Rampion 2 WIND FARM

Rampion 2 Wind Farm

Category 6: Environmental Statement

Volume 2, Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape, and visual impact assessment (clean)

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Executive Summary

This chapter of the Rampion 2 Environmental Statement (ES) examines the likely significant effects that may be experienced as a result of Rampion 2 on seascape, landscape and visual amenity.

The Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) identifies and assesses the significance of changes resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 but focuses on the operational and maintenance (O&M) phase of Rampion 2, as this is when the significant effects are most likely to arise over the long-term. The SLVIA is carried out in relation to both the seascape character and landscape character as environmental resources in their own right, and on people's views and visual amenity.

A desk-based review of literature and datasets, as well as field surveys, have been undertaken to establish a baseline. Rampion 2 is located within the seascape of Sussex Bay, partially within the Selsey Bill to Seaford Head Marine Character Area (MCA) and partially within the English Channel MCA. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) is located to the north and its coastal extent is co-incident with the Sussex Heritage Coast, along the distinctive white cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head between Seaford and Eastbourne. This part of the SDNP is open at its seaward limit to encompass an associative (but not formally defined) extent of seascape, with this part of the SDNP having a maritime setting with 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea' that are recognised as part of the special qualities of the SDNP. The SDNP is of particular relevance due to its association with the closest coastal landscapes of the SLVIA study area and its elevation which provides an 'auditorium' for sea views. The SDNP has also has sea views from inland areas to the west from its spine of open elevated chalk downs that are traversed by the South Downs Way long distance trail; however these views are across the settled coastal plain and extensively developed south coast urban areas within East Sussex and West Sussex.

There is a nearly continuous urban edge of coastal conurbations between Seaford, Brighton, Worthing and Bognor Regis, which form an undesignated, urbanised coastal strip that separate the SDNP from the coast. The location of Rampion 2 off the Sussex coast also means that it is exposed to and visible from these settlements along the coast. Uninterrupted sea views are important to the character and sense of space when within the settlements and popular tourist/visitor areas along the seafront, including at Brighton & Hove, Worthing, Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and Selsey in West Sussex. The existing Rampion 1 offshore wind farm forms a notable visible element in the existing seascape and is part of the baseline for seascape, landscape and visual effects assessments.

Significant seascape, landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 are contained within the areas of the SDNP, West Sussex, East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove. There will be some change to the SDNP's special qualities, in particular 'diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views' would be changed in parts of the SDNP.

No measures are available to completely mitigate the significant effects on views from coastal settlements, the SDNP and Heritage Coast; however measures are embedded as part of the Rampion 2 design to avoid, minimise or reduce any significant environmental effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, as far as possible.

Due regard to the statutory purpose of the SDNP has been had through the project design process, in order to reduce adverse effects on the 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea' defined in Special Quality 1, their magnitude and geographic extent. The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles, avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 and focusing the Rampion 2 array to the south and west of Rampion 1 wind farm, which is further offshore at greater distance from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, while also having a narrow additional lateral spread in the field of view and having a clear line of sight between Rampion 1 and 2 arrays which ensures that it appears as a distinct array with less contrast and a degree of balance with Rampion 1.

The SDNP has the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED) has had regard to the statutory purposes through the selected project design, which helps ensure its continued protection, which also applies when considering applications outside the boundaries of the SDNP which might have impacts within. It is considered that Rampion 2 avoids compromising the purposes of the SDNP designation and has been designed sensitively with due regard to its statutory purpose, despite the fact that it will be visible from within the SDNP and that it may have significant effects on certain special qualities – its 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea' defined in Special Quality 1.

It is considered; however, that Rampion 2 will not undermine the statutory purpose of the SDNP: harm is caused to one of the SDNP's special qualities and this is limited to certain locations, particularly on the coastal extent of the SDNP and the elevated tops of the downs. Whilst harm will be caused to this quality ('breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea'), this will not compromise the purpose of the designation, as the natural beauty of the SDNP will remain and opportunities will still be present for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the SDNP, and Rampion 2 will not therefore undermine the statutory purpose of the SDNP or compromise the purposes of its designation.

15. Seascape, landscape and visual

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the results of the assessment of the likely significant effects of Rampion 2 with respect to seascape, landscape and visual. It should be read in conjunction with the project description provided in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.4) and the relevant parts of the following chapters and appendices:

- **Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18) (due to the inter-relationship with onshore landscape and visual impacts); and
- **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25) (due to the inter-relationship with cultural heritage impacts).

15.1.2 This technical chapter describes:

- the legislation, planning policy and other documentation that has informed the assessment (**Section 15.2: Relevant legislation, planning policy, and other documentation**);
- the outcome of consultation and engagement that has been undertaken to date, including how matters relating to seascape, landscape and visual within the Statutory Consultation period between 14 July to 16 September 2021, have been addressed (**Section 15.3: Consultation and engagement**);
- the scope of the assessment for seascape, landscape and visual (**Section 15.4: Scope of the assessment**);
- the methods used for the baseline data gathering (**Section 15.5: Methodology for baseline data gathering**);
- the overall baseline (**Section 15.6: Baseline conditions**);
- embedded environmental measures relevant to seascape, landscape and visual and the relevant maximum design scenario (**Section 15.7: Basis for ES assessment**);
- the assessment methods used for the ES (**Section 15.8: Methodology for ES assessment**);
- the assessment of seascape, landscape and visual effects (**Section 15.9 to 15.11: Assessment of effects** and **Section 15.12: Assessment of cumulative effects**);
- consideration of transboundary effects (**Section 15.13: Transboundary effects**);
- inter-related effects (**Section 15.14: Inter-related effects**);

- a summary of residual effects for seascape, landscape and visual (**Section 15.15: Summary of residual effects**);
- a glossary of terms and abbreviations is provided in **Section 15.16: Glossary of terms and abbreviations**; and
- a references list is provided in **Section 15.17: References**.

15.1.3 The chapter is also supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix 15.1: SLVIA consultation responses, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.1);
- **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2);
- **Appendix 15.3: Simple assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.3);
- **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4); and
- **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation lighting visual effects, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.5).

15.2 Relevant legislation, planning policy and other documentation

Introduction

15.2.1 This section identifies the legislation, policy and other documentation that has informed the assessment of effects with respect to seascape, landscape and visual. Further information on policies relevant to the EIA and their status is provided in **Chapter 2: Policy and legislative context, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.2).

Legislation and national planning policy

15.2.2 **Table 15-1** lists the legislation relevant to the assessment of the effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors.

Table 15-1 Legislation relevant to seascape, landscape and visual

Legislation description	Relevance to assessment
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 provided the framework for the establishment of National Parks and AONBs.	The Proposed Development will have potential effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Downs National Park (SDNP).

Legislation description	Relevance to assessment
The provisions of Part 2 of this Act have effect for the purpose of - *(a) conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the areas specified in the next following subsection; and* *(b) promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.*	Places a duty on public bodies i.e. "relevant authorities" including for example the Councils, statutory undertakers and in the context of the Development Consent Order (DCO), the Secretary of State (SoS), to have regard to the purposes for which National Parks are designated. In relation to the SDNP, this includes both (a) conserving and enhancing the natural beauty; and (b) promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)	
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) amended the provisions relating to AONBs. Section 82(1) of the CRoW defines an AONB in England as: *"An area that is not in a National Park but which appears to Natural England to be of such outstanding natural beauty that it is desirable that the protective provisions of Part IV of The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 should apply to it for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the area's natural beauty".* The UK Government current online Guidance on AONBs confirms with regard to the above legislation that: *"An area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) is land protected by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). It protects the land to conserve and enhance its natural beauty".*	The Proposed Development will have potential effects on the natural beauty of the Chichester Harbour AONB and Isle of Wight AONB. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) places a general duty on public bodies i.e. "relevant authorities" including for example the Councils, statutory undertakers and in the context of the DCO, the Secretary of State, as follows: *"(1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty"* (S85).

15.2.3 **Table 15-2** lists the national planning policy relevant to the assessment of the effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors.

Table 15-2 National planning policy relevant to seascape, landscape and visual

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
NPS EN-1 Overarching NPS for Energy (July 2011)	
Paragraph 5.9.5 of EN-1 advises that the applicant should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and makes reference to the following documents: Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2002, 2nd edition): Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment; and Land Use Consultants (2002): Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland.	'The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA) (2002, 2nd edition) has been superseded by GLVIA Version 3. Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland has been superseded by Natural England's 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment'. This SLVIA has been prepared following the updated versions of these documents which are referred to in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2).
Paragraph 5.9.5: *"The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England."*	Published landscape character assessments and associated studies for the study area are referred to in **Section 15.6** of the SLVIA. Local Development Plan policies are considered in **Chapter 2: Policy and legislative context, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.2).
Paragraph 5.9.6: *"The applicant's assessment should include the effects during construction of the project and the effects of the completed development and its operation on landscape components and landscape character."*	The effect on landscape components and landscape character during construction and operation are assessed in **Sections 15.9** and **15.10** of the SLVIA.
Paragraph 5.9.7: *"The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity."*	The visual effects of the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm during construction and operation, including night-time visual effects, are assessed in **15.9**and **15.10** of the SLVIA.
Paragraph 5.9.7: *"Landscape effects depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its current quality, how*	The quality, value and capacity of the landscape to accommodate change are considerations of the landscape

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change. All of these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a project on landscape. Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate."	assessment. The design of the Proposed Development has considered and addressed the potential impact on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, in order to minimise harm through embedded environmental measures as presented in **Section 15.7** of the SLVIA. Adverse landscape and visual effects are minimised through embedded environmental measures (as described in **Table 15-26**).
Paragraph 5.9.12 and Paragraph 5.9.13: *"The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid compromising the purposes of designation and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints.' …* and paragraph 5.9.13 advises *'The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for refusing consent."*	The potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to affect the SDNP, the Isle of Wight AONB (IoW AONB), Chichester Harbour AONB (CHAONB), High Weald AONB and Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG), has been considered in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA. Regard has been paid to the statutory purpose of nationally designated landscapes, and as a result, the Zone 6 Area (to the east) and the Extension Area (to the west) have been reduced as illustrated on **Figure 15.2, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).
Paragraph 5.9.14: *"Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation. Where a local development document in England has policies based on landscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, local landscape designations should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development."*	The value of the local landscape is a consideration within the SLVIA and is informed by local landscape designations identified in local development plan documents. Effects on landscape character are assessed in respect of each landscape receptor in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Paragraph 5.9.17: *"The IPC [now the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State] should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking*	**Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.23) sets out the iterative process that has influenced the design of the Proposed Development.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by reasonable mitigation."	Embedded environmental measures addressing seascape, landscape and visual effects have been carefully considered in the SLVIA and applied to the design of Rampion 2, to minimise 'harm to the landscape' where possible.
Paragraph 5.9.22: "*Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs of buildings should always be given careful consideration."*	Adverse landscape and visual effects are minimised through embedded environmental measures as presented in **Section 15.7** of the SLVIA. The role of the site selection process in minimising landscape and visual effects is presented in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3).
NPS EN-3 Renewable Energy Infrastructure (July 2011)	
Paragraph 2.4.2: "Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design in respect of landscape and visual amenity, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology."	The Proposed Development has been designed to address potential seascape, landscape and visual effects. Embedded environmental measures that address seascape, landscape and visual effects are presented in **Section 15.70** of the SLVIA. The reductions of the proposed DCO Order Limits increase the distance of the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and limit the horizontal degree of view of WTGs from the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast, thereby demonstrating good design through accordance with the intentions of the Rampion 1 design plan and provide embedded environmental measures in respect of effects on the special qualities of national landscape designations.
Paragraph 2.6.202: *"Where a proposed offshore wind farm will be visible from the shore, an SVIA should be undertaken which is proportionate to the scale of the potential impacts. Impact on seascape should be addressed in addition to the landscape and visual effects discussed in EN-1".*	The visibility of Rampion 2 from the shore is assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA. Impacts on seascape are also addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Paragraph 2.6.203*: "Where necessary, assessment of the seascape should include an assessment of three principal considerations on the likely effect of offshore wind farms on the coast:* *• limit of visual perception from the coast;* *• individual characteristics of the coast which affect its capacity to absorb a development; and* *• how people perceive and interact with the seascape."*	The visibility of Rampion 2 from the coast and seascape impacts are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14.**
Paragraph 2.6.204: *"As part of the SVIA, photomontages are likely to be required. Viewpoints to be used for the SVIA should be selected in consultation with the statutory consultees at the EIA Scoping stage"*	Viewpoints were agreed in consultation with statutory consultees as described in **Section 15.3**. Photomontages are included in **Figure 15.26** to **Figure 15.79**, **Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).
Paragraph 2.6.205: *"Magnitude of change to both the identified seascape receptors (such as seascape units and designated landscapes) and visual receptors (such as viewpoints) should be assessed in accordance with the standard methodology for SVIA."*	The methodology for the assessment of magnitude of change to seascape receptors, designated landscapes and visual receptors is set out in **Section 15.5**.
Paragraph 2.6.206: *"Where appropriate, cumulative SVIA should be undertaken in accordance with the policy on cumulative assessment outlined in Section 4.2 of EN-1."*	In its Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, 2020) summarised in **Table 15-6**, the Planning Inspectorate agreed that cumulative seascape, landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 with other offshore wind farm projects (with the exception of Rampion 1) can be scoped out of the SLVIA.

15.2.4 **Table 15-3** lists the emerging national planning policy considerations relevant to the assessment of the effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors.

Table 15-3 Emerging national planning policy relevant to seascape, landscape and visual

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), March 2023	
Paragraph 3.3.59 states that *'Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of new offshore wind infrastructure (and supporting onshore and offshore network infrastructure)'* and paragraph 3.3.60 goes on to state that *'the urgent need for CNP infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible.'*	The project has applied the mitigation hierarchy effectively through the embedded measures incorporated within the project design (**Section 15.7**). Likely significant effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors have been reduced or mitigated following the mitigation hierarchy, including embedded design measures to reduce harms, such as on the special qualities of the SDNP and its views (**Section 15.7**). The residual effects arising from Rampion 2 (CNP infrastructure) that are not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy are assessed in **Section 15.9** to **15.14**.
Paragraph 4.2.11 advises that *'In some instances it may not be possible at the time of the application for development consent for all aspects of the proposal to have been settled in precise detail. Where this is the case, the applicant should explain in its application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised, and the reasons why this is the case.'* At paragraph 4.2.12 it is stated that, where this is the case, the likely worst case environmental effects should be set out and assessed.	**Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) sets out the details of the project and which aspects are defined in detail. **Section 15.7** sets out the maximum design parameters that have been defined to ensure that the worst-case seascape, landscape and visual effects are assessed.
In relation to the topic of 'Criteria for Good Design' for Energy Infrastructure Paragraph 4.6.1 advises that *'The visual appearance of a building, structure, or piece of infrastructure, and how it relates to the landscape it sits within, is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object - be it a building or other type of*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, including demonstrating how its appearance provides a 'good aesthetic', as far as is possible. Opportunities for enhancement of the quality of an area through the 'Good Design' of an offshore wind farm are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
infrastructure - including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important' and in Paragraph 4.6.2, *'Applying "good design" to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of much energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area'.*	as other environmental factors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario (a necessary part of the process that is recognised through the NPS at paragraphs 4.2.11 – 4.2.12) also limits opportunities for good design to a degree, however RED has undertaken and applied the principles of good design as far as practicable to arrive at the proposed project design selected for the DCO application.
Paragraph 4.6.3 continues on the topic of good design and notes that this is a means by which many policy objectives in the NPS can be met. This may include siting and use of appropriate technologies that can help mitigate adverse impacts.	**Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3) sets out the iterative process that has influenced the design of Rampion 2. **Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario (a necessary part of the process that is recognised through the NPS at paragraphs 4.2.11 - 4.2.12) also limits opportunities for good design to some degree, however RED has undertaken and applied the principles of good design as far as practicable to arrive at the proposed project design selected for the DCO application.
Paragraph 4.6.5 advises that Applicants need to consider the importance of 'good design' criteria and demonstrate this in their applications stating that *"a project board level design champion could be appointed, and a representative design panel used to maximise the value provided by the infrastructure. Design principles* should be established from the outset of*	Flexibility in the design of Rampion 2 is required, as described in Chapter 4, with assessment undertaken on the parameters as set out in **Section 15.7** of this SLVIA chapter. This is recognised by NPS EN-1 Paragraph 4.2.11 and NPS EN-3 Paragraphs 3.6.1 to 3.6.3. **Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to a series of 'design principles' which were developed in consultation with

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
the project to guide the development from conception to operation." **Design principles should take into account any national guidance on infrastructure design, this could include for example the Design Principles for National Infrastructure published by the National Infrastructure Commission, the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, as well as any local design policies and standards. https://nic.org.uk/studies-reports/design-principles-for-national-infrastructure/*	stakeholders to guide the design of the project in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors. These take account of the 'Design Principles for National Infrastructure' (National Infrastructure Commission) which are summarised below in **Table 15-3**. The Applicant appointed a board level design champion who worked with the project design team through the project design process.
Paragraph 4.6.7 sets out that the applicants should be able to demonstrate *'how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved'* and *'where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected'.* Paragraph 4.6.12 goes on to identify that the SoS *'should take into account the ultimate purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy. Many of the wider impacts of a development, such as landscape and environmental impacts, will be important factors in the design process.'* It is also noted that *'Assessment of impacts must be for the stated design life of the scheme rather than a shorter time period' (4.6.12).*	The evolution of the project design is set out in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3) of the ES. The design evolution in relation to seascape, landscape and visual impacts is set out in **Section 15.7** of this Chapter, including the different project designs considered and the rationale for the selected project design. The duration of the impacts is assessed in **Section 15.9** to **15.14** and of this Chapter.
In relation to Good Design paragraph 4.6.11 advises that *'The Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has taken into account both functionality (including fitness for purpose and sustainability) and aesthetics (including its contribution to the quality of the area in which it would be located, any potential amenity benefits, and visual impacts on the landscape or seascape) as far as possible'.*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'aesthetics' (including its potential visual impacts on the landscape or seascape').

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Paragraph 5.10.1 notes that *'the landscape and visual effects of energy projects will vary on a case by case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development. In this context, references to landscape should be taken as covering seascape and townscape where appropriate'.*	**Section 15.9** to **15.14** address both seascape and landscape as well as the varied visual effects.
Paragraph 5.10.4 *'Landscape effects arise not only from the sensitivity of the landscape but also the nature and magnitude of change proposed by the development, whose specific siting and design make the assessment a case-by-case judgement'.*	**Section 15.9** to **15.14** assess both the sensitivity of the landscape to change, as well as the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development, to arrive at a case-by-case assessment of significance.
Paragraph 5.10.5 advises that *'Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation'.* Paragraph 5.10.6 goes on to state *'Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.'*	The quality, value and sensitivity of the landscape to change are considerations of the assessments set out in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**. The design of Rampion 2 has considered and addressed the potential effects on landscape in order to 'minimise harm' by providing embedded environmental measures that address seascape, landscape and visual effects as presented in **Section 15.7** of the SLVIA.
Paragraph 5.10.7 states that *'National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection and which the Secretary of State should have regard to in their decisions'.* Paragraph 5.10.8 advises that the '*The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid*	The potential for Rampion 2 to impact upon the nationally designated areas has been considered in **Section 15.10**. Regard has been paid to the purpose and special qualities of these nationally designated landscapes following stakeholder comments through the embedded environmental measures applied to the project as described in **Section 15.7**.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
harming the purposes of designation or to minimise adverse impacts on designated areas, and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints'.	
Paragraph 5.10.9 advises that *'Heritage Coasts are defined areas of undeveloped coastline which are managed to conserve their natural beauty and, where appropriate, to improve accessibility for visitors'.*	**Section 15.9** to **15.14** consider the effects of Rampion 2 on the Sussex Heritage Coast section of the SDNP.
Paragraph 5.10.11 advises *that 'Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally'.* However, it states that *'locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development'. 'Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention'.*	The value of the local landscape is a consideration within the assessment of effects on landscape and seascape character in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**. This includes regard to the character, features and special qualities of locally designated landscapes.
NPS EN-1 reiterates the likelihood of such infrastructure having visual effects, noting at Paragraph 5.10.12 that *'All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites'.* Paragraph 5.10.13 goes on to state *'The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project'.* In addition, it is recognised in paragraph 5.10.14 that *'Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion because of the potential high visibility of development on the foreshore, on the skyline and affecting views along stretches of undeveloped coast.'*	The impacts on visual receptors are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**. This includes consideration of visibility from undeveloped coast. The benefits (including need) of the project are set out in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3).

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Paragraph 5.10.15 sets out the need to carry out a landscape and visual assessment in accordance with published guides. Relevant guides are listed as The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment: Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013, 3rd edition) (GLVIA3); and Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/landscape-and-seascape-character-assessments; or any successor documents.	The guidance that has been considered/ followed in preparing this chapter is set out in **Section 15.5**.
Paragraph 5.10.16 goes on to say that *'The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales.* In paragraph 5.10.17 it continues *'For seascapes, applicants should consult the Seascape Character Assessment and the Marine Plan Seascape Character Assessments, and any successors to them'.*	**Section 15.6**, and **15.9** to **15.14** take into account the relevant landscape and seascape character assessments as listed in **Table 15-11**.
Paragraph 5.10.19 states that *'The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas.'*	There are no effects on landscape components as a result of the offshore infrastructure of Rampion 2. There are however effects on seascape components and landscape character, and these are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**.
Paragraph 5.10.20 advises that *'The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during its construction and operation and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects,*	The visual effects of Rampion 2 during construction and operation, are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.10**, including night-time 'light pollution' effects, which are assessed in full in **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation**

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
including on local amenity, and nature conservation.'	**lighting visual effects, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.5).
Paragraph 5.10.21 advises that *'The assessment should also demonstrate how noise and light pollution, and other emissions, from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, will be minimised.'*	**Section 15.7** of this Chapter sets out the embedded environmental measures that are included in Rampion 2. This includes a commitment by the Applicant to reduced lighting intensity in certain conditions. **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation lighting visual effects, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.5) assesses the visual effects of operational lighting.
At paragraph 5.10.24 it is suggested that *'it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention to examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with similar magnitude of impact on sensitive receptors'.*	**Section 15.15** sets out examples of existing permitted infrastructure with similar magnitudes of impact on sensitive receptors.
Paragraph 5.10.25 advises that *'Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, the electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction In function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/ or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function'.*	The balance between mitigation of visual and landscape effects and significant operational constraint/reduction in function is considered in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3). .
Paragraph 5.10.26 advises that "*Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs of*	Adverse landscape and visual effects are minimised through embedded environmental measures as presented in **Section 15.7**. The role of the seascape, landscape and visual effects in the siting and design of Rampion 2 and in minimising these effects is presented in **Section 15.7**. Choice of colours and materials is set out in **Chapter 4: The Proposed**

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
buildings should always be given careful consideration."	**Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).
Paragraph 5.10.33 advises that *"The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for the Secretary of State to refuse consent".*	The potential for Rampion 2 to impact upon the nationally designated areas has been considered in **Section 15.10**. Regard has been paid to the purpose and special qualities of these nationally designated landscapes following stakeholder comments through the embedded environmental measures applied to the project as described in **Section 15.7**.
NPS-EN1 goes on to recognise at paragraph 5.10.34 that *'The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure', but confirms that notwithstanding this 'The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project'*	The impacts on seascape and landscape receptors are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**. The benefits (including need) of the project are set out in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).
NPS EN-1 also advises in 5.10.35 that *"In reaching a judgment, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/ or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable".*	Where the seascape, landscape and visual impacts of Rampion 2 are temporary or reversible, this is set out in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**.
Paragraph 5.10.36 advises that 'The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation'. Paragraph 5.10.37 states that *'The Secretary of State should consider whether requirements to the consent are needed requiring the incorporation of particular design details that are in keeping with the statutory and*	**Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3) sets out the iterative process that has influenced the design of Rampion 2. **Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 has been 'design carefully' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, including demonstrating how it has taken account of environmental effects on the landscape and how it 'minimises harm' by providing embedded environmental measures that address seascape, landscape and visual effects.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
technical requirements for landscape and visual impacts'.	
Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), March 2023	
Paragraph 3.5.2 advises that *"Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage."*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, to mitigate impacts, as far as is possible.
Paragraph 3.7.74 notes that 'In sites with nationally recognised designations (SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Marine Conservation Zones), consent for renewable energy projects should only be granted where the relevant tests in Sections 5.4 and 5.10 of EN-1 are met and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.'	Rampion 2 is not located within any nationally recognised designations, however it is located within the associative seascape setting of the SDNP, CHAONB and IoW AONB, on which its effects are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**, including assessment of the effects of Rampion 2 on the perceived special qualities of these recognised designations.
Paragraph 3.8.12 states that *'Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant new offshore wind development and supporting onshore and offshore network infrastructure and related network reinforcements ("CNP Infrastructure").* Paragraph 3.8.13 goes on to state that *'Applicants for CNP infrastructure must continue to show how their application meets the requirements in EN-1 and this NPS, applying the mitigation hierarchy, as well as any other legal and regulatory requirements. Where an applicant has done so and there are residual impacts the following policy will apply'.*	The project has applied the mitigation hierarchy effectively through the embedded measures incorporated within the project design (**Section 15.7**). Likely significant effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors have been reduced or mitigated following the mitigation hierarchy, including embedded design measures to reduce harms, such as on the special qualities of the SDNP and its views (**Section 15.7**). The residual effects arising from Rampion 2 (CNP infrastructure) that are not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy are assessed in **Section 15.9** to **15.14**.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Paragraph 3.8.14 states that *'Where there are residual non-HRA impacts, of any sort other than those that present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference with, human health, national defence or navigation, these are unlikely, in all but the most exceptional cases, to outweigh the urgent need for this type of infrastructure and are therefore unlikely to result in an application being refused'.*	The residual seascape, landscape and visual impacts assessed in **Section 15.9** to **15.14** of this chapter do not present an unacceptable risk to human health, national defence or navigation.
Paragraphs 3.8.87 and 3.8.88 relate to the need for flexibility in the project details owing to the complex nature of offshore wind farm development. It is recognised that this may include the precise location and configuration of turbines and associated development (including offshore substations); the foundation type and size; the exact turbine dimensions and the precise cable type and route. Guidance on how applicants should manage flexibility is set out at Section 2.6 of NPS EN-3 and Section 4.2 of EN-1.	The need for a level of flexibility within the design envelope is well established and described in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). The Key Parameters for Assessment that have been used to inform the assessment of the maximum adverse case for the purpose of SLVIA are set out in **Section 15.7** of the SLVIA.
Paragraph 3.8.220 states that *'Applicants should address impact on seascape in addition to the landscape and visual effects discussed in Section 5.10 of EN-1'.* Paragraph 3.8.221 notes that seascape is an additional issue to be considered given that *'it is an important environmental, cultural and economic asset. This is especially so where seascape provides the setting for a nationally designated landscape (National Park, the Broads or AONB) and supports the delivery of the designated area's statutory purpose; and for stretches of coastline identified as Heritage Coasts which are associated with a largely undeveloped coastal character.* Paragraph 3.3.222 notes that *'Seascape is a discrete area, with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other.*	The effects on seascape are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Paragraph 3.8.223 identifies that relevant guidance should be followed '*including, but not limited to, seascape character assessments and marine plan seascape character assessments (e.g., NRW Marine Character Areas (with associated guidance) England's marine plans)'.*	Relevant seascape character assessments have been referenced as set out in **Table 15-11**.
It is noted in Paragraph 3.8.224 that *'where an offshore wind farm will be visible from the shore and would be within the setting of a nationally designated landscape with potential effects on the area's statutory purpose, an SLVIA should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant offshore wind farm EIA policy and the latest Offshore Energy SEA, including the White 2020 report. The SLVIA should be proportionate to the scale of the potential impacts. This will always be the case where a coastal National Park, the Broads or AONB, or a Heritage Coast or their setting is potentially affected'.*	It is considered that the SLVIA is proportionate to the scale of the potential impacts and the assessment in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** includes the effects on the settings of nationally designated landscapes. The SLVIA has been informed through consultation with stakeholders during statutory, non-statutory and Evidence Plan Process (EPP), which has influenced the SLVIA in all aspects, from consideration of the maximum design scenarios, the number and location of viewpoints, the approach taken to assessment at each location, and detail presented in contextualizing key assessment criteria such as magnitude and susceptibility. The SLVIA is therefore directly proportionate both to the scale of potential impacts and the quantum of feedback provided.
Paragraph 3.8.225 notes that *'Where necessary, assessment of the seascape should include an assessment of four principal considerations on the likely effect of offshore windfarms on the coast:* • *'the limit of visual perception from the coast under poor, good and best lighting conditions* • *the effects of navigation and hazard prevention lighting on dark night skies'* • *individual landscape and visual characteristics of the coast and the special qualities of designated landscapes, such as World Heritage Sites, which limits the coasts capacity to absorb a development' and*	The range and frequency of visibility of Rampion 2 from the coast is illustrated in **Figure 15.23, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). and considered in the visual baseline in **Section 15.6** throughout the assessments in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**. Night-time effects of lighting are assessed in **Section 15.10** and **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation lighting visual effects, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.10). The individual characteristics and special qualities of the coast in relation to designated landscapes is assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**. How people perceive and interact with the coast and seascape is considered in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14**.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
• *how people perceive and interact with the coast and seascape.'*	
Paragraph 3.8.226 advises that: *"As part of the SLVIA, photomontages are likely to be required. Viewpoints to be used for the SVIA should be selected in consultation with the statutory consultees at the EIA Scoping stage"*	Viewpoints were agreed in consultation with statutory consultees as described in **Section 15.3**. Photomontages are included in **Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).
Paragraph 3.8.227 advises that *'Applicants should assess the magnitude and significance of change to both the identified seascape receptors (such as seascape and landscape units, visual receptors and the special qualities of designated landscapes) in accordance with the standard methodology for SLVIA'.*	The methodology for the assessment of magnitude of change to seascape receptors is summarised in **Section 15.8** and set out in full in **Appendix 15.2: SLVA Methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2).
It is noted at Paragraph 3.8.280 in relation to mitigation that '*Neither the design nor scale of individual wind turbines can be changed without significantly affecting the electricity generating output of the wind turbines. Therefore, the Secretary of State should expect it to be unlikely that mitigation in the form of reduction in scale will be feasible'.* Paragraph 3.8.281 goes on to state '*However, the layout of the turbines should be designed appropriately to minimise harm, considering other constraints such as ecological effects, safety reasons or engineering and design parameters'.*	The specific layout of the WTGs has not been defined at this stage. However, **Section 15.7** sets out the embedded environmental measures that have been included in order to reduce the potential for seascape, landscape and visual effects. The reductions in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area made throughout the pre-application process have resulted in a material reduction in the maximum possible layout extent and introduced specifically to minimise harm.
Paragraph 3.8.369 advises that '*Where a proposed offshore wind farm is within sight of the coast, there may be adverse effects. The Secretary of State should not refuse to grant consent for a development solely on the ground of an adverse effect on the seascape or visual amenity unless:* • *'it considers that an alternative layout within the identified site could be reasonably proposed which would minimise any harm, taking into account other constraints that the applicant has faced such as*	**Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3) sets out the alternatives that have been considered. The SLVIA is based on a Rochdale Envelope Approach, which is described in **Section 15.7**. The Rochdale Envelope Approach and the acknowledged need to maintain flexibility until the detailed design stage, post consent, does not lend itself to further detailed consideration of WTG layout within the Rampion 2 array area within the SLVIA, however a number of design principles have shaped the site

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
ecological effects, while maintaining safety or economic viability of the application. • *taking account of the sensitivity of the receptor(s) and impacts on the statutory purposes of designated landscapes as set out in Section 5.10 of EN-1, the harmful effects are considered to outweigh the benefits of the proposed scheme. See also Critical National Priority (Section 2.8.8 of EN3)'..*	boundary and placement of WTGs within it, as described in **Section 15.7**. This section of the SLVIA also sets out the embedded environmental measures applied to address effects on sensitive receptors.
Design Principles for National Infrastructure, National Infrastructure Commission Design Group	
Draft NPS EN-1 notes that *'Design principles should take into account any national guidance on infrastructure design, this could include for example the Design Principles for National Infrastructure (National Infrastructure Commission)'.* This guidance sets out four broad design principles, as follows: • *'Climate - mitigation greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.* • *People - reflect what society wants and share benefits widely.* • *Places - provide a sense of identity and improve our environment.* • *Value - achieve multiple benefits and solve problems well'*	**Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3) and **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) sets out how the project addresses climate change, benefits to society and solves multiple design/environmental factors to secure environmental and socio-economic benefits. Design principles relating to seascape, landscape and visual matters are described in **Section 15.7**, which sets out how Rampion 2 responds to a series of 'design principles' which were developed in consultation with stakeholders to guide the design of the project and take account of the 'places' design principle, as '*well-designed infrastructure supports the natural environment'*, *'respects local character'* and *'contributes to a 'sense of identity'* (NIC).

Local planning policy

15.2.5 **Table 15-4** lists the local planning policy relevant to the assessment of the potential effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors. The planning policy documents listed in **Table 15-4** are related to onshore development only and do not cover the area within which the offshore elements are located. However, they reflect the consideration to be given to the protection of the SDNP from the Proposed Development outside it, that is included in the NPS.

Table 15-4 Local planning policy relevant to seascape, landscape and visual

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Adopted Arun Local Plan 2011-2031 (July 2018)	
Section 7 of the Arun Local Plan sets out the requirements for the Protection of landscape character (Policy LAN DM1). In particular, *"Development within the setting of the South Downs National Park must have special regard to the conservation of that setting, including views into and out of the Park, and will not be permitted where there would be harmful effects on these considerations."*	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible within the setting of the SDNP. The likely impacts of the Proposed Development on the perceived landscape character and special qualities of the SDNP are addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Adur Local Plan (2017)	
Part Three of the Adur Local Plan sets out the requirements for Adur's Countryside and Coast (Policy 13). In particular, *"The landscape character of Adur and other areas of countryside, the coast, river, and settlement pattern will be protected and where possible enhanced. The setting of the South Downs National Park must also be respected."*	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible within the setting of the SDNP. The likely impacts of the Proposed Development on the setting of the South Downs National Park are addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One (2016)	
Section 3 of the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One sets out the requirements for the Urban Fringe (Policy SA4). In particular, "*1. The protection and enhancement of the wider landscape role of land within the urban fringe, the setting of the South Downs National Park and the protection of strategic views into and out of the city."*	The potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to affect the wider landscape of Brighton & Hove, the setting of the SDNP, and views into and out of the city has been considered in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Section 3 of the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One sets out the requirements for The Setting of the South Downs National Park (Policy SA5). In particular, "*Development within the setting of the National Park:* *b. Must respect and not significantly harm the National Park and its setting… Any adverse impacts must be minimised and appropriate mitigation or compensatory measures included. Such measures,*	The potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to affect the setting of the SDNP has been considered in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA. Embedded environmental measures that address seascape, landscape and visual effects are presented in **Section 15.7** of the SLVIA.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
including proposed enhancements, should have regard to landscape character and impacts."	
Brighton & Hove City Plan Part Two (October 2022)	
DM18 High quality design and places. Planning permission will be granted for development proposals that demonstrate a high standard of design and make a positive contribution to a sense of place and the visual quality of the environment.	**Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3) and **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) set out how the project addresses climate change, benefits to society and solves multiple design/environmental factors to secure environmental and socio-economic benefits. Design principles relating to seascape, landscape and visual matters are described in **Section 15.7**, which sets out how Rampion 2 responds to a series of 'design principles' which were developed in consultation with stakeholders to guide the design of the project.
DM20 Protection of Amenity. Planning permission for development including change of use will be granted where it would not cause unacceptable loss of amenity to the proposed, existing, adjacent or nearby users, residents, occupiers or where it is not liable to be detrimental to human health.	**Section 15.10** assessed the effect of Rampion 2 on the visual amenity of residents and visitors to Brighton.
DM29 The Setting of Heritage Assets. Development within the setting of a heritage asset will be permitted where its impact would not harm the contribution that setting makes to the asset's significance, by virtue of the development's siting, footprint, density, scale, massing, design, materials, landscaping or use.	The effect of Rampion 2 on the setting of heritage assets is assessed **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25).
South Downs Local Plan Adopted 2 July 2019 (2014–33)	
Section 5a of the South Downs Local Plan sets out the requirements for Landscape Character (Policy SD4). In particular, *"The design, layout and scale of proposals conserve and enhance existing landscape and seascape character features which*	The SDNP is a statutorily protected landscape, recognised by Government to be of the very highest quality. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible within the setting of the SDNP and may influence its distinctive character. The

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
contribute to the distinctive character, pattern and evolution of the landscape."	likely impacts of the Proposed Development on the perceived landscape and seascape character, and special qualities of the SDNP, are addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Section 5a of the South Downs Local Plan sets out the requirements for Design (Policy SD5). In particular, the adoption of a landscape-led approach to "*Integrate with respect and sympathetically complement the landscape character by ensuring development proposals are demonstrably informed by an assessment of the landscape context."*	The likely impacts of the Proposed Development on the perceived landscape character and special qualities of the SDNP are addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Worthing Core Strategy (April 2011)	
Section 8 of the Worthing Core Strategy sets out the requirements for the Natural Environment and Landscape Character (Policy 13). In particular, "*New development along the seafront will be designed to incorporate measures which will limit any adverse impacts on the coastal and marine environment."*	The potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to affect the seafront at Worthing is considered in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA. Embedded environmental measures that address seascape, landscape and visual effects are presented in **Section 15.70** of the SLVIA.
Lewes District Local Plan Part 1 Joint Core Strategy 2010-2030 (May 2016)	
Section 7 of the Lewes District Local Plan sets out the requirements for The Natural Environment and Landscape (Core Policy 10). In particular, *"Within and in the setting of the South Downs National Park, development will be resisted if it fails to conserve and appropriately enhance its rural, urban and historic landscape qualities, and its natural and scenic beauty, as informed by the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment."*	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible within the setting of the SDNP. The likely impacts of the Proposed Development on the special qualities of the SDNP are informed by the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment and addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Island Plan: Isle of Wight Core Strategy (2012)	
Section 7 of the Island Plan sets out the requirements for Landscape, Seascape, Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Policy DM12). In particular, *"all coastal development will be required to carry out*	The likely impacts of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on local assets and designations contributing to the character of the coast and the seascape are

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
an assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed development on the local coastline and wider seascape. This should include consideration of local assets and all designations that contribute to the character of the coast in that area."	addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.
Section 7 of the Island Plan sets out the requirements for Renewables (Policy DM16). In particular, "*proposals for renewable sources of energy should be aware of the landscape capacity to accommodate the proposals and the sensitivity of the landscape to the proposals."*	An assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape to the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is addressed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.

15.2.6 **Table 15-5** lists the emerging local planning policy relevant to the assessment of the potential effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors.

Table 15-5 Emerging local planning policy relevant to seascape, landscape and visual

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Isle of Wight Draft Island Planning Strategy (July 2021) Published for Regulation 18 consultation	
EV9 Protecting our landscapes and seascapes. The council will support proposals that conserve, enhance and promote the seascapes and landscapes of the Island. Development proposals will be expected to: *(a) ensure new development avoids both direct and indirect adverse effects or cumulative impacts upon the integrity of landscapes and seascapes;* *(b) protect important vistas and character, from and to the land and sea;* *(c) promote the maintenance and enhancement of the links between designated sites;* *(d) reflect the aims and objectives of the West Wight and East Wight landscape character assessments, historic landscape characterisation and any further relevant landscape assessment.*	The effect of Rampion 2 on important vistas from the Isle of Wight and its landscape character are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.

Policy description	Relevance to assessment
Worthing Council Submission Draft Local Plan 2020 – 2036	
DM23 - Strategic Approach to the Historic Environment *The Council will conserve and enhance the historic environment and character of Worthing, which includes historic areas, buildings, features, archaeological assets and their settings, important views and relationships between settlements and landscapes/seascapes.*	The effect of Rampion 2 on views from Worthing are assessed in **Sections 15.9** to **15.14** of the SLVIA.

Other relevant information and guidance

15.2.7 A summary of other relevant information and guidance relevant to the assessment undertaken for seascape, landscape and visual is provided here:

- The Planning Inspectorate (2018) Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope;
- Landscape Institute and IEMA (2013) - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (GLVIA3);
- Landscape Institute (2019). Visual Representation of Development Proposals;
- Natural England (2012). An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment;
- Natural England (2014). An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment;
- NatureScot (2021). Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments;
- SNH (2017) - Siting and Designing Wind farms in the Landscape, Guidance (Version 3) (herein referred to as 'SNH Siting and Designing');
- SNH (2017) - Visual Representation of Wind farms, Guidance (Version 2.2) (herein referred to as 'SNH Visual Representation'); and
- The Planning Inspectorate (2019) – Advice Note 17 Cumulative Effects Assessment.

15.3 Consultation and engagement

Overview

15.3.1 This section describes the stakeholder engagement undertaken for Rampion 2. This consists of early engagement, the outcome of, and response to, the Scoping Opinion in relation to the seascape, landscape and visual assessment, the EPP, non-statutory consultation and Rampion 2's statutory consultation (hereafter referred to as the 'Statutory Consultation'). An overview of engagement undertaken for Rampion 2 as a whole can be found in **Chapter 5: Approach to**

the EIA, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.5). and the **Consultation Report** (Document Reference: 5.1).

15.3.2 Given the social distancing restrictions which have been in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all technical consultation relating to seascape, landscape and visual has taken place online, primarily in the form of video conference calls.

Early engagement

Introduction

15.3.3 Early engagement was undertaken with a number of prescribed and non-prescribed consultation bodies and local authorities in relation to seascape, landscape and visual. This engagement was undertaken to introduce the Proposed Development and the proposed approach to scoping the EIA.

15.3.4 Early engagement was undertaken in May-July 2020 in the form of conference calls with Natural England, National Trust, South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), High Weald AONB and a number of local authorities, including Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and the Isle of Wight Council. Comments received during early engagement are set out in **Appendix 15.1: SLVIA consultation responses, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.1).

15.3.5 The key items covered and key themes / questions which arose during this early engagement were as follows.

- Hampshire County Council - additional viewpoints suggested for consideration within Hampshire, both inside and outside the SDNP;
- High Weald AONB – confirmed that it seemed likely that the only potential impact on the High Weald AONB would come from the onshore substation search areas;
- Isle of Wight AONB Partnership – confirmed involvement in pre-application discussions in order to assess any potential impacts upon the Isle of Wight AONB;
- National Trust – suggested viewpoint locations and related information for consideration, particularly viewpoints at Birling Gap, Ditchling Beacon, Gayles Farm, Climping Street and Slindon Folly;
- Natural England - suggested viewpoint locations in the Isle of Wight AONB, including Culver Down, St. Boniface Down, Shanklin Down and St Catherine's Point; and
- South Downs National Park – suggested viewpoint locations in the SDNP, approaches to assessment of SDNP special qualities and landscape character.

Scoping Opinion

15.3.6 Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED) submitted a Scoping Report (RED, 2020) and request for a Scoping Opinion to the Secretary of State (administered by the Planning Inspectorate) on 2 July 2020. A Scoping Opinion

was received on 11 August 2020. The Scoping Report sets out the proposed seascape, landscape and visual assessment methodologies, outline of the baseline data collected to date and proposed, and the scope of the assessment. **Table 15-6** sets out the comments received in Section 4 of the Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion 'Aspect based scoping tables – Offshore' and how these have been addressed in this ES. A full list of the Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion comments and responses is provided in **Appendix 5.2: Responses to the Scoping Opinion, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.5.2). Regard has also been given to other stakeholder comments that were received in relation to the Scoping Report.

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Table 15-6 Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion responses – seascape, landscape and visual

Planning Inspectorate ID number	Scoping Opinion comment	How this is addressed in this ES
4.12.1	**Effects on the construction and operation of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development on seascape character areas MCA09, MCA12, MCA14.** *The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the seascape, landscape and visual assessment on the basis that these MCA's are likely to experience low levels of change, with limited visibility of offshore elements of the Proposed Development. Significance of effects on MCA08, MCA13 and MCA06 will be assessed (as shown on Figure 5.13.4).*	Significance of effects on MCA05, MCA06, MCA07 and MCA08, are assessed in **Section 15.10**. MCA13 'Central English Channel' has also been scoped out of the assessment due to its distance offshore, position at the most distant part of the wind farm array area and baseline influence as a busy shipping channel.
4.12.2	**Effects of the construction and operation of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development on landscape character:** **• LCAs within Surrey and Kent.** **• New Forest National Park.** **• Surrey Hills AONB.** **• Hamstead Heritage Coast.** **• Tennyson Heritage Coast.** *The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the seascape, landscape and visual assessment on the basis of the justification in paragraphs 5.13.112 – 5.13.116 (there is limited/no visibility of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development)*	Effects on these landscape receptors have been scoped out.
4.12.3	**Effects of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development on certain Special Qualities of South Downs National Park (SDNP) during operation.**	Effects on Special Quality 2 and 4 have been scoped out.

Planning Inspectorate ID number	Scoping Opinion comment	How this is addressed in this ES
	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the SLVIA in relation to special qualities 2 (A rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and internationally important species) and 4 (An environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise). However, in respect of special qualities 5 (Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences) and 6 (Well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage), the Inspectorate does not consider it is appropriate to scope these out of the SLVIA and these matters should be assessed in the ES.	Effects on Special Quality 5 are assessed in **Section 15.10**. Effects on Special Quality 6 are assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25).
4.12.4	**Cumulative seascape, landscape and visual effects of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development with other operational, consented and application stage offshore wind farm projects (with the exception of Rampion Wind Farm).** *The Inspectorate is content that there is unlikely to be a significant cumulative seascape, landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development with other wind farm projects; with the exception of Rampion 1 and therefore agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the seascape, landscape and visual assessment.*	Cumulative seascape, landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 with other wind farm projects have been scoped out. Rampion 1 is considered as part of the baseline conditions in **Section 15.6** and impact assessments in **Section 15.10**.
4.12.5	**Seascape, landscape and visual effects of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development outside the 50km radius SLVIA study area.** *The Inspectorate is content that there is unlikely to be significant effects outside of the 50km radius SLVIA study area and therefore agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the seascape, landscape and visual assessment.*	Seascape, landscape and visual effects outside the 50km radius SLVIA study area have been scoped out.

Planning Inspectorate ID number	Scoping Opinion comment	How this is addressed in this ES
4.12.6	**Dark skies assessment** *The ES should contain an assessment of the impact which the Proposed Development may have on dark skies. It would be helpful if a figure were included to show the study area which is considered for this. Agreement with relevant consultation bodies should be evidenced in the ES.*	An assessment of the impact which the Proposed Development may have on dark skies is provided in **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation lighting visual effects, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.5). and summarised in **Section 15.10.**
4.12.7	**Viewpoint selection** *The Scoping Report acknowledges that the Proposed Development would be visible from the Isle of Wight, particularly at those locations which are at higher elevations. Only one viewpoint has been selected for the Isle of Wight. The south-east of the Isle of Wight has areas of high ground which overlook the Channel and where views of the Proposed Development could be afforded. Effort should be made to agree the locations of the viewpoints with relevant local planning authorities and other consultation bodies that might be affected to ensure impacts from long reaching views have been assessed at relevant representative viewpoints.*	Three viewpoints have been selected on the Isle of Wight in agreement with relevant consultation bodies – Viewpoint 24, 34 and 35.
4.12.8	**Long distance paths** *The ES should also include effects of views from the Isle of Wight Coastal path as a sensitive receptor. This coastal path encircles the island and allows for views across the Proposed Development site.*	An assessment of the impact which the Proposed Development may have on the Isle of Wight Coastal path is provided in **Table 15-41**.

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Evidence Plan Process (EPP)

15.3.7 The EPP has been set up to provide a formal, non-legally binding, independently chaired forum to agree the scope of the EIA and Habitats regulations Assessment (HRA), and the evidence required to support the DCO Application. The EPP commenced in January 2020 and has continued throughout the EIA helping to inform the ES.

15.3.8 For seascape, landscape and visual, further engagement has been undertaken via the EPP Expert Topic Group (ETG): SLVIA, LVIA, Archaeology & Cultural Heritage and Marine Archaeology.

