

Date: 20 March 2024
Our ref: Case: 15576 Consultation: 467669
Your ref: EN010117



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Richard Allen,

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response for Examination Deadline 2.

1. Natural England's Deadline 2 Submissions

Natural England has reviewed the relevant documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1. Please find an update of Natural England's position regarding these documents in Table 1 below, including anticipated timing of responses. In addition, Natural England is also submitting the following detailed responses, signposted from Table 1, within the following thematic appendices:

- EN010117 467669 - Rampion 2 - Appendix B2 - Natural England's comments on [REP1-026] - 8.25.7 Appendix 7 – Further information for Action Point 33 – Kittiwake Implementation and Monitoring Plan
- EN010117 467669 – Rampion 2 - Appendix D/F2 - Natural England's Comments on [REP1-036] - 8.34 Benthic - Subtidal benthic characterisation survey report appendices, [REP1-012] - 7.17 In Principle Sensitive Features Mitigation Plan, [REP1-025] - 8.25.6 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 6 – Further information for Action Point 7 – Horizontal Directional Drilling at Climping Beach, and [REP1-030] - 8.25.13 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 13 – Further Information for Action Point 45 and 46 – Physical Processes and Benthic

- EN010117 467669 - Rampion 2 - Appendix M2 - Natural England's Risk and Issues Log Deadline 2
- EN010117 467669 Rampion 2 - Appendix N2 - Natural England's response to [PD-008] The Examining Authority's Written Questions arising out of Issue Specific Hearing 1 on Environmental Matters
- EN010117 467669 Rampion 2 - Appendix N2 – Annex 1 to the Natural England's Response to the Examining Authority's Written Questions arising out of Issue Specific Hearing 1 on Environmental Matters - Agenda Item 6 - South Downs National Park - Seascape and Visual Effects Q6, 1-3.

2. Technical notes to address the first set of Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) Action Points

While Natural England welcomes the provision of the technical notes to address the first set of Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) Action Points relating to environmental matters; Natural England advises that unless there are further updates to ES chapters, and/or named plans, any responses and commitments made by the Applicant within these documents will not be secured and therefore will not necessarily be 'pulled through' to the post consent phases.

We therefore require our risks and issues to be addressed by the Applicant in updated ES chapters, Named Plans and DCO/dML conditions, in order to provide a clear audit trail through to post consent phases. All documents (including technical notes) should be clearly catalogued by the Applicant for easy reference during the projects post consent phases (some of which last 10+ years) as the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) do not retain this information on their website.

We therefore highlight that in order to not confuse matters during the remainder of the examination and reflecting the number of outstanding issues; it would be beneficial for the Applicant to focus on updating the Environmental Statement and/or named plans to reflect outcomes/agreements/commitments during Examination. If this is not undertaken, where the Applicant's representations have structured their responses as standalone 'comments on comments', Natural England will only be able to provide limited responses.

3. Terrestrial Ecology

Our review of the documents submitted since our relevant/written representations have raised some significant terrestrial ecology concerns, particularly in relation to protected species, which we note are also reflected by other interested parties' submissions. We are conducting a thorough review as expediently as possible alongside our wildlife licensing colleagues. We intend to provide an additional submission direct to the Applicant and PINs. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but in submitting outside the Deadline schedule we hope to give the Applicant the fullest opportunity to review and respond to our concerns, rather than wait to Deadline 3. This will include responses to the documents pertaining to terrestrial ecology submitted at the Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline and Deadline 1, as well as The Examining Authority's Written Questions arising out of Issue Specific Hearing 1 on Environmental Matters [PD-008], where these relate to terrestrial ecology matters. We will also update the terrestrial ecology section in the risk and issues log.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

Emma Preston
Marine Senior Advisor – Sussex and Kent Area Team
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Table 1 Natural England's Response/Summary Position to the Applicant's Documents Submitted at Deadline 2 that are relevant to our remit.

PINS Document Reference	Applicant's Document Name	Natural England's Response/Position Summary
REP1-001	Deadline 1 Submission - Cover Letter	Natural England has no comments to make on this at this time.
REP1-002	Deadline 1 Submission - 1.6 Application Document Tracker	Natural England has no comments to make on this at this time.
REP1-004	Deadline 1 Submission - 6.2.11 Environmental Statement: Volume 2, Chapter 11: Marine mammals (Clean)	Natural England have provided an update in our Risks and Issues log in relation to this document.
REP1-005	Deadline 1 Submission - 6.2.11 Environmental Statement: Volume 2, Chapter 11: Marine mammals (Tracked)	Natural England have provided an update in our Risks and Issues log in relation to this document.
REP1-006	Deadline 1 Submission - 6.2.32 Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapter 32: ES Addendum	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-007	Deadline 1 Submission - 6.3.8 Environmental Statement: Volume 3, Chapter 8: Fish and shellfish - Figures	Natural England will provide a response to this document at Deadline 3.
REP1-008	Deadline 1 Submission - 6.4.23.2 Environmental Statement: Volume 4, Appendix 23.2: Traffic Generation Technical Note assessment (Clean)	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-009	Deadline 1 Submission - 6.4.23.2 Environmental Statement: Volume 4, Appendix 23.2: Traffic Generation Technical Note assessment (Tracked)	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-010	Deadline 1 Submission - 7.6 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Clean)	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-011	Deadline 1 Submission - 7.6 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Tracked)	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-012	Deadline 1 Submission - 7.17 In Principle Sensitive Features Mitigation Plan	Natural England's response to this document in relation to Benthic Ecology has been provided at Deadline 2 Appendix DF2. Any response pertaining to fish and shellfish ecology will be provided at deadline 3.
REP1-015 - REP1-016	Deadline 1 Submission - 7.22 Commitments Register (Clean) and Deadline 1 Submission - 7.22 Commitments Register (Tracked)	Natural England will not be providing specific comments on the commitments register and will review any updates to commitments within the relevant thematic

