

By email only Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

West Sussex BN17 5LF
email:
@arun.gov.uk

www.arun.gov.uk

Arun District Council

Civic Centre Maltravers Road Littlehampton

25 April 2024

Please ask for: Neil Crowther

Your Ref: EN010117

Our Ref:

Dear Planning Inspectorate

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm – Response to the Examining Authority's Written Questions (Deadline 3)

This letter provides Arun District Council's (ADC) response and comments to the Examining Authority's Written Questions at Deadline 3, where applicable to ADC, for Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm.

If you wish to discuss the contents of this letter, or if there is anything you do not understand, please contact me.

Yours



Neil Crowther Group Head of Planning

Arun District Council

Arun District Council's Response to Examining Authority's Written Questions

ExA Ques	stions - Construction, O	peration and Decommissioning Matters	Arun District Council's Response
COD 1.1	Commitments	Provide a response to the Applicant's statement in the	ADC has no further concerns regarding this issue from
	Register	Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations, J3	a biodiversity perspective.
		[REP1-017] on page 416 that:	
	Horizontal Directional		
	Drilling (HDD)	"Commitment C-5 (Commitments Register [APP-254]	
		(provided at Deadline 1 submission) has been updated	
	Natural England	at the Deadline 1 submission to clarify that Horizontal	
		Directional Drill (HDD) or other trenchless technology will	
	Environment	be deployed in accordance with Appendix A: Crossing	
	Agency	Schedule of the Outline of Construction Practice [PEPD-	
		033] secured via Required 22 within the Draft	
	Forestry	Development Consent Order [PEPD-009]. The Applicant	
	Commission	will not switch to open-cut trenching at these locations.	
		The appropriate realistic Worst-Case Scenario has been	
	South Downs	assessed in the ES. Note, that in the unlikely event that	
	National Park	another trenchless technology is deployed at a specific	
	Authority (SDNPA)	crossing, this would require demonstration that there are	
		no materially new or materially different environmental	
	The Woodland Trust	effects. Any change will need to be approved by the	
	Sussex Wildlife	relevant planning authority through amendment to the	
	Trust	stage specific Code of Construction Practice and Crossing Schedule."	
	West Sussex County		
	Council (West	Explain whether there are any remaining concerns on	
	Sussex CC)	the reliance on HDD or other trenchless technology at	
		the locations specified by the Applicant in the Crossing	
	Horsham District	Schedule in Appendix A of the Outline of Construction	
	Council (Horsham	Practice [PEPD-033] to be secured via Required 22	
	DC)	within the Draft DCO [REP2-002].	
	Arun District Council		
	(Arun DC)		
COD 1.7	Decommissioning	The Applicant	ADC has no comments on the recycling or reuse of the
		••	wind turbine materials at the decommissioning stage.
	The Applicant		3 0

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	MMO Natural England The Environment Agency Relevant Planning Authorities	Provide an Outline Decommissioning Plan for the offshore infrastructure, as requested by Natural England [REP2-038, Page 3]. Explain plans in place to follow the waste hierarchy at the decommissioning stage, particularly any plans on how the wind turbine materials might be reused or recycled. The Environment Agency / Natural England / MMO / Relevant Planning Authorities Comment on expectations for recycling or reuse of the wind turbine materials at the decommissioning stage.	
ExA Que	stions -		Arun District Council's Response
Draft Dev DML)	velopment Consent Orde	er (Draft DCO) and Draft Deemed Marine Licence (Draft	·
DCO 1.18	Schedule 1, Part 3 Requirements 10, 12 and 16 Horsham DC Arun DC West Sussex CC SDNPA Mid Sussex DC	the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2 [REP2-002] in which the definition of "Commence" in Article 2 and a number of Requirements have been amended in respect to "carving-out" onshore site preparation works for the onshore Works.	ADC seeks the definition of 'commence' to include onshore preparation works (other than surveys), ecological mitigation, temporary hardstanding, or the erection of welfare facilities. ADC expects that onshore site preparation works are included (and not 'carved out') in Requirements, particularly given onshore preparation works have been updated to include temporary hardstanding, or the erection of welfare facilities. It is ADC's view that this also applies to Requirement 14.
DCO 1.19	Schedule 1, Part 3 Requirement 14 The Applicant Horsham DC Arun DC	There are concerns from relevant planning authorities over the provisions of this Requirement and the reliance on the provisions contained within the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Strategy Information document, Appendix 22.15 to Chapter 4 of the ES [APP-193]. The ExA notes the Applicant's responses to West Sussex CC [REP2-020] and SDNPA [REP2-024] in respect to the wording within the Requirement and the BNG Strategy	Reference to the outline biodiversity net gain (BNG) information comprising Appendix 22.15 in Requirement 14 of the draft DCO does not provide clarity of securing BNG within Arun. ADC advise that the current Requirement 14 wording should be amended to include the addition of a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan securing