15.3.9 ETG meetings were held on 24 September 2020, 18 March 2021, 28 April 2021, 4 November 2021, 2 March 2022, 14 April 2022 and 17 June 2022, with representatives from Historic England, National Trust, Natural England, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Adur and Worthing District Council, Arun District Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, Horsham District Council, Mid-Sussex District Council, Chichester Harbour AONB, High Weald AONB Partnership, Isle of Wight AONB Partnership and the SDNPA.

15.3.10 Minutes from these seascape, landscape, historic environment and marine archaeology ETG meetings will be set out in the Evidence Plan report to accompany the ES for the Application. The key feedback from these ETGs is summarised as follows:

- understanding of lessons learnt from Rampion 1 experience;
- clarity on the realistic maximum design scenario being assessed as the Rochdale Envelope for the Proposed Development (see **Section 15.7**);
- importance of integrated approach between seascape, landscape and onshore cultural heritage assessments;
- viewpoint selection should be proportionate to the large human/visitor population along the coastline and presence of three nationally designated landscapes in the study area;
- potential for effects on the special qualities of the SDNP and its statutory purpose;
- potential for effects on the special qualities of the Isle of Wight AONB and its statutory purpose;
- agreement that effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the Chichester Harbour AONB and High Weald AONB would likely be minimal;
- importance of the South Downs Way national trail, as the principal means by which the character of the SDNP is experienced, including sea views;
- potential effects of WTG lighting on the night-time views / qualities of the South Downs International Dark Skies Park;
- feedback on the format of visual representations to be included in the PEIR / ES; and

- feedback on specific landscape, visual and/or cultural heritage receptors and viewpoints for assessment in the PEIR / ES.

15.3.11 A Method Statement for the selection of viewpoints included in the SLVIA of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 was produced following the ETG meeting held on 24 September 2020. During this ETG meeting, it was agreed that a Method Statement will be provided to stakeholder attendees, setting out the proposed viewpoints for the SLVIA and the rationale for the selection. This viewpoint selection method statement was issued to stakeholders in October 2020, which identified the viewpoints proposed to be included in the PEIR. All consultees were encouraged to scrutinise and feedback on the proposed viewpoints, with the aim of agreeing the viewpoints, where possible, for the PEIR assessment. Feedback was subsequently provided in writing by several stakeholders, as set out in **Appendix 15.1: SLVIA consultation responses, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.1) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.1) or was provided during the subsequent ETG meeting on 18 March 2021. A set of visual representations which contained baseline views and wirelines for all viewpoints, as well as photomontages from a selection of key viewpoints was provided to stakeholders ahead of the March 2021 ETG meeting to inform further consideration of the visual impacts of Rampion 2.

15.3.12 Consultations on the viewpoint selection brought forward a number of suggestions from stakeholders regarding the inclusion of certain viewpoint locations for assessment, which have been incorporated in the viewpoints selected for the SLVIA (shown in **Table 15-14**). Agreement of the viewpoint locations for use in the SLVIA has been reached with stakeholders following consideration of the combined feedback from consultees and discussion during the ETG meetings in March/April 2022.

15.3.13 Further information is provided in the **Evidence Plan** (Document Reference: 7.21).

Not-statutory consultation

Overview

15.3.14 Non-statutory consultation captures all consultation and engagement outside of statutory consultation and has been ongoing with a number of prescribed and non-prescribed consultation bodies and local authorities in relation to seascape, landscape and visual. A summary of the non-statutory consultation undertaken since completion of the Scoping Report is outlined in this section.

Non-statutory consultation exercise – January / February 2021

15.3.15 Rampion 2's first statutory consultation exercise ran from 14 July to 16 September 2021, a period of nine weeks. The PEIR (RED, 2021) was published as part of Rampion 2's first statutory consultation exercise which provided preliminary information on shipping and navigation within Chapter 16: Seascape, landscape and Visual (RED, 2021).

15.3.16 Following feedback to the Statutory Consultation exercise in 2021 it was identified that some coastal residents did not receive consultation leaflets as intended. Therefore, the first Statutory Consultation exercise was reopened between 7

February 2022 to 11 April 2022 for a further nine weeks. The original PEIR published as part of the first Statutory Consultation exercise in 2021 was unchanged and re-provided alongside the reopened Statutory Consultation exercise in early 2022.

15.3.17 The following statutory consultation exercises focussed on changes made to the onshore cable route, onshore substation, and National Grid interface point and did not consider offshore aspects of the Proposed Development.

15.3.18 The second Statutory Consultation exercise was undertaken from 18 October 2022 to 29 November 2022. This was a targeted consultation which focused on updates to the onshore cable route proposals which were being considered following feedback from consultation and further engineering and environmental works. As part of this second Statutory Consultation exercise, RED sought feedback on the potential changes to the onshore cable route proposals to inform the onshore design taken forward to DCO application.

15.3.19 The third Statutory Consultation exercise was undertaken from 24 February 2023 to 27 March 2023. This was a targeted consultation which focused on a further single onshore cable route alternative being considered following feedback from consultation and further engineering and environmental works. As part of this third Statutory Consultation exercise, RED sought feedback on the potential changes to the onshore cable route proposals to inform the onshore design taken forward to DCO Application.

15.3.20 The fourth Statutory Consultation exercise was undertaken from 28 April 2023 to 30 May 2023. This was a targeted consultation which focused on the proposed extension works to the existing National Grid Bolney substation to facilitate the connection of the Rampion 2 onshore cable route into the national grid electricity infrastructure. As part of this fourth Statutory Consultation exercise, RED sought feedback on the proposed substation extension works to inform the onshore design taken forward to the DCO Application.

15.3.21 The key themes emerging from the non-statutory consultation exercise in January 2021 relating to seascape, landscape and visual were:

- concerns over the visual impact and size of WTGs; and
- concerns over dark skies.

15.3.22 Further detail about the results of the non-statutory consultation exercise can be found in the **Consultation Report** (Document Reference: 7.21).

Statutory Consultation

15.3.23 Rampion 2's statutory consultation period under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 ran from 14 July to 16 September 2021, a period of nine weeks. The PEIR was published as part of Statutory Consultation which provided preliminary information on seascape, landscape and visual within PEIR Chapter 16: Seascape, landscape and visual.

15.3.24 **Table 15-7** provides a summary of the key themes of the feedback received in relation to seascape, landscape and visual and outlines how the feedback has been considered in this ES chapter. A list of comments received during the

Statutory Consultation period and the response to comments is provided in the **Consultation Report** (Document Reference: 7.21).

Table 15-7 Statutory Consultation feedback

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Adur District Council	*While we recognise that larger turbines generate renewable electricity more efficiently and that there must be a trade-off between aesthetic impact and renewable energy production, we do have some concerns about the visual impact of the turbines and we appreciate these concerns being taken into account.*	**Section 15.7** of the SLVIA chapter sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, including demonstrating how its appearance provides a 'good aesthetic', as far as is possible.
Arun District Council	*The Council has significant concerns regarding the scale of the proposals relative to their proximity to the coastline. It is noted that the proposed turbines are substantially larger than the existing Rampion 1 turbines and the visual impacts of the proposals will be enormous. The combination of the size of the turbines and the quantity of them lead ADC to conclude that the proposals are an overdevelopment in this location.*	The visual impacts of Rampion 2 WTGs are assessed in this Chapter. Design principles are described in **Section 15.7**, which sets out how the design of Rampion 2 provides embedded environmental measures addressing visual effects, in response to stakeholder comments, including a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area, it's spread and quantity of WTGs within it. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario is a necessary

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		part of the process that is recognised through NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.2.5 - 4.2.6.
Arun District Council	*Table 16-11 Viewpoints included in the SLVIA fails to consider or identify that there is a conservation area fronting on to the sea, with a second one close by. This is disappointing as the same table identifies the conservation areas in Bognor Regis and other LPA areas. This issue had to be raised at one of the online meetings, and it would appear that this issues still has not been properly addressed.*	Viewpoint 11 Littlehampton is sited near the pier and Harbour Park to represent the concentration of receptors in this area. The effect of Rampion 2 on the setting of conservation areas is assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25).
Arun District Council	*There is also an Area of character in South Terrace which has not been identified (non-designated heritage asset).*	The effect of Rampion 2 on non-designated heritage assets is assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25).
Brighton & Hove City Council	*With regards to Table 16-6, we would query the reference to construction and decommissioning being 'short term' in its impact, and the lack of reference to cumulative visual impacts alongside the existing Rampion windfarm. The reference to reversible effects is also questionable, given the turbines are expected to be in situ for 25 years.*	**Section 15.8** of the SLVIA chapter sets out the methodology for the ES assessment including definitions for short, medium and long term impacts. The methodology, based on guidance (GLVIA3) defines short-term effects as '1 to 5 years'. The construction phase of the Project will be completed within that period. Operational effects are assessed as reversible at the end of the operational period upon completion of

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		decommissioning (although long- term). Cumulative effects are assessed in **Section 15.12**. Rampion 1 windfarm has been considered as part of the baseline.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*The assessment of possible effects on landscape character set out in Table 16-34 uses the Marine Conservation Area (MCA07), extending from Selsey Bill to Seaford Head, as the baseline against which to assess the impact on landscape character. The assessment states that: "The sensitivity of the MCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to [sic] medium-high for the inshore areas of the MCA and medium for the offshore areas in which the windfarm array area is located, due to the reduction in susceptibility with the increased distance offshore and the presence of Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape.' The seascape is assessed as having medium value. The assessment identifies that the magnitude of change would be medium to high, and the overall effect on the MCA07 area significant (Major / Moderate). The assessment acknowledges that there are areas of open coast as well, including South Downs National Park which is assessed separately. However, it does not identify areas of greater sensitivity and value within the urban areas such as tourist hotspots, more open/tranquil areas along the seafront, and conservation areas. In this context the effect on the more sensitive townscape areas has been underassessed.*	The effect of the Proposed Development in views from urban areas including tourist hotpots is assessed at representative viewpoints, such as Viewpoint 8 Brighton Seafront (**Section 15.10**), which is assessed as being of high sensitivity (with medium-high value) and more open/tranquil areas at Viewpoint 27 Hollingbury Hill Fort (**Section 15.10**), which is also assessed as high sensitivity (with high value). Assessment of the Proposed Development on conservation areas is undertaken in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Brighton & Hove City Council	*The visual impacts are assessed as significant and major from all of the views within B&H (below).* *a. Viewpoint 7 Rottingdean (within SDNP): the turbines would occupy 58.5 degrees of the 180* *degree view out to sea.* *b. Viewpoint 8 Brighton Seafront: the turbines would occupy 71.7 degrees of the 180 degree view out to sea.* *c. Viewpoint 27 Hollingbury Golf Course (within SDNP): the turbines would occupy 61.7 degrees* *of the 180 degree view out to sea.* *This being the case, we consider the assessment of views from within the urban areas should be* *reconsidered.*	The significance of visual effects on views from Brighton & Hove was considered in the project design and there are reductions to the Horizontal Field of View (HFoV) affected, as described in **Section 15.7** and as assessed for each viewpoint within Brighton & Hove in **Section 15.10**.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*We note that the value of views from settlements along the coast was cited in the Examining Authority's Recommendation Report for Rampion 1 (paragraph 4.335), highlighting the point made* *by one resident as being "captured eloquently" in referring to the importance of "an uninterrupted* *sea view to the character and sensation of space when within Brighton". While the views may no longer be entirely uninterrupted due to Rampion 1, the sensation of space along the coast continues to form an important part of the character of the city.*	The assessment in **Section 15.10** confirms that sea views from Brighton are no longer uninterrupted due to the presence of Rampion 1. The conclusions of the SLVIA in **Section 15.15** consider how the 'sensation of space' along the coast continues to form an important part of the character of the city.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*The assessment considers Rampion 1 to be part of the baseline, rather than resulting in cumulative effects, an approach we do not agree with. This is also apparent in this conclusion from the Table: "Rampion 2 will increase the influence of the wind farm element viewed in MCA07 that forms the*	In accordance with GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) (para 7.13), existing offshore wind farms, (including Rampion 1) and those which are under construction are included in the baseline for seascape, landscape and visual effects assessments

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	seascape element of views, through an increase in the lateral spread, scale and influence of WTGs extending from Rampion 1, both eastwards and westwards on the sea skyline, contributing to a greater degree of enclosure of the seascape of Sussex Bay."	in **Section 15.9 to 15.11**. Cumulative effects are assessed in **Section 15.12**.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*This notes the increase in scale, extending from Rampion 1, but does not note that it would fully enclose Rampion 1 on all sides. This approach reduces the overall assessment of magnitude of change on the urban areas from which it is seen.*	The effects arising from the Proposed Development on seascape character have been updated in **Table 15-36**. The assessment of VP8 Brighton Seafront in **Section 15.10** also notes that the Proposed Development will extend WTG development westwards and eastwards on the skyline, increasing the horizontal extent of the array, with effects assessed as medium-high magnitude and significant.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*Three viewpoints from within the Brighton & Hove boundary have been selected, though two are within the SDNP. This puts a heavy reliance on the remaining viewpoint (viewpoint 8) being representative of the impact on the entire Brighton & Hove urban area. It is therefore crucial that this is representative of a 'worst-case scenario', in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope approach.*	The location of Viewpoint 8 Brighton Seafront at one of the closest and most open sections of the Brighton coast with views to the Proposed Development is considered to be representative of the 'worst-case' effects on views from the settlement, with effects assessed as medium-high magnitude and significant. Viewpoint 27 at Hollingbury Hill Fort is also within the City of Brighton and representative of views from elevated areas of the city set further back from the coastal edge, with effects on views are assessed as being of medium magnitude.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Brighton & Hove City Council	*The Brighton seafront view (Viewpoint 8) has been taken from the Kings Road between the two piers. This is a comparatively low-lying viewpoint and the seafront here is very developed and has a busy commercial and tourism character. As a result, the impact of the offshore array in this viewpoint has been under-assessed.*	The busy commercial / tourist character near to Viewpoint 8 is noted, however the viewpoint is sited at one of the closest sections of the Brighton coast with views to the Proposed Development and is considered to be representative of the 'worst-case' effects on views from the settlement, which are described as occurring from wider Brighton seafront. Effects are assessed as being of medium-high magnitude in **Section 15.10** and are not therefore considered to be under-assessed.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*In landscape and seascape terms, a more representative location would be from an elevated position towards the eastern end of Marine Parade. The seafront is much more open and tranquil in this area, and uninterrupted sea views are integral to the way this historic area is experienced, so the magnitude of change arising from the offshore array will likely be greater.*	Viewpoint 8 Brighton Seafront is considered to be representative of the worst-case views from Brighton seafront, including from Marine Parade, which despite having a higher heritage value, is not as busy / popular with people / visitors as the area near to Viewpoint 8. Effects on visual receptors at Brighton seafront are assessed as being of medium-high magnitude and significant, and would not be notably greater from the nearby position towards the eastern end of Marine Parade.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*It is therefore considered that either an additional or replacement viewpoint from Marine Parade east*	Detailed consultations were undertaken on the viewpoints selected through the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	should be produced and assessed. We would emphasise that to date, the precise location of viewpoint has been unclear.	statutory and non-statutory consultations, which brought forward many suggestions from stakeholders regarding the inclusion of certain viewpoint locations for assessment. In total 54 viewpoints (**Table 15-14**) were agreed and included in the SLVIA, which provide a wealth of representative locations from which to understand the likely significant effects of the Rampion 2 project. Viewpoint 8 Brighton Seafront is representative of the worst-case from Brighton seafront and nearby areas. No further viewpoints from Marine Parade are included in ES.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*We note that the conclusions drawn in paragraph 16.10.56 are unclear:* *"The open sea views are informally recognised through the seaward alignment of the urban sea frontages and the popularity of the beaches/seafronts to visitors, however, the views from these settlements are not within a designated landscape nor afforded planning policy protection." While the urban seafront areas in Brighton & Hove are not within designated landscapes, large parts of the seafront are within heritage designations. Views from the settlements will not be afforded planning policy protection because LPAs do not have jurisdiction over the sea.*	The assessment of Viewpoint 8 in **Section 15.10** identifies that it is located within a conservation area and that parts of visible townscape therefore have heritage planning policy protection, reflected in the medium-high value of views. The concluding paragraph of the assessment has also been updated to reflect the presence of the conservation area.
Brighton & Hove City Council	*Finally, we are aware of work which has been carried out with regard to the need for buffers between coastal areas and offshore wind farms, which vary depending on the size of the turbines and the*	Buffers for offshore wind farm development are not defined on a project-by-project basis, but through strategic

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	sensitivity of the coastal receptors. It is unclear what work has been undertaken in relation to this project, and how the buffer proposed for this scheme has been calculated, given the sensitivity of the coastal area.	assessment. The OESEA (OESEA, 2020) proposes 34km offshore as a suggested buffer for all scales of wind farm development to avoid significant adverse effects on a combined National Park and Heritage Coast. The OESEA does not suggest no-go areas for development, it is a strategic tool and is not guidance or a roadmap for placing of wind farms, which are allocated by The Crown Estate and it is not in the Applicant's remit to locate sites to avoid impacts. The SDNPA have also recently undertaken a buffer study for the SDNP, which is considered further in **Section 15.11** It found that WTGs of this scale would be likely to exceed low magnitude at less than 38.6km from shore and therefore could be significant on highest sensitivity landscapes e.g. SDNPA. For the Brighton & Hove area outside the SDNPA, it found WTGs this size would be likely to exceed medium magnitude less than 27.5km from shore and therefore could be significant within that distance. The study findings were considered as part of the project design. High level 'buffer' studies do not ultimately replace the need for site specific assessment, which has been undertaken in this SLVIA Chapter of the ES.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Clymping Parish Council	*Adverse visual impact, exacerbated by height of the turbines, the area covered and closeness to the shore. This is contrary to current Government Policy re distance of turbines from the shore.*	There is no Government Policy that defines distance limits for offshore wind farms from shore. Buffers for offshore wind farm development are not defined on a project-by-project basis, but through strategic assessment. The OESEA (OESEA, 2020) proposes that for areas outside designated landscapes, WTGs of this size would be likely to exceed medium magnitude less than 27.5km from shore and therefore could be significant within that distance. The OESEA does not suggest no-go areas for development, it is a strategic tool and is not guidance or a roadmap for placing of wind farms, which are allocated by The Crown Estate and it is not in the Applicant's remit to locate sites to avoid impacts. High level 'buffer' studies do not ultimately replace the need for site specific assessment, which has been undertaken in this SLVIA Chapter of the ES, of which the findings have informed the project design and the embedded environmental measures, as described in **Section 15.7**.
East Sussex County Council	*ESCC support the proposed Rampion 2 development, but we ask that efforts are made to minimise the visual impact of the wind farm on the coast, when considering the size of the wind turbines as well as their location and layout.*	The visual impacts of Rampion 2 are assessed in this Chapter. **Section 15.7** sets out how the design of Rampion 2 provides embedded environmental

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		measures that address visual effects, in response to stakeholder comments, including reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area, its spread and quantity of WTGs within it. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors.
East Sussex County Council	*When deciding between the smaller 210m high wind turbines or the larger 325m high wind turbines it is important that the visual impacts of the wind farm on the coastline are fully considered. Likewise, the location and layout of turbines should also be selected in a way which minimises the visual impact of the proposals on the coastline.*	The visual impacts of Rampion 2 on the coastline are fully considered in **Section 15.10**. **Section 15.7** sets out how the design of Rampion 2 provides embedded environmental measures that address visual effects, in response to stakeholder comments, including reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area, its spread and quantity of WTGs within it. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario (as described

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		in **Section 15.7**) is a necessary part of the process that is recognised through the NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.2.5 - 4.2.6.
East Sussex County Council	*The current assessment indicates that for a large part of the East Sussex coast, from Peacehaven to Beachy Head, the visual impact of the proposals would be 'Major/Moderate and significant'. This highlights the importance of ensuring that the final design of the wind farm (the size, location and layout of turbines) is selected in a way which minimises the visual impact on the coast. This is considered particularly important in areas of this coastline deemed a significant asset to visitors and residents, as well as benefitting from nationally recognised designations (National Park and Heritage Coast).*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to visual impacts on the coast and provides embedded environmental measures that include the location and layout of WTGs, however opportunities to reduce effects through turbine size are limited due to the technical and economic requirements of the Project. The UK Government's financial mechanism that facilitates offshore wind farms to be built, Contract for Difference (CfD), requires the project to be economically competitive with other proposed OWFs in order to have a chance of successfully achieving funding and this drives the required project area and WTG dimensions as well as other factors.
Isle of Wight Council	*The Isle of Wight AONB Partnership have confirmed that they do not object to the proposals, considering the benefits from renewable energy for the country (carbon emission reductions towards a net-zero carbon economy) outweigh any impacts to the Isle of Wight AONB seascape, in this instance.*	Stakeholder comments are noted with no action required in the ES.
Isle of Wight Council	*Impact on the character of the Island's landscape, seascape and AONB*	Assessment of the impact of Rampion 2 on the character of the Isle of Wight's

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	Strategic policy SP5 of the Island Plan Core Strategy supports proposals that protect, conserve and / or enhance the Island's natural environment and protect the integrity of international, national, and local designations. Policy DM2 requires development proposals to complement the character of the surrounding area, with Policy DM12 emphasising the need to protect the integrity of international, national and local designations relating to landscape and seascape. Policy DM16 specifically requires renewable energy development proposals to be informed by a landscape character assessment and to reflect the capacity and sensitivity of the landscape of the Island.	landscape, seascape and AONB has been undertaken in the SLVIA (**Section 15.10**) under the requirements of these policies.
Isle of Wight Council	*The applicants have provided a detailed Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) at chapter 16 of the PEIR, which relates to the offshore development. The Council agrees with the methodology for the SLVIA and consider it to be in accordance with the recognised best practise guidance contained within Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA 3). In addition, the SLVIA identifies the correct National Character Area for the Island, NCA 127 and refers to the correct local character assessments for the Island.*	Agreement on the methodology for the SLVIA and relevant national and local baseline character area is welcomed.
Isle of Wight Council	*The SLVIA has assessed the perception of the proposed development from 3 viewpoints on the Island (viewpoints 24, 34 & 35) as well as the Isle of Wight Coastal Path and various landscape character areas and settlements, based upon the realistic worst-case scenario for the proposed project, which would involve the installation of 75 wind turbines with a blade tip height of 325m and widest rotor diameter of 295m. It should be noted that the design option with the greatest number of turbines (116) would relate to*	The realistic maximum design scenario for Rampion 2 would now involve the installation of 65 wind turbines with a blade tip height of 325m, as described in **Table 15-25**. The design with the greatest number of turbines (90) would relate to turbines with a height of 285m. The SLVIA assesses the potential for effects on the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	turbines with a height of 210m, so much lower than the realistic worst-case scenario. The SLVIA also assesses the potential for effects on the special qualities of the Isle of Wight AONB and its statutory purpose. There is no landside development proposed for the Isle of Wight.	special qualities of the Isle of Wight AONB and its statutory purpose in **Table 15-42**.
Isle of Wight Council	*The viewpoints used on the Island are taken from the eastern edge of Bembridge (viewpoint 24), which is 29.9km from the Area of Search, Bembridge Down (viewpoint 34), which is 32.4km from the Area of Search and St Boniface Down (viewpoint 35) which is 37km from the Area of Search. Viewpoints 34 and 35 are both within the AONB designation while viewpoint 24 is close to it. Photomontages have been provided to represent the realistic worst-case scenarios or views of the project. While visual representations must always be considered with a degree of caution, it is considered that those provided present a fair and reasonable representation of the project and therefore, are suitable to allow an effective and accurate assessment to be made. The viewpoints are shown within appendix 1 of this report.*	Viewpoints in the Isle of Wight are taken from the eastern edge of Bembridge (Viewpoint 24), Bembridge Down (Viewpoint 34) and St Boniface Down (Viewpoint 35) and are assessed in **Appendix 15.4 Viewpoint Assessment, , Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4) with photomontage visualisations provided in **Figure 15.48, Figure 15.57 and Figure 15.58, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15). Agreement that the visual representations present a fair and reasonable representation of the project is welcomed.
Isle of Wight Council	*The information provided for these areas, shows that the proposed project would be visible from the Island, on clear days but at distance. From the three viewpoints and other viewpoints with similar available views, the western edge of the Area of Search would be visible as a line of turbines on the horizon.*	Stakeholder comments are noted and welcomed, with no action required in the ES.
Isle of Wight Council	*The SLVIA considers two character areas on the Island, these being the Chalk Downs and The Undercliff (Ventnor). The SLVIA notes that the closest of the Chalk Downs are those at Bembridge, Shanklin*	Stakeholder comments are noted and welcomed, with no action required in the ES.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	and Ventnor, from where there would be distant views of the proposed wind turbines (see viewpoints 34 & 35). These areas are highly sensitive to change, as acknowledged by the SLVIA, but it is argued that distance would mitigate the magnitude of change to these areas, with the significance of effect said to be moderate for the closest section of the character area (Bembridge Down) and moderate/ minor for the Downs at Ventnor and Shanklin and therefore not significant.	
Isle of Wight Council	*Having visited these areas and assessed the photomontages, it is considered that the proposed project would not result in significant effects to these character areas. The chalk downs are iconic landscape areas for the Island and popular locations for Islanders and tourists alike to visit. Much of the chalk downs character area is within the AONB, with open access areas and rights of way allowing significant access. It is correct that these areas and the visual receptors within them are highly sensitive to change, given the AONB designation along with the low level nature of natural screening, which when combined with height, allow scenic views across the Island and the seascape that surrounds it.*	Agreement of not significant effects to the perceived character of the Chalk Downs and The Undercliff (Ventnor) character areas is welcomed.
Isle of Wight Council	*Nonetheless, from the various rights of way and open access landscape within the chalk downs character area, views are panoramic and thus allow the viewer wide vistas that take in scenic landscapes, wide areas of the sea that surrounds the Island along with an appreciation of more urban locations both with foreground and in some cases, backdrop views. From Bembridge Down there are views of the Solent and the development that surrounds its coastal margins (on Island and off Island) and these combine with landscape and seascape to result in complex vistas.*	Stakeholder comments are noted and welcomed, with no action required in the ES.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Isle of Wight Council	*From St Boniface Down, views are more readily related to rural areas, with some longer distance views of urban areas to the east and north-east. This viewpoint is a greater distance from the Area of Search for the project. Based on the submitted plans and photomontages it is considered that the proposed project would form a narrow section of panoramic vistas, but a slightly wider section of specific views when looking due east of the Island. These would always be distant views, with the project being visible but not intrusively so, because the turbines would be relatively small-scale elements of views. They would not fundamentally alter the key characteristics of the chalk downs or harm the landscape and visual receptors within them. It is noted that the project would be visible from other locations given the ridge of elevated downland that transects the Island. But these areas would be at greater distance and thus it is reasonable to conclude that impacts would be less than those experienced at Bembridge or St Boniface.*	Agreement is welcomed that Rampion 2 will not fundamentally alter the key characteristics of the chalk downs or harm the landscape and visual receptors within them.
Isle of Wight Council	*The Undercliff is an area of lower landscape that aligns the south-east and southern coastline, between the eastern extremity of Shanklin, running west towards Niton. It is likely that there would be some views of the proposed projects from various coastal viewpoints along the Undercliff. The SLVIA avers that effect would be moderate/minor, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of the Undercliff between Luccombe Bay and Dunnose/ Ventnor; dropping to minor along the southern coastline between Ventnor and St Catherine's Point; and no effect on the Undercliff between St Catherine's Point and Chale Bay.*	Stakeholder comments are noted and welcomed, with no action required in the ES.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Isle of Wight Council	*The Undercliff is flanked by a rugged coastline that is subject to land instability. There are attractive areas of landscape and townscape along the Undercliff, always appreciated in the context of the seascape and wide vistas of the English Channel. It is agreed that the proposed project would be seen at distance from the Undercliff from limited locations, at distance with the turbines seen as small-scale elements of the horizon, seen alongside the coastal landscape. These significant distances would mitigate impacts and therefore the preliminary conclusions of the SLVIA are considered to be correct.*	Agreement of not significant effects to the perceived character and views from The Undercliff character area is welcomed.
Isle of Wight Council	*Viewpoints 34 and 35 have been assessed above, in combination with the chalk downs character area. The final viewpoint, 24, is taken from the foreshore that forms the eastern edge of Bembridge. This viewpoint is effectively taken from sea level and views here are again, panoramic. From here, the project would be seen as a relatively wide line of turbines that would breach the horizon. However, the project would be seen in a wider panorama that would include the closer coastlines to the north and north-east and development along them. In addition, the area of English Channel close to Bembridge forms a busy navigational passage where larger seagoing vessels are a regular element of view. As a result, is considered that the proposed development would not form an intrusive or overly prominent addition to views or result in harm.*	Agreement is welcomed that Rampion 2 would not form an intrusive or overly prominent addition to views from Bembridge (Viewpoint 24) or result in harm to views form this settlement.
Isle of Wight Council	*The SLVIA assesses the impact of the project from sections of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path that traverse the northern and southern coastlines on the eastern half of the Island. These include visual receptors between Cowes and Bembridge and then Bembridge to St Catherine's Point, which forms the southern extent of the coast from where the project could potentially be visible. The SLVIA also*	Agreement is welcomed that Rampion 2 would result in impacts ranging between zero to low in views from the Isle of Wight areas between Cowes and Bembridge, St Helens, Shanklin and Sandow, including the Isle of Wight Coastal Path, and that the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	includes assessments for the settlements of Bembridge, St Helens, Shanklin and Sandow. For the visual receptors C, the SLVIA concludes that impacts would range between zero to low, increasing as distance between a receptor and the project decreases. The Council agrees with these conclusions. This is because when seen from viewpoints along the northern coastline, the development would be seen at distance within complex views that would include busy urban areas, the various vessels using the Solent and intervening landscape. The project would not be a dominant feature in any view and therefore nor an intrusive change for receptors in these areas.	project would not be a dominant feature in any view nor form an intrusive change for receptors in these areas.
Isle of Wight Council	*For the areas between Bembridge, to St Catherine's Point (including the bays around Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor) the SLVIA concludes that the effect of the project would range between low to zero. In a similar view to the northern coastline, many vistas of the project would be included within wider views, where the line of turbines would be small scale and not intrusive. In the bays surrounding Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor views would be interrupted by landscape and where the project was visible, it would be in the context of a wider panorama and therefore, not be a dominant element.*	Agreement is welcomed that Rampion 2 would appear small scale and not intrusive from these areas, viewed in the context of a wider panorama and not be a dominant element.
Isle of Wight Council	*Regarding settlements, the SLVIA concludes that the effect of the project on Bembridge would be negligible. This is because while visible from the shoreline areas of the village (assessed above) when viewed from inland residential areas the development would be screened by built form, landform and vegetation. This conclusion is correct. Areas of the village close to the shoreline would allow views of the project, but as concluded for the viewpoint taken from*	Agreement is welcomed that Rampion 2 would result in negligible effects on inland residential areas of Bembridge and even in views from the shoreline, the project would be seen at distance, in wide views and not appear dominant.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	Bembridge, the project would be seen at distance, in wide views and not appear dominant.	
Isle of Wight Council	*The SLVIA reasons that from St Helens, the development would not be visible owing to intervening built form and the well wooded nature of the coastline. The Council concurs with this reasoning and therefore agrees with the SLVIA conclusion that the impact of the project on St Helens would be negligible.*	Agreement is welcomes that from St Helens, Rampion 2 would not be visible and that the impact on St Helens would be negligible.
Isle of Wight Council	*The SLVIA notes that Sandown and Shanklin are urban areas that align the coastline and refers the importance of tourism to these settlements and the beaches that draw visitors, reasoning that views of the sea are matters of interest. The SLVIA advises that views of the project from the bay would be from the seafront and that from internal areas of the towns, views would be screened by buildings. This assessment is correct. Very little mention is made of the mitigating factors that have been used to reach a conclusion of not significant effects, for the coastal areas of the towns, as laid out within the SLVIA. It is considered that more reasoning is required, given that easterly views from the beaches and the various hotels, shops, cafes and tourism destinations that align the seafronts of Sandown and Shanklin, would include the proposed turbines. The Council notes that the project would be seen at distance and be unlikely to represent a dominant or intrusive element of wide vistas, however the SLVIA should acknowledge and assess the mitigating factors.*	The assessment in **Section 15.10** provides further assessment of the mitigating factors that have been used to reach a conclusion of not significant effects for the coastal areas of Sandown and Shanklin on the IoW.
Isle of Wight Council	*The SLVIA assesses the impact of the proposed project on the Isle of Wight AONB. It should be noted that the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership will provide separate detailed comments that focus*	The impact of Rampion 2 on the special qualities of the Isle of Wight AONB are assessed in **Table 15-42.** It is noted that

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	specifically on the assessment and likely impact on the designation. Therefore, the Council's comments will not replicate those of the Partnership. However, as noted above the AONB Partnership have provided initial comments in relation to this report and concluded that impacts to the designation would be outweighed by the benefits that the projects would provide in terms of renewable energy and decarbonisation. In paragraph 5.1, the Isle of Wight Council confirm that the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership *'do not object to the proposals, considering the benefits from renewable energy for the country (carbon emission reductions towards a net-zero carbon economy) outweigh any impacts to the Isle of Wight AONB seascape, in this instance'.*	the Isle of Wight Council advised that the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership will provide separate detailed comments, however these have not been provided and no detailed comments from the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership have been seen by the Applicant. It is noted that the Isle of Wight Council advise that the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership do not object to the proposals and that their initial comments conclude that the impacts to the Isle of Wight AONB designation would be outweighed by the benefits that the project would provide, in terms of renewable energy and decarbonisation.
Isle of Wight Council	*In conclusion, it is noted that the existing Rampion wind turbine development is not visible from the Island. Therefore, it would not merge with the proposed Rampion 2 project to cause combined or greater effects. The Council has scrutinised the submitted information related to the likely landscape, seascape and visual impacts of the project on the Island, taking into account the realistic worst-case scenario of the Area of Search for the proposals. The Council's assessment is based on the likely impacts of the tallest turbines when in operation, considering this to be the most significant stage of the project, with the construction and decommissioning phases likely to cause lesser effects. It is considered that the methodology and information contained within the SLVIA is in accordance with best practise guidance and that the*	Agreement is welcomed that the methodology and information contained within the SLVIA is in accordance with best practise guidance and that the supporting visualisations and plans allow an accurate assessment to be made.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	supporting visualisations and plans allow an accurate assessment to be made.	
Isle of Wight Council	*The Council agrees that the landscape, seascape and visual impacts of the development would not be significant on the various landscapes, urban areas and visual receptors within the eastern half of the Island. The project would be most visible on clear days during daylight hours but from the assessment carried out above, it is apparent that even from the closest viewpoints, where foreground views would include the sea, the proposed turbines would be relatively small objects seen on the horizon within wide views, and not readily eye-catching or intrusive. They would cause some change to the current easterly views of the seascape, but when seen in conjunction with other existing components of such vistas, such as vessels, and the development or landscape on the shoreline, they would not appear harmful or cause significant change.*	Agreement is welcomed with the SLVIA findings that the landscape, seascape and visual impacts of Rampion 2 would not be significant on the various landscapes, urban areas and visual receptors within the eastern half of the Isle of Wight, and that it would not appear harmful or cause significant change.
Isle of Wight Council	*When seen from inland locations or coastal locations further west, foreground views would begin to include the presence of the landscape and urban areas within the eastern half of the Island which would further mitigate the effect of the project. Therefore, the Council agrees with the conclusions laid out within the SLVIA, subject to some minor clarification in respect of mitigating factors for the towns of Shanklin and Sandown.*	Agreement with the conclusions laid out within the SLVIA is welcomed. The assessment in **Section 15.10** provides further assessment of the mitigating factors that have been used to reach a conclusion of not significant effects for the coastal areas of Sandown and Shanklin on the IoW.
MMO	*The MMO will continue to review any ongoing matters in relation to Seascape and provide comments where relevant.*	Stakeholder comments are noted with no action required in the ES.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Natural England	*A key issue for R2 OWF is not to undo important location and design decisions that were made and secured in the Rampion 1 DCO in order to reduce the visual effects of Rampion 1. There is no evidence that SLVIA issues have driven the design of the R2. Aspects of wind farm design that can influence seascape, landscape and visual effects include:* *• The number of turbines,* *• Turbine size / scale (including relative size in comparison to existing wind farms),* *• Position on the skyline (including in relation to existing wind farms),* *• Extent of the wind farm across the skyline (the lateral spread); and* *• Turbine layout, including balance, gaps and evenness as seen from key viewpoints.*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors. SLVIA topic specific design principles are described, which set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. Detailed consultations were undertaken on the design of the project during ETG meetings, in which SLVIA matters were a key consideration in driving the design changes made to address comments of stakeholders and provide embedded environmental measures with regard to potential seascape, landscape and visual impacts. The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced, which reduces the horizontal spread of WTGs visible; increases the distance of Rampion 2 from the most sensitive areas of coastline (reducing the apparent height and visibility of WTGs); and achieves a separation between the Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays in key views, with a better balance in apparent WTG size.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Natural England	*Natural England understand from the Applicant's assessment that there will be significant effects on some of the Special Qualities of the SDNP and CHAONB. However, no mitigation/design measures have been proposed to reduce the significance of this effect. It is Natural England's view that more can and should be done to minimise the adverse effects on designated landscapes which are identified in the SLVIA. Natural England's position is that in order to reduce the magnitude of the visual effects, the following principles should be adopted by R2:* • *There should be no turbines constructed within Zone 6.* • *Reducing the combined horizontal extent (lateral spread) of turbines associated with a visually combined Rampion 1 and R2 scheme, or* • *There should be perceptible separation distance (from all land-based viewpoints) between the existing Rampion 1 OWF and the new R2 array by concentrating development in the western end of the Rampion Extension area. The distance should be sufficient that a clear distinction can be made between the two arrays, in order that they are perceived as separate objects in the seascape when viewed from the shore and from within the SDNP.* • *Clear lines of sight should be left between the arrays (Rampion 1 and R2), so that open views to the horizon are maintained when viewed from shore and from within the SDNP.* • *The design of the new array should aim to balance the two arrays as far as practicable in terms of apparent turbine size*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors. SLVIA topic specific design principles are described, which set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the specific aim of reducing the magnitude and geographic extent of effects of the Proposed Development, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	and spacing, taking advantage of the effects of perspective to reduce any apparent difference in size between turbines. • *Implement reduced aviation lighting intensity for the Rampion 1 array (from 2000cd to 200cd). The Applicant has already agreed to the dimming of aviation lights to 200cd where visibility conditions permit.* • *Natural England advise that these measures are adopted to reduce the geographical scale of the significant effects and prevent further degradation of landscape and visual receptors located in the coastal portion of the SDNP and SHC. However, these measures will not prevent the effects on designated landscapes from being significant, rather they will reduce the geographical scale of the effects as the 3rd objective would not mitigate for the significant effects on the IoWAONB and CHAONB. For the former, it may even intensify the significant effects further. Significant effects would still occur on receptors located in the central portion of the SDNP (for instance LCA R3 and at VPs 21, 33 and 50). However, on balance this is the best possible outcome that NE can envisage should R2 be consented. In addition, it is NE's view that such a design would be the most likely to fulfil the requirement for Good Design as set out in EN-1.*	• 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible. During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.
Natural England	*Introduction* *Natural England (NE) welcomes this opportunity to comment on the seascape, landscape and visual impact assessments (SLVIA) and related chapters of the Rampion 2 (R2) Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as they relate to the offshore aspects of*	The effects of Rampion 2 on views and perceived special qualities of the SNDP, CHAONB and IoWAONB are assessed in **Section 15.9** to **15.12**, with the main long-term effects during the operational phase

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	the scheme. In keeping with our previous comments on the potential SLVIA effects likely to arise from the development, we will limit our comments to those effects associated with the prime statutory purpose of: • *South Downs National Park (SDNP) and its seascape setting.* • *Chichester Harbour AONB (CHAONB) and its seascape setting.* • *Isle of Wight AONB (IoWAONB) and its seascape setting.* • *The Sussex Heritage Coast (SHC) is located wholly within the SDNP and the special character of this area defines the coastal portion of the National Park.*	assessed in **Section 15.10**. **Section 15.7** sets out how the design of Rampion 2 shows regard to the statutory purpose of these receptors with the aim of minimising harm to their special qualities.
Natural England	*For seascape, landscape and visual effects within and outside of these designated landscapes we advise that close attention is paid to the comments and advice provided by the relevant Local Planning Authorities. Particular attention should be paid to the comments of the SDNP Authority. For the CHAONB and IoWAONB, we also recommend that close attention is paid to advice from these AONB Partnerships. Their detailed local knowledge of these designated landscapes, their special qualities, management needs and the relationship between land and sea in supporting the area's statutory purpose will provide greater depth and detail than can be provided by Natural England.*	Advice provided by the relevant Local Planning Authorities and AONB Partnerships is set out in this **Table 15-7**, together with how this advice has been addressed in the ES.
Natural England	*NE offers its comments and advice without prejudice. Our comments and advice on the seascape, landscape and visual effects of the offshore and onshore elements of the scheme may change as further evidence and information emerges through the EIA process.*	Stakeholder comments are noted with no action required in the ES.

