, to determine whether increased water use during the construction phase is likely to have a significant effect.</p>	<p>The Applicant presents a dedicated commitment in relation to water neutrality during the operation and maintenance of the onshore substation within Section 26.7 of Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-067] (paragraphs 26.7.10 to 26.7.12). This commitment and the supporting embedded mitigation measure (commitment C-260 of the Commitments Register [REP1-015]) are secured by Requirement 8 (2) in the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] so that further work can be progressed once the detailed design of the onshore substation has been developed. This requires that the details to be submitted with respect to the onshore substation (which must be approved prior to the commencement of works there) include water harvesting and recycling measures or any other measures necessary to ensure operational water neutrality.</p> <p>Water required during the operation and maintenance of the unmanned onshore substation will be limited to supply of basic welfare facilities (toilet, faucet and shower for irregular use), with the Applicant currently intending to source potable water (e.g. via water dispensers) and water</p>

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		<p>for fire suppression systems (e.g. via water tanks) from outside of the Sussex North Water Zone. Quantification (based on a worst case) of the very small use of water, alongside details of the possible routes to mitigation, will provide the type of information that proved satisfactory for the Planning Inspectors to settle discussions of water neutrality in the recent Storrington appeal APP/Z3825/W/22/3308455 (The Planning Inspectorate, 2023).</p> <p>One possible mitigation route is the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS) endorsed by Natural England. This is currently in development (with a dedicated Horsham District Council (HDC) local authority delegate) to help improve the efficiency of appliances / devices elsewhere in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone and reduce regional water use. The idea behind the scheme is to enable developers to purchase credits to offset any water consumed at their proposed developments, and as critical infrastructure with very limited use of 'in-zone' water the Proposed Development is well-suited to accessing SNOWS. As noted in paragraph 26.7.10 of Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-067], in the unlikely event of the strategic scheme not being available on time then other options could include a private scheme and / or not drawing water from a mains source (through off-site water imports / exports sourced from outside the Sussex North Water Supply Zone).</p>

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		<p>The above discussion relates to ensuring water neutrality with respect to the operation and maintenance of the onshore substation. In terms of water neutrality during the construction phase of the wider Proposed Development, water for construction usage in the Sussex North Water Zone will not be taken from the mains and it will instead be imported from outside of the Zone via tankers to main compounds (for their welfare facilities systems and wheel washing) and Trenchless Crossing compounds (for welfare facilities, use in horizontal directional drilling (HDD) drilling fluids, batching of cement bound sand or concrete, wheel washing and dust suppression). This commitment is secured through Requirement 22 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009], and on this basis, construction use was not considered and effectively screened out of the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment [APP-038]. A new environmental measure (C-290) will be added to the Commitments Register [REP1-015] to reinforce this commitment to water neutrality during the construction phase.</p> <p>In this way, water neutrality will be achieved for both the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, and potential adverse effects on the Arun Valley Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site due to increased abstraction in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone avoided.</p> <p>HDC's later suggestion (reference 9.23) that construction and / or operational water use in the Sussex North Water</p>

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9.22	<p>9.22 Regarding operational phase water use (noting the substation is not a permanently staffed, i.e., welfare facilities used only during periods of maintenance or repair, and sprinklers only in emergency), HDC acknowledges this has been screened in for consideration at Stage Two (Appropriate Assessment) and mitigation proposed to rule out adverse effects to the Arun Valley Sites. Water efficient fittings and grey water recycling is proposed, with a financial contribution (based on predicted water usage) to the strategic offsetting scheme being formulated by HDC, WSCC and SDNPA (following endorsement by Natural England). If this strategic solution is not available at the time, then bespoke measures would be put in place, including further water re-use on-site (as per commitment C-260) via water harvesting and recycling and other measures (such as alternative supply of water via tanker) (Document Reference 6.2.26 APP-067).</p>	<p>Zone could potentially be 'screened-out' altogether implies that part or all of the water use within the Zone could instead be potentially permitted to be sourced from the mains. The Applicant is not reliant on this mitigation but welcomes further discussions with HDC.</p> <p>See reference 9.21 with respect to the Proposed Development's water neutrality strategy. The strategy aligns well with Horsham District Council's (HDC's) comment.</p> <p>HDC's later suggestion (reference 9.23) that construction and / or operational water use in the Sussex North Water Zone could potentially be 'screened-out' altogether implies that part or all of the water use within the Zone could instead be potentially permitted to be sourced from the mains. The Applicant is not reliant on this mitigation but welcomes further discussions with HDC.</p>
9.23	<p>9.23 HDC advice is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tankering water is unenforceable (it cannot be practically required that a tanker arrives, with a prescribed quantity of water) and at odds with FAQs agreed by Natural England and HDC which have been applied consistency across other 	<p>See reference 9.21 with respect to the Proposed Development's water neutrality strategy. The strategy ensures that water neutrality will be achieved for both the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, and potential adverse effects on the Arun Valley Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection</p>

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	<p>projects, including many housing schemes of similar build out and completion timescales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDC has confidence the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS) will be in place by the time of commissioning of the substation. SNOWS will include an element of capacity set aside for infrastructure, and as critical infrastructure will be a high priority. However, as the extent of the water needed from this Project is not yet known, it is questioned whether relying on a strategic mitigation solution not yet secured and operational, would meet the levels of certainty required at Appropriate Assessment tage. This is currently the case for other local planning applications, which cannot benefit from reliance on the scheme as mitigation at Appropriate Assessment. HDC needs the Applicant to set out what mains water use they will roughly use for construction and operational works and how long this will go on for. HDC is mindful construction use on other development is screened out as HDC considers it falls within the baseline construction activity that previously took place in the district pre-position statement. It is an argument could extent to the Project also, depending on how much water the Applicant believes will be needed and what for (i.e. will any be needed in the engineering aspect or is it mainly staff welfare facilities). It is a matter HDC will likely screen out but the evidence of rough quantum and timescale is needed to do this The operational water use appears to be 	<p>Area and Ramsar site due to increased abstraction in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone avoided.</p> <p>Tankering of water for construction activities in the Sussex North Water Zone is currently part of the Applicant's strategy and is considered appropriate but piping in of 'out-of-zone' water is another mitigation route.</p> <p>As critical infrastructure with very limited use of 'in-zone' water the Proposed Development is well-suited to accessing the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS). However, as noted in paragraph 26.7.10 of Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-067], in the unlikely event of the strategic scheme not being available then other options for operational water could include a private scheme and / or not drawing water from a mains source (through off-site water imports / exports sourced from outside the Sussex North Water Supply Zone).</p> <p>In terms of water neutrality during the construction phase of the wider Proposed Development, water for construction usage in the Sussex North Water Zone will not be taken from the mains and it will instead be imported from outside of the Zone. This commitment is secured through Requirement 22 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009], and on this basis, construction use was not considered and effectively screened out of the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment [APP-038]. A new environmental measure (C-290) will be added to the</p>

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9.24	<p>9.24 These are reasons why the estimated water use should be calculated and submitted, to reduce risk of over-reliance on a strategic mitigation scheme not yet secured and operational.</p>	<p>Commitments Register [REP1-015] to reinforce this commitment to water neutrality during the construction phase.</p> <p>Horsham District Council's (HDC's) suggestion that construction and / or operational water use in the Sussex North Water Zone could potentially be 'screened-out' altogether implies that part or all of the water use within the Zone could instead be potentially permitted to be sourced from the mains. The operational water use for staff welfare facilities is confirmed in point 9.21 above. The Applicant is not reliant on this mitigation but welcomes further discussions with HDC.</p> <p>See reference 9.21 with respect to the Proposed Development's water neutrality strategy. For the purpose of securing the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS) mitigation, the need to quantify the onshore substation operational water use is recognised, and the Applicant will consider submitting the necessary information. In the unlikely event of the strategic scheme not being available to the Applicant then other options for operational water could include a private scheme and / or not drawing water from a mains source (through off-site water imports / exports sourced from outside the Sussex North Water Supply Zone).</p> <p>Horsham District Council's (HDC's) earlier suggestion (reference 9.23) that construction and / or operational water use in the Sussex North Water Zone could potentially</p>

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9.25	<p>9.25 Given that sufficient uncertainty remains, and use of the commitment currently presented in the DCO documentation cannot, as the DCO is currently evidenced, resolve the matter, it cannot be concluded that likely significant adverse effects on the integrity of the Arun sites would be mitigated, from over abstraction of groundwater from within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone. Therefore, there is conflict with policy 31 of the HDPF.</p>	<p>be 'screened-out' altogether implies that part or all of the water use within the Zone could instead be potentially permitted to be sourced from the mains. The Applicant is not reliant on this mitigation but welcomes further discussions with HDC.</p> <p>See reference 9.21 with respect to the Applicant's water neutrality strategy. The Applicant considers the strategy ensures that water neutrality will be achieved for both the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, and potential adverse effects on the Arun Valley Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site due to increased abstraction in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone avoided.</p> <p>Horsham District Council's (HDC's) earlier suggestion (reference 9.23) that construction and / or operational water use in the Sussex North Water Zone could potentially be 'screened-out' altogether implies that part or all of the water use within the Zone could instead be potentially permitted to be sourced from the mains. The Applicant is not reliant on this mitigation but welcomes further discussions with HDC.</p>
9.26	<p>Compensation and Environmental Enhancement (BNG).</p> <p>9.26 HDC is supportive of achieving Biodiversity Net Gain for the Project (APP-193) and this is a policy requirement of local planning policy. For the project to deliver, as reported in Chapter 22 of the ES, terrestrial biodiversity net gain of at least 10% to</p>	<p>Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain Information, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement [APP-193] (in particular Section 5.3) demonstrates how suitable biodiversity units would be identified and the priorities for delivery. This includes prioritising opportunities that are described in Local Nature recovery Strategies. The</p>

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	<p>offset land cover change (habitat loss) and fragmentation (reduction of connectivity), there is a great opportunity to feed into the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for West Sussex (to be published by March 2025), but also to link environmental enhancements proposed by the project with the location of areas with potential for enhancing biodiversity identified in the HDC's Green Infrastructure Strategy (2024) and Wilder Horsham District Strategy. HDC welcomes engagement with the Applicant to secure these outcomes but whilst the project in its entirety would deliver biodiversity net gain, this has not been specifically demonstrated at the district level (and the proposals to pay HDC for compensation units direct to HDC, for delivery in the district and details to achieve this (see HDC PAD 16).</p>	<p>Applicant will actively engage with Horsham District Council and others when seeking to source biodiversity units to identify the best strategic opportunities.</p>
9.27	<p>9.27 The distinction between compensation and biodiversity net gain, in relation to the Oakendene substation habitat creation plans, and the scale of off-site biodiversity net gain needed to meet the 10% net gain commitment, is not understood. For compensation that may need to be delivered off-site, as stated within the response to HDC PAD 16 (Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground PEPD-039), it is important to note that this can only contribute up to no net loss (0%), and at least 10% should be delivered through other activities for delivering biodiversity net gain.</p>	<p>The mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) system includes an estimation of the value of all biodiversity units including those retained, those enhanced and those created. Where the shortfall to reach at least 10% BNG cannot be met on-site then provision off-site is the next option. This off-site provision can include just biodiversity net gain (i.e. 10% of the value of the habitat at baseline) but may also include compensation (i.e. if the short-fall means that a position of no net loss has been reached on-site).</p> <p>Table 4-5 of Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain Information, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement [APP-193] shows the net biodiversity unit change between pre- and post-construction. This represents the amount of additional units that would need to be purchased (or otherwise delivered) to meet no net loss (i.e. to compensate),</p>

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9.28	<p>9.28 The feasibility of creating the proposed wet woodland habitat and the integration with attenuation basins at the Oakendene substation will need to be included within the forthcoming detailed biodiversity net gain proposal (HD PAD 17 PEPD-039). The site's biophysical conditions, such as soil type and nutrient level, hydrology, levels of shade and exposure, and the tolerances of the proposed species mix to the site conditions and likelihood of establishment and long-term survival should be provided. Moreover, the attenuation basin to the North of the site on Figure 1 of the Outline LEMP is immediately adjacent to the retained hedgerow that runs along Kent Street. As this is likely located within the assumed root protection area (RPA) of 15m, and to ensure no adverse impacts to the tree species within this hedgerow as a result of groundworks and changes to water storage levels, we advise that this basin be redesigned to be located outside of the RPA.</p>	<p>with the column showing the unit shortfall representing the number of units that would need to be purchased (or otherwise delivered) to meet a 10% net gain.</p> <p>The wet woodland shown on the Indicative Landscape Plan (Figure 1 of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232]) lies within the attenuation basins that form part of the drainage design and the opportunity has been taken to use these to create a wooded habitat, as opposed to grassed basin. This has been carried out as it provides additional screening of the onshore substation, connectivity for bats and dormice and provides habitat for nightingale (especially around woodland edges or the scrubby interior), great crested newt and grass snake. Planting plans will be developed in line with a detailed design of the onshore substation, including predictions of the level of inflow the detention basins may expect year to year which are secured through the provision of stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans via Requirement 12 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>As set out in paragraphs 2.4.10 to 2.4.13 of the Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223] (secured via Requirement 17 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2), there is significant flexibility in how the final design of the onshore substation could be delivered. Therefore, there is deemed to be sufficient flexibility within the current Outline</p>

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9.29	<p>9.29 It is welcomed that there will be a progressive reinstatement of habitats, and 70% of the deficit will be secured prior to commencement of construction (Para 5.2.1 of Appendix 22.15 APP-193). As noted in Para 3.1.15 of the Outline LEMP, further details regarding the species mixes, management and monitoring of habitats for biodiversity net gain, and habitat reinstatement, including contingency plans in case they fail, are forthcoming in stage specific LEMPs. However, these details underpin the success of the mitigation, compensation and habitat creation plans and are therefore required in full to make a thorough assessment ideally, prior to conclusion of the DCO examination.</p>	<p>Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223] such that it can be revised and adapted at the detailed drainage design phase to account for biophysical conditions at the site and inform on the final design on the wet woodland habitat. Similarly, the final design and placement of the northeast basin can be refined and adapted to account for the RPA as necessary.</p> <p>As stated in paragraph 6.5.6 of the Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216], final design and sizing of drainage mitigation measures will be determined at the detailed drainage design stage in liaison with West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) (as Lead Local Flood Authority, LLFA). The final Operational Drainage Plan must be approved prior to the works to construct the onshore substation in accordance with Requirement 17 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>Requirements 12, 13 and 14 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] ensure that the development of all reinstated and newly created or enhanced habitats will be agreed with Horsham District Council in consultation with the statutory nature conservation body (Natural England). These habitats will be designed to reflect the detailed design of the works proposed and any future identified constraints (e.g. trees supporting bat roosts, watercourses supporting water vole etc.).</p>

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<p>9.30 to 9.31</p>	<p>Wilder Horsham District</p> <p>9.30 HDC is in ongoing exploration with the Applicant to how compensation and biodiversity net gain measures can be secured at district level. HDC is of the view that there is potential to align compensation and gain to secured funding for the Wilder Horsham District (details provided at Appendix A) through a legal agreement accompanying the DCO.</p> <p>9.31 There are three landowners along the cable route that the Wilder Horsham team have had contact with where potential biodiversity projects have been identified. Two of these would also result in improvements to the river e.g., re-meandering and removal of a sluice gate, as well as wetland creation. For example, river meandering and removal of a sluice gate will provide watercourse units. Looking at the Applicant's submitted BNG report (table 4-5 APP-193), it is only envisaged needing to offset 1 'river' unit - this could be used here, and the Applicant have said they are looking for 'other rivers and streams' habitat to deliver this.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes and notes the comment regarding Wilder Horsham District. Further discussions with Horsham District Council are welcomed.</p>
9.32	<p>9.32 The Council strongly advocates delivery of BNG within our district and invites contribution (as compensation) towards Wilder Horsham District, to deliver on these schemes. To that end HDC has also shared its BNG 'Green Call for Sites' (Temple Jan 2023)¹ with the application. This forms part of the evidence base to the Council's Local Plan Review, and includes the findings of biodiversity Net Gain Thresholds, Site Assessment Study. Several landowner sites are aligned with the cable route and are also promoted via Wilder Horsham District.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes and notes the comment. Further discussions with HDC are welcomed.</p> <p>Summary box</p> <p>The applicant welcomes Horsham District Council's positive response to the commitment for BNG, replating with native species, trenchless crossing techniques for sensitive features, Commitment C-115 and provision of stage</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
Summary Box		
Positive	<p>i) Commitment to deliver biodiversity gain and enhancements either on or off the site, with focus on habitat creation around Oakendene substation; buffer strips around protected sites, including ancient woodland and other vulnerable habitats; and maintain, reinstate and enhance wildlife corridors.</p> <p>ii) replanting with native species to ensure ecological networks remain functional and to prevent isolation of trees and woodland in landscape</p> <p>iii) HDD techniques at several environmentally sensitive locations, including river crossings and under woodland to further reduce ecological impacts.</p> <p>iv) Commitment C-115 aims to reduce hedgerow length, which is temporarily lost from cable crossings, through the technique of notching hedgerows, as well as tunnelling</p> <p>v) Stage specific LEMP will be developed to ensure all reinstated habitats are effectively established (C-199 of the Commitments Register).</p>	<p>specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans (LEMPs).</p> <p>With respect to the neutral comments it is agreed that the development will result in both temporary and permanent loss of habitat. With regards to the compound areas all loss of habitat is of grass fields and not the surrounding tree lines, hedgerows and scrub, other than potentially at access points (currently under review for Deadline 3). The vegetation retention plans within the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] and mapping within Appendix 22.16: Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-194] show the predicted losses. Both of these documents are being updated for Deadline 3 following further review with project engineers.</p> <p>The Ecological Clerk of Works is secured via Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] for the provision of stage specific Code of Construction Practice documents.</p> <p>The Applicants response to reference 9.18 discusses HDD and how risks can be effectively managed.</p>
Neutral	<p>i) Loss of land and hedgerow and tree removal in the construction compound sites and Oakendene substation site to new development and uncertainty to sufficiency of the mitigation proposed</p>	<p>With respect to the negative regarding increased water abstraction, see reference 9.21 with respect to the Applicant's water neutrality strategy. The Applicant considers the strategy ensures that water neutrality will be achieved for both the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, and potential adverse effects</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>ii) Ecological Clerk of Works will work in conjunction with the contractors to ensure compliance with relevant wildlife legislation, agreed mitigation and best practice</p> <p>iii) While HDC welcomes commitments (APP-254) which aim to use best practice Horizontal Directional Drilling HDD techniques and undertake detailed pre-works assessments, there remains uncertainty regarding the feasibility and alternatives (if found not feasible) of this embedded mitigation measure, due to a lack of information of suitability of ground conditions at HDD locations.</p> <p>iv) Works and layout of temporary construction compounds are not provided, and uncertainty of impacts on adjacent ecologically important habitats and protected species potentially using the site.</p>	<p>on the Arun Valley Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site due to increased abstraction in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone avoided.</p> <p>Biodiversity net gain is not specifically demonstrated at the district level within Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain Information, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-194]. However, Requirement 14 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] requires for stage specific approvals ensuring that local solutions will be agreed with each relevant planning authority. It is noted that the approach to delivering BNG is in similar to that taken for the Yorkshire Green project that was granted development consent on 14 March 2024.</p> <p>Please see responses above references 9.16 and 9.17 with respect to planting at the Oakendene substation site and Noise impacts on the viability of mitigation measures at Oakendene substation for hazel dormouse, bats and breeding birds.</p>
<p>Negative</p>	<p>i) Increased water abstraction to serve the development resulting in harm to water quality and water levels which can impact habitats and species some distance from the development area.</p> <p>ii) Biodiversity net gain not specifically demonstrated at the district level (and the proposals and details to achieve this)</p> <p>iii) Whilst HDC welcomes additional planting to strengthen the retained vegetation on the Oakendene substation site, more planting is</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>required to close current gaps to ensure connectivity for hazel dormouse is retained. iv) Noise impacts on the viability of mitigation measures at Oakendene substation for hazel dormouse, bats and breeding birds</p>	

9.33 Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments

9.33 To prevent lost habitat awaiting reinstatement too long and causing severance through fragmentation or severed connectivity, successful and advance reinstatement of habitats, and landscape features, along the cable corridor and at the substation, are mitigation measures which require appropriate management and monitoring, plus timely remedial works, to be embedded in the commitment register and DCO, through the following refinements and amendment: (see table below)

Issue	Recommended Action	Applicant's Response
<p>1 Use of ambiguous wording (such as; where practical, wherever possible, minimal time possible etc) across Commitments and Requirements. Includes C-27, C-103</p>	<p>Applicant to further define aspects of embedded mitigation measures, so the likely parameters are understood and improve confidence in the delivery of these measures that are to be relied upon</p>	<p>There have been opportunities for the development of environmental measures which have been adopted to reduce the potential for environmental impacts and effects. These were included directly into the design of Rampion 2 as embedded environmental measures and are detailed in the Commitments Register [REP1-015], such as commitments C-27 and C-103 as referenced by Horsham District Council. The Commitments Register was initially presented in the Scoping Report and subsequently updated throughout the Statutory Consultation exercises</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>and in the Environmental Statement to reflect design evolution and consultation feedback.</p> <p>The Commitments Register [REP1-015] includes a column for the securing mechanism for each embedded environmental measure and its related commitment reference. This cross-refers to the mechanism, for example a requirement in the Draft DCO [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) Schedule 1 Part 3. Where there is an accompanying document such as an outline plan submitted with the DCO Application with which works must be undertaken in accordance with, this is also referred to under the 'Relevant Application Documents' column.</p> <p>The Applicant has identified the appropriate embedded environmental measures to avoid, reduce or minimise effects based on best practice and industry experience. There is the need for some flexibility where a measure may not be applicable in a specific scenario during construction or require slight adjustment, in such instances this would be confirmed in the stage specific documents secured in the Draft DCO [PEPD-009] such as the detailed Code of Construction Practice (CoCP). The Applicant would need to confirm that no new or materially different environmental effects would arise in this instance.</p> <p>Note that for added clarity on the corresponding securing mechanisms, the Commitments Register [REP1-015]</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment		Applicant's Response
2	Presence of any European protected species will require a licence from Natural England to disturb them or their habitat.	It is in HDC's interest to receive a copy of all licences issued.	<p>provided at application submission has been updated at Deadline 1 to include further detail e.g. the full reference to DCO requirements and addition of the location of further information within the Application documents.</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] secures the commitment to pre-commencement surveys for European Protected Species and Protected Species. This is detailed in in Table 5-5 for reptiles [C-208], badgers [C-209], water vole and otter [C-210], bats [C-211], GCN [C-214] and dormouse [C-232]. Additional description of management measures related to these species is provided in paragraphs 5.6.47 to 5.6.68 and commitment to securing licences where necessary. Requirement 22 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) secures submission of detailed codes of construction practice which accord with the outline document for each stage of the onshore works.</p>
3	Lack of ecological surveys currently undertaken in relation to construction compound sites, to enable consideration to these results and impacts on ecologically sensitive and important habitats	Applicant to explain scoping out of species surveys an amend C-196 within the Commitments Register and control documents (CoCP and LEMP) for timely submission and provision of results from pre-construction species surveys, to inform details of the works and	Please see response to reference 9.6 and 9.7 . The Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] are being updated for Deadline 3.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment		Applicant's Response
4	Secure Compensation and Biodiversity net gain through appropriate means directly within the district.	<p>proposed layout for the construction compound sites in advance of stage specific works commencing (explore reduction in size) and amend C-8 for greater distance from watercourse and presence of clerk of works)</p> <p>Applicant to align its compensation and BNG strategies with delivery of Wilder Horsham projects and/or 'Green Call' for Sites, in accordance with the biodiversity gain hierarchy (where on-site biodiversity gains should be considered first followed by registered offsite biodiversity gains and – as a last resort – biodiversity credits). To include a metric assessment and net gain plan; and a management and monitoring plan</p>	<p>The Applicant met with HDC and other local authorities on 18 March 2024 to discuss BNG. It was confirmed in this meeting that the approach to BNG within Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain Information, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-193] (secured via Requirement 14 within the Draft development Consent Order [PEPD-009]) ensures that strategic projects such as Wilder Horsham will be one of the key priorities in the search for available units. Currently there appears to be many opportunities for delivering BNG both on land owned by affected parties, through strategic projects including Wilder Horsham and Weald to Waves and via habitat banking organisations.</p> <p>As a matter of course a habitat management and monitoring plan will be in place for any biodiversity units purchased.</p>
5	Reduce the chances of double counting, whilst	One clear log should be compiled, to clearly list and	The Applicant notes that the accounting of biodiversity units will be done according to the mandatory system

Ref	Local Impact Report comment		Applicant's Response
	clearly differentiating between the reasons for habitat delivery.	audit the habitat being delivered for compensation, and habitat being enhanced and delivered for BNG.	currently in place for projects consented under the Town and Country Planning Act.
6	Establishment periods for compensation habitat must be considered and built into Works Schedule approaches.	Reinstatement begin as soon as practically possible, i.e. within a year, for the majority of the corridor of habitat lost following construction to prevent large gaps of habitat degradation.	Habitat reinstatement will begin as soon as practically possible. Commitment C-103 which is secured in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] and Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] , provides certainty that reinstatement in the majority of locations will begin within two years of the loss occurring.
7	Demonstrate the proposed development is Water Neutral.	Additional details be submitted to how water neutrality could be demonstrated, without overly relying on a strategic mitigation scheme which is yet to become operational. Further consideration of how suitable water neutrality mitigation can be suitably secured, should be provided. An estimated water use should be calculated to inform the evidence base	For the purpose of securing the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS) mitigation, the need to quantify the onshore substation operational water use is recognised. In the unlikely event of the strategic scheme not being available to the Applicant then other options for operational water could include a private scheme and / or not drawing water from a mains source (through off-site water imports / exports sourced from outside the Sussex North Water Supply Zone). The Applicants wider strategy detailed in reference 9.21 means that water neutrality will be achieved for both the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, and potential adverse effects on the Arun Valley Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
8	Greater detail should be provided on the efficacy of embedded mitigation measure as a longer period to achieve ecological functionality may well be required.	HDC seeks advanced planting and a commitment for reinstatement of the temporary habitat loss within the first planting season rather than within two years of the loss.
9	HDD may not be feasible once informed by site survey	Applicant to provide for contingency measures in the event trenchless crossings are not feasible

Area and Ramsar site due to increased abstraction in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone avoided.

Horsham District Council's (HDC's) suggestion (**reference 9.23**) that construction and / or operational water use in the Sussex North Water Zone could potentially be 'screened-out' altogether implies that part or all of the water use within the Zone could instead be potentially permitted to be sourced from the mains. The Applicant is not reliant on this mitigation but welcomes further discussions with HDC.

The Applicant acknowledges this request for reinstatement beginning in the first planting season after loss, but note that this schedule is likely not achievable. This is mainly associated with the need to retain the haul road for different activities within individual stages (e.g. duct installation, cable installation, electrical testing etc.).

Advanced planting at the Oakendene substation site for ecological mitigation will be further detailed in an update to the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232]** to be provided at Deadline 3.