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	West Sussex CC SDNPA Mid Sussex DC	Information document. However, the ExA is concerned that the BNG Strategy Information document may not contain the required evidence or clarity that BNG can be achieved, and accordingly Requirement 14 is not adequate in its current guise. Interested Parties are asked to review the questions contained in BD (below) and consider whether Requirement 14 needs amending and suggest appropriate wording.	Requirement 14.
ExA Que	estions - Biodiversity		Arun District Council's Response
BD 1.1	Biodiversity	For The Applicant	ADC seeks clarity on the BNG calculations within the
	calculations	a) Volume 4, Appendix 22.15 of the ES [APP-193] states metric 4.0 version of the biodiversity metric	to understand the units lost at the local level. Clarity
	The Applicant	has been used to calculate the biodiversity baseline and present planned BNG outcomes.	would be provided by submission of the BNG metric spreadsheet.
	Natural England	Confirm that this was the latest version at the time of submission.	ADC expects BNG to be delivered within or close to
	SNDPA	b) The ExA requests the BNG metric spreadsheet	the Development Consent Order Limits (in line with the principles of BNG) within Arun in accordance with the
	West Sussex CC	used for the calculations is submitted into the Examination.	mitigation hierarchy.
	Horsham DC		ADC would expect that the BNG statutory metric is
		For Natural England, SDNPA, West Sussex CC	used to update the BNG results.
	Arun DC	c) It is noted that the latest metric is now the	ADC feels slewith does not swint for the DNC
	Mid Sussex DC	Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Explain whether the calculations need to be updated using the latest version.	ADC feels clarity does not exist for the BNG calculations within the Arun area as the metric spreadsheet has not been provided.
		 d) Is there agreement on the biodiversity baseline presented in Appendix 22.15 Biodiversity Net Gain information [APP-193] for the: Total number of baseline units calculated for the worst-case realistic scenario. Total number of units lost to the Proposed Development. 	

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		e) Confirm whether clarity exists on how the calculations have been done and is there agreement on the methodology and the spatial areas for which the calculations have been presented?	
BD 1.2	Mitigation Hierarchy Natural England	Confirm that the Applicant has adequately followed the mitigation hierarchy in respect to no biodiversity net loss and biodiversity net gain.	ADC is satisfied that reasonable measures have been taken to avoid harm to statutory sites and priority habitats and species.
	SNDPA West Sussex CC Horsham DC		
	Arun DC Mid Sussex DC		
BD 1.5	Alignment with National and Local BNG Plans, Policies and Strategies Horsham DC Arun DC West Sussex CC Environment Agency SDNPA	 a) Confirm that the proposal for BNG aligns with and complements relevant national or local plans, policies and strategies including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy or other relevant local plans, policies or strategies. b) Confirm that the mitigation hierarchy has been adequately followed to avoid then mitigate then compensate, in that order, in respect to biodiversity. 	ADC would like to see a commitment and clear mechanism to provide BNG at the local (District) level in line with Policy ENV DM5 of the adopted Local Plan. Without BNG in the District and, given the lack of clarity on BNG, the Project is not considered by ADC to be compliant with ADC's policy. ADC considers that the Applicant has adequately followed the mitigation hierarchy in relation to mitigation and compensation.
BD 1.6	Clear Differentiation between Delivery of Compensation and Enhancement.	Concern has been raised by SNDPA [REP1-049], Sussex Wildlife Trust [RR-381], Horsham DC [REP1-044] and Natural England [RR-265] regarding the transparency between delivery of compensation for the	ADC would like further clarity on BNG in the Arun area. Table 4-5 on page 24 of Volume 4, Appendix 22.15 of the ES APP-193 does not sufficiently provide clarity as the metric spreadsheet has not been submitted. ADC

