



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES  
2010

Rampion Two Offshore Wind Farm

**Appendix O5.5 to the Natural England Deadline 5.5 Submission**

**Natural England's Advice on the Report on the Implications for European Sites**

For:

The construction and operation of the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm located approximately  
13km off the Sussex coast in the English Channel.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN010117

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18 July 2024

## Appendix O5.5 - Natural England's Advice on the Report on the Implications for European Sites

In formulating these comments, the following document has been considered:

- [PD-014] Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

### 1. Detailed Comments

**Table 1 Summary of Key Issues Document Reviewed - [PD-014]**

Document Reviewed – [PD-014] Report on the Implications for European Sites					
Point number	Location within Submitted Document			Natural England Response	
	Section	Page	Paragraph, Table or Figure Number	Key Concern	Natural England's Advice to resolve the issue
1		2	1.1.4	As previously advised to PINS and DESNZ, Natural England does not consider consultation on the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) adequately discharges the statutory requirement to consult Natural England on Appropriate Assessments, as the RIES draws no conclusions on whether adverse effects on can be ruled out for the sites in question.	To note.
2		3	1.1.6	Given the RIES is only based on material submitted into the Examination up to Deadline 4, it is disappointing that the RIES will not be updated to take account of any interested parties representations, including responses to Deadline 4 submissions.	Natural England considers that the RIES should be updated at the end of the Examination to include any relevant material provided post-Deadline 4.

**Document Reviewed – [PD-014] Report on the Implications for European Sites**

Point number	Location within Submitted Document			Natural England Response	
	Section	Page	Paragraph, Table or Figure Number	Key Concern	Natural England's Advice to resolve the issue
3		8	2.4.5	<p>RIES Q1: <i>Can NE confirm that it agrees with the outcomes of the screening assessment undertaken by the Applicant as presented in [APP-038]?</i></p> <p>Yes, we confirm that we agree with the outcomes of the screening assessment.</p>	No action needed.
4		10	3.3.4	<p>RIES Q3: <i>Can Natural England confirm they agree with the conclusions of the Applicant regarding herring gull feature of FFC SPA?</i></p> <p>Herring gull is a component of the Flamborough Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA) breeding seabird assemblage feature rather than a qualifying feature in its own right. We agree that the predicted impacts on herring gull will not result in Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEOI).</p> <p>For clarity, the interest features of the SPA are: kittiwake, gannet, guillemot, razorbill, seabird assemblage. As well as these species, the seabird assemblage contains northern fulmar as a main component. Puffin, herring gull, shag and cormorant are also components of the assemblage.</p>	No action required.

Document Reviewed – [PD-014] Report on the Implications for European Sites					
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	Section	Page	Paragraph, Table or Figure Number	Key Concern	Natural England's Advice to resolve the issue
5		12	Table 3.1 - 3.1.3	RIES Q6: <i>Does Natural England consider that its concerns about water neutrality in relation to the Arun Valley European sites are likely to be resolved before the end of the Examination?</i>	We confirm that after progressing this area with Horsham District Council, we consider this matter closed. Please see the SoCG and Natural England's Deadline 5 submission on terrestrial ecology (REP5-140).
6		14	Table 3.1 – 3.1.4	RIES Q9: <i>Please clarify the status of the Northern pintail in the Ramsar site, noting that it is listed as a feature for possible future inclusion in the Ramsar citation rather than being a confirmed feature. Please also confirm if Northern pintail is part of the waterbird assemblage that is one of the features of the Arun Valley SPA.</i>	<p>We confirm that the Northern Pintail is not a feature of the Arun Valley SPA and Ramsar site, but is considered one of the main components of the waterbird assemblage.</p> <p>We note that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for the Arun Valley Ramsar Site (<a href="https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11004.pdf">https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11004.pdf</a>), last updated June 2008, states that populations of Northern pintail has been listed as a possible feature for designation. We are however not aware of when the Arun Valley RIS will next be updated.</p>

Document Reviewed – [PD-014] Report on the Implications for European Sites					
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	Section	Page	Paragraph, Table or Figure Number	Key Concern	Natural England's Advice to resolve the issue
8		25	4.4.1.4	RIES Q14: Can Natural England confirm if it is satisfied with the content of Alternative Schedule 17 (on a without prejudice basis) [REP4-016] in relation to kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill?	Natural England will respond on all DCO conditions at Deadline 6.
9		29	Table A1	<p>Content of the Conclusions Table:</p> <p>FFC SPA: we agree that it is Likely Significant Effect (LSE) for all features. We welcome the clarification that herring gull is a seabird assemblage component has been included in the table, so that Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEOI) can be ruled out.</p> <p>We have no further comment to make regarding the River Itchen SAC, Solent SAC and Arun Valley SAC, SPA and Ramsar.</p>	Farne Islands SPA:, the seabird assemblage needs adding to the screening stage rows. For the integrity judgement column, we can rule out AEOI for kittiwake and sandwich, common and arctic tern, and on the seabird assemblage.