Please see above response **reference 9.18**.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10	Viability of ecology mitigation on substation site	<p>Applicant to amend indicative substation site plan and LEMP to restore connectivity in hedging to southwest corner; explore measures to address noise impact from substation; and provide more detail on proposed wet woodland habitat such as soil type and nutrient level, hydrology, levels of shade and exposure, and the tolerances of the proposed species mix to the site conditions.</p> <p>Attenuation basin to north possible redesign so it is outside of Root Protection Areas</p>

Landscape and Visual Impact

10.1	Local Planning Policy	<p>10.1 to 10.10 Many of these policies in landscape terms relate to requirements to conserve and enhance the landscape character and green infrastructure (landscape elements).</p>
to	<p>10.10 10.1 HDPF Policy 25 Strategic Policy: The Natural Environment and Landscape Character seeks to protect landscape and habitats against inappropriate development. This identifies the protection, conservation and enhancement of the landscape character, taking account landscape importance and</p>	<p>The residual effects on landscape character are reported in Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment,</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>individual settlement characteristics. Additionally, it seeks to safeguard existing designate sites and species, ensuring no net loss of wider biodiversity.</p>	<p>Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059] and are all restricted to the construction phase and will be reinstated. In this respect, the landscape character post construction will be conserved and the onshore cable will be underground.</p>
	<p>10.2 HDPF Policy 26 Strategic Policy: Countryside Protection requires proposals to be of a scale appropriate to its character and location where development will only be acceptable where it does not lead, either individually or cumulatively, to a significant increase in overall level of activity in the countryside and protects key features and characteristics of the landscape character area, including the pattern of woodlands, fields, hedgerows, trees, and waterbodies.</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that the design process and embedded environmental measures in Section 18.7 of Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059] maximise opportunities for 'good design'. This has included avoiding sensitive landscape features (Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-044]) and embedded environmental measures (Section 18.7 of Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059]).</p>
	<p>10.3 HDPF Policy 30 Protected Landscapes supports development in or close to protected landscapes (the High Weald National Landscape and the South Downs National Park) where there will be no adverse impacts to the natural beauty and public enjoyment of these landscapes. In the case of major development, Applicants are required to demonstrate why the proposal is in the public interest and what alternatives to the scheme have been considered. The SDNPA is the Planning Authority for the National Park, and this policy, in common with all others in the HDPF, does not apply to the land within the National Park.</p>	<p>A commitment to delivering BNG of at least 10% has also been made by the Applicant and it is noted this is not mandatory for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects until April 2025 this is secured by Draft Development Consent order (DCO) [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) Requirement 14.</p>
	<p>10.4 HDPF Policies 32 and 33 relate to good design and requires all development to be of high quality by having account of the local physical and environmental context, and to satisfy a criterion of Development Principles to, amongst other things, conserve and enhance the natural environment. Of these</p>	<p>In respect of PRoW (WGNP Policy 4) Effects on PRoW will be managed through the embedded environmental measures contained within the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-230] secured via Requirement 20 within the Draft Development Consent order (DCO) [PEPD-009].</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>Principles, development is required, amongst other things, to; 1) prioritise the use of previously developed land; 3) ensure the scale, massing and appearance of the development relates sympathetically with the landscape and routes within and adjoining the site, including any impact on the skyline and important views; 4) respect the character of the surrounding area (including its overall sitting); and 6) relate sympathetically to the local landscape.</p> <p>10.5 SSWNP Policy 8: Countryside Protection requires new development to protect certain views to the surrounding countryside.</p> <p>10.6 SSWNP Policy 14: Design requires, amongst other things, landscape design, layout, and materials of all development proposals to reflect the character and scale of its surroundings.</p> <p>10.7 SSWNP Policy 15: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity requires development proposals ensure green infrastructure assets of the Parish are protected and maintained, and wherever possible, enhanced. SSWNP Policy 15 supports development proposals where their layout and landscapes schemes have regard to retention of existing hedgerows, trees, banks, ponds, and watercourses for visual reasons. Natural features must be retained where possible. Landscape schemes should provide for the effective screening of new developments.</p> <p>10.8 WASP Policy 4: Location and Setting requires, amongst other things, that development be designed to a high quality which positively responds to the heritage, tranquillity and</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>distinctive rural character, by way of; height, scale, spacing, layout, orientation, design, and materials and sensitively incorporates natural features such as trees, hedges, watercourses, and ponds.</p> <p>10.9 WASP Policy 5: Design requires the design of development proposals be in keeping with the prevailing character of the surrounding area.</p> <p>10.10 WGNP Policy 4 Green Infrastructure: Existing Trees, Hedgerows, Habitats and Wildlife seeks to protect and develop Public Rights of Way.</p>	
10.11	<p>Other Material Planning Considerations</p> <p>10.11 Emerging Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan Policy 2: Green Infrastructure supports development proposals which seek to conserve or enhance existing Green Infrastructure network and supports delivery of a net gain in Green Infrastructure. Development proposals that would result in the loss of existing Green Infrastructure will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated new opportunities are secured that deliver an overall net gain in Green Infrastructure and incorporate provisions to deliver an equivalent carbon sink capability in the short term; and deliver a net gain in Biodiversity.</p>	Please see above response to reference 10.1 to 10.10 .
10.12	<p>Local Issues and Impacts</p> <p>10.12 The rural qualities of Horsham district are highly valued. Whilst the undeveloped nature of rural areas is recognised, it is</p>	Noted, the Applicant has no further comments on this matter at this time.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.13	<p>acknowledged that are circumstances where development is necessary. This includes development required to sustain upgrades to infrastructure, such as renewable energy.</p> <p>10.13 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) [APP-167] demonstrates that, even with mitigation, the construction and operation of the Project would give rise to significant impacts on both landscape and visual receptors. The LVIA relies on several embedded mitigation measures to support its conclusion. There are two key embedded mitigation measures which underpin the assessment in the LVIA: trenchless crossings and the translocation of sections of field boundary hedgerows or replacement planting (commitment C-115). A third key commitment which supports commitment C-115, C-19 is that of a rolling programme of reinstatement to field boundaries. There is a reliance on reinstatement being carried out as soon as possible, which has not been shown to be guaranteed in the current suite of commitments and requirements. This is especially the case for the cable route as phasing/sequencing of works has yet to be determined.</p>	<p>In terms of landscape mitigation, it is common landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) practice to rely on landscape mitigation and reinstatement planting of native species to reduce residual effects of development post-construction. The reinstatement of hedges is a credible and robust technique for mitigation, evidenced by the numerous hedgerows within the landscape baseline and their on-going management.</p> <p>Requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] secures the submission of a programme showing the different stages comprising the Project and in respect of which other requirements may be discharged. The programme for the works and their phasing would be detailed in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice for the relevant stage secured through requirement 22 of the Draft DCO [PEPD-009], which has been updated at Deadline 2].</p> <p>Further detail would be provided in the stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans that would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.14	<p>10.14 Within the Oakendene substation, mitigation measures comprise of enhancement planting along boundaries, replacement planting, 'advance planting' and an architectural strategy. Advanced planting is given a wide range of 4 years to be delivered, anytime during the construction period and before the operational stage stages. Types of materiality to be used within the substation building and principles of the architectural strategy are not defined within the current suit of commitments, including the Design and Access Statement. HDC expects to see the content of this tightened at this stage in the DCO process to provide more certainty at detailed design stage.</p>	<p>the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p> <p>The Indicative Landscape Plan (ILP) for the onshore substation at Oakendene and its design principles are set out in the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [AS-003] and further expanded on in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-232].</p> <p>With respect to advance planting, this is secured by the design principles for in the DAS [AS-003]. As per the design principles in the bullets after paragraph 3.3.10 of the DAS [AS-003], the stage specific Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will include a <i>“landscape programme, according to relevant planting seasons, maximising opportunities for advance planting prior to construction to allow trees to mature during the construction works and in advance of completion of the onshore substation.”</i> Further advance planting is to be provided for ecological mitigation as per the bullets after paragraph 3.5.6, <i>“Advance planting will be provided along the western extent of the Oakendene onshore substation site to provide mitigation for the loss of dormouse habitat”</i>.</p> <p>Further information on advanced planting is provided in paragraph 2.6.4 of the Outline LEMP [APP-232] which states <i>“A programme of landscape works will be provided setting out the programme according to relevant planting seasons and maximising opportunities for advance planting</i></p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p><i>prior to construction to allow trees to mature during the construction works and in advance of completion of the onshore substation. Some of the landscaping will be established prior to the beginning of construction (advance planting), with the remainder being delivered following the completion of the substation and the decommissioning of temporary construction compounds.”</i></p> <p>The LEMP is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Requirement 8 (2) of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] requires detailed design for the substation to accord with the principles established in the DAS [AS-003]. The Applicant is considering possible amends to the DAS [AS-003] as a result of matters raised at the Issue Specific Hearing 1 in February 2024.</p>
10.15	10.15 The principal concerns and effects relate to both construction and operational activities, as follows: significant negative visual (amenity) effects on residents and settlements; significant negative landscape and character effects; negative effects on landscape elements from the loss and disturbance of vegetation (such as trees, scrub and hedgerows) during and beyond the construction works for a significant duration, until the vegetation thrives and becomes established.	Noted, the Applicant has no further comments on this matter at this time.
10.16	10.16 The project would have an adverse impact on the landscape character and visual resources of the Low Weald	The Applicant advises that there would be no significant effects on the Local Character Areas: D1 Amberley to

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>NCA. In turn, this would change the character of the landscape and the perceived sense of place of part of the following Local Character Areas: D1 Amberley to Steyning Farmlands, F1 Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands, G1 Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands, O3 Steyning & Henfield Brooks, and J3 Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands (the last being where the substation is located as having significant residual effect).</p>	<p>Steyning Farmlands, F1 Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands, G1 Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands, and O3 Steyning & Henfield Brooks during operation due to the cable corridor being underground. Significant effects on these landscape character areas will be restricted to the construction phase.</p> <p>There will be a significant effect on part of the J3 Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands due to the location of the onshore substation at Oakendene during the construction and operation periods.</p>
10.17	<p>Cable Route:</p> <p>10.17 The LVIA finds that the onshore cable route will cause short term, temporary harm. HDC accepts the undergrounding of the cabling provides significant mitigation against visual and landscape impacts but there will be joint bays, 4 separate link boxes and fibre optic cable junction boxes at 600m to 1,000m intervals, which will extend along the full length of the route (Commitment C-19).</p>	<p>The joint bays / link and junction boxes will be unfenced subsurface features, marked by access covers as described in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-045]. The landscape and visual impact of these features would not be significant and people travelling sequentially through the landscape would not encounter these in sufficient number / frequency to be significant.</p>
10.18	<p>Above ground project infrastructure:</p> <p>10.18 Overall, there is a lack of information provided regarding the use and appearance of the construction compounds which is a concern given their location and substantial size, together with the likely nature of the uses within the compound (such as welfare cabins, a concrete batching plant up to 20 metres in</p>	<p>Section 2.5 within the Outline Construction Method Statement (CMS) [APP-255] sets out the key elements of the temporary construction compounds and further detail will be provided and secured in the detailed CMS. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirement 23 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>height and materials and equipment up to 7 metres high. Lighting will be required during winter working hours and for HDD compounds (where there is a requirement for an onsite presence 24 hours a day).</p>	<p>Requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] secures the submission showing the different stages comprising the Project and in respect of which other requirements may be discharged. The programme for the works and their phasing would be detailed in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice for the relevant stage secured through requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009], which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>With regards the information on the compounds, the Applicant is willing to provide further definition of Works No.10 associated with the temporary construction compounds and is considering how this can best be presented.</p> <p>The detail of any lighting design for all temporary lighting will be developed once contractors are appointed, it is noted that no permanent lighting will be required in the South Downs National Park. Where required, construction lighting will be limited to directional task lighting positioned to minimise glare and nuisance to residents and walkers within the SDNP and informed by British Standard (BS) EN 12464-2:2014 Lighting of outdoor workplaces (British Standards Institution (BSI), 2014) and guidance provided by the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) Society of Light and Lighting, The Bat Conservation Trust and the Institution of Lighting Professionals. These measures are provided in the Outline</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033], Section 4.5, and further information on the design will be provided via the stage specific CoCPs to be submitted pursuant to Requirement 22 of Part 3, Schedule 1 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>
10.19	<p>10.19 In terms of operational phase, the overriding issue is the substation at Oakendene; whether all reasonable endeavours had been made to minimise harms, both through the parameters of the development of the substation compound itself, and whether adequate provisions were being made to secure mitigation. These matters are a concern of residents in this area.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above references 10.1 to 10.10 and 10.14.</p>
10.20	<p>10.20 Above ground project infrastructure would impose alien and discordant features in the localised landscape, notably by way of the scale of the proposed installation and indicative design of the substation, and supporting industrial features such as fencing, CCTV cameras, and tracks, and on visual receptors, including the nearby Public Right of Way network, during the construction period and in the early years whilst the landscape mitigation establishes. It remains that localised landscape character, quality, setting and its wider appreciation in the areas of the above ground project infrastructure will be diminished as a result.</p>	<p>Noted, the Applicant has no further comments on this matter at this time.</p>
10.21	<p>10.21 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment recognises that there are significant impacts during construction and some residual significant effects at operational stage around the Oakendene substation. These effects are generally localised and</p>	<p>The Applicant has responded to Appendix B of Horsham District Council's Local Impact which identifies areas of disagreement in more detail.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.22	<p>restricted to the site and immediate setting due to the enclosure the existing trees and woodland provide, but also topography. Identified effects are assessed as softening and reducing in significance as planting matures. Although HDC does not dispute these findings, it contends that some receptors (likely to be found to experience significant effects) have not been appropriately assessed.</p> <p>10.22 Furthermore, HDC challenges the blanket approach of categorizing receptors such as considering the sensitivity of receptors on Kent Street to be the same as the A272, because these are both identified as transport routes.</p>	<p>The Applicant does not agree with Horsham District Council's challenge of a "<i>blanket approach of categorizing receptors</i>" in respect of the sensitivity of Kent Street and the A272.</p> <p>The LVIA accords with GLVIA3 as explained in paragraph 6.33 where visual receptors on transport routes are defined as "<i>Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes tend to fall into an intermediate category of moderate susceptibility to change. Where travel involves recognised scenic routes awareness of views is likely to be particularly high.</i>" The LVIA has assessed the sensitivity of these receptors as ranging between High to Medium taken account of recognised scenic routes and value attached to views. Reference is made to the wooded nature of Kent Street and its use as a minor road) by walkers although there is no specific footpath provision. The sensitivity of each receptor / receptor group has been considered on an individual basis (Table 18-33 of Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059]).</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.23	10.23 And finally, HDC challenges the conclusions and judgement made, that mitigation measures, which in most cases are limited to new planting, would reduce most visual and landscape character effects found to be Major Adverse and Significant, to Negligent and Not Significant at Year 10. This is the case for either a linear hedgerow or a woodland for example.	The Applicant has responded to Appendix B of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report. With the exception of the Oakendene substation and the existing National Grid Bolney substation, most visual and landscape character effects found to be Major Adverse and Significant are reduced to Minor (as opposed to 'Negligible') and not significant by Year 10.
10.24	10.24 In Appendix B of this LIR, HDC provides a comprehensive critique of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, which identifies these areas of disagreement in more detail. HDC expects the Applicant to respond on these and address its substantive list of identified concerns and issues.	The Applicant has responded to Appendix B of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.

Summary Box

Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The site is distant from the High Weald National Landscape such that no significant impacts to this Valued Landscape qualities and setting are anticipated. ii) Residual adverse effects arising from the proposals are localised. ii) Applicants have sought to mitigate negative effects by boundary planting that would of benefit in filtering the development once established; engineering measures used to avoid significant residual visual impacts at all those hedgerows where HDC raised concerns; principles to how removed hedgerows will be effectively restored and maintained. replanted.
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Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
Neutral	<p>i) Design and Access Statement (Document Reference: 5.8) includes the parameters for each site and the design principles with which the detailed design shall accord. The principles established will inform the detailed design phase as the finalised layout and size of the substation, access tracks and sustainable drainage solutions (SuDS).</p> <p>ii) Lack of detail concerning construction compounds</p>	
Negative	<p>i) Adverse effects on visual amenity, particularly to the receptors users of PROW, notwithstanding mitigation measures.</p> <p>ii) Overall landscape character, quality, setting and its wider appreciation will be diminished. Consequential impacts for landscape character from loss of hedgerows and the associated constraints on replanting. These hedgerows were characterised by substantial trees within them that would be removed and not replaced.</p> <p>iii) Adverse impact on landscape character and qualities of: the Low Weald National Character Area (NCA); the Low Weald; Wiston Low Weald; Upper Adur Valley; Ashurst and Wiston Wooded Farmlands; Steyning and Henfield Brooks; and Farmland and Floodplains Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.25	<p>Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments</p> <p><i>Design Principles (Design and Access Statement):</i></p> <p>10.25 HDC considers the design of the onshore infrastructure has the potential to be adequately controlled through the DCO submission. However, the approach to reserve the detail of substation compound after conclusion of the DCO examination forces a reliance on a robust set of detailed parameters to provide certainty that impacts have been adequately addressed; in the Oakendene substation, there is no such certainty in the DCO parameters, and an overreliance on new hedgerow and tree planting within a radius of the substation to reinforce the character of the land-use and be used to address visual impacts from key views as identified through the ES once the vegetation and landscape elements have re-established.</p>	<p>Please see response above references 10.13 and 10.14. The approach adopted to securing the submission of details akin to reserved matters prior to commencement of works at the substation is consistent with numerous made development consent orders for offshore wind farms. Requirement 8 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) secures that the details must be submitted, and provides that those details must be in accordance with the principles established in the Design and Access Statement [AS-003]. The Applicant will review the DAS and the principles therein further with regards the HDC comments and an update is expected to be submitted at Deadline 3.</p> <p>Requirement 12 of the Draft DCO [PEPD-009], which secures the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, also secures that the details for the onshore substation (Work No. 16) must include the environmental mitigation comprising Work No 17 for the substation, and must accord with the principles in the Design and Access Statement [AS-003].</p> <p>The LVIA has used a parameter-based design envelope approach means that the assessment considers a maximum design scenario whilst allowing the flexibility to make improvements in the future in ways that cannot be predicted at the time of submission of the DCO Application (Table 18-24 of Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment,</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059] with further detail provided in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-045].</p> <p>Nonetheless the LVIA identifies significant residual effects resulting from the Oakendene substation on the host landscape character area (J3 Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands) and visual receptors (PRoW) during operation that will extend beyond Year 10.</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] includes a series of landscape design principles, other opportunities and an Architectural Strategy (reflected from the DAS [AS-003] to provide further mitigation in addition to the Indicative Landscape Plan (ILP). The DAS [AS-003] and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] is being updated for submission at Deadline 3 with further details on mitigation measures regarding landscape design, ILP and an Architectural Strategy.</p> <p>Further detail will also be provided in the stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans that would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.26	<p>10.26 HDC believe that without these measures, the residual impacts of the substation would be unacceptable; Design principles of the Oakendene substation identified in the Design and Access Statement (AS-003) need further refinement and engagement with HDC prior to conclusion of the DCO examination, to provide greater certainty over the likely appearance, scale and design of the compound, proposed ground levels and provision of tree and hedgerow losses compensation and screening.</p>	<p>Please see response above reference 10.25.</p>
10.27	<p>10.27 An example of this is the statement in the Design and Access statement that the ground levels used in the design at this stage is based on a level that does not require material to be exported from or imported to the site. However, it is evident that there will be export of material for the construction of the attenuation basins and SuDs as part of a wider drainage strategy that may require further export or the reverse, with import as site levels are built up (bunds) in response to mitigation of the risk of flooding. The substation itself must be built on a flat profile and therefore given the current slope of the land, there will need to be cuttings of the land, with impact to surface water flow routing across the site. The Design and Access Statement should offer confidence that flood risk and drainage, design considerations, and ecology have been considered holistically, prior to conclusion of the DCO examination. This is where the value of fixed parameter plans of the developable area and submission of indicative cross sections would enable greater understanding to how site levels would be devised to deliver the necessary mitigations (for example, if the attenuation basins at 1: 3 slopes truly have the capability to be multi- purpose as intended, i.e.</p>	<p>With regard to flood risk and drainage being considered holistically with landscape and ecology, the Indicative Landscape Plan presented in Appendix D of the Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223] is also presented as Figure 1 of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232]). The Indicative Landscape Plan sets out the strategy for the management of surface water run-on and run-off across the site, with the provision of swales, filter drains and attenuation basins across the site, as well as landscape and visual and ecology matters. The Indicative Landscape Plans is consistent with the cut-and-fill anticipated to create a level platform, with sustainable drainage (SuDS) indicated in locations to intercept surface water run-on and to manage surface water run-off. The final Operational Drainage Plan will accord with the Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223] secured via Requirement 17 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>planted up with wet woodland habitat without impediment to their function as drainage infrastructure. Given this, there is concern raised with the levels being currently unknown. Proposed cross-sections of the site, the substation, and basins, would assist in understanding and informing existing and proposed site levels, landscape and visual impact, and the viability of habitat mitigation.</p>	<p>Please refer to the Applicant's response in 9.28 with regard to the feasibility of the proposed wet woodland and inherent flexibility within the Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223].</p> <p>The Applicant takes notice of the request relating to the more detailed substation site design layouts and profiles. The Applicant considers the submitted profiles and layouts as included in Appendix A of the Design and Access Statement [AS-003] sufficient for the purposes of this DCO Application. Further engineering design work is required to include consideration of the final electrical design of the scheme as well as data site investigation information.</p>
10.28	<p>10.28 Another concern is the absence of triggers in the commitment register and the DCO requirement, to the approval of the Architectural Strategy. Much play is made in the submitted Design and Access Statement (AS-003 Rev A Aug 2023) of this control document as a means of securing necessary visual and landscape mitigations. However, it is proposed to submit this as part of the detailed design not prior to conclusion of the DCO Examination. The absence of precedent images within the Design and Access Statement (including of building palette) and no explicit referencing to qualities drawn out from relevant Landscape Character Area Assessments, only serves to increase reliance on a currently unknown mitigation, which is a real concern. It has potential to lengthen discharge timescales as details are sought at that late stage, especially as there does not appear to be an embedded opportunity for the discharge</p>	<p>Please see response above reference 10.25</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	authority to request/require samples for approval of external appearance.	
10.29	10.29 Additionally, whilst it is pleasing to see broad locations of advance planting shown on the indicative site plan for the Oakendene substation, there is currently nothing in the DCO requirement or commitment to secure this. What is absent from current DCO documentation is a timetable of delivery of this advance planting across the substation site (i.e., aligned with identified triggers related to implementation and the progression of completion of the development on site). It is necessary for advanced planting to be implemented in a timely manner where it serves as mitigation for heritage harm, but the Design and Access Statement does not secure this (para 3.4.4).	<p>Requirements 8 and 12 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2 secure detailed design information, a Landscape and Ecology Plan to include details of ecological mitigation to be provided as Work No. 17 prior to the commencement of works in the stage which comprises the Oakendene substation. These details will require to be approved by the Council as relevant planning authority. These details will include provision for a timetable for planting.</p> <p>The DAS [AS-003] includes the commitment to maximising the opportunities for advance planting, as noted the in reference 10.25 the Applicant is reviewing HDC's comments further and an update is expected to be submitted at Deadline 3.</p>
10.30	10.30 Finally, it would help with community reassurance if the Design and Access Statement were to provide more certainty to various design principles of the substation site through a suite of parameter plans, such as the extent of developable area; the location and routeing of access (vehicular and cable); the extent of landscape buffer and mitigation; and the zoning of the maximum heights of infrastructure.	Please see response above reference 10.25 .
10.31	<p>Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement:</p> <p><i>Advance Planting:</i></p>	Please see response above reference 10.14 .

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>10.31 The mechanism to secure meaningful advance planting is unclear, and further consideration needs to be given to maximising advance planting opportunities. Whilst the proposed mitigation measures as set out in the Commitments Register, including Commitment C-115 and associated outline control documents are welcome, there is considerable uncertainty as to extent of mitigation they may realistically provide. Many of the commitments include caveats in relation to implementation, such as 'where this is best environment solution and is financially and technically feasible' or 'where practicable/necessary/possible'.</p>	
10.32	<p>10.32 Within the Oakendene Substation site, firm commitment that advanced planting is to be proposed fronting the A272, soon after bellmouth and access to the compound area is formed, must be secured as this area is not included within Figure 1 - Indicative Landscape Plan Version 3 (APP-232 Outline LEMP) but is key to assist in the delivery of screening/visual mitigation of the scheme from year 5 as suggested within the LVIA conclusions.</p>	<p>Please see response above reference 10.14, this will include an amendment to the Outline Landscape and Ecology Plan [APP-232].</p>
10.33	<p>10.33 Of particular concern for constructed activities along the cable route, is the reliance on the feasibility and efficacy of reinstatement or replacement with new planting being carried out as soon as possible (as failure would have potential for lasting change to the landscape character), and minimising periods of activities/storage of materials (embedded mitigation measures (C-19, C-115, C-235, C-236)). As phasing has yet to be determined (i.e., it is to be dealt with by requirement) this is a considerable area of uncertainty, which will be a key factor in</p>	<p>Please see response above references 10.13 to 10.14.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.34	<p>determining the magnitude of landscape and visual impacts. Irrespective of the success of C-115, there will be long-term changes to the structure of the landscape as no trees can be returned/replanted over the cable route.</p> <p>10.34 Commitment C-19 sets out to reinstate the landscape in '...as short a timeframe as possible' and to complete the cable installation in discrete sections (typically 600m to 1,000m). As currently committed, the planting will be undertaken between years 1 and 10, and therefore the users of the landscape will experience changes to it for at least 10 years, if not longer as the planting in year 10 will need time to establish (again this is long term as set out in the LVIA). In addition, no trees removed for the cable route can be replaced over the route. As a result there will be permanent changes to the structure of field boundaries and thus patterns in the landscape which will continue to provide a visual indicator of the route of the cable for the long term. Effects will extend for at least the medium term (6 to 10 years based on the LVIA methodology) into the operation and maintenance phase, with residual permanent effects lasting longer than 10 years.</p>	<p>Please see responses above references 10.13 to 10.14. The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] advises that all reinstatement planting along the cable corridor will be undertaken during the first available planting period, with all hedgerows reinstated within two years of this loss.</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] is being updated for submission at Deadline 3 and will provide clarification that reinstatement will be undertaken within the first planting season following completion of the construction works and backfilling within the section, rather than within two years, as currently defined within C-103. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p>
10.35	<p>Embedded mitigation measures:</p> <p>10.35 HDD is the most important component of the mitigation programme for the proposed scheme in relation to landscape. The assessment in the LVIA that no residual harm will result from the proposals is predicated upon this mitigation measure. While</p>	<p>Please see response above reference 9.18</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.36	<p>commitments C-235 and C-236 aim to use best practice HDD techniques and undertake detailed pre-works, there remains uncertainty regarding the technique, as set out in the references to DCO application documents.</p> <p>10.36 The detailed methodology and design of the trenchless crossing will only be determined following site investigation and confirmed within stage specific Onshore Construction Method Statements including confirmation that there are no new or materially different environmental effects arising compared to those assessed in the ES. It should be that if HDD proves unsuitable, additional consent would be required to deliver an alternative solution as open cut trenching in areas of Ancient Woodland would leave them irreparably and irrevocably damaged. As site investigation has not been undertaken, it is currently unclear from the DCO documentation if HDD provides unsuitable, the Project will have to stop. This needs to be demonstrated via a commitment or requirement. Ancient Woodland is irreplaceable in planning policy terms.</p>	Please see response above reference 9.18 .
10.37	<p>10.37 It is acknowledged that in C-196 of the Commitments Register that a stage specific Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) would be developed. This would be secured through Requirement 12 of the DCO, which would require submission of a stage specific LEMP to, and approval by, the relevant planning authority in advance of that stage commencing. Is therefore important that the programme of works secured through Requirement 10 of the DCO clearly defines the stages, phasing and associated timings of works within the district. Regarding advanced planting and reinstatement, the</p>	<p>Requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) secures the submission of a programme showing the different stages comprising the Proposed Development and in respect of which other requirements may be discharged. The programme for the works and their phasing would be detailed in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice for the relevant stage secured through Requirement 22 of</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>stages and, thus stage specific LEMP should include covering the construction compounds, the onshore cable corridor and Oakendene substation.</p>	<p>the Draft DCO [PEPD-009], which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Further detail would be provided in the stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans that would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement and approval. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p>
<p>10.38</p>	<p>10.38 Commitment C-196 refers to 'attention will also be given to maintaining levels and types of vegetation and landscape patterns', however, HDC seeks that the commitment to the staged reinstatement also includes for enhancement to a higher quality and species diversity, particularly in relation to trees and hedgerows of boundary/field treatments.</p>	<p>A list of native plant species is provided in Table 2-1 of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-232]. Paragraph 2.6.6 states "Species selection will be confirmed as part of the stage specific LEMP and will be restricted to the use of native species selected from Table 2-1. Not all British natives will be suitable, and the species selection will be made to suit the local environmental conditions of where the plants are to be planted and chosen to meet to design principles and in particular the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological objectives for habitat creation and enhanced biodiversity; • Landscape objectives to support the landscape design principles for amenity, screening and enhanced landscape character; and • Provide reasonable climate change resilience according to their location within the detailed landscape plan."