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	We may also receive other relevant information from the local authorities, the SDNP Authority, AONB partnerships and other sources. NE will also be collecting its own evidence to inform our comments and advice and may continue to do so until the end of the examination process. Our comments are based solely on the documents provided by the Applicant (including hardcopies of the photomontages, the provision of which we thank the Applicant for). Site visits to selected viewpoints in the SDNP, CHAONB and IoWAONB were undertaken in July 2019. We plan to undertake further site visits in October 2021.	
Natural England	*Overview of Natural England SLVIA Comments* *Views out to sea from the coastal portions of the SDNP and certain locations on the chalk ridge which forms the backbone of the South Downs are already influenced by the presence of the Rampion 1 array. Although the mitigation measures contained within the Rampion 1 (Rampion 1) DML (see below for details) successfully reduced the visual influence of the turbines in views from the coastal portions of the national park (as defined by the SHC), they did little to lessen the visual effect from inland locations with the SDNP immediately to the north of the array. As a result, the visual influence of the Rampion 1 array is greater at Beacon Hill, Cissbury Ring and Highdown Hill1 than it is at Beachy Head and the beach at Cuckmere Haven. Noting that the influence of the Rampion 1 array could have been even more pronounced had larger turbines been used, it is nevertheless Natural England's opinion that the Rampion 1 array has compromised the statutory purpose of the SDNP through the introduction of structures into Sussex Bay. We note that views out to sea from these locations are heavily influenced by the settlements of Brighton, Hove and Worthing, and that the presence*	The influence of the existing Rampion 1 offshore wind farm from the coastal portions of the SDNP and locations on the chalk ridge of the SDNP to its north are noted. In accordance with GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) (para 7.13) existing offshore wind farms (Rampion 1) is included in the baseline for seascape, landscape and visual effects assessments in **Section 15.9** to **15.11**. It is noted that Natural England's opinion is that Rampion 1 has already compromised the statutory purpose of the SDNP.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	of these settlements does have an influence on the nature and quality of views out to sea from the national park.	
Natural England	*The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1 (5.9.19) invites comparisons with other consented offshore wind arrays. In the specific case of R2 this approach has some merits given that comparisons with Rampion 1 are unavoidable and consider that these should be incorporated into the determination of the scheme, taking note of the design principles as stipulated in the Rampion 1 DML. Nevertheless, for the avoidance of doubt Natural England takes the overall position that such comparisons have significant shortcomings and as such do not advocate this approach more widely.*	In accordance with GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) (para 7.13), existing offshore wind farms (Rampion 1) are included in the baseline for seascape, landscape and visual effects assessments in **Section 15.9** to **15.11.** The SLVIA does not directly compare the impacts of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2, however assessments of Rampion 2 are informed by observations of the visibility of Rampion 1 and where relevant the influence of Rampion 1 on views and perceived character is described and informs the predicted seascape, landscape and visual impacts arising from Rampion 2. The Planning Inspectorate's findings in respect of Rampion 1 set out in Rampion 1 Recommendation Report (The Planning Inspectorate, 2014) are also considered relevant and referred to in the conclusions of the SLVIA in **Section 15.15.**
Natural England	*If built as defined in the 'maximum design scenario', from our initial estimation the maximum apparent height of the R2 turbines will be the largest in the setting of an English designated landscape by a factor of at least 2.5. From Viewpoint 7 - Beacon Hill, Rottingdean the R2 turbines will appear to be over twice the height of the turbines*	Quantitative analysis of the apparent height of WTGs has limitations. Natural England note in their advice that comparisons with other offshore wind farms have shortcomings. Judgements on

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	of the Rampion 1 array with an apparent height, expressed as degrees, of 1.304 compared to 0.522 (see below for explanation). From Beachy Head the R2 turbines will appear to be 3 times the height of the Rampion 1 turbines (0.738 compared with 0.267).	significance should properly be based on the assessment material provided in the ES which have been undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance (GLVIA3). The visual effect of the Proposed Development on the views from Viewpoint 1 Beachy Head and Viewpoint 7 Beacon Hill is assessed in **Section 15.10** and shown in the corresponding photomontages in **Figure 15.26** and **Figure 15.32, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). These photomontages are the best way to appreciate the scale (apparent height) of the WTGs. As described in **Section 15.7** the project design responds to a set of combined design principles that contribute to providing embedded environmental measures in respect of the apparent height of WTGs in views from the SDNP.
Natural England	*The additional westward lateral spread of R2 is also a substantial increase on the lateral spread of the Rampion 1 array. This will significantly increase the proportion of the seaward horizon occupied by wind turbines when viewed from inland locations within the SDNP. Locations in the SDNP located to the west of viewpoint 19 at Highdown Hill from where uninterrupted views to the far seaward horizon are possible would be 'closed off' from those views should the R2 array be built.*	As described in **Section 15.7** the project design responds to a set of combined design principles that provide embedded environmental measures in respect of the lateral spread of WTGs in views from the SDNP.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Natural England	*In addition, the scheme will introduce turbines into portions of the seascape setting of 2 other designated landscapes (CHAONB and IoWAONB) which are currently free of such visual intrusion. The PEIR has recognised that significant adverse effects will occur within the SDNP and CHAONB, and that the some of the special qualities of these landscapes will be adversely affected. Having reviewed the available evidence we conclude that the some of the special qualities of the IoWAONB will also be significantly affected by the scheme. Consequently, NE advices that the prime statutory purpose of the designations: 'to conserve and enhance natural beauty', will be adversely affected in all 3.* *We conclude therefore that the key policy tests are:* • *The acceptability of further harm to the seascape setting of the SDNP and the consequences this has for the already compromised statutory purpose of the designation due to Rampion 1.* • *The acceptability of harm to the statutory purpose of the CHAONB and IoWAONB from* • *The introduction of wind turbines into the seascape setting of these designations.* *Drawing on the Rampion 1 Design Principles, Natural England has developed a set of principles that we advise should be adopted to reduce the severity of the impacts on the above designated landscapes. These are set out at the end of Section 3.*	The effects of Rampion 2 on views and perceived special qualities of the IoWAONB are assessed in **Section 15.10**. This concludes that the views from the IoWAONB and the perception of its special qualities will not be significantly affected by the Rampion 2. These conclusions are supported by the Isle of Wight Council in their s42 consultation response, set out above in this Table. The effects of Rampion 2 on views and perceived special qualities of the CHAONB and SDNP are assessed in **Section 15.10**. Although there are some significant effects on views and perceived special qualities of these designations, no effects are of such magnitude or significant enough, on their own or cumulatively, to compromise the purposes of designation of the CHAONB or SDNP. These conclusions are set out fully in **Section 15.15**. **Section 15.7** sets out SLVIA topic specific design principles that set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects/minimising harm resulting from the Proposed Development on these designated landscapes,

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs.
Natural England	*Natural England's advice on Key SLVIA Issues* *i) Relationship with Rampion 1.* *It is noted that cumulative seascape, landscape and visual effects with other operational, consented and application stage OWF projects were agreed to be scoped out. Rampion 1 is therefore considered as part of the baseline conditions in Section 16.6 and impact assessments in Section 16.10. As noted in Paragraph 16.6.27-28 (and illustrated in the combined ZTV in Figure 16.22), R2 will be viewed from areas where the existing Rampion 1 wind farm is not visible including 'areas of the Low Weald and High Weald to the north of the South Downs; the edges of the Surrey Hills; and coastal areas of Hampshire and the Solent' (Paragraph 16.6.28). This statement should be amended to read 'areas of the Low Weald and High Weald to the north of the South Downs; the edges of the Surrey Hills; and coastal areas of Hampshire including the Chichester Harbour AONB, the Solent and the eastern coastline of the Isle of Wight including portions of the Isle of Wight AONB'.*	In line with the advice provided by Natural England, **paragraph 15.6.28** of the ES has been updated to include reference to coastal areas of Hampshire including parts of the Chichester Harbour AONB and the Solent as areas where Rampion 1 is not currently visible. Field surveys undertaken as part of the SLVIA noted that Rampion 1 could just be seen in views from the eastern coastline of the Isle of Wight in excellent visibility and the ZTV in **Figure 15.22, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) indicates theoretical visibility of Rampion 1 from this eastern coastline of the Isle of Wight.
	It is stated in Paragraph 16.6.27 that where Rampion 1 and R2 are visible in combination with each other 'Rampion 2 will result in visual effects arising from the appearance of Rampion 2 when viewed in-combination with Rampion 1. The apparent height of the larger Rampion 2 turbines (210m to 325m) relative to the smaller operational turbines (140m) is likely to be central to the potential for cumulative visual effects arising from these areas' NE agrees with this statement. We note that one of the key seascape and visual	As described in **Section 15.7** the project design responds to a set of combined design principles that provide embedded environmental measures in respect of the apparent height of WTGs in views from the SDNP and reduce the magnitude of effects/minimise harm resulting from the Proposed Development on the perceived

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	issues for this proposed scheme is the major difference in the size of the turbines between Rampion 1 and R2, which will greatly exacerbate the adverse effects arising from the project on the statutory purpose of the SDNP and the special character of the SHC.	special qualities of the SDNP. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario is a necessary part of the process that is recognised in the NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.2.5 - 4.2.6.
Natural England	*ii) Zone 6, the Rampion Extension Area, Rampion 1 Exclusion Zone and Rampion 1 DML Design Principles.* *Figure 16.1 in the PEIR illustrates the spatial relationship between Rampion 1, the Rampion 1 Zone 6 and the Rampion Extension Area; the latter two now comprise the R2 Proposed DCO Order Limits We note the area shown as Zone 6 is only a portion of the original Rampion Zone 6 licence area. We understand that part of this area was omitted from the R2 Development Area prior to the PEIR. The area labelled 'Exclusion Zone' forms a part of the Rampion 1 Deemed Marine Licence (DML) (Condition 11, Part 2, 11 (1) of Schedule 13 (p.99)) whilst the Rampion 1 'Design Principles' (Condition 11, Part 2, 11 (3a) of Schedule 13 (p.106)) apply to all of Zone 6. For completeness here are the Rampion 1 Design Principles: At Volume 4, Appendix 4.1 (Commitments Register) C-61 the Applicant states: 'Due regard will be given to design principles held in Rampion 1 Design Plan and design principles to be*	As described in full in **Section 15.7**, the design of the Proposed Development aims to minimise effects on the special qualities of the SDNP, CHAONB and IoWAONB through careful design consideration in terms of scale, size and location, and taking account of relevant policy and guidance. The resulting effects of the Proposed Development on the special qualities of these designated landscapes are assessed in **Section 15.10** and conclusions drawn in **Section 15.15**.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	developed for Rampion 2, with consideration of the seascape, landscape and visual impacts on the South Downs National Park and Sussex Heritage Coast'. And C-66; 'The Proposed Development will aim to minimise effects on the Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park and High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) through careful design consideration in terms of scale, size and location, and taking account of relevant policy and guidance.' 2 This High Weald AONB has been scoped out of the PEIR / ES and is no longer relevant consideration to the design of the scheme. However, the CHAONB and IoWAONB area relevant considerations to the design of the scheme and should therefore be included in commitment C-66.	
Natural England	*From the information presented in the PEIR NE fails to understand how these commitments by the applicant has been fulfilled. It appears that the design of R2 has not been driven by seascape, landscape, and visual constraints, nor the commitment to 'minimise effects' to the prime statutory purpose of 3 designated landscapes or the special character of a Heritage Coast. The Applicant's own assessment reports significant effects on some of the Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park and CHAONB. No mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce the significance of this effect. If due regard is to be paid to the Rampion 1 Design Principles a substantial, rigorous and open-minded consideration of these conditions is required. We request that the Applicant provides a detailed account as to how the Rampion 1 Design Principles have influenced the R2 maximum design scenario as a matter of urgency. We also request clarification on the Applicant's commitment to the design principles as we note their intention to disapply the current DCO. NE advises that more can be done to minimise the adverse*	**Section 15.7** sets out how the project design responds to a set of combined design principles that contribute to provide embedded environmental measures in respect of the views and special qualities of the SDNP and CHAONB and reduce the magnitude of effects/minimise harm resulting from the Proposed Development on their perceived special qualities, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and include:

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	effects on designated landscapes which are identified in the SLVIA. Details of these proposals are set out below.	• 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible. During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.
Natural England	*iii) Advice regarding Turbine Height and Proximity to the Coastline of a Designated Landscape.* *The last 16 years has witnessed a significant upscaling of the technology used by the offshore wind energy industry. Over this period turbines have increased both in output capacity and size. For coastlines of designated landscapes this upscaling has seen an increase from the 132m high 3.6MW turbines (Sheringham Shoal, Norfolk Coast AONB, closest point 17km) to the 181m high 6.3MW (Galloper, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB; closest point 29.3km). The emerging industry 'standard' for the 2020s is 15MW to 20MW turbines potentially reaching heights of 325m as proposed for R2 (325m and 14.2km from the SDNP). When viewed from any given location, the bigger the structure the greater it's visual prominence. Similarly, the bigger the structure the greater the distance (and geographic area) from which it can be seen from and the greater the likelihood that individual structures or a collection of them will be prominent within the view. This is especially the case for offshore wind arrays because there is no means to screen them. These basic principles have guided our appraisal of the R2 scheme and the formulating of our comments and advice. We have also used visual comparisons with the Rampion 1 array, which is located in the seascape setting of the SDNP, at a similar distance from the coast to illustrate the likely influence of the upscaling in technology on the seascape setting of the SDNP, CHAONB and IoWAONB*	Natural England's observations on the upscaling of WTG technology used for offshore wind farms in terms of capacity and size are noted and are part of wider trend towards more efficient turbines with larger rotor diameters in the wind energy sector and is not unique to Rampion 2. This trend is part of the need to make offshore windfarms economically competitive in the energy markets, to meet government targets for renewables, maximise energy gain, increased capacities and efficiencies, and contribute towards meeting climate change targets set out in legislation and Government policy.
Natural England	*iv) Note about the Apparent Height of Offshore Wind Turbines*	Comparisons between the apparent height of the turbines with existing offshore wind

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	Understanding the comparative apparent heights of offshore structures is a critical component in the assessment of the scale of effect that they have on the receiving landscape resource and associated visual amenity. The diagram below illustrates this point. Here the smaller structure on the left appears to be same height as the taller structure on the right, which is located a further 11km away. The apparent heights of these differing structures are very nearly the same. A number of parameters need to be incorporated into the measurement of apparent height; the distance to the structure, the height of the structure, the effect of Earth's curvature on the visible heights and the height from which the turbines are viewed. Calculating the apparent heights of offshore structures is however relatively straightforward. Our analysis is based upon the established method for calculating the visible height of structures offshore. This method is set out in the Scottish Natural Heritage in their 2017 publication 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance 2.2'. A diagrammatic representation is shown below at Figure 2 for the simplified case when atmospheric refraction is ignored. *These calculations are also necessary for the creation of the photomontage images as they appear in Chapter 16, Volume 3 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Large Format Images files 1 to 3.* *We note SNH's emphasis on the presence of the Earth's atmosphere as a critical factor i.e. the influence of the refraction of light in defining the apparent height of structures when seen from a distance. The formula used by NE also incorporates this emphasis on light refraction, using a refraction correction value (0.075) which is universally applied. If effects of light refraction on apparent height are excluded from the formula this value is switched to 0. However,*	turbines, such as Rampion 1, can be useful as a scale reference to assist in the judgement of visual influence. While the comparison of turbine height in Figure 1 of Natural England's response is useful as a diagrammatic illustration, it is not representative of the scale of the turbines when viewed from coastal viewpoints of the study area; nor representative of the true relationship of Rampion 2 with the existing Rampion 1 WTGs, which are often not viewed directly next to each other in the way presented in Figure 1. The apparent scale differences will not, in reality, be viewed in this very direct way, as there is physical separation between WTGs, which means that the scale comparisons will be more subtle than indicated in this image. The scale of the Project turbines is best appreciated at the viewpoints with reference to the photomontages included in the SLVIA (**Figures 15.26 to 15.92, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). If viewed correctly at the correct printed image size, these provide a close representation of the vertical scale of turbines in actual viewpoints. The wireline visualisations

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	for comparative purposes the important point is that the correction is applied universally. All of the apparent height values provided by NE in our advice have the light refraction value set at 0.075 AOD). *The NE method provides a result in the apparent, or angular (a), height of a turbine as seen by an observer expressed as degrees. Therefore, it is possible to compare the apparent height of a 99m turbine located at 15km away to that of a 190m turbine located at 26km. In this instance (when view from a height of 5m AOD) he values are 0.368 and 0.375 respectively. The 2020 BEIS 'Review and update of Seascape and Visual Buffer Study for Offshore Wind Farms' does essentially the same thing. Please see the diagrams the pages located between (p. 140 to 141). See also Figure 1 in this response.* *The calculation can also be used to predict the apparent height of (the not yet built) 325m turbines as used in the R2 worst-case scenario. These values can then be compared to the apparent heights of the Rampion 1 array. As the visual effects of the latter are known and can be readily experienced, their visual influence can be used to judge the likely effect of the R2 worst-case scenario turbines when viewed from the same location. This information can also be used to inform the scale of effect judgement and hence the magnitude of change judgement. This is what NE has done.* *Using the information provided by the Applicant in Volume 3 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Large Format Images Files 1 to 3, we present information on the comparative height of turbines between Rampion 1 and R2 in Table 1.*	presented in the SLVIA (**Figures 15.93 to 15.109, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) are the best tool to understand the scale relationship with other offshore WTGs. While the tabular analysis of apparent height may be of some use for considering the ratio of apparent heights of WTGs from viewpoints on the coast to each offshore windfarm, there are limitations in the analysis presented. For example, the analysis in Table 1 of Natural England's response only considers the apparent height of the closest visible turbine in the array. It does not allow for variations in apparent height that will actually occur between different turbines in the arrays, depending on their distance offshore. Turbines located at greater distance offshore within each windfarm site, will have a lower visible height and less apparent height difference, creating variations and similarities in scale/apparent height between windfarms depending on distance of turbines offshore. There are limitations which raise questions about the applicability of the findings as it

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		cannot be wholly representative of the variations and similarities in apparent height that will actually occur across different parts of the Rampion 1 and 2 arrays from different viewpoints in the study area, which are accounted for in the Applicant's visual assessment and shown clearly in the visualisations (**Figures 15.26 to 15.92, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Judgements on significance should properly be based on the assessment material provided in this Chapter and supporting visualisations (**Figures 15.26 to 15.92, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) which have been undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance (GLVIA3). There is no established guidance which reduces seascape, landscape and visual assessment to a quantitative assessment of values in a table (such as Table 1). It is recognised in GLVIA3 that *'assessing visual effects is not a quantitative process'* (para 6.3) and that *'While there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters… much of the assessment must rely on qualitative*

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		judgement about the significance of change' (para 2.23). Variations in the apparent height of turbines between different viewpoints are incorporated in the visual assessment in the SLVIA together with appropriate consideration of other criteria informing magnitude of change and sensitivity to change, to inform judgements on significance of effect. Differences in apparent height of the WTGs, together with other aspects of the appearance of the windfarm site, are shown clearly in the visualisations (**Figures 15.26 to 15.92, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) in the landscape / seascape context of each viewpoint. The vertical scale of the Project turbines is best appreciated during field evaluation at the viewpoints with reference to the material provided in the ES.
Natural England	*v) Maximum Development Scenario* *R2 is described in PEIR Chapter 4 and comprises Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) approximately 13km to 25km offshore, up to three offshore substations, up to four offshore export cables and up to two offshore interconnector export cables. R2 is located immediately to the west, south and east of Rampion 1 (116 turbines, 140m height to blade tip). As set out in Chapter 4, the final choice of WTG and therefore the final capacity of R2 will be subject to a*	It is noted that there is agreement that the MDS for Rampion 2 is appropriate, given that larger turbines will be more widely visible within the study area and the scale difference with Rampion 1 will be more apparent. The updated MDS for Rampion 2 is described in **Section 15.7**, which has been reduced to 65 WTGs. The assessment of this MDS ensures that the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	procurement exercise carried out post-consent. Therefore, two different WTG models have been considered: *• a 'smaller WTG type' comprising up to 116 turbines, with a maximum blade tip height of 210m and a rotor diameter of 172m; and* *• a 'larger WTG type' comprising up to 75 turbines, with a maximum blade tip height of 325m and a rotor diameter of 295m.* *The assessment in the PEIR is based on the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach. In the SLVIA a 'maximum design scenario' is assessed (the rationale for this provided in Section 16.7). This consists of 75 x 325m blade tip WTGs as shown in Volume 3, Figure 16.1. Visualisations which accompany the SLVIA illustrate this 'maximum design scenario'. The 'Rochdale Envelope' approach (as set out in the Planning Act 2008) is a parameter-based approach to environmental assessment which aims to take account of the need for flexibility in the evolution of detailed design. NE considers this to be an appropriate approach given that larger turbines will be more widely visible within the study area and the scale difference with Rampion 1 will be more apparent, thereby leading to greater effects on the seascape, landscape and visual resource and the prime statutory purpose of 3 designated landscapes. However, one consequence of this is that only the maximum scenario has been assessed; the appearance of the 'smaller WTG type' scenario has not been assessed or illustrated.*	maximum environmental effects are assessed in **Sections 15.9 to 15.12** and illustrated in **Figures 15.26 to 15.92, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) for one clear worst-case/MDS. It is noted that it is NE's opinion that the 'smaller WTG type' (shown in **Table 15-25**) will also result in significant adverse effects on the seascape, landscape and visual resource.

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	NE advises that the smaller WTG type model will also result in significant adverse effects on the seascape, landscape and visual resource and the prime statutory purpose of 2 and possibility 3 designated landscapes. Due to the lower maximum blade tip height of the 210m WTG, the geographical extent of adverse effects is likely to be smaller than that for the 'maximum design scenario'.	
Natural England	*vi) Good Design* *Policies contained within EN-1 (Overarching National Policy for Energy) set out the importance of a scheme's appearance (para. 4.5.1 – 4.5.3). These state that the ExA needs to be satisfied that energy infrastructure developments are sustainable, 'attractive' and that the Applicant has taken both the functionally and aesthetics of the scheme into account as a part of the design process. Paragraph 4.5.5 goes on to state that: '...applicants should be able to demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected.'*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, including demonstrating how its appearance provides a 'good aesthetic', as far as is possible. SLVIA topic specific design principles are described, which set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**. Opportunities for 'Good Design' of an offshore wind farm are however limited to some extent, by the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario (a necessary part of the process that is recognised through the NPS at paragraphs 4.2.5-4.2.6) also reduces opportunities for good design.
Natural England	*The need for good design was an important issue in the examination of the Rampion 1 scheme and a particular focus of the ExA during the Issue Specific Hearings. The result of this attention was the Rampion 1 DML requirement for a Turbine Exclusion Zone and set of Design Principles (as set out above). The purpose of these requirements was to reduce the visual impact of the Rampion 1 array on nationally important landscape receptors located within the SHC portion of the SDNP, and to achieve an aesthetically coherent alignment of the turbine rows (3. iv) in order that the visual appearance of the array was enhanced as far as possible. To this end these mitigation measures, when viewed from Beachy Head for instance, were successful.*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, and the design principles that have been applied specific to the design of Rampion 2, with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development and minimising harm to the special qualities of national landscape designations. During the design process these design principles were applied to define the reduce extent of the Rampion 2

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		array area such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.
Natural England	*As set out above (see: 'Note about Zone 6, the Rampion Extension Area, Rampion 1 Exclusion Zone and Rampion 1 DML Design Principals') NE fails to understand from the information provided by the Applicant, how the requirement for Good Design (as set out in EN-1) has been addressed.* *As currently configured in the maximum development scenario, the R2 design for 75 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 325m, as set out in Figure 16.1, appears to entirely disregard the Design Principles and Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML measures which were specifically included in order that policy requirement for Good Design was fulfilled. As R2 is an extension to the Rampion 1 array it is our view that the mitigation measures contained within the Rampion 1 DML are equally applicable to the design of the R2 scheme.*	The Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML is located entirely outside the Rampion 2 array area boundary. **Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, and the design principles that have been applied specific to the design of Rampion 2, with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development and minimising harm to the special qualities of national landscape designations. These design principles were developed in consultation with Natural England, drawing on the Rampion 1 design principles and those specifically recommended by Natural England for Rampion 2 during consultations. During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.
Natural England	*In addition, it is clear from the Applicant's photomontages that the in-combination effect of the Rampion 1 and R2 arrays (the difference in turbine heights and row spacing) will be visually incoherent, rendering the combined Rampion 1/R2 array aesthetically unattractive and noting that the existing Rampion 1 is already a significant element within the seascape setting of the SDNP, Natural England advises that the development of R2 both in Zone 6 and the westerly extension of the existing array has the potential to further adversely affect the seascape setting of the SDNP.*	Effects on the seascape setting of the SDNP are assessed in **Section 15.10**. **Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors, including demonstrating how its appearance provides a 'good aesthetic', as far as is possible. SLVIA topic specific design principles are described, which set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development on the seascape setting of the SDNP, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. This includes a principle which seeks to achieve a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays.
Natural England	*Constructing in both the undeveloped zone 6 area of Rampion 1 and the new extension zone poses several significant impacts to the designated landscapes. It would result in a hybrid (mixed) array where the new, larger turbines are clearly visible alongside and*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' and how project design responds to a set of combined design principles that contribute to provide

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	between Rampion 1. It would also enclose the bay by significantly reducing the extent of open views from the shore to horizon and thereby enclosing a greater portion of the visible horizon. The construction of substantially larger turbines (325m to blade tip) also creates a more disjointed and jarring visual effect. Height of turbines is also a significant factor in determining the extent of the visual envelope and therefore the geographical extent of probable significant adverse effects which will result from the construction of such schemes. *Natural England advises that in order to prevent or at least reduce the magnitude for these effects that suitable principles of good design must be presented for consideration. They should seek to reduce any possible detrimental effects of the statutory purposes of the South Downs National Park and deliver a balanced and definable set of objects in the seascape.*	embedded environmental measures in respect of the views and special qualities of designated landscapes and reduce the magnitude of effects/minimise harm resulting from the Proposed Development on their perceived special qualities, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' – increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' – achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		• 'Separation foreground' – avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible. During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.
Natural England	*vii) Natural England's Recommended Design Principles* *A key issue for R2 OWF is not to undo important location and design decisions that were made and secured in the Rampion 1 DCO in order to reduce the visual effects of Rampion 1. There is no evidence that SLVIA issues have driven the design of the R2. Aspects of wind farm design that can influence seascape, landscape and visual effects include:* • *The number of turbines,* • *Turbine size / scale (including relative size in comparison to existing wind farms),*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors. SLVIA topic specific design principles are described, which set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. As described above and in full in **Section 15.7**, the spatial extent of the Rampion 2

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	• *Position on the skyline (including in relation to existing wind farms),* • *Extent of the wind farm across the skyline (the lateral spread); and* • *Turbine layout, including balance, gaps and evenness as seen from key viewpoints.*	array area has been reduced, which reduces the horizontal spread of WTGs visible; increases the distance of Rampion 2 from the most sensitive areas of coastline (reducing the apparent height and visibility of WTGs); and achieves a separation between the Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays in key views, with a better balance in apparent WTG size.
Natural England	*Natural England understand from the Applicant's assessment that there will be significant effects on some of the Special Qualities of the SDNP and CHAONB. However, no mitigation/design measures have been proposed to reduce the significance of this effect. It is Natural England's view that more can and should be done to minimise the adverse effects on designated landscapes which are identified in the SLVIA. Natural England's position is that in order to reduce the magnitude of the visual effects, the following principles should be adopted by R2:* *• There should be no turbines constructed within Zone 6* *• Reducing the combined horizontal extent (lateral spread) of turbines associated with a visually combined Rampion 1 and R2 scheme, or* *• There should be perceptible separation distance (from all land-based viewpoints) between the existing Rampion 1 OWF and the new R2 array by concentrating development in the western end of the Rampion Extension area. The distance should be sufficient that a clear distinction can be made between the two arrays, in order that they are perceived as separate objects in the seascape when viewed from the shore and from within the SDNP.*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors and how project design responds to a set of combined design principles, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. These provide embedded environmental measures in respect of the views and special qualities of designated landscapes and reduce the magnitude of effects/minimise harm resulting from the Proposed Development on their perceived special qualities. These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	• *Clear lines of sight should be left between the arrays (Rampion 1 and R2), so that open views to the horizon are maintained when viewed from shore and from within the SDNP.* • *The design of the new array should aim to balance the two arrays as far as practicable in terms of apparent turbine size and spacing, taking advantage of the effects of perspective to reduce any apparent difference in size between turbines* • *Implement reduced aviation lighting intensity for the Rampion 1 array (from 2000cd to 200cd). The Applicant has already agreed to the dimming of aviation lights to 200cd where visibility conditions permit.*	2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible. During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		As noted in **Section 15.7,** a reduction in the intensity of aviation lights to no less than 200cd will occur during operation where visibility conditions permit.
Natural England	*Natural England advise that these measures are adopted to reduce the geographical scale of the significant effects and prevent further degradation of landscape and visual receptors located in the coastal portion of the SDNP and SHC. However, these measures will not prevent the effects on designated landscapes from being significant, rather they will reduce the geographical scale of the effects as the 3rd objective would not mitigate for the significant effects on the IoWAONB and CHAONB. For the former, it may even intensify the significant effects further. Significant effects would still occur on receptors located in the central portion of the SDNP (for instance LCA R3 and at VPs 21, 33 and 50). However, on balance this is the best possible outcome that NE can envisage should R2 be consented. In addition, it is NE's view that such a design would be the most likely to fulfil the requirement for Good Design as set out in EN-1.*	Effects on the views from and perceived special qualities of the SDNP, CHAONB and IoWAONB are assessed in **Section 15.10**. **Section 15.7** of this SLVIA sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' including the design principles and changes that have been applied to the Project to reduce effects on the CHAONB, IoWAONB and SDNP, including from receptors located in the central portion of the SDNP (e.g. LCA R3 and at Viewpoints 21, 33 and 50).
Natural England	*Detailed comments on the SLVIA* *i) Offshore visibility* *ii) SLVIA Methodology* *iii) Assessing effects on Designated Landscapes* *iv) Baseline information including sensitivity* *v) Seascape* *vi) Landscape* *vii) Visual* *viii) Special Qualities*	Further detailed comments on SLVIA are provided by Natural England which can be viewed in full in their s42 Consultation Response. The SLVIA in this Chapter has been updated to take on board specific comments and observations on receptors in these detailed comments and incorporated within the ES chapter section as follows:

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	ix) Assessment of Effects – Construction *x) Assessment of Effects – Operation*	i) Offshore visibility is addressed in **Section 15.6**, through the assessment findings in **Section 15.10** and conclusions in **Section 15.15**. ii) A full SLVIA Methodology is provided in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.2) and summarised in **Section 15.5** and **15.8**. iii) Effects (operational) on Designated Landscapes are assessed in **Section 15.10**. iv) Baseline information including sensitivity is described in **Section 15.6** and **Section 15.10.** v) Seascape effects (operational) are assessed in **Section 15.10.** vi) Landscape effects (operational) are assessed in **Section 15.10.** vii) Visual effects (operational) are assessed in **Section 15.10.** viii) Effects on Special Qualities of designated landscapes (operational) are assessed in (**Section 15.10.** ix) Assessment of effects during construction are assessed in **Section 15.9**. x) Assessment of effects during operation are assessed in (**Section 15.10.**

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
Natural England	*Assessment Summary/NE Conclusion* *SLVIAs (and LVIAs) have a tendency to be complex, highly interconnected and multifaceted documents which reflect the nature of their subject matter. Assessment of effects upon the natural beauty and hence the statutory purpose of designated landscapes only adds to this complexity. NE has reviewed many SLVIAs and LVIAs since the introduction GLVIA3 in 2013 and we now have considerable experience in distilling the aspects of the assessment which pertain to designated landscapes. As SLVIAs/LVIAs address effects in both designated and non-designated landscapes, separating out those elements which apply to designated landscapes alone can, for some schemes, be a complex task. In this instance the PEIR has successfully achieved this task.*	Agreement that the SLVIA successfully separates out effects that apply to designated landscapes is welcomed. Effects on designated landscapes (during operation) are assessed in **Section 15.10** for each of the relevant receptors – SDNP, CHAONB and IoWAONB.
Natural England	*GLVIA 3 provides a pithy reminder of the pitfalls into which with LVIA / SLVIAs can fall (paragraph 3.35 p.41). The 3rd bullet point states 'losing sight of the most glaringly obvious significant effects because of the complexity of the assessment' should be avoided. To assist RWE, Natural England offers the following simple clear and accessible explanation of the issue as we understand it. As described in the PEIR the turbines of the R2 maximum design scenario are too big and located too close to the coastline of the SHC portion of the SDNP. Their sheer size and their lateral spread, combined with the marked contrast in height with the existing Rampion 1 turbines, will be visually incoherent and result in significant cluttering of the seascape setting of the SDNP and dramatically degrade views out to sea from Beachy Head and Birling Gap. For this reason, NE advise that turbines should be excluded from the Rampion Zone 6 area thereby adhering to the Design*	The Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML is located entirely outside the Rampion 2 array area boundary, thereby adhering to the requirement for a Structures Exclusion Zone as set out in the Rampion 1 DML. The proposed Rampion 2 WTGs cannot be entirely excluded from the Rampion Zone 6 area, however the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles which limit the extent of Rampion 2 within the Zone 6 area, reduce its field of view (lateral spread), increase its distance offshore (from the SDNP) and provide separation from Rampion 1, as described

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	Principals and requirement for a Turbine Exclusion Zone as set out in the Rampion 1 DML.	in full in **Section 15.7**.The changes applied to the design of Rampion 2 have reduced the magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development and minimise its harm to the special qualities of the SDNP, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.
Natural England	*The extension of the influence of turbines westwards, through development of the Rampion Extension Area will increase the industrialisation of the seascape setting of the SNDP. Their presence in the seascape setting of the SDNP will further degrade the quality of views out to sea which are already influenced by the turbines of the Rampion 1 array and lead to further loss of natural beauty for which this landscape was designated. The westward expansion will also result in significant effects on the seascape setting of the CHAONB (although this will be limited) and, more extensively, the eastern portions of the IoWAONB at Bembridge Down and St. Boniface Down resulting in further loss of natural beauty for these designations as well. As a consequence of these significant adverse effects on both the SDNP, CHAONB and IoWAONB the Applicant judges that some of the special qualities for these designations will be adversely affected in multiple locations throughout areas. NE agrees with this judgement.*	It is noted that Natural England's comments imply that Rampion 1 has already degraded the quality of the seascape setting and views out to sea from the SDNP, which are already influenced by offshore WTGs. The effects of the westward expansion of Rampion 2 on views from and the perceived special qualities of the CHAONB are assessed in **Section 15.10**. These effects are recognised by Natural England as being limited. The effects of Rampion 2 on views and perceived special qualities of the IoWAONB are assessed in **Section 15.10**. This concludes that the views from the IoWAONB and the perception of its special qualities will not be significantly affected by the Rampion 2. These conclusions are supported by the Isle of Wight Council in

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		their s42 consultation response, set out above in this **Table 15-7**.
Natural England	*NE concludes therefore that the statutory purpose of all three of these designated landscapes will be adversely affected by the R2 scheme. We consider therefore that the key policy tests are the acceptability of further harm to the statutory purpose of the SDNP and special character of the SHC, and the acceptability of the harm to the statutory purpose of the CHAONB and IoWAONB.*	The effects of Rampion 2 on views and perceived special qualities of the IoWAONB are assessed in **Section 15.10** and are found to be not significant. The effects of Rampion 2 on views and perceived special qualities of the CHAONB and SDNP are also assessed in **Section 15.10**. Although there are some significant effects on views and perceived special qualities of these designations, no effects are of such magnitude or significant enough, on their own or cumulatively, to compromise the purposes of designation of the CHAONB or SDNP. These conclusions are set out fully in **Section 15.15**. It is noted that Natural England's opinion is that Rampion 1 has already compromised the statutory purpose of the SDNP. **Section 15.7** sets out how the design of Rampion 2 shows regard to the statutory purpose of these designations with the aim of minimising harm to their special qualities.
SDNPA	*The SDNPA has commissioned White Consultants (April 2021) to consider seascape character sensitivity with regard to views and the character of the seascape. The final report, which has previously*	The proposed Rampion 2 WTGs cannot be entirely excluded from SCZ01 however, the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	been shared with RWE is included in Appendix 3. Based on this detailed analysis, 6 seascape character zones (SCZ) were identified, which were then used to identify the sensitivity to offshore windfarm development. Key findings from this assessment were that the SCZ east of the existing Rampion 1 array was highly sensitive and turbines of any height should not be installed in this area (see fig.1). There was medium sensitivity found in the SCZ west of the existing array and therefore further turbines should not exceed 225m in height.	area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which limit the extent of Rampion 2 within SCZ01, avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 in favour of the area to the south of Rampion 1, which is further offshore at greater distance from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, while also reducing its field of view (lateral spread) and providing separation from Rampion 1, as described in full in **Section 15.7**. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario is a necessary part of the process that is recognised through NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.2.5 - 4.2.6.
SDNPA	*White Consultants, on behalf of the SDNPA have completed a review of the SLVIA included in the PEIR. This is included in full at Appendix 2. The report comprises a review of the SLVIA in terms of approach to seascape character, sensitivity and cumulative effects, a comparison of the seascape character assessment in the SLVIA with*	The review in Appendix 2 has been considered and where justified, comments are reflected in the updated ES methodology (**Section 15.8**), baseline (**Section 15.7**) and assessment and

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	the SCZ established in the April 2021 report and makes recommendations on how the scheme could be improved and effects mitigated.	findings (**Section 15.10** and **15.12**) of this chapter. Recommendations on how the scheme could be improved and effects mitigated have informed the design principles set out in **Section 15.7**. These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and the project design response for Rampion 2 provide embedded environmental measures in respect of the views and special qualities of designated landscapes and reduces the magnitude of effects/minimising harm resulting from the Proposed Development on their perceived special qualities.
SDNPA	*The SDNPA consider the SLVIA has downplayed the impacts of the turbines, in terms of sensitivity, visual effects and significance. As a result of this understatement, it does not sufficiently guide development away from locations which significantly detract from views from the National Park and Heritage Coast to the east, or reduce the size of the turbine proposed. Insufficient regard has been given to the statutory purposes of the Park and the requirement that the applicant must give weight to both its status and setting. This is in part a result of the assessment applying definitions for magnitude that are not based on accepted definitions, nor indeed being in line with those used in the assessment of other windfarm proposals. Although the SLVIA mentions documents which specifically address seascape and offshore wind energy in its references, it does not take*	The SLVIA undertaken within the PEIR did not 'downplay' the impacts of Rampion 2, in terms of sensitivity, visual effects and significance. On the contrary, the significant seascape and visual effects of Rampion 2 were identified in the PEIR, including those on certain perceived qualities of the SDNP. The design of Rampion 2 (described in **Section 15.7**) demonstrates due regard to conserving natural beauty, through good design and embedded environmental measures that address adverse impacts to minimise 'harm' and avoid 'compromising' the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	on board the more detailed and focused approach and context of these documents.	purposes of the SDNP. Magnitude of change definitions in the PEIR assessment were appropriate and consistent with accepted definitions (Landscape Institute, 2013) but have been updated with slight revisions made in this ES assessment methodology (**Section 15.8**) to address comments provided and achieve common ground.
SDNPA	*The SDNPA do not accept that the proposed worst-case scenario being assessed has taken appropriate consideration of the significant effects and taken steps to avoid these through the application boundary and design. Furthermore, despite suggesting the application boundary reflects the consented area for Rampion 1, it continues to include a significant part of the Exclusion Zone identified in the Development Consent Order for the original windfarm. We therefore continue to object to the extent of the application boundary, particularly as it extends to the east of the existing array and believe the maximum design scenario should reduce the height of the turbines to 225m.*	The maximum design scenario being assessed in the ES has taken appropriate consideration to the seascape, landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 and shown due regard to the purposes of the SDNP through the design process. The Rampion 2 array area is now located entirely outside the Rampion 1 structures exclusion zone and has been designed so that it does not extend to the east of the Rampion 1, instead being located entirely to the south and west of the existing array, in order to minimise effects on the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP in particular. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. The need to retain

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design Scenario is a necessary part of the process that is recognised through NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.2.5 - 4.2.6.
SDNPA	*Whilst it is appreciated that the April 2021 study arrived too late to be taken into consideration in the PEIR SLVIA, we request that it is referenced in the final SLVIA in the Environmental Statement.*	The SDNP Offshore Wind Farms Buffer Study (SDNPA/White Consultants, April 2021) (herein 'the SDNP buffer study') is referenced in this Chapter of the ES. Specific points in terms of the approach and methodology for the SLVIA, seascape character/zoning, sensitivity and impact magnitude have been considered and where considered justified, reflected in the updated findings presented in the baseline (**Section 15.7**) and assessments (**Section 15.10** and **15.12**) of this chapter. There is however, some specific issues with the approach to the SDNP buffer study which are addressed under specific comments in this table below, and a fundamental issue with the overall premise of the study. The SDNP buffer study appears to render Rampion 2 and the seascape of Sussex Bay offshore from the SDNP largely unacceptable and as not having capacity for further development, apart from

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		seascape beyond 40km offshore from the SDNP. This approach does not accord with Government targets to increase offshore windfarm capacity, at a time when Government has brought forward targets to reduce GHG emissions. Draft NPS EN-1 (DESNZ, 2023) states that *'Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant new offshore wind infrastructure'* and that *'the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy'*. The fundamental aim of the SDNP buffer study '*to avoid significant adverse effects on high sensitivity receptors'* is potentially flawed, as precedent shows it is not necessary or possible to develop such low impact projects that avoid significant effects, in order to be considered acceptable and consentable in the planning balance, when weighing up all relevant factors e.g. energy targets, government policy etc. The NPS requirement is to have 'due regard' to the statutory purpose of the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		SDNP, which has been had. The design of Rampion 2 (described in **Section 15.7**) demonstrates due regard to conserving natural beauty, through good design and embedded environmental measures that address adverse impacts, minimise 'harm' and avoid 'compromising' the purposes of the SDNP.
SDNPA	*It is disappointing that the scoping boundary still includes the area east of the existing array and references it being in line with the design principles for Rampion 1, which is not the case given the exclusion zone included as part of the previous DCO. Furthermore, the design principles for Rampion 1 were relevant for turbines far smaller than the current proposals.* *Despite there having been a reduction in the application boundary following the scoping opinion, no analysis has been presented on how this amendment would impact the Theoretical Field of View. From the earlier baseline tables these all look to increase significantly from all the VP's within the SDNPA and Heritage Coast. The figures presented in the baseline tables are repeated later – so this suggested there is no reduction from the 'amended' scheme. This does not support the claim that this is being offered as an effective mitigation measure.*	The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which limit the extent of Rampion 2, avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 in favour of the area to the south of Rampion 1, which is further offshore at greater distance from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, while also reducing its field of view (lateral spread) and providing separation from Rampion 1, as described in full in **Section 15.7.** The Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML is now located entirely outside the Rampion 2 array area boundary. As described in full in **Section 15.7**, the design of the Proposed Development provides embedded environmental measures that minimise effects on the special qualities of the SDNP through careful design consideration in terms of scale, size and

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		location, and taking account of stakeholder feedback, relevant policy and guidance.
SDNPA	*There are several references to the 2011 South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment, although we believe this may be a typo as the descriptions reflect 2020 version. However, the assessment has not picked up on the key sensitivities for each character area and therefore further clarification and consideration is required.*	The Landscape Character Assessment presented in the PEIR and **Section 15.6** of this ES reflects the 2020 South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (SDNPA, 2020).
SDNPA	*Paragraph 16.7.19 refers to the 'maximum adverse effects being balanced between receptors east and west'. This suggests that the impact to the West, and on the Isle of Wight AONB specifically, needs to be balanced. This suggests an additional design principle is being applied – this wasn't discussed at the technical working group. Greater weight should be given to the combination of National Park and Heritage Coast designations, as advised in the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment: Review and update of Seascape and Visual Buffer Study for Offshore Windfarms (2020) BEIS/Hartley Anderson. The distance of the array from the IoW AONB is greater – so this seems a spurious justification for balancing out the quantum of development East to West.*	Recommendations on how the Project could be improved and effects mitigated have informed the design principles set out in **Section 15.7**. These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and the project design response for Rampion 2 provides embedded environmental measures in respect of the views and special qualities of the SDNP and reduces the magnitude of effects / minimises harm resulting from the Proposed Development on its perceived special qualities. The qualities and statutory purpose of the SDNP have been given due regard. The impact of Rampion 2 on the perceived character and views from the Isle of Wight has been assessed as not significant (in agreement with the Isle of Wight Council). Embedded design measures for receptors on the Isle

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		of Wight have therefore not been applied. The need to balance significant impacts to the west have been considered in relation to receptors in West Sussex, with the western extent of the array area reduced slightly and a separation zone between Rampion 1 and 2 introduced to allow more distinction between the arrays in views from the west.
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***2. Review of PEIR SLVIA method*** *2.2 The method is 50 pages which is long. One page addresses cumulative effects- this is very* *short and therefore does not seem proportionate.*	The description of the methodology for assessing cumulative seascape, landscape and visual has been expanded in **Appendix 15.2 SLVIA Methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.3. The method relies heavily on GLVIA 3 which has less than half a page dedicated to seascape character assessment (GLVIA 5.6). Though the PEIR SVIA mentions documents which specifically address seascape and offshore wind energy in its references, it does not appear to take on board the more detailed and focused approach and context of these documents. GLVIA 3 states that methods to assess seascape character are being developed and practitioners should refer to the latest available guidance (GLVIA 5.6). For instance, MMO seascape sensitivity guidance, 2020, states that it is relevant to both SVIAs for specific developments and strategic assessments (MMO, 2020, 1.2). As such it refines and considers in more detail and precision the factors which should be considered in determining the sensitivity of any given area. As Rampion 2 is a*	The SLVIA methodology in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology. Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) is considered robust and in line with both GLVIA3 and other seascape and offshore wind energy specific documents referenced in **Section 15.17** and has been tested and found to be robust for other NSIP projects and through recent Examinations. Some of the seascape specific documents referred to provide a guide to undertaking seascape character assessment, but are not necessarily

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	large-scale development set within a seascape this is proportionate to use.	guidance for undertaking impact assessments, for which GLVIA3 is the definitive guidance. The MMO seascape sensitivity guidance (MMO, 2019 [2020]), has been considered and criteria for determining sensitivity (value and susceptibility) have been updated in the SLVIA methodology in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.15.2) to better reflect criteria set out in the MMO seascape sensitivity guidance.
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.4. The iterative assessment and design section (1.3) is stated as aiming to design out significant effects. The maximum development scenario assessed clearly does not achieve this. As the SLVIA understates the effects, it does not sufficiently guide development away from locations which significantly detract from views from the National Park and Heritage Coast to the east, or reduce the size of turbine proposed.*	The design process for Rampion 2 undertaken following PEIR reduces impact magnitude and significance through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed. As described in full in **Section 15.7**, the design of the Proposed Development provides embedded environmental measures that minimise effects on the special qualities of the SDNP through careful design consideration in terms of scale, size and location, and taking account of stakeholder feedback, relevant policy and guidance. Precedent shows it is not necessary or possible to develop such low impact projects that avoid significant EIA effects in

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		order to be considered acceptable and consentable in the planning balance. Due regard to the statutory purpose of the SDNP is being had through the project design process, in order to reduce adverse seascape, landscape and visual effects, their magnitude and geographic extent.
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***Effects on seascape character*** *(Section 1.5)* *2.5. Key factors to be considered in sensitivity- value:* *Various factors mentioned in the assessment in 1.5.11 are mixed together under three headings (designations, quality and experience) which does not aid clarity. This reinforces the need to assess the effect on the seascape zones set out in the SDNPA, 2021 study with a clearer underpinning rationale. For example, the contribution of the seascape to the wider setting of the National Park and Heritage Coast, and to specific relevant special qualities,* *should be taken into account.*	Key factors considered in assessing the value component of sensitivity are set out in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) which are based on those established in guidance (Landscape Institute, 2013). Designations, quality and experience are appropriate as the main criteria, are set out further in **Table 1-2** of **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) and cover the factors affecting value described in MMO seascape sensitivity guidance (MMO, 2019) (Annex C). The SDNP buffer study defines seascape zones based on an applied visual buffer extent from the SDNP and partially relates to defined MCAs, however it does not define seascape character areas – this is stated at para 4.16 *'this is not a character assessment'* and *'areas are defined as seascape zones*

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		to avoid any implication that they are characterised as seascape character areas'. This brings into question whether these seascape zones defined in the SDNP buffer study are an appropriate baseline from which to assess the effects of the Rampion 2. Taking on board SDNPs comments and the SDNP buffer study seascape zones, the approach adopted in the ES assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been to further define a number of seascape character areas (SCAs) that sit within the national level MCAs and the setting of the SDNP, with a more detailed level of assessment undertaken for these SCAs, informed by the findings/sensitivity assessments of the SDNP buffer study. The boundaries of SCAs are however, based on other factors which define such areas e.g. bathymetry and seabed geology as guided by the Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas (MMO, 2014) (rather than visual buffers from the SDNP).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.6. Key factors to be considered in sensitivity- susceptibility: Various factors mentioned in the assessment in 1.5.12-1.5.13 are mix of landscape and seascape which leads to unclear criteria in some cases. For example, the nature of the coastal edge and visual*	Key factors considered in assessing the susceptibility component of sensitivity are set out in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	characteristics such as the presence of key views and intervisibility are not included. The differentiation between coastal and seascape pattern and focii would also be helpful. As above, this reinforces the need to assess the effect on the seascape zones with a clearer underpinning rationale.	(Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) and are considered appropriate, with assessments made clear using evidence and professional judgement. Further seascape specific criteria have been added in order to address comments, including key views and intervisibility; and differentiation between coastal and seascape pattern and foci. As above, taking on board SDNPs comments and the SDNP buffer study seascape zones, the approach adopted in the ES assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been to further define a number of SCAs that sit within the national level MCAs and the setting of the SDNP, with a more detailed level of assessment undertaken for these SCAs, informed by the findings/sensitivity assessments of the SDNP buffer study.
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.7. Table 1-3 sets out the seascape/landscape magnitude of change ratings. It is not clear how 'large scale' and 'medium scale' elements are defined. The intermediate categories are stated as a 'combination of criteria' rather than defined intermediate scales and extent of change which would be more helpful.*	**Table 1-3, Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) has been updated to clearly define the large scale' and 'medium scale' elements and add full definitions for intermediate categories (medium-high and medium-low).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.8. The study just assesses the effects on the national Marine Character Areas e.g. Table 16.25 and 16.30. It does not subdivide or refine these spatially. Different parts of MCA 5 are given different levels of sensitivity or magnitude of change, but this is not shown graphically. This is an imprecise approach. Effects on MCAs remain valid as they apply to all receptors in the study area, but they should be refined.*	The approach adopted in the ES assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been to further define a number of seascape character areas (SCAs) that sit within the national level MCAs and the setting of the SDNP, with a more detailed level of assessment undertaken for these SCAs, informed by the findings/sensitivity assessments of the SDNP buffer study. The boundaries of SCAs are however, based on other factors which define such areas e.g. bathymetry and seabed geology as guided by the Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas (MMO, 2014) (rather than visual buffers from the SDNP).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.9. It is appreciated that the White Consultants, 2021 study was not available to RWE until April 2021. However, it now forms the most detailed and focused study on sensitivity to wind farms with boundaries which reflect the characteristics of the area and the relationship between Rampion 1 and the potential Rampion 2 area with the National Park. As such, the effects of the proposals on zones set out in the SDNPA, 2021 study should be carried out in parallel with the MCA assessment using an improved method based on the comments above. In our view, the sensitivity study zones better reflect the National Policy context of EN-1 and EN-3 in regard to offshore wind turbine development and effect on them should be assessed as part of the tools to avoid or minimise effects on the national designation of the National Park.*	The SDNP buffer study defines seascape zones based on an applied visual buffer extent from the SDNP and partially relates to defined MCAs, however it does not define seascape character areas – this is stated at para 4.16 *'this is not a character assessment'* and *'areas are defined as seascape zones to avoid any implication that they are characterised as seascape character areas'.* This brings into question whether these seascape zones defined in the SDNP buffer study are an appropriate baseline from which to assess the effects

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		of the Rampion 2. Taking on board SDNPs comments and the SDNP buffer study seascape zones, the approach adopted in the ES assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been to further define a number of seascape character areas (SCAs) that sit within the national level MCAs and the setting of the SDNP, with a more detailed level of assessment undertaken for these SCAs, informed by the findings/sensitivity assessments of the SDNP buffer study. The boundaries of SCAs are however, based on other factors which define such areas e.g. bathymetry and seabed geology as guided by the Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas (MMO, 2014) (rather than visual buffers from the SDNP).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***Visual effects*** *(Section 1.6)* *2.10. The visual impact assessment can underpin and contribute to the assessment of impact on seascape character. Therefore it is important that the method and assumptions underpinning this assessment are reasonable. Table 1.5 sets out the definitions for the magnitude of change with examples of that change. It is of concern that there are no clear definitions for medium-high and medium-low magnitudes of change (as for landscape/seascape Appendix 16.2 Table 1-3). Of most concern is the following:*	**Table 1-5, Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) has been updated to clearly add full definitions for intermediate categories (medium-high and medium-low). The magnitude definitions for medium and low are appropriate and consistent with definitions used for numerous assessments of NSIP projects. The example descriptors of visual

