



Arun District Council
Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex BN17 5LF

Tel: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]@arun.gov.uk
www.arun.gov.uk

By email only
Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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Your Ref: EN010117

Please ask for:
Neil Crowther
Planning

Our Ref: NA

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Dear Planning Inspectorate

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm - Comments on any Further Information/Submissions Received at Deadline 3

This letter provides Arun District Council's comments for Deadline 4 on the updated submission documents provided by the Applicant at Deadline 3.

Updated Appendix 22.15 Biodiversity Net Gain Information (Rev.B)

The updated BNG report from the Applicant is welcomed. The provision of the BNG metric for Arun is helpful in understanding the results within the district. This shows the habitat unit percentage loss within Arun (as follows):

- Habitats units -15.16%
- Hedgerow units -10.82%
- Water units -46.40%

Resulting in a BNG unit deficit within Arun of:

- Habitats units 42.23
- Hedgerow units 1.61
- Water units 1.08

We welcome the Applicant's commitment to provide 10% net gain, although the above shows this falls below the 10% gain within Arun. As stated previously in our Local Impact Report, in line with policy ENV DM5 of the adopted Local Plan, BNG should be provided at the local level. It appears offsite BNG units will be required to meet the deficit and we would seek clarity on mitigation and net gain. We acknowledge that further detail will be provided at the detailed design stage in line with requirement 14 of the DCO.

Updated Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Rev.B)

The updated Outline LEMP has set out the elements of the stage specific LEMP and a commitment to advance planting. However, we observe that the focus of advance planting in the Outline LEMP is outside of Arun.

ADC would advise that if a period greater than one season passes between the stage LEMP and construction, then re-surveys for protected species would be required.

The Applicant has committed to managing and monitoring created and reinstated habitats included in the BNG metric for 30 years with 'all other habitats' for 10 years (para 5.1.2 of the Outline LEMP). Given the deficit in BNG units in Arun, clarity would be welcomed on what created and reinstated habitat beyond that identified BNG metric (i.e. all other habitats) would be subject to managing and monitoring period of no less than ten years.

Yours



Neil Crowther
Group Head of Planning

Arun District Council