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.39	<p>10.39 As well as species selection and reinstatement taking account of climate resilience, there should also be a commitment to the selection of species diversity in consideration of emerging threats from pests and diseases, such as Ash die-back which is prevalent in the district.</p>	<p>A commitment to delivering BNG of at least 10% has also been made by the Applicant and it is noted this is not mandatory for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects until April 2025 this is secured by Requirement 14 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p> <p>The wide range of mitigation measures proposed and set out in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033], the Commitments Register [REP1-015] (updated at Deadline 1) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-232] have been selected to be resilient to climate change and appropriate to the landscape typology.</p> <p>The approach to species selection is noted above under reference 10.38.</p> <p>To ensure the Development makes no contribution to spreading ash die back, note Commitment C-107 (Commitments Register [REP1-015]) included within the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033] states that '<i>Tried and tested invasive species control and biosecurity measures will be used to avoid the spread of infested materials</i>' and is secured via Requirement 22 within the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-033].</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.40	<p>10.40 HDC is unclear how some of the mitigation measures are to be monitored and actioned including (but not limited to) the reinstatement of hedgerows or advanced planting. These are key, and heavily relied upon, to the success of the project's embedded environmental measures and proposed mitigation measures on LVIA and Heritage conclusions. C-199 (outline LEMP) refers to 'all new planting is established within 10 years of completion and managed and maintained for a further 10 years post planting' HDC requests clarification that 'established' refers to planted and 1 year after the defects period of the phased completion and that 'post planting' trigger will commence at partial practical completion.</p>	<p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] are being updated for Deadline 3. An amendment has been made to the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-033] requirement 13 to confirm when the 10 year period to management and maintenance commences.</p>
10.41	<p>10.41 HDC encourages a phased approach is taken to the restoration to enable land to be reinstated at the earliest possible opportunity. C-103 refers to 'areas of temporary habitat loss will begin reinstatement within 2 years of the loss, other than at the temporary construction compounds, cable joint bays, some haul roads, some construction access roads, landfall and substation location where activities may take longer to complete'. However, HDC request that there is the commitment and an appropriate securing mechanism for reinstatement within the first planting season following completion of the construction works and backfilling within the section, rather than within two years, as currently defined within C-103.</p>	<p>The final construction programme will be determined during the detailed design phase post-consent. Whilst the outlined timeline for the total construction of the cable route is 3.5-4 years, the actual construction activities on the cable corridor near the Land Interest are expected to be substantially shorter, as the construction of the cable corridor is expected to be undertaken in stages. If the DCO is awarded a detailed construction schedule for the entire cable route will be developed.</p> <p>Requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] secures the submission of a programme showing the different stages comprising the Project and in respect of which other requirements may be discharged. The programme for the works and their phasing would be detailed in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice for the relevant stage secured through requirement 22 of</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
10.42	10.42 Amendments are sought to the Draft DCO wording in the interest of clarity as follows: (see table below)	<p>the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009], which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Further detail will also be provided in the stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans that would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>

	Issue	Recommended Action	Applicant's Response
1	Substantive issues raised by HDC in its critique of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, raising concerns and issues on the robustness of mitigation. Set out in detail in Appendix B of this LIR	<p>The Applicant is requested to respond on HDC's comprehensive list of concerns and issues set out in its submission of the Applicant's of the submitted Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, as detailed in Appendix B. This includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categorising of receptors and likely significant effects • Landscape effects and visual effects on Oakendene substation and visual effects on 	Response to these matters is covered in Appendix B of this paper (Table 2-3).

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>the onshore cable corridor and cumulative effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of understated landscape effects • Landscape feature son Oakendene substation not identified, with loss of these features not appropriately reported • Effect on receptors at Washington • Ranking of same sensitivity to Kent Street as transport routes A281 and A272. Not appropriate • Query on absence of buffer between PRow 1786 and Oakendene substation site southern boundary given residual significant effect, with possible mitigation being additional planting secured by legal agreement as outside of DCO order limit and/or reduction in substation footprint • Effects on landscape character and effects of new/enhanced access points along Kent Street, including A59 and A60 	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
2	Robust measures required to mitigate third party damage to planting, with the DCO order.	<p>In common with the established practice (such as in the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023 the Applicant will replace any planting that fails or which it removes. However the Applicant does not consider it reasonable or proportionate that it should be required to do the same where planting is vandalised or damaged by third parties.</p>
3	Advanced planting is a key mitigation and there is currently some ambiguity in the time period of the implementation and maintenance regime of this planting, within the DCO order.	<p>An amendment has been made to requirement 13 in the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2 to clarify that the 10 year period runs from completion of planting for the relevant stage which the landscape and ecology management plan applies.</p> <p>In terms of the requirement to provide details of landscaping under requirement 8, these details must accord with the principles in the Design and Access Statement [AS-003], but will also be required to be approved in conjunction with the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] pursuant to requirement 12 for the stage comprising the Oakendene substation. Both</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
4	Inadequacies in detailing necessary mitigations in the Design and Access Statement	<p>completion. A mechanism for the planning authority to access these trigger dates also needs to be incorporated.</p> <p>iii) On Schedule1, Part 3 Detailed Design Approval Onshore Substation (page 54) Para 8, clause (1)(d) should be added after the word: landscaping; which must also include areas identifying 'advance planting' locations and associated delivery timescales. HDC considers the reference made to the DAS, will not give the discharge authority suitable control to the timings of the delivery of important mitigation measures.</p> <p>Refinement of the Design And Assess Statement to include but not limited to:</p> <p>i) cross sections to understand how existing and proposed site levels would be devised holistically to address landscape and visual impacts whilst delivering on ecological and</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
5	Widespread use of ambiguous terms in commitments across register	<p>heritage mitigations and functional SuDS</p> <p>ii) pictorial presentation of the design principles, including use of precedent images that demonstrates consideration of Architectural Strategy informed by qualities of Local Character Areas;</p> <p>iii) provision of a timetable of delivery of heritage mitigation and a suite of parameter plans to design principles</p> <p>Refinement of wording across a suite of commitments related TO Scheduling of stages of advance planting, associated timings, and reinstatement of landscape features</p> <p>Requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) secures the submission of a programme showing the different stages comprising the Proposed Development and in respect of which other requirements may be discharged. The programme for the works and their phasing would be detailed in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice for the relevant stage secured through Requirement 22 of the Draft DCO [PEPD-009], which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Further detail would be provided in the stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans that would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement and approval. The delivery</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).
11. Air Quality		
11.1	Local Planning Policy	The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.
	11.1 HDPF Policy 24 Strategic Policy: Environmental Protection concerns protection of the high quality of the district's environment. Taking into account any relevant Planning Guidance Documents, developments will be expected to minimise exposure to and the emission of pollutants including noise, odour, air and light pollution and ensure that they contribute to and do not conflict with objectives of implementation of local Air Quality Action Plans, and maintain or reduce the number of people exposed to poor air quality including odour.	
11.2	Material Planning Considerations	The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.
	11.2 Emerging Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan Aim 1: Air Quality Management supports sustainable development proposals that do not have an adverse effect upon air quality and users within the Parish and supports development proposals that include measures to provide traffic calming and/or gating with the aim of reducing queuing traffic within the Air Quality Management Area.	
11.3	Local Issues and Impacts	The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>11.3 Within the district beyond the National Park exist two AQMAs within 5km of the onshore cable corridor; Storrington Air Quality Management Area (declared in 2010) and Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (declared in 2011).</p>	
<p>11.4 to 11.8</p>	<p>Sussex Air Quality Partnership</p> <p>11.4 HDC is part of the Sussex Air Quality Partnership, which is made up from the Sussex local authorities and Public Health bodies. Since it was established, the Partnership has developed a comprehensive regional monitoring network, which currently (end 2022) has twelve continuous air quality monitoring stations (AQMS) in operation. The network also incorporates data from five national Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN).</p> <p>11.5 Sussex air was successful on Defra's Air Quality Grant and additional particulate monitoring will be installed across Sussex, including Horsham (Cowfold AQMA), to further enhance the database and provide a more detailed and substantive understanding of particulate concentrations across the region.</p> <p>11.6 Live air quality data is available on Sussex Air website (https://sussex-air.net/). An overview of air quality and update progress on actions to improve air quality is available on HDC Air quality page (https://www.horsham.gov.uk/environmental-health/air-quality/air-quality-reports-and-assessments) Cowfold AQMA</p> <p>11.7 Cowfold is a location where an Air Quality Management Scheme is in operation. The natural restriction created by the</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>staggered A272/A281 junction, combined with the volume of traffic using the A272 as a major link road, results in significant standing traffic during morning and evening peak periods. This is reflected in Air Quality and Pedestrian Safety being raised as key issues by the community.</p>	
	<p>11.8 Monitoring within Cowfold AQMA in 2022 showed a decrease of 14% when compared to pre-pandemic levels. It is expected that the Cowfold AQMA will be revoked in the coming years as it has demonstrated continued compliance with NO₂ annual mean concentrations. But because there is concern about an increase of HGV and LDV from the Project, HDC proposes to maintain the AQMA until there is more data to be reasonably certain that any future exceedances are unlikely, avoiding cycling between declaring, revoking and declaring again.</p>	
11.9	<p>11.9 HDC is modelling the AQMAs as part of the Action Plan updating process. To understand the contribution of all sources of emissions to exceedances of the air quality objectives within the AQMAs a source apportionment was carried at Cowfold worst-location (Cowfold 7n-DT37). Source Apportionment is the identification of ambient air pollution sources and the quantification of their contribution to pollution levels. A source apportionment considering 2019 traffic data shows that HGVs passing through the AQMA account for 22% of the local sources of NO₂. It is understood that even with the reroute of traffic proposed to avoid the AQMA, 25% of HGV will still travel through the AQMA, which could increase traffic queueing and air pollutant emissions aggravating the problem.</p>	<p>Commitments C-157 and C-158 (Commitments Register [REP-1-015]) discourage construction traffic from routeing through the Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-064] and Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006] have assumed that as a worst case approximately 25% of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic could route through Cowfold from the A24 and A272 east of the village centre when entering or exiting construction accesses at Oakendene, Kent Street or Wineham Lane. This assumption was applied as a robust assessment of the maximum potential effects that may occur within Cowfold and is not a prediction of HGV construction traffic flows that will travel</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
11.10	11.10 Additional diffusion tubes and remote sensors could be installed alongside the A272 Bolney Road and other identified Lorry routes to monitor annual concentrations of NO ₂ and particulate matter. The Applicant should support the cost of this additional monitoring work.	<p>through the AQMA during the construction phase. As such, given the control mechanisms contained within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-1-010] and commitment C-158 (Commitments Register [REP1-015]) that requires HGVs to avoid routing through the Cowfold AQMA where possible, it is anticipated that HGV flows through the AQMA will be much lower than assessed.</p> <p>Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-060] presents an assessment of air quality impacts from construction traffic. The assessment concludes that the Proposed Development will not result in significant impacts on air quality, as a result of increased traffic on the local road network. An air dispersion traffic modelling study of the potential impacts on the Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is presented in Section 1.4 within Appendix 19.1: Full results of construction road traffic modelling, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-174] with the assessment in Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-060] concluding that there are no significant impacts confirmed by the Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006] submitted at Deadline 1.</p> <p>Impacts from road traffic emissions at sensitive receptor locations within Cowfold, and Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) specifically, have been assessed and are reported within the Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-060]. Impacts from emissions of NO₂, PM₁₀ and</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response						
		<p>PM_{2.5} were considered. The assessment concluded that the impact from construction traffic emissions is negligible at all sensitive receptor locations, including residential receptors within the AQMA.</p>						
<p>11.11</p>	<p>11.11 Control of HGV routeing through Cowfold and Storrington AQMAs can be done by ANPR cameras deployed for the duration of the construction phase. Processing of the data collected to identify Rampion traffic and any possible breaches would be done by external support through a traffic survey company</p> <p>Summary box</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Positive</td> <td>Environmental measures proposed C-158: proposed HGV routeing during construction phase to individual accesses will avoid AQMA in Cowfold where possible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neutral</td> <td>Commitment to Air Quality Mitigation Plan welcomed but the completed assessments do not reference taking account of the Sussex Guidance (2022)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negative</td> <td>Dispersion of materials from works areas into neighbouring communities and those associated with the emissions from construction vehicles particularly HGVs and the resulting need for additional emissions monitoring.</td> </tr> </table>	Positive	Environmental measures proposed C-158: proposed HGV routeing during construction phase to individual accesses will avoid AQMA in Cowfold where possible	Neutral	Commitment to Air Quality Mitigation Plan welcomed but the completed assessments do not reference taking account of the Sussex Guidance (2022)	Negative	Dispersion of materials from works areas into neighbouring communities and those associated with the emissions from construction vehicles particularly HGVs and the resulting need for additional emissions monitoring.	<p>Such details would be considered as part of Stage-specific CTMPs that will be submitted in accordance with the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-1-010] for the approval of the highways authority (WSCC) as detailed by Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>Summary box</p> <p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council's positive recognition of C-158 Commitments Register [REP-1-015]: proposed HGV routeing during construction phase to individual accesses will avoid AQMA in Cowfold where possible.</p> <p>Please see above response references 11.9 and 11.10 with respect to the Air Quality Mitigation Plan and HGV emissions.</p>
Positive	Environmental measures proposed C-158: proposed HGV routeing during construction phase to individual accesses will avoid AQMA in Cowfold where possible							
Neutral	Commitment to Air Quality Mitigation Plan welcomed but the completed assessments do not reference taking account of the Sussex Guidance (2022)							
Negative	Dispersion of materials from works areas into neighbouring communities and those associated with the emissions from construction vehicles particularly HGVs and the resulting need for additional emissions monitoring.							
<p>11.12</p>	<p>Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>						

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>11.12 The DCO provides for an Outline Code of Construction Practice REV B (CoCP) PEPD-034 with some measures to address air quality effects.</p>	
11.13	<p>11.13 Environmental measure C-158 proposes the proposed heavy goods vehicle (HGV) routeing during the construction phase to individual accesses will avoid the Air Quality management Area (AQMA) in Cowfold where possible. Proposed routeing set out in Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and enforcement of the outline CTMP is secured through commitment C-158. However, the wording 'where possible' reduces the certainty of the robustness of this commitment, especially over the life of the Project. As such, HDC seeks a firmer commitment or a Requirement to indicate HGV routeing through Cowfold only where strictly necessary.</p>	<p>Whilst commitments C-157 and C-158 (Commitments Register [REP-1-015]) discourages traffic from routeing through the Cowfold AQMA for robustness within Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-064] and Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006], it has been assumed that approximately 25% of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic will route through Cowfold from the A24 and A272 east of the village centre when entering or exiting construction accesses at Oakendene, Kent Street or Wineham Lane. This accounts for the potential delivery of material or equipment to / from locations directly west of Cowfold where it would not be possible to adhere to commitments C-157 and C-158 of the Commitments Register [REP-1-015] or use of the Strategic Road Network and provides a robust assessment of impacts within Cowfold. These commitments are also reflected in Table 5-1 of the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [PEPD-035a] which has been updated at Deadline 1 submission secured via Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) and confirms prescribed local HGV access routes for all sections of the onshore cable corridor and Table 5-2 which details specific local constraints and proposed management of construction traffic routes.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
11.14	<p>11.14 An Additional Commitment or Requirement is sought to avoid Storrington AQMA. It is confirmed an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) will be produced in accordance with best practice thus delivering the commitment of the ES for such a document. The outline CoCP confirms measures to minimise dust generating activities will be implemented. HDC considers a requirement specific to the production of the AQMP should be included in the DCO.</p>	<p>The Highways Authority, in the Relevant Representation from West Sussex County Council [RR-418], states: “it is acknowledged that some construction traffic will route through the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Cowfold. For the purposes of traffic routing, this traffic will make use of A-classed roads (the A281, which runs north to south, and the A272, which runs east to west). Notwithstanding the AQMA, in light of their classification, these roads are appropriate for construction traffic.”</p> <p>There are no proposed HGV routes through Storrington, as shown in Figure 7.6.6 of the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010]. Table 19-9 within Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-060] states that there will be no significant traffic travelling through the Storrington High Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and that Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) along the Storrington High Street AQMA are below the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) and EPUK, (2017) screening criteria for road links in AQMA’s, therefore potential effects are negligible.</p> <p>Commitment C-24 (Commitments Register [REP-1-015]) ensures that best practice air quality management measures will be applied during construction in line with Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2016) guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction 2016, version 1.1. This is outlined in the</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] which is secured through Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at the Deadline 2 submission.</p>
11.15	<p>Construction:</p> <p><i>Dust Management plan:</i></p> <p>11.15 During site clearance, preparation and construction there is the potential for local residents to experience adverse impacts from noise, dust and construction traffic movements. These should be minimised and controlled by the developer and a construction environmental management (CEMP) plan.</p>	<p>Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-060] presents the construction dust assessment from the different components of the Proposed Development, undertaken in line with the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2016) guidance on 'Assessment of Dust from Construction and Demolition' following best practice. The assessment identifies suitable mitigation according to the risk of dust impacts from the different components of the Proposed Development to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are applied. The relevant dust mitigation measures form part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] which includes an embedded environmental measure to produce Dust Management Plans for the areas within the proposed DCO Order Limits that are associated with medium dust risk. The Dust Management Plan will be included in the stage specific Code of Construction Practice (secured through Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]) which will be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority and in accordance with the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033].</p>
11.16	11.16 The Applicant should follow the IAQM guidance and	Commitment C-24 (Commitments Register [REP-1-015])
to	implement all the general measures categorised as Highly	ensures that best practice air quality management
11.17	Recommended.	measures will be applied during construction in line with

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>11.17 Commitment-24 Best practice air quality management measures will be applied as described in Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2016) guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction 2016, version 1.1.</p>	<p>Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2016) guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction 2016, version 1.1. This is outlined in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] which is secured through Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at the Deadline 2 submission.</p>
<p>11.18 to</p>	<p>11.18 Air Quality Plan:</p> <p>11.18 Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex (2021) takes a low-emission strategies' approach to avoid health impacts of cumulative development, by seeking to mitigate or offset emissions from the additional traffic. Hence, Applicants are required to submit a mitigation plan detailing measures to mitigate and/or offset the impacts and setting out itemised costing for each proposed measure, with the total estimated value of all the measures being equal to the total damage costs.</p>	<p>The requirement in the Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex (Mid Sussex District Council, 2021) for damage cost calculations is not relevant to the majority of the Proposed Development considering its nature and scheduling. It is therefore anticipated, subject to a review of the revised traffic generation and considering the knowledge of the construction schedule, that damage costs will be calculated for the works at the onshore substation at Oakendene where construction is likely to last longest. An Air Quality Mitigation Plan will be produced for the onshore substation at Oakendene in line with the Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex (Mid Sussex District Council, 2021). Following further discussions with Horsham District Council, it is anticipated that the Air Quality Mitigation Plan will be submitted at Deadline 3.</p>
	<p>11.19 It is understood from the Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground (PEPD-039) that an Air quality Plan, including emissions and health damage cost calculation and mitigation plan, for the construction phase of the development will be produced. Within this Air Quality Plan it is requested that the Applicant demonstrate how the overall monetary disbenefits identified will be redressed by the measures proposed. An effective air quality plan would contain the following elements for each proposed measure:</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costings • Performance indicators • Delivery timescales. 	
	<p>11.20 These are the essential mechanisms that enable authorities to work for the benefit of local communities and public health. It is essential that there is confidence that proper monitoring mechanisms and indicators are established at the outset and reviewed as necessary</p>	
	<p>11.21 The Mitigation measures for the proposed development should be in line with the Sussex Air latest Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex. Regarding the measures to be put forward in the air quality mitigation plan HDC would request that the Applicant avoids duplication of measures that would normally be required through other regimes. Alternatively, we would support contributions:</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to support and improve air quality monitoring in Cowfold AQMA and Washington. • to measures included in the Action Plan, • to Local Energy Efficiency Improvement • to the set-up of a Cowfold car Club scheme (Leap); • towards HDC's public building energy performance retrofit programme; 	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • towards HDC's vehicle replacement programme 	
11.22	<p>Construction Traffic Management Plan REV B (CTMP) PEPD-035a:</p> <p>11.22 There is a concern that the CTMP does not account for emissions of the on-road and off-road construction traffic. Section 8.4.11 of the CTMP proposes to use Euro V on road vehicles "or better whenever possible". The emission rates for Euro V heavy duty vehicles are circa 50% higher for PM and NOx compared to those of Euro VI vehicles – so it makes a significant difference what emission standard gets adopted.</p>	<p>The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010] submitted at Deadline 1 includes in paragraph 8.4.12 an updated commitment that a minimum Euro VI standard vehicles will be used to support construction of the Proposed Development. The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010] is secured through Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>
11.23	<p>11.23 There is a commitment C-158 of the Commitment Register which outlines 'The proposed heavy goods vehicle (HGV) routing during the construction period to individual accesses will avoid the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Cowfold 'where possible.' Even with the rerouteing of HGV traffic, it is estimated that 25% will still go through Cowfold AQMA. The concern is also that the details of the final HGV routes are not known, and whether those mirror the assumptions used to model the impacts.</p>	<p>The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [REP-1-010] details the control mechanisms and mitigation that will be employed during the construction phase to limit the impacts of construction traffic associated with the Proposed Development. This includes commitment C-158 (Commitments Register [REP1-015]) that requires heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) to avoid routing through the Cowfold AQMA where possible.</p> <p>At detailed design stage and prior to commencement of the relevant stage of construction, stage-specific CTMPs will be submitted in accordance with the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-1-010] for the approval of the highways authority (West Sussex County Council) as detailed by Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]. This means that HGV routing</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
11.24	11.24 Alternatives to routeing vehicles through Cowfold should be considered such as using haul routes to link sites south of Cowfold with the Oakendene construction compound.	<p>must adhere to the commitments contained within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-1-010].</p> <p>Whilst commitments C-157 and C-158 (Commitments Register [REP-1-015]) discourage construction traffic from routeing through the Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-064] and Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006] have assumed that as a worst case approximately 25% of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic could route through Cowfold from the A24 and A272 east of the village centre when entering or exiting construction accesses at Oakendene, Kent Street or Wineham Lane. This assumption was applied as a robust assessment of the maximum potential effects that may occur within Cowfold and is not a prediction of HGV construction traffic flows that will travel through the AQMA during the construction phase. As such, given the control mechanisms contained within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-1-010] and commitment C-158 (Commitments Register [REP1-015]) that requires HGVs to avoid routing through the Cowfold AQMA where possible, it is anticipated that HGV flows through the AQMA will be much lower than assessed.</p> <p>The Applicant has not proposed a continuous haul road south of Cowfold in order to reduce impacts on landscape, ecology and water. This was further explained in response</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
11.25 to 11.28	<p>11.25 It is not clear how routing of HGVs to avoid the AQMA's in Storrington and Cowfold is to be managed and controlled. Use of traffic surveying technology such as automatic number plate recognition cameras would offer an appropriate monitoring mechanism.</p> <p>11.26 To that end, HDC Officers have contacted Obstrada, a company specialised in traffic and transport surveys to explore options on how we can police the traffic passing through Cowfold AQMA. The findings of these are attached as Appendix C.</p> <p>11.27 In summary, four options are listed, each of them with expected cost range, pros and cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary CCTV Video Analysis • Temporary ANPR Data Analysis • Permanent ANPR Data Analysis • Existing ANPR Data Analysis. <p>11.28 The prices quoted are indicative as the specification of the Project is not known at this stage but HDC advocates that this detail will begin engagement with the Applicant on possible ways of controlling LDV and HGV so these do not become higher than 25% over the lifetime of the Project.</p>	<p>to the hearing Action Point 14 in Issue Specific Hearing 1 – Appendix 3 – Further Information for Action Point 14 and 16 – Construction Accesses [REP1-022].</p> <p>Any such details would be confirmed as part of stage-specific CTMPs that will be submitted in accordance with the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-1-010] for the approval of the highways authority (West Sussex County Council) secured through Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
11.29	<p>Modelling:</p> <p>11.29 HDC has concerns of the modelling results for Cowfold AQMA. Details are therefore required of the model set up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For which construction year the model was set up? What was the AADT considered? It is understood that even with HGV reroute in place, 25% will still go through Cowfold AQMA. The concern is that the Assessment Scenario includes assumptions on HGV routing which may not materialise for project implementation. 	<p>The air quality modelling for Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was updated and provided in Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [REP1-006]. The updated assessment modelled the second year of construction; the year with the highest development traffic according to the revised traffic data for the Proposed Development presented in Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006]. The AADT used takes into account the heavy goods vehicle (HGV) routing through the Cowfold AQMA. The updated traffic data did not change the outcome of the assessment provided in Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-060].</p>
11.30	<p>11.30 It would be helpful to have the receptors labelled on a map. This would provide the local authority with more information on the spatial variation of concentrations.</p>	<p>Figure 19.2, Chapter 19: Air quality – Figures, Volume 3, of the ES [APP-104] presents the receptor location for the Cowfold model.</p>
11.31 to 11.32	<p>11.31 HDC monitored NO₂ at 10 locations in Cowfold in 2019, but only 3 of these sites were used for model verification. The Applicant has provided justification on the Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground (PEPD-039) for removing diffusion tubes from the verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring at Cowfold 7n (DT37) has recorded values within 10% of UK objectives in 2019 (36.1 ug/m³) and it represents the worst location in Cowfold, but it was not considered for model verification. Applicant justification for removing the DT from the verification is not acceptable as the tube is not near 	<p>The air quality modelling for Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was updated and provided in Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [REP1-006]. The updated assessment reflects the latest traffic data and considers a revised verification factor derived by also using DT37, DT22 and DT12. The verification applied ensured that the model was not under predicting. The new verification factor and updated traffic data did not change the outcome of the assessment provided in Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-060].</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>a bus stop or a post box and it is representative of traffic emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring at Cowfold 4 (DT22) was also not considered for model verification. Although traffic data was assumed during model set up, the concentration monitored at this DT is representative of traffic emissions and should have been considered. Although Cowfold 1,2 (DT12,20) is subject to stop/start because of traffic lights, it is representative of traffic emissions and should have been considered for model verification. <p>11.32 Average monitored concentrations of annual mean NO2 in Cowfold roadside locations in 2019 was 27.3ug/m3, with the worst location recording 30.7 ug/m3, which is well above the modelled concentrations at the receptors. As there is a systematic under prediction of modelled concentrations for all sites, it is recommended that the Applicant provides a review of the model provided for Cowfold AQMA.</p>	<p>Regarding the predicted concentration presented in the Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006], they reflect concentrations at locations of relevant exposure and none of the diffusion tubes in Cowfold are at location of relevant exposure. According to Table A.2 of HDC latest Annual Status Report (2022), the distance of the monitoring sites to a location of relevant exposure varies from 2m – 23m. Therefore, concentrations at relevant sensitive receptors are expected to be lower than the concentration reported in the HDC Annual Status Report.</p>

11.33 11.33 The following are recommended actions requested by Horsham District Council, as follows: (see table below)

	Issue	Recommended Action	Applicant's Response
1	Air quality plan should be in line with Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation	Firmer commitment to be explicit that air quality plan to be in line with Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation	An Air Quality Mitigation Plan will be produced for the onshore substation at Oakendene in line with the Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex (Mid Sussex District Council, 2021). Following further

