

**Bolney Parish Council's comments on
The ExA's questions issued on
3rd April 2024
Interested Party number RAM2-EIA021**

**Question reference
Number:**

Bolney Parish Council's comments:

COD 1.5

Bolney Parish Council would ask that the Applicant includes the Parish Council as an authority it intends to agree Community Benefit Packages with.

Residents in the Parish living close to Wineham Lane, the Rampion 1 and the Bolney National Grid substations have already had to put up with 6 years of construction noise, vibration, dust and increased daily construction traffic movements along Wineham Lane during the construction of the Rampion 1 substation, cable corridor and the extension to the National Grid substation associated with the Rampion 1 project. At times, the permitted construction hours were extended to 7 days a week and from 07.00 to 21.30 hours hugely impacting on the amenity of local residents. In recognition of this, the Community Benefits Fund created as part of the Rampion 1 project ring-fenced a sum of money specifically for the benefit of the residents of 42 properties in the Parishes of Bolney, Twineham, Cowfold and Shermanbury located close to Wineham Lane, the cable route corridor and the National Grid and Rampion 1 substations.

This same group of residents are now going to be impacted again by the construction works associated with the Rampion 2 project. Although the new substation site will be located in Cowfold, the underground connecting cable and haul road from the new substation to the National Grid substation will be constructed across Wineham Lane and through the Parish of Bolney. It is proposed that there will be HDD cable construction compounds on Wineham Lane and another located to the north of the Bolney National Grid substation resulting in multiple daily HGV and LGV movements along Wineham Lane. All of these proposals will impact on the properties on Wineham Lane in the Parish of Bolney and on the properties in the Parish to the north of the cable route corridor and the Bolney substation.

Although the Parish Council is grateful for the grants made from the Area 3 Rampion Community Benefit Fund which benefited the wider community, Rampion refused to include direct compensation to the residents who were actually impacted by the years of construction noise and traffic.

The Parish Council would therefore ask that any Community Benefits Package in the Rampion 2 project also includes direct compensation to the residents in the Parish who will again have to live with several more years of construction noise and traffic and whose quiet enjoyment of their homes will be negatively impacted by the project.

DCO 1.24

Bolney Parish Council considers it imperative that Work No 20 should be included within Requirement 29.

The site selected for the extension to the National Grid substation is located on a ridge in the Low Weald landscape and consequently construction and operational

noise from the site will be audible at surrounding nearby properties. The topography of the local area when combined with the prevailing wind from the south west is such that noise from Work No 20 will impact particularly on the properties to the north of the substation site within the Parish of Bolney. Although there are some trees and mitigation planting from the Rampion 1 project between the National Grid substation and the properties to the north, the plantings are located in an area that is lower in the landscape and therefore will not help mitigate the construction and operational noise from Work No 20. It should also be noted that sections of field boundaries and trees to the north of the Work No 20 site will be removed as part of the Rampion 2 project which will only exacerbate the problem of noise for local residents to the north.

It should also be noted that residential properties in the area already have to tolerate significant cumulative operational noise from the National Grid substation, the Rampion 1 substation and particularly a 'silt buster' installed at the Rampion 1 substation site to filter pollutants from surface water run-off before it is discharged into a nearby watercourse. Noise from construction work and operational noise from the substation extension will inevitably increase noise levels for residents.

HE 1.2

Coombe House is a Grade II Listed Building located in the Parish of Bolney to the north of the site proposed for the extension to the National Grid substation.

The Applicant scoped out the effects of the extension works on the Listed Building 'due to the intervening distance, buildings, topography and plantings between Coombe House and the substation'. The MSDC Conservation officer disagrees with the Applicant's assessment of the effect of the construction works on the setting of Coombe House.

Bolney Parish Council supports the concerns of the MSDC Conservation Officer. It is further concerned by the need to remove a section of hedgerow to the north of the substation site for the connecting cable corridor which will reduce the screening of the site from the Listed Building to the north [See APP-194 Appendix B Inset 45 of 47].

The ExA questions whether further mitigation is required given the landscape plans at Appendix D of the DAS [AS-003]. However, these plans show that there are no proposals for any plantings to the north of the substation extension site to replace the hedgerow being removed, only some new planting to the south along Bob Lane. The Parish Council asks that the Applicant review these landscaping plans so as to mitigate the impact of extension at the National Grid substation on the setting of Coombe House.

As part of the Rampion 1 project, several local residents living in Bolney to the north of the new substation were offered trees to plant in their own gardens to help mitigate the visual impact of the substation. The Parish Council would ask the Applicant in this project to consider a similar package to help mitigate the impact of the substation extension on local properties to the north of the site including Coombe House.

NV 1.7

In Rampion 1, noise monitors were placed on the boundaries of two residential properties located close to the Rampion 1 substation construction site and to the construction access road from Wineham Lane, to monitor the noise levels for the benefit of local residents. The monitors were located on the boundaries of two Listed Buildings, namely Twineham Court Farmhouse in Twineham to the east of the site and and Coombe House to the north in Bolney.

The same residential properties in the Bolney/Twineham area will again be impacted by the noise and vibration in the Rampion 2 project from the construction of underground cable route from the Oakdene substation to the National Grid substation and by the extension work at the National Grid substation.

Bolney Parish Council would ask that the Applicant consider installing noise monitors again around the route of the connecting cable corridor and the National Grid substation to ensure that noise levels do not exceed accepted limits for local residents living in Bolney and Twineham.

TA 1.13

Bolney Parish Council is very pleased to note the decision of the Applicant to introduce 'shoulder hours' between 07:00 to 0:800 and 18:00 to 19:00 before and after the core working hours Monday to Friday.

The Parish Council is concerned however that the Applicant has included 'deliveries to the site and unloading' within these 'shoulder hours' and supports WSCC's concerns about the inclusion of these activities. The Applicant's decision to include unloading is at odds with the activities that were permitted within the same 'shoulder hours' introduced in Rampion 1. In paragraph 9 of the Rampion 1 Construction Health, Safety and Environment Plan produced by the applicant:

'construction and unloading activities are restricted in the shoulder hours of 0700 to 0800 and 1800 to 1900'.

This was repeated in the Stage 1 Site Access Design Document (Stage 1 being the substation construction site) which confirmed:

'Construction activities (including the reversing and unloading of HGVs) at the substation site are only permitted during the following hours:

Mon – Fri	0800hrs - 1800hrs
Sat	0800hrs – 1300hrs
Sun	Closed'

In Rampion 1, although HGV deliveries to the substation site were technically permitted during the 'shoulder hours', because all HGVs had to report to the holding area before being permitted to drive to the substation site and because the manoeuvring and unloading of HGVs was prohibited in these quiet 'shoulder hours', the combined effect was that there were in fact limited HGV arrivals at the site during the 'shoulder hours' which resulted in quieter overall construction vehicle noise for local residents during these 'shoulder hours', particularly in the early mornings.

Bolney Parish Council would ask that reversing and the loading and unloading of HGVs be excluded from the activities permitted in the 'shoulder hours'.