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	2.11. The size and scale of medium change is stated as a prominent change to the view, and low change is characterised by a noticeable change. It would be expected that a prominent change to the view would coincide with a medium–high magnitude and a noticeable change would coincide with a medium magnitude of change. The definitions as they stand therefore has a strong potential to underplay visual effects. They do not coincide with accepted definitions used in many SVIAs and included in the SNH University of Newcastle Study (2002) and more recently in the White Consultants OESEA background study (2020) (page 34). Refer to Table 5.2 from Appendix 2 of SDNPA/White Consultants Rampion 2 PEIR Review.	magnitude refer to dominant (high), prominent (medium) and noticeable (low), however the full definition provided refers to high forming the prevailing influence; medium being readily apparent; and low being slightly apparent, which negate any potential for under-assessment. Definitions of visual magnitude are set out in full in **Table 1-5, Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) and have been refined slightly with reference to the guidance and OESEA (2020).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.12 The definitions used in the SLVIA are also not consistent with the definitions used by the same consultant (OPEN) for the recent East Anglia TWO offshore wind farm SLVIA (see extract in Appendix A). Here high magnitude of change is described as the development forming the prevailing influence and introducing substantially uncharacteristic elements into the baseline view, also displaying visual prominence. Medium magnitude of change is described as the project being plainly visible and forming a readily apparent influence introducing elements that are potentially uncharacteristic on the receiving view, resulting in a moderate incremental change. These are reasonable definitions which are broadly in line with guidance unlike the Rampion 2 method, which is therefore likely to understate the level of both visual and seascape effects.*	The definitions of visual magnitude set out in the Rampion 2 PEIR (RED, 2021) and in full in **Table 1-5, Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) are consistent with the definitions used by OPEN for the East Anglia TWO offshore wind farm SLVIA, which have been tested through the Examination for that project.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***Cumulative effects*** *(Section 1.7)* *2.13. The method (1.7.1) cites SNH, 2012 as being relevant guidance for assessing cumulative effects alongside GLVIA 3. It defines cumulative effects as the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together. In order to fully assess the effects on the National Park our view is that both should be undertaken. Rampion 1 is the only other windfarm nearby and is a known, measurable quantity. Rampion 2 directly abuts it and extends it in easterly and westerly directions and so the assessment is straightforward with a clear rationale. The assessment of both would be meaningful as it would explore the extent of effects of the long term but non-permanent renewable energy developments on the National Park.*	Cumulative seascape, landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 with other wind farm projects have been scoped out, as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate (**Table 15-6)**. In accordance with GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) (para 7.13), the existing Rampion 1 offshore wind farm included in the baseline conditions in **Section 15.6** and seascape, landscape and visual effects assessments in **Section 15.10**. The baseline includes the extent to which Rampion 1 have altered character, views and sensitivity to offshore windfarm development. An assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development is undertaken against a baseline that includes Rampion 1 within the main assessment in **Section 15.10**. This approach is described fully in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2)**.**
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.14. It is accepted that the key development to be considered in the cumulative assessment in addition to Rampion 2 is Rampion 1. The key principle about cumulative impact, and which makes it differ from the main SLVIA, is that the existing development is not considered as part of the baseline character. This means that existing and proposed developments can be considered together as part of the cumulative impact assessment. The logic of this is reinforced by the fact that the developments are not permanent, though they are long*	In accordance with GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) (para 7.13), the existing Rampion 1 offshore wind farm included in the baseline conditions in **Section 15.6** and seascape, landscape and visual effects assessments in **Section 15.10**. Rampion 2 is not assessed against a 'wind farm free' scenario in which Rampion 1 is

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	term, and so theoretically the seascape character will revert to one with no wind farms, dependent on changes in technology.	not present, as this does not accord with relevant assessment guidance (Landscape Institute, 2013/NatureScot, 2021).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*2.15. It would therefore be expected that the following assessments will take place:* *• A combined cumulative impact assessment of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 together at least on seascape character and visual receptors and resultant effects on the purposes and special qualities of the National Park. Others may also require effects on landscape character to be assessed. Evidence will include a combined ZTV and consideration of factors like the aesthetic relationship between the size and spacing of turbines of the two developments.* *• A cumulative impact assessment of the additional effect of Rampion 2 as a contribution to the combined cumulative impact of both windfarms. Evidence will include a ZTV showing the additional areas intervisible with Rampion 2 over and above Rampion 1. Consideration of factors like the aesthetic relationship and contrast between the size and spacing of turbines of the two developments will also be needed.*	An assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development is undertaken against a baseline that includes Rampion 1 within the main assessment in **Section 15.10**. This approach is described fully in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2). Rampion 2 is not assessed against a 'wind farm free' scenario in which Rampion 1 is not present, as this does not accord with relevant assessment guidance (Landscape Institute, 2013/NatureScot, 2021).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***Significance*** *(Section 1.8)* *2.16. In Table 1-6 evaluation of seascape, landscape and visual effects, the calibration of where effects may be significant or otherwise, appears to be low. For instance, medium magnitude of change effects on medium–high receptors are stated only as moderate, which may or may not be significant. The SLVIA approach therefore has the potential to underestimate the level and number of significant effects and should be reconsidered. BEIS (2020) sets out*	Moderate levels of effect (indicated in **Table 1-6, Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2)) have the potential, subject to the assessor's professional judgement, to be considered as significant or not significant, depending on the sensitivity and magnitude of change factors evaluated. Some moderate levels

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	significance in Table 5.3 (see below) where high sensitivity is the equivalent of medium/high as the second highest level (page 35). *2.17. Whilst it is appreciated that ultimately a judgement has to be made on the likely effects and related significance, matrices act as a transparent guide and help underpin judgements.*	of effect may be considered significant, while others can be justified as not significant. There is a threshold that hinges around professional judgement, which is applied to the relevant assessments and these assessments are explained for the relevant receptors in the **Section 15.10** where this occurs.
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***Effects on special qualities*** *2.18. It is important for the SLVIA to acknowledge that the special qualities of the National Park including the 'breathtaking views' were described before Rampion 1 was built, and therefore it does not form part of the accepted characteristics or qualities of the National Park.*	The special qualities of the SDNP are defined in the SDNP Special Qualities document (undefined publication date), however they are also referred to in the South Downs Local Development Plan, adopted in July 2019 after Rampion 1 became operational. Rampion 1 is an existing feature in the seascape setting of the SDNP and it would not be accurate to say that is does not form part of its baseline characteristics, which would be to deny its presence in the baseline. The site specific surveys and assessment undertaken in the SLVIA for Rampion 2 (**Section 15.6** and **15.10**) have confirmed that the special qualities of the SDNP including the 'breathtaking views' still occur in the baseline, albeit with the presence of Rampion 1 in the seascape setting of these views.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***3. Effects on seascape character*** *3.1. The structure of the impact assessment on seascape character is structured in false divisions which do not allow full expression of the effect on the National Park and associated seascape character. In the section on the National Park only MCA 08 is considered as the 'associative setting' (16.15.8). However, the spread of effect is much larger, as demonstrated by the SDNPA, 2021 study. The MCA 07 description notes the relationship with the National Park/Heritage Coast to the east and as such this should be considered in the seascape effects on the National Park. The National Park also has a strong relationship with MCA 13 and would undergo effects from development within this area and should be considered. MCA 07 also has a relationship as demonstrated by the numerous viewpoints from the downs to the north and west. All these MCAs should be considered as part of the SDNP effects section. This also flags up the need to consider the effects of the development on the seascape zones in the SDNPA, 2021 study which are helpful in expressing different levels of sensitivity in relation to the National Park. This information can then feed into the discussion of effects on the purposes and special qualities of the National Park.*	The structure of the assessment of effects on seascape character has been revised to be considered holistically beyond the geographic regions used to structure the rest of the impact assessment in **Section 15.10**. MCA 08 is considered to form the main 'associative setting' of the SDNP, where marine influences are greatest (see Figure 3.4 of the South Downs Local Development Plan (SDNP, July 2019), however it is noted that MCA 07 has a relationship with the SDNP, as assessed in **Section 15.10**. MCA 13 is also assessed in **Section 15.10.** The assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been refined to take on board comments on the approach and the SDNP buffer study seascape zones, using an updated method (**Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2)) based on the comments provided (see 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9 above).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*3.2. It is important to note, as the SDNPA, 2021 report states, that, in designating the area, the Inspector left the maritime boundary of the National Park open. In our view the SDNPA, 2021 report seascape zone boundaries (especially SCZ01) better reflect this sentiment in considering wind turbine development than the boundaries of MCA 08 (which do not reflect static features on the sea surface or the*	MCA 08 is a valid seascape receptor and is assessed in **Section 15.10**. The assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been refined to take on board comments on the approach and the SDNP buffer study seascape zones,

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	boundaries of likely visibility of structures). Nevertheless it is recognised MCA 08 is a valid receptor to consider as part of the Marine Plan evidence base.	using an updated method (**Table 1-5, Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2)) based on the comments provided (see 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9 above).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*3.3. The assessment of effects on the following seascape character zones should be undertaken: SCZ01, SCZ02, SCZ04, SCZ05, SCZ06.* *3.4. The consideration of the SLVIA findings and a preliminary assessment of the effects on the seascape zones derived from the SDNPA, 2021 study are set out in the following pages. For reference, the MCAs assessed within the SLVIA and the seascape zones in the SDNPA, 2021 study are copied into this report overleaf. Refer to table setting out SDNPA/White Consultants comments on sensitivity and magnitude of each seascape receptor against PEIR assessment*	The assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been refined to take on board comments on the approach and the SDNP buffer study seascape zones, using an updated method (**Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2)) based on the comments provided (see 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9 above).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***4. Recommendations on assessments and advice on scheme improvements*** ***Recommendations on assessments*** *4.1. We recommend that the definitions, calibration and factors included in the seascape character* *and visual effects assessments should be amended in line with the above comments.*	Refinements of certain definitions, calibration and factors included in the seascape character and visual effects assessments has been amended in line with the comments provided where justified and are reflected in the updated sections of the ES chapter in **Section 15.6** (Baseline conditions), **Section 15.8** (Methodology for ES assessment) and **Section 15.10** (Assessment of O&M effects).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*4.2. We recommend that a separate assessment on the effects of the proposals on the SDNPA, 2021 seascape zones should be carried out to complement the MCA effects and contribute to the evidence base considering the effects on the SPNP purpose and special qualities.*	The assessment of seascape effects presented in **Section 15.10** has been refined to take on board comments on the approach and the SDNP buffer study seascape zones, using an updated method (**Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2)) based on the comments provided (see 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9 above).
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***Advice on scheme improvements*** *4.3. It is stated that the SVIA is part of an iterative EIA process which aims to design out significant effects including avoidance and design (Appendix 16.2 1.3). Is clear that the worst-case scenario being assessed does not reflect this approach.*	The design process undertaken following PEIR reduces and minimises impact magnitude and significance through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and number of WTGs proposed. As described in full in **Section 15.7**, the design of the Proposed Development provides embedded environmental measures that minimise effects on the special qualities of the SDNP through careful design consideration in terms of scale, size and location, and taking account of stakeholder feedback, relevant policy and guidance. Precedent shows it is not necessary or possible to develop such low impact projects that avoid significant EIA effects in order to be considered acceptable and consentable in the planning balance. Due

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		regard to the statutory purpose of the SDNP is being had through the project design process, in order to reduce adverse seascape, landscape and visual effects, their magnitude and geographic extent.
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	*4.4 The SDNPA, 2021 study summarises the findings on seascape zones in Section 5 and these are still highly relevant as they considered turbines within the PEIR scoping area. It is acknowledged that the worst-case scenario extent to the east has now been reduced slightly.* *4.5. Taking into account the PEIR including its visualisations with this response and the SDNPA, 2021 findings for each SCZ, it is recommended that development should only occur within the Extension Area west of Rampion 1 and that turbines should not exceed 225m to blade tip in height ie the smaller 210m turbine scenario would be most appropriate (see SDNPA, 2021). In addition, it is recommended that there is clear separation between Rampion 1 and 2 to* *minimise the horizontal extent of arrays east to west along the horizon and the turbine layout is designed in coherent blocks. It is considered that the full north to south extent of the extension area should be utilised to maximise the size of east/west gaps between the arrays.*	The proposed Rampion 2 WTGs cannot be entirely excluded from SCZ01 however, the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7)** which limit the extent of Rampion 2 within SCZ01, avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 in favour of the area to the south of Rampion 1, which is further offshore at greater distance from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, while also reducing its field of view (lateral spread) and providing separation from Rampion 1, as described in full in **Section 15.7**.Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. The need to retain flexibility of WTG numbers, size and location within the Rampion 2 array area through the planning stages and assessment of a Maximum Design

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		Scenario is a necessary part of the process that is recognised through NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.2.5 - 4.2.6.
SDNPA (Appendix 16.2)	***Appendix 3*** *South Downs National Park Offshore Windfarms Buffer Study*	The SDNP Offshore Wind Farms Buffer Study (SDNPA/White Consultants, April 2021) (herein 'the SDNP buffer study') is referenced in this Chapter. Specific points in terms of the approach and methodology for the SLVIA, seascape character/zoning, sensitivity and impact magnitude have been considered and where considered justified, reflected in the updated findings presented in the baseline (**Section 15.7**) and assessments (**Section 15.10** and **15.12**) of this chapter. There are however, some specific issues with the approach to the SDNP buffer study which are addressed under specific comments in this table below, and a fundamental issue with the overall premise of the study. The SDNP buffer study appears to render Rampion 2 and the seascape of Sussex Bay offshore from the SDNP largely unacceptable and as not having capacity for further development, apart from seascape beyond 40km offshore from the SDNP. This approach does not accord with Government targets to increase offshore windfarm capacity, at a time when

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		Government has brought forward targets to reduce GHG emissions and a target from the British Energy Security Strategy for 50GW of offshore wind by 2030. The fundamental aim of the report '*to avoid significant adverse effects on high sensitivity receptors'* is potentially flawed, as precedent shows it is not necessary or possible to develop such low impact projects that avoid significant effects, in order to be considered acceptable and consentable in the planning balance, when weighting up all relevant factors e.g. energy targets, government policy etc. The NPS requirement is to have 'due regard' to the statutory purpose of the SDNP, which has been had. The design of Rampion 2 (described in **Section 15.7**) demonstrates due regard to conserving natural beauty, through good design and embedded environmental measures that address adverse impacts, minimise 'harm' and avoid 'compromising' the purposes of the SDNP.
The National Trust	*The National Trust owns and manages extensive land holdings on the South Downs and in the surrounding area. Between Selsey Bill and Beachy Head we care for a number of properties including Highdown Hill, Cissbury Ring, Fulking Escarpment, Shoreham Gap, Southwick Hill, Devil's Dyke, Wolstonbury Hill, Black Cap, Ditchling*	The effects of Rampion 2 on National Trust land holdings on the South Downs and in the surrounding area is assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). Specifically, representative viewpoints have been

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	Beacon, Frog Firle Farm, Chyngton Farm and Exceat, Crowlink and Birling Gap. In addition, the Trust holds covenants over the potential landfall site to the west of Littlehampton at Bailiffscourt Estate and Climping.	agreed, sited and assessed at representative viewpoints at Highdown Hill, Cissbury Ring, Devil's Dyke, Wolstonbury Hill, Ditchling Beacon and Birling Gap, and photomontages visualisations provided in the ES from these locations.
The National Trust	*These sites are of very significant cultural, landscape, biodiversity and amenity value, many within the South Downs National Park (SDNP) contributing to the special qualities of the SDNP with almost all having sweeping views southwards across the coastal plain and out to sea. The majority of the properties at the eastern end of the SDNP also lie within the Sussex Heritage Coast designation. The setting of these assets is 'boundless' and not an area defined on a map; the core issue is the impact on the significance of the assets in question. Greater significance is given to the Heritage Coast impacts and individual designated assets where the cultural value is more significant.*	The effects of Rampion 2 on views from National Trust sites within the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast with southwards views across the coastal plain and out to sea are assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects), as are effects on the special qualities of the SDNP, including its 'breathtaking views'.
The National Trust	*There is no reference in the LVIA to Historic Seascape Characterisation – see link – which ought to be referenced and may add a useful dimension to the LVIA. https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/hschast_eh_2011/downloads.cfm*	Historic Seascape Characterisation is undertaken as part of **Chapter 16 Marine Archaeology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.16).
The National Trust	*The Trust also owns and manages land on the eastern side of the Isle of Wight at Bembridge Down, Culver Down and Ventnor and Luccombe Downs. There are potential seascape effects indicated from these areas and they all lie within the Isle of Wight AONB.*	The effects of Rampion 2 on National Trust land holdings on the eastern side of the Isle of Wight are assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). Specifically,

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		representative viewpoints have been agreed, sited and assessed at representative viewpoints at Bembridge Down and Ventnor Down.
The National Trust	*With reference to representations made in regard to the 2012 DCO for the existing (built) Rampion offshore wind farm, that development was assessed as having major impacts on the seascape and landscape with particular reference to the SDNP, and the Sussex Heritage Coast. In response to these comments, and those of Natural England, the DCO for Rampion 1 was altered to include a 'structures exclusion zone.' Unfortunately, no maps of the excluded area are available on the Planning Inspectorate website but the following paragraphs are quoted from the Examining Authority's Report of Findings and Conclusions.* *See paragraphs quoted in the National Trust s42 consultation submission.*	The Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML is located entirely outside the Rampion 2 array area boundary, thereby adhering to the requirement for a Structures Exclusion Zone as set out in the Rampion 1 DML.
The National Trust	*The important elements here are the definition of remote as over 20km, and the structures exclusion zone. These are both benchmarks for the assessment of the likely impacts of the newly proposed extension to the existing Rampion wind farm, which has similar and greater impacts on the same area's sensitive locations and receptors as the existing wind farm. This is because the proposals extend the area of the windfarm both east and west, with particular issues for the Heritage Coast as well as increasing the height and impact of the turbines on the setting and landscape / seascape, this 20km zone of 'remoteness' is affected by and altered by the proposed development.*	The Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML is located entirely outside the Rampion 2 array area boundary, thereby adhering to the requirement for a Structures Exclusion Zone as set out in the Rampion 1 DML. The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which limit the eastern extent of Rampion 2, avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 in favour of the area to the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		south of Rampion 1, which is further offshore at greater distance from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, while also reducing its field of view (lateral spread) and providing separation from Rampion 1, as described in full in **Section 15.7**. The boundary of the Rampion 2 array area is now located 19.7 km from closest point of the Sussex Heritage Coast. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors.
The National Trust	*In landscape sensitivity terms it has been accepted under Rampion 1 that the whole of the area within the South Downs National Park has a very high sensitivity to change and visual impacts. This in principle assessment of the level of likely impacts has been applied throughout. Impacts on National Trust sites have been re-assessed in light of a greater and potentially more proximate impact and hence a larger zone of remoteness, within the context of its very high sensitivity. Impacts on specific viewpoints are discussed below.*	The effects of Rampion 2 on the special qualities and views from the SDNP, including the Sussex Heritage Coast area, is assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). Very high levels of sensitivity are not defined in the SLVIA methodology for sensitivity, which is recorded on a scale of high, medium and low. The SDNP is, as a whole, assessed to be of high value, recognised through its designation as a National Park and its inherent sensitivity is high, however there is some variation in the susceptibility of the different landscape character areas and views/visual receptors within the SDNP to the specific nature of

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		changes, since the assessment of susceptibility to change is tailored to the changes associated with the specific nature of the Proposed Development.
The National Trust	***Birling Gap** is a major National Trust attraction drawing 650,000 visitors a year. Situated to the west of Beachy Head within the Sussex Heritage Coast the site holds wide coastal views from the Beachy Head Cliffs westwards toward Seven Sisters and past Seaford Head, including wide and far-reaching panoramas. The existing Rampion wind farm is clearly visible even on an overcast day, and both the closer proximity of the proposed turbines and the increase in height and extent, will significantly increase the impact on this site. This has consequently greater impacts on the cultural value and experience of the Heritage Coast. Areas of the Birling Gap estate held by the National Trust are within 20km of the proposed area, and Birling Gap itself is on the very edge of the proposed area. The greater height and concentration of the turbines will make them more immediate in the seascape with a greater intrusion into people's experience and enjoyment of this undeveloped coast location. The impact in this is considered to be Increasing and Severe.*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the view from Birling Gap is assessed in full at Viewpoint 2: Birling Gap in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4), summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisation in **Figure 15.27, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The terms 'increasing' and 'severe' used by the National Trust are not terms that are typically used in EIA nor the SLVIA methodology set out in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2), which uses accepted terminology on a scale of high, medium, low, negligible magnitude and major, moderate, minor, negligible effect as shown in the matrix in **Table 15-28**.
The National Trust	*As this location (Birling Gap) was protected under Rampion 1 by the structures exclusion zone, it is queried why the proposed development would seek to intrude on this already protected area, and re-introduce the impacts considered unacceptable in the*	The Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML is located entirely outside the Rampion 2 array area boundary, thereby adhering to the requirement for a

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	Rampion 1 decision. The proposals would actually increase the level of harm and intrusion on the Heritage Coast over and above that ruled out under Rampion 1. No justification for re-introducing and exacerbating this harm has been put forward and the National Trust would seek such an explanation and justification at the Examination Stage.	Structures Exclusion Zone as set out in the Rampion 1 DML. The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) that provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP. The eastern extent of Rampion 2 has been reduced, avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 in favour of the area to the south of Rampion 1, which is further offshore at greater distance from Birling Gap (28.8km), while also reducing its field of view (lateral spread) and providing separation from Rampion 1, as described in full in **Section 15.7.**
The National Trust	***Cuckmere Haven and Seaford Head**. The same issues detailed for Birling Gap, apply to the viewpoints at Cuckmere Haven and Seaford Head. The Cuckmere Haven site in National Trust ownership does not have as wide ranging views westwards, but the same increase in impact and experience of the Heritage Coast apply. From Seaford Head the existing turbines are substantially more visible and immediate in the seascape than at Birling Gap, appearing much larger in the view. The proposed turbines are within 19km of the Cuckmere Haven and the proposed increase in turbine height and*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the view from Cuckmere Haven and Seaford Head are assessed in full at Viewpoint 4: Seaford Head and Viewpoint 28: Cuckmere Haven in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4), summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.29** and **Figure**

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	extent will only increase this impact further. The impact in this location is considered to be Increasing and Moderate-Major.	**15.51, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP, including Seaford Head and Cuckmere Haven.
The National Trust	***Ditchling Beacon** is situated on the scarp slope of the Downs with extensive panoramic views inland and far reaching views south across the Downs and out to sea and is one of the highest points on the South Downs. This is one of a number of "honey pot" sites of national significance within the SDNP. Ditchling Beacon attracts about 250,000 visitors a year and as with the coastal sites it is the view that people come to see. While the main views are looking inland the site does enjoy extensive seaward views, as far east as the Seven Sisters and the turbines are seen in the context of looking across the interior downland landscape. The breadth of the view is significant from the OS Trig viewpoint location and the proposed extension will significantly broaden the extent and impact of the turbines in this view, mainly to the west. The increase in turbine size will bring the views of them forward in the seascape decreasing their remoteness, increasing the impacts on the views from the Beacon. From this location the geometric layout of the turbines becomes a factor, where the rows of the existing turbines line up in fixed arrays*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the view from Ditchling Beacon is assessed in full at Viewpoint 51: Ditchling Beacon in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4) summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.64, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	creating perspective rows or arrays in the view leading out into the channel. Such a fixed and geometric layout introduces an alien element into the seascape, and any intensification of this effect from the new turbines would create a more severe impact. The turbines are approximately 24km in distant from the Beacon where the additional height and scale of the turbines may make them more immediate and less remote than the previously assessed 20km. The impact in this location is considered to be Increasing and Moderate-Major.	SDNP, including Ditchling Beacon, which is now located 27.8km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 array area. Design principles that have shaped the Rampion 2 design have been developed and applied in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		apparent turbine size, insofar as possible.
The National Trust	***Devils Dyke** is situated on the scarp slope of the Downs with extensive panoramic views inland and far reaching views south across the Downs and out to sea, and is one of the highest points on the Downs. The site is very popular as a destination for Brighton residents and hikers along the South Downs Way and attracts over 800,000 visitors a year. There are extensive views southwards with wide seascape panoramic sight lines, seen in the context of the built form of the Brighton – Hove settlements below. The wide seascape views provide relief and a natural expanse which counters the intrusion of the built form into the more natural downland landscape. The current turbines are clearly visible even in poor visibility and heavy cloud cover. The increase in turbine height and extent will bring the views of them forward in the seascape decreasing their remoteness, increasing the impacts on the views from the Dyke. The turbines are within approximately 19 km distance of the Dyke bringing them within the current zone of remoteness, increasing the impact of them on this cultural landscape feature. As with Ditchling Beacon there is concern regarding the geometric layout of the turbines becoming a factor, where the rows of the existing turbines line up in fixed arrays creating perspective rows or arrays in the view leading out into the channel. Such a fixed and geometric layout introduces an alien element into the seascape, and any intensification of this effect from the new turbines would create a more severe impact. The impact in this location is considered to be Increasing and Moderate-Major.*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the view from Devil's Dyke is assessed in full at Viewpoint 17: Devil's Dyke in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4), summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.42, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the SDNP, including Devil's Dyke, which is now located 24.4km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 array area. Design principles that have shaped the Rampion 2 design have been developed and applied in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible.
The National Trust	***Cissbury Ring*** *is the largest hill fort in Sussex and the second largest in England is an iconic nationally significant scheduled hill fort – part of its significance is the setting. The site has the most expansive and wide panoramic views of the National Trust viewpoints with particularly fine and long reaching views out to sea giving extensive long range views both east and westwards as far as the Isle of Wight. The current turbines sit squarely in the view, and the proposed increase in height and width of the full installation will*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the view from Cissbury Ring is assessed in full at Viewpoint 18: Cissbury Ring in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4), summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.43, Volume 3**

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	create a dominant element in the view. The main views south from Cissbury overlooks a natural gap in development and is largely natural and undeveloped increasing the sense of remoteness and naturalness of the wide seascape views. Additionally the elevation at Cissbury increases the sense and impact of the turbines in the view, drawing them closer and making them more distinct in the view. The enlarged turbines will be very prominent and exaggerated by this elevation. The width of the new array will also dominate the wide vista and significantly detract from the naturalness and remoteness of this very significant site. The turbines are within 19 km of Cissbury Ring bringing them within the current zone of remoteness, increasing the impact of them on this cultural landscape feature and increasing the impact on the Ring substantially. From this location the geometric layout of the turbines becomes a factor, where the rows of the existing turbines line up in fixed arrays creating perspective rows or arrays in the view leading out into the channel. Such a fixed and geometric layout introduces an alien element into the seascape, and any intensification of this effect from the new turbines would create a more severe impact. The impact in this location is considered to be unacceptable, rising to a Significantly Increasing impact and Severely detracting to this site.	of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the SDNP, including Cissbury Ring, which is now located 19.5km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 array area. Design principles that have shaped the Rampion 2 design have been developed and applied in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible. The terms 'increasing' and 'severe' used by the National Trust are not terms that are typically used in EIA nor the SLVIA methodology set out in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2) which uses accepted terminology on a scale of high, medium, low, negligible magnitude and major, moderate, minor, negligible effect as shown in the matrix in **Table 15-28**.
The National Trust	***Highdown Hill*** *is an erratic outlier of the South Downs overlooking the coastal plain to the south. The site is a hill fort and major open space serving the nearby residential areas of Angmering, Goring and Ferring. It is an open access site partly owned and managed Worthing BC. Like Cissbury, Devil's Dyke and Ditchling this is another hill fort site and the views from all the hill forts along the Downs will be dominated by the wind turbines with the potential to create a cumulative impact on the whole area. The seascape view is*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the view from Highdown Hill is assessed in full at Viewpoint 19: Highdown Hill in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4), summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.44, Volume 3**

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	seen in the context of the built form of the Goring – Littlehampton settlements and the wide seascape views provide relief and a natural expanse which counters the intrusion of the built form into the more natural downland landscape. The existing turbines are reasonably remote from the viewpoint, but the width of the view will be contracted by the proposed increase in height/extent and number, detracting from the panoramic quality of the views. There is also concern regarding the geometric layout and rows of the existing turbines line up in fixed arrays creating perspective arrays leading out into the channel. This geometric layout introduces an alien element into the seascape, and any intensification of this effect from the new turbines would create a more severe impact. The proposals bring the turbines to within 16.4km of Highdown Hill significantly increasing the intimacy of them within the seascape and breaching the zone of remoteness. The impact in this location is considered to be Increasing and Moderate.	of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the SDNP, including Highdown Hill, which is now located 16.7km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 array area. Design principles that have shaped the Rampion 2 design have been developed and applied in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. • 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays,

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible.
The National Trust	*The National Trust also has extensive landholding on the Isle of Wight and two of the viewpoints selected for the SLVIA are located on Trust land. These are both on the eastern side of the Isle of Wight and the Trust accepts that there will be no visible impact on land within its control on the western side of the Island. The viewpoint at St Boniface Down, Ventnor sits at a high point on the downland which lies behind Ventnor to the south and Luccombe to the east. The viewpoint at Bembridge Down lies on a downland ridge that projects eastwards between the settlements of Bembridge and Sandown/Shanklin. The Trust accepts the assessment made of the residual effect of the Rampion 2 windfarm on these viewpoints as set out in Table 16-41 of the SLVIA.*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the views from Bembridge Down and Ventnor Down/St Boniface Down is assessed in full at Viewpoint 34: Bembridge Down and Viewpoint 35: St. Boniface Down in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4), summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.57** and **Figure 15.58, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).
The National Trust	*A plan showing the 20km buffers around the selected National Trust viewpoint locations is appended showing the extent of the zone of remoteness set at 20km. This clearly illustrates the level of additional impact the extended area of the consent border will have on these viewpoints. Note: that this 20km buffer is set to the standard applied for the existing Rampion 1 turbines and does not account for the greater height and extent of the proposed Rampion 2 extension.*	The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and now avoids the area to the east of Rampion 1, in favour of the area to the south of Rampion 1, which is located further offshore at greater distance from the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast. The Rampion 2

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		array area boundary is now located over 20km from all of the identified National Trust land holdings, with the exception of Cissbury Ring (19.5km) and Highdown Hill (16.7km).
The National Trust	*It remains our overall conclusion at this stage that the eastern reach (structures exclusion zone) area of search will have major and significant impacts on landscape and seascape, especially on the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast, and thus that the balance of the extension should lie to the west of the existing development. The area proposed within the eastern extension is currently protected by the structure's exclusion zone under the Rampion 1 Examiners' Report and the Trust would question what the justification is provided for breaching this provision.*	The Exclusion Zone of the Rampion 1 DML is located entirely outside the Rampion 2 array area boundary, thereby adhering to the requirement for a Structures Exclusion Zone as set out in the Rampion 1 DML. The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP. The eastern extent of Rampion 2 has been reduced, avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 in favour of the area to the south of Rampion 1, which is further offshore at greater distance, while also reducing its field of view (lateral spread) and providing separation from Rampion 1, as described in full in **Section 15.7.**

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
The National Trust	*In addition, the views from Ditchling Beacon and Devils Dyke will be majorly affected by the proposals and have major impacts on the quality of and experience of these cultural and heritage assets in addition to their special qualities within the South Downs National Park.*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the views from Devil's Dyke and Ditchling Beacon are assessed in full at Viewpoint 17: Devil's Dyke and Viewpoint 51: Ditchling Beacon in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4) summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.42** and **Figure 15.51, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).
The National Trust	*Most significantly the views from and impacts on Cissbury Ring are considered to be severe and of great significance. This and the whole of the area within the National Park have a very high sensitivity to change and visual impacts.*	The effect of Rampion 2 on the view from Cissbury Ring is assessed in full at Viewpoint 18: Cissbury Ring in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4), summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and shown in the photomontage visualisations in **Figure 15.43, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).
The National Trust	*The zone of remoteness established by Rampion 1 is greatly compromised by the current proposals. The additional scale and extent of the proposed turbines increases the impact on the zone of remoteness effectively decreasing their remoteness by bringing the turbines closer into the view. The zone of remoteness buffer should be reassessed to establish what the zone of remoteness for the greater scale turbines should be.*	The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and now avoids the area to the east of Rampion 1, in favour of the area to the south of Rampion 1, which is located further offshore at greater distance from the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast. The Rampion 2

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		array area boundary is now located over 20km from all of the identified National Trust land holdings, with the exception of Cissbury Ring (19.5km) and Highdown Hill (16.7km).
The National Trust	*Whilst we accept that the context of views from the South Downs is often subject to urban influence this does not necessarily mean that the impact of the turbines is lessened as a result. The wind farm can only increase the sense of development and reduce the wilder and more natural outlook from these very sensitive viewpoints. The principle should always be to enhance landscape setting and mitigate harm, not increase harm where it already exists. The Heritage Coast is the exception which serves to highlight its great relative importance and value. The relatively rural nature of the area around Beachy Head and the presence of the South Downs Way mean that the large numbers of people wishing to perceive a 'wild' part of the countryside will be impacted by the Rampion 2 proposals and this principle of protected settings for people to enjoy and experience nature, wildness and tranquillity has been brought into focus by the experience of the pandemic and peoples need for wellbeing outdoors.*	The effects of Rampion 2 on views from National Trust sites within the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast with southwards views across the coastal plain and out to sea is assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects), as are effects on the special qualities of the SDNP (including its 'breathtaking views'). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*In summary, although it is considered that Rampion 2 should be supported in principle, there are a number of matters of significant concern that need to be satisfactorily addressed by RED, including: the methodology for the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA), specifically viewpoint locations; the size and layout of the offshore wind turbines (in order to reduce impacts on views out to sea); final selection of the location of the project*	The methodology for the SLVIA is set out in full in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2). Some refinements have been made in line with comments received where justified. Additional viewpoint locations within West

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	substation; final selection for the cable route and the micrositing of the cable route within the cable corridor; further understanding of the impacts of crossings along the cable corridor and reinstatement proposals; the impacts on onshore and offshore ecological receptors and the need for ecological enhancement (including Biodiversity Net Gain); and the socioeconomic benefits to West Sussex and impacts on tourism.	Sussex have been agreed in consultation with WSCC and are assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived seascape qualities and views. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors. Details of the selection and micrositing of the cable route are provided in the Onshore ES (**Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3)). Impacts of crossings along the cable corridor and reinstatement proposals are provided in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). Impacts on onshore and offshore ecological receptors are assessed in **Chapter 8: Fish and Shellfish Ecology, Chapter 9: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology, Chapter 10: Commercial Fisheries, Chapter 11:**

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		Marine Mammals and **Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.8, 6.2.9, 6.2.10, 6.2.11, 6.2.12 respectively). The socioeconomic benefits to West Sussex and impacts on tourism are assessed in **Chapter 18: Socioeconomics, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*RED has identified that the offshore infrastructure associated with Rampion 2 could have potentially significant adverse impacts on the seascape, coastal landscapes, and people who live, work and visit West Sussex. The onshore infrastructure at the substation site also has the potential to negatively impact on a number of environmentally sensitive areas and features and on residential amenity during the lifetime of the project. However, it is acknowledged that a worst-case has been presented by RED and that any adverse impacts need to be balanced against the benefits of the scheme.*	The effects of Rampion 2 on the seascape, coastal landscapes, and views experienced by people who live, work and visit West Sussex is assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). The basis for the ES assessment MDS assessed in the SLVIA is described in **Section 15.7**. The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived seascape qualities and views.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Therefore, although the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm is supported in principle by the County Council, there are number of matters of significant concern that need to be satisfactorily addressed by RED; these include:*	The methodology for the SLVIA is set out in full in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.2). Some

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	• *the methodology for the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA), specifically viewpoint locations* • *the size and layout of the offshore wind turbines, in order to reduce impacts on views out to sea*	refinements have been made in line with comments received where justified. Additional viewpoint locations within West Sussex have been agreed in consultation with WSCC and are assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived seascape qualities and views. Opportunities to reduce effects through turbine height reduction are limited due to the technical and economic requirements associated with producing renewable energy as well as other environmental factors.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	***Offshore*** *In general terms, the assessment is detailed and provides useful information to enable the consideration of impacts on SLVIA aspects. A worst-case scenario has rightly been presented (reflecting the current position of the design and understanding of baseline conditions) and the methodology is largely clear, considering the full range of key matters that would be expected. Although it is recognised that matters of professional judgement are involved, in some cases it is considered that these may have been downplayed, specifically with regards to 'receptors' (that is, a*	General agreement is noted regarding the assessment detail, method, information and impacts assessed in the PEIR. While noting that there are some differences in professional judgement of specific receptor assessments, there is agreement on the concluding findings of the PEIR assessment. The updated assessment of effects of Rampion 2 on seascape, coastal landscapes and views experienced by

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	physical feature or area that would be directly or indirectly affected) along the West Sussex coastline. The County Council notes and agrees with the concluding findings of the assessment, that is, that the proposed development would have some significant seascape, landscape, and visual effects. Therefore, it has concerns about the scale of likely impacts of Rampion 2 in addition to, and in combination with, the currently operating Rampion 1 Offshore Wind Farm.	people (receptors) in West Sussex are assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude (scale) of effects and minimising harm on the perceived seascape qualities and views.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*The assessment largely includes comments made by County Council officers during technical discussions. However, there are several matters, particularly those relating to impacts on 'visual receptors' (that is, groups of people who are likely to be affected), that would benefit from further consideration.* *The documentation suggests in several places that viewpoint locations have all been agreed. Although there has been general consensus on the viewpoints that have been provided, officers have consistently asked for additional viewpoints to be considered, in particular at key populated areas along the coastline and within the coastal plain where the assessment clearly show views are likely to be visible. Although RED sent a follow-up method statement after formal consultation, which indicates the outstanding concerns around viewpoints have been understood, dialogue on these matters needs to continue in the coming months.*	Further dialogue on viewpoint locations in West Sussex was had through ETG meetings and written comments from WSCC (28 April 2021 and 26 July 2021). Comments on additional viewpoint locations, photomontages and night-time views from West Sussex have been addressed with further viewpoint photography undertaken in summer 2021 and these additional viewpoints from West Sussex included in the ES, as agreed in consultations with WSCC, as follows: 40. Climping Beach (**Figure 15.59, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) A. East Wittering (**Figure 15.73, Volume 3**)

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		B1. Chichester Harbour AONB (Chichester Marina) (**Figure 15.74, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))) B2. Chichester Harbour AONB (Dell Quay) (**Figure 15.75, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) C. Eastergate (Proposed A29) (**Figure 15.76, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) D. Footbath between A259 and Colworth (**Figure 15.77, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) E. Ferring Gap (**Figure 15.78, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) F. Lancing Beach (**Figure 15.79, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) Night-time views: 10. Worthing seafront (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) 13. Pagham Harbour (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) 21. Bignor Hill (**Figure 15.46, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*The provided photomontages are useful tools that aid in the assessment of visual effects. They clearly show the significance of impacts likely to be experienced by receptors in West Sussex, in particular, the impacts that would result from the lengthy westerly*	Photomontages of Rampion 2 are provided in **Figures 15.26 to 15.92, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	extension, which would significantly extend the field of view over which impacts on seascape would be experienced.	The western extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced slightly since PEIR, at the corner of the north-western extent of the array area (nearest Selsey Bill), with a corresponding slight reduction in the lateral spread/HFoV occupied by Rampion 2 WTGs in views from West Sussex. The effects of Rampion 2 on views experienced from West Sussex derives primarily from the scale and western spread of WTGs in the field of view and is assessed from representative viewpoints in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Although a worst-case has been presented, consideration should be given to an offshore layout that has an overall potential for lesser impacts. A commitment should be made by RED to a break in the lateral spread of turbines to reduce the proliferation of visual impacts upon the horizon should be made. Although the PEIR states that there cannot be "perceptible separation distances between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2", the County Council would query why this is the case.*	**Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors. SLVIA topic specific design principles are described, which set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the aim of reducing the magnitude and geographic extent of effects of the Proposed Development, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. The project design responds to combined principles developed in consultation with

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		stakeholders, as explained fully in **Section 15.7** and includes a windfarm separation zone between Rampion 1 and 2 to provide a break in the lateral spread of WTGs on the horizon.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Therefore, the County Council wishes RED to consider developing the SLVIA methodology to include more detailed assessment of effects upon the receptors of West Sussex. Also, RED should continue to work with stakeholders to further develop commitments to the layout of turbines to reduce the significant visual impacts as presented in the assessment. Key areas for consideration are:* • *to agree and identify the remaining viewpoints not considered as part of the PEIR* • *to review the quality and number of photomontages, to provide clarity on potential views from identified points* • *to give greater consideration to night-time views from highly populated coastal areas, where sensitive visual receptors are located and many of which benefit from a dark horizon in seaward views* • *the scope of the Built Heritage Assessment* • *commitment to a clear separation of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 to minimise the horizontal extent of the offshore wind turbines east to west along the horizon/seascape in order to reduce the potential curtaining effect*	The SLVIA include a detailed assessment of effects upon the receptors of West Sussex within **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4) - Viewpoint Assessment, **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation night-time lighting, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.5) - Assessment of aviation and navigation lighting visual effects and **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). The project design responds to combined principles developed in consultation with stakeholders, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**. Key areas: • Additional viewpoints from West Sussex are included in the ES, as agreed in consultations with WSCC and listed above. • Additional photomontages from these viewpoints are included in the ES.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	• *consideration of using the full north-south extent of the search area to also reduce the lateral spread; and* • *a more detailed understanding and discussion of the balance between the potential locations of turbines in the western extension area (which would clearly be more detrimental to receptors along the West Sussex coastline) and that of Zone 6 (the unused area of the original Rampion 1 zone).*	• Additional night-time views are included from urban areas of West Sussex at Worthing seafront (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Pagham Harbour (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) with assessment undertaken in **Appendix 15.6 Supplementary Night-time Viewpoint Assessment [PEPD-024].** • The project design responds to combined principles developed in consultation with stakeholders, as explained fully in **Section 15.7** and includes a wind farm separation zone between Rampion 1 and 2 to provide a break in the lateral spread of WTGs on the horizon; and reduce the lateral spread of the Rampion 2 array area.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*With regards identification of viewpoints, WSCC have engaged with RED over the series of ETGs. As stated in Table 16-11, further viewpoints were discussed with RED that haven't made it into the PEIR but will be assessed as part of the ES. WSCC wishes to reiterate the last set of comments made to RED in a memo dated 10 May 2021. This memo was focussed upon the viewpoints in the West Sussex coastal plain, and those along the coastal strip. We have reiterated these points again, as the table only notes the*	Further dialogue on viewpoint locations in West Sussex was had through ETG meetings and written comments from WSCC (28 April 2021 and 26 July 2021). Comments on additional viewpoint locations, photomontages and night-time views from West Sussex have been addressed with further viewpoint

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	additional of VP A and VP B for the ES. It is noted that RED have consulted with WSCC on further viewpoints to be included, during the formal consultation period. WSCC have included those comments made to RED in a memo in May 2021 below for completeness however.	photography undertaken in summer 2021 and these additional viewpoints from West Sussex included in the ES, as agreed in consultations with WSCC, as set out below.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	***Comments from WSCC memo dated 10 May 2021*** *VPs A-D – WSCC welcomes the identification of these VPs based upon feedback given in the first SLVIA ETG. As stated in the follow up ETG, WSCC would like to see VP A included, potentially microsited to the car park (there are car parks at West Wittering and Bracklesham Bay) where there are likely to be a concentration of visitors. The inclusion of VP B would allow the views experienced from the eastern side of Chichester Harbour AONB to be presented, at a point where the maximum number of turbines would be visible. WSCC understands REDL will be further consulting with Chichester Harbour AONB on any additional VPs required. The microsited location should be representative of views from Dell Quay and Chichester Harbour to the west and Chichester Golf club etc to the east where more visitors/tourists might be expected. VP C - WSCC suggests removal of the currently proposed VP C, which being directly between VP 13 and VP B probably wouldn't add much to the assessment and propose a new location to the south of Eastergate (where there is a large area of turbine visibility, the presence of Arun's Strategic housing allocation and the new alignment of the A29 - A29 realignment scheme - West Sussex County Council). It would also better cover off the apparent remaining large areas of maximum turbine visibility inland to the east of VPs A-D). VP D – the location of this VP seems sensible, located on the A259 between Chichester*	Further dialogue on viewpoint locations in West Sussex was had through ETG meetings and written comments from WSCC (28 April 2021 and 26 July 2021). Comments on additional viewpoint locations, photomontages and night-time views from West Sussex have been addressed with further viewpoint photography undertaken in summer 2021 and these additional viewpoints from West Sussex included in the ES, as agreed in consultations with WSCC, as follows: 40. Climping Beach (**Figure 15.59, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) A. East Wittering (**Figure 15.73, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) B1. Chichester Harbour AONB (Chichester Marina) (**Figure 15.74, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) B2. Chichester Harbour AONB (Dell Quay) (**Figure 15.75, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	and Bognor, which would represent views experienced by receptors travelling along the coastal plain here. *Elsewhere along the West Sussex Coast – Having reviewed the updated ZTV, WSCC wishes to highlight both the Ferring Gap/Goring and Lancing Beach areas. The ZTV shows in both locations, the maximum visibility of turbines in very well used coastal areas. This is highlighted by the presence of cafés, beach huts, promenade and green space with no possibility of intervening screening and mitigation.*	C. Eastergate (Proposed A29) (**Figure 15.76, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) D. Footbath between A259 and Colworth (**Figure 15.77, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) E. Ferring Gap (**Figure 15.78, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) F. Lancing Beach (**Figure 15.79, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) Night-time views: 10. Worthing seafront (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) 13. Pagham Harbour (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) 21. Bignor Hill (**Figure 15.46, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Table 16.22. WSCC agrees with the presentation of the WTG maximum assessment assumptions, but maintains strong concerns over the likely significant environment effects associated with the size and layout of these WTGs.*	The updated assessment of effects of Rampion 2 on seascape, coastal landscapes and views experienced by people (receptors) in West Sussex are assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		reducing the magnitude (scale) of effects and minimising harm on the perceived seascape qualities and views.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Figure 3.2. It is noted that the offshore PEIR boundary has been refined through project design evolution, reducing the eastern extent, and a very small corner of the north western extent (nearest Selsey Bill). Presumably beneficial for those receptors to the west, albeit of marginal significance.*	The western extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced slightly since PEIR, at the corner of the north-western extent of the array area (nearest Selsey Bill), with a corresponding slight reduction in the lateral spread/HFoV occupied by Rampion 2 WTGs in views from West Sussex. The effects of Rampion 2 on views experienced from West Sussex derives primarily from the scale and western spread of WTGs in the field of view and is assessed from representative viewpoints in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.3.4 [paragraph of PEIR] Why are key items raised by WSCC not included here? Comments were made ahead of a more detailed response at the Scoping Stage. WSCC expects all comments made during consultation to be included in the ES.*	All comments provided by WSCC made during the consultation are included in the ES either in this Chapter or within the full list of comments received during the Statutory Consultation period in the **Consultation Report** (Document Reference: 5.1).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Table 16-5 Landscape receptors – Settlement. Only main towns have been identified here. Other settlements, such as Pagham, Climping/Atherington, Rustington, and Ferring, should be included.*	Representative viewpoints and accompanying assessments from Pagham, Climping and Ferring Gap are

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		provided in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4) and summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects).
West Sussex Council	*16.4.13 [paragraph of PEIR] List of receptors kept under review – that is welcomed. It will be important that the list is comprehensive, as it seems very high level in Table 16-5.*	**Table 15-8** within this Chapter has been updated to define the relevant receptors requiring assessment.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.6.23 [paragraph of PEIR] Is the 'limited visibility in the low-lying landform of the West Sussex Coastal Plain' (i.e., more inland areas between Selsey and Littlehampton) backed up by the ZTV? Photomontages should be provided to demonstrate this.*	Further assessment of the limited visibility of Rampion 2 from the low-lying landform of the West Sussex Coastal Plain is provided in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) and is supported by **Figure 15.15, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) Blade Tip ZTV with Surface Feature Screening and additional viewpoints within this area at B1/B2. Chichester Harbour (**Figure 15.74** and **Figure 15.75, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15); C. Eastergate (Proposed A29) (**Figure 15.76, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)); and D. Footpath between A259 and Colworth (**Figure 15.77, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.6.29 [paragraph of PEIR] Beach huts, cafes, and other open green spaces on the coast host recreational activities also.*	These receptors are noted and have been added to the receptors described for representative viewpoints on the West Sussex coast.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.6.30 [paragraph of PEIR] Noted this section is intended to be an overview but WSCC raises the following:* *• Principal coastal settlements - what defines this?* *• Main road route - also A29 quite possibly a Main Road route (Principal Highway route – both terms are used). In future the proposed re-alignment of the A29 here (through a strategic housing site) will have bridge potentially providing elevated southward views;* *• Tourist and Visitor Locations – missing some key other beaches (Wittering's for which some (albeit limited) views are confirmed likely), and other coastal recreation areas as referred to above.*	Further definition of the principal coastal settlements is provided in **Section 15.6**. An additional representative viewpoint has been provided from a position near the proposed re-alignment of the A29 (Viewpoint C. Eastergate Proposed A29) (**Figure 15.75, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and East Wittering (Viewpoint A) (**Figure 15.72, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.6.44 [paragraph of PEIR]'Agreement on VPs has been reached' - this is not entirely accurate. WSCC still wanted to see some issues resolved (see comments below), but notes additional consultation held with RED during formal consultation which is further discussing key VPs to be included.* *Table 16-11 and 16.16.3. This table seems to include two additional VPs as discussed which are welcomed, however, not the corresponding plan to see the micro-sited locations and is missing VP C (recommend near Eastergate) and D (A259 which is highlighted as a Main Road Route) which were requested by WSCC in the ETG correspondence.*	Further dialogue on viewpoint locations in West Sussex was had through ETG meetings and written comments from WSCC (28 April 2021 and 26 July 2021). Comments on additional viewpoint locations, photomontages and night-time views from West Sussex have been addressed with further viewpoint photography undertaken in summer 2021 and these additional viewpoints from West Sussex included in the ES, as agreed in