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	Natural England SDNPA West Sussex CC Horsham DC Arun DC	Proposed Development i.e. no net loss of biodiversity and biodiversity enhancement of 10% i.e. 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). The Applicant states it has used the Natural England BNG metric tool to calculate the units required for both [APP-193]. a) Explain whether Table 4-5 on page 24 of Volume 4, Appendix 22.15 of the ES APP-193, provides a sufficiently clear and transparent explanation of how many units of each type are required and is there agreement on the number of units to achieve no net loss and 10% net gain. b) Comment on whether no double-counting is clear between activities planned to deliver mitigation, compensation, enhancement and net gain. c) Is further explanation required? If so, please specify what is needed.	would seek to review the statutory metric for Arun area before being able to make comment on b). The Table 4-5 on page 24 of Volume 4, Appendix 22.15 of the ES APP-193 shows a net loss of biodiversity units for all unit types across the Project. It is not clear how many units of each habitat type would be lost within the Arun area. Volume 4, Appendix 22.15 of the ES APP-193 states they will secure 67 habitat units, 7 hedgerow units and 1 river unit across the whole Project. Evidence to the number of units to achieve no net loss and 10% net gain is not clear for the Arun area and therefore further explanation is required as to how 10% BNG will be achieved and secured in Arun. ADC seek a Biodiversity Gain Plan and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan to cover the Arun area to be secured.
ExA Ques	stions - Climate Change		Arun District Council's Response
CC 1.2	Climate Resilience - Depth of HDD at Climping Beach The Applicant	Is there agreement that Commitment C-278, which states a minimum depth of 5m is maintained when passing beneath Climping Beach SSSI, provides sufficient depth of HDD to be climate resilient to coastal erosion.	The Environment Agency is the operating authority for this section of coastline. ADC therefore refer to the comments provided by the Environment Agency on flood and erosion risk. However, ADC has provided some informative information below.
	The Environment Agency		Informative information ADC cannot see that agreement can be reached by simply a "5m minimum" as this will not adequately
	Clymping Parish Council		address the risks highlighted. ADC's rationale being that Elevation (Z) changes with respect to Easting (X) and Northing (Y). It is therefore possible that if the
	Arun DC		cable were to mirror the existing elevation, the cable could foreseeably be as high as 0 Ordnance Datum

			Newlynn (ODN) in areas. This would be inappropriate, as if erosion were to occur, the cable could become exposed. ADC therefore suggestion that this is reconsidered. It would be more appropriate to state the depth relative to ODN as this is the vertical datum used for the Ordnance Survey i.e the HDD will follow an approximate drive line of (X) below ODN.
	tions - Flood Risk		Arun District Council's Response
FR 1.7	Flood Risk Related to the Entire Proposed Development West Sussex CC Horsham DC Arun DC The Environment	Comment on any outstanding concerns regarding flood risk related to the Proposed Development as a whole, other than the Oakendene site raised in questions FR1.2 to FR1.4, related to but not limited to: a) The quality of and conclusions from the Applicant's Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment [APP-216], including the approach to, application of and conclusions from the Sequential and Exception Tests.	
	Agency	 b) Whether the information in the FRA is credible, fit for purpose, proportionate to the degree of flood risk and appropriate to the scale, nature and location of development and takes the impact of climate change into account. c) Whether the development has been steered towards areas with the lowest area of flood risk from all sources of flooding. d) Whether or not the Proposed Development would increase flood risk elsewhere. e) Whether or not there would be a net loss of floodplain storage. 	 (Lead Local Flood Authority). Consents administered by ADC on their behalf. o Internal Drainage Board Consent – See Environment Agency. o ADC Byelaw Consent. o Main River Consents – Environment Agency In figure 26.2.4 "Fluvial Flood Extent", Rope walk and the area south of the A259 on Littlehampton