Ref	Local Impact Report comment		Applicant's Response
	Guidance for Sussex (2021)	Guidance for Sussex and demonstrate how monetary disbenefits will be readdressed by measures proposed	discussions with Horsham District Council, it is anticipated that the Air Quality Mitigation Plan will be submitted at Deadline 3.
2	Firmer commitment to HGV routing to avoid Cowfold AQMA	Additional requirement or firmer commitment to C-158 to indicate HGV routing through Cowfold only where strictly necessary	<p>Whilst commitments C-157 and C-158 (Commitments Register [REP1-015]) discourages traffic from routing through the Cowfold AQMA, it is necessary for construction traffic to route along the A272 and A281 in order to access sites to the east of the A281. Additionally, for robustness within Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-064] and Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006], it has been assumed that approximately 25% of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic will route through Cowfold from the A24 and A272 east of the village centre when entering or exiting construction accesses at Oakendene, Kent Street or Wineham Lane. This accounts for the potential delivery of material or equipment to / from locations directly west of Cowfold where it would not be possible to adhere to commitments C-157 and C-158 of the Commitments Register [REP1-015] or use of the Strategic Road Network and provides a robust assessment of impacts within Cowfold. Even with this precautionary modelling approach, negligible impact on the AQMA is assessed.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment		Applicant's Response
3	Requirement to avoid Storrington AQMA	Additional requirement or commitment to avoid Storrington AQMA	There are no proposed HGV routes through Storrington, as shown in Figure 7.6.6 of the Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010]. Table 19-9 within Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-060] states that there will be no significant traffic travelling through the Storrington High Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and that Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) along the Storrington High Street AQMA are below the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) and EPUK, (2017) screening criteria for road links in AQMA's, therefore potential effects are negligible.
4	Require production of Air Quality Management Plans	Additional requirement specific to production of Air Quality Management Plans, allied to Air Quality Plan	Commitment C-24 (Commitments Register [REP1-015]) ensures that best practice air quality management measures will be applied during construction in line with Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2016) guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction 2016, version 1.1. This is outlined in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] which is secured through Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at the Deadline 2 submission.
5	Identification of measures to address impacts evidenced by applicant to be mitigated and/or compensation for those that cannot be mitigated	Applicant to explore suggestions put forward by HDC including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional diffusion tubes and remote sensors along 	Impacts from road traffic emissions at sensitive receptor locations within Cowfold, and Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) specifically, have been assessed and are reported within the Chapter 19: Air quality, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-060]. Impacts from emissions of NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ and

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
6	Control of HGV routing through Cowfold AQMA	<p>A272 and lorry routes. Applicant should support costs of this additional monitoring</p> <p>Applicant to explore suggestions put forward by HDC including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of ANPR cameras for Cowfold (see Appendix C) <p>PM_{2.5} were considered. The assessment concluded that the impact from construction traffic emissions is negligible at all sensitive receptor locations, including residential receptors within the AQMA.</p> <p>Any such details would be confirmed as part of stage-specific CTMPs that will be submitted in accordance with the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010] for the approval of the highways authority (West Sussex County Council) secured through Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>
Noise and Vibration		
12.1	Local Planning Policy	The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.
12.1 HDPF Policy 24 Strategic Policy: Environmental Protection concerns protection of the high quality of the district's environment. Taking into account any relevant Planning Guidance Documents, developments will be expected to minimise exposure to and the emission of pollutants including noise, odour, air and light pollution and ensure that they contribute to and do not conflict with objectives of implementation of local Air Quality Action Plans, and maintain or reduce the number of people exposed to poor air quality including odour.		
12.2	12.2 HDPF policy 33 requires consideration of neighbouring amenities when determining planning applications, for such	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
12.3	<p>matters as overlooking, light, noise and outlook, whilst HDPF policy 36 also seeks to avoid adverse impact on amenity value.</p> <p>12.3 WASP Policy 4: Location and Setting requires development not to result in unacceptable levels of light, noise, air, or water pollution.</p>	
12.4	<p>Local Issues and Impacts</p> <p>12.4 The construction period is noted to be approximately 3.5 to four years, with construction works delivered in stages. It is noted from Chapter 21 of the ES (REV B PEPD-18) that with respect to HDD there is potential for prolonged exposure of sensitive receptors to noisy drilling and ancillary works, 24 hours per day over consecutive, often multiple days. There are certain points along the onshore cable corridor, in particular trenchless crossings in the village of Washington that are very close to noise sensitive receptors. However, the Applicant does not evidence engagement with the affected communities and how the outcome of those engagements have influenced the Applicant's assumptions used as a basis for the assessment finds and decisions on mitigations measures to reduce these impacts.</p>	<p>Although the construction phase is anticipated to 3.5 years, and this was considered within Chapter 21: Noise and Vibration, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [PEPD-018] (paragraph 21.9.3), the worst-case durations of construction noise are not. The worst case assumes that many activities are undertaken simultaneously that is unlikely to be the case for the majority of the time, if it happens at all. Where thresholds of significance are potentially exceeded by the works, but the duration that the receptor will be exposed to the noise is less than a month, this is below the temporal threshold and not significant.</p> <p>With regard to HDD, the predictions for noise include assessment of the night time activities, the nature of which also includes the use of mud pumps, running to prevent tunnel collapse, and generators for power and lighting. These items of plant will be screened to minimise off-site noise at night. Further assessment will be provided once methodologies and programmes are fixed, as part of the Noise and Vibration Plan review and submission process in accordance with Commitment C-263 within the Commitment Register [REP1-015], secured through, Requirement 22 Code of construction practice (5) (h) of</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>Schedule 1, Part 3 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>The construction noise assessment follows the objective approach provided by BS5228, the approved code of practice for construction noise. Although the assessment presents the general approach to mitigation. Further assessment will be provided once methodologies and programmes are fixed, as part of the Noise and Vibration Monitoring Plan in accordance with Commitment C-263 within the Commitments Register [REP1-015], secured through, Requirement 22 Code of construction practice (5) (h) of Schedule 1, Part 3 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>
12.5	<p>Construction Phase Noise and Vibration:</p> <p>12.5 The project will involve construction works in rural areas where background noise levels will be very low, particularly at night. An accurate assessment of noise and vibration impacts should be based on detailed information on the phasing, sequencing, and duration of construction activities. There is no information as to when this detailed information will become available or the type of information that will be provided.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development will involve construction works in rural areas and baseline noise monitoring has been undertaken to characterise receptors existing ambient noise levels. The assessment of construction noise in Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [PEPD-018] has considered these. In locations where it was not possible to determine baseline levels, the lowest cut-off levels for construction noise have been used for the assessment. This is considered a robust and conservative approach to the assessment of construction noise. A programme of works will be supplied to the relevant planning authorities prior to onshore construction commencement, identifying the stages of the works, secured by Requirement 10 of the Draft</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
12.6	<p>12.6 The description of the construction works as temporary does not fully reflect the potential for adverse impacts. The construction compounds will be in operation for at least 3 years. Sites along the cable route will also entail construction of haul roads and may host additional works such as cable jointing which further extends the duration of operations at these sites.</p>	<p>Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]. A Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be drafted for each stage, and approved prior to the commencement of that stage, secured by Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>BS 5228 (BSI, 2014a) provides criteria for the assessment of noise over a period of time. There will be temporary periods of time where noise will be high outside residences. Timescales of different construction aspects were specified in in Section 21.9 Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2 of the ES [PEPD-018]. In Section 21.15, the assessment concluded that the potential effect during the construction phase will be negligible to minor adverse following the implementation of embedded environmental measures, which is not significant in terms of EIA</p>
12.7	<p>12.7 For construction noise the assessment of impact has been undertaken with regard to Annex E of BS5228-1 and particularly the thresholds of significant effects. Annex E details several methodologies for assessing impacts but for all significant impacts from construction noise are only considered to occur above 65dB LAeqT. As noted above, the works will take part in areas where background noise levels are low and therefore adopting this approach may not fully portray the noise impacts from the construction phase. For longer term construction projects lower noise limits should be considered.</p>	<p>This comment appears to refer to paragraph E.5 in Annex E of British Standard BS5228-1. However, the criteria within E.5 are specifically related to long term earth moving in a single area, akin to surface extraction works, which does not represent the construction activity within the Proposed Development. The Applicant considers that as the advice within Annex E paragraph E.2 is more appropriate.</p> <p>Paragraph E.2 states <i>“For projects of significant size such as the construction of a new railway or trunk road, historically, there have been two approaches to determining whether construction noise levels could be significant. The</i></p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p><i>older and more simplistic is based upon exceedance of fixed lse limits..."</i></p> <p>Paragraph E.2 provides an example of the fixed limits approach <i>"Noise from construction and demolition sites should not exceed the level at which conversation in the nearest building would be difficult with the windows shut. The noise can be measured with a simple sound level meter, as we hear it, in A-weighted decibels (dB(A))– see note below. Noise levels, between say 07.00 and 19.00 hours, outside the nearest window of the occupied room closest to the site boundary should not exceed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• 70 decibels (dBA) in rural, suburban and urban areas away from main road traffic and industrial noise;</i><i>• 75 decibels (dBA) in urban areas near main roads in heavy industrial areas.</i> <p><i>These limits are for daytime working outside living rooms and offices. In noise-sensitive situations, for example, near hospitals and educational establishments – and when working outside the normal hours say between 19.00 and 22.00 hours – the allowable noise levels from building sites will be less: such as the reduced values given in the contract specification or as advised by the Environmental Health Officer (a reduction of 10 dB(A) may often be appropriate)."</i></p> <p>But E.2 goes on to state that <i>"The above principle has been expanded over time to include a suite of noise levels</i></p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
12.8	<p>12.8 The adoption of the thresholds quoted in Annex E to BS5228-1 as LOAELs and SOAELs is questioned. BS5228-1 does not reference WHO documents and principally relies on publications regarding protection of site workers from noise. The assessment methodology in Annex E states that other project-specific factors, such as the number of receptors affected and the duration and character of the impact, will also determine if there is a significant effect.</p>	<p><i>covering the whole day/week period taking into account the varying sensitivities through these periods. Examples are provided in E.3.2 (see Table E.1) and in E.4 (see Table E.2), and the levels shown in Table E.2 are often used as limits above which noise insulation would be provided if the temporal criteria are also exceeded.”</i></p> <p>As such the approach to construction noise assessment within Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2 of the ES [PEPD-018] (the ABC method as specified within E.3.2) is consistent with the method as set out by BS5228-1 as being appropriate for the assessment of construction noise related to construction projects of significant size. The Applicant considers that the assessment uses the correct methodology.</p> <p>The determination of the Lowest and Significant Observable Adverse Effect Levels is on the basis of the semantic description in Planning Practice Guidance – Noise (PPG-N) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2019) “Noise Exposure Hierarchy”. Although the selection of where the lowest observable adverse effect level (LOAEL) and significant observable adverse effects level (SOAEL) for the Proposed Development can be argued, the advice in PPG-N (MHCLG, 2019) is that levels above the LOAEL should be mitigated and reduced to a minimum, and as such by following BS5228-1, the Code of Practice for Construction Noise, noise will be mitigated and reduced to a minimum in line with the planning practice guidance note.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
12.9	12.9 It is important to ensure the potential noise impacts for the receptors are fully understood beyond the narrow confines of BS5228-1. The Applicant should illustrate the potential magnitude of the noise impacts by comparing the predicted	<p>The Applicant draws attention to the fact that BS5228-1 is a statutorily supported approach to assessment of construction noise.</p> <p>Section 71 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (CoPA74) provides the Secretary of State the power to prepare and approve codes of practice for the purpose of giving guidance on appropriate methods for minimising noise; including the power to approve such codes of practice issued or proposed to be issued otherwise than by the Secretary of State as in the opinion of the Secretary of State are suitable for the purpose.</p> <p>The Control of Noise (Code of Practice for Construction and Open Sites) (England) Order 2015 approves BS5228- 1 as the code of practice for assessing construction noise under Section 71 of CoPA74.</p> <p>That the standard does not refer to World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines (1999; 2009) does not diminish its standing as the primary resource in the UK by which, construction noise significance is established and the mechanisms by which such noise should be controlled.</p> <p>British Standard BS5228-1 is the Secretary of State (SoS) recommended guidance for construction noise. The Applicant has illustrated the potential magnitude of the noise impacts by comparing the predicted construction noise levels to the existing ambient noise levels at each</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	construction noise levels to the existing ambient noise levels at each receptor location.	receptor location. The Applicant has assessed the magnitude of impact with reference to BS5228-1 Annex E which states <i>“Noise levels generated by site activities are deemed to be potentially significant if the total noise (pre-construction ambient plus site noise) exceeds the pre-construction ambient noise by 5 dB or more, subject to lower cut-off values of 65 dB, 55 dB and 45 dB from site noise alone, for the daytime, evening and night-time periods, respectively; and a duration of one month or more, unless works of a shorter duration are likely to result in significant effect.”</i>
12.10	12.10 The methodology for the identification of receptors is not clearly explained. This is important for establishing if all relevant receptors have been identified and factors such as differences in topography have been included in determining the predicted construction noise levels.	Although certain receptors are named as being representative, and these will generally be the nearest receptor to an element of the works, all receptors within the Study Area, which is defined within Section 21.4 within Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [PEPD-018], have been assessed. Topography is included in the noise models and assessed accordingly.
12.11	12.11 Noise sensitive receptors for short term works such as cable route construction are not considered. These works may be of limited duration, but this does not mean the noise impacts should not require assessment and mitigation, particularly when mobile plant such as generators are deployed. The construction of haul roads and cabling works could extend the periods of noisy activity close to sensitive receptors beyond the 10 days presumed for cable route construction.	Although a quantitative assessment may not have been carried out for such works as the onshore cable installation, it would be incorrect to say no assessment has been undertaken, as the cable route is assessed qualitatively in paragraphs 21.9.46 to 21.9.53 within Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2 of the ES [PEPD-018]. The assessment within Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2 of the ES [PEPD-018] concludes that the potential effect during the construction phase will be

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12.12	12.12 Short term works are also excluded from the consideration of cumulative impacts on the grounds these will be of limited duration. Given the uncertainties regarding the potential phasing, duration and impacts of such works this exclusion is not justified.	<p>negligible to minor adverse following the implementation of embedded environmental measures, which is not significant in terms of EIA.</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033] outlines management measures and mitigation proposed at all onshore construction areas to reduce the effects relating to noise and vibration from construction of the Proposed Development, including Commitments C-10, C-26, and C-263 (Commitments Register [REP1-015] updated at the Deadline 1 submission). Commitment C-263 includes the production of a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) during detailed design based on the principles in the Outline CoCP [PEPD-033], detailing best practicable means and location specific mitigation and secured by Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at deadline 2. The NVMP will be based on further assessment on where noisy construction activities, including piling will occur. Additional measures will be considered at these locations, such as mufflers, acoustic shrouds, and temporary noise barriers, where appropriate.</p> <p>The works excluded from cumulative assessment are those that are of such a short duration that it would not be possible to quantify any such accumulation. The construction work for the Proposed Development has potential to affect the areas closest to the trenching line for a short duration whilst the works occur in that location, then once complete the works will move along the onshore cable</p>

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12.13	<p>12.13 Noise impacts from trenchless crossings at night are a concern. Predicted night noise levels have identified receptors significantly above BS5228 threshold screening adopted in the Environmental Statement. It is proposed that screening will be deployed to reduce these impacts. The effectiveness of screening will depend on several factors. These include the height, mass and length of the barrier and the position of noise source relative to the identified receptor. Noise from construction equipment contains particular frequency components and these are not all attenuated to the same degree by a barrier. It should not be assumed the predicted mitigation will be achieved</p>	<p>route and not impact receptors. However, this temporary impact will not be significant.</p> <p>Experience of monitoring noise from construction sites gives the Applicant confidence that using temporary acoustic screening is a suitable mitigation strategy. The diminishment of performance over certain frequencies is a valid concern, nevertheless, with mitigation measures applied, significant effects are avoided.</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033] outlines management measures and mitigation proposed at all onshore construction areas to reduce the effects relating to noise and vibration from construction of the Proposed Development, including Commitments C-10, C-26, and C-263 (Commitments Register [REP1-015] updated at the Deadline 1 submission). Commitment C-263 includes the production of a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) during detailed design based on the principles in the Outline CoCP [PEPD-033], detailing best practicable means and location specific mitigation and secured by Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2. The NVMP will be based on further assessment on where noisy construction activities, including piling will occur. Additional measures will be considered at these locations, such as mufflers, acoustic shrouds, and temporary noise barriers, where appropriate.</p>

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12.14	12.14 Effective control and management of construction noise will require monitoring to ensure policies and procedures to mitigate noise are being adhered to. Monitoring compliance for a project of this scale and duration is beyond the currently resourced capacity of the local authority officers with expertise in noise and planning who also have other duties to fulfil.	The Applicant agrees that such control is key, and this will be managed through the Noise and Vibration Plan process in accordance with Commitment C-263 within the Commitment Register [REP1-015] , secured through, Requirement 22 Code of construction practice (5) (h) of Schedule 1, Part 3 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] .
12.15	12.15 To address this issue and provide community reassurance, the Applicant should consider providing continuous noise analysers at the construction compounds and all sites where overnight working is taking place. This would also facilities transparent reporting and accountability for noise impacts arising from the construction activities. To reduce the burden on local authority officers the Applicant should fund an independent consultant (appointment in agreement with the local authority) to audit monitoring data and advice HDC on any identified non-compliance or breach of target noise levels.	Please see response above reference 12.14 and below 12.31 .
12.16	<p>Operational Noise:</p> <p>12.16 HDC has reviewed the revised Volume 2 (Noise and Vibration) PEPD-018, revised Volume 3 (Figures) PEPD-022 and revised Volume 4 (baseline noise monitoring) PEPD- 025 and none of these documents refer to or address HDC's previous comments in relation to operational noise from the proposed sub-station, as detailed in its Relevant Representations submission (RR-148). These comments are extracted and re- presented in this LIR.</p>	The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.

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12.17	12.17 Disappointingly, therefore HDC has no further comments to make on these revised reports in the context of this LIR and has identified this to the Applicant in ongoing negotiations in the Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground (PEPD-039).	
12.18	12.18 With this mind, it is noted that the Applicant's acoustic consultants have provided comments in the SoCG (revision C) in relation to HDC's PADSS (AS-010). From reviewing these HDC does however remain concerned with the potential noise impacts from the sub-station at the closest noise sensitive receptors, in particular low frequency noise.	
12.19	12.19 From reviewing Table 21-20 'Relevant noise and vibration embedded environmental measures' HDC note that the following is stated under Commitment C-231 - The detailed substation design will be built and operated such that the Rating levels (noise emissions plus any character correction) do not exceed the following noise levels at the private amenity space associated with the closest residential receptors.	Noted, the Applicant has no further comments on this matter at this time.
12.20 to 12.22	<p>12.20 Given the low background noise levels in this part of our District, in particular during the night time hours, HDC consider that the proposed rated noise levels are too high and are at level where adverse impacts may be expected.</p> <p>12.21 From reviewing Table 21-38 'Operational noise assessment – Onshore substation Unmitigated' it is apparent that the rated level during the night time hours (2300 – 0700) to be +7 above background at Oakendene Manor, +6 above</p>	<p>The low background sound levels are acknowledged, although it is understood that Horsham District Council would prefer that the Rating levels from such electrical infrastructure is mitigated to as low as level as possible, the assessment has to consider a range of factors in arriving at suitable limits</p> <p>British Standard (BS) 4142 (British Standard Institution (BSI), 2019) states "<i>Where the initial estimate of the impact</i></p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>background at Southlands and +5 above background at Westridge. From reviewing Table 21-39 'Operational noise assessment – Onshore substation Mitigated' it is apparent that even with proposed mitigation the rated levels at Oakendene Manor during the night-time hours are still +5dB above background.</p> <p>12.22 HDC appreciate that the report states that in accordance with the IEMA Assessment (2014) that the magnitude of change is 'very low'. However, with the above in mind, BS4142 makes it very clear however that the greater the noise level above background the greater the magnitude of impact, and, that a difference of +5dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact. These impacts are likely to be significant where night time background levels are low.</p>	<p><i>needs to be modified due to the context, take all pertinent factors into consideration, including the following.</i></p> <p><i>1) The absolute level of sound. For a given difference between the rating level and the background sound level, the magnitude of the overall impact might be greater for an acoustic environment where the residual sound level is high than for an acoustic environment where the residual sound level is low.</i></p> <p><i>Where background sound levels and rating levels are low, absolute levels might be as, or more, relevant than the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background. This is especially true at night."</i></p> <p>Earlier versions of BS4142 defined +5dB as the onset of adverse impact, the current revision BS4142:2014 +A1:2019 is more nuanced (though it should also be recognised that the earlier versions of the standard (e.g. BS4142:1997) did include low background level cut-off below which the standard did not apply. The Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) Good Practice Working Group prepared a technical note on the use of the BS4142:2009 +A1:2019 (ANC, 2020 <i>BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Technical Note</i>). The Technical Note, although being a discussion as opposed to a prescriptive guide, is considered within the industry to be an authority on how to interpret the technical elements of the standard.</p>

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		<p>The Technical Note states “BS 4142 does not indicate how the initial estimate of impact should be adjusted when background and rating levels are low, only that the absolute levels may be more important than the difference between the two values. It is likely that where the background and rating levels are low, the absolute levels might suggest a more acceptable outcome than would otherwise be suggested by the difference between the values. For example a situation might be considered acceptable where a rating level of 30dB is 10dB above a background sound level of 20dB, i.e. an initial estimate of a significant adverse impact is modified by the low rating and background sound levels may be situations where the opposite is true, and it is for the assessor to justify any modifications to the initial estimate of impact. BS 4142 does not define ‘low’ in the context of background sound levels nor rating levels. The note to the Scope of the 1997 version of BS 4142 defined very low background sound levels as being less than about 30 dB LA90, and low rating levels as being less than about 35 dB LAr,Tr. The WG suggest that similar values would not be unreasonable in the context of BS 4142, but that the assessor should make a judgement and justify it where appropriate.”</p> <p>Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [PEPD-018] makes these points and also ties the criteria used to World Health Organisation ((WHO), 2009) evidence to demonstrate that night operational rating levels are not significant at the proposed level of 35 decibels (dB).</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
12.23	12.23 HDC notes that the following is stated in section 1.3 of BS4142 - The standard is not applicable to the assessment of low frequency noise. Information on the assessment of low frequency noise is given in NANR45. Given the low frequency noise associated with the proposed substation HDC is of the view that an assessment in accordance with NANR45 is required in support of this application.	<p>The ANC (2020) Technical Note on BS 4142 <i>BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Technical Note</i> states “ <i>Sound referred to as low frequency in NANR45 is energy within the 10 – 160 Hz frequency range. The Working Group considered that BS 4142 does not necessarily exclude such a wide range. It would be reasonable to use BS 4142 down to 50 Hz and possibly lower as part of a tonality assessment, for example.</i>” This point was discussed with Horsham District Council (HDC) via email in August 2022. HDC Environmental Protection Officers stated at the time “<i>From re-visiting the ANC Technical Note I would like to make the following comments. We note the following is stated in the Technical Note it would be reasonable to use BS 4142 down to 50 Hz and possibly lower as part of a tonality assessment, for example. Given this we are of the view that an objective assessment of the tonal noise should form part of assessment...</i>”</p>
12.24	12.24 This is consistent with the advice given in the Planning Noise Advice Document: Sussex issued in November 2023 and published jointly by all local authorities in East and West Sussex.	<p>The Applicant has considered the operational noise assessment with respect to sections 3.2 and 3.5, along with Annex 1 of Planning Noise Advice Document: Sussex. The Applicant considers that the assessment undertaken is in line with the principles of the document, and there is nothing in the document that is contradicted by the assessment undertaken.</p>
12.25	12.25 Further to the above HDC notes that the following is stated: Further discussion was undertaken with regard to low frequency noise. It was agreed with HDC that the assessment methodology within BS 4142:2019 (BSI, 2019) was sufficient to	<p>Although the comment mentions ground borne noise, such operational ground borne noise generation is not likely with the plant being installed. It is assumed that the author meant airborne noise.</p>

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	<p>assess the effects of low frequency noise at the nearest noise sensitive receptors. HDC commented that BS 4142:2019 is not applicable to assess ground borne low frequency noise. These comments remain valid.</p>	<p>Following discussion with Horsham District Council (HDC) (August 2022, as stated in reference 12.24 above), the Applicant undertook the assessment of low frequency noise to guidance standards (NANR45) in agreement with HDC. As this approach was previously agreed with HDC, the Applicant would like to understand the potential contradiction between the previous discussion with HDC and this comment in their LIR.</p>		
12.26	<p>12.26 In summary, mitigated noise impacts at identified receptors are reliant on specific physical mitigation measures to be adopted at the substation including harmonic filter dampening, dampening and enclosures for transformers etc. Whilst it is understood that such mitigation would be secured where necessary to achieve noise specified noise limits, given the low background noise levels in part of our District, as quantified in the background noise monitoring, and given the impact from low frequency noise, as detailed above, HDC is of the view that the noise impacts have not been fully assessed and that noise levels below the levels as detailed in Commitment C-231 could still result in significant noise impact to residential amenity.</p>	<p>For the reasons discussed above (reference 12.16 to 12.23), the Applicant considers that the noise limits proposed for the Oakendene substation are appropriate and avoid significant effect.</p> <p>Summary box Positive – The Applicant welcomes HDC’s consideration of these topics as being positive local impacts. Neutral – The Applicant acknowledges that HDC considers the access routes as being neutral impacts . Negative – The Applicant understands why construction compounds and trenchless crossings have been identified as being negative impacts. The Applicant considers that the supply of an outline Noise Management Plan will aid HDC in understanding the nature and format of the information likely to be applied. The Applicant also considers that the clarifications provided above regarding the nature of works occurring at night will provide some additional context as to why the assessment concluded that nighttime construction</p>		
<p>Summary Box</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Positive</p> </td> <td> <p>An outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCp) has been provided which confirms that stage specific CoCp will be submitted along with a Noise and Vibration Management Plan The proposed development would be sufficiently distanced from neighbouring</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Positive</p>	<p>An outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCp) has been provided which confirms that stage specific CoCp will be submitted along with a Noise and Vibration Management Plan The proposed development would be sufficiently distanced from neighbouring</p>
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	residential properties so as to not lead to a direct and harmful loss of amenity, by way of reducing light levels, or creating an adverse loss of outlook.	activity at trenchless crossing worksites can be mitigated to no significant effects.
Neutral	Considering the time-limited construction period, the routes of the temporary construction access in relation to the most private areas of the residential properties, it is acknowledged that some additional disturbance would occur, but not lead to permanent and adverse loss of residential amenities on the occupants	
Negative	Stage specific CMS and the OCoCP need to satisfy that overnight drilling mitigates impacts to nearby receptors, regarding noise, vibration and lighting at the construction compounds and drilling sites. Impacts must be kept to a minimum through secured monitoring and mitigation, including detailed plans on phasing of the onshore works to ensure construction timescales are minimised.	

