

EN010117: Application by Rampion Extension Limited for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

Horsham District Council response to The Examining Authority’s Written Questions arising out of Issue Specific Hearing 1 on Environmental Matters Issued 13 February 2024. Dated 20th March 2024

Deadline 2: Comments to the Examining Authority’s initial written questions – schedule of response.

The Examining Authority presented a Written Question in its Rule 8 letter of to Horsham District Council, in order to receive further information about matters it considered relevant to Issue Specific Hearing 1. Horsham District Council’s response to this question is set out below.

Examining Authority Question Number	Examining Authority’s Questions	Horsham District Council’s comments
Q6-4 Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Arun Valley Special Protection Area Natural England Horsham District Council	<p>Natural England state in their Relevant Representation (RR) [RR-265 section 5.25 page 16] and Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement [AS-011 page 4], that there is the risk of a temporary loss of functionally linked land used by waterbirds related to the Arun Valley Special Protection Area during the construction phase of the Proposed Development lasting for several years longer than predicted, before it is returned to its previous condition. It is advised that this extended timeframe needs to be further assessed within the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>Explain whether this further assessment been undertaken or discussed since the Application was submitted for examination in August 2023.</p>	<p>Horsham District Council (HDC) understands from its attendance at the Issue Specific Hearing 1 that it has been requested a response to Q6-4 possibly in error, and a response is meant to Q6-5.</p> <p>However, if HDC comments are sought on Q6-4, it is confirmed no further assessment has been undertaken or discussed with HDC on the temporary loss of functionally linked land used by waterbirds related to the Arun Valley SPA during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.</p>
Q6-5 Water Neutrality Natural England	<p>It is advised [AS-011 page 4] and [RR-265 section 5.26 page 17] that development proposals within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone area that would lead to an increase in water demand will need to demonstrate and robustly evidence water neutrality and that an assessment of water neutrality is required to be undertaken by the Applicant in regards to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Confirm whether any progress has been made or discussions have taken place with the Applicant in regard to this request.</p>	<p>Horsham District Council (HDC) confirm brief and limited discussion took place with the Applicant regarding this request on 13th February 2024, as part of ongoing negotiations on the Statement of Common Ground, in seeking to resolve a Principal Area of Disagreement.</p> <p>HDC has provided advice on, in its view, an appropriate strategy for the Applicant to action to demonstrate water neutrality, and this has been reported in the Council’s Local Impact Assessment.</p>