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ExA Que	stions - Historic Enviro	nment	Arun District Council's Response
HE 1.3	Heritage Assets Arun DC	Comment upon the Applicants responses to paragraph 2.1.20 of table 2.1 [REP1-017] and response to LIR paragraphs 9.21 & 9.22 [REP2-021] that 45-47 South Terrace is scoped out of effects (table 5.1 Appendix 25.7 settings assessment scoping report vol 4 ES) [APP-213].	No. 45-47 (also identified as 6 St Augustine's Road) (along with 39-44) South Terrace have been scoped out as a result of their distance. However, these buildings have an association with the sea, which is the reason that the buildings were initially constructed – as part of the development of Littlehampton as a seaside resort.
			As stated in the Local Impact Report, the wind turbine generators would be permanently in views towards the seascape and would result in significant negative visual effects on the coastline of the District. As a result, it is not clear why some of the closest listed buildings would be discounted at stage one. However, the Applicant's response now includes consideration of 45-47 South Terrace (6 St Augustine's Road). ADC would consider it as a Less than substantial harm.
HE 1.4	Locally Listed Buildings Arun DC	Comment upon the Applicants' conclusions on the magnitude of change on The South Terrace Area of Character and the locally listed buildings at 48-95 South Terrace & 16 Granville Road at table 2-1 response to paragraph 2.1.20 [REP1-017] and response to LIR paragraphs 9.21 & 9.22 [REP2-021].	Paragraph 2.1.20 of Table 2.1 [REP1-017] and paragraphs 9.21 [REP2-021] confirms that the Area of Character was not included within the initial assessment, although the adjacent conservation area
			It is noted that the Area of Character has since been assessed in the Applicant's response to ADC comments in the Local Impact Report. This assessment identifies that the magnitude of change would be the same as for the neighbouring conservation area. Just because the heritage assets are of local importance; it does not reduce the scale of the impact upon their significance i.e. their heritage interest. The majority of the South Terrace has been identified as a variety of heritage assets, albeit in with different classifications – one part is a conservation area with listed and locally listed buildings, whilst the remainder consists of Area of Character and locally

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HE 1.5 Heritag Arun D	Comment upon the Applicant's conclusions on the magnitude of change and resulting significance of effect of the compounds for work numbers 8, 9 and 10 in response to paragraphs 9.4 and 9.7 [REP2-021] upon the Heritage Assets identified in the above LIR paragraphs [REP1-039].	response to the Local Impact Report.
NV 1.7 Constru	Respond to the Applicant's response contained in	ADC has no further comments regarding noise and
and Vib	[REP2-021] to the issues raised in the LIR [REP1-039], [REP1-044] and [REP1-046] respectively, with regard to	vibration following the Applicant's response and

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	Arun DC Horsham DC Mid Sussex DC	the impact of construction noise and vibration from the Proposed Development on receptors. List any outstanding concerns and provide recommendations for addressing them.	We welcome an outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan being produced for the Examination, to include outline proposals for monitoring and complaints procedure. ADC has requested the potential to secure its cost recovery of monitoring of noise impacts as part of a Section 106 to ensure that the mitigation and monitoring undertaken is acceptable in planning terms and in line with the DCO. No progress has been made on this request.
ExA Ques	tions – Terrestrial Ecol	ogy	Arun District Council's Response
TE 1.3	Terrestrial Ecological Surveys and Mitigation for the Whole of the Landward part of the Proposed Development Horsham DC Arun DC Natural England The Environment Agency	 Comment on whether remaining concerns exist regarding: a) the quality of terrestrial ecological surveys in general undertaken by the Applicant for the whole of the landward part of the Proposed Development? b) the conclusions the Applicant has come to for the terrestrial ecological assessments for the whole of the landward part of the Proposed Development. c) the extent to which the appropriate guidelines and methodologies have been followed by the Applicant when undertaking relevant terrestrial surveys for the whole of the landward part of the Proposed Development. d) the quality and likely effectiveness of the mitigation the Applicant is proposing for potential 	ADC has no further comments.
TE 4.44	Duntanta di Cinania	landward part of the Proposed Development.	ADC has no further concerns no nording the constant
TE 1.11	Protected Species - Bat Surveys	The Applicant a) The ExA requests an update to the Terrestrial Ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement	ADC has no further concerns regarding the updated bat surveys and mitigation measures.

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	The Applicant Natural England Relevant Planning Authorities The Environment Agency SDNPA	 [APP-063] to include the information from the document submitted into the examination at the PEPD relating to bat activities, [PEPD-029] Environmental Statement Volume 4, Appendix 22.18: Passive and active bat activity report 2023 Date: January 2024 Revision A. b) State if the information this report provides changes any of the conclusions in the Terrestrial Ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement [APP-063]. Natural England, the Environment Agency, Relevant Planning Authorities and SDNPA. 	
		c) Confirm if the proposed mitigation measures for bats described in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [APP-232] are adequate. If not, are there any other approaches that you consider would be effective in terms of mitigation measures for bats.	
TE 1.26	Amberley Mount to Sullington Hill SSSI and Sullington Hill Local Wildlife Site	The Applicant has stated that surface works through the Sullington Hill Local Wildlife Site (LWS) are being avoided through use of a trenchless crossing. Respond, if required, to the decision of the Applicant to	ADC has no comment as the Amberley Mount to Sullington Hill SSSI is outside ADC area.
	Natural England Arun DC The Environment Agency	scope out the Amberley Mount to Sullington Hill SSSI, particularly in light of the proximity of the Proposed Development red line boundary to the SSSI and/or the evidence submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1 by Grahame Rhone Kittle [REP1-100] including the discovery of a nationality scarce spider.	
TE 1.28	SDNPA Potential Terrestrial Ecological Impact	The Applicant	Arun has no other designated sites that would be directly impacted by the Project.

