



The Planning Inspectorate

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The Applicant

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010117

Date: 24 July 2024

Dear Applicant

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

Request for Proposed Changes to the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project Development Consent Order Application

We are writing to inform you of the Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority (ExA) following the change request made by Rampion Extension Development Limited (the Applicant) submitted to the ExA on Monday 22 July 2024 [AS-024-AS-046].

The Applicant's formal request to change the application ("the formal request") reconfirms the nine changes set out in the Applicant's notification of intent to make changes to the application letter dated 27 June 2024 ("the intention notification"). The formal requested changes are summarised below:

Change	Description
A	Reduction in the Order limits close to the Ancient Woodland near the Bolney substation.
B	Reduction in the Order limits close to the Ancient Woodland at Oakendene.
C	Reduction in the Order limits close to the Ancient Woodland at Sweethill Farm.
D	Reduction in the Order limits close to the Ancient Woodland at Michelgrove Park.
E	Reduction in the Order limits close to the Ancient Woodland at the Ancleggan land.

F	Reclassification of land within the buffer zone of the Ancient Woodland at Decoy Lane from Work No.9 (onshore cable route) to Work No.14 (construction and operational access).
G	Reclassification of the westernmost part of Plot 19/2 from Work No.9 (onshore cable route) to Work No.12 (temporary duct stringing) and to amend the Land plans of this section of land from the Compulsory Acquisition of Rights to Temporary Possession only.
H	Reclassification of land adjacent to Wineham Lane from Work No.19 (onshore connection works) to Work No.13 (temporary construction access) and to amend the Land plans of these sections of land from the Compulsory Acquisition of Rights to Temporary Possession only. Reclassification of land on the eastern side of the National Grid substation from Work No.17 (environmental mitigation) to Work No.13 (temporary construction access) and to amend the Land plans of the majority section of this land from the Compulsory Acquisition of Rights to Temporary Possession only.

In the ExA's response to the intention notification, dated 8 July 2024 [PD-015], the ExA stated that it agreed with the Applicant that Changes A to G would amount to a reduction in land take required, and/or a reduction in the use of the land, and as this would not likely raise any materially new or different issues to those already before the Examination the ExA accepted that proposed changes A to G would not lead to the Proposed Development being different in nature or substance to that which was originally applied for. The ExA also agreed that additional consultation would, as such, not be required.

The ExA notes that Changes A to G as set out in the Applicant's formal request are unchanged from the intention notification. The ExA has considered paragraphs 109 to 115 of the DCLG Guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Examination of Applications for Development Consent' and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 16 (AN16). Notwithstanding the responses received at Deadline 5 from Interested Parties on this matter, the ExA considers it has no reason to alter its initial view as set out in the response to the intention notification. The ExA therefore has made a Procedural Decision to accept the Changes A to G into the Examination.

In respect to Change Request H, the ExA set out in its response to the intention notification that it had a number of questions and concerns that needed to be addressed before it could consider Change H in the same way as Changes A to G. The ExA has noted the responses given to these questions from the Applicant and the comments received from National Grid contained within the accompanying Consultation Report.

Applying the above-mentioned guidance and advice note, the ExA is satisfied with the responses given, and agrees with the Applicant's view in regard to Change H, that it would amount to a reduction in the use of the land and powers sought of the land, and it would not lead to the Proposed Development being different in nature or substance to that which was originally applied for. The Applicant also accepts National Grid's response to these changes as adequate consultation having been undertaken. The ExA therefore has made a Procedural Decision to accept the Change H into the Examination.

The ExA reminds the Applicant and Interested Parties and in particular National Grid that in accepting the change request, the ExA is not accepting, at this stage, that the planning

merits of the Proposed Development, or that the case for compulsory acquisition (CA) has been made. The ExA will, following the close of the Examination, make a recommendation on both, based upon the evidence before us, including whether Plot 34/28 ought to be the subject of CA as a matter of principal.

In summary, the ExA is satisfied that all nine changes as set out in the formal request, taken individually and cumulatively, would amount to a reduction in land take required, and/or a reduction in the use of the land. As this would not likely raise any materially new or different issues to those already before the Examination, the ExA is minded to accept proposed changes A to H would not lead to the Proposed Development being different in nature or substance to that which was originally applied for, and all can be accepted into the Examination.

The Applicant has stated in its formal request letter of 22 July 2024 that, if such a decision is taken before Deadline 6, the Applicant will update all necessary documents in the Examination. The ExA trusts the Applicant will find this decision has been undertaken in a timely manner and the Secretary of State will have, by the close of the Examination, complete and up-to-date documents and statements.

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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