12.27 Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments

12.27 There should be opportunity to manage noise through a Construction Environment Management Plan referencing the noise control measures and noise targets set out in the statutory

The Applicant considers that the proposed commitments adequately allow for the determination of appropriate mitigation. As the detailed mitigation will be secured through the provision of a stage specific Code of Construction (as opposed to CEMP as stated) for approval

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	<p>code of practice (BS5228:2009 Control of Noise and Vibration on Construction and Open Sites). Under the DCO, there should further detailed design and appropriate insertion of stringent provisions attached to any proposed mitigation (commitment C-26 and C-160 of the Commitments Register). To adequately protect residents, enhanced mitigation will need to be included within a stage specific CoCP, and where appropriate, subject to other regulatory controls (prior consent under Section 61 of the Control Pollution Act 1974). This will need to be addressed in the CoCP along with C-26 of the Commitment Register. It would be reassurance if the Applicant committed to consult the affected parishes on the CEMP for the relevant phase of the works so that the CEMP can be tuned to meet their local concerns.</p>	<p>by the relevant planning authority and developed in accordance with the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] secured through, Requirement 22 Code of construction practice (5) (h) of Schedule 1, Part 3 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p> <p>The Applicant will engage with parish councils during construction via the Construction Communication Plan.</p>
12.28	<p>12.28 The Commitment Register sets out embedded mitigation measures, principally through commitments C-22 (core working hours), C-26 (best practicable means), C-263 (and revision of construction noise assessments at design stage). The adequacy of such measures is unclear until further refinement of the construction noise predictions is undertaken. Commitment C-263 suggests that the adequacy of the construction noise assessments will be reviewed by contractors to ascertain if there is 'any significant deviation' from the initial sound level predictions. The competency of the contractor to review sound level predictions is questioned and the term 'significant deviation' should be quantified.</p>	<p>Following review of this comment the wording of the commitment C-263 (Commitments Register [REP1-015]) is being amended to provide confirmation that the competency requirements of the person reviewing (and amending) such predictions shall be a 'suitably qualified acoustician' i.e. possessing a recognised qualification in acoustics, being a member of the Institute of Acoustics, and possessing a minimum of 3 years' experience in undertaking construction noise assessment. This will be secured through an update to the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] at Deadline 3 through requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
12.29	<p>12.29 An Outline Code of Construction Practice REV B (CoCP) PEPD-033 has been provided which confirms that stage specific CoCP will be submitted along with a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP). These documents will detail the mitigation measures to be adopted but have yet to be submitted. This results in considerable uncertainty as to the deployment and efficacy of the mitigation measures. Noise levels above the predicted levels will only be addressed retrospectively which would severely limit the ability to resolve such impacts.</p>	<p>In the context of construction noise, “significant deviation” would be an increase above the threshold of significance, or an increase in duration of what had been assumed to be a short term activity (with levels above the threshold of significance), such that the temporal threshold is exceeded.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that in applying a worst-case approach to the assessment of construction noise assessment, the uncertainty on such predictions will tend toward overestimation of noise rather than underestimation. The process of reassessing construction noise with the submission of Noise and Vibration Management Plans (Commitment C-263 within the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033] and secured by Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2) provides an additional opportunity to define the appropriate mitigation. Retrospective application of mitigation is not anticipated to be required, but the Applicant considers that providing a mechanism to undertake such retrospective measures is appropriate and helps with contingency planning.</p>
12.30	<p>12.30 The noise impacts are assessed on the basis that most of the site works will take place in the normal weekday hours (07:00 to 19:00). The need for additional working outside these times should be limited to emergency works only and should not be relied on.</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees that this shall be the approach taken by the project, noting the requirement for some continuous processes to run 24 hours, as stated in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033].</p>
12.31	<p>12.31 The proposals for construction noise monitoring are inadequate for a project of this scale and duration. Construction</p>	<p>Monitoring will be required at certain times and locations throughout the Project, see 5.4.15 to 5.4.18 of the Outline</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>noise monitoring should be undertaken proactively by the developer to ensure that the site works are complying with required target noise limit. Compliance checking should be undertaken regularly at every location where noise sensitive receptors may be impacted by noise arising from construction activities. The absence of proposed noise and vibration monitoring from the Commitment Register is noted and it is anticipated that for the worst-case locations (i.e. close to HDD crossings) that continuous noise and vibration monitoring should be undertaken and secured through the stage specific CoCP. It should not be for the local planning authorities to resource routine compliance checking of the developer's construction noise targets.</p>	<p>CoCP [PEPD-033] for further information. Monitoring proposals will be included in the stage specific CoCP (as part of the Noise and Vibration Management Plan) secured under Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>
12.32	<p>12.32 During all operational hours continuous noise and vibration monitors should be deployed at construction sites to ensure compliance with noise and vibration targets. Monitoring system installed and managed by a competent person in accordance with relevant guidance. The monitoring data should be made available to HDC within 24 hours. HDC lacks the resources to monitor a project of this scale and therefore the Applicant should fund an independent expert approved by HDC to be appointed to audit the monitoring data and identify any non-compliance.</p>	<p>See above response reference 12.31.</p>
12.33	<p>12.33 There are no sanctions or penalties proposed in the DCO to deal with non-compliance with the construction noise and vibration targets. The procedure for arbitration set on Schedule 15 of the DCO is unlikely to respond effectively to identified non-compliance with the CoCP or NVMP's. Documented exceedances of working hours, other than for emergencies, that</p>	<p>The Applicant is aware that failure to comply with the terms of an order for development consent is an offence under s161 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the local planning authority is able to enforce.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
12.34	12.34 The Construction Communications Plan should include provision for regular local meetings with representatives for the communities where the construction compounds will be sited. The costs should be met by the developer.	<p>Section 2.6 within the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [PEPD-033] provides an overview of the community liaison approach during the construction phase in and states that the Applicant will produce a Construction Communications Plan prior to the commencement of construction for approval with the relevant planning authorities and this will be secured through Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2. The Construction Communications Plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• outline the Proposed Development;• build on stakeholder engagement carried out throughout development to strengthen relationships with key stakeholder organisations and individuals, alongside the wider community;• identify a range of communication tools, methods and opportunities to reach this target audience and enable them to reach the construction team;• include a range of communication materials designed to reach the target audience;• include a series of tailored Communication and Mitigation Plans to provide more detail for local communities along the 38.8km onshore cable route; and• produce dedicated Communications Plans for special interest user groups, such as fishers, diver

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response	
		and public rights of way users; and set out the complaints procedure.	
12.35	12.35 HDC request the following recommended actions, including that the Outline CoCP is updated to provide for the following: (See table below)		
	Issue	Recommended Action	Applicant's Response
1	Current CoCp is not informed by a sufficiently robust stage specific assessment of construction noise effects.	Applicant to commit with C-26 to a stage specific CoCP to be informed by an updated assessment of construction noise effects as and when they are available and other regulatory controls where appropriate. To include provide noise modelling inputs for construction compound predictions (including concrete batching plant), revised trigger levels for shoulder hours, corrections for uncertainty.	The stage specific CoCP will be informed by updated assessments Calculation inputs (i.e. not necessarily modelling) will be included as an appendix to the Noise and Vibration Monitoring Plan. The Applicant disagrees with the request for revised trigger levels for shoulder hours. BS5228 Annex E, Table E.1 states that Daytime hours are "Daytime (07.00–19.00) and Saturdays (07.00–13.00)" which includes the proposed shoulder hours of 07:00 to 08:00 and 18:00 to 19:00. Thus the Daytime trigger values are considered by the Applicant as being appropriate.
2	Further detailed measures and appropriate insertion of stringent provisions required	Suite of commitments (C-22, C-26, C-160, C-263) require further provisions as mitigation measures are currently unclear to effectiveness until further construction noise predictions are	The Applicant considers that the proposed commitments adequately allow for the determination of appropriate mitigation. As the detailed mitigation will be secured through the provision of a stage specific Code of Construction for approval by the relevant planning authority and developed in accordance with the Outline

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
2	<p>No commitment that continuous construction noise and vibration monitoring will be included in the stage specific CoCP and would be agreed with HDC.</p>	<p>provided and sanctions or penalties included to deal with non-compliance.</p> <p>Applicant to commit that continuous construction noise and vibration monitoring will be included in the stage specific CoCP and would be agreed with HDC; where despite mitigation measures are implemented and residual noise and/or vibration effects are predicted to arise, consideration should be given to the temporary relocation of residents affected by 24-hour drilling as a method of mitigation where HDD (or other noisy working) is scheduled to proceed for 24 hours per day for longer than 48 consecutive hours.</p>

Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] secured through, Requirement 22 Code of construction practice (5) (h) of Schedule 1, Part 3 of the **Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]** (updated at Deadline 2).

The Applicant is aware that failure to comply with the terms of an order for development consent is an offence under s161 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the local planning authority is able to enforce.

Noisy work outside of the core hours, not covered specifically by a Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be subject to requirements of the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033]** at paragraph 4.4.2. The noise and vibration management plan is secured through Requirement 22 within the **Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]** (updated at Deadline 2).

The Applicant has not identified the need for the use of temporary rehoming as a mitigation method as an outcome of the assessment. The conditions that would prevent a property from being habitable during trenchless crossing works (such that temporary rehoming was necessary) are considered by the Applicant to be very unlikely.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
3	No approval progress for discharge authority included in the current CoCP for night-time working.	Applicant to provide commitment that prior to undertaking any essential night-time working, the timing and duration and monitoring of such works will be approved with HDC through an agreed process to be included in the CoCP i.e. application to HDC for prior approval under Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974.
4	No standalone commitment on core working hours, with regard for the Washington construction compound that core working hours	Applicant to commit that core working hours, including HDD drilling, for Washington Compound be restricted to Monday to Friday 08:00 to 19:00 hours and Saturday 09:00 to 13:00 hours due to proximity of sensitive receptors, including two camping and caravanning sites. The nature of these local businesses will be particularly impacted by the proximity of the construction compound.
5	Construction noise assessment and thresholds of	Background levels at rural sites are low and lower thresholds to that of the Applicant's approach should be

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response	
6	<p>significant effects adopted by Applicant may not fully protect from noise impact</p> <p>Noise levels and details in commitment C-231 (operational phase of substation) could still result in significant noise impact</p>	<p>considered to ensure potential noise impacts for receptors are fully understood and mitigated. BS5228 Annex E details several methodologies for assessing impacts but for all significant impacts from construction noise are only considered to occur above 65dBLAeqT. As noted above, the works will take part in areas where background noise levels are low and therefore adopting this approach may not fully portray the noise impacts from the construction phase.</p> <p>Background levels at rural sites are low and different thresholds to that of the Applicant's approach should be considered to ensure potential noise impacts for receptors are fully understood and mitigated. BS4142 - The standard is not applicable to the assessment of low frequency noise. Information on the assessment of low</p>	<p>BS5228-1 is the approved code of practice for construction noise under the Control of Pollution Act 1974. The method for determining significance from construction noise, as detailed in Annex E, considers the baseline acoustic environment without construction. but states that significance is “<i>subject to lower cut-off values of 65 dB, 55 dB and 45 dB L_{Aeq, T} from site noise alone, for the daytime, evening and night-time periods, respectively</i>”. The document therefore draws no distinction between the nature of the environment that the construction is taking part within, just that the onset of significance is 65dB L_{Aeq,T} during the day, 55 dB at evening (and weekends) and 45 at night.</p> <p>Where ambient noise levels have not been measured and suitable category applied, the most stringent ‘Category A’ has been used to characterise the receptors as a worst case.</p> <p>As described above, BS4142 is not being used to characterise low frequency noise. But, is used to characterise substation noise (of which low-frequency noise is a component). The Association of Noise Consultants technical note on the use of BS4142 states: “<i>BS 4142 states ‘The Standard is not applicable to the assessment of low frequency noise’ (Subclause 1.3) and NANR45 is referenced in this connection. Sound referred to as low frequency in NANR45 is energy within the 10 – 160 Hz frequency range.</i>”</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	frequency noise is given in NANR45.	<p><i>The Working Group considered that BS 4142 does not necessarily exclude such a wide range. It would be reasonable to use BS 4142 down to 50 Hz and possibly lower as part of a tonality assessment, for example. In connection with this:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• It would generally be inappropriate to remove low frequency content from data sets;</i> <i>• Where low frequency sound clearly arises from the assessment site it could be considered as part of an assessment (see Annexes C and D of BS 4142);</i> <i>• BS 4142 is not applicable to ground borne low frequency sound;</i> <i>• Where low frequency noise is the dominant component of the specific sound source, the applicability of BS 4142 should be carefully considered and justified if necessary;</i> <i>• Care should be taken when identifying sources (at Section 4) that low frequency sources are correctly apportioned; and</i> <i>• BS 4142 should not be used, even if an assessment is requested, for example by a regulator or client, in a situation that is considered to be inappropriate."</i> <p>For the reasons above, coupled with the additional nominal noise break-in discussed in Chapter 21: Noise and Vibration, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [PEPD-018] (paras 21.10.23 to 21.10.27) the assessment has considered the low frequency aspect of the substation noise. The determination of no significant adverse impacts, has been made with respect to the level</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
7	Effective control and management of construction noise all requires monitoring to ensure mitigation procedures are adhered to.	of night-time noise from the substation being at or below the level that is considered by the World Health Organisation to be the onset of sleep disturbance, the observable adverse effect with respect to nighttime noise. Monitoring will be required at certain times and locations throughout the Proposed Development, see 5.4.15 to 5.4.18 of the Outline CoCP [PEPD-033] for further information. Monitoring proposals will be included in the stage specific CoCP (as part of the Noise and Vibration Management Plan) secured under Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] .
8	No sanctions or penalties proposed in the DCO to deal with non-compliance with the construction noise and vibration targets.	The Applicant is aware that failure to comply with the terms of an order for development consent is an offence under s161 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the local planning authority is able to enforce. The procedure for arbitration set on Schedule 15 of the DCO is unlikely to respond effectively to identified non-compliance with the CoCP or NVMP's. Documented exceedances of working hours, other than for emergencies, that result in service of enforcement or stop notices should be subject to additional financial penalty via a Requirement.

13. Historic Environment

13.1 Local Planning Policies

HDPF policy 34 is identified as a local planning policy relevant to the assessment of the potential effects on

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>13.1 HDPF policy 34 seeks to sustain and enhance the wider historic environment, which includes not only the heritage assets themselves, but also their wider setting. Policy 34 requires improvement of the setting of heritage assets, including views, public rights of way, trees and landscape features, features.</p>	<p>historic environment receptors in Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [PEPD-020].</p> <p>The design of the Proposed Development has been an iterative process that has sought to avoid direct impacts on designated heritage assets and limit the potential for indirect effects, wherever possible. Embedded environmental measures (Table 25-23) are presented in Section 25.7 of Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2 of the ES [PEPD-020]. The requirements outlined in HDPF policy 34 are accounted for within the scope of the assessment presented in Section 25.4 of Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2 of the ES [PEPD-020].</p>
13.2	<p>13.2 WASP Policy 3: Heritage Assets requires that development protect and not adversely affect the Parish's heritage assets or their settings. Development in the area around the Saxon Church of St. Giles (Grade II*), Ewhurst Manor (Grade II with Grade I listed gatehouse and moat) and Shermanbury Place (Grade II), shall not be harmful to the heritage assets or their settings.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that those heritage assets referred to by Horsham District Council will not be affected by the Proposed Development and were scoped out of the assessment, see Appendix 25.7: Settings assessment scoping report, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement [APP-213].</p>
13.3	<p>Local Issues and Impacts</p> <p>13.3 Within the district beyond the National Park, there are several Listed Buildings and Locally Listed Buildings on or within proximity to the Project, as well as the Washington Conservation Area; all heritage assets have been identified in the document</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
13.4	<p>Category 6: Environmental Statement Volume 4, Appendix 25.1: Gazetteer of onshore heritage assets. The principal concerns and effects are in relation to construction activities, for the reasons explained below.</p> <p>Below ground Heritage:</p> <p>13.4 Having reviewed the DCO documentation submitted, HDC broadly agrees with the assessment outcomes and the adequacy of mitigation for the archaeological potential within the district beyond the SDNP. Given this, archaeology is not considered further in this LIR.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council's broad agreement with the assessment outcomes and adequacy of mitigation for the archaeological potential within the district.</p>
13.5	<p>Cable Routeing and Construction Compounds:</p> <p>13.5 The cabling through Horsham District will be buried. There will be impact within the setting of several Listed Buildings as described in Volume 4, Appendix 25.7: Settings assessment scoping report. This impact will last the duration of the construction phase of the project. The impact of trenching, service roads and compounds, lighting, vehicular movement, other activity and noise will have a harmful impact within the setting of various designated and non-designated assets.</p>	<p>Where harm to heritage assets through change to setting is identified in the assessment for the construction phase, this is less than substantial harm, in line with methodology set out in Section 26.8 of Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [PEPD-020].</p>
13.6	<p>13.6 However, when the construction remediation works and mitigation measures are completed and the Project operational, the Project would be in general compliance with the overall aims of the policies in terms of the impact of the significance of the heritage assets and their setting.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council's assertion that the Proposed Development would comply with the overall aims of Horsham District Council's policies in terms of the impact of the significance of the heritage assets and their setting.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
13.7	<p>13.7 For example, the Oakendene substation will be clearly visible from the Oakendene Manor, a grade II Listed Building, following completion of the project. The extent of potential visual impact is illustrated in Volume 3, Chapter 25: Historic environment – Figures (Part 4 of 5) APP-066. This, together with the likely nature of the uses within the associated compound (such as welfare cabins, a concrete batching plant up to 20m in height) would impact upon the wider setting of this asset. As a result, the construction works would alter its setting, but not the operational stage, i.e., this will not harm the understanding of its historic and architectural interests. The construction works would introduce what is identified within Chapter 25 of the ES (APP-066). It is acknowledged that these works would be ‘temporary’ or ‘short term’ but that for the duration of these works, the effect upon the setting of the heritage assets would be negative. Similarly, it is acknowledged that the negative construction effects would be temporary and, as a result, would not permanently harm the setting of the Washington Conservation Area (short term impact will cease once this phase of the work is complete and the compound removed).</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council’s representation of the assessment of effects for Oakendene Manor and Washington Conservation Area, which aligns with that set out in Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement [PEPD-020].</p>
13.8	<p>Substation and Oakendene Manor:</p> <p>13.8 The proposed substation and associated permanent works will be experienced within the setting of Oakendene Manor Listed Building asset, as reported in Chapter 25 of the ES (APP-066). The information contained in Category 6: Environmental Statement. Volume 4, Appendix 25.5: Oakendene parkland: historic landscape assessment (APP- 211) describes the history of the house and its parkland. Section 6 describes the</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council’s representation that the Oakendene historic parkland significance and assessment is accurate.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>significance of the parkland setting in reinforcing the special interest of the listed building. The historic parkland is stated as being of low heritage significance. And makes a moderate contribution to the heritage significance of Oakendene Manor. HDC is satisfied this is an accurate conclusion. The potential impacts of the proposed infrastructure are listed in section 7 (APP-066 and APP-211). Mitigation for these impacts has been included in the indicative landscape planting proposals.</p>	
13.9	<p>13.9 In the view of HDC, the proposed works will not cause substantial harm as there will be no direct impact to the listed building. It will remain possible to experience Oakendene Manor within its historic domestic curtilage without visual reference to the substation. Harm will arise through opportunity to experience the substation within its setting. The substation will not directly impact views from the house south across the historic parkland to the lake. Oblique views will be possible when experiencing the setting of the house to the south.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council's representation regarding effects on Oakendene Manor which will result in less than substantial harm as there will be no direct impact to the listed building.</p>
13.10	<p>13.10 The substation would involve removal of field trees. These trees may have been part of the managed estate in the nineteenth century but this does not mean they contribute to the special interest of the listed building through its managed landscape (parkland) setting. This is the case here. The trees as a group and individually do not contribute to the special interest of the Listed Building through its setting.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.</p>
13.11	<p>13.11 Due to all this, HDC is content that less than substantial harm will arise and this will be within the middle of the scale of harm. Following appropriate mitigation HDC is satisfied the</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Horsham District Council's representation regarding less than substantial harm and assumes that this refers to all heritage assets, including</p>

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substation and the permanent associated works will continue to cause less than substantial harm. This level of harm will remain in the middle of the scale but less than the amount without mitigation.

Summary Box

Positive	construction remediation works and mitigation measures to the setting of above ground heritage assets (designated and non-designated) are proposed
Neutral	the proposed permanent change to the appearance of the landscape setting of above ground heritage assets (designated and non-designated) would be at the lower end of the 'less than substantial harm' scale
Negative	<p>i) Embedded mitigations cannot fully offset the identified harm to the setting of Oakendene Manor and further mitigations are likely to be limited by the required functionality of the substation.</p> <p>ii) Identified mitigation (landscaping and design) measures are not yet sufficiently secured by design principles. Refinement of the design (roofline, materials, colour scheme, landscaping) should be provided at application stage.</p>

Applicant's Response

Oakendene Manor. This response is consistent with the conclusions of the assessment within **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES [PEPD-020].

A historic landscape assessment of the historic parkland at Oakendene is presented in **Appendix 25.5: Oakendene parkland: historic landscape assessment, Volume 4** of the ES [APP-211]. This exercise informed the design process and the assessment of effects for the parkland and listed building presented in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES [PEPD-020]. The assessment of effects on settings during the construction phase and operation and maintenance phase considered relevant factors including views, changing land use and noise (for example during the construction phase).

The understanding of the historic environment interests of Oakendene Manor then informed the design principles identified to reduce and minimise the impact on the setting of the building and these are secured in the **Design and Access Statement (DAS) [AS-003]**. The detailed design of the onshore substation must be undertaken in accordance with these design principles and provided for approval of the planning authority as per the requirements of the **Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]** including 8 (2) which states that the design for approval, "must accord with the principles set out in the relevant part of the design and access statement". Requirement 12 (3) of the **Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]** also requires accordance with the DAS for provision of the landscaping

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details for the onshore substation. The Applicant will update the **DAS [AS-003]** following issues raised at Issue Specific Hearing 1 in February 2024.

13.12 Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments

13.12 The making good of ground and restoration of hedgerows and other landscape features is essential in ensuring there are no long-term impacts once the construction phase is completed. The approach to mitigating construction impact is described in Category 7: Other Documents Outline Code of Construction Practice. In particular section 4.10 states the principles of reinstatement of land. Mitigation for impact is described in Category 7: Other Documents Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (APP-232); specifically, section 2, and Category 5: Reports Design and Access Statement (AS-003); specifically, section 3.4. This approach is agreeable in principle, but HDC does identify the following issues for resolution: (see table below)

	Issue	Recommended Action	Applicant's Response
1	Principles and intentions of mitigating any harm within the setting of Oakendene Manor should be ensured	Applicant amend area of Works No. 17 description (see Onshore Works Plans (Document Reference: 2.2.2) to include to implement historic parkland style tree planting	The Applicant considers that the existing description of Work 17 (environmental works to mitigate the impact of the substations) encompasses this environmental mitigation.
2	Mitigation should be delivered in a timely manner. Currently confirmed at detailed design stage	i) Delivery of identified mitigation (landscaping and design) measures should be secured by design principles in Requirement 8 in the DCO order ii) prior to conclusion of the DCO examination more refinement in	The detailed design of the onshore substation must be undertaken in accordance with these design principles and provided for approval of the planning authority as per the requirements of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] including 8 (2) which states that the design for approval, " <i>must accord with the principles set out in the relevant part of the design and access statement</i> ".

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	the Design and Access Control document.	Requirement 12 (3) of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] also requires accordance with the DAS for provision of the landscaping details for the onshore substation. The Applicant will update the Design and Access Statement [AS-003] following issues raised at Issue Specific Hearing 1 in February 2024, which will be submitted at Deadline 3.

Water Environment

14.1 Local Planning Policy

14.1 HDPF Policy 38 Strategic Policy: Flooding requires development follow the sequential approach to flood risk management and where there is potential to increase flood risk, incorporate the use of SuDs.

Paragraph 5.8.29 of National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 effectively provides a more detailed version of HDPF Policy 38 Strategic Policy. Tables 2.1 and 2.2 of **Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), Volume 4** of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[APP-216]** provide references to locations in the FRA in which the various NPS policy matters are covered, with the 'Drainage and SuDS' entry in Table 2.2 covering this matter and referring the reader to sections 8.4 and 9.1 of the FRA.

This policy has been addressed as outlined in the sequential approach to the development detailed in Paragraphs 9.1.21 to 9.1.40 of **Appendix 26.2: FRA, Volume 4** of the ES **[APP-216]**. This is in accordance with commitment C-75 set out in Table 8-1 of **Appendix 26.2: FRA, Volume 4** of the ES **[APP-216]** and also the **Commitments Register [REP1-015]**.

In addition, commitments C-73 and C-140 outline the provisions for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
14.2	14.2 HDPF Policy 24: Environmental Protection expects developments to maintain or improve the environmental quality of any watercourses.	measures set out in Table 8-1 of Appendix 26.2: FRA, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216] and also the Commitments Register [REP1-015] . The route of the onshore cable corridor crosses areas identified as at risk of flooding and this policy states that Horsham District Council (HDC) will ensure that surface water flooding is managed to prevent the contamination of watercourses. This policy has been addressed as part of embedded environmental measures (C-8 and C-73) set out in Section 26.7 (see Table 26-20) of Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-067] and within Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216] and also the Commitments Register [REP1-015] .
14.3	14.3 SSWNP Policy 15: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity supports development proposals in which sustainable urban drainage measures are integrated within the landscape design as part of a multifunctional layout.	This policy has been addressed as part of embedded environmental measures (C-73 and C-140) set out in Section 26.7 (see Table 26-20) of Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-067] and within Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216] and also the Commitments Register [REP1-015] . As set out in paragraphs 2.2.10 and 3.2.10 of the Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223] : <i>“A high-level assessment has been made by considering the SuDS hierarchy and choosing suitable techniques in line with the main objectives of Quantity (Flood Reduction),</i>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
14.4	14.4 WASP Policy 1: Flood Risk requires that new development not increase the risk of run off from flooding either on site or elsewhere.	<p><i>Quality (Pollution Reduction) and Amenity/Biodiversity (Landscape and Wildlife Benefit)."</i></p> <p>Integrated wet woodland planting is proposed within the sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) basins at the onshore substation site at Oakendene, which will provide a landscape function amongst other multifunctional benefits.</p> <p>Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-216] has been prepared in accordance with National Policy Statement (NPS) and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) policies, which include more detailed versions of WASP Policy 1. This flood risk policy is a fundamental requirement to appropriate FRA and is thus discussed in multiple locations of Section 2 of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216], including in Tables 2.1 and 2.2, which highlight that this policy is addressed in Sections 6, 8, 8.1 and 8.4 of the Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES.</p> <p>This policy has been addressed as part of various embedded environmental measures set out in Table 8-1 of Appendix 26.2: FRA, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216] and the Commitments Register [REP1-015].</p> <p>In addition, provisions for managing flood risk during the construction phase are outlined in the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] and secured through</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
14.5	<p>Other Local Material Planning Considerations</p> <p><i>Emerging Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan (CNP)</i></p> <p>14.5 CNP Policy 1: Groundwater and Surface water Flood Risk supports development proposals that incorporate sustainable drainage techniques to manage surface water and mitigate groundwater flood risks and should be in areas at the lowest risk of flooding.</p>	<p>Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>The Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223] sets out the drainage strategy for managing surface water runoff from the onshore substation site at Oakendene and the existing National Grid Bolney extension site through the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development, secured through Requirements 17 and 18 respectively of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>This policy outlines support for development proposals that (i) incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and mitigate groundwater flood risks; (ii) reduce the risk of flooding; and (iii) are located in areas at lowest risk of flooding.</p> <p>The policy points (i) and (ii) have been addressed in commitments C-73 and C-140, which outline the provisions for SuDS measures set out in Table 8-1 of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-216] and also the Commitments Register [REP1-015]. These measures will serve to manage and mitigate surface water run-on and run-off.</p> <p>With regard to the groundwater flood risk mitigation in policy point (i), commitment C-74 (retention of subsurface pathways) is secured via the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] (Requirement 22) and</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
14.6	Local Issues and Impacts	<p>Requirement 17, 27 and 28 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's responses in references 14.1 and 14.7 with regard to the sequential approach to development and the Sequential Test, addressing policy point (iii).</p>
14.6	<p>14.6 HDC acknowledges that West Sussex County Council (WSCC), as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), will be making representation regarding the flood risk and drainage matters pertaining to the project.</p>	<p>This clarification is welcome and noted by the Applicant.</p>
14.7	<p>14.7 Nonetheless, HDC notes the Sequential Test now applies to all sources of flood risk. It is also relevant to note that a Sequential Test should be applied when any part of a site is at risk of flooding. Whilst flood risk mapping is not an exact science, the Applicant has evidenced the Oakendene substation site is mapped with a high surface water flood risk flowpath intersecting the northern boundary of the onshore substation site, which flows initially south along the indicative proposed access road before turning east, and flowing south via an existing ditch along Kent Street which forms the eastern boundary of the site. There is also high surface water flood risk shown to intersect the construction compound locations at Washington and Oakendene West.</p>	<p>Paragraph 2.2.12 of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-216] makes reference to the Sequential Test requirements as outlined in the National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 and Planning Practice Guidance (following its 2022 update), including the requirement for consideration of all sources of flood risk.</p> <p>Application of the Sequential Test is set out in Section 9.1 of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216], which confirms that all sources of flood risk were considered through the project siting and design process.</p> <p>A sequential approach was taken to all aspects of the development, as detailed in Paragraph 9.1.2 of Appendix</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216] which states: “...A sequential approach to flood risk then informed the determination of the onshore cable corridor (and thus proposed DCO Order Limits) between the landfall at Climping and the existing National Grid Bolney substation to ensure that the Proposed Development and associated temporary construction infrastructure and works will be sited in areas of lower flood risk if possible...”</p> <p>Paragraphs 9.1.29 to 9.1.40 of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216] outline the approach taken with respect to the onshore substation site. Of the shortlisted two options of Oakendene and Wineham Lane North, the Wineham Lane North site was considered to be marginally preferable from a flood risk perspective based on the Environment Agency Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) mapping. However, at both sites the risk of surface water flooding was ultimately deemed to be low following the provision of appropriate mitigation (for which greater space was available at the Oakendene site to achieve appropriate mitigation compared to the spatially constrained Wineham Lane North site), and therefore any preference was considered to be marginal. The final selection of the Oakendene onshore substation (at marginally higher surface water flood risk than the Wineham Lane North substation search area option, but with more space available to implement mitigation) was</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
14.8	14.8 Matters such as the layout to ensure that within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest	<p>therefore driven by other technical and engineering constraints.</p> <p>Oakendene West construction compound is located in Flood Zone 1. As noted in the Applicants response in reference 9.8, the Oakendene West construction compound borders the Cowfold Stream to the west. However, the Environment Agency RoFSW and Flood Zone mapping indicates that the compound site itself is at low risk of flooding, with associated flood extents primarily remaining outside of the compound boundary.</p> <p>The Washington construction compound is located in Flood Zone 1. The Applicant notes that the Washington construction compound is bordered by a surface water flow path to the west. However, the Environment Agency RoFSW mapping extents as shown in Figure 26.2.5e of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-216] indicate that the compound area is primarily at 'Very Low' (<0.1% AEP) risk and situated outside of the flood extents associated with this flowpath. The overall surface water flood risk to the compound is therefore deemed to be low.</p> <p>As discussed in this response above, a sequential approach was taken to site all aspects of the development, including the construction compounds as outlined here, to areas of low flood risk from all sources of flooding.</p>
		Please see reference 14.7 with regard to the Sequential Test. Please refer to section 9.2 of Appendix 26.2: Flood