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	The Applicant The Environment Agency Natural England	a) The ExA requests the Applicant to state the estimated worst case duration range for construction activities for: i. a 1 kilometre (km) length of open cut cable corridor ii. a trenchless crossing of a watercourse, PRoW or small track	
	Relevant Planning Authorities SDNPA	b) The ExA requests the Applicant to provide worst case construction duration times marked on a plan in sections along the whole of the cable route, in as much detail as possible. For sections where the time of year construction is undertaken would be a significant consideration, such as sensitive ecological areas, mark on the plan which months or season the construction work is proposed to be undertaken.	
		The Environment Agency, Natural England, Relevant Planning Authorities, SDNPA c) In addition to the Commitment made to seasonal restriction of construction work at Climping Beach (C-217), comment on whether there are any other sensitive areas.	
TE 1.30	Impacts to Ecologically Important and Sensitive Sites: Climping Beach SSSI, Littlehampton Golf Course and Atherington Beach LWS, Sullington Hill LWS, and Ancient	ŕ	ADC has no further concerns.

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	Michelgrove Park and Calcot Wood. Natural England The Environment Agency SNDPA West Sussex CC Forestry Commission Horsham DC Arun DC		
TE 1.33	Stage Specific Landscape and Ecological Management Plans (LEMPs) The Applicant The Environment Agency Local Authorities	"stage specific LEMPs will be produced by the appointed Contractor(s) following the grant of the Development Consent Order (DCO) and prior to the relevant stage of construction. This will be produced in accordance with this Outline LEMP for approval of the relevant planning authority, prior to the commencement of that stage of works. The stage specific LEMPs for the onshore substation and National Grid Bolney substation extension works shall be developed and submitted for approval alongside the detailed design of this infrastructure." Applicant a) If a significant period elapses between the surveys undertaken for protected species and the start of construction, explain whether it is the intention to re-survey features prior to construction and would the findings be	

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		included in the updated stage specific Landscape and Ecological Management Plans. The Environment Agency and Relevant Planning Authorities b) Comment, if required, on the approach put forward by the Applicant regarding the stage specific LEMPs. Explain if concerns remain and what approach is recommended. c) Comment, if required, on the durations between surveys and construction.	
ExA Questions – Water Environment		nent	Arun District Council's Response
WE 1.4	Private Water	The Applicant	ADC consider that an appropriate distance would be a
	Supplies	In response to Arun DC's point 4.14 in its LIR [REP1-	minimum of 250m (this equates to an SPZ2
	The Amelia	039] regarding the monitoring of private water supplies,	groundwater protection zone).
	The Applicant	the Applicant's responses states:	ADC consider that both private and public water
	Arun DC	" any additional DIMSs identified in the class visinity of	ADC consider that both private and public water
	Aluli DC	"any additional PWSs identified in the close vicinity of the Proposed Development post-consent will be	supplies meeting this definition should be included in the water quality monitoring programme.
	The Environment	considered for inclusion in the PWS water quality	the water quality monitoring programme.
	Agency	monitoring programme implemented by environmental measure C-253 in Table 26-20 of Environment Statement Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-067] and also the Outline Code of Construction Practice [PEPD-033] secured through Requirement 22 of the Draft Consent Order [PEPD-009]." a) The ExA would like to further understand on what basis these water supplies would be considered for inclusion in the water quality monitoring programme.	

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- b) Quantitatively define the phrases "in close vicinity of the Proposed Development" mentioned above and "in proximity of the Order Limits" in Commitment C-253 of the Commitments Register [REP1-015].
- c) Confirm that Commitment C-253 of the Commitments Register includes both microbial and chemical parameters within the water quality monitoring programme.
- d) Confirm how long the water quality monitoring programme would continue for.

Arun DC, The Environment Agency

- e) Explain what distance would be considered appropriate for the definition of "in proximity of the Order Limits" in Commitment C-253 of the Commitments Register.
- f) Explain whether all private and public water supplies meeting this definition, should be included in the water quality monitoring programme as default, unless agreed exempt by the Appropriate Authority.