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	What consideration has been given to additional beach and recreational areas as previously highlighted? Why no VP for Climping Beach which also has many of the characteristics, recreational, public access etc?	consultations with WSCC, as set out in the additional viewpoints listed above.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Table 16-14. Rampion 2 will likely be highly visible from the keep of Arundel Castle and should be appropriately considered, including cumulative impacts from other proposed developments.*	The visual effect of Rampion 2 on visitors to Arundel Castle is assessed in full at Viewpoint 33 - Arundel Castle in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** (Document Reference: 6.4.15.4) summarised in **Section 15.10** and shown in **Figure 15.56, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)**.**
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.7.9 [paragraph of PEIR] Why can't there be perceptible separation distances between Rampion 1 and the proposed project? Further clarity is required on this.*	The project design responds to combined principles developed in consultation with stakeholders, as explained fully in **Section 15.7** and includes a wind farm separation zone between Rampion 1 and 2 to provide a break in the lateral spread of WTGs on the horizon.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.7.25 [paragraph of PEIR] Night-time photomontages need to take account of impacts at night for other key visual receptors.*	Additional night-time views are included from urban areas of West Sussex at Worthing seafront (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Pagham Harbour (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Written assessment is undertaken in **Appendix 15.6**

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		Supplementary Night-time Viewpoint Assessment [PEPD-024].
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.7.26 [paragraph of PEIR] Is any lighting for Offshore Substations proposed and has this been considered? Further detail is expected in the ES.*	Assumptions regarding the lighting of the offshore substations are described in **Section 15.7** and shown in the night-time photomontages in **Figure 15.35** and **Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*S16.7.33 [section reference of PEIR] Suggests ETG discussions are set out in full in Appendix 16.1, but this only includes comments made by WSCC at the Scoping stage and no later. WSCC expects this to be included within the ES.*	All comments provided by WSCC made during the consultation are included in the ES either in this table of the SLVIA or within the full list of comments received during the Statutory Consultation period in the **Consultation Report**.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Table 16-30 and Table 16-31. Magnitude of change identified for areas to west of Selsey Bill will need to be verified by proposed additional VP in this location. Generally, given the strong coastal association of these character areas, it could be argued that sensitivity and magnitude of change is somewhat downplayed. Table 16-3 - clarity is required why only seemingly selected LCAs in the West Sussex Coastal Plain are described here?*	The effects of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape character and landscape character of receptors within West Sussex are summarised in **Table 15-33** and **Table 15-34** of this Chapter where there is potential for significant effects to arise and assessed in detail in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint Assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4). Seascape and landscape character receptors are also considered in the simple assessment in **Appendix 15.3: Simple assessment, Volume 4** of the ES

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		(Document Reference 6.4.15.3) which identifies receptors where there is potential for significant effects to arise.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Table 16-32. Useful summary but requires detailed cross referencing with Appendix 16.4. Again, sensitivity and magnitude of change are arguable, open to interpretation and may be underplayed in some circumstances.*	The visual effects of Rampion 2 on the views from representative viewpoints within West Sussex are assessed in detail in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4) and summarised in **Table 15-34** of **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). Definitions of sensitivity and magnitude of change are defined in the SLVIA methodology, summarised in **Section 15.8** and set out in full in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA Methodology Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.2).
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.10.38 – 16.10.51 [paragraphs of PEIR]. Visual receptors presented in a different format (not tabulated). Consistency of approach across receptors would be easier to follow. Again, impacts potentially downplayed particularly given the recreational use of beachfront areas and associated visitor attractions along the coast.*	Visual receptors are described in full in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects) whereas the visual effects of Rampion 2 on representative viewpoints are assessed in detail in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4) and summarised in **Table 15-34** of **Section 15.10** (O&M effects).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.12.4 [paragraph of PEIR] WSCC/011/21 (live application) - Consider the LVIA presented here and the potential for large building and twin 85m stacks to act cumulatively with visual impacts.*	Application WSCC/011/21 has been reviewed and it is noted that this application has been withdrawn for the Ford Energy From Waste plant at Ford Circular Technology Park. The potential for cumulative impacts of Rampion 2 with this project is not assessed any further in this ES.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*16.16.5 [paragraph of PEIR] Night-time views should be provided for visual receptors, particularly residents facing seawards.*	Additional night-time views are included from urban areas of West Sussex at Worthing seafront (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Pagham Harbour (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Written assessment is undertaken in **Appendix 15.6 Supplementary Night-time Viewpoint Assessment [PEPD-024]**.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Table 16-44. WSCC should be mentioned here too.*	Further consultation and engagement with WSCC has been undertaken post PEIR, with ETG meetings held and attended by WSCC (4 November 2021, 2 March 2022, 14 April 2022 and 17 June 2022). Consultations focused on finalising and agreeing the viewpoints to be presented in the ES, the potential impacts arising on receptors in West Sussex and the design

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		principles that would be embedded into the project design.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Appendix 16.5. Document is heavily focused on the SDNP and dark skies. As stated above this assessment should also consider night-time views from highly populated coastal areas, where sensitive visual receptors are located and many of which benefit from a dark horizon in seaward views. Figure 16.25 lighting ZTV shows how evident lighting will be to a high volume of receptors on the coastline. See 2.5.3 guidance which give equal importance to settlements and Dark skies as receptors to be considered and illustrations to be provided. Table 3-1 makes no reference to WSCC comments made on this in ETGs.*	Additional night-time views are included from urban areas of West Sussex at Worthing seafront (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Pagham Harbour (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Written assessment is undertaken in **Appendix 15.6 Supplementary Night-time Viewpoint Assessment [PEPD-024].**
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Chapter 16 Dark skies. WSCC did comment in the follow up ETG that there should be representative VPs outside of the designation. It is understood the night-time assessment will focus particularly on this area, which is less influenced by night-time lighting and where the appreciation of dark skies could be most affected by additional WTG lighting. There is however the potential for receptors outside of the designation to experience night- time effects, especially those where light pollution is lower, and this should be covered off in the assessment. WSCC suggests there should be representative VPs for outside of the designation, as it is recognised there are many beachfront/coastal properties, and ecologically important sites that currently look out to a dark horizon, which will be affected by the presence of the operational turbines. WSCC requests a VP at Pagham Harbour and another at a more populated coastal settlement, such as Bognor or Worthing. WSCC also suggests consulting Chichester Harbour AONB on this matter also. WSCC*	Additional night-time views are included from urban areas of West Sussex at Worthing seafront (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Pagham Harbour (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Written assessment is undertaken in **Appendix 15.6 Supplementary Night-time Viewpoint Assessment [PEPD-024].** There is no visibility of the Rampion 2 from viewpoints at Viewpoint B1 Chichester Marina (**Figure 15.74, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) or Viewpoint B2 Dell Quay (**Figure 15.75, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	notes that subsequent consultation during formal consultation has been undertaken to provide further clarity on these night-time VPs.	
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Chapter 16 Photo-montages. The provided photomontages are useful tools that aid in the assessment of visual effects. These clearly show the significance of impacts likely to be experienced by receptors in West Sussex, particularly in terms of impacts that will result from the lengthy westerly extension that will significantly extend the field of view over which impacts on seascape will be experienced. WSCC again raises strong concerns over the potential impacts here. Comments on specific photomontages are given below.*	The updated assessment of effects of Rampion 2 on seascape, coastal landscapes and views experienced by people (receptors) in West Sussex are assessed in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude (scale) of effects and minimising harm on the perceived seascape qualities and views. It is noted that the effects experienced from West Sussex derive primarily from the scale and western spread of WTGs in the field of view, which is assessed from representative viewpoints in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4) and summarised in **Section 15.10** (O&M effects). Photomontages are available in **Figures 15.26 – 15.79, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	***Chapter 16 Specific VPs*** • *16.21b (ZTVs with visual receptors) Westergate, Slindon etc. all in blue (even with 10m screening) and no representative VPs.* • *16.21 would have been useful to use 10m as a base, so more representative of receptors.* • *16.34a – VP 9 Shoreham – This is set back and doesn't represent Shoreham Fort and Shoreham beachfront.* • *16.35a – VP10 Worthing – offshore substation locations will need thought and careful consideration, very prominent from this viewpoint.* • *16.36a – VP 11 Littlehampton, this shows a very large change from the current seascape views.* • *16.43a -VP18 Cissbury Ring – Very prominent across a wide angle. Colouring (very white) seems to downplay impacts of westerly extent of turbines.* • *16.45a – VP20 Springhead Hill – No photomontage included which makes it harder to assess potential impact.* • *16.46e- VP21 Bignor Hill - Westerly turbines seem hazy in this photomontage.* • *16.49 – VP26 Low Weald A29 near Ashington – No photomontage included, which makes assessment of impact difficult.*	Comments on each viewpoint have been addressed as follows: • Figure 16.21b – Representative viewpoint added at Viewpoint 41 Slindon Folly (**Figure 15.60, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint C Eastergate (**Figure 15.76, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). • Figure 16.21 – More detailed OS Terran 5 DTM has been used in **Figure 15.14b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) (A1 scale). • Figure 16.34a – VP 9 Shoreham. Noted and updated description in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4). • Figure 16.35a – VP10 Worthing. Noted. Offshore substations shown in **Figure 15.35, Volume 3** of the ES (Document

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	• *16.52 – VP29 Kingly Vale – No photomontage which makes assessment of impact difficult.* • *16.54 -VP33 Arundel –Unlike other photomontages turbines not made hazy in the view. LVIA from Ford Energy from Waste and A27 Arundel Bypass (when available) should be taken into account here.* • *16.59 – VP50 The Trundle – Slightly hazy to the west, to be considered for new photography.* • *16.61 – VP52 Chanctonbury Ring – WSCC would request new photography, as this was taken at dusk.* • *16.62 – VP55 Beeding Hill – No photomontage undertaken, which would help assess impacts.* • *16.64 – VP61 Nr Lancing College – No photomontage undertaken here; it is considered the baseline photography is unhelpful as large earthworks (temporary construction works) dominates the view*.	Reference: 6.3.15) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). • Figure 16.36a – VP11 Littlehampton. Noted and effects assessed in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4). • 16.43a -VP18 Cissbury Ring. Noted and effects assessed in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4). • 16.45a – VP20 Springhead Hill. Baseline view and wireline visualisation provided in **Figure 15.45, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)are sufficient to consider impacts. • Figure 16.46e - VP21 Bignor Hill. Noted, however photography in visualisation is considered sufficiently clear and is presented in the ES photomontage in **Figure 15.46, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		• Figure 16.49 – VP26 Low Weald A29. Baseline view and wireline visualisation provided in **Figure 15.49, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) are sufficient to consider impacts. • Figure 16.52 – VP29 Kingley Vale. Baseline view and wireline visualisation provided in **Figure 15.52, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) are sufficient to consider impacts. • Figure 16.54 - VP33 Arundel. New photography was undertaken at Arundel Castle and is presented in **Figure 15.56, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). • 16.59 – VP50 The Trundle Noted, however photography in visualisation is considered sufficiently clear and is presented in the ES photomontage in **Figure 15.63, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). • Figure 16.61 – VP52 Chanctonbury Ring. New photography was undertaken at Chanctonbury Ring and is presented in **Figure 15.65, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
		• Figure 16.62 – VP55 Beeding Hill. New photography was undertaken at Beeding Hill and is presented in **Figure 15.68, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). • Figure 16.64 – VP61 Nr Lancing College. Noted, baseline view and wireline only presented in **Figure 15.71, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) as no view of Rampion 2.
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Chapter 16 Mitigation* *WSCC expects RED to work with stakeholders to further develop commitments to the scale and layout of turbines to reduce the significant visual impacts as presented in the assessment. Some areas for consideration are given below:* • *Commitment to a clear separation of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2, to minimise the horizontal extent of the offshore wind turbines east to west along the horizon/seascape to reduce the potential curtaining effect;* • *Consideration of using the full North- South extent of the search area to also reduce the lateral spread; and* • *Although not deemed an overall worst-case for assessment purposes, the greater number of turbines positioned in the western extension area versus that of Zone 6, will clearly be more detrimental to receptors along the West Sussex coastline. Therefore, a more detailed understanding and discussion of the*	The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**) which provide embedded environmental measures by reducing the magnitude of effects and minimising harm on the perceived qualities and views of the SDNP and from West Sussex. Design principles that have shaped the Rampion 2 design have been developed and applied in consultation with stakeholders and include: • 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
	balance between the potential locations of turbines in the extension area and that of Zone 6 should be held.	• 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles). • 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays. • 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible. During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as explained fully in **Section 15.7**.

Stakeholder	Theme	How this is addressed in this ES
West Sussex County Council (WSCC)	*Figures 16.14 – 16.15. WSCC requests a separate ZTV to be produced with heritage assets and viewpoints overlaid.*	A separate ZTV of Rampion 2 with heritage assets is presented in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25).

15.4 Scope of the assessment

Overview

15.4.1 This section sets out the scope of the ES assessment for seascape, landscape and visual. This scope has been developed as Rampion 2 design has evolved and responds to feedback received to-date as set out in **Section 15.3**.

Spatial scope and study area

15.4.2 The spatial scope of the seascape, landscape and visual assessment is defined as 50km from the wind farm array area for Rampion 2 (for the purposes of the SLVIA assessment, this comprising the maximum extent of the Rampion 2 array area within which the WTGs will be installed), which has formed the basis of the study area described in this section.

15.4.3 Broadly, the SLVIA study area, shown in **Figure 15.3, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) is defined by a northern terrestrial area, including the counties of East Sussex, West Sussex, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Surrey and Kent; as well as the City of Brighton & Hove; and a southern offshore area defined by waters of the English Channel.

15.4.4 The SLVIA study area is defined as a radius of 50km based on the outer limit of the area where significant effects could occur, based on professional judgement, guidance, the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (**Figure 15.14a-b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and identification of additional impact pathways, as described in Section 5.13 (paragraphs 5.13.4 to 5.13.21) of the Scoping Report (RED, 2020).

15.4.5 In its Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, August 2020), the Planning Inspectorate confirmed that it is content that there is unlikely to be significant effects outside of the 50km radius SLVIA study area and therefore agreed that seascape, landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 outside the 50km radius SLVIA study area could be scoped out of SLVIA.

Temporal scope

15.4.6 The temporal scope of the assessment of seascape, landscape and visual is the entire lifetime of Rampion 2, which therefore covers the construction, O&M, and decommissioning phases.

Potential receptors

15.4.7 This section details the approach to identifying receptors that could be significantly affected by Rampion 2 and that therefore need to be taken forward for further consideration in the SLVIA. The general principle is that receptors that could be significantly affected will be identified based on their sensitivity/importance/value and the spatial and temporal scope of the assessment. Consultation has informed the selection of potential receptors that could be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.

15.4.8 The assessment of whether an effect has the potential to be of likely significance has been based upon review of existing evidence base, consideration of commitments made (embedded environmental measures), professional judgement and where relevant, recommended aspect specific methodologies and established practice. In applying this judgement, use has been made of a simple test that to be significant an effect must be of sufficient importance that it should be taken into consideration when making a development consent decision.

15.4.9 The Scoping Report (RED, 2020) presented a scoping assessment of the likely seascape, landscape and visual effects scoped in and scoped out of the SLVIA (Table 5.13.5, Scoping Report). The effects of Rampion 2 on certain seascape, landscape and visual receptors were agreed through the Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, 2020) in **Table 15-10** as scoped out of the SLVIA and are not assessed any further in the ES.

15.4.10 For those matters 'scoped in' for assessment, the approach to level of assessment is tiered. A 'simple' or 'detailed' assessment is undertaken as follows:

- a 'simple assessment' approach for an environmental aspect / effect which may include secondary baseline data collection (for example desk-based information) and qualitative assessment methodologies. A simple assessment of all seascape, landscape and visual receptor groups listed in **Table 15-8** is undertaken within **Appendix 15.3: Simple assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.3) of the ES, using desk-based information and ZTV analysis (**Figure 15.14a-b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The simple assessment identifies which seascape, landscape and visual receptors are unlikely to be significantly affected, which are subject to a simple assessment, and those receptors that are more likely to be significantly affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, which require a 'detailed assessment'; and
- a 'detailed assessment' approach is undertaken for seascape, landscape and visual receptors / effects that are identified in the simple assessment in **Appendix 15.3: Simple assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.3) as requiring detailed assessment. This detailed assessment may include primary baseline data collection (for example through site surveys), quantitative and qualitative assessment methodologies, and modelling such as ZTV analysis (**Figures 15.14 to 15.24, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and wireline / photomontage visualisations (**Figures 15.26 to 15.72, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

15.4.11 To ensure the provision of a proportionate EIA and an ES that is focused on likely significant effects, the ES assessment takes into account the considerable levels of existing environmental information available, extensive local geographical knowledge and understanding of the site and surroundings gained from ongoing site selection analysis, environmental surveys and the existing Rampion 1 project.

15.4.12 The spatial and temporal scope of the assessment enables the identification of receptors which may experience a change as a result of Rampion 2. The receptors identified that may experience likely significant effects for seascape, landscape and visual are outlined in **Table 15-8**.

Table 15-8 Receptors requiring assessment for seascape, landscape and visual

Receptor group	Receptors included within group
Seascape receptors - Marine Character Areas (MCAs) Figure 15.4 and Figure 15.18, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	MCA05 The Solent MCA06 South Wight MCA07 Selsey Bill to Seaford Head MCA08 South Downs Maritime
Landscape receptors - National Character Areas (NCAs) Figure 15.5, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	125 South Downs 126 South Coast Plain 127 Isle of Wight
Landscape receptors - County Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) Figure 15.6a-b and Figure 15.19, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	**South Downs National Park (SDNP):** S1. Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline S2 Brighton to Rottingdean A1. Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs A2. Adur to Ouse Open Downs A3. Arun to Adur Open Downs B1. Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland R1. South Downs Upper Coastal Plain **West Sussex:** SC1. South Coast Shoreline SC3 and SC4. Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour SC10. Lower Arun Valley. **Hampshire:** 11c. Eastern Solent **Isle of Wight:** Chalk Downs (1) The Undercliff (11)
Landscape receptors - Landscape Designations (and defined areas) Figure 15.7 and Figure 15.20, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	**City of Brighton & Hove:** Kemp Town Enclosures Park and Garden **City of Portsmouth:** Southsea Common Park and Garden **East Sussex:** Sussex Heritage Coast **East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire:** South Downs National Park (SDNP) and SDNP International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) **Hampshire and West Sussex:** Chichester Harbour AONB **Isle of Wight:** Isle of Wight AONB **West Sussex:** Highdown Park and Garden Arundel Castle Park and Garden Goodwood House Park and Garden

Receptor group	Receptors included within group
SDNP Special Qualities	**Special Qualities:** 1, 3, 5, 6, 7
Visual receptors - Settlements Figure 15.9 and Figure 15.21, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	**East Sussex:** Brighton and Hove, Peacehaven, Rottingdean, Saltdean, Woodingdean, Seaford, Rookery Hill **Hampshire:** South Hayling, Portsmouth **Isle of Wight:** Bembridge, St Helens, Shanklin, Sandown **West Sussex:** Worthing, Littlehampton, Shoreham by Sea, Selsey, Lancing, Bognor Regis
Visual receptors - Key visitor locations and destinations Figure 15.9 and Figure 15.21, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	**East Sussex:** National Trust - Ditchling Beacon Seven Sisters Country Park **Isle of Wight:** National Trust - St Helen's Duver & Priory Wood National Trust - Ventnor Downs and Luccombe **West Sussex:** National Trust - Shoreham Gap and Southwick National Trust - Cissbury Ring National Trust - Devil's Dyke and Saddlescombe National Trust - Slindon Estate National Trust - Wolstonbury Hill National Trust - Harting Down and Beacon Hill Goodwood Estate Country Park
Visual receptors - Transport and Recreational Routes Figure 15.9, Figure 15.21 **and** Figure 15.24, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	**Main 'A' Roads:** A259 Eastbourne to Chichester coastal road A27 Eastbourne to Chichester **Long Distance Walks:** Monarch's Way Arun Way Isle of Wight Coastal Path New Lipchis Way Solent Way South Downs Way **Cycling:** National Cycle Network 2
Viewpoints Figure 15.10, Figure 15.15 and Figures 15.26 to 15.79, Volume 3 of the ES (**Document Reference:** 6.3.15)	Viewpoints 1 – 40

Potential effects

15.4.13 Potential effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors that have been scoped in for assessment are summarised in **Table 15-9**.

Table 15-9 Potential effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors scoped in for further assessment

Receptor	Activity or impact	Potential effect
Construction and decommissioning	Effects (daytime) of the construction and decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on seascape character of receptors listed in **Table 15-8**.	Potential for significant effect. Short-term, temporary effects on perceived seascape character, arising as a result of the construction and decommissioning activities (including vessels laying new, sub-sea offshore export cables to shore) and structures located within the proposed DCO Order Limits, which may alter the seascape character of the area within the proposed DCO Order Limits itself and the perceived character of the wider seascape through visibility of these changes.
	Effects (daytime) of the construction and decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on landscape character of receptors listed in **Table 15-8**.	Potential for significant effect. Short-term, temporary effects on perceived landscape character, arising as a result of the construction and decommissioning activities and structures, including vessels laying new sub-sea offshore export cables to shore, which will be visible from the coast (primarily during good to excellent visibility conditions) and may therefore affect the perceived character of the landscape.
	Effects (daytime) of the construction and decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on visual receptors / viewpoints listed in **Table 15-8**.	Potential for significant effect. Short-term, temporary effects on views and visual amenity experienced by people from principal visual receptors and representative viewpoints, arising as a result of the construction decommissioning activities and structures, including vessels laying new sub-sea offshore export cables to shore, which will be visible from the coast (primarily during good to excellent visibility conditions).

Receptor	Activity or impact	Potential effect
O&M	Effects (daytime) of the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on seascape character of receptors listed in **Table 15-8**.	Potential for significant effect. Long-term, reversible effects on perceived seascape character (MCAs), arising as a result of the operational WTGs, substations and maintenance activities located within the wind farm array area, which may alter the seascape character of the wind farm array area itself and the perceived character of the wider seascape.
	Effects (daytime) of the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on landscape character of receptors listed in **Table 15-8**.	Potential for significant effect. Long-term, reversible effects on perceived landscape character (LCAs and designations) including defined special qualities of the SDNP and AONBs, arising as a result of the operational WTGs, offshore substations and maintenance activities, which will be visible from the coast (during good to excellent visibility conditions) and may therefore affect the perceived character of the landscape.
	Effects (daytime) of the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on visual receptors / viewpoints listed in **Table 15-8**.	Potential for significant effect. Long-term, reversible effects on views and visual amenity experienced by people as principal visual receptors and representative viewpoints, arising as a result of the operational WTGs, offshore substations and maintenance activities.
	Effects (night-time) of the O&M of Rampion 2 lighting on visual receptors / viewpoints and the dark night skies quality of the SDNP during operation	Potential for significant effect. Long-term, reversible effects on views and visual amenity experienced by people from principal visual receptors and representative viewpoints, including from within the South Downs IDSR, arising as a result of the marine navigation and aviation lights. Potential for significant effect on perception of dark night skies quality of the SDNP arising from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside the SDNP on the dark night skies experienced within the South Downs IDSR.

Activities or impacts scoped out of assessment

15.4.14 A number of potential effects have been scoped out from further assessment, resulting from a conclusion of no likely significant effect. These conclusions have been made based on the knowledge of the baseline environment, the nature of planned works and the wealth of evidence on the potential for impact from such projects more widely. The conclusions follow (in a site-based context) existing best practice. Each scoped out activity or impact, as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate, is considered in turn in **Table 15-10**.

Table 15-10 Activities or impacts scoped out of assessment

Activity or impact	Rationale for scoping out
Effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development on the landscape character of: • **High Weald AONB**	The High Weald AONB is located approximately 31.8km at its closest point to the wind farm array area (**Figure 15.7, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), extending over longer distances generally over 40km to the north and north-west, inland to the north of the South Downs, with a limited geographic extent of low theoretical visibility, evident in the ZTV (**Figure 15.20a, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and shown in illustrative Viewpoint 47 (**Figure 15.62, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) such that the effects of the construction and operation of the offshore elements on the landscape character of the High Weald AONB are unlikely to be significant. Consultation with the High Weald AONB has confirmed that it seemed likely that the only potential impact on the High Weald AONB would come from the onshore substation, which are assessed in **Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.18).
Effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development on the landscape character of the following National Character Areas (NCAs): • **120 Wealdon Grassland NCA** • **121 Low Weald NCA** • **122 High Weald NCA** • **124 Pevensey Levels NCA**	National Character Areas (NCAs) covering the northern parts of the study area (**Figure 15.5, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) located at long distance inland beyond the topographic threshold provided by the landform ridge of the South Downs, resulting in limited geographic extent of low theoretical visibility, evident in the ZTV (**Figure 15.20a, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and shown in illustrative viewpoints, including Viewpoint 26 Low Weald (**Figure 15.49, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 47 High Weald (**Figure 15.62, Volume 3** of the ES

Activity or impact	Rationale for scoping out
• **128 South Hampshire Lowlands NCA**	(Document Reference: 6.3.15)) such that the effects of the construction and operation of the offshore elements on the landscape character of these NCAs are unlikely to be significant.
Effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development on the seascape character of: • **MCA13 English Channel (central)**	Marine Character Area forming the expansive offshore waters of the English Channel, largely beyond and behind the wind farm array area (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and located over 20km offshore from the coastline beyond Rampion 2, such that changes to the perceived character of these offshore waters are not readily perceived. Scoped out on the basis that this MCA is likely to experience low levels of change and unlikely to experience significant effects.
Effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development on landscape character outside the SDNP	The East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment identifies landscape character areas covering the SLVIA study area to the north-east and east of the SDNP (**Figure 15.6a-b, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), with much of the East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment area being within the SDNP and considered within the landscape character assessment for the SDNP. Areas of coast that fall to the south-west and outside the SDNP are very small and primarily the built up coastal urban areas of the City of Brighton & Hove, Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Eastbourne and small areas of LCAs which fall just outside the SDNP. The main terrestrial areas to the north-east and east of the SDNP, are defined by the Low Weald (14 and 15), High Weald (4 and 5), Eastbourne Levels (24) and Pevensey Levels (25) which fall largely or entirely outside the ZTV (**Figure 15.19, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

15.5 Methodology for baseline data gathering

Overview

15.5.1 Baseline data collection has been undertaken to obtain information over the study areas described in **Section 15.4: Scope of the assessment**. The current baseline conditions presented in **Section 15.6: Baseline conditions** sets out data currently available information from the study areas.

Desk study

15.5.2 The data sources that have been collected and used to inform this seascape, landscape and visual assessment are summarised in **Table 15-11**.

Table 15-11 Data sources used to inform the seascape, landscape and visual ES assessment

Source	Date	Summary	Coverage of study area
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	2016	Interactive maps of the UK's light pollution and dark skies as part of a national mapping project (LUC/CPRE, 2016). Open Source data used to understand and illustrate baseline lighting levels. (available online: https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/)	Full coverage of the study area.
Chichester Harbour Conservancy	2019	Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment (available online: https://www.conservancy.co.uk/assets/files/cms_item/613/d-Landscape_Character_Assessment_(2019)-b4BJ98ZSz0.pdf)	Chichester Harbour AONB
East Sussex County Council	2016	East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2016) (available online: https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/) Local Development Plans covering Eastbourne, Hastings Borough and Lewes, Rother and Wealdon Districts.	East Sussex
English Heritage	2020	Any specific visitor attractions / tourist destinations (available online: https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/#?page=1&place=&mp=false&fe=false)	Full coverage of the study area
E-ON UK (Rampion Wind Farm Ltd)/RSK Environmental	2012	Rampion Wind Farm Environmental Statement (ES). ES Section 12 Seascape, Landscape ad Visual Impact Assessment (Document 6.1.12).	Partial coverage of the study area
Google Earth Pro	2020	Aerial photography	Full coverage of the study area

Source	Date	Summary	Coverage of study area
Hampshire County Council	2010	Hampshire Integrated Landscape Assessment (Available online: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/)	Hampshire
Historic England	2020	Registered Parks and Gardens and UNESCO World Heritage Sites (available online: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/	Full coverage of the study area
Isle of Wight Council	2015	East Wight Landscape Character Assessment (available online: https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2782-EWLCA-Final-Version-May-2015-Web-version.pdf)	Isle of Wight
Kent County Council	2004	Landscape Assessment of Kent (available online: https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/countryside-policies-and-reports/kents-landscape-assessment)	Kent
Long Distance Walkers Association	2020	Overview map for Long Distance Paths and Walks (available online: https://www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/public/ldp_overview_map.php)	Full coverage of the study area
Met Office	2009-2019	Visibility Data. Visibility bands every 1km up to 30km, then every 5km up to 50km, then every 10km up to 70km, and >70km	Weather station at Thorney Island.
MMO	2014	Marine Character Areas. Marine Management Organisation (MMO), June 2014 Seascape assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas: Technical Report (MMO 1037). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-south-marine-plans-documents)	South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas

Source	Date	Summary	Coverage of study area
National Trust	2020	Any specific visitor attractions / tourist destinations (available online: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out)	Full coverage of the study area
Natural England	2018	National Character Areas (NCAs) (available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london	Full coverage of the study area
Natural England	2019	GIS datasets for: National Parks (https://data.gov.uk/dataset/334e1b27-e193-4ef5-b14e-696b58bb7e95/national-parks-england). Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8e3ae3b9-a827-47f1-b025-f08527a4e84e/areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-england) County Parks (https://data.gov.uk/dataset/e729abb9-aa6c-42c5-baec-b6673e2b3a62/country-parks-england). Open Access Land (https://data.gov.uk/dataset/05fa192a-06ba-4b2b-b98c-5b6bec5ff638/crow-act-2000-access-layer). Heritage Coasts (https://data.gov.uk/dataset/79b3515f-b00e-419a-9c7e-1d3163555886/heritage-coasts)	Full coverage of the study area
Oceanwise		Marine and coastal mapping data, ferry routes.	Coverage of seascape sections of the study area

Source	Date	Summary	Coverage of study area
OPEN internal dataset	2020	Public Rights of Way	Full coverage of the study area
Ordnance Survey	2019	1:50,000 scale mapping	Full coverage of the study area
Ordnance Survey	2019	1:25,000 scale mapping	Coverage of coastal sections of the study area
Ordnance Survey Open Data	2019	OS County Region, Local Unitary Authority, Railways, Road and Settlements	Full coverage of the study area
Ordnance Survey	2019	OS Terrain 50 Digital Terrain Model (DTM)	Full coverage of the study area
Ordnance Survey	2019	OS Terrain 5 Digital Terrain Model (DTM)	Coverage of coastal sections of the study area
Royal Yachting Association (RYA)	2013	Cruising routes for recreational yachting	Coverage of seascape sections of the study area
SDNP Authority	2020	South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (2020) (available online: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/landscape-design-conservation/south-downs-landscape-character-assessment/south-downs-landscape-character-assessment-2020/	SDNP
SDNP Authority	2018	South Downs National Park, Dark Skies Technical Advice Note (April 2018) including Sky Quality Map and Dark Sky Zones.	SDNP
SDNP Authority	2021	South Downs National Park Offshore Wind Farms Buffer Study (April, 2021).	SDNP
Surrey County Council	2015	Surrey Landscape Character Assessment (2015). (Available online: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-	Surrey

Source	Date	Summary	Coverage of study area
		development/countryside/strategies-action-plans-and-guidance/landscape-character-assessment)	
Sustrans	2020	National Cycle Network (GIS dataset) (available online: https://www.sustrans.org.uk/)	Full coverage of the study area
West Sussex County Council	2003	Landscape character assessment of West Sussex (available online: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/landscape-character-assessment-of-west-sussex/https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/).	West Sussex
West Sussex County Council	2019	Local distinctiveness study of West Sussex (available online: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/local-distinctiveness-study-of-west-sussex/)	West Sussex
West Sussex County Council	2020	Public Rights of Way iMap (available online: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way-imap/).	West Sussex
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	2016	Interactive maps of the UK's light pollution and dark skies as part of a national mapping project (LUC/CPRE, 2016). Open-source data used to understand and illustrate baseline lighting levels. (available online: https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/)	Full coverage of the study area.
Chichester Harbour Conservancy	2019	(2019) Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment (available online: https://www.conservancy.co.uk/assets/files/cms_item/613/d-Landscape_Character_Assessment_(2019)-b4BJ98ZSz0.pdf)	Chichester Harbour AONB

Site surveys

15.5.3 The SLVIA undertaken as part of the ES has been informed by desk-based studies and field survey work undertaken within the SLVIA study area. The landscape, seascape and visual baseline has been informed by desk-based review of landscape and seascape character assessments, and the ZTV, to identify receptors that may be affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and produce written descriptions of their key characteristics and value.

15.5.4 Interactions have been identified between the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and seascape, landscape and visual receptors, to predict potentially significant effects arising and measures are proposed to mitigate effects.

15.5.5 For those receptors where a detailed assessment is required, primary data acquisition has been undertaken through a series of surveys. These surveys include field survey verification of the ZTV from terrestrial LCAs, micro-siting of viewpoint locations, panoramic baseline photography and visual assessment survey from all representative viewpoints. These viewpoint photography, visual assessment and landscape assessment surveys were undertaken during August, September and November 2020, and in August 2021, as described in **Table 15-12**. Sea-based offshore surveys have not been undertaken as part of the SLVIA. Field work over part of the duration of the ES assessment has been partly restricted due to the travel restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, including requirements for assessors to 'stay local/at home' during certain periods, restricted access to certain visitor locations due to closures and limited accommodation availability.

Table 15-12 Site surveys undertaken

Survey type	Scope of survey	Coverage of study area
August / September 2020	Seascape, landscape and visual assessment surveys to undertake viewpoint photography and collect baseline data on landscape character and visual amenity associated with views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and in accordance with methodology such as in GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) and TGN 06/19 (Landscape Institute, 2019).	Sussex Heritage Coast, SDNP, Chichester Harbour AONB and coastal parts of East and West Sussex, Hampshire.
November 2020	Seascape, landscape and visual assessment surveys to undertake viewpoint photography, collect further baseline data, including night-time viewpoint photography and undertake impact assessment on landscape character and visual amenity associated with views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and in accordance with methodology such as in GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) and TGN 06/19 (Landscape Institute, 2019).	Isle of Wight AONB, Hampshire (SDNP), High Weald AONB, Sussex Heritage Coast, SDNP, coastal parts of East and West Sussex.

Survey type	Scope of survey	Coverage of study area
August 2021	Seascape, landscape and visual assessment surveys to undertake viewpoint photography from additional viewpoints in West Sussex, Chichester Harbour AONB and SDNP, including night-time viewpoints, and to re-take viewpoint photography from certain viewpoint locations in clearer visibility conditions as required.	SDNP, Chichester Harbour AONB and coastal parts of West Sussex.

Data limitations

15.5.6 There are some data limitations relating to seascape, landscape and visual amenity however these do not affect the robustness of the assessment of this ES as the gaps are limited and will not affect the assessments of likely significance assessed for relevant receptors. Where there are gaps in information, these have been addressed in the ES, as agreed with the ETG.

15.5.7 There are limitations in the production of photomontage and wireline visualisations and ZTVs as assessment tools, and limitations in the accuracy of digital terrain model (DTM) data, which are described in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.2). The use of detailed terrain models (OS Terrain 5), production of visualisations to recognised standard and field survey assessment of impacts minimises these limitations.

15.5.8 Met Office visibility data has limitations in its application to judgements about wind farm visibility. The visibility data provides some understanding and evidence basis for evaluating the visibility of the wind turbines against their background. Effects have not been downgraded either in magnitude or significance due to variations as a result of weather/visibility and how frequently/infrequently the effects will be experienced. Effects are based on the worst-case with clear visibility and need to be considered in context of the limited time over which effects will actually occur.

15.5.9 Some data limitations have arisen due to restrictions or delay to site surveys as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, including closure of, and therefore lack of access to certain visitor attractions locations such as Arundel Castle, however limitations have been minimised through the timing of surveys when travel and access restrictions were eased.

15.5.10 PINS Advice Note Seven notes the need for flexibility and agreement of stakeholders as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

15.6 Baseline conditions

Current baseline

Overview

15.6.1 An overview of the current baseline conditions for seascape, landscape and visual amenity is initially outlined and then subsequently described within each of the main geographic 'receptor areas' based on administrative boundaries (**Figure 5.3, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) within the SLVIA study area.

Seascape Character

15.6.2 In England, Seascape Character principally applies to coastal and marine areas seaward of the low water mark. Seascape, like landscape is about the relationship between people and place and the part it plays in forming the setting to our everyday lives. Seascape results from the way that the different components of the environment – both natural and cultural - interact and are understood and experienced by people. Seascape is defined by Natural England in its position statement on All Landscapes Matter (2010) as*: "An area of sea, coastline and land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land with sea, by natural and/or human factors".* A summary of what constitutes seascape is presented in 'An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment' (Natural England, 2012).

15.6.3 A definition of seascape is also set out in NPS EN3 (2.6.203): *"Where necessary, assessment of the seascape should include an assessment of three principal considerations on the likely effect of offshore wind farms on the coast:*

- *Limit of visual perception from the coast;*
- *Individual characteristics of the coast which affect its capacity to absorb a development; and*
- *How people perceive and interact with the seascape".*

15.6.4 The SLVIA takes into account these definitions of seascape and that set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK Government, 2011), which states that *'…references to seascape should be taken as meaning landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other'.*

15.6.5 Although seascape character therefore *'principally applies to coastal and marine areas seaward of the low-water mark'* and landscape character *'principally applies to terrestrial areas lying to the landward side of the high-water mark'* (Natural England, 2012, p7, Box 1), there is in fact a subtler transition between seascape and landscape and the importance of the interaction of sea, coastline and land as perceived by people is highlighted in definitions of seascape in the Natural England guidance (Natural England, 2012) and Marine Policy Statement (UK Government, 2011).

15.6.6 The seascape impact assessment in this SLVIA therefore focuses particularly on areas of onshore landscape with views of the coast or seas and marine

environment, as perceived by people, on the premise that the most important effect of offshore windfarms is on the perception of seascape character from the coast.

15.6.7 The baseline description of the seascape of the study area is informed by the Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas (MMO, June 2014) 'the MMO Seascape Assessment', which covers the majority of the seascape of the SLVIA study area, including the South Inshore (area 6) and South Offshore (area 7) marine plan areas within UK Waters. The southern edge of the SLVIA study area includes a portion of French territorial waters.

15.6.8 The MMO Seascape Assessment characterises the Inshore and Offshore areas of the SLVIA study area and identifies Marine Character Areas (MCAs) which provide the baseline seascape characterisation and mapping for the SLVIA. These MCAs are shown in **Figure 15.5, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The MCAs that are scoped in to the SLVIA were identified through the scoping opinion (**Table 15-8**) as those that define the associative seascape setting of the Sussex coastline between Beachy Head, Selsey Bill and the Solent.

Landscape Character and designations/defined areas

15.6.9 Landscape character principally applies to terrestrial areas lying to the landward side of the high-water mark. There is a hierarchy of published Landscape Character Assessments that describe the baseline landscape character of the landscape in the SLVIA study area, at the National, County and District level.

15.6.10 The landscape of the onshore parts of the SLVIA study area are described at the national level by National Character Areas (NCAs) and assessed in relation to the published County Council and National Park Landscape Character Assessments within the SLVIA study area.

15.6.11 The English Landscape is classified at the national level by NCAs. The 159 NCAs, which cover the country, were originally identified by the Countryside Agency. This mapping and the associated descriptions have been revised and developed by Natural England into NCA profiles, which provide a recognised, national, spatial framework.

15.6.12 At the National level, the Wealden Grassland (120), Low Weald (121) and High Weald (122) form the northern inland parts of the SLVIA study area. The NCAs that are scoped in to the SLVIA identified in **Table 15-8** as those that define the main coastal associated landscapes of the SLVIA study area, consisting of the South Downs (125), South Coast Plain (126) and Isle of Wight (127), which are shown in **Figure 15.5, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and described as follows.

15.6.13 The landscape of the onshore parts of the study area is described further in relation to the published County Council and SDNP Landscape Character Assessments within the SLVIA study area, shown in **Figure 15.6a-b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15), as follows:

- South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (October 2020);

- Landscape Character Assessment of West Sussex (2003), including A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape (2005) and Local Distinctiveness Guidance (2013);
- East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2016);
- Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment (2010); and
- East Wight Landscape Character Assessment (2015).

15.6.14 These provide a county-wide, consistent landscape character framework as a background for more detailed assessments (such as at the district level). The landscape character areas (LCAs) defined in these county-wide/SDNP scale assessments are considered to be of an appropriate scale to allow assessment of the effects of Rampion 2 over the relatively wide SLVIA study area, at a sufficient level of detail.

15.6.15 The LCAs within these landscape character assessments that are scoped in to the SLVIA are identified in **Table 15-8** and in the simple assessment in **Appendix 15.3: Simple assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.3), as those that define the main coastal associated landscapes of the SLVIA study area that have potential to be significantly affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, as shown in **Figure 15.6a-b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

15.6.16 Certain landscapes found within the study area have been designated or defined due to their scenic qualities or historic landscape qualities as shown in **Figure 15.7, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The landscape designations that are scoped in to the SLVIA are identified in **Table 15-8** and in the simple assessment in **Appendix 15.3: Simple assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.3), as those that have an associated seascape setting that may have potential to be significantly affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, and includes three national landscape designations – SDNP, CHAONB and the IoW AONB.

Views and visual amenity

Overview

15.6.17 The visual baseline focuses on and describes the area in which the offshore elements of Rampion 2 may be visible, as defined by its Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), the different groups of people who may experience views of Rampion 2 (visual receptors), the viewpoints where they will be affected and nature of views at those points.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

15.6.18 Visual effects will only occur where the introduction of Rampion 2 changes or influences the visual amenity and views experienced by people in the area. The areas where the visual baseline may be altered is defined by the ZTV shown in in **Figure 15.14a, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) (A3) and **Figure 15.14b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) (A1). The ZTV shows the main area in which the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will theoretically

be visible, highlighting the different areas where people who may experience views and assisting in the identification of viewpoints where they may be affected. These worst-case ZTVs are however, an overstatement of visibility as they are based on bare-earth terrain models and also do take account of atmospheric clarity where although there may be a theoretical line of sight, Rampion 2 may not actually be visible due to the weather conditions. The ZTV in **Figure 15.15, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) includes surface feature screening, in the form of settlements and woodland, and illustrates the reduced theoretical visibility when taking these surface features into account.

15.6.19 The landward, topographical influences define the extent of the ZTV. A distinct coastal plateau with a nominal elevation of between 0 and 10m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) extends to the west of Brighton, widening its inland extents towards Chichester in the west. Behind this 'plateau' the land rises into the dip slopes of the South Downs, forming a distinctive coastal backdrop and a physical divide between coastal and inland areas. The elevation of the landform 'spine' of the Downs, which runs east to west across the study area varies between approximately 20m and 250m AOD and contributes to notable coastal cliffs east of Brighton, culminating in the dramatic chalk cliffs around Beachy Head. The northern face of the Downs drops more abruptly inland as a scarp slope feature relating to the lower lying Weald landscape beyond. Several valleys, notably associated with the Rivers Arun, Adur, Ouse and Cuckmere, cut through the scarp and dip slope landform, creating a limited visual and physical association between the landscapes to the north and south of the Downs.

15.6.20 The ZTV shows the main areas of higher theoretical visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be from the immediate coastal edges and hinterland of Sussex Bay between Selsey Bill and Beachy Head, including the coastal plateau to the west of Brighton, the white cliffs of the Sussex Heritage Coast between Brighton and Eastbourne, the southern dip slopes of the South Downs and the elevated landform 'spine' of the Downs which runs east to west across the study area. This main area with higher visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is generally within a range of 13-20km; but also extends to 25km to the north-east into Lewes and Eastbourne districts; and to around 30km to the north-west into Chichester district. Within the seaward facing South Downs dip slope, the rolling topography creates subtle containment within valley landforms.

15.6.21 The landscape to the north of the South Downs is largely screened from the sea by the intervening landform and generally affords either no visibility, or has lower theoretical visibility of Rampion 2, at long distances of over 25km. Due to the height of the Rampion 2 WTGs, there are, however, several visibility splays to Rampion 2 through the landform of the South Downs from across the landscape of the Low Weald to the north of the South Downs, including areas of East Sussex extending to the edges of the High Weald up to 35-45km from Rampion 2; and areas of West Sussex extending north to the edges of Surrey and the Surrey Hills between 30-50km from Rampion 2.

15.6.22 The ZTV in **Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) shows the theoretical visibility when screening from woodland and buildings (both defined by OS OpenMap Local and indicatively modelled at 10m height) are included in the surface model. Visibility from streets, open spaces and low storey buildings within coastal, urban areas will typically be contained within the urban

environment by surrounding built form, with most visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 at the seafront or where tall buildings or intervening open areas allow visibility from further back.

15.6.23 Views to the sea and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the West Sussex coastal plain, which broadly comprises the area of West Sussex between the urban coastline and boundary of the SDNP, are notably restricted by intervening vegetation, woodland and buildings within urban areas, as shown in **Figure 15.15**, **Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). Urban areas form an almost contiguous built-up coastal edge, separating the low-lying coastal plain from the sea. There is likely to be very limited visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the low-lying landform of the West Sussex coastal plain between Chichester Harbour, Manhood Peninsula, Chichester and Littlehampton due to the screening effect of vegetation, woodland and built up coastal urban areas.

15.6.24 Due to the potential height of the Rampion 2 WTGs, and the western extent of the wind farm array area, there will be some limited and long distance visibility of the offshore elements from the 'Witterings coast' of West Sussex, however Bracklesham Bay is oriented to the south-west away from the wind farm array area, and there is substantial screening from the intervening Manhood Peninsula and headland at Selsey Bill.

15.6.25 There will also be visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the coastal areas of Hampshire beyond Selsey Bill and Chichester Harbour, around Hayling Island and the City of Portsmouth, at distances of 25-40km. Theoretical visibility of Rampion 2 also extends along the eastern Solent, between the Hampshire Coast and the Isle of Wight; and there will be long distance views from the eastern coast of the Isle of Wight at distances between 30-40km and the higher ground of the eastern Isle of Wight.

15.6.26 Visibility to the east is restricted by the headland at Beachy Head, such that there is likely to be no visibility of Rampion 2 for the majority of the coastal landscape between Eastbourne and Hastings, and inland across the Pevensey Levels.

15.6.27 The ZTV in **Figure 15.22, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) shows areas where Rampion 2 and the existing Rampion 1 wind farm will be visible in combination (green areas on ZTV); and where they will be visible alone (i.e. without the other). Rampion 2 will often be viewed in combination with the operational Rampion Offshore Wind Farm (green areas), in particular from the main areas of higher theoretical visibility (i.e., from the immediate coastal edges and hinterland of Sussex Bay between Selsey Bill and Beachy Head; the coastal plateau; the white cliffs of the Sussex Heritage Coast and slopes of the South Downs). In views from these areas, Rampion 2 will result in visual effects arising from the appearance of Rampion 2 when viewed in-combination with Rampion 1. The apparent height of the larger Rampion 2 turbines (up to 325m) relative to the smaller operational turbines (140m) is likely to be central to the potential for cumulative visual effects arising from these areas.

15.6.28 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will also be viewed from areas where the existing Rampion 1 wind farm is not visible, as shown in blue above in **Figure 15.22, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15), where it will extend the geographic extent of visibility to new areas that are not currently subject to views of Rampion 1. These include areas of the Low Weald and High Weald to the north

of the South Downs; the edges of the Surrey Hills; and coastal areas of Hampshire including the 'Witterings' coastline of the Solent between Selsley Bill and Chichester Harbour, and parts of the Chichester Harbour AONB.