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>flood risk, can be part of any exception test, which must follow only after the Sequential Test has been complied with. Ultimately, the Sequential Test should still be applied as such sites present greater risk than those within areas outside of the risk of surface water.</p>	<p>Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement [APP-216] regarding application of the Exception Test.</p>
14.9	<p>Adequacy of the DCO Application, Actions and Commitments</p> <p>14.9 HDC acknowledges proposals for the substation site includes Sustainable urban Drainage and that the CoCP sets out measures to control possible environmental impacts, including generic pollution control measures. Nonetheless, such matters can be part of any exception test, which must follow only after the Sequential Test has been complied with.</p>	<p>This is noted by the Applicant. Please see reference 14.7 with regard to the Sequential Test. Please also refer to section 9.2 of Appendix 26.2: Flood Risk Assessment, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement [APP-216] regarding application of the Exception Test.</p>
14.10	<p>14.10 Concerns have also been detailed earlier in this report regarding Terrestrial Ecology (including but not limited to validity of mitigation to achieve proposed wet woodland) and Landscape and Visual Impact (focused but not exclusive to existing and proposed site levels); successful resolution on these concerns and others identified is dependent upon a SuDs strategy that provides multifunctional benefits (all four pillars - water quantity, water quality, amenity and biodiversity) and delivers on mitigation (landscape, heritage, and ecology) as well as addressing flood risk and drainage in and around the substation site.</p>	<p>The Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-223] sets out the proposed sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) strategy for the onshore substation site at Oakendene, incorporating wet woodland and landscape proposals as shown in the Indicative Landscape Plan presented in Appendix D.</p>
15. Summary of Mitigation, Compensation and Requirements		
15.1	<p>15.1 Whilst Horsham District Council welcomes the submission of some revised DCO documentation since the submission of its</p>	<p>The Applicant is reviewing the requests for mitigation and/or compensation by way of development consent</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
15.2	<p>RR, and continuing dialogue with the Applicant on PADSS (AS-010) and Statement of Common Ground, the Council continues to identify some concerns regarding the lack of commitment and certainty to delivery on mitigation, monitoring and compensation measures, together with the mechanisms for securing. An overarching concern is that the wording of some mitigation measures in the Commitment Register is not definite or certain to the efficacy of measures to mitigate or compensate negative effects. Firmer commitment is therefore sought to delivering these mitigation measures, including the Community Benefits Fund.</p> <p>15.2 As described above, HDC is of the opinion that the affected areas and local communities in its district will experience disruption and negative effects, some of which are unlikely to be mitigated. Where mitigation is not possible, HDC believes strongly that communities feel they are positively benefitting from host electricity transmission network infrastructure that is to support the delivery of national objectives.</p>	<p>obligation in relation to the relevant policy set out in EN-1 (both 2011 and 2023 versions): any such obligation must be relevant to planning, necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms, directly related in scale and kind to the proposed development and reasonable in all other respects. The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders in relation to how residual impacts can be mitigated and where compensation is identified as required the Applicant is committed to the programme established in ISH 1 of providing Heads of Terms (HoTs) for Deadline 3.</p> <p>Community benefits are not a legal or Development Consent Order requirement and are quite distinct from the consenting process, a point reiterated in the UK Government (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) response to the consultation on Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission Network Infrastructure (December 2023), which stated: <i>“The proposals on community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure discussed within this document will remain separate to the planning process. It will not be a material consideration in planning decisions, and not secured through those decisions”.</i></p> <p>That said, Rampion 2 will be a permanent neighbour in the Sussex community and the Applicant intends to develop and implement a community benefits package of proposals. In the second half of 2024, the Applicant will therefore be consulting key stakeholders and local communities on how</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
15.3	<p>15.3 As advised by the ExA at the Hearing, HDC has set out in this LIR proposed compensation measures which it seeks to address residual harms that have been evidenced by the applicant cannot be mitigated, and to which HDC is in current negotiations with the Applicant to secure via legal agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● on air quality and socioeconomic disruption, with contributions sought for purchase of practitioner equipment to be used by the Council in monitoring affected AQMAs (as detailed in Chapter 11 paras. 11.10 -11.11 and 11.26 – 11.28 and Appendix C of this LIR), and ● on terrestrial ecology and landscape and visual impacts, with contributions sought toward funding of up to three landscape-led nature recovery interventions by Wilder Horsham District in the vicinity of the Project (as detailed in Chapter 9 paras. 9.30 – 9.32 and Appendix A of this LIR); and ● on cost recovery, with funding of an appointed independent qualified noise practitioner to monitor and audit report to the Council during the construction phase of the Project (as detailed in Chapter 12 paras. 12.14 - 12.15 of this LIR). 	<p>a community benefit package could best support Sussex communities. The final package may include a range of initiatives to benefit business, education and residential communities.</p> <p>Please see above response to references 15.1 and 15.2 regarding the approach to mitigation/compensation.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
15.4	15.4 In the Council's view, these have been demonstrated to meet the planning tests that they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development by addressing residual harms evidence not to be mitigated; and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.	Please see above response to references 15.1 and 15.2 regarding the approach to mitigation/compensation.
15.5	15.5 Cost Recovery is a very important concern for HDC given the resourcing implications of the scale and duration of the Project, and the inherent reliance on a suite of monitoring regimes to ensure the effectiveness of mitigation going forward. As such, HDC would welcome further discussions with the Applicant on establishing similar funding arrangements currently under discussion with regard to noise, for other mitigations, such as advanced planting and habitat reinstatement.	The Applicant is aware that failure to comply with the terms of an order for development consent is an offence under s161 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the local planning authority is able to enforce.
15.6	15.6 Additionally, there are a wide variety of community benefits that can be delivered, but broadly they can cover finance for local projects, outreach initiatives or direct benefits to individuals in a local area. Community benefits can enhance the economy, society and/or environment in a local area. They can also be used to deliver investment and growth in the local area, especially when used to invest in local infrastructure, supply chain and skills.	Please see above response to references 15.1 and 15.2 regarding community benefits.
15.7	15.7 In November 2023, Government published its response to consultation on community benefits, setting out its commitment to developing voluntary guidance for community wide benefits which will be published in 2024, as well further information on the overall community benefits policy including options for	Please see above response reference 15.6 .

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
15.8	<p>developing a mandatory approach, community benefits register and a bill discount scheme in 2024. Government recommended, alongside an electricity bill discount for properties located closest to transmission network infrastructure, a wider benefit for the local community of around: £40,000/km (~£60,000/mile) for underground cables and £200,000 per substation.</p>	Please see above response reference 15.6 .
15.9	<p>Commitments Register and DCO and Requirements</p>	The Applicant has no further comments on this paragraph of Horsham District Council's Local Impact Report.
15.10	<p>15.9 There are concerns referenced in this LIR and accompanying Written and Relevant Representations (RR-148). HDC wishes to make the following observations on the draft Commitments Register.</p>	
15.11	<p>15.10 There are concerns referenced in this LIR and accompanying Written and Relevant Representations (RR-148). HDC wishes to make the following observations on the draft Development Consent Order Rev B Jan 2024 (PEPD-009).</p>	
15.11	<p>15.11 Owing to the additional expenditure to HDC in relation to the discharging relevant Requirements and S61 applications,</p>	Provision has been made in Schedule 14 (3) in the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) for a fee to be paid to the discharging authority

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
15.12	<i>Commitments Register</i>	
	Commitment	Applicant's Response
C-1, C-7, C-12, C-19, C-27, C-67, C-75, C-78, C-115, C-117 and C-128	<p>Issue: numerous commitments include flexible wording such as 'where practical, as far as reasonably practical, as far as reasonably possible, practicable minimum, as practical, or are not practical, wherever possible, minimal time possible, shortest practical timeframe'. Such wording reduces the confidence of the delivery of the commitments, which also make up embedded mitigation measures to be relied upon for the project.</p>	<p>There have been opportunities for the development of environmental measures which have been adopted to reduce the potential for environmental impacts and effects. These were included directly into the design of Rampion 2 as embedded environmental measures and are detailed in the Commitments Register [REP1-015]. The Commitments Register was initially presented in the Scoping Report and subsequently updated throughout the Statutory Consultation exercises and in the Environmental Statement to reflect design evolution and consultation feedback.</p> <p>The Applicant will consider Horsham District Council's recommendations as stated with respect to specific commitments and where updates are made these will be provided in an updated Commitments Register [REP1-015] at a future Deadline.</p> <p>The Commitments Register [REP1-015] includes a column for the securing mechanism for each embedded environmental measure and its related commitment</p>
<p>Recommended Action: Applicant to further define, to improve confidence in the delivery of these measures; in particular, in the expectation for reinstatement, to state that will be reinstated to pre-existing condition.</p>		

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-5	<p>Issue: Wording is ambiguous and should be removed or amended to be precise.</p> <p>Recommended Action: Applicant to commit to Main rivers, watercourses, railways and roads that form part of the Strategic Highways Network will be crossed by Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) or other trenchless technology where this represents the best environment solution and is financially and technically feasible (see C-17).</p>	<p>reference. This cross-refers to the mechanism, for example a requirement in the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [PEPD-009] Schedule 1 Part 3. Where there is an accompanying document such as an outline plan submitted with the DCO Application with which works must be undertaken in accordance with, this is also referred to under the 'Relevant Application Documents' column.</p> <p>The Applicant has identified the appropriate embedded environmental measures to avoid, reduce or minimise effects based on best practice and industry experience. There is the need for some flexibility where a measure may not be applicable in a specific scenario during construction or require slight adjustment, in such instances this would be confirmed in the stage specific documents secured in the Draft DCO [PEPD-019] such as the detailed Code of Construction Practice (CoCP). The Applicant would need to confirm that no new or materially different environmental effects would arise in this instance.</p>
C-6	<p>Issue: Wording is ambiguous and should be removed or amended to be precise.</p> <p>Recommended Action: Applicant to commit to Where practical, sensitive sites will be avoided by the temporary and permanent onshore project footprint including SSSIs, Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, ancient woodland, areas of consented development, areas of historical and authorised</p>	<p>Note that for added clarity on the corresponding securing mechanisms, the Commitments Register [REP1-015] provided at application submission has been updated at Deadline 1 to include further detail e.g. the full reference to DCO requirements and addition of the location of further information within the Application documents.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-8	<p>landfills and other known areas of potential contamination, National Trust Land, Listed Buildings, Scheduled monuments, and mineral resources (including existing mineral sites, minerals sites allocated in development plans and mineral safeguarding areas).</p> <p>Issue: Greater distance than 10m from watercourse be implemented and ecological clerk of works to be present during vegetation clearance and soil stripping</p> <p>Recommended Action: Applicant to commit to Greater distance than 10m from watercourse be implemented and ecological clerk of works to be present during vegetation clearance and soil stripping</p>	
C-9	<p>Issue: access for route checking and maintenance via joint bays for local green space in SWWNP (Work No. 9)</p> <p>Recommended Action: Amend commitment so access for routine</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-17	<p>checking and maintenance via joint bays only, for all local green space indemnified in SWWNP</p> <p>Issue: Wording is ambiguous and should be removed or amended to be precise.</p> <p>Recommended Action: Should refer to Code of Construction Practice. Where trenchless techniques are not required or are not practical, watercourses may be crossed by open cut techniques. Appropriate environmental permits or land drainage consents will be applied for works from the Environment Agency (e.g. for Main Rivers, works on or near sea defences/flood defence structures or in a flood plain) or from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) (for Ordinary Watercourse crossings) (see C-5)</p>	
C-19	<p>Issue: access for route checking and maintenance via joint bays for local green space in SWWNP (Work No. 9). Reinstatement 'as short a</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-22	<p>time frame as practicable' ambiguous</p> <p>Recommended Action: Amend commitment so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) access for routine checking and maintenance via joint bays only, for all local green space indemnified in SWWNP ii) reinstatement carried as soon as possible 	
	<p>Issue: Mitigation effectiveness unclear until further refinement of construction noise predications</p> <p>Recommended Action: Insertion of detailed design and appropriate measures of protection, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commitment to stage specific Code of Constructions to each individual construction compound, informed by updated assessment of construction effects and other regulatory controls where appropriate; and • Further detailed design and appropriate insertion of stringent provisions 	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-26	<p>Issue: i) Wording is ambiguous and should be amended to insert detailed design and appropriate measures of protection. ii) Mitigation effectiveness unclear until further refinement of construction noise predications</p>	<p>Recommended Action: Insertion of detailed design and appropriate measures of protection, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commitment to stage specific Code of Constructions to each individual construction compound, informed by updated assessment of construction effects and other regulatory controls where appropriate; and • Further detailed design and appropriate insertion of stringent provisions
C-27	<p>Issue: The wording is ambiguous and should be removed or amended to be precise.</p>	<p>Recommended Action: Following construction, construction compounds will be returned to</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-34	<p>previous conditions as far as reasonably possible.</p> <p>Issue: Strengthen supply chain plan commitment within control document</p> <p>Recommended Action: Firmer commitment to developing a Supply Chain Plan with the OSES, as exploring opportunities for companies to access the supply chain</p>	
C-35	<p>Issue: HDC to be consultee such as that the Community Benefits Package provides for benefits specific to the local communities in our district.</p> <p>Recommended Action: Add HDC as consultee of formation of Community Benefits package and its funding criteria and scoping</p>	
C-103	<p>Issue: Greater commitment to advanced tree/habitat planting</p> <p>Recommended Action: i) Greater commitment to advanced</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-115	<p>tree/habitat planting, particularly along boundary/field treatments, and for the staged reinstatement of habitats within the first planting season following completion of the construction works and backfilling within the section, rather than within two years, as currently defined</p> <p>ii) Reinstatement within the first planting season following completion of the construction works and backfilling with the section</p>	
C-158	<p>Issue: Clarity required from LEMP what stage monitoring and remedial action will be 'taken rapidly' – uncertain if this means at each stage specific LEMP.</p> <p>Recommended Action: i) Clarify stages and associated timings of works and to commit to remediation carried out as soon as possible within those constraints</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-160	<p>Recommended Action: Firmer wording (or an additional requirement) to indicate HGV routeing through Cowfold only where strictly necessary.</p> <p>Issue: i) Insertion of detailed design and appropriate measures of protection as part of detailed design and stage specific control docs. ii) Mitigation effectiveness unclear until further refinement of construction noise predications.</p> <p>Recommended Action: I) Insertion of detailed design and appropriate measures of protection as part of detailed design and stage specific control docs. ii) Applicant commits to stage specific Code of Construction Practice informed by updated assessment of construction noise effects and other regulatory controls where appropriate ii) further detailed design and appropriate insertion of stringent provisions</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-174	Issue: Add free of construction activity and ground penetration.	Recommended Action:. Ground works within a buffer zone of 15 times the diameter of the tree or 5m from the edge of the tree's canopy will be avoided. Should transmission cables go under a veteran tree via a trenchless crossing a depth of at least 6m below ground within the buffer zone will be maintained to avoid root damage.
C-196	Issue: Should include enhancements of higher quality and species diversity	Recommended Action: Should include enhancements of higher quality and species diversity
C-199	Issue: i) Clarification that 'established' refers to planted and 1 year after the defects period of the phased competition and that 'post planting' trigger will commence at partial practical completion ii) Absence of pre-construction species surveys in relation to	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-216	construction compounds to inform stage specific LEMPs	Recommended Action: i) Clarification that 'established' refers to planted and 1 year after the defects period of the phased competition and that 'post planting' trigger will commence at partial practical completion ii) Provide survey data for stage specific LEMPs in relation to construction compounds in advance of works commencing to inform site layouts and works (reduction in size), including addressing noise
	Issue: Add free of construction activity and ground penetration.	Recommended Action: Where ancient woodland is crossed via trenchless crossing a depth of at least 6m below ground will be maintained to avoid root damage and drill launch and retrieval pits will be at least 25m from the woodland edge. All ancient woodland will be retained with a stand-off of a

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-231	<p>minimum of 25m from any surface construction works. Construction traffic may operate within 25m of an ancient woodland on existing tracks should any track maintenance works be restricted to the current width.</p> <p>Issue: Noise levels and details in Commitment could still result in significant impact</p> <p>Recommended Action: Insertion of detailed design and appropriate measures of protection, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commitment to stage specific Code of Constructions to each individual construction compound, informed by updated assessment of construction effects and other regulatory controls where appropriate; and • Further detailed design and appropriate insertion of stringent provisions 	
C-235	<p>Issue: Uncertainty to HDD Techniques</p> <p>Recommended Action: Committee amend to</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
C-236	<p>i) require agreed continuity plans with environment impacts minimised ii) Remediation carried out as soon as possible</p> <p>Issue: Uncertainty to HDD Techniques</p> <p>Recommended Action: amend to i) require agreed continuity plans with environment impacts minimised. ii) Remediation carried out as soon as possible</p>	
C-263	<p>Issue: Term 'significant deviation' should be quantified. Mitigation effectiveness unclear until further refinement of construction noise predications</p> <p>Recommended Action: Term 'significant deviation' should be quantified. Insertion of detailed design and appropriate measures of protection, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commitment to stage specific Code of Constructions to each individual 	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>construction compound, informed by updated assessment of construction effects and other regulatory controls where appropriate; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further detailed design and appropriate insertion of stringent provisions 	
Additional Commitments Sought		
No.	Additional Commitments Sought	Applicant's Response
1	Updated Outline CoCP to include baseline noise surveys, updated noise assessments, noise and vibration monitoring and core working hours specific to the use of the construction compounds and for the exact positioning of the concrete batching plant and soil/aggregate stockpiles and be placed as far away as possible from residents/other sensitive receptors. Such noise surveys, assessment, mitigation and monitoring should be agreed with HDC	The Applicant will consider Horsham District Council's requests for additional commitments and where updates are made these will be provided in an updated Commitments Register [REP1-015] at a future Deadline.
2	Trenchless crossings investigations should be concluded prior to the commencement of the construction phase to allow for greater scope to avoid potential adverse environmental effects	
3	Delivering biodiversity net gain specifically within Horsham district and for this to be	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	demonstrated through a biodiversity net gain assessment at district level and a maintenance and monitoring plan of biodiversity net gain (to be agreed and secured with HDC via appropriate means).	
4	Preparing and submitting to HDC for approval a Construction Communications Plan for the communities of Washington and Cowfold.	
5	Timetable schedule of pre-construction surveys of protected species	
6	Advanced planting at Oakendene Substation site, including landscape and visual mitigation including bellmouth and historic parkland tree planting as mitigation	
7	Prior to undertaking any essential night-time working, the timing and duration and monitoring of such works will be approved with HDC through an agreed process to be included in the CoCP	
8	Applicant to commit that core working hours, including HDD drilling, for Washington Compound be restricted to Monday to Friday 08:00 to 19:00 hours and Saturday 09:00 to 13:00 hours	

15.13 DCO and Requirements

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>Section/Article</p> <p>Part 1 Citation and 'commencement'</p> <p>Issue / Recommended Action</p> <p>Issue: Certain operations outside the definition of material operation (section 155 of 2008 Act) with evidenced impacts are carved out of subsequent 'commencement' trigger of requirements</p> <p>Recommended Action: Either amend citation to include carved out operations or amend relevant requirement to include carved out operations</p>	<p>Applicant's Response</p> <p>The definition of commencement has been amended in the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2 to remove the 'carve out' for onshore site preparation works. Requirement 10 now provides for onshore site preparation works to comprise a stage or stages in respect of which requirements will need to be discharged before such works can commence.</p>
	<p>Schedule 1, Part 1 Work No.10</p> <p>Issue: Greater clarity and certainty of the activities proposed.</p> <p>Recommended Action: Provide description for temporary construction compounds (comparable detail to other Work No. descriptions) or provide in another document where there is a commitment to comply with the description.</p>	<p>The approach to the description of the construction compounds as Work No. 10 is consistent with the approach adopted in a number of made Development Consent Orders. It is not considered appropriate to provide any further description as it is not possible to predict at this stage exactly what the compound will be required to be used for. However a worst case assessment of the use of the compounds has been undertaken and reported in the Environmental Statement.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
Schedule 1, Part 1 Works No.17 and 20	<p>Issue: 'environmental works' not defined. Greater clarity and certainty to what is covered by definition</p> <p>Recommended Action: Refine definition and include all necessary mitigation, including implementation of historic parkland tree planting.</p>	<p>It is not intended to limit the scope of the environmental works that may be undertaken in relation to the Work No 17 which may comprise both planting and other ecological works. Further, the works will differ in their relationship with Work No 16 and Work No. 20. Details will be secured through the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan secured through requirement 12 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] updated at deadline 2</p>
Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirement 8	<p>Issue: Design principles need greater clarity and refinement</p> <p>Recommended Action: Carved out pre-commencement works be included. (a)-(f) principles to be refined as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request submission and approval of suite of parameter plans of design principles (such as developable area, access routeing, and heights) or reference provision elsewhere in control document; • Applicant's suggestion to contribute to the Council's future Water Neutrality strategic solution should be referenced more explicit; 	<p>Requirement 8 has been updated to reflect that no works at the onshore substation may commence, excluding onshore site preparation works, until the detailed design information is submitted. Should site preparation works be required to be undertaken in this location they will need to be identified as part of a stage in the programme approved pursuant to requirement 10 and the relevant requirements discharged in respect of that stage.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
<p>Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirement 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery timescales for advanced planting for heritage mitigation to be captured or reference provision elsewhere in control document; • Submission and approval of an Architectural Strategy, with opportunity for discharge authority to request material/finish sample 	<p>Requirement 10 secures approval for a programme for the stage of works which must be approved by the relevant planning authorities. The requirement allows for a programme of stage of onshore site preparation works in addition to a programme for further construction works.</p> <p>Stage specific LEMPs will be required for each stage identified pursuant to requirement 10 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]; a LEMP may cover one or more stages.</p>
	<p>Issue: Needs to clearly define the stages, phasing and associated timings of works within the district and clarity on stages of works relevant to administrative area of each planning authority.</p> <p>Recommended Action: i) 'written programme' should identify stages of those works relevant to the administrative area of each relevant planning authority and clarity to when requirements will need to be discharged for the stage specific documents.</p> <p>ii) Regarding advanced planting and reinstatement, the stages and, thus stage specific LEMP should include cover the construction compounds, the onshore cable corridor and Oakendene substation.</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirement 13	<p>Issue: (2) Does not cover removal or damage (such as vandalism) by a third party</p> <p>(2) Clarification to when 10 year starts counting from. Post completion for overall scheme or staggered, based on post-completion certificate to each phase, and so different completion dates.</p> <p>13.—(1) All landscape works must be carried out in accordance with the landscape and ecology management plan for the relevant stage approved under requirement 12 (provision of landscaping), and in accordance with the relevant recommendations of appropriate British Standards. (2) Any tree or shrub planted as part of an approved landscape and ecology management plan that, within a period of ten years after planting, is removed by the undertaker, dies or becomes, in the opinion of the relevant planning authority, seriously damaged or diseased must be replaced in the first available planting season with a specimen of the same species and size as that originally planted unless otherwise approved in writing by the relevant planning authority.</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>Clarity on stages of works relevant to administrative area of each planning authority</p> <p>Recommended Action: the replacement planting must also include removal or damage (such as vandalism) by a third party. If not agreed, please can clarification be provided as to what mechanism should be used by the planning authority enforcement teams, to seek replanting in those circumstances?</p> <p>Schedule1, Part 3 Implementation and Maintenance of Landscaping, Para 13, clause (2): clarification needs to be added as to when the 'period of 10 years after planting' is triggered. The scheme will be running for a number of years and there will be different 'after planting' stages. HDC requests clarification that the 'after planting' trigger will commence at partial practical completion. A mechanism for the planning authority to access these trigger dates also needs to be incorporated. written programme' should identify stages of those works relevant to the administrative area of each relevant planning authority for clarity to when</p>	<p>In common with the established practice such as the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023 the Applicant will replace any planting that fails or which it removes. However the Applicant does not consider it reasonable or proportionate that it should be required to do the same where planting is vandalised or damaged by third parties.</p> <p>In response to the feedback on 'commencement' - An amendment has been made to requirement 13 in the Draft DCO [PEPD-009] updated at Deadline 2 to clarify that the 10 year period runs from completion of planting for the relevant stage which the landscape and ecology management plan applies.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirement 14	<p>requirements will need to be discharged for the stage specific documents.</p> <p>Issue: BNG is not secured at district level with HDC as consultee</p> <p>Recommended Action: wording is amended so that the biodiversity net gain strategy for stages that relate to areas within Horsham District is also submitted to and approved by HDC. HDC requires that this is secured by a S.106 agreement, if appropriate</p>	<p>Requirement 14 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) includes for a biodiversity net gain strategy to be submitted and approved for each stage is to be submitted and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the statutory nature conservation body.</p>
Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirement 22	<p>Issue: Clarity on stages of works relevant to administrative area of each planning authority.</p> <p>Recommended Action: 'written programme' should identify stages of those works relevant to the administrative area of each relevant planning authority for clarity to when requirements will need to be discharged for the stage specific documents)</p>	<p>Requirement 22 within the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) requires stage specific Code of Construction Practice's to be submitted and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with other stakeholders as appropriate. The relevant planning authority is defined as the local planning authority for the area of land to which the provision (i.e requirement to submit the CoCP) relates, and with legislative competence for the matter. Stages will be identified pursuant to Requirement 10.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirement 33	<p>Issue: No requirement for HDC to be consultee to OSES. Should be lifetime of development as activities go beyond construction phase.</p> <p>Recommended Action: Wording amended to reflect life time of OSES activities and that the skills and employment strategy is 'agreed with and provided to' the relevant planning authority, which will include HDC</p>	<p>The Applicant has already engaged with the relevant authorities in the preparation of the Outline Skills and Employment Strategy (OSES) [PEPD-037]. It is not considered that the final stage specific versions of this document requires further agreement as they must be consistent with the outline document.</p>
Schedule 14	<p>Issue: Decision making timescales for discharge authority do not adequately reflect the time necessary to agree details.</p> <p>Recommended Action: HDC requests decision period be extended, given the technical complexity of certain details requiring third party consultation, and to allow the Applicant sufficient time to respond to requests for further information, as required for discharging purposes. Discharge of application timescales 13 weeks 91 days with EoT or PPA options are suggested.</p>	<p>The periods provided for determination are considered reasonable given the importance of the project as a NSIP. However where third party] engagement is required to establish whether additional information is required the Applicant agrees that the period for a request for additional should be extended from 15 to 20 business days; this has been reflected in the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] as submitted at Deadline 2.</p>
Schedule 15	<p>Issue: There are no sanctions or penalties proposed in the DCO to deal with non-</p>	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>compliance with the construction noise and vibration targets</p> <p>Recommended Action: The procedure for arbitration set on Requirement 15 of the DCO is unlikely to respond effectively to identified non-compliance with the CoCP or NVMP's. Documented exceedances of working hours, other than for emergencies, that result in service of enforcement or stop notices should be subject to additional financial penalty</p>	<p>Failure to comply with the terms of an order for development consent, including with the terms of requirements, is an offence under s161 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the local planning authority is able to enforce.</p>
Additional requirements sought:		
No.	Additional Commitments Sought	Applicant's Response
1	At detailed design stage, submission and approval of tailored stage specific management plan for each construction compound, informed by site-specific mitigation.	The Applicant will consider Horsham District Council's requests for additional commitments and associated requirements if necessary, and where updates are made these will be provided in an updated Commitments Register [REP1-015] at a future Deadline
2	Submission and approval of stage specific Air Quality Plan (and allied Air Quality Management Plan) in line with Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex, similarly, worded to Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirements 22,23, and 24	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
3	Submission and approval of stage specific Construction Communications plan for construction compounds in Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirements	
4	Requirement (or firmer commitment of C-158) to indicate HGV routeing through Cowfold only where strictly necessary.	
5	Requirement for HGV routeing to avoid Storrington AQMA. Currently no requirement to use strategic road network routeing in Schedule 1 Part 3 Requirements	

16. Overall Summary

16.1 to 16.4 16.1 Horsham District Council has reviewed the DCO application and evaluated the impacts within its authority remit, in the context of the local development plan and other relevant policy.

