



The Planning Inspectorate

Application by Rampion Extension Development Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm Project.

Case Reference: EN010117

Examining Authority's Note of the Second Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI2) to which the Application or Specified Matters relates, which took place on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June 2024.

Examining Inspectors Richard Allen, Joe O'Sullivan and Richard Morgan (part of the Panel appointed as the Examining Authority for the application for Rampion Offshore Wind Extension) undertook the inspection on all days.

The inspections took place by car or on foot, from public roads and public rights of way. The routes were planned having regard to the Applicant's application documents and the second USI enabled the ExA to obtain views of, and to become familiar with the application site and surrounding area particularly regarding heritage, transport, seascape, landscape and visual matters.

Viewpoints (VP) referred to relate to those identified in the Applicant's Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) [APP-056]. The Applicant's photomontages [APP-091 to APP-095], were used to assist with the visualisation of the Proposed Development from viewpoints.

DAY 1 - Tuesday 11 June 2024

Weather: Sunny with some Cloud

Visibility: Good

The USI began at 15:15.

In the afternoon, the ExA first visited **VP 33 (Arundel Castle)** and walked along Mill Road around the Castle and drove along High Street. The ExA, appreciated the significance of the Castle as a heritage asset and the contribution setting made to that significance. The ExA paid particular attention to the Castle's built form, landform, topography surrounding the Castle and the Castle's construction on a motte. The ExA observed that views of the proposed offshore windfarm were only possible at a high level from one of the turrets and could not be seen from the ground level.

The ExA then visited **VP 50 (The Trundle)** noting from the top of the iron age hillfort the Rampion 1 Offshore Windfarm. The ExA observed the location of the array from the proposed development and the extent to which it would extend along the horizon.

The USI ended at 16.50.

Day 2 – Wednesday 12 June 2024

Weather: Part Cloudy with light to heavy rain and reduced visibility in the afternoon

Visibility: Fair to Good

The USI began at 08:15

In the morning the ExA first travelled to **Michelgrove Park**. The ExA then drove along Michelgrove Lane, to view the construction access A26 and proposed passing places in the context of the proposed traffic management measures at this location. The ExA noted the use of Michelgrove Lane by equestrian users on three occasions.

The ExA drove to **Longfurlong Lane** to view the Blackpatch Hill area. The ExA walked along the Bridleway 2091 leading to Monarch's Way to the east to appreciate the landform and topography of the area viewing Blackpatch Hill from a distance. Michelgrove Wood could also be seen and appreciated from this location.

The ExA then drove to **Tolmare Farm** and noted the construction access arrangements by following the route of the construction road A28 along the adjacent Bridleway 2093. The ExA walked the Bridleway route and observed the Muntham Court Romano British Site (Scheduled Monument) in the adjoining field. The ExA observed the northern face of Blackpatch Hill from this location and the undulating landform. The ExA further observed Sullington Hill in the distance, and the proposed route of the temporary construction corridor.

The ExA drove to Chantry Lane Car Park and walked along the South Downs Way towards **Sullington Hill**. Here, the ExA noted the special qualities of the South Downs National Park and the breathtaking views of the landscape with Michelgrove Wood in the distance and noted the proposed alignment of the route of the proposed cables between Blackpatch Hill and Harrow Hill and the HDD locations through Sullington Hill. The ExA noted the clear views of the Rampion 1 Offshore Windfarm.

Following lunch, the ExA travelled to Chanctonbury Ring car park and walked to Chanctonbury Ring observing again a different perspective of the Rampion 1 Offshore Windfarm and the proposed array area at the **VP 52 (Chanctonbury Ring)** location and at Chanctonbury Ring itself. Towards the top the weather changed to full cloud and from light to heavy rain.

The ExA then drove to Devils Dyke Car Park and walked to the location of **VP 17 (Devils Dyke)** and viewed again the seascape and the Rampion 1 Offshore Windfarm from the Dark Sky Discovery Site. The ExA noted the intervening-built form and landform between the viewpoint and the proposed array area particularly noting the built form would be Lit at night.

The USI finished at 16.00.

Day 3 – Thursday 13 June 2024

Weather: Cloudy with slight sun haze

Visibility: Fair to Good

The USI began at 08:00

The ExA walked to the Band Stand (Grade II Listed), Kings Road on Brighton seafront observing its setting and context both the surrounding built form and its relationship to the sea and the Rampion 1 Offshore Windfarm.

Next the ExA walked to Madeira Terrace (Grade II Listed), Madeira Drive, along the sea front observing the Palace Pier (Grade II Listed) before arrival and then walking to Royal Crescent (Grade II*) afterwards. The ExA noted the setting and context of these Heritage Assets both the surrounding built form and its relationship to the sea and Rampion 1. The ExA also noted the temporary fencing, general state and the parked vehicles in front at Madeira Terrace.

The USI finished at 09.00.