Visual receptors – overview

15.6.29 The principal visual receptors in the SLVIA study area are focused along the closest sections of the Sussex coastline, including people within settlements, driving on roads, visitors to tourist facilities or historic environment assets, and people engaged in recreational activity such as on walking and cycle routes where the sea is a strong influence in the baseline view.

15.6.30 Broadly, the principal visual receptors are identified as follows:

- Coastal settlements. The larger settlements within the extent of ZTV are generally coincident with the coastline, where the main focus of views is typically 'land to sea' or 'land to land'. Some of the seafront views however also include an element of 'coast across sea to land' views such as those from Seaford towards Newhaven and those from Selsey Bill towards Worthing. The principal coastal settlements with capacity for views of Rampion 2 are (with approximate distance to the wind farm array area): Brighton and Hove (16.6km), Worthing (13.5km), Newhaven (21.0km), Shoreham-by-Sea (16.4km), Rottingdean (18.5km), Saltdean and Peacehaven (18.6km), Seaford (23.0km), Littlehampton (14.2km), Bognor Regis (15.2km) and Selsey (14.7km). There may also be longer distance visibility from coastal settlements beyond the headland of Selsey Bill, 30-40km from Rampion 2, such as South Hayling, Portsmouth and Gosport in Hampshire; and settlements on the eastern coast of the Isle of Wight, such as Bembridge, Sandown and Shanklin.
- Long distance paths. The principal long-distance routes with potential for views of Rampion 2 are: The South Downs Way, National Trail through the heart of the SDNP between Winchester and Eastbourne; The Monarchs Way, passing through the elevated areas of the SDNP; The Sussex Border Path skirting around the northern edge of Brighton and Hove; and Vanguard Way, which is within the ZTV along its cliff top extents between Cuckmere and Newhaven.
- Long distance cycle routes. Sustrans National Cycle Route 2 (NCR2) Dover to Havant passes between Worthing and Eastbourne and includes part of the 'Downs and Wealds Cycle Route' within its route between Brighton and Eastbourne. The route includes notable seaward views between Worthing and Seaford. Parts of several other NCRs extend inland away from the coast, including NCR223, NCR82, NCR90 and NCR21.
- Public Rights of Way. A more general concentration of Public Rights of Way is also notable within the extents of the SDNP and the coast, associated with its open landscape and focus as a centre for outdoor recreation. Sea front promenades, typically associated with the main settlements, provide further linear route vantage points.
- Main road routes. The principal highway route with capacity for sea views is the A259 running between Chichester and Eastbourne, connecting the various coastal towns and coincident with the coastline between Worthing and

Newhaven. The A27 is set inland from the coast and has only limited scope for views where it reaches its highest point north of Brighton.

- Rail routes. The only notable rail route with potential for views of the proposals is the Lewes to Seaford line terminating at Seaford, where the line runs parallel to the coast east of Newhaven.
- Tourist and visitor locations. Concentrations of recreational and visitor locations associated with the main coastal resort towns, with their seafront promenades, piers and shingle beaches, including: Brighton and Hove (16.6km), Worthing (13.5km), Bognor Regis (15.2km), Littlehampton (14.2km) and Seaford (23.0km). Other notable beach locations (within general accessibility along the majority of the coastline) offering beach and inshore sea based recreational opportunities include: Selsey Bill, Pagham, Middleton, South Lancing, Shoreham and Birling Gap. The cliffs east of Seaford and coincident with the extents of Heritage Coast, act as a key visitor focus along the coastline, including locations at Seven Sisters Country Park, Birling Gap, Cuckmere Haven and Beachy Head. The eastern coast of the Isle of Wight is a popular recreational and visitor location.
- South Downs IDSR. People visiting the South Downs IDSR at night to view the night sky, including from Dark Sky Discovery sites, which allow good access to dark skies and are usually centred on rural car parks.
- Principal Boat Routes. The English Channel shipping route, passing to the south of the wind farm array area is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, including both freight and passenger traffic, though predominantly freight in closest proximity to the site (refer to **Chapter 13: Shipping and navigation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.13)) for figures illustrating vessel movements). The nearest shipping lane used by westbound channel traffic runs to the south east of the wind farm array area. There is an inshore traffic zone north of this lane, which is used by coastal shipping and currently coincides extensively with the wind farm array area. Commercial shipping routes also originate from Shoreham, diverging east and west beyond the northern extents of the wind farm array area. The main cross channel passenger routes run from Newhaven to Dieppe, to the east of the wind farm array area, and from Portsmouth to Le Havre to the west of the SLVIA study area. The nature of such views is either sea to land or sea to sea.
- Other Sea Based Users. Other sea based users are considered in more detail in **Chapter 13: Shipping and navigation, Chapter 10: Commercial fisheries** and **Chapter 7: Other marine users, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.13, 6.2.10, 6.2.7 respectively). The main recreational boat routes run out of Brighton in a westward direction, to the north of the wind farm array area. Several 'medium use' routes run through the wind farm array area. The main recreational boat racing and sailing areas coincide with areas to the east of Selsey Bill and east of Beachy Head. Beyond Selsey Bill to the west, the Solent is known internationally as a location for sailing with Portsmouth hosting many of the world's long-distance sailing races. Cowes on the Isle of Wight attracts the world's leading racing yachtsmen and the Solent is busy with leisure boats all year round. The majority of fishing vessel activity is concentrated on Shoreham with the main fishing grounds occurring within 9km

of the coastline to the north of wind farm array area, and immediately to the south, and including transitional movement between the two across the wind farm array area. The area to the west of the wind farm array area is a significant resource for aggregate extraction. All such users experience varying aspects of sea to land or sea to sea views.

Nature of views – overview

15.6.31 An understanding of the baseline visual resource and nature of views is provided in the MMO Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas (MMO, 2014), Section 3. It is described in terms of land with sea views; and visibility of the sea.

15.6.32 Figure 25 of the MMO Seascape Assessment (MMO, 2014) shows land with sea views, which broadly indicates that elevated land forming the eastern part of Sussex Bay has generally higher visibility of the sea than the lower coastal plain forming the western parts of the bay. Visibility of the sea is also primarily from land within 10km of the coastline, forming a band of visibility across the coastal edge, South Downs and coastal plain. At the broad scale, it indicates that beyond 20km inland from the coast, there is almost no visibility of the sea; and between 10-20km visibility of the sea is very limited. Although this does not equate to visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, which is discussed in relation to the ZTV, it does provide some definition to 'seascape' where the sea may form part of the baseline characteristics in 'landscapes with views of the coast or seas' (MMO, 2014).

15.6.33 The MMO Seascape Assessment (MMO, 2014) finds that *'At a strategic scale, the most extensive views of the South Inshore and South Offshore marine plan areas are generally found within 5km of the High Water Mark (HWM). A notable exception to this is the South Downs where there are extensive sea views experienced further inland at these higher elevations. Due to its elevated topography and position, the west of the Isle of Wight also provides viewers with extensive views of the sea'.*

15.6.34 At a more local level, the MCA descriptions highlight where viewers on land may expect to have the most extensive views of each MCA. Extensive views of MCA07 (Selsey Bill to Seaford Head), where Rampion 2 is located almost in its entirety, can be obtained from areas up to 10km inland, from the western edge of Eastbourne to Walderton (within the SDNP and including sections of the South Downs Way). Some views of MCA07 can also be obtained from the coastline between Selsey Bill to Hove, Seaford; from parts of the Seven Sisters Country Park; and from East Wittering to Beachy Head on the mainland. Some views are afforded from the edge of Shanklin and Bembridge Downs within the Isle of Wight AONB.

15.6.35 At a strategic scale, in terms of visibility of the sea from land, it is '*particularly noticeable the extent to which the Solent and adjacent waters (between Selsey Bill and Seaford Head) can be seen from numerous locations on land. This is likely to be a result of the extent to which views of the sea extend inland to elevated areas around the South Downs. There are opportunities to view this area of sea from both directions (from the Isle of Wight as well as Hampshire and West Sussex). The coastline behind the Solent is generally low-lying and there is high visibility of this area of sea by viewers close to the coast as well'.*

15.6.36 MMO 2014 includes viewshed analysis for MCA07, to examine which locations on land can see these. Figure 28 of MMO 2014 shows the locations of the most and least visible areas of sea within MCA07 and identifies that the most extensive views of the areas of MCA07 are within 15km of the coast, reducing to more moderate levels to the outer edges of MCA07 with distance offshore.

15.6.37 The visual context of the SLVIA study area includes a number of key visual elements and vertical infrastructure components which influence the nature of views experienced, which include:

- the existing Rampion 1 project, comprising 116 turbines of 140m blade tip height, between 13 and 20km off the Sussex coast;
- the general built form within the extensive coastal, urban environment which predominates between Seaford and Bognor Regis;
- landmark man-made features including high rise buildings and seafront piers at Brighton, Worthing and Bognor and Shoreham Power Station chimney;
- The Brighton i360 tower (162m) at Brighton seafront, the tallest structure in Sussex.
- the massing of beach groynes along the coastline and lighthouses at Beachy Head; concentrations of sea faring activity at Newhaven, Brighton, Shoreham and Littlehampton;
- large scale cliff landforms, most notably between Seaford and Beachy Head; and the large scale landform massing of the South Downs; and
- extensive shingle beaches extending along the majority of the coastline between Brighton and Selsey.

Visibility

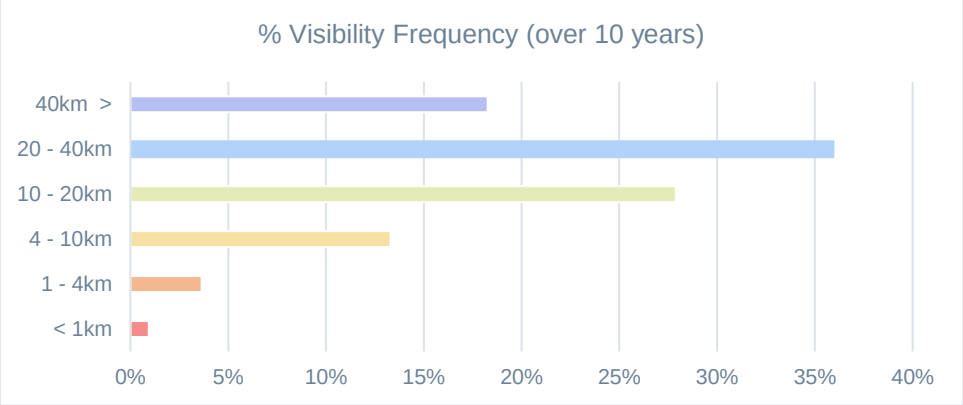
15.6.38 Whilst ZTV mapping can model the theoretical visibility of the sea or the offshore elements of Rampion 2, it is important to note that atmospheric conditions will affect visibility. The Met Office defines visibility as '*the greatest distance at which an object can be seen and recognised in daylight, or at night could be seen if the general illumination were raised to a daylight level'* (Met Office, 2000).

15.6.39 A quantitative description of the existing visibility is provided using METAR visibility data from the closest Met Office weather station at Thorney Island, to highlight potential trends in the visibility conditions of the study area. This 'visibility data' shows a 10-year average of the frequency of observations at measured distances from the station.

15.6.40 Visibility range and frequency is mapped in **Figure 15.23, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) in the context of the wind farm array area site using visibility ranges based on Met Office visibility definitions: < 1km Very Poor; 1 - 4km Poor; 4 -10km Moderate; 10 - 20km Good; 20 - 40km Very Good; 40km > Excellent. The visibility range is shown in bands extending from the wind farm array area and is combined with the ZTV of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to show the likely frequency of visibility over 10 years at difference distances, as shown in **Table 15-13**.

Table 15-13 Visibility frequency

Visibility range	Visibility definition	% Visibility frequency (over 10 years)	Days per year visibility frequency (10 year average)
< 1km	Very Poor	0.94%	3
1 - 4km	Poor	3.64%	13
4 - 10km	Moderate	13.30%	49
10 - 20km	Good	27.89%	102
20 - 40km	Very Good	35.95%	131
40km >	Excellent	18.27%	67



Viewpoints

15.6.41 The term 'viewpoint' is used to define a place from where a view is gained, and that represents specific conditions or viewers (visual receptors).

15.6.42 Viewpoints have been compiled within the SLVIA study area based on consultee feedback, viewpoints from the Rampion 1 ES (E.ON UK, 2012), the ZTV for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 (**Figure 15.14a-b, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), identification of the landscape and visual receptors within the ZTV, further desk study through wireline analysis and review of the SDNP: View Characterisation and Analysis (SDNPA, 2015), as well as field survey observations. The approach to the selection of viewpoints was set out in a Viewpoint Selection Method Statement provided to the SLVIA ETG for feedback during the EPP.

15.6.43 In summary, a viewpoint search listed all the potential viewpoints compiled from the Rampion 1 ES, additional viewpoints defined in the Rampion 2 Scoping Report, together with viewpoints suggested by consultee stakeholders during non-statutory consultations and the Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, August 2020). Proposed viewpoints for the SLVIA were then shortlisted from this overall viewpoint search, to those that were considered necessary to assess the

likely significant effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, informed by guidance contained within the GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) (p107-110) and Visual Representation of Wind Farms (SNH, 2017) (p16-21).

15.6.44 Detailed consultations were undertaken on the viewpoints selected through the statutory and non-statutory consultations and ETG meetings, which brought forward many suggestions from stakeholders regarding the inclusion of certain viewpoint locations for assessment. In total 54 viewpoints (**Table 15-14**) were agreed with the ETG and are included in the SLVIA, which provide a wealth of representative locations from which to understand the likely significant effects of the Rampion 2 project. Agreement of viewpoint locations for use in the SLVIA has been reached following consideration of the combined feedback from consultees and discussion during ETG meetings between March / April 2020 and 17 June 2022.

15.6.45 Viewpoints within the SLVIA study area are set out in **Table 15-14** and shown in **Figure 15.10, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The viewpoints take into account a range of factors, including:

- a range of viewpoints from where there are likely to be significant effects;
- those representative of views within the study area, from specific viewpoints and illustrative of certain effects;
- the accessibility to the public, and potential number and sensitivity of viewers who may be affected;
- the viewing direction, distance and elevation, including a range of distances between 13.6km – 45.1km to test threshold of significance from coastal to inland areas);
- the nature of the viewing experience and activities (e.g. static views, views from settlements, tourist destinations, and views from sequential points along roads and recreational routes, such as the South Downs Way);
- the view type (for example panorama, vistas and glimpses);
- areas of high landscape, scenic or recreational value (such as the SDNP, CHAONB and IoW AONB);
- various landscape character areas and local authority administrative areas;
- the potential for combined views of Rampion 2 with Rampion Wind Farm; and views of just Rampion 2 alone; and
- potential for integrated approach – viewpoints representing several aspects from the same location, such as visual effects of the offshore and onshore infrastructure, or views representing onshore cultural heritage assets.

15.6.46 Baseline panoramas showing the existing view from these viewpoints are shown in the relevant baseline panoramas that are cross referenced for each viewpoint in **Table 15-14**. The nature of views from these viewpoints is described for each viewpoint within the baseline description of each geographic area that follows in this description of the current baseline conditions. The viewpoint numbering is not always consecutive but reflects the viewpoint numbering used throughout the consultation process.

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Table 15-14 Viewpoints included in the SLVIA

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
1	Beachy Head (**Figure 15.26, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	31.9	South Downs Way / Visitor Centre	SDNP	Sussex Heritage Coast
2	Birling Gap (**Figure 15.27 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	28.8	South Downs Way / Visitors to National Trust Site / Dark Skies Discovery Site	SDNP	Sussex Heritage Coast. Scheduled Monument - 1002288 Camp near Belle Tout lighthouse, Birling Gap.
3	Seven Sisters Country Park (**Figure 15.28 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	26.6	South Downs Way / Seven Sisters Country Park	SDNP	Sussex Heritage Coast

[1] Viewpoint identification numbers have been retained from the overall viewpoint search for ease of reference and as a result are not always numbered consecutively.

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
4	Seaford Head (**Figure 15.29 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	23.9	Walkers (Vanguard Way) / Residents (Seaford) / Visitors to Seaford Beach	SDNP	Sussex Heritage Coast. Near Scheduled Monument 1014523 Hillfort and bowl barrow on Seaford Head.
5	Newhaven (Castle Hill) (**Figure 15.30 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	East Sussex	21.6	Visitors (Newhaven Fort); Residents (Newhaven); Newhaven Ferry	No landscape designation	Scheduled Monument - 1002242 Newhaven military fort and lunette battery
6	Peacehaven (**Figure 15.31 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	East Sussex	19.4	Residents (Peacehaven)	No landscape designation	No
7	Beacon Hill, Rottingdean (**Figure 15.32 Volume 3, of the ES (**Document	SDNP	18.7	Walkers ((Public Right of Way (PRoW)) / Residents (Rottingdean))	SDNP	No

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	Reference: 6.3.15))					
8	Brighton seafront promenade (**Figure 15.33 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	City of Brighton & Hove	18.4	Residents (City of Brighton & Hove); Visitors & seafront / beach recreation (Brighton seafront)	No landscape designation	Near Kemp Town Enclosures Park & Garden (Grade II) and the Royal Pavilion, Brighton Park & Garden (Grade II)
9	Shoreham Harbour/ A259 (**Figure 15.34 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	18.1	Residents (Shoreham); Visitors & seafront / beach recreation (Shoreham Beach)	No landscape designation	Scheduled Monument - 1005824 Shoreham Fort, 120m SSE of East
10	Worthing seafront promenade (**Figure 15.35 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	13.6	Residents (Worthing); Visitors & seafront / beach recreation (Worthing seafront)	No landscape designation	Scheduled Monument - 1263242 The Pier (including the pierfoot pavilion and the pierhead pavilion). Worthing Conservation Area.

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
11	Littlehampton seafront promenade (**Figure 15.36 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	15.4	Residents (Littlehampton); Visitors & seafront/beach recreation (Littlehampton seafront)	No landscape designation	No
12	Bognor Regis seafront promenade (**Figure 15.37 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	15.4	Residents (Bognor Regis); Visitors & seafront/beach recreation (Bognor Regis seafront)	No landscape designation	Bognor Regis The Steyne Conservation Area
13	Pagham Beach (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	16.1	Residents (Pagham); Visitors & seafront / beach recreation (Pagham Beach); Recreational Boating	No landscape designation	No
14	Selsey seafront promenade	West Sussex	14.9	Residents (Selsey); Visitors & seafront / beach recreation (Selsey seafront)	No landscape designation	Selsey Conservation Area

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	(**Figure 15.39 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))					
15	Willingdon Hill (**Figure 15.40 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	32.9	South Downs Way	SDNP	No
16	Firle Beacon (**Figure 15.41 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	28.5	South Downs Way	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1002267 Firle Beacon
17	Devil's Dyke (**Figure 15.42 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	24.4	South Downs Way / Visitors to National Trust Site/Dark Skies Discovery Site	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1014953 Devil's Dyke hillfort

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
18	Cissbury Ring (**Figure 15.43 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	19.5	Walkers / Visitors to National Trust Site	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1015817 Cissbury Ring hillfort
19	Highdown Hill **(Figure 15.44 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	16.7	Walkers (PRoW) / Visitors to Highdown RPG	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1015877 Highdown Hill Camp
20	Springhead Hill (**Figure 15.45 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	25.2	South Downs Way	SDNP	No
21	Bignor Hill (**Figure 15.46 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	28.1	South Downs Way / Dark Skies Discovery Site	SDNP	No

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
22	Eastoke Point (Chichester Harbour AONB) (**Figure 15.47 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	27.0	Visitors (Sandy Point NNR); Residents (South Hayling); Recreational Boating	Chichester Harbour AONB	No
24	Bembridge, Isle of Wight (**Figure 15.48 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Isle of Wight	31.7	Residents (Bembridge); Visitors (Norton Grange Coastal Village); Walkers (IoW Coastal Path)	Isle of Wight AONB (just outside)	No
26	Low Weald (A24, near Ashington) (**Figure 15.49 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	28.9	Road users (A24); Walkers (PRoW)	No landscape designation	No
27	Hollingbury Hill Fort	SDNP	22.5	Walkers (PRoW)/Residents (City of Brighton & Hove) /	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - Iron Age Hillfort.

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	(**Figure 15.50 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))			Golfers / Dark Skies Discovery Site		
28	Cuckmere Haven Beach (**Figure 15.51 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	26.2	Beach users / Walkers (Cuckmere Haven) / Open Access Land	SDNP	Sussex Heritage Coast
29	Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve (**Figure 15.52 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	31.6	Walkers (PRoW, Kingley Vale NNR) / Open Access Land	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1009004 An Itford Hill style settlement in Kingley Vale.
30	Halnaker Windmill (**Figure 15.53 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document	SDNP	26.2	Walkers (PRoW)	SDNP	Causeway enclosure, WWII Searchlights Scheduled Ancient Monument

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	Reference: 6.3.15))					Grade II Listed building, Halnaker Windmill
31	Butser Hill National Nature Reserve (**Figure 15.54, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	45.1	South Downs Way / Queen Elizabeth Country Park / Open Access Land / Dark Skies Discovery Site	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1008692 A hilltop enclosed by Iron Age cross dykes.
32	Levin Down (**Figure 15.55, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	31.1	Walkers (New Lipchis Way)	SDNP	No
33	Arundel Castle (**Figure 15.56 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	21.5	Visitors (Arundel Castle)	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1012500 Arundel Castle. Grade II* Registered Parkscape. Grade I Listed Building.
34	Bembridge Down (**Figure 15.57 Volume 3,** of the	Isle of Wight	34.4	Visitors (Bembridge and Culver Downs National Trust site); Walkers (IoW Coastal Path)	Isle of Wight AONB	Scheduled Monument - 1012717 Bembridge Fort

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))					
35	St. Boniface Down above Ventnor (**Figure 15.58 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Isle of Wight	39.6	Visitors (Ventnor Downs and Luccombe National Trust site); Residents (Ventnor); Walkers (IoW Coastal Path)	Isle of Wight AONB	No
40	Climping Beach (**Figure 15.59 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	15.5	Visitors to Climping Beach	No landscape designation	No
41	Slindon Folly (**Figure 15.60 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	25.2	Walkers (PRoW)	SDNP	National Trust, Slindon Estate
43	Gilkicker Point	Hampshire	39.1	Visitors (Gilkicker Point); Walkers (Solent Way)	No landscape designation	Scheduled Monument - 1276716 Fort Gilkicker

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	(**Figure 15.61 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))					
47	High Weald (near Bolney) (**Figure 15.62 Volume 3 of** the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	37.0	Residents (Bolney); Walkers (PRoW); National Cycle Network Route 20	High Weald AONB	No
50	The Trundle (**Figure 15.63 Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	28.9	Monarch's Way	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1018034 The Trundle hillfort
51	Ditchling Beacon (**Figure 15.64 Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	27.8	South Downs Way / visitors to National Trust site / Open Access Land / Dark Skies Discovery Site	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1015340 Hillfort, Ditchling Beacon.

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
52	Chanctonbury Ring (**Figure 15.65 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	23.4	South Downs Way	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1015114 Chanctonbury Ring hillfort
53	Amberley Mount (**Figure 15.66 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	25.9	South Downs Way	SDNP	Amberley Mount Tumuli (Barrow Cemetery)
54	Chantry Hill (**Figure 15.67, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	24.9	Walkers (South Downs Way open access land)	SDNP	Scheduled Monument - 1015712 Cross Dyke
55	Beeding Hill (**Figure 15.68 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	21.5	South Downs Way	SDNP	No

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
57	Telscomb Tye (**Figure 15.69 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	21.2	Walkers (PRoW)	SDNP	No
58	Wolstonbury Hill (**Figure 15.70 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	28.2	Walkers (PRoW / open access land)	SDNP	National Trust Scheduled Monument - 1016153 Wolstonbury Camp (Bronze Age enclosure)
61	A27 near Lancing College (**Figure 15.71 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	SDNP	17.4	Road users (A27)	SDNP	No
62	Beacon Hill, South Downs Way (**Figure 15.72 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document	SDNP	38.5	South Downs Way / Visitors to National Trust site	SDNP	No

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	Reference: 6.3.15))					
A	East Wittering (**Figure 15.73 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	31.9	Residents (East Wittering) / Visitors to East Wittering Beach and Bracklesham Bay.	No landscape designation	No
B1	Chichester Marina (**Figure 15.74 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	28.8	Walkers (New Lipchis Way / PRoW), Recreational boating, Visitors	Chichester Harbour AONB	No
B2	Dell Quay (**Figure 15.75, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	26.6	Sailing Club / Recreational boating, Visitors to Dell Quay	Chichester Harbour AONB	No
C	Eastergate (proposed A29) (**Figure 15.76 Volume 3,** of the	West Sussex	23.9	PRoW along southern edge of Eastergate, Motorists on proposed A29 alignment.	No landscape designation	No

ID[1]	Viewpoint	Geographic area	Distance (km) to array area (km)	Principal visual receptor	Landscape designation	Heritage interest
	ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))					
D	Footpath between A259 and Colworth (**Figure 15.77 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	21.6	Walkers (PRoW)	No landscape designation	No
E	Ferring Gap (**Figure 15.78 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	19.4	Visitors to Ferring Gap Beach / Bluebird Cafe	No landscape designation	No
F	Lancing Beach (**Figure 15.79 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	West Sussex	18.7	Visitors to Lancing Beach / Lancing Beach Green	No landscape designation	No
Viewpoint 30, 32, 40, 41, 53, 54, 58, 62 and A-F added following PEIR at request of ETG						

Geographic areas considered in the SLVIA

15.6.47 The baseline conditions for seascape, landscape and visual amenity are described and effects subsequently assessed in **Sections 15.9 to 15.11** within each of the main geographic 'receptor areas' based on administrative boundaries (**Figure 5.3, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) within the SLVIA study area:

- South Downs National Park (SDNP) – all areas within the SDNP boundary (including parts of East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire) and its associative seascape setting, including the Sussex Heritage Coast;
- West Sussex South Coast Plain – specifically the South Coast Plain within West Sussex and areas of West Sussex outside the SDNP with an associative seascape setting, including the Chichester Harbour AONB;
- East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove - areas of East Sussex outside the SDNP with an associative seascape setting;
- Hampshire and the Solent – areas of Hampshire outside the SDNP and Chichester Harbour AONB (considered within West Sussex) with an associative seascape setting; and
- Isle of Wight – the Island of the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Wight AONB and its associative seascape setting.

15.6.48 The baseline seascape, landscape and visual amenity of receptors and at viewpoints within these geographic areas are described in turn and assessed using this structure in the assessment in **Section 15.10** of the SLVIA.

15.6.49 Seascape, landscape and visual receptors often cover the same geographic area, for example, the SDNP is defined by the National Park designation and its description of special qualities, includes a number of landscape character areas, has a network of footpaths from which this landscape is experienced and viewpoints from representative hill summit locations. Where relevant, seascape, landscape and visual receptors are described and assessed together, such as a landscape character area and designation covering the same location, or a viewpoint representing views from a particular visual receptor, to avoid repetition and allow the assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on these receptor areas using all of the relevant landscape and visual baseline information.

South Downs National Park

Overview

15.6.50 The geographic area of the SDNP is shown in **Figure 15.3, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). Its current baseline seascape, landscape and visual amenity is described as follows based on the seascape character of 'MCA08 South Downs Maritime' which defines the associative seascape setting of the SDNP coastline; the 'South Downs NCA' (125) which defines its character at the national level; the SDNP's special qualities; and the LCAs within the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (2020) that together provide a baseline landscape characterisation within the SDNP and its immediate seascape setting.

MCA08 South Downs Maritime

15.6.51 MCA08 South Downs Maritime is co-incident with the area of coastline defined as the Sussex Heritage Coast along the distinctive white cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head between Seaford and Eastbourne. It forms the maritime setting of the SDNP as shown in **Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) (recognising that the SDNP contains sea views from inland areas to the west as well (within MCA07)). The boundaries of the MCA are formed in the west by the point of Seaford Head and by the extent of the cliff line of Beachy Head in the east. Its offshore boundary is located 6.5km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.52 MCA08 South Downs Maritime 'consists of the Beachy Head and Seven Sisters chalk cliffs. The MCA is characterised by chalk bedrock which is exposed in the distinctive, steep cliffs on the coastline. The chalk subtidal and intertidal habitats, cliff geology, geomorphology and diverse inshore habitats are internationally important, and the sheer white cliffs, with the landmark red and white lighthouse are iconic symbols of the coastline of the south-east. Birling Gap is a near-complete cross section of a dry valley, whilst Cuckhaven Estuary is a rare undeveloped estuary. Strong tides race around Beachy Head which has been the site of many shipwrecks over the years, partly as a result of the large volumes of maritime traffic using the English Channel. Views between land and sea are particularly important, especially from panoramic viewpoints on the chalk cliffs of the South Downs.

15.6.53 The views between land and sea include the existing Rampion 1 Wind Farm, visible in the adjacent MCA07, located approximately 23.3km from the maritime coastline of the SDNP and 22.1km from the Sussex Heritage Coast (which is slightly closer as it covers part of the nearshore sea). Rampion 1 is 'remote' from this maritime coastline of the SDNP, however has resulted in some change to Special Quality 1 of the SDNP - 'Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views' as a result of its influence on the associative seascape setting of the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast, with the main association relating to the 12km coastal extents between Seaford and Beachy Head that form the adjacent coastline of this MCA.

15.6.54 The adjacent coastline is defined by LCAs of the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (SDNP, 2020) – Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline (S1), backed by the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs (A1).

South Downs NCA (125)

15.6.55 The South Downs NCA (125) (**Figure 15.5, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) comprises a 'whale-backed' spine of chalk stretching from the Hampshire Downs in the west to the coastal cliffs of Beachy Head in East Sussex. South Downs NCA is located 13.3km to the north of the wind farm array area at its closest point. The majority of the area falls within the South Downs National Park (SDNP), however the coastal areas of the NCA are urban, comprising the coastal conurbation of Brighton and Hove in the east. Rampion 1 forms part of the seascape setting of the NCA, within Sussex Bay. The South Downs NCA is a diverse and complex landscape with considerable variation representing physical, historical and economic influences; much of it has been formed and maintained by

human activity, while dramatic white chalk cliffs and downlands create a sense of openness.

15.6.56 The majority of the NCA falls within the SDNP, a recognition of its natural beauty and importance for access and recreation. The maritime coast of the NCA between Eastbourne and Seaford is recognised as part of the Sussex Heritage Coast.

SDNP designation

Introduction

15.6.57 The SDNP covers over 1,600km^2 (SDNPA, 2020) in total, with approximately 1,280km^2 of the SDNP being located within the SLVIA study area (**Figure 15.7, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The SDNP is made up of a variety of complex landscapes − a tapestry reflecting its underlying geology and centuries of human influence. The eastern Downs have an open and expansive character, with scenic views across the Weald and out to sea, and include the Sussex Heritage Coast around Cuckmere Haven and the Seven Sisters. In the central and western Downs, woodland is a more characteristic feature. North of the chalk Downs, the Wealden clay and greensand is more enclosed and intimate, with its remnant heathland and sunken lanes. Pressures upon these landscapes are recognised in the SDNP Management Plan (SDNPA, 2020-2025) as 'many and varied' and 'continue to be shaped by land use, agriculture and the many impacts of human settlement from small-scale clutter to large-scale infrastructure'. The protection and enhancement of natural beauty and landscape character of the SDNP is defined as one of the key priorities of the SDNP Management Plan (SDNPA, 2020-2025).

15.6.58 In essence the landscape of the SDNP comprises a chalk ridge stretching from Beachy Head in the east to Winchester in the west with a dramatic northern escarpment and gentler dip slope towards the coast. Within this simple landform structure there is significant diversity and including the greensand shelf at the foot of the downland scarps and the clay hinterland of the Low Weald, creating a very varied and complex landscape character. It includes areas of mixed farming with extensive swathes of seminatural species-rich chalk grassland which accentuates the undulating landform of the Downs, river valleys, frequent small woodlands and areas of heathlands.

15.6.59 The SDNP is of particular relevance due to its association with the closest coastal landscapes of the SLVIA study area. The most prominent association with the seascape relates to two sections of coastal cliffs forming the maritime edges of the SDNP. These are the coastal cliffs between Brighton to Rottingdean (LCA S2) which are approximately 2.7km length and the closest section of the SDNP located 18.2km from the wind farm array area; and the chalk cliffs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head (LCA S1) which are approximately 12km in length and located at a distance of 23.8km from the wind farm array area at its closest point. This coastal landscape formed by the white chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and Seven Sisters is also defined as the Sussex Heritage Coast.

15.6.60 There is an associative relationship between parts of the SDNP and the marine environment, particularly within the Sussex Heritage Coast between Beachy Head

and Seaford, where the SDNP extends to the White Cliffs along this section of the coast, with the SDNP boundary being open at its seaward limit to encompass an associative (but not formally defined) extent of seascape. Rampion 1 forms part of this associative seascape setting of the SDNP, within Sussex Bay.

15.6.61 To the west of Seaford Head, the SDNP boundary is formed by a continuous inland urban edge of the coastal conurbations between Seaford, Brighton and Worthing, which separate it from the coast, and where it extends inland formed by Open Downlands of the south facing dip slopes of the South Downs. There is a broad geographic division between the Open Downland to the east of the SDNP and the Wooded Estate Downland to the west, divided by several major river valleys (such as the Ouse, Arun and Adur) and chalk valley systems. The Open Downlands are Kipling's classic 'blunt, bow-headed, whale-backed Downs' (Sussex, 1902) and the Wooded Estate Downlands forms a distinctive ridge dominated by large woodland blocks and estates in the central part of the South Downs extending from Worthing in the east. These downlands contain some of the highest and most remote parts of the SDNP and afford panoramic views across the Weald to the north and the sea to the south.

Special qualities

15.6.62 The statutory purposes of National Parks as set out in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (**Table 15-1**) are:

- 'To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks.
- To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks'.

15.6.63 The special qualities of the SDNP have been defined in the SDNP Special Qualities Report (SDNPA) as indicators of what comprises its natural beauty. They have been defined as a result of stakeholder engagement and technical evidence prepared by the SDNPA since designation of the SDNP.

15.6.64 The SDNP has many special qualities which together define its sense of place and attract people to live and work in the area and visit the SDNP, but it is also a living, working and ever-changing landscape, shaped by its human history.

15.6.65 The special qualities of the SDNP as defined in the Special Qualities Report (SDNPA) are as follows:

- '1. Diverse, inspirational landscape and breathtaking views.
- 2. A rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and internationally important species.
- 3. Tranquil and unspoilt places.
- 4. An environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise.
- 5. Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences.
- 6. Well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage.

- 7. Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area'.

15.6.66 The special qualities that are scoped in to the SLVIA are identified in **Table 15-8**, as those that may have potential to be significantly affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and are described as follows in **Table 15-15**.

Table 15-15 Special Qualities of the SDNP

ID	Special Quality	Description (SDNP Special Qualities Report)
1.	Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views	The geology of the South Downs underpins so much of what makes up the special qualities of the area: its diverse landscapes, land use, buildings and culture. The rock types of the National Park are predominately chalk and the alternating series of greensands and clays that form the Western Weald. Over time a diversity of landscapes has been created in a relatively small area which is a key feature of the National Park. These vary from the wooded and heathland ridges on the greensand in the Western Weald to wide open downland on the chalk that spans the length of the National Park, both intersected by river valleys. Within these diverse landscapes are hidden villages, thriving market towns, farms both large and small and historic estates, connected by a network of paths and lanes, many of which are ancient. There are stunning, panoramic views to the sea and across the Weald as you travel the hundred mile length of the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne, culminating in the impressive chalk cliffs at Seven Sisters. From near and far, the South Downs is an area of inspirational beauty that can lift the soul.
3.	Tranquil and unspoilt places	The SDNP is in South East England, one of the most densely populated parts of the United Kingdom. Although its most popular locations are heavily visited, many people greatly value the sense of tranquillity and unspoilt places which give them a feeling of peace and space. In some areas the landscape seems to possess a timeless quality, largely lacking intrusive development and retaining areas of dark night skies. This is a place where people seek to escape from the hustle and bustle in this busy part of England, to relax, unwind and re-charge their batteries.
5.	Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences	The South Downs offers a wide range of recreational and learning opportunities to the large and diverse populations living both within and on the doorstep of the National Park, and to visitors from further afield. With 3,200 kilometres (2,000 miles) of public rights of way and the entire South Downs Way National Trail within the National Park there is exceptional scope for walking, cycling and horse riding. Many other outdoor activities take place such as paragliding, orienteering and canoeing. There is a chance for everyone to walk, play, picnic and enjoy the countryside, including at Queen Elizabeth Country Park in Hampshire and Seven Sisters Country Park in East

ID	Special Quality	Description (SDNP Special Qualities Report)
		Sussex. The variety of landscapes, wildlife and culture provides rich opportunities for learning about the South Downs as a special place, for the many school and college students and lifelong learners. Museums, churches, historic houses, outdoor education centres and wildlife reserves are places that provide both enjoyment and learning. There is a strong volunteering tradition providing chances for outdoor conservation work, acquiring rural skills, leading guided walks and carrying out survey work relating to wildlife species and rights of way.
6.	Well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage	The distinct character of many areas of the South Downs has been created by well-conserved historical features, some of which are rare and of national importance. Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age hill forts, Saxon and Norman churches, dew ponds, historic houses and landmarks of the two World Wars help to give the National Park strong links to its past human settlement. These links are reinforced by the variety of architectural building styles spanning the ages. Evidence of earlier farming traditions can still be seen today in the pattern of field boundaries, and relics of the industrial past remain in the form of old iron workings, brickworks, quarries and ancient coppiced woodlands. The South Downs has a rich cultural heritage of art, music and rural traditions. There is a strong association with well-known writers, poets, musicians and artists who have captured the essence of this most English of landscapes and drawn inspiration from the sense of place: Virginia Woolf, Jane Austen, Hilaire Belloc, Edward Thomas, Gilbert White, Edward Elgar, Joseph Turner, Eric Gill and Eric Ravilious, among many others. Today traditions continue through activities such as folk singing and events like Findon sheep fair. Culture lives on with new art and expression, celebrating the strong traditions of the past.
7.	Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area	The South Downs National Park is the most populated National Park in the United Kingdom, with around 110,000 people living within the boundary. Significantly more people live in the major urban areas and villages that surround the National Park including communities that are actively involved in the South Downs such as Brighton and Hove, and Eastbourne. The South Downs is unique in having the largest market towns of any UK National Park - Lewes, Petersfield and Midhurst. The character and appearance of these and many other settlements throughout the National Park derives in large part from the distinctive local building materials. Picturesque villages like Selborne, Charlton and Alfriston blend into their landscapes. Many of these settlements contain strong and vibrant communities with

ID	Special Quality	Description (SDNP Special Qualities Report)
		much invested in the future of where they live, and a sense of identity with their local area, its culture and history. Across the South Downs there are also communities of people who come together through common interests, for example, farming, conservation and recreation. These communities dedicate time and resources to enhancing community life, conserving what is important to them and planning for future generations.

Sussex Heritage Coast

15.6.67 Within the SDNP, land between Eastbourne, along the chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters, past Cuckmere Haven to Splash Point at Seaford is also defined as the Sussex Heritage Coast, which also extends to cover the nearshore waters off the white chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and Seven Sisters (**Figure 15.7, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The Sussex Heritage Coast is located approximately 22.5km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.68 Heritage Coasts were established to protect and conserve the best stretches of undeveloped coast in England, however there are no statutory requirements or powers associated with the Heritage Coast definition. The Sussex Heritage Coast Group has published the Sussex Heritage Coast Strategy and Action Plan (2016-20), which informs the understanding of the baseline characteristics and qualities of the Sussex Heritage Coast, and includes objectives that are consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and protection of heritage features, particularly Key Principle 2: 'Support measures that will conserve and enhance the unique coastal landscape and retain its open character and uninterrupted views'.

15.6.69 The land section of the Sussex Heritage Coast sits entirely within the SDNP, stretching between Eastbourne, along the chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters, past Cuckmere Haven to Splash Point at Seaford. The inland boundary is the A259 road and the offshore boundary extends up to 1.5km off the coast covering the nearshore waters off the white chalk cliffs off Beachy Head and Seaford Head. The operational Rampion Wind Farm is located beyond the offshore boundary of the Sussex Heritage Coast, 22.1km from the closest edge of the Sussex Heritage Coast and forms part of the associative seascape setting.

SDNP – Landscape Character

15.6.70 The South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (2020) has been used as the basis for the landscape characterisation and assessment of land within the SDNP (**Figure 15.6a-b, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), given its purpose as a comprehensive, integrated assessment of the character of the SDNP. It defines a broad geographic division between the Open Downland (A) to the east of the SDNP and the Wooded Estate Downland (B) and Downland Mosaic (D) to the west, divided by several Major River Floodplains (F) and Chalk Valley Systems (E), and the Shoreline (S) along the maritime coast of the SDNP. The baseline characteristics of the landscape character areas within the SDNP that are

scoped into the SLVIA are described as follows. Full descriptions are set out in the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (2020).

A1. Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs

15.6.71 The Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs (A1) occurs at the eastern end of the spine of chalk that forms the South Downs. The area extends from the deep U-shaped Ouse Valley in the west to Eastbourne / Beachy Head in the east. The character area is divided into two parts by the Cuckmere Valley. This is the only character area that meets the sea, with associated strong maritime influences and extensive sea views. It is located 23.3km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.72 The key characteristics of the Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs (A1) are:

- vast open rolling upland chalk landscape of blunt, whale-backed downs reaching 217m at Firle Beacon;
- dramatic undulating cliff line where the downs meet the sea at the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head, where there are strong maritime influences and connections with the seascape;
- straight sided, irregular fields of 20th century date bounded by post and wire fencing or sparse thorn hedgerows, form a mosaic of arable and pasture;
- hedgerows and tracks surviving from the earlier manorial downland landscape are important historic landscape features;
- remnants of unimproved chalk grassland and scrub on steeper slopes, some of which reveal ancient, terraced field systems;
- Friston Forest, a large 20th century plantation is located in the centre of the area and is an unusual feature in the otherwise open landscape;
- large open skies ensure that weather conditions are a dominant influence creating a dynamic landscape, particularly on the windswept coastal edge;
- strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity with pockets of remoteness associated with hidden dry valleys and higher reaches of the downs, which experience the darkest skies. Also an accessible landscape with high levels of public access;
- generally, a low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by scattered farmsteads – most of 18th-19th century origin. Traditional flint barns are a feature; large modern agricultural buildings are now prominent;
- large number of prehistoric and later earthworks providing a strong sense of historical continuity; causewayed enclosures, long barrows and round barrows situated on the ridge-line form important landmark features; and
- panoramic views across adjacent landscapes – particularly notable are seascape views from the coastal cliffs and views over the scarp footslopes and Low Weald from the crest of the northern escarpment.

15.6.73 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs (A1) include: Viewpoint 1 Beachy Head (**Figure 15.26, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 2 Birling Gap

(**Figure 15.27, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 3 Seven Sisters Country Park (**Figure 15.28, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 15 Willingdon Hill (**Figure 15.40, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 16 Firle Beacon (**Figure 15.41, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

A2. Adur to Ouse Open Downs

15.6.74 The Adur to Ouse Open Downs (A2) extend between the two river valleys of the Ouse and the Adur, wrapping around the northern and eastern edge of Brighton, with its southern boundary formed abruptly between the lower slopes of the downs and the urban edge of Peacehaven, Brighton, Hove, Southwick and Shoreham. It includes two short maritime sections that form the coast between Brighton and Rottingdean (2.7km) and between Saltdean and Peacehaven (600m) at Telscombe Cliffs, which are located 18.4km from the wind farm array area at its closest point, however most of the LCA extends further inland at greater distance beyond the urban areas forming the majority of the coastal edge.

15.6.75 The key characteristics of the Adur to Ouse Open Downs (A2) are:

- vast open rolling upland chalk landscape of blunt, whale-backed downs reaching 248m at Ditchling Beacon;
- furrowed by extensive branching dry valley systems which produce deep, narrow, rounded coombes;
- large scale irregular fields (of 20th century date) of arable and pasture creating a very open landscape. Hedgerows and tracks survive from the earlier manorial downland landscape;
- a landscape managed for country sports (game shooting) which preserves the shape and form of the landscape and creates a distinctive landcover;
- occasional scrub and woodland on steeper slopes add to the overall diversity of chalk grassland habitats, providing visual texture in the landscape;
- large open skies ensure that weather conditions are a dominant influence creating a dynamic landscape, with considerable seasonal variation;
- a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity in close proximity to the south coast urban area. Pockets of remoteness associated with hidden dry valleys;
- a large number of prehistoric and later earthworks providing a strong sense of historical continuity; Iron Age hillforts form prominent features on the skylines, including three overlooking the Weald (Devil's Dyke, Ditchling Beacon and Wolstonbury) and one commanding the coastal plain (Hollingbury);
- public access with a network of public rights of way and open access land;
- the windmills at Clayton and the communication masts at Truleigh Hill are prominent features of the skyline; and
- typical settlement form is relatively late in origin and comprises isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century with individual farmsteads are often prominent features in the landscape.

15.6.76 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Adur to Ouse Open Downs (A2) include: Viewpoint 7 Beacon Hill (**Figure 15.32, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 17 Devil's Dyke (**Figure 15.42, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 27 Hollingbury Hill Fort (**Figure 15.50, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 51 Ditchling Beacon (**Figure 15.64, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 55 Beeding Hill (**Figure 15.68, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 57 Telsomb Tye (**Figure 15.69, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

A3. Arun to Adur Open Downs

15.6.77 The Arun to Adur Open Downs (A3) occupies the open downland between the Arun and Adur river valleys to the north of Worthing. The area is defined to the north by the crest of the north facing scarp, the Arun to Adur Downs Scarp. It is located 16.5km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.78 The key characteristics of the Arun to Adur Open Downs (A3) are:

- vast open rolling upland chalk landscape of blunt, whale-backed downs reaching 238m at Chanctonbury Hill;
- furrowed by extensive branching dry valley systems which produce deep, narrow, rounded coombes, such as the main dry valley (the Findon Valley);
- dominated by large scale irregular fields of arable and pasture creating a very open landscape. Hedgerows and tracks survive from the earlier manorial downland landscape;
- significant areas of unimproved chalk grassland, for example at Cissbury Ring and Lancing Ring;
- occasional scrub and woodland on steeper slopes and beech clumps on hill tops provides visual texture in the landscape;
- large open skies ensure that weather conditions are a dominant influence creating a dynamic landscape, with considerable seasonal variation;
- a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity with pockets of remoteness associated with hidden dry valleys and higher reaches of the dip slope;
- large number of prehistoric and later earthworks, including enclosures and barrows, providing a strong sense of historical continuity. Iron Age hillforts at Cissbury Ring and Chanctonbury Ring form prominent features on the skyline;
- public access with a network of public rights of way and open access land.
- the typical settlement form is relatively late in origin and comprises isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin with individual farmsteads are often prominent features in the landscape; and
- extensive views from the north out across the scarp footslopes and Low Weald beyond the National Park, and over the coastal plain to the south.

15.6.79 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Arun to Adur Open Downs (A3) include: Viewpoint 18 Cissbury Ring (**Figure 15.43, Volume 3,**

of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 20 Springhead Hill (**Figure 15.45, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 52 Chanctonbury Ring (**Figure 15.65, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

B1. Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

15.6.80 The Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland (B1) comprises the rolling downs to the south of the east–west running Lavant Valley. The eastern boundary is defined by the Arun Valley, and the southern boundary adjoins the Upper Coastal Plain. It is located 21.7km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.81 The key characteristics of the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland (B1) are:

- folded downland topography masked by large woodland blocks;
- a landscape transformed in the 18th century with the landed estates of Goodwood and Arundel, with much of the downland planted with woodland;
- woodland is interlocked with straight-sided, irregular open arable fields linked by thick hedgerows;
- rare survival of ancient settlement, field systems and other archaeological features beneath the woodland;
- Iron Age hill fort (The Trundle) on St Roche's Hill provides strong sense of historical continuity and an important landmark feature with views over coastal plain to the south;
- a low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by scattered farmsteads – plus nucleated villages of Anglo-Saxon origin at Slindon and Eartham;
- Goodwood racecourse stadium is a highly visible landmark on the downs;
- large number of designed parkland landscapes and remnant deerparks with important visual influences – estate walls, avenues, follies as at Arundel, Goodwood, West Dean, Halnaker Park, Selhurst Park, and Dale Park;
- a rural secluded landscape with large tracts devoid of roads and settlement. However, parking, signed walks, picnic sites, a good network of public rights of way and Goodwood Country Park provide opportunities for recreational use; and
- panoramic views across the coastal plain from high, open ridges, as well as northwards across the Lavant Valley, and eastwards into the Arun Valley.