16.2 The Applicant has identified that the onshore infrastructure associated with Rampion 2, including at the substation site, has the potential to negatively impact on several environmentally sensitive areas and features, and on residential amenity during the lifetime of the Project.

16.3 Therefore, although the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm is supported in principle by HDC (because it would make a significant contribute to the provision of renewable energy), there

The Applicant welcomes HDC's in principle support of the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm, and notes concern over the mitigation measure proposed. While the Applicant considers that the overall planning balance is in favour of the project, it will continue to discuss further mitigation measures with HDC.

The Applicant is reviewing the requests for mitigation and/or compensation by way of development consent obligation in relation to the relevant policy set out in EN-1 (both 2011 and 2023 versions): any such obligation must be relevant to planning, necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms, directly related in scale and kind to the proposed development and

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>are several matters of concern that have not been satisfactorily addressed to date by the Applicant. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adequacy of mitigation and compensation for the adverse effect on the existing landscape and surrounding local communities from the permanent onshore substation; ● Adequacy of mitigation and compensation for the temporary impacts of construction compounds and cable route construction, without identification of construction phasing and timescales; ● Securing adequate mitigation and compensation for impacts on ecological receptors, and detail to commitment to ecological enhancement (including Biodiversity Net Gain) within the district, to include key species and habitats; ● Securing adequate mitigation and compensation for the adverse effect on socio-economic disruption across the district arising from the Project. 	<p>reasonable in all other respects. The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders in relation to how residual impacts can be mitigated and where compensation is identified as required the Applicant is committed to the programme established in ISH 1 of providing Heads of Terms (HoTs) for Deadline 3.</p>
16.4	<p>To that end, it remains of concern that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The commitments and mitigation measures to reduce the adverse effects presented are insufficiently secured with the control documents and DCO; and ● the limited scope of mitigation and compensation within the draft section 106 principles presented by the Applicant. 	

Table 2-2 Applicant's Response to Horsham District Council Local Impact Report – Appendix A

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
A1	<p>Wilder Horsham District (WHD) is a unique and innovative five-year partnership between Sussex Wildlife Trust and Horsham District Council (it commenced in 2020) that has been established in response to the urgent pressures on biodiversity. Its main objective is to work closely with local communities and landowners to reverse the decline in wildlife by creating and connecting habitats to deliver a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) for the Horsham District.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes the provision of information relating to the Wilder Horsham District partnership. Further discussions with Horsham District Council are welcomed.</p>
A2	<p>The Council pays for two full time landowner advisers and one part-time. These are employed by the Trust. The project is overseen by a Steering Group consisting of representation from the Council and the Trust. This monitors progress against performance indicators and Work Area Detail First Considerations. The Steering Group meets quarterly and is chaired by HDC Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery. Also present at each Steering Group meeting is another HDC Cabinet Member, a Director of Wilder Horsham, and a Director from Sussex Wildlife Trust.</p>	
A3	<p>The objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help wildlife thrive across the Horsham District. • Create networks of land that are protected and enhanced for wildlife, to allow habitats to expand and for species populations to increase which will ensure that they are resilient to change. • Increase awareness of actions that communities can take to improve their local natural environment and the benefits that wildlife provides. • Maximise the opportunities that protecting and enhancing wildlife brings for climate change mitigation and adaptation. 	

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
A4	<p>The project supports bespoke and, largely, in -person advice to landowners and farmers on changes they can make to land management for the benefit of wildlife. A significant number of landowners have already received advice over the last three years. The project also gives advice to community groups, as well as Parish and Neighbourhood Councils on the role they can play in enhancing biodiversity. This can either be on their own land or by working with their local communities, such as creating pollinator highways.</p>	
A5	<p>The landowner and community strands are supported by a grant scheme, known as the Nature Recovery Award. This provides grants of up to £5k towards projects that enhance biodiversity and contribute to the delivery of a nature recovery network. Volunteer work parties, run by the project team, can also provide practical support for landowners, such as hedge laying and clearing invasive species. The NRN shows opportunities to work with landowners neighbouring Council land which it could work with to start developing local NRN's.</p>	

Table 2-3 Applicant's Response to Horsham District Council Local Impact Report – Appendix B

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
(APP-059) ES – Volume 2 Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact		
B1	<p>1. Overall, the document is difficult to read as there are too many references to various appendixes and additional documents which makes keeping the tread of thought challenging. Whilst it is appreciated this reflects the complexity of the project and tries to avoid duplication, HDC found it repetitive on the positive aspects of the proposals and by this, HDC means largely focusing the reader on the positives of the scheme such as the embedded environmental measures/ commitments but underplaying and making it difficult to recognise the negatives and adverse effects.</p>	<p>The Applicant does not agree with this characterisation of the LVIA reported in Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059]. The LVIA has been reported in a standard EIA chapter template and has followed appropriate EIA guidance (Chapter 5: Approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-046]). In order to provide a thorough and proportionate LVIA report in Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059], it has been necessary to include detailed assessment in appendixes which are clearly set out and explained. This approach is common to EIA / LVIA of large projects. The embedded environmental measures / commitments are set out in section 18.7 and are a necessary component of the assessment. The assessment of effects are set out in Sections 18.9-13 and include summary's that clearly set out the significant effects of the Proposed Development.</p>
B2	<p>2. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment recognises that there are significant impacts during construction and some residual significant effects at operational stage around the Oakendene substation. These effects are generally localised and restricted to the site and immediate</p>	<p>The Applicant requires clarification of which receptors Horsham District Council contend have not been appropriately assessed.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>setting due to the enclosure the existing trees and woodland provide, but also topography. Identified effects are assessed as softening and reducing in significance as planting matures. Although HDC does not dispute these findings, it contends that some receptors (likely to be found to experience significant effects) have not been appropriately assessed. Furthermore, HDC challenges the blanket approach of categorizing receptors such as considering the sensitivity of receptors on Kent Street to be the same as the A272, because these are both identified as transport routes. And finally, HDC challenges the conclusions and judgement made, that mitigation measures, which in most cases are limited to new planting, would reduce most visual and landscape character effects found to be Major Adverse and Significant, to Negligent and Not Significant at Year 10. This is the case for either a linear hedgerow or a woodland for example. HDC highlights these areas of disagreement in more detail below.</p>	<p>In respect to receptor sensitivity at Kent Street and A272 please see Applicant's response above reference 10.22.</p> <p>In respect to mitigation planting please see Applicant's response above reference 10.23 and in more detail below.</p>
B3	<p>Executive summary</p> <p>3. Page 8 Embedded environmental measures (table 18-25) re C-115 – proposes that reinstated hedgerows and tree lines will be monitored over a period of 10 years and remedial action swiftly taken. This has followed through into the LEMP but no guidance on procedure as yet. Para 2.6.11 (of the LEMP) says this is to be submitted with the maintenance works but not clear at what stage this is to be submitted. Does it mean with a LEMP for each phase? It is HDC's position that the delivery of mitigation measures triggers is key to correct implementation as the whole LVIA conclusions are based on the success of these.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above reference 10.40.</p>
B4	<p>4. At Page 9, likely significant effects have been identified on:</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees that existing onsite landscape elements / features will be significantly affected by the</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
•	<p>Landscape effects Oakendene substation – identifies significant effects on J3 LCA during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase. This is agreed with. But and in addition, HDC considers that the substation will have a significant effect on some of the onsite existing landscape features (such as the removal of the internal tree and hedgerow boundary and reprofiling of the topography).</p>	<p>Oakendene substation and the LVIA refers to the permanent loss, and therefore significant effect on these elements in paragraph 18.9.20 and again 18.9.45 Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059].</p>
•	<p>Visual effects Oakendene substation – the assessment identifies significant effects on receptors (proW 1786 and 1788 and road users on A272 and Kent Street) during construction, which is agreed with. It goes onto to say that these effects are likely to reduce to some degree once mitigation measures mature during operation stage but still significant residual effects to users of proW 1786. Whilst the residual significant effects to PRoW 1786 are agreed with, HDC contends that there will also be significant residual effects experienced by users along 1787, Kent Street and the A272.</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees that there will be significantly affected receptors (PRoW 1786 and 1788 and road users on A272 and Kent Street) as a result of the Oakendene substation during construction and operation (PRoW 1786). During operation the visual effects from the A272 and Kent Street will reduce to non-significant levels as mitigation planting shown in the Indicative Landscape Plan (Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232]) becomes established. The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] is being updated for submission at Deadline 3 with further details on mitigation measures regarding landscape design, ILP and an Architectural Strategy. This will clarify advance mitigation planting along the A272 and mitigation planting along Kent Street. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p>
		<p>Figure 18.9c, Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact – Figure (Part 1 of 6) [APP-098] illustrates</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>PRoW 1786 and the LVIA describes this in Table 18-34 Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059] as “routed between east of Taintfield Wood and the A272 via Oakendene Industrial Estate”. As such the assessment includes part of PRoW 1787 between Kent Street and Taintfield Wood. Allowing for this, it is agreed that PRoW 1786 and part of PRoW 1787 (approximately 200m) will be significantly affected during the construction period, as a result of both the construction of the onshore cable corridor and the Oakendene substation.</p> <p>During operation it is therefore also agreed that PRoW 1786 and part of PRoW 1787 will be significantly affected as described in Table 18-34 Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059] “Oakendene substation components will be visible from this route through gaps and above intervening vegetation in the foreground as the path emerges north and east of Taintfield Wood” This includes the gap for the field gate that would allow views north from part of PRoW 1787 (assessed in the ES as part of PRoW 1876). Significant visual effects from PRoW 1786 and from field gate along PRoW 1787 will persist through the operation period.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B5	<p>5. At Page 10 the Visual effects onshore cable corridor are discussed. Overall conclusions are that there will be No Significant effects on the views and visual amenity of settlements during the construction and operation and maintenance phases. Due to the construction compounds sitting and activity, HDC contends that there are also likely significant effects to users of the Washington recreation ground and PRow's 2699, 2701, 2089_2, 2703, 2704 and 2705 during the construction phase.</p>	<p>In respect of the Washington recreation ground, and in response to HDC's Relevant Representations (ref 2.5.28) it is agreed that significant effects assessed for the recreation ground / playing fields on the northern edge of Washington will be presented as a recreational receptor within Appendix 18.4: Visual Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-169] and added to summary Table 18.45 of Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059].</p> <p>It is agreed that there will be significant visual effects during construction of the onshore cable corridor affecting the route of PRow 2703 as reported in the LVIA within Appendix 18.4: Visual Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-169].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRow 2699 and 2089/2 are assessed in the LVIA within Appendix 18.4: Visual Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-169]. The visual effects are assessed as not significant due to the successive layers of intervening vegetation that would provide whole or partial screening. • PRow 2701 – This route is not assessed in the LVIA as it is largely routed through woodland to the north of the Washington Construction Compound and would be subject to temporary closure and diversion during the construction period as shown

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B6	<p>6. Page 11, under the Cumulative effects heading, refers to other schemes that may be simultaneously or sequentially experienced during the construction phase. This is then followed by the heading of Inter-related effects, which looks at effects of landscape and visual receptors during all stages of the development. No effects have been identified within the Horsham District. However, HDC is now in receipt of two pending planning applications (DC/24/0054 and DC/23/2172) in close proximity to the proposed Oakendene Substation site and considers that Significant cumulative and inter-related effects on a number of receptors are likely to arise as result.</p>	<p>within the Access, Rights of Way and Streets Plans [APP-012] and in accordance with the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-230]).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRow 2704 – This route is not assessed in the LVIA as it is largely routed through woodland on the edge of the ZTV and located to the north of OAL at Chanctonbury Hill (assessed as not significant). • PRow 2705 – This route is not assessed in the LVIA and it overlaps with OAL at Chanctonbury Hill (assessed as not significant). <p>The Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059] is being updated for submission at a future Deadline.</p>
		<p>The applications mentioned DC/23/2172 and DC/24/0054 were submitted to Horsham District Council on 29 November 2023 and 10 January 2024, respectively. As a result, these applications have not been included within the Environmental Statement as it was being submitted after the Rampion 2 DCO Application submission in August 2023 and will be assessed if requested from the Examining Authority.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B7	<p>18.4 Scope of the assessment</p> <p>7. Page 74 - Landscape elements and recreational (and tourist) destinations are identified as receptors in this section but not assessed as likely to result in significant effects during construction, operational and decommissioning stage. HDC is concerned the effects on landscape elements are understated, as the loss of the internal hedgerow and trees, as landscape features, to facilitate the new proposed Oakendene station for example, are Significant and cannot be fully mitigated.</p>	<p>The Applicant is aware of these schemes and is discussing the potential for conflict with the promoters, so that this can be reduced.</p> <p>Please see Applicant's response above reference B4.</p>
B8	<p>18.6 Baseline conditions</p> <p>8. Page 101 Onshore substation at Oakendene – landscape receptors The site's landscape features are not identified. Only discusses the character areas. These need to form part of the assessment as they are also identified as receptors at section 18.4 of this document. Landscape elements (vegetation only) are identified within the tables submitted under (APP-169) Volume 4, Appendix 18.3: Landscape assessment, and in respect to the cable route. Page 5 para 1.1.3 is also clear that the assessment of landscape effects from the onshore substation is provided under (APP-059) Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact, volume 2 of the ES, and is therefore not repeated in (APP-169) Landscape Assessment. HDC therefore contends that the effects of the loss of these features is not appropriately reported as receptors in their own right and considered within the conclusions of the assessment. Due</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above reference B4.</p> <p>The landscape assessment includes an assessment of the landscape character, its key characteristics and the constituent elements or features (which includes trees). The assessment makes specific reference to the loss of individual trees and hedgerow trees within the footprint of the onshore substation and assess a High magnitude of change and a Major and significant effect on the landscape character and landscape elements (trees / field trees / hedgerows with trees hedges etc.). Further assessment of individual landscape elements would not alter the findings or conclusions of the LVIA that</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	to the likely significant effects, HDC requests the assessment is updated so that appropriate mitigation can be considered.	the effects would be significant. These elements are also assessed within Appendix 16: Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-194]. The loss of these features has been recognised as part of the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as set out in Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain information, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-193]. The Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2) has requirements 12, 13,14 and 22 securing mitigation, compensation and BNG.
B9	<p>9. Similar issues can be found with the assessment of effects for receptors at Washington.</p> <p>Page 119, table 18-23 Onshore cable corridor- visual receptors within 2km (south north). Part 2: SDNP, Washington is included within settlements receptors and makes reference to recreation ground, allotments and village green). This is then not followed during the visual assessment (APP-170, Volume 4, Appendix 18.4 Visual Assessment). HDC therefore contends that the effects of the construction compound in particular, is not appropriately reported on receptors such as users of the village green, allotments and recreation grounds but also for receptors within public rights of way 2699, 2701, 2089_2, 2703, 2704 and 2705. HDC requests the assessment is updated so that any appropriate mitigation measures can be further considered.</p>	<p>In respect of receptors at Washington please see Applicant's response above reference B5 and Horsham District Council's Relevant Reps reference 2.5.28 in Applicant's Response to Relevant Representations [REP1-017] (points 6.5-6.6) as partly repeated below.</p> <p>In undertaking the assessment of Washington, many different streets and public open spaces (such as recreation ground / village greens and allotments and where appropriate) are included within the settlement, and all are afforded high sensitivity as representative of the view as likely to be experienced by groups of residents. The relevant assessment is set out in Appendix 18.2: Viewpoint Analysis, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-168],</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>Appendix 18.4: Visual Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-169]. Washington has very limited views of the Proposed Development as indicated by the limited zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) coverage of the settlement and the trenchless crossing of the playing fields, located just to the north of the village (settlement boundary). Consequently, views from the settlement would not be significant. This also applies to the allotments, located further to the north of the recreation ground at Washington, which would be screened by perimeter hedges and vegetation / buildings associated with Washington Caravan Park The assessment does however acknowledge that there would be significant views of the Washington construction compound from Viewpoint H1 along the A283 on the northeastern edge of Washington (Figure 18.32 Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact – Figures (Part 3 of 6), Volume 3 of the ES [APP-100]).</p> <p>It is agreed that significant effects assessed for the recreation ground / playing fields on the northern edge of Washington will be presented as a recreational receptor within Appendix 18.4: Visual Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-169] and added to summary Table 18.45 of Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059].</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B10	18.9 Assessment of effects: Oakendene substation 10. Landscape features at Oakendene substation are not described and assessed within this section, but rather dealt as part of the character area, under the onshore cable corridor assessment. This in our view overlooks the actual likely effects on the landscape features and the site as receptors in their own right. If the Oakendene substation scheme was to come forward as a stand-alone application, the site and immediate setting, the site features, the site in the context of the character areas at a local, regional and country levels, would all be considered relevant receptors. Given the scale of the overall Rampion 2 project, it is recognised that this same approach would not be appropriate to all aspects of the LVIA, namely the effects associated with the cable route which are more temporary in nature. The substation on the other hand, is a longer-term /permanent structure and its impacts on all individual receptors need to be looked at in more detail than what currently provided so that appropriate mitigation can be identified.	In respect of PRoW please see Applicant's response above reference: B5 . Please see Applicant's response above reference B4 and B8 .
B11	11. Adverse and Significant Visual effects are identified for a section along the A272 near the proposed substation during construction. However, these are judged to reduce to Moderate/Minor and therefore not Significant at operational stage including at Year 1, to reduce further to Minor/Negligible to No effect at Years 5 and 10. HDC contends that notwithstanding the proposed planting, mature landscape features are to be removed and the layers to be reintroduced will not be minor or negligible from day 1 compared to the existing views and experience of the receptors without the proposed development. The wide entrance to	Please see Applicant's response above reference B4 . The Applicant agrees that there will be significantly affected receptors on the A272 as a result of the Oakendene substation during construction and operation (PRoW 1786). Therefore advance planting and hedgerow management is proposed along the

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>the site from the A272 and access road alone (much wider than the nearby Oakenden Industrial State) would introduce a high magnitude of change and would give rise to significant residual effects.</p>	<p>route of the A272 (please see Applicant's response above reference 10.14).</p>
B12	<p>12. The LVIA assesses 'Transport Routes: Kent Street' as having partially visibility of the substation to the west through small gaps in the trees and hedgerows for approximately 1km of the route due to the layers of intervening vegetation. To put it in context the approx. overall length of Kent Street is 2.5Km of winding road, which means that 1km is in fact a significant length for adverse effects to be experienced. It is also noted that no reference is made to the effects of using Kent Street during construction and the increase in construction traffic expected within the narrow rural lane, resulting in a significant increase in the level of activity in the countryside location.</p>	<p>The visual effect on the views from Kent Street will be intermittent along the approximately 1km of the route, viewing through gaps in the trees and hedgerows affecting short sections of the route within the overall 1km and not a continuous, clear or open view.</p> <p>Whilst 'increased construction traffic' is not specifically referred to, it is generally intended as part of the reference to "<i>construction works associated with building the onshore Oakendene substation</i>" and the "<i>movement of other machinery, including construction vehicles</i>". Although not related to Kent Street the landscape assessment also refers to increased vehicle activity in paragraph 18.9.21 of Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059].</p> <p>Specific reference to increased construction access on Kent Street and at the construction accesses A61 and A64 is noted. This would not however alter the conclusions of the LVIA which record a high magnitude of change and the highest level of effect for this receptor during construction, ranging from Major / Moderate to Moderate (Significant).</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B13	<p>13. The assessment gives the same ranking of sensitivity to Kent Street as transport routes A281 and A272. This blanket approach is not appropriate and is disagreed with as it is not reflective of what is experienced in the ground. The sensitivity of Kent Street is much higher than the other two routes and this needs to be recognised as part of professional judgement. Whilst not identified as a scenic or designated tourist route, its narrow in nature, densely vegetated and overall, its intrinsic rural qualities are enjoyed by all of those that live and travel along it including walkers connecting to the public rights of way network within the area. More on Kent Street is discussed below.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above reference 10.25.</p>
B14	<p>14. PRow 1786 between east of Taintfield Wood and A272 is identified as having a residual Significant effect which is agreed with. HDC therefore queries the absence of a more robust buffer planting between the public right of way and the site's southern boundary? Whilst this area is currently outside of the application's red line boundary, it seems unsatisfactory that significant effects are left unmitigated. Failing the feasibility of this, reducing the footprint of the substation to allow for a wider buffer to be planted within the confines of the red line must be explored.</p>	<p>The provision of off-site planting to mitigate views from PRow 1786 would require landowner consent and is also likely to block elevated views towards Oakendene Manor from PRow 1786. Therefore, reference has been made to the architectural strategy whilst noting also that the substation footprint is based on maximum parameters.</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] includes a series of landscape design principles, other opportunities and an Architectural Strategy (consistent with the DAS) to provide further mitigation in addition to the Indicative Landscape Plan (ILP). The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] is being updated for submission at Deadline 3 with further details on mitigation measures regarding landscape design, ILP and an Architectural Strategy. Further detail will also be provided in the stage</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B15	<p>APP-169) Appendix 18.3: Landscape assessment, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.3)</p> <p>15. Table 2-19 Effects on landscape character within the J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands (page 102. In here, the landscape elements within landscape character area J3, including those relevant to the Oakendene substation, are discussed and assessed separately, but this does not follow onto the overall conclusions of the core doc.</p>	<p>specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans that would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Further detail would be provided in the stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans that would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] (updated at Deadline 2).</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to engage with Horsham District Council on these points.</p> <p>For completeness, Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059] will be updated to include reference to landscape elements within the J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands at a future Deadline.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B16	<p>16. The landscape elements identified as being the most relevant are the woodland, hedgerows and mature trees within the onshore cable corridor and onshore substation search area. We contend that within the Oakendene substation site, the undulating topography (landform) and small field pattern (the site) are also relevant character features and should be assessed as separate receptors.</p>	<p>The Applicant does not agree that landform and field pattern should be assessed separately as separate receptors. These aspects are included in the landscape character assessment the J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands and recognised as one of a number of key landscape characteristics. Whilst it may be helpful to clarify that these key characteristics would be significantly affected as part of the landscape character by the addition of the Oakendene substation, their inclusion would not alter the LVIA assessment which confirms significant effects during the construction and operation and maintenance periods of the substation, the nature of which will be long-term allowing for decommissioning, direct and adverse. The LVIA provides a reasonable and proportionate assessment.</p>
B17	<p>17. Landscape Receptors are defined in the GLVIA3 glossary as being: 'defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal.' Notwithstanding, and although recognised that Landscape is holistic (in that it is a result of the complex interaction of natural, cultural, perceptual and aesthetic components), landscape features to a degree need to be considered separately for the purpose of a transparent assessment. By identifying and recognising the significant effects of the proposed development on the landscape features, the conclusions of the assessment are likely to recognise that the intrinsic landscape character of the site and immediate setting will be lost and cannot be replicated or fully mitigated.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above to reference B16.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B18	<p>18. The conclusion on the magnitude of change is considered medium-high and the level of effects is described as Major/Moderate adverse and Significant. This agreed with up to the assessment of Year 10, where the residual effects then become Minor and not significant even though the authors recognise that the replacement hedge planting will be well established although not matching the size of mature trees / woodland. HDC contends that the loss of tree lines and woodland will never be mitigated to a negligible level of effect and residual effects should remain as Moderate and Significant.</p>	<p>It is assumed that this section relates to the assessment of the cable corridor in Appendix 18.3: Landscape Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-170] and not the Oakendene substation in Chapter 18: Landscape and Visual Impact, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059]. The concern appears to be with Year 10 assessment where the residual effects will be Minor and not significant. It is agreed that the replacement planting will not match the size of mature trees / woodland removed from the cable corridor and whilst the Applicant has assessed the effects as reducing to Moderate at Year 5 and Minor at Year 10, HDC contend that the effects will be Moderate until Year 10. It is not unusual for landscape architects to have some assessment variation in their professional opinions due to the subjective nature of these assessments. In undertaking the assessment of Minor effects at Year 10 account has been taken of the fact that the landscape planting would achieve an intact structure of landscape elements (complete hedgerow, tree belt or linear woodland shelterbelt) that is able to contribute to the landscape pattern although it would have a more variable species and age diversity with new planting achieving heights of between 4-8m. Whilst existing mature trees cannot be replaced and large species tree planting cannot be undertaken over the cable easement, this level of variation in age diversity is likely to fall within the parameters of the existing baseline landscape, recognising that</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B19	<p>19. Whole proposed development effects concludes that the level of effects in this landscape (landscape character area J3) is Major and the combined cumulative effects are Significant. This is agreed with and therefore we contend that further mitigation planting can be introduced, such as implementation of advanced planting along the site's boundary fronting the A272 behind the bellmouth/access route once this is formed and before its use for construction works commences. It is also considered that planting should be added between PRow 1786 and the site's southern boundary to enhance and reinforce this boundary further and aid with visual mitigation and replication of some extent of existing landscape characteristics.</p>	<p>landscape is dynamic and subject to gradual change, growth / death, and vegetation management over time.</p> <p>Please see Applicant's response above references 10.14, B11, and B16.</p>
B20	<p>20. HDC would also like to bring to attention application DC/24/0054 for the installation of battery energy storage system, recently submitted to the Council. The scale and close proximity of this scheme to the proposed cable route and Oakenden substation is considered to have a significant effect on local receptors such as for example users of Prows 1786 and 1787, users of Kent Street but also LCA J3, the site itself and immediate context and on the character of Kent Street, to justify inclusion within the cumulative effects section of the LVIA assessment and ES.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above to reference B6.</p>
B21	<p>21. Overall, HDC would like to point out that it is common theme that even though Major and Significant effects are identified in many of the assessed receptors in the initial stages of the development (construction, operational year 1 and year 5) at year 10, effects such as</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above reference B18.</p> <p>It is not considered unreasonable for mitigation to reduce many effects down to a Minor level of effect</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	loss of woodland are then considered to be negligent. We contend this is deceptive and a tendency to downplay the effects, putting into question the robustness of the conclusions of the LVIA.	(not 'negligent') after a period of ten years landscape maintenance. The LVIA is robust, thorough, proportionate and transparent, noting that not all landscape effects are assessed as Minor or less by Year 10.
B22	<p>(APP-170) Appendix 18.4: Visual assessment, Volume 4 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.4)</p> <p>22. Page 39 - Table 1-7 visual effects of onshore cable corridor on settlements: Washington. Users of the Washington recreation ground effects are assessed within the settlement receptor rather than a receptor on its own right. This is considered acceptable to simplify the complexity of the LVIA but it is disagreed that the level of effect is considered minor and not significant, mostly justified by the fact that the cabling is underground and view H1 (acknowledges the compound as significantly visible) is not considered as being representative of views from the settlement. Whilst this may be the case from the settlement overall, it is considered that users of the recreation ground, are not being given a proportionate assessment and therefore in this case it makes more sense to include it as a receptor within recreational and tourist destination receptor group. No assessment of the allotments and village green is carried out as indicated at table 18-23 (page 119 in volume 2, Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment). We contend these receptors are missing from the assessment and its likely effects misrepresented.</p>	Please see Applicant's responses above references B5 and B9 .
B23	23. Several public rights of way receptors (2699, 2701, 2089_2, 2703, 2704 and 2705), likely to be affected by the construction compound at	Please see Applicant's response above reference B5 .

