



The Planning Inspectorate

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Natural England

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010117

Date: 12 July 2024

Dear Natural England

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17

Application by Rampion Extension Development Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project

The Examining Authority (ExA) refers to your covering letter submitted at Deadline 5, dated 9 July 2024, in which Natural England state that it is the intention to submit the following documents at Deadline 6, Thursday 1 August 2024:

- Comments on the Report on the Implications for the European Sites (RIES).
- All aspects relating to the DCO – including responses to written questions, the Applicant's updated to the draft DCO, the Schedule of recommended amendments to the Applicant's draft DCO Submitted at Deadline 4 (D4) [REP4-004], Alternative Schedule 17, Schedule 18 and the commitments register.
- Benthic Ecology – including Chapter 9 Benthic and subtidal ecology, In-Principle Sensitive Features Mitigation Plan, Offshore in Principle Monitoring Plan and the commitments register.
- Landscape Visual Impact Assessment including: Chapter 18 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment; Appendix 18.2 viewpoint analysis; Appendix 18.6 viewpoint directory; tree preservation order and hedgerow plan; Appendix 22.16 Arboricultural Impact Assessment: Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan Rev C; Code of Construction Practice and the commitments register.
- A final risks and issues log – we have not submitted a Deadline 5 risk and issues log due to our work on the Statement of common Ground.

It should be noted that the Rule 8 timetable [PD-008] specifically requested such submissions at Deadline 5.

The ExA writes to inform Natural England we will not accept these submissions at Deadline 6, and they will be returned. This is because Deadline 6 is just three working days before the close of the Examination, and the Applicant will not likely have sufficient time to respond. Such an approach would deny the Applicant its right of response and to have the final word. The ExA considers that procedurally this would be unfair to the Applicant.

The ExA stresses that it wishes to see the said submissions before the close of the Examination. In so doing, the ExA requests that if the above can be submitted by **Thursday 18 July 2024**, the ExA will treat it as a late Deadline 5 submission, and will allow the Applicant sufficient time to respond at Deadline 6. If Natural England is unable to meet this date, the ExA advises that any further communications will need to be sent directly to the Secretary of State once the Examination closes on Tuesday 6 August 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team using the contact details at the head of this letter should further assistance be needed.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Allen

Richard Allen
Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority

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