15.6.82 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland (B1) include: Viewpoint 21 Bignor Hill (**Figure 15.46, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 50 The Trundle (**Figure 15.63, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

R1. South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

15.6.83 The South Downs Upper Coastal Plain (R1) is a narrow strip of land on the southern boundary of the SDNP between Funtington and Durrington. It forms a transition between the chalk downs to the north and the lower coastal plain to the south (outside the SDNP). It is located 15.8km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.84 The key characteristics of the South Downs Upper Coastal Plain (R1) are:

- the northern edge of the low lying, undulating, fertile strip of land between the dip slope of the South Downs and the sea;
- the outlying chalk ridge at Highdown Hill is a distinctive feature and is separated from the chalk dip slope to the north by a narrow clay vale;
- mixture of field sizes and shapes supporting a mixture of pasture and arable;
- a strong network of hedgerows, hedgerow oaks and small woodlands create structure – woodlands form important visual links with the wooded downs. Extensive woodland cover in the east creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the A27;
- nucleated historic villages e.g. Funtington, West Ashling, East Ashling, Mid Lavant, and East Lavant, are located along the foot of the dip slope;
- registered Park and Garden at Highdown and other historic parklands contribute landscape features such as avenues, parkland trees, and woodland;
- a wealth of archaeological features indicating the long history of the landscape, including the Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks at Highdown Hill;
- crossed by narrow rural roads, many of which continue up the dipslope of the chalk onto the chalk downs;
- sand and gravel pits indicate the economic value of the underlying drift deposits; and
- views over the coastal plain and towards the sea from Highdown Hill.

15.6.85 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the South Downs Upper Coastal Plain (R1) include: Viewpoint 19 (**Figure 15.44, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

S1. Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline

15.6.86 The Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline (S1) is the narrow band of intertidal shoreline that occurs at the base of the steep chalk cliffs between Seaford and Beachy Head. It is located 23.8km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.87 The key characteristics of the Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline (S1) are:

- Narrow band of intertidal shoreline that occurs at the base of the steep chalk cliffs between Seaford and Beachy Head;

- Characterised by flint shingle beaches, formed from erosion of chalk to reveal flint nodules that are eroded into pebbles, supporting a shingle vegetation community;
- Chalk rubble, resulting from cliff falls, forms spits of land that extend into the sea, crowded with nesting sea birds;
- A dynamic and continually changing landscape featuring constant erosion and re-stocking of the beaches. Wooden groynes are a feature of the beaches;
- An exposed, wild landscape which is open to the elements and whose character is governed by the weather;
- Wooden and concrete retaining walls and concrete anti-invasion defences at Cuckmere Haven indicating the vulnerable nature of the coastline;
- The distinctive red and white striped lighthouse off at Beachy Head is a prominent landmark and indicates the importance of coastline in navigation; and
- Long views along the coastline to the dramatic white chalk cliffs and extensive views out across the sea to the horizon.

15.6.88 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline (S1) include: Viewpoint 1 Beachy Head (**Figure 15.26, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 2 Birling Gap (**Figure 15.27, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 3 Seven Sisters Country Park (**Figure 15.28, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 28 Cuckmere Haven (**Figure 15.51, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

S2. Brighton to Rottingdean

15.6.89 The Brighton to Rottingdean (S2) shoreline is the narrow band of intertidal shoreline and concrete walkways that occur at the bottom of the steep chalk cliffs between Brighton Marina in the west and Rottingdean in the east. It is located 18.2km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.90 The key characteristics of the Brighton to Rottingdean (S2) shoreline are:

- narrow band of intertidal shoreline and concrete walkways that occur at the bottom of the steep chalk cliffs between Brighton and Rottingdean;
- the steep chalk cliff runs the length of this area, and the beaches have been formed by the retreating cliffline, which has left a wave cut platform;
- along the foot of the cliff a seawall and concrete walkway protects the cliff and also provide access along this stretch of beach;
- shingle and sand characterise the small beaches located between large concrete or rock groynes;
- forms part of the Brighton to Newhaven SSSI, largely due to its exposure of important chronological fossils;

- the cliff face provides habitats for a number of uncommon plants and supports colonies of breeding seabirds;
- a dynamic and changing landscape featuring erosion and re-stocking of the beaches, however heavily controlled by sea defences;
- an exposed landscape which is open to the elements and whose character is often controlled by the weather, however notable urban and manmade elements influence this coastline; and
- long views along the coastline and extensive views out across the sea to the horizon. Views towards Brighton Marina in the west.

15.6.91 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Brighton to Rottingdean (S2) shoreline include: Viewpoint 7 Beacon Hill, Rottingdean (**Figure 15.32, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

SDNP - Visual receptors

Overview

15.6.92 Given the statutory purpose of the SDNP (**Table 15-1**) and its special qualities, the SLVIA focuses on views experienced by recreational users of the SDNP, particularly the South Downs Way National Trail and the Monarch's Way long distance walking route (**Figure 15.9, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). It should be noted that the roads through the SDNP provide motorists with varying experiences and views as they traverse different landscape types, however they often follow the valleys that cut through the downs and do not generally afford the 'breathtaking views' experienced from the scarp slopes and tops of the downs.

South Downs Way

15.6.93 The 160km long South Downs Way National Trail follows the old routes and droveways along the chalk escarpment and ridges of the South Downs, running entirely within the SDNP. Approximately 156km of the South Downs Way is within the SLVIA study area, between Old Winchester Hill in the north-west to Beachy Head at the coast. The route provides the visitor with the opportunity 'to get away from it all' without having to travel too far in this busy part of southern England. The undulating route provides a route for long distance bike rides as well as walkers and is well way-marked so following the route is relatively easy and accessible to people.

15.6.94 The elevated position of the South Downs Way ensures breathtaking views across the English Channel and Isle of Wight to the south and over the wooded Weald and heathland ridges to the north. The South Downs Way passes through a varied landscape of protected habitats including internationally important chalk rivers, rich chalk grasslands and ancient woodland. It passes through or near five National Nature Reserves and many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where walkers can experience the wildlife at close hand; and sites of cultural heritage importance including numerous Scheduled Monuments such as hillforts atop the elevated hills of the South Downs.

15.6.95 Many of the viewpoints included in the SLVIA are located on the South Downs Way, providing representation of the baseline views gained sequentially from the route of the South Downs Way through the SDNP, including, from west to east: VP31 Butser Hill, VP62 Beacon Hill, VP21 Bignor Hill, VP20 Springhead Hill, VP52 Chanctonbury Ring, VP55 Beeding Hill, VP17 Devil's Dyke, VP51 Ditchling Beacon, VP16 Firle Beacon, VP15 Willingdon Hill, VP1 Beachy Head, VP2 Birling Gap and VP3 Seven Sisters Country Park.

15.6.96 The character and views from the South Downs Way vary across its route from the wooded estate downlands to the west, through the open downlands of the central downs between the Adur, Arun and Ouse valleys, and culminates in the dramatic coastal sections along tops of the white chalk cliffs within the Sussex Heritage Coast. The baseline conditions of the South Downs Way are described with reference to 13 distinct 'sections' defined for the purposes of this SLVIA that relate to the landform, landscape character and visibility of the seascape along the route, as shown in **Figure 15.24, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and described further (from west to east) in **Table 15-16**.

Table 15-16 South Downs Way

Section	Baseline description	Section length (km)
1. Sussex Heritage Coast & Eastbourne Downs	From near Seven Sisters Country Park (Viewpoint 3 Seven Sisters Country Park (**Figure 15.28, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) this section runs along the clifftops from Cuckmere Haven (Viewpoint 28 Cuckmere Haven (**Figure 15.51, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) via Birling Gap (Viewpoint 2 Birling Gap (**Figure 15.27, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), to Beachy Head (Viewpoint 1 Beachy Head (**Figure 15.26, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where it turns inland past some woodland to enter Eastbourne. Exiting along the B2103, it follows the western edge of Eastbourne past Willingdon Hill (Viewpoint 15 and Willingdon Hill (**Figure 15.40, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) before turning westwards to cross the Wealdway at Bourne Hill, continuing to Jevington and around the foot of Windover Hill. This section lies within the Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs (A1). Seascape views from the coastal cliffs are panoramic and views over the scarp footslopes and Low Weald from the crest of the northern escarpment to the sea are widespread.	19.9
2. Cuckmere Valley	This section continues from Windover Hill across the Cuckmere Valley, through Alfriston to turn north at a small wood just west of Alfriston. It also splits to follow	10.2

Section	Baseline description	Section length (km)
	Cuckmere River to Littleton from where it follows the ridgeline south to Exceat and rejoining the route at Cliff End. This section is largely contained within the Cuckmere Valley Sides (G1) and Cuckmere Floodplain (F1). Extensive, open views across the floodplain are contained by the rising slopes of the valley sides and the wooded edge to the floodplain. Views of the sea are limited to the coastline where the land rises above cliffs.	
3. Ouse to Cuckmere Downs	From a small wood west of Alfriston, this section follows the ridgeline of Borstal Hill to Firle Beacon (Viewpoint 16 Firle Beacon (**Figure 15.41, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), proceeding west past Firle Plantation, White Lion Pond, Red Lion Pond, to descend at Itford Hill. This section runs along the crest of the steep scarp within the Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs (A1). Panoramic and far-reaching views over the scarp footslopes and Low Weald from the crest of the northern escarpment to the sea are widespread along this section.	9.3
4. Ouse Valley	This section splits at Itford Hill to follow the west bank of the River Ouse north, before turning away west through Rodmell to Mill Hill where it joins the southerly route through Southease. Having recombined, the way then continues to Front Hill. This section is contained within the Ouse Valley Sides (G2) and Ouse Floodplain(F2). Views from the valley sides over the Ouse floodplain are enclosed with no visibility of the sea. Low tree cover means views across the floodplain are open and extensive.	8.9
5. Adur to Ouse Downs	Continuing along the ridgelines of Front Hill and Swanborough Hill this section passes south of Kingston near Lewes, turning north at Newmarket Hill. It then crosses the A27, passes through woodland at Ashcombe House, turns north west to Buckland Bank and on to Blackcap. From here it follows the scarp west past Ditchling Beacon (Viewpoint 51 Ditchling Beacon (**Figure 15.64, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) to cross the A273 at Pyecombe. Ascending West Hill to Devil's Dyke (Viewpoint 17 Devil's Dyke (**Figure 15.42, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) the section continues along the scarp past Fulking Hill and Perching Hill, to follow a minor road past Edburton Hill and Truleigh Hill to the junction with Mill Hill	30.4

Section	Baseline description	Section length (km)
	on Beeding Hill (Viewpoint 55 Beeding Hill (**Figure 15.68, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). This section traverses the Adur to Ouse Open Downs (A2) between the valleys of the Ouse and the Adur rivers. Panoramic views over the scarp footslopes and Low Weald from the crest of the northern escarpment to adjacent landscapes and the distant sea are seen between Ashcombe Bottom and Pyecombe. Prominent skyline features include windmills at Clayton and communication masts at Truleigh Hill.	
6. Adur Valley	This section descends past Anchor Bottom to cross Shoreham Road and the River Adur, climbing past Annington Farm and Winding Bottom to follow the ridgeline of Annington Hill to join Bostal Road, south of Steyning Bowl. This section is contained by Adur Valley Sides (G3) and Adur Floodplain (F3). Far-reaching views across the open floodplain are enclosed by the valley sides, with prominent landmarks on the adjacent valley sides comprising Bramber Castle and Lancing College. Views from the valley sides look over the Adur floodplain with Lancing College and the chimney of the Shoreham Cement Works providing distinctive landmarks. Visibility of the sea is very low due to land cover, built form and topography.	4.7
7. Arun to Adur Downs	Leaving Bostal Road just north of New Hill Barn, this section follows a farm track to Chanctonbury Ring, rounding Chanctonbury Hill to follow another farm track north-west through woodland past Frieslands to cross London Road at Parkfield Farm. From here it follows Glaseby Lane west to climb Highden Hill and Barnsfarm Hill before rounding the foot of Sullington Hill, passing Kithurst Hill, climbing Springhead Hill (Viewpoint 20 Springhead Hill (**Figure 15.45, Volume 3**, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and Rackham Hill to Amberley Mount. This section crosses the Arun to Adur Open Downs (A3) between the Arun and Adur river valleys to the north of Worthing. Extensive views look across the scarp footslopes and Low Weald, beyond the National Park; and over the coastal plain to the sea which remains visible for much of this section.	18.4
8. Arun Valley	This section descends along Mill Lane through Highdown, leaving along High Titten, before turning north at Wysh House along New Barn Road. At Foxleigh Barn B&B it	3.9

Section	Baseline description	Section length (km)
	follows an access track west around a sewage works to cross a footbridge over the River Arun. This section is largely contained by Arun Floodplain (F4), and Arun Valley Sides (G4). Extensive views across the Arun floodplain are enclosed by the valley sides with little visibility of the sea beyond.	
9. Arundel Wooded Estate Downs	This section passes from north of Houghton ascends along the southern edge of Coombe Wood, to cross the A29 and follow a track past Langham Wood heading north-west to Westburton Hill. It then follows another track to Bignor Hill (Viewpoint 21 Bignor Hill (**Figure 15.46, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and on to the junction with Glatting Lane and Roman Road, before following another track south of Sotcher's Bottom to cross the A285 at Littleton Farm. This section enters the rolling downs to the south of the east–west running Lavant Valley comprising the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland (B1). High, open ridges allow panoramic views south across the coastal plain; northwards across the Lavant Valley and eastwards into the Arun Valley. Important landmark features within these views include the Iron Age hill fort at The Trundle and the highly visible Goodwood racecourse stadium. The sea remains visible for much of this section between Houghton and Burton Down.	8.4
10. Harting Down to Graffham Down	This section ascends along a track from Littleton Farm past Warren Bottom, Littleton Down, Woolavington Down to Graffham Down, where it enters Charlton Forest. Skirting the northern edge of the wood before striking out through Manorfarm Down, the section descends past Manor Farm on Hillbarn Lane to cross the A286. The section then ascends to Cocking Down along Middlefield Lane, passing north of Linchball Wood to Treyford Hill. From the hill it turns to pass south of Devil's Jumps to enter Phillisdown Wood where it turns north-west along a track to pass north of Buriton Farm. It then climbs Pen Hill, passes south of Beacon Hill (Viewpoint 62 - Beacon Hill, South Downs Way (**Figure 15.72, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and skirts Millpond Bottom before turning north-west at Telegraph House through Little Round Down. Descending Bramshott Bottom it then turns west past Hartin Downs to Two Beech Gate at the foot of Tower Hill. This section follows the crest of the north facing scarp slope within Queen	19.4

Section	Baseline description	Section length (km)
	Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland (B2). Extensive forestry within Charlton Forest and less so at Linchball Wood and Westdean Woods limits otherwise widespread and far-reaching views south from the dip slope. Panoramic and far-reaching views towards the south coast, notably at Beacon Hill, take in the distant Isle of Wight, with prominent telecommunication masts on the skyline at Wetherdown and Butser Hill.	
11. Queen Elizabeth Forest	Skirting Tower Hill, this section crosses the B2146, follows Forty Acre Lane to cross the Sussex Border Path on to Coulter's Dean Farm where it continues along a track to New Barn Lane. Turning south at a car park north of Fagg's Farm, the section then traverses Queen Elizabeth Country Park, leaving via an underpass below the A3. From here it heads north, ascending Hilhampton Bottom to a car park near Butser Hill, where it turns south along Limekiln Lane. It then turns west along a lane at Oxenbourne Down past Tegdown Hill, follows the north of Hyden Wood to Hyden Cross and along Droxford Road through Leydene Park. It then turns north past Long Down, Salt Hill and Small Down to Coombe Cross, continuing to a junction with Halnaker Lane where it turns south-west past Henwood Down to Hall Cottages then onto a northbound minor road to Whitewool Pond and south west to Whitewool Farm. This section follows the wooded ridge within the Queen Elizabeth Forest To East Dean Wooded Estate Downland (B2); and extends west into Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic (D2) to the Hampshire border. Panoramic views from the dip slope take in the scarp footslopes, adjacent landscapes and the south coast. Prominent skyline landmarks include telecommunication masts at Wetherdown and Butser Hill. Visibility of the sea is limited to Tower Hill, and the section between Butser Hill and Salt Hill, where the sea and the Isle of Wight are visible in the far distance.	22.7
	Total:	**156.2 km**

Monarch's Way

15.6.97 The route of the Monarch's Way is based on King Charles II's route taken after his defeat by Cromwell in the final battle of the Civil Wars at Worcester in 1651. It is a long-distance route of 938km in length that takes in the Midlands, the Cotswolds, the Mendips and the South Downs. Approximately 113km of the Monarch's Way is within the SLVIA study area, between Shoreham (at the coast) and Old

Winchester Hill to the north-west. The route of the Monarch's Way through the SLVIA study area, extends through the relatively settled parts of Hampshire through Horndean and passing Havant, before extending through the western parts of the South Downs, descending to the sea as it moves east with a corresponding shift in the predominant views. The route is primarily within the SDNP between Havant and Arundel, crossing open downland to the south of the South Downs Way, passing Kingley Vale NNR (Viewpoint 29) and the Trundle (Viewpoint 50), where there are panoramic views over the surrounding landscape of the South Downs and across the coastal plain. The route crosses the lower dip slopes of the SDNP between Arundel, Upper Beeding and Brighton, with views over the urbanised coastline to the seascape beyond. Through the City of Brighton & Hove views are contained by the urban areas, until the route emerges at Brighton seafront and extends to Shoreham-by-Sea along the coastal edge, affording sea views over Sussex Bay and to the existing Rampion 1 wind farm.

15.6.98 Several viewpoints are included in the SLVIA on or near to the route of the Monarch's Way, providing representation of the baseline views gained sequentially from the route, including, from west to east: VP29 Kingley Vale, VP50 The Trundle, VP21 Bignor Hill, VP33 Arundel Castle, VP18 Cissbury Ring, VP8 Brighton Seafront and VP9 Shoreham Harbour.

SDNP - Viewpoints

15.6.99 The SDNP: View Characterisation and Analysis (SDNPA, 2015) provides a view characterisation and analysis study comprising mapping and analysis of views to, from and within the SDNP. It sits alongside the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (SDNPA, 2020) to provide analysis of views and provides a way into understanding the visual amenity and views of the SDNP. It assigns views into a number of 'view types' of which the following are considered most pertinent to the consideration of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. These are represented by the viewpoints selected as follows.

15.6.100 Views from the chalk cliffs looking out to sea: VP1 Beachy Head; VP2 Birling Gap; VP3 Seven Sisters Country Park; and VP4 Seaford Head. The elevated position of these viewpoints on the downs above the coast means these views represent the 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning panoramic views to the sea' that are noted in the SDNP Special Quality 1. The views also demonstrate the geology of the SDNP's dramatic chalk cliffs and are the culmination of views from the South Downs Way. They also reveal some of the tranquillity of the SDNP (Special Quality 3), largely lacking intrusive development and retaining areas of dark night skies, although they are also its most popular locations that are heavily visited and provide recreational opportunities (Special Quality 5) in the form of the South Downs Way along the cliff-tops, as well as visitor centres and car parking facilities at Beachy Head and Birling Gap. They have a rich cultural heritage recognised by the Sussex Heritage Coast (Special Quality 6).

15.6.101 Views from the scarp looking north across the Low Weald outside the SDNP: VP17 Devil's Dyke; VP51 Ditchling Beacon and VP55 Beeding Hill. The elevated position on the scarp means these views represent the 'stunning panoramic views to the sea and across the Weald' that are noted in the SDNP Special Quality 1. These views are representative of the 'diversity of landscapes' in the SDNP 'from the heathland ridges in the Western Weald to wide open downland on the chalk

that spans the length of the SDNP'. These views also reveal the tranquillity of the downs as a result of the lack of intrusive development and sense of space (Special Quality 3), although they are also popular locations that provide recreational opportunities (Special Quality 5) in the form of National Trust facilities and the South Downs Way. These views also reveal the rich cultural heritage as a result of heritage assets in the views (historic parklands, country houses and churches) and the distinctive settlement pattern including the spring line villages at the foot of the scarp (Special Quality 6).

15.6.102 Views from the high downs looking south out to sea: VP19 Highdown Hill; VP27 Hollingbury Hillfort; VP29 Kingley Vale; and VP50 The Trundle. The elevated position of these viewpoints on the downs above the coastal plain means these views represent the 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning panoramic views to the sea' that are noted in SDNP Special Quality 1. These views are also representative of the 'diversity of landscapes' in the SDNP including rich variety of habitats including some of the iconic habitats of the South Downs such as the downland and yew woodland (at Kingley Vale) and the way that farming has shaped the landscape. These views also reveal the tranquillity of the downs compared to the settled coastal plain (Special Quality 3) and the rich cultural heritage as a result of heritage assets in the views (Special Quality 6).

15.6.103 Views from the scarp looking north across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills: VP21 Bignor Hill and VP62 Beacon Hill. The elevated position on the scarp means this view type represents the 'breathtaking views' that are noted in the first of the SDNP special qualities. These views are also representative of the 'diversity of landscapes' in the SDNP including some of the contrasts between iconic habitats of the South Downs such as the sheep-grazed downland, woodland (including beech forests on the scarp) and heathland. They also reveal the tranquillity of the downs, as a result of the lack of intrusive development and sense of space (Special Quality 3) and the distinctive settlement pattern of settled valleys and spring line villages at the foot of the scarp (Special Quality 6).

15.6.104 Views across the undeveloped downs: VP18 Cissbury Ring; VP31 Butser Hill; and VP57 Telscomb Tye. The elevated position of these viewpoints means they represent some of the 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning panoramic views to the sea' that are noted in SDNP Special Quality 1. They are also representative of the 'diversity of landscapes' in the SDNP, such as the sheep-grazed, ancient woodland and yew woodland. These views also reveal some of the tranquillity of the downs and sense of space gained from the undeveloped downs (Special Quality 3), although this is relative since they are also close to urban landscapes and transport infrastructure, and are popular locations with recreational opportunities (Special Quality 5) in the form of visitor facilities (e.g. Queen Elizabeth Country Park at Butser Hill). They also reveal a rich cultural heritage in the form of hill forts (which often form viewpoints themselves), barrows, earthworks and field enclosures (Special Quality 6).

15.6.105 Views of specific landmarks: VP18 Cissbury Ring; VP33 Arundel Castle; VP50 The Trundle (Goodwood and Chichester Cathedral); and VP52 Chanctonbury Ring. These views reveal landmarks which are often well-conserved historical features that reveal the rich cultural heritage of the Downs (Special Quality 6), which contribute the special qualities of the SDNP. These views also reveal other special qualities, such as a sense of tranquillity and relatively 'unspoilt' landscapes

that lack intrusive development (Special Quality 3), and a long history of farming and distinctive towns and villages (Special Quality 7).

15.6.106 The existing view from viewpoints within the SDNP are described in **Table 15-17**. Baseline photographic panoramas showing the existing view from each viewpoint are shown in **Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)**: Figures** as cross referenced in **Table 15-17**.

Table 15-17 SDNP Baseline Views

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
1.	Beachy Head (**Figure 15.26, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This well visited viewpoint is located at the Compass Rose between the viewpoint marked on OS maps and the trig point. It is representative of views from the chalk cliffs looking out to sea. It affords panoramic, large-scale, sea views to the south, which is a largely featureless simple view of sea and sky; but the view south-west over Beachy Head and west is dramatic along the white chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters, backed by relatively undeveloped open chalk downland with occasional built development at the coast and Belle Tout lighthouse a notable landmark. The settled urban coast between Seaford and Brighton is visible in the distance along the coast. The seascape is punctuated only with the existing Rampion 1 wind farm visible 31.8km to the south west and transient features such as large ships, fishing boats and recreational vessels.
2.	Birling Gap (**Figure 15.27, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Birling Gap National Trust site, on the platform at the top of the steps that provide a specific viewing point and access to the beach. It is representative of views from the chalk cliffs looking out to sea. It is as viewpoint that reveals the scenic coastline of the SDNP, dramatic views west are available along the Seven Sisters cliffs to Seaford Head and out to sea, revealing the iconic chalk sea cliffs. The location is a notable cliff top viewpoint associated with a car park, café and general visitor amenities. The main outward sea aspect is south facing, with the view along the coastline to the east limited by the immediate rise of white chalk cliffs. The view along the coast to the west is more extensive and includes the aspect of the 'Seven Sisters' chalk cliffs, terminating in the headland at Seaford Head. The main sea aspect is large in scale and largely featureless to the horizon, punctuated by the existing Rampion wind farm 28.5km to the southwest, and other transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. The relatively narrow shoreline comprises a shingle bank at the foot of the cliffs interspersed with localised areas of patchy sand and a rocky plateau extending further out to sea. The immediate context of the viewpoint includes a number of detracting features, including the extent of car parking, heavy visitor pressure provided for with café/toilets and a number of dispersed residential properties, adjacent to the car park. The experience of the 'along coast' aspect is limited to the immediate vicinity of the cliff edge where the view is otherwise contained by the rolling hills that rise to either side of Birling Gap.
3.	Seven Sisters Country Park	This viewpoint represents views from the Seven Sisters which are noted in literature about the South Downs Way and widely photographed. It is representative of views from the chalk cliffs looking out to sea. This

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
	(**Figure 15.28, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	viewpoint, on the South Downs Way and in the Seven Sisters Country Park, is a good location from which to view the Cuckmere meanders from the downs above. The viewpoint illustrates the extensive nature of elevated coastal views that are characteristic of this stretch of the coastline. The seaward aspect is large in scale and largely featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large-scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. Rampion 1 wind farm is visible out to sea, approximately 25.9km from the viewpoint. Belle Tout lighthouse is a notable skyline landmark on the headland north of Birling Gap. The only other man-made influences are limited to small scale, agricultural scale properties within open grassland landscape. The narrow shoreline is largely hidden from view below the cliff line but is partially visible at low tide with exposure of the coincident rock plateaus. To the west the view is more diverse and includes the foreground coastal inlet of Cuckmere Haven with its distinctive brown and white cliff face banding. Beyond the immediate backdrop headland of Seaford Head, the urban extents of Seaford and Newhaven are apparent but are typically contained below the skyline within the rolling dips of the downland topography. The predominantly agricultural context of the grassland landscape is large scale and open, with minimal field boundary definition or woodland cover. Whilst the general topographic trend of the area is that of a seaward southerly aspect, the immediate valley of the River Cuckmere is notably more visually contained.
4.	Seaford Head (**Figure 15.29, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Seaford Head and is representative of views from the chalk cliffs looking out to sea. Views east towards the cliffs of the Seven Sisters with cottages at Cuckmere Haven in the foreground are available from South Hill. The viewpoint is located on the approach to the cliff top at Seaford Head on the route of the Vanguard Way and illustrates the extensive nature of elevated coastal views. In the immediate foreground of the viewpoint the coastline undergoes a notable transition from the vertical landform of white cliffs into the horizontal line of the beach. The coastal edge of the town of Seaford is defined by a shingle beach that extends as a continuous feature through to Newhaven. Beyond the shoreline the residential extents of Seaford, orientate within a general association of south facing slopes. The residential extents form an intermittent backdrop to the seafront promenade, interspersed with open space and recreational uses and backed by residential properties. The headland at Newhaven provides the focus for westward views along the coast and presents a diverse formation, with the line of the harbour wall extending from its base, a sporadic arrangement of built form on its slopes, communication masts on its skyline and a variable colour contrast in the exposed face of its cliffs. Beyond Newhaven, the indentations of the coastline are visible continuing westwards past Brighton towards Worthing and Bognor. The sea view itself is simple, consisting of sea and sky punctuated only

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		by Rampion 1 wind farm, 22.8km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of large-scale shipping and smaller fishing and recreational boats. To the east of the viewpoint the context is characterised by an undulating downland topography, accentuated by the profile of the exposed chalk cliff faces that define the coastal edge through to Beachy Head.
7.	Beacon Hill, Rottingdean (**Figure 15.32, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The view from Beacon Hill, Rottingdean, is representative of views from the closest section of the SDNP, where there is a 2.7km section of coastline between Brighton and Rottingdean which falls within the SDNP. The viewpoint is located at the top of Beacon Hill, near to the Rottingdean windmill and is within a local nature reserve, that has open access via paths from Rottingdean Village. It is elevated with extensive views out to sea and along the coast to the east over Rottingdean and Saltdean and west to Brighton and its prominent marina and seafront developments. The traditional downland (chalk grassland) of the nature reserve provides contrasts with the urbanised coastline to the east and west, providing open and relatively undisturbed sea views interrupted only by the A259 coastal road, the existing Rampion 1 wind farm 15.1km out to sea and large passenger ferries in and out of Newhaven to the east.
15.	Willingdon Hill (**Figure 15.40, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The view from South Downs Way on the southern side of Willingdon Hill is representative of views experienced by walkers on the South Downs Way, if walking west to east approaching its culmination at Beachy Head, and is also accessed by residents of Eastbourne and East Dean from the local path network. It offers glimpses of the distant seascape to the south. The view is framed along the small, incised valley between Willingdon Hill and Pea Down, across grazed chalk grassland with wooded side slopes, and across the village of East Dean to the narrow seascape horizon in the backdrop beyond. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm is visible out to sea and beyond the downland horizon. There are expansive views over Eastbourne and along the coast to Bexhill and Hasting in the other direction to the east/north-east.
16.	Firle Beacon (**Figure 15.41, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at a localised trig marked high point of 217m AOD on the crest of the South Downs on the route of the South Downs Way national trail. The dip slope of the Downs falls away southwards towards the coast across a rolling landscape of hills and valleys. The scarp slope falls away more steeply to the north, immediately behind the viewpoint, towards an extensive inland plain. The vantage point offers expansive views in all directions with no single point of focus. Views of the sea are experienced across an extensive agricultural foreground, with the sea covering a notable extent of the horizon. The elevation of Seaford Head on the horizon

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		breaks the continuity of views across the water, with the most open seaward aspect coinciding with the area between Newhaven and Seaford. The sea environment is featureless apart from the transitional influence of large-scale shipping (most immediately servicing the port of Newhaven). Man-made influence is limited and largely concentrated within the extents of Newhaven, including the breakwater of Newhaven harbour, which forms an apparent seaward extension of the port. Telecommunications masts are apparent vertical skyline breakers along the South Downs ridge to the right of view. Rampion 1 wind farm is visible out to sea, approximately 32.2km from the viewpoint. The single wind turbine at Glyndebourne is barely distinguishable inland to the north-west of the viewpoint set within an expansive landscape setting and dissociated from the context of seaward views. The rolling downland landscape is open, with a large-scale field pattern of mixed arable and pastoral land use. Tree cover typically associates with the valleys, accentuating the more general sense of openness associated with the hill tops and conversely emphasising the localised enclosure presented by the valleys.
17.	Devil's Dyke (**Figure 15.42, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	There is a range of viewpoints in this popular recreational area, offering views that are noted in literature about the South Downs Way National Trail. These include views into the large dry valley of the Devil's Dyke, a key and distinctive landscape feature of the SDNP, views north from the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp over the Low Weald and also views southwards to the coast. The selected view, from close to the OS trig point to the west of the Dyke, provides panoramic views over the Weald, along the scarp and also south over the rolling chalk dip-slope down to the sea at Hove. The viewpoint is located on the route of the South Downs Way at an area of convergence of several Public Rights of Way. The viewpoint is also close to a visitor car park and formal viewpoint at Devil's Dyke (however the formal viewpoint orientates northwards away from the coast). The dip slope of the Downs falls away southwards towards the coast across a rolling landscape of hills and valleys. The land continues to rise for a short distance behind the viewpoint, obscuring the view beyond which otherwise opens up across the dip slope to the plains in the north. Whilst views extend westwards along the ridgeline over successive 'peaks' in the crest of the slope, the main orientation of the view is southwards towards the coast. The simple uniformity and openness of the Downs gives way to a more intimately vegetated landscape on its lower slopes. This character in turn undergoes a transition into the diverse urban context of Brighton and Shoreham, which defines the character of the immediate coastal fringe. The urban skyline profile set against the seascape backdrop includes notable high-rise buildings within Brighton and Hove and the landmark chimney and electricity pylons associated with the power station at Shoreham. West of Shoreham the

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		immediate coastal hinterland becomes obscured behind the rolling foothills. The seascape backdrop includes the Rampion 1 wind farm, 19.6km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of large-scale shipping on the horizon.
18.	Cissbury Ring (**Figure 15.43, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Cissbury Ring is identified as a landmark feature and views revealing it are available from the Monarch's Way which passes close to the north. The ring is noted as a feature in literature published about the Monarch's Way. The viewpoint is located on the route of a Public Right of Way that passes through the setting of Cissbury Ring. The man-made influence of the earthworks associated with the historic hillfort are apparent within the general profile of the hilltop landform. Views out from the hill are locally limited by the immediate extent of tree cover, which limits the potential for 360-degree views and instead compartmentalises the aspect of different angles of view into distinct character contexts. Seaward views are inclusive of a prominent foreground, with a suburban, residential influence, which extends along the immediate valley through to the greater massing of Worthing towards the coastline. The urban context presents a complex, small scale mosaic of form and colour in contrast with the relatively large scale and uniformity of foreground grassland and background sea. The transition from rolling agricultural upland through to the urbanised plain is further characterised by extensive tree cover in and around the urban area. High rise buildings in Worthing are visible against the seascape backdrop. Seaward views form a central component of the main southerly aspect and are extensive along the coast to the west, though limited by immediate vegetation cover to the east. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 19.1km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
19.	Highdown Hill (**Figure 15.44, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Highdown Hill, the site of a hillfort, owned by the National Trust and a good vantage point from which to view the landscape, which is representative of views from the high downs looking south out to sea. Views to the east and south include the densely populated coastal towns of Worthing, Ferring and East Preston, which reduces the remoteness qualities associated with other elevated viewpoints within the park. Extensive sea views are however the main focus across the coastal plain. The viewpoint is located on the route of a Public Right of Way within the National Trust owned extents of Highdown Hill. The site of a hillfort lies immediately behind the viewpoint with limited capacity for inland views beyond the landform and tree cover. The vantage point looks out across the physical transition between the South Downs foothills and the coastal plain which also defines a transition in character between the more typically rural uplands and urbanised coastal lowlands. Views range extensively across Worthing to the east, becoming obscured behind the slopes

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		of Highdown Hill in the west. The extent of sea view across the horizon is expansive and forms a prominent component of the view. The immediate coastal foreground context is however a complex mosaic of urban and urban periphery influences with a predominance of residential use but inclusive of several larger scale industrial units. The extents of Ferring make up the immediate foreground with Angmering to the west and Worthing to the east. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 16.8km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
20.	Springhead Hill (**Figure 15.45, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the South Downs Way at Springhead Hill, which is also similar to the views from nearby Amberley Mount and Chantry Hill. It affords panoramic views west along the wooded scarp slopes, north across the Low Weald and south over the Arun to Adur open downs and across the settled coastal plain to the sea beyond. The view is curtailed somewhat by landform to the south-east but is more expansive to the south out to sea and to the south-west over the Arun, the coastal plain towards Chichester and beyond to the headland of Selsey Bill. This portion of lowland in the distant view is heavily settled, particularly along the coastline, but the more elevated rolling landform of open downs with its agricultural land, pastures and woods provides the perception of a more natural setting to the view south, where the developed coast is largely screened by the landform and the view extends over the rolling downs to the open seascape beyond. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 25.4km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
21.	Bignor Hill (**Figure 15.46, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the South Downs Way at Bignor Hill. This viewpoint provides one of many natural vantage points along the South Downs Way and it is highlighted in literature about the South Downs Way as a notable viewpoint along this National Trail. It is representative of views from the scarp looking north across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills, but also affords a panoramic view south over the wooded estate downlands between Goodwood and Arundel, to the seascape of Sussex Bay beyond. Arable land in the immediate foreground gives way to extensive areas of mature estate woodlands blanketing the mid-ground of the view on the dip-slopes dropping south, before giving way to the coastal plain. The view is both expansive to the east along the chalk ridge of the downs and its steep scarp slopes that drop to the north, out to sea to the south, and to the south-west over the coastal plain towards Chichester and beyond to the headland of Selsey Bill. The coast is heavily settled with almost contiguous urban development, backed by the open seascape, in which Rampion 1 wind farm is visible out to sea.

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
27.	Hollingbury Hill Fort (**Figure 15.50, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Hollingbury Hill Fort, within an open area of undeveloped downs associated with Hollingbury Castle and golf course, which is within the SDNP but surrounded by the urban areas of Brighton and provides a natural vantage point from which to experience views over Brighton. It is representative of views from the high downs looking south out to the sea, across Brighton, and provides an auditorium to see the landscape context of the city, addressing the sea to the south and backed by the rising landform of the South Downs. The immediate foreground consists of Hollingbury Golf Course, which surround the hill fort, large areas of mature woodland on the lower slopes that extend into the urban edge before giving way to the urban street patterns evident in the townscape of residential suburbs of Brighton, taller high-rise buildings of the city centre and landmarks such as the i-360 tower. The existing Rampion 1 wind farms forms a notable visible element in the seascape backdrop to Brighton in the view, approximately 17.9km from the viewpoint.
28.	Cuckmere Haven Beach (**Figure 15.51, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on Cuckmere Haven Beach, which is accessed via the walk along the Cuckmere River from the visitor centre and car parking area. The site is famous for the classic meanders of the River Cuckmere. The wider view is relatively contained by the Cuckmere Valley associated with the Seven Sisters country park, however there are open views of the sea along the axis of the valley between contained chalk cliffs to the east and west, primarily orientating views to the seascape directly south of the coastline. The landforms of the chalk cliffs contain the extent of the sea view to the immediate seascape setting of Cuckmere Beach and out to sea, while providing dramatic and iconic white cliffs forming focal points on either side of Cuckmere Beach. The sea view is simple, consisting of three elements – shingle beach, sea and sky. The chalk cliffs on either side of the valley provide a dramatic frame and contrast, by virtue of their vertical scale, white colour of the chalk and ‘natural’ downland of the chalk grasslands above. The beach below is dynamic, with an active shoreline constantly influenced by the sea and coastal processes. There are a number of man-made jetties which extend across the beach and concrete sea defences abutting the white cliffs which are detractors. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm is partially visible in the seascape of the view, approximately 25.4km distant and relatively small in scale, but viewed adjacent to the white cliffs to the west of Cuckmere Haven.
29.	Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve	The viewpoint is located at Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve (NNR), on an elevated section of the footpath that approaches Bow Hill above the vale below. Views from Kingley Vale include some of the iconic habitats of the South Downs such as the ancient yew woodlands. The superb views are also noted in literature published

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
	(Figure 15.52, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	about the Monarch's Way and by the SDNP. The viewpoint is representative of views from the high downs looking south out to sea. The view extends over the woodlands of Kingley Vale across Chichester, its cathedral and Chichester Harbour AONB, extending over south coast plain eastwards to Brighton and west towards Portsmouth. The Isle of Wight is visible on a clear day. The viewpoint provides an auditorium to view the landscape context of Chichester on the coastal plain and its seascape backdrop, with contrasts between the undeveloped, open immediate landscape of the high downs and the settled coastal plain below extending along the coast. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 40.4km from the viewpoint.
30.	Halnaker Windmill (Figure 15.53, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Halnaker Windmill provides a natural vantage point from which to experience views across the dip slope of the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland and the windmill itself provides a landmark in views from this location and wider area. The viewpoint is accessible via Mill Lane, from a small lay-by beside the A285 near Warehead Farm. Representative of views experienced by walkers using the local PRoW, visiting Halnaker Windmill and a destination point for visitors to the SDNP seeking to experience the visual amenity afforded in views from this location. The viewpoint affords a panoramic and long distance view across the wooded downlands to the coastal plain and Chichester to the south, including its cathedral and Chichester Harbour AONB, and also extends across the coastal plain eastwards to Brighton. There are contrasts between the wooded landscape component of the downs and parts of the coastal plain, with built environment features, settlement and large-scale nurseries which are prominent elements in the view. The existing Rampion 1 wind farms forms a distant visible element in the seascape backdrop, 31.5km to the south-east beyond the settled/urbanised coastline.
31.	Butser Hill National Nature Reserve (Figure 15.54, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Located at the flat-topped summit of a chalk hill south of Petersfield, this OS viewpoint within Queen Elizabeth Country Park is a natural observation point, at 271m high it is one of the highest points on the main ridge of the South Downs. The South Downs Way passes nearby, with links to the walking and cycle trails within the Country Park and views from it are noted in literature about the South Downs Way. There is a visitor centre, facilities and a car park near the top of Butser Hill providing relatively easy access to this panoramic viewpoint. There are expansive views over the Meon Valley and Rother Valley, along the chalk ridgeline and northern scarp slopes of the South Downs, and as the landform falls away gradually to the south, views across extensive woodlands and the south coast plain to the distant sea beyond. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm is theoretically visible but is approximately 54.1km to the south-east of the viewpoint.

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
32.	Levin Down (**Figure 15.55, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Levin Down is a SSSI chalk grassland and scrub, rich in flowers, which has a different character from the surrounding agricultural fields and forestry plantations. Levin Down is a steep but fairly small hill which fills the dip between the Trundle and the heights of the South Downs Way - which is accessible via the New Lipchis Way from Singleton village and Singleton Forest. The route of the New Lipchis Way wraps around the western side of the down and does not go to the hill top, therefore views are relatively restricted by the more elevated landform of the wooded downs around Goodwood and the Trundle to the south, and to some degree channelled along the River Lavant and over Singleton village, where a line of overhead pylons are notable. Goodwood Racecourse forms a prominent landmark on the skyline to the south atop of the downs, as is the landform of the Trundle. The landscape of the south coast plan and seascape of Sussex Bay are not readily perceived in the view due to the enclosure of the landform to the south, and Rampion 1 Wind Farm cannot be seen in the view. The character is more intimate and less exposed than other parts of the nearby wooded downs, defined by the influence of the nature reserve's grassland habitat and wildlife.
33.	Arundel Castle (**Figure 15.56, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Arundel Castle provides a natural vantage point for views over the Arun Valley and is also representative of views from specific landmarks (Arundel Castle). The viewpoint is located at the top of the castle keep, approximately 40m high above ground level. The 'commanding views' from Arundel Castle over the Arun Valley are noted in literature published about the Monarch's Way and it occupies a prominent position within the Arun River valley, as well as being an important historic building within the SDNP, with the view demonstrating its relationship with the Downs, river valley and settlement, and coastal plain to the south. The view to the south from the castle keep is curtailed by the stone turrets, such that there is no view of Rampion 1 wind farm and the view is focused south-west between the turrets, revealing the relationship of the castle with Arundel and the landscape beyond in which it is set.
41.	Slindon Folly (**Figure 15.60, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Slindon Folly or 'Nore Folly' is a stone construction on the National Trust's Slindon Estate, near the village of Slindon. The folly resembles a gateway but is a decorative piece built of flint in the 18th century. It sits at the top of a small hill (112m) to the north of Slindon and is accessible via a local PRoW passing Courthill Farm, or as part of a wider walk around Slindon Estate from Eartham. The viewpoint is located next to Nore Folly and the bench provided to take in the open long distance view south across Slindon Wood and Rewell Wood. The view extends over the edges of the wooded downlands to the coastal plain and the urban coastline of West Sussex, where a number of built development landmarks are backdropped by the distant seascape of Sussex Bay

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		beyond. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm forms a distant visible element in the seascape backdrop approximately 28.9km from the viewpoint. The character is rolling and wooded, but open, with the positioning of the Folly at the hilltop recognising the expansive views extending south-west in particular.
50.	The Trundle (**Figure 15.63, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at the top of St Roche's Hill, otherwise known as the Trundle, which occupies a prominent hilltop overlooking the coastal plain north of Chichester. It is accessed from a popular visitor car park and is promoted within visitor literature. It is representative of views from the high downs looking south out to sea and is also representative of views of specific landmarks – both Goodwood Estate and Chichester Cathedral. The viewpoint is a natural observation point from which Goodwood Racecourse, the coastal plains and Chichester to the south and extensive views to downland to the north can be seen. The view is panoramic and long distance, taking in the wooded estate downlands that form the setting of Goodwood Racecourse, Chichester, its cathedral and Chichester Harbour AONB, extending over the south coast plain eastwards to Brighton and west towards Portsmouth. The Isle of Wight is visible on a clear day when the full seascape backdrop can be appreciated in the southern panorama. The existing Rampion 1 wind farms forms a distant visible element in the seascape backdrop, 35.7km to the south-east.
51.	Ditchling Beacon (**Figure 15.64, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Ditchling Beacon. This fort provides a natural vantage point, within National Trust land, from where there are views north over the Low Weald. The South Downs Way passes through this viewpoint (which is noted in the literature about the trail) and the views north from the scarp south of Ditchling are also referred to in the online information about the Sussex Border Path. It is representative of views from the scarp looking north across the Low Weald outside the SDNP, but also takes in views south out to sea, across the Adur to Ouse open downland and parts of the City of Brighton & Hove. The elevated rolling landform of open downs with its agriculture land, pastures and woods provides partial screening of the developed coast and the view extends over the rolling downs to the open seascape beyond, interrupted by scattered high-rise buildings in Brighton. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 23.2km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
52.	Chanctonbury Ring	This viewpoint, located on the South Downs Way, provides a good view of Chanctonbury Ring - an iron age hill fort, trig point and landmark due to the ring of trees on its summit. Literature for the South Downs Way notes views of Chanctonbury Ring as well as over the Low Weald to the north, however the panorama also extends

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
	(Figure 15.65, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	south over the open downs between the Arun and Adur to their seascape backdrop beyond the coastal plain. The elevated rolling landform of open downs provides partial screening of the developed coast, enhancing the perception of openness and space, with the urban coastline revealed only partially in the view south towards Rampion 1 wind farm, and more extensively extending west along the coastal portions of the coastal plain. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 22.9km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
53.	Amberley Mount (Figure 15.66, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	Amberley Mount provides a representative view over the scarp footslopes and the Low Weald from the Arun to Adur Downs Scarp. This particular point also includes views over the village of Amberley, the River Arun and Amberley Wild Brooks, and south to Arundel Castle. It is similar to the views experienced from the nearby viewpoint at Chantry Hill (Viewpoint 54). The viewpoint is accessible via the South Downs Way, either as a short walk from Mill Lane to the west or as part of a longer route over the downs to the east of the Arun Valley. In combination with viewpoints 20, 21 and 54 this viewpoint helps to illustrate the sequential effects of the scheme on users of the South Downs Way. The view is similar to that from nearby Amberley Mount and Chantry Hill, being panoramic along the wooded scarp slopes, north across the Low Weald and south over the Arun to Adur open downs and across the settled coastal plain to the sea beyond. The view is expansive to the south and south-west over the Arun, the coastal plain and beyond to the sea. This portion of lowland to the south-west is heavily settled, particularly along the coastline, but the more elevated rolling landform of open downs with its agricultural land, pastures and woods to the south-east provides the perception of a more natural setting to the foreground of the view, where the developed coast is partially screened by the landform and the view extends over the rolling downs to the open seascape beyond. The existing Rampion 1 wind farms forms a distant visible element in the seascape backdrop 26.3km to the south-east.
54.	Chantry Hill (Figure 15.67, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This viewpoint is located at the PRoW junction between Chantry Hill and Kithurst Hill, just off the nearby route of the South Downs Way. Chantry Hill provides panoramic views over the scarp footslopes and the Low Weald to the north, and south across the Open Downs with arable and pastoral fields surrounded by a combination of deciduous hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and fencing. Barpham and Harrow Hills form the horizon in the middle distance with long distance views of the Arundel, Arun valley and the English Channel beyond visible in clear weather conditions, in which the existing Rampion 1 wind farm can be seen. A number of woodland blocks are visible scattered throughout the view and there are man-made elements including scattered farms,

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		telegraph poles, tracks, arable fields and fencing, as well as the more extensive urban areas along the south coast and village scattered throughout the Low Weald to the north. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 24.9km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
55.	Beeding Hill (**Figure 15.68, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This viewpoint lies near the summit of Beeding Hill, on the Monarch's Way, but near to where it crosses the South Downs Way. It is representative of views from the scarp looking north across the Low Weald outside the SDNP, but also takes in views south out to sea across the open downland between the Adur and the Ouse. The view of the Adur Valley from the downs above Upper Beeding is noted in the literature for the South Downs Way. An existing high-voltage overhead power lines and pylons form detracting elements in the immediate foreground of the view south, as do other elements such as the power station on the coast. The urbanised coastline on the edges of the coastal plain are more prominent in this view due the closer proximity of this part of the downs compared to those extending to the north-west. The views along the chalk spine of the downs and its northern scarp slopes form the most unspoilt sections of the panorama, away from the coast. The seascape backdrop includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 18.6km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
57.	Telscomb Tye (**Figure 15.69, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Telscombe Tye which is situated within an area of undeveloped downland near the coast, within a small section of the SDNP which extends down to the coast at Telscombe Cliffs between Saltdean and Peacehaven. Due to its elevation and closer proximity to the coast, the viewpoint provides a more direct view of the sea compared to the majority of the open downs that extend at greater distance inland to the west / north-west. The panorama also includes a number of SDNP landmarks such as Firle Beacon, Belle Tout lighthouse and the white cliffs beyond Seaford. The coastal portion of the view is nevertheless interrupted by large areas of urban development visible at Saltdean and Peacehaven, and there are other detractors such as local electrical distribution lines and masts that interrupt the view of the sea, in which Rampion 1 wind farm is visible in the seascape backdrop to Saltdean, approximately 18.0km from the viewpoint.
58.	Wolstonbury Hill (**Figure 15.70, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document	The viewpoint is located at the trig point on the top of Wolstonbury Hill, which is a prominent hill and a natural vantage point from which to enjoy views of the weald, the sea and the downs, including Newtimber Hill and Devil's Dyke. The 'breathtaking panoramic views' accessed via the local PRoW network are noted in the National Trust's information about the hill, as are its heritage importance and associations. Wolstonbury Hill

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
	Reference: 6.3.15))	presents a different aspect to other views from the downs as it does not have a panoramic view of the seascape, which is partially restricted and framed by Pyecombe and Saddlescombe Downs to the south. There are channelled views through the downs over Brighton, in which the urban area prevails and a number of tall buildings and the i360 tower form landmarks, with the seascape backdrop beyond. There are limited views of Rampion 1, which is largely obscured by the downs to the south, with just a small number of its eastern most turbines visible from behind the downs in the seascape. Views south-west along the scarp slope and west/north-west over the Weald form the most dramatic section of the view.
61.	A27 near Lancing College (**Figure 15.71, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the southern urban edge of the SDNP where it meets the A27 and the urban areas of Lancing and Shoreham near Brighton City Airport. It is intended to show the view that may be experienced by road users on the A27 travelling along this urbanised edge to the SDNP. Lancing College is located nearby and is noted as 'majestic' when viewed from the Monarch's Way and is also dramatic in views from the A27. The view south from this minor road near the access to the college is south across the A27, construction earthworks and large-scale urban elements such as warehouses, flood lighting and mature trees. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm cannot be seen in the view.
62.	Beacon Hill, South Downs Way (**Figure 15.72, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located the summit of Beacon Hill, near the view marker, which is accessible from the walk along the South Downs Way from Harting Down and is on the edge of the Harting Down and Beacon Hill National Trust site. This is a popular location for visiting with car parking, popular walks and paragliding off the northern scarp slopes, noted as a key view from the South Downs Way. An OS marked viewpoint on the South Downs Way, this is a natural observation point on a prominent chalk hill towards the west of the Downs and provides views over the Rother Valley to the north and the Greensand Hills, but the panorama also extends south-east across the wooded downs to the coastal plain and seascape beyond to the south at long distance. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm is theoretically visible but is approximately 45.7km to the south-east of the viewpoint.