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B24	<p>Washington, have not been assessed. HDC therefore contends that the effects of the construction compound, is not appropriately reported and requests the assessment is updated so that any appropriate mitigation measures can be further considered.</p> <p>24. Page 51, para 1.3.4 summarises Kent Street as experiencing significant visual effects during the construction phase on approximately 250m stretch, south of Oakendene. Kent Street – concerns with the effects on the tranquillity and rural qualities of Kent Street. HGV's are to use A-61 (existing field gate but requires new temporary construction bellmouth) and A-64 (existing farm road/ field access) for construction and operational stages. Most landscape strategies, DAS, summary of the LVIA suggested that all trees and hedgerows along Kent Street would be retained. However, App-170 Visual Assessment page 100, refers to new road surfacing, signage and vegetation management at both these entrances. It concludes the level of effect is Minor/negligible. (APP-228) Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan, also refers to a temporary construction bellmouth being required for A-61. Access 59 (operational access) requires a new bellmouth to be implemented. By cross referencing the tree survey part of G181 is shown as being removed to facilitate A-61 but no reference is made to the removal of H22 or any vegetation removal needed to facilitate A-59. No reference is made to this access point within the Visual Assessment. Accordingly, works are necessary to three of the four access points along Kent Street. The visual assessment (page 52) only refers to hedge removal that will be visible from the roadside, beyond existing hedges and no reference is made to clearing of vegetation for the creation of bellmouths. This will inevitably change the character and visual rural qualities of Kent Street.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above reference B12.</p> <p>There are four access point along Kent Street:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A59 – Operational only; • A60 – Operational only; • A61 – Construction and operation; and • A64 – Construction and operation <p>The Applicant will provide clarification of the requirements for access and the need for bellmouth / visibility splay requirements for each of these accesses and review the LVIA and Design and Access Statement (DAS) [AS-003] accordingly.</p> <p>The Applicant is reviewing the Vegetation Retention Plans and if the outcome of this exercise requires updates to the Vegetation Retention Plans or other application documents including the LVIA, the Applicant currently envisages presenting this information by Deadline 3.</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] is being updated for</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
		submission at Deadline 3 with further details on mitigation measures regarding landscape design, ILP and an Architectural Strategy.
B25	25. Access points A-60 and A-59 are positioned in very close proximity to one another and in turn reduces the rural experience along Kent Street. HDC queries the need for both accesses if one access point could not be used instead? Is this associated with the recent application (DC/24/0054) for the Installation of Battery Energy Storage System which also shows two success points in similar locations, one operational and one emergency? This application, only recently received by HDC (Jan 2024) has not been considered as part of cumulative effects but given the likely impacts on PRoW's, Kent Street and character, we consider this should be reevaluated.	Please see Applicant's response above references B6 and B24.
B26	26. Overall, the effects of the various new/enhanced accesses along Kent Street are considered by HDC to significantly urbanise what is a rural lane on four separate locations and result in the loss of the rural qualities of Kent Street. With regards to visual receptors, the likely magnitude of change is higher than the assessed (Low in the LVIA) and likely effects on the character of Kent Street should be ranked as Moderate instead of the Minor/negligible as result.	Please see Applicant's response above references B12 and B24.
B27	27. The whole proposed development residual effects are concluded as of Major/Moderate significance on views from a short section (1km of 2.5Km length) during construction and Year 1 as result of both substation and corridor. We would argue that the significance of the effect will remain Significant at Year 5 to reduce to Moderate to Minor/Negligible at Year 10. It is unlikely that the enhancement planting	Please see Applicant's responses above reference B18 and B24.


Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>will reach 8m in height to be meaningful in softening the development. Visually, it needs to be acknowledged that elements of the substation will always be experienced from Kent Street but also the additional road improvements and widening or creation of access points cannot be mitigated.</p>	
B28	<p>28. Figure 1 - Indicative Landscape Plan Version 3 - Commitment that advanced planting is to be proposed fronting A272 after bellmouth/access is created must be secured. Changes to plan should be secured prior to determination as this area is not included but key to assist in the delivery of screening/visual mitigation of the scheme from year 5 as suggested within the LVIA conclusions. The residual effects of receptors along the A272 and LCA J3 are still Moderate and therefore Significant.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's responses above references 10.14, B11 and B16.</p>
B29	<p>29. Figure 1 - Indicative Landscape Plan Version 3 - The location of the main palisade security fence is not represented on the plan. At this stage and based indicative sections, it is assumed that this is to follow the identified footprint of the substation. Confirmation or clarification is required to understand the relationship with the existing landscape features and to assess the likely landscape and visual effects on the various receptors. The height of the palisade fencing appears to be in the region of 2.8/3m extrapolated from the indicative sections (indicative profiles plan under DAS Rev A). Furthermore, the electric pulse fence location and height also needs to be understood. The information confirms this is to be 1m higher than the perimeter fencing but it's not clear if this is to be erected in the same location and if the 3m would include the electric fence or if the overall height of the fence is 3m +1m.</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm that the location of the main palisade security fence follows the identified footprint of the substation as indicated by the indicative plan and sections within Appendix A of the Design and Access Statement (DAS) [AS-003]. Security fencing is within the development envelope (H x W x D) for the onshore elements of the Proposed Development although it is not referred to in the development parameters at this stage.</p> <p>The stage specific Landscape and Ecology Management Plans would refer to further detail including updates to the project description, Indicative Landscape Plan and the Architectural Strategy. Stage specific Landscape and Ecology</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B30	30. The outline LEMP should identify clear triggers for monitoring and must include a programme schedule for each phase if it is agreed that the 10-year maintenance is to be considered from completion for each phase or clarification otherwise. The submission of planting plans for all aspects of work must be secured and must include proposed new planting and reinstatement works.	Management Plans would be delivered as part of the detailed design process to the relevant authority for agreement. The delivery of these documents is secured through Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009] which has been updated at Deadline 2.
B31	31. Overall HDC is unclear how some of the mitigation measures are to be monitored and actioned including (but not limited to) the reinstatement of hedgerows or advanced planting. These are key, and heavily relied upon, to the success of the project's embedded environmental measures and proposed mitigation measures on the LVIA and Heritage conclusions. Tightening of commitments and clarity of assessments and information submitted have been suggested throughout this submission to seek to address the issue.	Please see Applicant's response above references 10.14, 10.34 and 10.40.
B32	<p>Comments on AS-002 – Additional Submission 5.8 Design and Access Statement</p> <p>32. There are no site levels provided at this stage. DAS rev A (design principles page 10) confirms that the levels will be confirmed following detailed surveys. It also confirms that the ground level used will not</p>	Please see Applicant's response above to reference 10.27.

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
	<p>require import or export of soil, but it does not clarify if it is to be lower or higher than existing ground levels. This is a concern as if ground levels need to be raised (maybe as result of flooding), the visual impacts will be more prominent and above the assessed 'worst case scenario'. The LVIA is silent on this when defining maximum assessment assumptions and refers to the Outline LEMP for information on earthworks and planting. There is no forthcoming information under the current revision of this document Outline LEMP document as far as we can see. Therefore, at this stage, can only be therefore assumed that the levels would be considered as existing/ no earthworks required. No reference is made on the APP-124 proposed development Parameters.</p>	
B33	<p>33. A272: One of the design principles identified is that the substation will be screened by existing vegetation and landscape planting from the majorities of the view. For this to be the case and judging the time planting takes to establish, why cannot advance planting be proposed fronting A272 after the bell mouth/access is created to replace the established hedgerow that needs to be removed? Furthermore, the boundary would benefit from tree planting to also be shown within the indicative planting plan. Whilst is appreciated that this can be secured during the detail design negotiations, adding at this stage gives the various stakeholders certainty that these mitigation measures, key to the conclusions of the LVIA, are delivered at the right time. It cannot be said that the rural character of the road will be maintained at operational stage but in time, it is agreed that the adverse effects can be softened with a Moderate (Significant) residual adverse effect still experienced.</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above references 10.14, B11 and B16.</p>
B34	<p>34. Cowfold Stream and PRoW 1786 Taintfield Wood (page 18), the design principle is to mitigate effects through the architectural strategy. There is a suggestion that landscape planting is maximised. Whilst it is</p>	<p>Please see Applicant's response above reference B14.</p>

Ref	Local Impact Report comment	Applicant's Response
B35	<p>agreed that within the confines of the red line boundary planting is maximised, HDC queries why cannot additional planting be provided between the PRow and the site's boundary to enhance and reinforce this boundary further?</p> <p>35. The conclusion on Para 3.3.4 is disagreed with. Whilst HDC agrees that views of visual receptors can be partly mitigated HDC contend that the residual effects of the proposed development do not retain the existing rural character as suggested.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3.4 states “<i>For the vast majority of visual receptors (people viewing the site from the surrounding landscape including settlements, residential properties, roads and PRow) there will generally be no view of the substation and the existing rural character of the landscape will be retained.</i>” On the preceding page it is made clear that views from PRow near Taintfield Wood would unavoidably be adversely affected and there will be some views from Oakedene Manor and Kent Street. When read as a whole, this conclusion clearly relates to the vast majority of views from the wider landscape.</p>

Table 2-4 Applicant’s Response to Horsham District Council Local Impact Report – Appendix C

Ref	Local Impact Report Comment	Applicant’s Response
C1	<p>Project Scope: “We would like to monitor traffic from a developer passing through an Air Quality Management Area. The initial idea was to install an ANPR camera and cross its data with the developer vehicles number plates.”</p> <p>Objective: Provide various options for services that would meet the requirements set out in the Project Scope. This will enable Horsham District Council (HDC) to decide on a suitable route forward allowing consideration of external factors.</p> <p>Site Overview:</p> 	<p>Any details would be confirmed as part of stage-specific CTMPs that will be submitted in accordance with the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010] for the approval of the highways authority (West Sussex County Council) secured through Requirement 24 of the Draft Development Consent Order [PEPD-009].</p>

Ref Local Impact Report Comment

Applicant's Response

C2

Option 1: Temporary CCTV Video Analysis.

Project Suitability: 1/5 **Cost Rating:** £££££

By installing temporary short term monitoring cameras around the area for 7-days, it would be possible to identify different types of construction traffic that move through the area. For this, we would be able to provide time-stamped images and a data report outlining vehicle type, time & direction of travel. This approach could be conducted at various intervals throughout the 3-year project.

Pros:

Short term surveys can be deployed quickly with minimal planning and short approval process.

Able to monitor specific times.

Only involves a fee for the individual surveys, not year-round.

Cons:

Chosen survey periods may not be representative of usual traffic flows as will only be providing samples over the 3-year period.

Without being able to match exact vehicles with this method it will be impossible to know if any identified vehicles are associated with a specific list of vehicles.

With this approach you would only be receiving data on vehicles of interest, without looking at ALL traffic we would be able to provide metrics on construction vehicle flow percentages.

Option 2: Temporary ANPR Data Analysis.

Project Suitability: 3/5 **Cost Rating:** £££££

By installing temporary short-term monitoring ANPR cameras around the area for 7-days, it would be possible to identify different types of construction traffic based off a list of vehicle license plates provided. From this report we would be able to provide a range of metrics associated with known and identified construction traffic. This survey type would yield a high accuracy however due to the equipment only being temporarily installed, we would have to make use of available install locations which may limit viewing capacity in some situations.

Pros:

Short term surveys can be deployed quickly with minimal planning and short approval process.

Able to monitor specific times of year.

Only involves a fee for the individual surveys, not year-round.

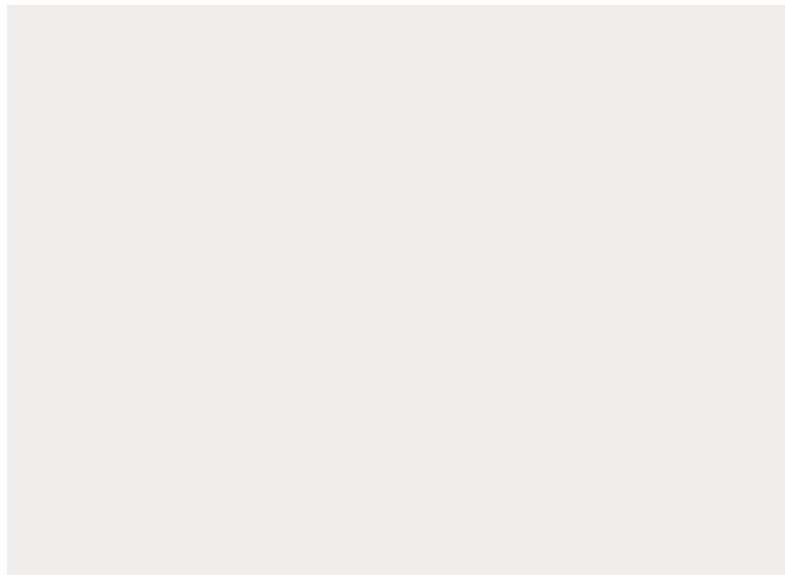
The use of ANPR will ensure we are looking at vehicles specifically associated with the construction project and analysis accuracy is high.

Cons:

Chosen survey periods may not be representative of usual traffic flows as will only be providing samples over the 3-year period.

As all ANPR data of passing vehicles would be captured we can provide percentages and averages of construction traffic contribution.

Using temporary mounts for cameras on existing infrastructure may mean that the data collection is limited to fixing location availability.



Ref Local Impact Report Comment

Applicant's Response

C3

Option 3: Permanent ANPR Analysis. Project Suitability: 5/5 Cost Rating: ££££

By installing Permanent ANPR cameras at a single location, it would be possible to identify different types of construction traffic based off a list of vehicle license plates provided. From this report we would be able to provide a range of metrics associated with known and identified construction traffic. This survey type would yield a high accuracy as a permanent install will allow for higher quality ANPR cameras to be used and for their positioning to be customised for accuracy with the use of brackets. This option would allow for monitoring 365 days a year, for the full duration of the project. Analysis can be made and reported displaying key metrics to the highest possible accuracy on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 365 days a year of data analysis. Highest possible accuracy of numberplate reads due to professional permanent install, not temporary. Can run longer reports detailing averages of known construction traffic contribution over months or weeks for comparison. Low-cost continuous reporting year-round. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial high equipment install cost. Call out fee will be required should the cameras require attention throughout the duration of the project.
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Option 4: Existing ANPR Data Analysis. Project Suitability: 5/5 Cost Rating: £££££

The area in question within Cowfold already has various ANPR cameras in place, by HDC identifying who uses & operates these cameras it me be possible to strike an agreement for a fixed period for the collected data to be shared. By doing this we would be able to use this data to run out the same reports as offered within Option 3, however without the initial equipment & install costs.

<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 365 days a year of data analysis. Highest possible accuracy of numberplate reads due to professional permanent install, not temporary. Can run longer reports detailing averages of known construction traffic contribution over months or weeks for comparison. Low-cost continuous reporting year-round. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only able to collect the data at locations where cameras are currently in operation.
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C4

Should any of the options outlined above be of interest, as a very initial guide, I have put together some indicative price bands based on the specifications listed below:

Option	Description	Expected Price Range
Option 1: Temporary CCTV Video Analysis	Based on 2x CCTV Cameras deployed for 24hrs for 7x Days. (Maximum of 2x locations) 336x Video hours of analysis. Full excel reporting per camera location.	£2,500 - £3,500 + Vat
Option 2: Temporary ANPR Data Analysis	Based on the use of 2x ANPR deployed for 24hrs for 7x Days. (maximum of 1x Location, 1x Camera per direction of travel) Full Data analysis report including the matching of known plates.	£2,000 - £3,000 + Vat
Option 3: Permanent ANPR Data Analysis	Based on the permanent install of 2x ANPR looking at 1 location (one per direction of travel) for 24hrs, 365 days a year, for 3x Years, including Monthly & Weekly or Daily reporting of key metrics against known list of plates provided. Full option cost spread over 36 months. Not inclusive of any additional call out fees.	£600 - £800per month + Vat for 36 months.
Option 4: Existing ANPR Data Analysis	Excluding the provision of ANPR data, just running out Daily, Weekly & a Monthly Report – matching and highlighting key metrics required for the project. For 1x Month.	£300 - £500 + Vat

*Prices are indicative only and would need to be formally quoted prior to any agreement of works.

Further information can be provided on any of the suggested options. Each one can be tailored to specific requirements and quotations supplied for specific specifications.

Table 2-5 Applicant's Response to Horsham District Council's Written Representation

Ref	Written Representation comment	Applicant's Response
1. Introduction		
1.1 to 1.2	<p>1.1 These Written Representations submitted by Horsham District Council (HDC) should be read together with the Council's Local Impact Report and Relevant Representation submissions, in response to the application by Rampion Extension Limited for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm ('the Project').</p> <p>1.2 Its purpose is to allow HDC to highlight in a concise manner and provide advice to the Examining Authority (ExA), on certain concerns raised by the communities, business, and residents of Horsham District, as set out below.</p>	<p>The Applicant has no further comments on these paragraphs of Horsham District Council's Written Representation.</p>
2. Traffic and Access		
2.1	<p>2.1 HDC welcomes and supports the ExA's Action points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 1, requiring the applicant to provide options for ensuring HGVs do not arrive on site outside of the agreed construction hours, and to consider whether construction hours should form a requirement in the draft DCO.</p>	<p>Working hours are outlined in Section 4.4 of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033]. Following receipt of Relevant Representations and information shared at Issue Specific Hearing 1, commitment C-22 within the Commitments Register [REP1-015] has been updated at the Deadline 1 submission to the following:</p> <p><i>'Core working hours for construction of the onshore components will be 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday, and 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays, apart from specific circumstances that are set out in the Outline COCP, where extended and continuous periods of</i></p>

Ref **Written Representation comment****Applicant's Response**

construction are required. Prior to and following the core working hours Monday to Friday, a 'shoulder hour' for mobilisation and shut down will be applied (07:00 to 08:00 and 18:00 to 19:00). The activities permitted during the shoulder hours include staff arrivals and departures, briefings and toolbox talks, deliveries to site and unloading, and activities including site and safety inspections and plant maintenance. Such activities shall not include use of heavy plant or activity resulting in impacts, ground breaking or earthworks.'

This has been updated in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-010]** at the Deadline 1 submission and will be updated in the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033]** for the next submission of this document.

As outlined in the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033]**, no activity outside these hours (including Sundays, public holidays, or bank holidays) will take place apart from under the following circumstances:

- Where continuous periods (up to 24 hours, 7 days per week) of construction work are required for HDD (as HDD is a continuous

Ref	Written Representation comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>activity that cannot be paused once started);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for other works requiring extended working hours such as concrete pouring which will require the relevant planning authority to be notified at least 72 hours in advance; • or the delivery of abnormal loads to the connection works, which may cause congestion on the local road network, and will require the relevant highway authority to be notified at least 72 hours in advance; or • as otherwise agreed in writing with the relevant planning authority. <p>The use of shoulder hours, prior to main construction working hours, provides a buffer period for HGVs to arrive on site.</p>
2.2	2.2 It is expected that the applicant's responses to these Action points would offer further measures, embedded in commitments and requirements, to address HDC's concerns identified in its Local Impact Report regarding the need for appropriate mitigation of adverse harms arising from the construction phase onto sensitive receptors, such as the community of Washington village.	A summary of the Applicant's responses to the Examining Authority's actions points on Issue Specific Hearing 1 is provided the following document: Deadline 1 Submission – 8.25: Applicant's Response to Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 [REP1-018] .
2.3	2.3 HDC also welcomes and fully supports the ExA's Action points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 1, requiring the applicant to:	Please refer to the following for responses to the specific points detailed below:

Ref	Written Representation comment	Applicant's Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate why areas serviced from A61 and A64 off Kent Street cannot be serviced by a haul road from Access A63 Oakendene substation compound; provide a Traffic Management Plan for Kent Street which considers, or signposts, an assessment of the effect of the construction egress on its rural character to be submitted; explore the feasibility of HGVs accessing the areas serviced by A57, A56, A53 and A52 via haul roads south from A63 or North from A50; provide LGV and workforce vehicle numbers travelling through Cowfield AQMA to A57, A56, A53 and A52 and what these equate to in numbers and percentage in comparison to predicted traffic flows without the Project; consider and report on alternatives to the use of Dragons Lane for exceptional HGV use during the operational phase of the Project; provide details on how HGVs would negotiate Dragons Lane in exceptional circumstances during the operational phase of the Project; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant's response to actions points on Access A-61, A-64, A-57, A-56, A-53 and A-52 can be found in the Deadline 1 Submission – 8.25.3: Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 3 – Further information for Action Points 14 and 16 – Construction Accesses [REP1-022] submitted at Deadline 1. The Traffic Management Strategy for Kent Street is currently being progressed by the Applicant for discussion with West Sussex County Council and will be submitted into the Examination at Deadline 2. Details of light goods vehicle (LGV) and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic flows travelling through the Cowfold Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) as part of traffic assessments included in the Environmental Statement (ES) is provided in Deadline 1 Submission – 8.25: Applicant's Response to Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 [REP1-018] (Reference 17). A response on use of Dragons Lane is provided at References 18 and 19 of Deadline 1 Submission – 8.25:

Ref	Written Representation comment	Applicant's Response
Applicant's Response to Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 [REP1-018].		
2.4	<p>2.4 Whilst highway matters are outside of the authority remit of Horsham District Council (and therefore matters not directly addressed in its Local Impact Report), the socioeconomic disruption impacts arising from the Project onto the Local Highway Network, is an important concern voiced by communities, businesses and residents of the district and as such, the Council supports the ExA's identification of these issues and the need for additional evidence to support the DCO submission, through the above listed Action points identified at the Issue Specific Hearing 1.</p>	<p>A detailed assessment of the transport effects of construction traffic has been completed as documented In the Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-064] and Chapter 32: ES Addendum, Volume 2 of the ES [REP1-006]. The conclusion of these assessments was the Proposed Development will generate only one significant transport effect in Horsham District on Kent Street, which will be limited to a short term peak construction period.</p>
2.5	<p>2.5 HDC expects that the applicant's responses to these Action Points would offer further measures, embedded in commitments and requirements, to mitigate those harms expressed by the district residents at the hearing, as well as socio-economic disruption identified in HDC's Local Impact Report.</p>	<p>A summary of the Applicant's responses to the Examining Authority's actions points on Issue Specific Hearing 1 is provided the following document: Deadline 1 Submission – 8.25: Applicant's Response to Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 [REP1-018].</p>
3. Terrestrial Ecology and Landscape and Visual Impact		
3.1	<p>3.1 From submitted Relevant Representation and participation at the Issue Specific Hearing 1 HDC notes the concerns raised by Interested Parties, with particular regards to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. lowland meadow not being identified within the DCO limit (priority habitat under Section 41 of NERC Act 2006), and 	<p>The Applicant notes the concerns. Please see response provided to the CowfoldvRampion written representation.</p>

Ref	Written Representation comment	Applicant's Response
2.	inadequate survey effort on waterbodies for great crested newt.	<p>With regards to great crested newt, the Applicant has surveyed a large number of ponds (see Appendix 22.7: Great crested newt environmental DNA survey report, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-185]). Further, commitment C-214 (see Commitments Register [REP1-015]) allows for pre-construction surveys to understand future distribution. Nevertheless, Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-063] notes both that no breeding ponds will be lost to the Proposed Development and an application will be made to the West Sussex district level licence scheme to provide strategic mitigation for temporary and permanent losses of terrestrial habitats. An application to the district level licensing scheme does not require great crested newt surveys.</p>
3.2	<p>3.2 To address these concerns, HDC advises further information to be provided by the Applicant. HDC notes that the Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Appendix 22.3) was undertaken 'between April 2020 and March 2023'. Given this is a very large range, HDC would request the specific months of survey for different sections of the DCO be provided to demonstrate that habitats that are more likely to be incorrectly classified (e.g., grassland habitats) were surveyed at optimal times of the year. In addition to this, HDC would seek confirmation that for all waterbodies that were excluded from great crested</p>	<p>With regards habitat surveys of grassland please see response provided to the CowfoldvRampion written representation.</p> <p>With regards to great crested newts the presence of great crested newts is assumed across the majority of the landscape. It is assumed that this species is persisting in a series of meta-populations that will occupy a</p>

Ref	Written Representation comment	Applicant's Response
	newt eDNA surveys due to inaccessibility or availability of sampling kits, great crested newt presence is assumed (Para 2.4 from Appendix 22.7).	range of ponds, including some in all years and others more sporadically.
3.3	<p>3.3 HDC also welcomes the ExA's Action points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 1, requiring the applicant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review C-5 and C-17 of the Commitments Register, and the Trenchless Crossing plans, to remove ambiguity on the use of trenchless crossing and to affirm trenchless crossing means that set out in the Crossing Schedule; • Provide details of length and area of temporary and permanent vegetation removal and reinstatement in the form of tabular data for: - Length of hedgerow - Length of important hedgerow - Length of potentially important hedgerow - Length of treeline - Area of woodland - Number of trees; • Review all bell mouth access points on whether necessary hedgerow removal has been taken into account; • ensure consistency between the Environmental Statement and Arboricultural Impact Assessment regarding tree and hedgerow loss and clearly explain any necessary differences; • consider amendment to Commitment C-216 of the Commitments Register wording to make a clearer commitment regarding ancient woodland. Suggestion to remove the word 'where' in the first sentence. 	<p>The Applicant is currently reviewing the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033], Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [APP-232] and Appendix 22.16: Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume 4 of the ES [APP-194] following Issue Specific Hearing 1. Updates will be published at Deadline 3.</p>
3.4	<p>3.4 It is expected that the applicant's responses to HDC advise and the ExA's Action Points would offer further measures, embedded in commitments and requirements, to mitigate those harms expressed by the district residents at the hearing, as well as impacts onto terrestrial ecology and landscape and visual impact identified in HDC's Local Impact Report.</p>	

Ref	Written Representation comment	Applicant's Response
4. Compensation		
4.1	4.1 Where mitigation is not possible, HDC believes strongly that communities should feel they are positively benefitting from host electricity transmission network infrastructure that is to support the delivery of national objectives.	The Applicant is reviewing the requests for mitigation and/or compensation by way of development consent obligation in relation to the relevant policy set out in EN-1 (both 2011 and 2023 versions): any such obligation must be relevant to planning, necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms, directly related in scale and kind to the proposed development and reasonable in all other respects. The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders in relation to how residual impacts can be mitigated and where compensation is identified as required the Applicant is committed to the programme established in ISH 1 of providing Heads of Terms for Deadline 3.
	4.2 As advised by the ExA at the Hearing, HDC has set out in its Local Impact Report proposed compensation measures which seek to address residual harms on air quality (contributions sought for purchase of practitioner equipment to be used by the Council in monitoring affected AQMAs), and terrestrial ecology and landscape and visual impacts (contributions sought toward nature recovery interventions funded by the Council's Wilder Horsham District Initiative in the vicinity of the Project), that have been evidenced by the applicant cannot be mitigated. In the Council's view, these have been demonstrated to meet the planning tests that they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.	
	4.3 In addition to this, the Council would very much welcome the applicant to consider the following works identified in the Horsham District Council Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP Dec 2023) ¹ , to compensate for the residual harms to air quality and socioeconomic disruption identified in the Council's Local Impact Report that would arise from the Project and evidenced by the applicant cannot be mitigated.	
	4.4 These works when completed would reduce vehicular traffic through the Cowfold AQMA, thereby compensating for residual harms arising from the development throughout the construction phase (3- 5 years) and evidenced by the applicant cannot be mitigated, so are necessary and directed related to the Project.	

Ref Written Representation comment

Applicant's Response

4.5 The suggested works are considered fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the Project, especially in the context of the Government's response (Nov 2023) to its consultation on developing voluntary guidance/mandatory scheme for community wide benefits in hosting electricity transmission network infrastructure (whilst recognising any mandatory scheme will remain separate to the planning process and not a material consideration in planning decisions, and not secured through those decisions).

<p>From south of A272, bridleway links south toward existing BW1758 and safe crossing point of A281 linking to bridleways leading to Shermanbury. Also cycle rights created to improve access from developments into the village centre facilities. Safe crossing points between sites to north and south of A272 for horses, cyclists and pedestrians. North of A272, bridleway links north to existing bridleway network</p>	<p>Guidance from West Sussex County Council relating to bridleways and other improvements to provide access for walkers, cyclist and horse riders</p> <p>Cowfold settlement site allocations: Strategic Policy HA8 / CW1, CW2 & CW3</p>	<p>WSSC / Developer</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Developer and WSSC funding</p>	<p>Desirable</p>
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