	changes)	chapters/ plans to which they relate as these are submitted.
REP1-017	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.24 Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations	Natural England will review these responses where necessary and if appropriate update our risk and issues log for deadline 3, but as stated in our Rule 6 Letter we do not intend to comment on any direct responses by the Applicant or other Interested parties on our representations.
REP1-018	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25 Applicant's Response to Action Points Arising from Issue Specific Hearing 1	Natural England will review these responses where necessary and if appropriate update our risk and issues log for Deadline 3, but we do not intend to comment on any direct responses by the Applicant. We have/will provided comments on the relevant further information Appendices as noted in this table against the relevant documents.
REP1-019	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.1 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 1 - Further information for Action Point 3 – Fawley and Dungeness	Natural England has no comments to make on this at this time.
REP1-020	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.1 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 9 - Further information for Action Points 38 and 39 – Underwater Noise	Natural England will provide a response to this document at Deadline 3.
REP1-021	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.2 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 2 - Further information for Action Point 4 – Wineham Lane North	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-022	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.3 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 3 – Further information for Action Point 14 and 16 – Construction Accesses	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-023	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.4 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 4 - Further information for Action Point 20– Oakendene Substation Flood Risk	This is an onshore document, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.
REP1-024	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.5 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 5 – Further information for Action Point 27 – South Downs National Park	Natural England will provide a response to this document at deadline 3.
REP1-025	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.6 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 6 –	Natural England's response to this document in is provided in Appendix DF2.

	Further information for Action Point 7 – Horizontal Directional Drilling at Climping Beach	
REP1-026	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.7 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 7 – Further Information for Action Point 33 – Kittiwake Implementation and Monitoring Plan	Natural England's response to this document in is provided in Appendix B2.
REP1-027	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.8 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 8 – Further Information for Action Point 34 – In Combination Assessment Update for Guillemot and Razorbill	Natural England will provide a response to this document at Deadline 3.
REP1-028	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.10 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 10 – Further Information for Action Point 42 – Proximity to Marine Wildlife	Natural England's response to this document in is provided as an update to our risks and issues log.
REP1-029	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.12 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 12 – Further Information for Action Point 31 – Winter Fishing	Natural England has no comments on this at this time.
REP1-030	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.25.13 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1 Appendix 13 – Further Information for Action Point 45 and 46 – Physical Processes and Benthic	Natural England's response to this document in is provided in Appendix DF2.
REP1-031	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.29 Statement on the Implications of the 2023 National Policy Statements	Natural England has no comments on this at this time.
REP1-032	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.30 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Open Floor Hearing 1	Natural England will review these responses where necessary and if appropriate update our risk and issues log for Deadline 3, but we do not intend to comment on any direct responses by the Applicant.
REP1-033	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.31 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 1	Natural England will review these responses and if appropriate update our risk and issues log for deadline 3, but we do not intend to comment on any direct responses by the Applicant.
REP1-034	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.32 Applicant's Responses to Issues Raised at Procedural Deadline A	Natural England has no comments on this at this time.
REP1-035	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.33 Ornithological and Marine Mammal Aerial Survey Results of Rampion 2 - 2021	Natural England's response to this document in is provided as an update to our risks and issues log for marine mammals. Any response pertaining to ornithology will be provided at Deadline 3.

REP1-036	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.34 Benthic - Subtidal benthic characterisation survey report appendices	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix DF2.
REP1-037	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.35 SLVIA Maximum Design Scenario and Visual Design Principles Clarification Note	Natural England will provide a response to this document at Deadline 3.
REP1-038	Deadline 1 Submission - 8.36 Great black-backed gull assessment sensitivity	Natural England will provide a response to this document at Deadline 3.
PD-008	The Examining Authority's Written Questions arising out of Issue Specific Hearing 1 on Environmental Matters	Natural England have provided our responses to these questions in Appendix N2. Where the questions relate to terrestrial ecology, Natural England's response on this will be provided on the 5 th April.