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South Downs International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR)

15.6.107 The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has produced interactive maps of the UK's light pollution and dark skies as part of a national mapping project (LUC/CPRE, 2016). The Open Source data can be used to understand and illustrate baseline lighting levels, as shown in **Figure 15.11, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). It identifies that the majority of the coastal margin between Bognor Regis and Seaford falls within the 'brightest' to 'brighter' light influence category (the greatest, light-influenced end of the spectrum). The relatively less light influenced, darker coastal areas coincide with the headlands of Selsey Bill and Beachy Head. The seascape of Sussex Bay includes visible fixed marine navigational lighting on the existing Rampion 1 WTGs, as well as lit vessels and cardinal buoys that are visible in the sea at night. The South Downs uplands, within the eastern and western extents of the study area, also demonstrate more association with darker skies.

15.6.108 In May 2016 the SDNP became the world's newest International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR). Draft policies for the SDNP's Local Plan include specific lighting requirements that developers will need to meet. Dark skies are a special quality of the SDNP that are perceived by people within the SDNP at night. Using sky quality measurements, the SDNP has been categorised into a number of dark zones, shown in Figure 2 of the SDNP Dark Skies Technical Advice Note (April 2018). The zones reflect the quality of the sky overhead, the IDSR designation and the general level of lighting. The IDSR takes in the entire SDNP boundary (located 13.8km from the proposed development at its closest point) but is largely defined by a core and buffer zone, where the darkest skies and IDSR quality can be found.

15.6.109 The conditions in the core zone are generally the best within the SDNP, however the core zone is located some 22.6km from the Proposed Development at its closest point and often separated from it by areas in the greatest light influenced category. Surrounding the core is a buffer zone, determined at 2km reflecting a transition from dark to brighter skies. Other areas of the SDNP are consistently brighter than the core and buffer areas but have skies of sufficient IDSR quality they remain of value to protect and distinguish from other areas of the SDNP that are brighter, e.g. urban areas. The baseline conditions of the South Downs IDSR are described further in **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation night-time lighting, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.5). Categorising the landscape according to general darkness, allows the SDNPA to take a weighted zoning approach to policies to ensure that lighting is appropriate to the environment within the IDSR. Policies are largely concerned with lighting of developments within the IDSR, however reference is also made to the consideration of the potential effects of large scale developments outside the SDNP on dark skies within the IDSR.

West Sussex South Coast Plain

Overview

15.6.110 The geographic area of the county of West Sussex is shown in **Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the South Coast Plain within West Sussex is shown in **Figure 15.5, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document

Reference: 6.3.15). Its current baseline seascape, landscape and visual amenity is described as follows based on the seascape character of 'MCA07 Selsey Bill to Seaford Head' which defines the majority of this coastline (and extends into East Sussex); the 'South Coast Plain NCA' (126) which defines its character at the national level; the Chichester Harbour AONB's special qualities; and the LCAs within the West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2003) that provide the baseline landscape characterisation of West Sussex.

MCA07 Selsey Bill to Seaford Head

15.6.111 MCA07 Selsey Bill to Seaford Head is an extensive bay with boundaries formed in the west by the low lying headland of Selsey Bill and to the east by the distinctive chalk cliffs of Seaford Head (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where the SDNP boundary meets the coast. It includes expansive urban development along the coastline. The wind farm array area is located predominantly within MCA07.

15.6.112 MCA07 Selsey Bill to Seaford Head is an 'expansive bay framed by these headlands and is locally known as the Bay of Sussex. The coastline contains a number of towns including Selsey, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton to the west, Worthing and Brighton in the centre and Newhaven and Seaford to the east. The SDNP is located inland to the north of the major settlements forming a prominent ridge and extends to the coastline at places in the east of the MCA, between Brighton and Rottingdean, Saltdean and Peacehaven and Newhaven and Seaford providing important visual connections to and from the sea. Shingle beaches offset the major coastal resorts in the west of the MCA and vertical chalk cliffs characterise the east, where there are views to the prominent white cliffs of Beachy Head (SDNP) in MCA 08. Views seaward are frequently to an unbroken horizon (emphasis added), with the main shipping traffic being located at a greater distance into the channel. Small recreational craft and fishing boats are the main sea users with cross channel ferries between Newhaven – Dieppe and freight from small ports at Shoreham, Newhaven and Littlehampton.

15.6.113 Changes to the baseline conditions have occurred since publication of the MMO Seascape Assessment (MMO, 2014), such that it is no longer the case that 'views seaward are frequently to an unbroken horizon' (emphasis added above). Rampion 1 became operational in November 2017 and has introduced a large-scale operational offshore wind farm influence to the baseline conditions of MCA07. Rampion 1 consists of 116 x 140m blade tip WTGs, located within MCA07 parallel to the coast within Sussex Bay between Selsey Bill and Beachy Head, approximately 13km from the closest part of the coast and 14.4km from the SDNP coastline adjacent to this MCA.

15.6.114 The adjacent coastline is defined by the South Downs (125) NCA and South Coast Plain (126) NCA, and by LCAs of the West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (West Sussex County Council, 2003) – including several built up areas, SC1 South Coast Shoreline, SC4 Pagham Harbour, SC9 Chichester to Yapton Coastal Plain and SC11 Littlehampton and Worthing Fringes; and the Falmer to Telscombe Downs (18) of the East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (East Sussex County Council, 2016).

South Coast Plain NCA (126)

15.6.115 The South Coast Plain NCA (126) is a flat, coastal landscape with an intricately indented shoreline lying between the dip slope of the South Downs and South Hampshire Lowlands and the waters of the English Channel, Solent and part of Southampton Water. It is located 13.5km to the north of the wind farm array area at its closest point. The coastline includes several major inlets, which have distinctive local landscapes and intertidal habitats. Chichester Harbour AONB lies within the NCA and the foothills of the South Downs are situated along the northern boundary of the NCA. The Manhood Peninsula is one of few undeveloped stretches of coastline within the NCA. Elsewhere, there is significant urban development, with settlements along the coast dominated by conurbation, trunk roads, suburban villages and an extensive string of seaside towns. The existing Rampion 1 project forms part of the seascape setting of the South Coast Plain.

Chichester Harbour AONB Designation

15.6.116 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) places a general duty on public bodies i.e. “relevant authorities” including for example the Councils, statutory undertakers and in the context of the DCO, the Secretary of State, to ‘have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB’ as described in **Table 15-1**.

15.6.117 Chichester Harbour AONB is located approximately 22.3km from the wind farm array area at its closest point (**Figure 15.7, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) but is largely shielded from the seascape of Sussex Bay by the headland of Selsey Bill and the intervening landscape of the Manhood Peninsula. Chichester Harbour AONB is a blend of landscape and seascape which is one of the smallest AONBs in the country ‘covering 74km^2, of which approximately 41% is water at high tide’ (Chichester Harbour Conservancy, 2019). It is located on the south coast between the cities of Portsmouth and Chichester and straddles the boundary between the counties of Hampshire and West Sussex. Backed by the South Downs, Chichester Harbour is one of four nearby harbours, the others at Portsmouth, Langstone and Pagham, and is the only one designated as an AONB. The channels and water of Chichester Harbour provide one of the most popular sailing areas in the country.

15.6.118 10 special qualities of the Chichester Harbour have been defined in the Chichester Harbour Management Plan (2019-2024) as indicators of what comprises its natural beauty and these are further described in the Chichester Harbour AONB Landscape Character Assessment (Chichester Harbour Conservancy, 2019). The special qualities that are scoped in to the SLVIA are identified and described in **Table 15-18**, as those that those that may have potential to be significantly affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2.

Table 15-18 Chichester Harbour AONB Special Qualities

ID	Special quality	Description of CHAONB special quality
1.	The unique blend of land and sea – especially the combination of expanses of open waters, narrow inlets and intimate creeks.	The outstanding quality of the AONB is due in a large part to its unique blend of land and sea, especially the combination of large-scale open water areas and intimate creeks. The margin between land and water is frequently wooded (or appears so) and attractive historic waterside settlements add interest to parts of the shore. The landscape is dynamic and naturally adapts to changes, resulting in a variety of important habitats and features that define the estuarine environment. Distinctive tidal channels lead to a maze of inlets and rythes that cross the mudflats and link with the shoreline. Old mills are remnants of historic maritime trade within the coastal villages.
2.	The frequently wooded shoreline.	The landscape of the AONB is predominantly agricultural in character. Fragments of the former oak forest remain to the east and north of the Harbour. Much of the forest has been lost within the AONB. Old, gnarled oak trees come down to the shoreline in places. Along with other species, these contribute to locally wooded shorelines. Despite some losses, the hedgerows and hedgerow trees remain evident across the AONB and contribute to the unspoilt, rural character. Where they define fields in proximity to the water, they also contribute to the wooded appearance of parts of the shoreline.
3.	The flatness of the landform, unusual among AONBs, accentuates the significance of sea and tide and of distant landmarks across land and water.	A characteristic of the AONB is its distinctive unspoilt views, which can be attributed in part to the general flatness of the landscape. This topography is unusual among AONBs, which are more commonly located in higher undulating countryside. The low-lying flat landform accentuates the significance of the sea and tide and means that tall spires and towers are important features, seen as distant landmarks across the land and water, against the distant backdrop of the South Downs. These are often seen in panoramic views over the water, mudflats and saltmarshes towards adjacent Harbour islands and peninsulas. There are long views towards Chichester Cathedral and the South Downs, framed views of the inlets and the yachts moored along them and attractive views of historic waterside development, notably at Bosham, West Itchenor, Emsworth, Langstone and Dell Quay.
4.	The open water of the central area of the Harbour.	The open water of the main Harbour pool is a microcosm of the open sea beyond the Harbour mouth, reflecting the clouds and sky, and the wind and rain. The movement of the tide means that this is a landscape that changes

ID	Special quality	Description of CHAONB special quality
		rhythmically every day, which in turn exposes bare mudflat and saltmarsh to view, creating a wide, open remote wilderness. This is where the maze of intricate channels and rythes combine, providing a dramatic change at low tide. Panoramic, open views are characteristic of this part of the Harbour. At high tide, the sea reaches into the land, creating areas of sheltered, open water that support diverse flora and fauna.
5.	The overall sense of wilderness within the seascape.	The sense of wilderness is associated primarily with the open water, dunes and natural wooded shorelines that fringe the waters around the Harbour. Much of this wilderness quality can be attributed to the naturalness of the landscape and actions of the weather upon the estuary that create a dynamic interface between the land and sea. The weather's influence on the sense of solitude and tranquillity of the seascape is documented in the writings of 20th century sailors and these descriptions continue to be applicable particularly within the Harbour basin.
6.	The particularly strong historic environment and heritage assets.	Chichester Harbour AONB has a unique historic landscape moulded by the dynamic interactions of humans, land and sea over hundreds and thousands of years. Whilst the most dramatic coastline changes took place in the long distant past, leaving the legacy of the flooded river valleys that are now the channels of the Harbour, the most rapid pace of change on the land has occurred during the last three millennia. Much of what is seen in the present landscape is the result of this historic and prehistoric inheritance. The visible remains of this landscape change are extensive and varied including Iron Age hillforts, prehistoric saltworking sites, tide mills, boatyards, oyster beds, remains of early medieval parks and Second World War defensive remains. The features and landscapes from past military, trade, maritime, fishing, agricultural, industrial, settlement, and more recently, recreational activity, have therefore created a special landscape that contains within its bounds the memories, remains and echoes of many generations past.
7.	The picturesque harbourside settlements.	Harbourside settlement has grown from historical land and water uses including trading, fishing and shipbuilding. The historic parts of these villages are located on or in proximity to the harbourside. In the flat landscape, churches and old mills are important features on the shoreline, particularly noting St Nicholas and Holy Trinity in the harbourside villages of West Thorney and Bosham. Whilst more recent development has taken place inland, these settlements

ID	Special quality	Description of CHAONB special quality
		have retained their relationship with the water, with jetties, pontoons and slipways common features along the inlets. The settlements are generally dispersed along the waters' edge and separated by wind-sculpted oaks, scrub, agricultural fields and hedgerows.
8.	The unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty.	Today the undeveloped character of the Harbour is almost unique on the south coast, where other tidal river mouths are either much smaller or developed as ports and industrial centres. It is a dynamic landscape that has been sculpted by natural processes and diversity of human activity over time. This has resulted in high quality habitats that contribute to the natural beauty and landscape of the AONB. A similar area to Chichester Harbour AONB is the section of the South Hampshire AONB between Lymington and Hurst Spit, but this does not have quite the same feeling of flat openness and is open coast rather than enclosed Harbour.
9.	The very special sense of peace and tranquillity, largely engendered by the gentle way the AONB is used and closeness to nature that is experienced.	There are many parts of the AONB, which are relatively tranquil and peaceful compared with other areas of the south coast. The Harbour is an important landscape that provides a natural setting for water-based recreation that forms part of the distinctive views and instils a sense of tranquillity and well-being within the AONB. The peninsulas and open water within the AONB are the most tranquil. They maintain a sense of naturalness and benefit from least intrusion from disruptive activity, noise and light pollution.
*	The following special quality has been scoped out of the SLVIA: 'The wealth of flora and fauna, and notably the vast flocks of wading birds add to the richness and diversity of the landscape'.	

15.6.119 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Chichester Harbour AONB include: Viewpoint 22 Eastoke Point (**Figure 15.47, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)); Viewpoint B1 Chichester Marina (**Figure 15.74, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint B2 Dell Quay (**Figure 15.75, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

West Sussex Landscape Character

Overview

15.6.120 The West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2003) identifies landscape character areas covering the coastal parts of the SLVIA study area to the west of Brighton to Chichester Harbour; and areas to the north of the SDNP extending to Horsham and Crawley. The immediate coastal edge is defined as the South Coast

Shoreline (SC1), backed primarily by built-up urban areas between Shoreham-by-Sea, Worthing, Bognor Regis and Selsey, and the Chichester to Yapton Coastal Plan (SC9) and Manhood Peninsula (SC2) to the west. The landscape character areas within West Sussex that are scoped in to the SLVIA are described as follows.

SC1. South Coast Shoreline

15.6.121 South Coast Shoreline (SC1) is a long, very narrow area extending between West Wittering and Shoreham and comprises the majority of the West Sussex coastline. It is a distinctive low, open and exposed landscape which has an overriding visual and physical association with the sea. Its wide and gently curved bays are further defined by the protruding shingle headland of Selsey Bill, and the chalk headland of Beachy Head in neighbouring East Sussex. This is a dynamic character area whose key characteristics are linked by coastal evolution, weather and tides. The character varies considerably according to weather condition and seasons. It is located 13.4km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.122 The key characteristics of the South Coast Shoreline (SC1) are:

- shingle banks to the east of Selsey Bill with bands of sand and mud at low tide;
- sandy beaches, dry sand dunes and grasslands to the west of Selsey Bill;
- influence of extensive linear urban coastal resort development. To the east, almost continuous conurbation of Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Worthing and Shoreham. To the west, notably villages of West Wittering, East Wittering and Bracklesham. Separated by distinctive village of Selsey at Selsey Bill;
- low sweeping coastline. Open, exposed foreshore;
- dominance of the sea. Noise of waves, wind and birds;
- dynamic seascape of constantly changing weather, light and tidal conditions;
- movement of shingle and sand along coast, linked to coastal geomorphology;
- relatively narrow undeveloped sections of coastline behind beaches. Bounded by low growing vegetation, often providing separation of urban areas;
- reed beds, streams and deep drainage ditches;
- distinctive historic piers at Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and Worthing;
- fleets of small fishing boats beached along the shoreline;
- caravan parks and other built holiday accommodation facilities; and
- yachting, surfing, windsurfing and commercial boat traffic are frequent in seaward views.

15.6.123 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the SC1. South Coast Shoreline include: Viewpoint 10 Worthing (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 11 Littlehampton (**Figure 15.36, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 12 Bognor Regis (**Figure 15.37, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 13 Pagham Beach (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference:

6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 14 Selsey Bill (**Figure 15.39, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

SC3 and SC4 Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour

15.6.124 Chichester Harbour (SC3) and Pagham Harbour (SC4) lie to the south west of Chichester and are distinctive for their enclosed expanses of marine water, tidal mudflat, shingle, marsh, wetland scrub and small creeks. Chichester Harbour differs from Pagham Harbour because of its larger size and greater diversity, with numerous inlets and its more wooded shoreline and clusters of harbour side settlement and marinas. Pagham Harbour (SC4) is located 15.4km from the wind farm array area at its closest point, while Chichester Harbour (SC3) is located further away to the west of Selsey Bill at 20.6km. The landscape within the Chichester Harbour (SC3) is designated as part of the Chichester Harbour AONB.

15.6.125 The key characteristics of the Chichester Harbour (SC3) and Pagham Harbour (SC4) are:

- in approaches to Chichester Harbour by land, the sight of masts glimpsed through the fields creates a sense of anticipation of the coastal edge;
- in contrast, views into Pagham Harbour are dominated by vast tidal mudflats and fringing marsh vegetation enclosed to the south by open shingle banks;
- large parts of these areas have been reclaimed from the sea and remain below the current high spring tide level;
- whilst traffic and recreational activities reduce tranquillity in some parts, there are also notable areas of Chichester and Pagham Harbours which have a tranquil character and retain a sense of remoteness;
- enclosed natural harbours of marine water, tidal mudflats and saltmarsh with small inlets and creeks. Contrast with the surrounding open agricultural land;
- localised presence of woodland, for example, Old Park Wood, Bosham and Church Norton Wood;
- distinctive historic features include earthworks, sea defences, quays and boatyards;
- rich range of habitats at the harbour edges including mudflats, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, reedbeds, sand dunes, shingle banks;
- areas of unimproved grassland on their edges. Wind-shaped trees and scrub; and
- attractive harbourside settlements and early medieval flint churches such as at Bosham and Pagham.

15.6.126 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of Chichester Harbour (SC3) and Pagham Harbour (SC4) include: Viewpoint 22 Eastoke Point (**Figure 15.47, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Pagham Beach Viewpoint 13 (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) (although Viewpoint 13 is sited outside the LCA within the adjacent shoreline).

SC10. Lower Arun Valley

15.6.127 The Lower Arun Valley (SC10) extends from where the river leaves the downland at Arundel; its drained floodplain pastures merge with the Coastal Plain. Stretches of the tidal river are contained by high banks engineered to control flooding, with suburban and urban fringe development visible over a distance. The river reaches the sea at Littlehampton, where it is located 15.3km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.128 The key characteristics of the Lower Arun Valley (SC10) are:

- extensive areas of drained pasture and floodplain;
- wide meandering river course throughout, fed by rifes and dykes with adjacent reed beds, with meanders increasing in size to the south. Tidal character up to Pallington Lock;
- stretches of engineered concrete river banks;
- very shallow valley sides, consisting of slightly undulating farmland or the urban edge of the coastal development, in particular Littlehampton;
- intrusive surrounding suburban activities, including prominent railway on embankment;
- extensive high-level views onto the area. Key close dramatic views of Arundel Castle from the south;
- seaward views from elevated positions; and
- long views towards the Chalk Downs and Arundel from the south.

15.6.129 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of Lower Arun Valley (SC10) include: Viewpoint 11 Littlehampton (**Figure 15.36, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

West Sussex - Visual Receptors

Arun Way

15.6.130 Approximately 36km of the Arun Way is within the SLVIA study area, broadly running north-south between Pulborough to Littlehampton on the West Sussex coast, which circles through Pulborough before turning south and running through open countryside along the Lower Arun Valley via Arundel, Tortington, and Climping to the coastline at Atherington and then to Littlehampton. The route is through a varied landscape, rich in evidence of various phases of British History, that includes the west Weald, South Downs, villages, riverside meadows and seafront. The Arun Way largely follows the Arun Valley and the floodplain of the River Arun but crosses the South Downs Way and the Monarch's Way and is partly coincident with the Wey-South Path. The route lies entirely within 25km of the wind farm array area and runs largely north to south crossing the South Downs and South Coast Plain to the coast. It takes a route through the Lower Arun Valley (SC10), Arun Floodplain (H2), Arun Wildbrooks (WG6), Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes (J3) and Rother Valley Farmland (N1).

15.6.131 Much of the route has contained views of the enclosing landform of the Arun Valley, contained by the South Downs as they rise on either side of the valley, and by the landform of the downs to the south of Weald. Views of the sea tend to be limited to the sections of the Arun Way near to the coast near Atherington and Littlehampton where the route approaches and runs along the coast, before turning inland along the River Arun, where the urban areas of Littlehampton intervene within the open views. There are representative viewpoints taken from or near the Arun Way at VP11 Littlehampton (**Figure 15.36, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and VP33 Arundel Castle (**Figure 15.56, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

West Sussex - viewpoints

15.6.132 The existing views from viewpoints within the West Sussex South Coast Plain (outside the SDNP) are described in **Table 15-19**. Baseline photographic panoramas showing the existing view from each viewpoint are shown in **Volume 3**, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) Figures as cross referenced in **Table 15-19**.

Table 15-19 West Sussex Baseline Views

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
9	Shoreham Harbour / A259 (**Figure 15.34, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This viewpoint is located at Shoreham Harbour and sited at the base of Shoreham Lighthouse, on the seaward side of the A259. The immediate foreground is defined by the waters within Shoreham Harbour and its west and east breakwaters, which channel the view to a narrow section of sea beyond. The view is defined by the visible harbour activities of this busy commercial port facility. Large warehouses for cargo handling, storage, warehousing and fishing enclose the harbour and limit views of the sea. Shoreham combined cycle gas-fired power station is located to the east alongside Shoreham Port's wind turbines. To the east, Shoreham RNLI lifeboat station occupies the view, with jetties extending into the waters and combining with the harbour walls to break up the sea view. The sea view features many signs of past and present maritime industry including the Southwick ship Canal. Rampion 1 wind farm is visible out to sea, approximately 13.8km from the viewpoint.
10	Worthing seafront promenade (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the seafront promenade to the west of Worthing pier. The immediate foreground is defined by the uniformity and openness of the promenade and its continuation in level across the adjacent shingle beach. Views offshore to the sea are simply composed and consist of layers of shingle, sea and sky which form a simple composition, with relatively few elements and a strong horizontal emphasis, with large-scale sea and skies, stretching out into the distance. The view offshore is punctuated only by Rampion 1 wind farm, 13.4km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of large-scale shipping on the horizon by

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		smaller fishing vessels and by recreational boats closer to shore. The view along the coast to the east is characterised and limited in extent by the structure of Worthing pier and the Worthing observation wheel. Street lights and small scale tree and shrub planting defines a transition from the uniformity of the promenade into the backdrop detail of the seafront highway and built façade of seafront hotels and residential properties. The view along the coast to the west is more immediately limited by the convex curve of the coastline. The inland extent of views is limited to the immediate line of buildings behind the viewpoint, such that the character of the view is largely defined by the seafront environment. On a busy summer's day there is therefore capacity for the character of view to be fundamentally changed by the nature of busy seafront activity.
11	Littlehampton seafront promenade (**Figure 15.36, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This Viewpoint is located at the western end of the seafront promenade at Littlehampton, at the harbour park and near the East Pier, where the River Arun joins the English Channel. The immediate foreground is defined by the sand and shingle beach, and mudflats exposed at low-tide. The view is however more complex than others due to the numerous timber groynes extending down the beach that subdivide the sand and shingle beach, as well as the numerous vertical structures along the mouth of the river and the east pier which extends into the sea. It is a dynamic and changeable view, in part due to the dynamism of the sea itself, but more so as a result of the amount of people and variety of recreational activities at the beach, in the sea and along the adjacent promenade, which is backed by an amusement park. Views offshore to the sea have a strong horizontal emphasis, with large-scale sea and skies, stretching out into the distance. The view offshore is punctuated by Rampion 1 wind farm, located 17.9km from the viewpoint, masts at the river mouth and the transitional influence of large-scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and by recreational boats closer to shore.
12	Bognor Regis seafront promenade (**Figure 15.37, Volume 3**)	The viewpoint is located on the seafront promenade to the east of the pier. Both the eastward and the westward coastal aspects include subtle land to land views, coincident with the concave sweep of the adjacent coastline. The detail associated with such views is however limited to the general massing of the coastal landform towards Selsey Bill in the west and Brighton in the east. The more immediate extent of westward views is limited by the structure of Bognor pier and by the general massing of seafront kiosks. To the east, a concentration of seafront facilities, including the most immediately placed band stand and new seafront developments add detail and scale to the seafront environment. Built holiday accommodation facilities dominate the seafront in places. Views offshore to the sea are expansive and simply

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		composed and consist of layers of shingle, sea and sky which form a simple composition, with relatively few elements and a strong horizontal emphasis, with large-scale sea and skies, stretching out into the distance. The view offshore is punctuated by masts in the nearshore water and by Rampion 1 wind farm on the horizon, 23.9km from the viewpoint, as well as the transitional influence of large-scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and by recreational boats closer to shore. The inland extent of views is limited to the immediate line residential and tourist accommodation properties behind the viewpoint, such that the character of the view is largely defined by the seafront environment. On a busy summer's day there is capacity for the character of view to be changed by the amount of people and the extent of seafront and beach activity.
13	Pagham Beach (**Figure 15.38, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This viewpoint is located on Pagham Beach, near Pagham Yacht Club and close to the point where Beach Road joins Pagham's shingle beach. It is overlooked by low-rise detached residential properties that line the shore and have open views out to sea. Views offshore to the sea are expansive, simply composed and consist of layers of shingle, sea and sky which form a simple composition, with relatively few elements and a strong horizontal emphasis, with large-scale sea and skies, stretching out into the distance. The view offshore is punctuated by Rampion 1 wind farm on the horizon, 27.7km from the viewpoint, the transitional influence of large-scale shipping on the horizon, and recreational boats/watersports activities closer to shore. The view south along the coast that takes in Pagham Harbour and extends to the headland of Selsey Bill is relatively undeveloped, while the view north-east along the coastline across Bognor Regis and beyond is influenced by urbanised coast.
14	Selsey seafront promenade (**Figure 15.39, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Selsey seafront promenade, next to the RNLI lifeboat station, on the low sweeping coastline where the foreshore is open and exposed to the open seas, across shingle banks and bands of sand and mud at low tide. The sea is the prevailing element in the view, with the associated dynamic nature of the noise of waves, exposure to the wind and elements, constantly changing weather, light and tidal conditions. The shingle beach is backed by the seafront promenade, and relatively narrow undeveloped sections of coastline behind the beach, bounded by low growing vegetation, providing some slight separation of the urban areas behind the viewpoint that face to the sea. Fleets of small fishing boats are beached along the shoreline and yachting, surfing, windsurfing and commercial boat traffic are frequent in seaward views. Views offshore to the sea are expansive, simply composed and consist of layers of shingle, sea and sky which form a simple composition, with relatively few elements and a strong

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		horizontal emphasis, with large-scale sea and skies, stretching out into the distance. Rampion 1 wind farm is visible out to sea, approximately 29.6km from the viewpoint.
22	Eastoke Point (Chichester Harbour AONB) (**Figure 15.47, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Eastoke Point, on the edge of Sandy Point Nature Reserve and within the Chichester Harbour AONB. The viewpoint is located at the southern seaward extremity of the Chichester Harbour AONB, where there are greatest views out to sea. The view looks across the mouth of Chichester Harbour and along the coast towards the headland formed at Selsey Bill. Whilst yachting traffic and recreational activities reduce the tranquillity in part, the view has a tranquil character and a sense of relative remoteness. The panorama affords views 'into' the central area of the Chichester Harbour AONB, dotted with boats and backdropped by the rising landforms of the South Downs to the north, as well as extending along the flat sandy coast to the east which accentuates the scale of the sea and sky. The sandy coastline is dotted with holiday accommodation and huts, backed by windswept trees. Views offshore consist of expanses of open water, simply composed of sea and sky stretching out into the distance and interrupted by only transitory boats in the nearshore waters and more distant large vessels on the horizon. The view south-west extends to the Isle of Wight, its profile of higher chalk downlands rising beyond the Solent. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm cannot be seen in the view.
26	Low Weald (A24, near Ashington) (**Figure 15.49, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located in the Low Weald, just to the north of Ashington and east of the A24, on a public right of way near Woodman's Farm, which is on a localised high point at Basing Hill that affords views south over the Low Weald to the landform backdrop form by the South Downs. The view is over the Wiston Low Weald, to the west of the Adur Valley, which is a mainly pastoral landscape with a well-wooded character. Strong patterns of small to medium size fields of pasture enclosed by woodlands, shaws and hedgerows are common, with the local character having a dense cover of broadleaved woodlands and enclosed further by the rising landform of the downs to the south. The A24 is not visible but is close by and audible to the west of the viewpoint and reduces the otherwise apparent rural tranquillity. There are no views of the seascape due to the curtailment by the steep downland scarp to the south. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm cannot be seen in the view.
40	Climping Beach (**Figure 15.59, Volume 3,** of	The viewpoint is located at Climping Beach on one of the higher points of the shingle embankment, away from the seawall, where there are clear unobstructed views out to sea. It is accessed from the public car park at the end of Climping Street. The character of the landscape in the view is somewhat different to that of the

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
	the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	nearby urban seafront viewpoints, such as Littlehampton, being relatively less influenced by urban and tourism related development, with views back inland across the sand dunes and agricultural land in the green gap along the River Arun, between the settlements of Littlehampton and Middleton-on-Sea. The South Downs are visible in the inland backdrop across the Arun. Views west are however influenced by parked cars and activity around the public car park. The existing view is open out to sea and along the coastline extending east, across the shingle beach and sea wall and is simple in composition with shingle, sky and sea, interrupted only by the sea defences and Rampion 1 Wind Farm located approximately 19.1km out to sea.
47	High Weald (near Bolney) (**Figure 15.62, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the southern edge of the High Weald AONB, just to the north of Bolney and east of the A23, on a public right of way near Park Farm, which is on a localised high point at Basing Hill that affords views south from the High Weald, over the Low Weald, to the landform backdrop form by the South Downs. The foreground of the view is over pastoral landscape and the well-wooded character of Bolney Wood, Ragget Wood and North Wood on the southern edges of the High Weald, where the landform drops gradually into the eastern Low Weald. Over the Low Weald, arable and pastoral rural landscape prevails, with a mosaic of small and larger fields, scattered woodlands, shaws and hedgerows, interspersed with development. Overhead power lines for a detractor cross the view over the Low Weald. There are no views of the seascape due to the curtailment by the steep downland scarp to the south. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm cannot be seen in the view.
A	East Wittering (**Figure 15.73, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residents (East Wittering) and visitors to East Wittering Beach and Bracklesham Bay. The viewpoint is positioned on the beach adjacent to the Bracklesham Lane car park and where 'Billy's on the Beach' is located at Bracklesham Bay, where there is a concentration of visitors at the beach. The view towards Rampion 2 is south-east, oblique to the main direction of view/orientation of the coast out to sea to the south-west. The extensive Shingle Beach and wooden groynes stretch into the distance around Bracklesham Bay, backed by settled edges of East Wittering. The view extends to the sand dunes at Medmerry Nature Reserve and headland formed by Selsey Bill that curtails the view. The foreground is active with people engaged in activities on the beach and in the water. The sea is a dynamic element in the view, lapping or crashing into the shingle in different weather conditions. There are long distant views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight to the south-west. The existing Rampion 1 Wind Farm cannot be seen in the view.

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
B1	Chichester Marina (**Figure 15.74, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Chichester Marina and is representative of walkers using the New Lipchis Way and local PRoW network near the marina, as well as people involved in recreational boating and general visitors to the marina. The foreground of the view is dominated by boats in the marina and their vertical masts, overlapping to create complexity in the view across the marina. It is backdropped by woodland which encloses and shelters the marina and prevents longer distance views. The wider panorama to the west, which is of main interest, extends across the intertidal landscape of the Chichester Channel and its inlet to the marina and Salterns Lock, its low edges lined by woodlands. The existing Rampion 1 Wind Farm cannot be seen in the view.
B2	Dell Quay (**Figure 15.75, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Dell Quay, which sits in the sheltered waters of Chichester Harbour and is the base for a sailing club and is visited by walkers using the PRoW along the edge of Fishbourne Channel and visitors to the nearby Crown and Anchor pub at Dell Quay. The viewpoint is sited at the end of Dell Quay, where there are views south out along the Chichester Channel and north along Fishbourne Channel. The view towards Rampion 2 is inland to the south-east, oblique to these principal views over the water, and is largely contained by intervening woodland along the edges of the channel, as well as building, and the low lying, undulating landform which prevent long distance views in this direction. The main focus and interest is the view along the intertidal, low-lying Chichester Channel and its changing relationship with the adjacent agricultural landscape and wooded edge. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm cannot be seen in the view.
C	Eastergate (proposed A29) (**Figure 15.76, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the PRoW that runs along the southern edge of Eastergate, behind Fleurie Nursery, south of Upton Brooks. It is representative of views experienced by people walking on this PRoW as well as motorists on the proposed new A29 alignment. The A29 realignment scheme will deliver a new road to the east of Eastergate, Westergate and Woodgate villages, with Phase 1 (north) from the A29 south of Eastergate Lane to a new junction with Barnham Road, which passes the vicinity of the viewpoint location to the south of Fleurie Nursery. The existing view is across open arable agricultural fields, backed by woodland to the south including tall poplar tree belt to the south-east. As a result, there is no exposure to the coastal landscapes or seascape, which lies to the south, and is beyond the extensive urban areas of Bognor Regis, Middleton-on-Sea and Littlehampton (which are also not perceived in this view). The overall character in the view is agricultural set within a wooded backdrop, however the prevailing influence will be the new A29 when constructed. The existing Rampion 1 wind farm cannot be seen in the view.

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
D	Footpath between A259 and Colworth (**Figure 15.77, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the PRoW between the A259 and Colworth, which extends off the A259 at the main layby between Chichester and Bognor Regis. The viewpoint was selected to be representative of views from the agricultural landscapes of the low-lying coastal plan between Chichester and Bognor Regis. The existing view is across arable agricultural fields, with crops in the foreground largely screening views, backed by further areas of woodland to the south. As a result, there is no exposure to the coastal landscapes or seascape, which lies to the south, and is beyond the extensive urban areas of Bognor Regis, Middleton-on-Sea and Littlehampton (which are also not perceived in this view). The existing Rampion 1 wind farm cannot be seen in the view.
E	Ferring Gap (**Figure 15.78, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residents (Ferring) and visitors to Ferring Gap Beach. The viewpoint is positioned on the beach, by the Bluebird Café, car park and beach huts at Ferring, where there is a concentration of visitor activity. The existing view is open out to sea and along the coastline extending east, across the shingle beach and wooden groynes, and is simple in composition with shingle, sky and sea, interrupted only by the groynes, poles and Rampion 1 Wind Farm located 14.3km out to sea on the skyline. The view is backed by the settled edges of Ferring, lines of beach huts and the Bluebird Café. The area nearby is valued for its open spaces, with Ferring Gap forming a dividing green gap between Ferring and Goring, and the open sea views.
F	Lancing Beach (**Figure 15.79, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on Lancing Beach, adjacent to the 'Perch on Lancing Beach' Restaurant and Lancing Beach Green, where there is a focus of visitor activity, accessed from the nearby public car park. It is representative of views experienced by visitors to Lancing Beach and residents of the coastal edges of Lancing. Similar other views from the urban tourist settlements of West Sussex, the views offshore to the sea are expansive and simply composed and consist of layers of shingle, sea and sky which form a simple composition, with relatively few elements and a strong horizontal emphasis, with large-scale sea and skies, stretching out into the distance. The view offshore is punctuated by groynes and by Rampion 1 wind farm located 13.7km out to sea on the horizon. The inland extent of views is limited across Lancing Beach Green and immediate residential and tourist accommodation. On a busy summer's day there is capacity for the character of view to be changed by the amount of people and the extent of seafront and beach activity, including busy fairgrounds on the green.

East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove

East Sussex Landscape Character

15.6.133 The geographic area of the county of East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove is shown in **Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). The East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment identifies landscape character areas covering the SLVIA study area to the north-east and east of the SDNP (**Figure 15.16a-b, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), with much of the East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment area being within the SDNP and considered within the landscape character descriptions provided above for the SDNP. Areas of coast that fall to the south-west and outside the SDNP are primarily the built up coastal urban areas of the City of Brighton & Hove, Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Eastbourne and small areas of LCAs which fall just outside the SDNP, such as parts of the Falmer Telscombe Downs (18). The main terrestrial areas to the north-east and east of the SDNP, are defined by the Low Weald (14 and 15), High Weald (4 and 5), Eastbourne Levels (24) and Pevensey Levels (25) which fall largely or entirely outside the ZTV (**Figure 15.19a, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Landscape character areas within East Sussex (outside the SDNP) are scoped out of the SLVIA.

East Sussex - Visual receptors

National Cycle Network Route 2

15.6.134 NCNR2 is long-distance bike route along the south coast of England from Dover in the east to St. Austell in the west. Within the SLVIA study area (**Figure 15.8, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), it extends between Worthing and Bexhill and includes part of the 'Downs and Wealds Cycle Route' within its route between Brighton and Eastbourne. NCNR2 includes notable seaward views for the majority of the route between Worthing and Seaford, as it largely follows the coastal edge, however there are sections further east that divert into the urban areas of Peacehaven, Newhaven and Rookery Hill where the views are more restricted by the intervening urban environment. The route includes an apparent seaward aspect towards the offshore elements of Rampion 2 however, this will be experienced from a distinctly urban corridor through the majority of its length.

East Sussex - viewpoints

15.6.135 The existing view from viewpoints within East Sussex (outside the SDNP) are described in **Table 15-20**. Baseline photographic panoramas showing the existing view from each viewpoint are shown in **Volume 3**, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) Figures as cross referenced in **Table 15-20**.

Table 15-20 East Sussex and City of Brighton baseline views

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
5	Newhaven (Castle Hill) (**Figure 15.30, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This coastal viewpoint is located on Castle Hill, sited at the telescope next to Newhaven Fort, the last of a series of defences built on the cliffs overlooking Seaford Bay, where there is a visitor centre and coastal walks. Newhaven has a channel ferry port, with passenger ferries from Newhaven to Dieppe from Newhaven Harbour – the breakwater to the harbour being visible to the east in the view towards Seaford. Newhaven is physically divided by the River Ouse. As with the majority of the settlement, the viewpoint is located west of the river. Just inland of this location is the lookout tower for the National Coastguard and its supporting transmission tower. The eastern aspect offers the focus of interest in the view across Seaford Bay to the white cliffs of the Seven Sisters and open views over the breakwaters of Newhaven Harbour and the shipping lanes of the English Channel. Features of Newhaven's industrial and historical heritage are prominent from this viewpoint. A drilling platform is currently located with the breakwaters. Evidence of Newhaven Fort is prominent in the surrounding landform and with the presence of gun emplacements. The view south-west is less dramatic, including the adjacent transmission mast and the edges of Castle Hill, but with expansive views offshore of simply composed vast sea and skies, with a strong horizontal emphasis, interrupted by the WTGs of Rampion 1 wind farm located 19.7km from the viewpoint.
6	Peacehaven (**Figure 15.31, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	This viewpoint is located on the clifftop in Peacehaven, on a footpath that traverses the top of the cliffs adjacent to the residential areas of Peacehaven and small public park that front on to the sea and have expansive views from the elevated clifftops over the seascape to the south. The sea and the sky are the prevailing elements in the simply composed view, which have a large scale and vast range, as well as associated dynamic nature of the noise of waves, exposure to the wind and elements, changing weather, light and tidal conditions. Drama and exposure are created from the elevation of the viewpoint and its position close to the cliff edge, the height of the white chalk cliffs above the shoreline below and scale of the white cliffs, particularly notable along the coast to the west. Urban development is notable as extending close to the cliff edge and having direct views out to sea. There are long distance views along the coast to the west to Brighton and its prominent marina and seafront developments, including the i-360 tower. The sea view includes Rampion 1 wind farm, 16.7km from the

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		viewpoint, and the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon.
8	Brighton seafront promenade (**Figure 15.33, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located on the seafront promenade approximately west of the landmark structure of Brighton pier. The eastward extent of sea and coastal views is limited by the pier, however the urban skyline of the landward component indicates the continuation of the coastal frontage beyond. The westward extent of coastal view includes the concave sweep of coastline, picking up the power station chimney at Shoreham and a more general massing of land and buildings towards Worthing. The remnant structure of Brighton west pier features within the extent of the inshore waters to the right of view. The orientation of Brighton pier and foreground breakwater (with sculptural focal point) directs the line of sight seawards to the horizon. The seaward aspect is further emphasised by the landward containment afforded by the distinct urban edge of five storey hotels immediately behind the viewpoint. The immediate context of the sea view is fundamentally defined by the influence of the pier. Further foreground detail is contributed by the below promenade shops and beach recreational facilities along with the shoreline strip of shingle beach. Beyond this context the seascape is featureless to the horizon, punctuated by the prominent influence of Rampion 1 wind farm in the sea view, located 13.8km from the viewpoint, and the transitional influence of large-scale shipping on the horizon and by smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. On a busy summer's day there is capacity for the character of view to be fundamentally changed by seafront and beach activity.

Hampshire and the Solent

Overview

15.6.136 The geographic area of Hampshire County is shown in **Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the Solent is shown in **Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) where it is shown as a distinct Marine Character Area. Its current baseline seascape, landscape and visual amenity is described as follows based on the seascape character of 'MCA05 The Solent' which defines the majority of the relevant coastline and LCAs within the Hampshire Integrated Landscape Assessment (2010) that provide the baseline landscape characterisation of Hampshire.

MCA05 The Solent

15.6.137 MCA05 The Solent (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) covers the distinctive narrow stretch of sea of the Solent and its adjoining channels (the largest being Southampton Water) and Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours. It stretches to Foreland and Selsey Bill to the east and is located 13.7km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.138 MCA05 The Solent 'is one of the busiest stretches of water in the UK, both commercially and for inshore recreation. It includes the major ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, which are nationally important hubs for marine transportation and trade. The Solent's sheltered waters also attract some of the largest numbers of marine recreational users in North-East Europe, supported by a large number of yacht clubs and marinas and world-class sailing events. Calm, warm seas nurture rich fishing grounds, including nationally rare native oyster beds at Chichester Harbour. The area is steeped in maritime history reflecting its nationally important roles in defence and trade, including the historic base of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. The busy waters and port developments contrast with sections of highly tranquil coastline (particularly within the New Forest National Park, Isle of Wight and Chichester Harbour AONBs) and internationally important wildlife havens.

15.6.139 Within the SLVIA study area, the adjacent northern coastline is defined by the South Coastal Plain (126) NCA (**Figure 15.5, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and sections of the coastline are within the Chichester Harbour AONB (**Figure 15.7, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The southern side of The Solent is defined by the Isle of Wight (127) NCA and includes sections of coastline within the Isle of Wight AONB (described in the following section covering the Isle of Wight). The MCA is also defined by the Eastern Solent LCA from the Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment (Hampshire County Council, 2010) and its adjacent northern coastline by Hayling Island Coastal Plain (9h) and the Langstone and Chichester Harbours (10b).

Hampshire Landscape Character

11c. Eastern Solent

15.6.140 The Eastern Solent (11c) (**Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) covers the seascape of the eastern Solent and is essentially coincident with MCA05 The Solent (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The waters in the eastern Solent are well used by ferries, which affects its character and has a more developed feel than the New Forest coastline to the west. The eastern boundary is formed by an imaginary line extending from the County boundary southwards from the entrance to Chichester harbour and is approximately 25.3km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.141 The key characteristics of the Eastern Solent (11c) are:

- sheltered from predominant south-westerly winds, with very busy shipping, including commercial container vessels, tankers, ferries, high speed vessels,

hovercraft and recreational sailing. Major deep water shipping channel in the South channel;

- unusual tidal conditions due to the influence of the Isle of Wight;
- active commercial fishing interests, mainly consisting of shellfish, the harvesting of which affects the natural sea bed characteristics;
- historically, the home port of the British navy at Portsmouth and one of the most significant cruise liner ports at Southampton have meant the waters have seen some of the most significant war and commercial vessels;
- numerous visually prominent historic defence related landmarks including Calshot castle and Southsea Castle, evocative of times when this coast and its ports were of huge strategic defence importance; and
- varied views of low coastline to the north in contrast to the hilly backdrop of the Isle of Wight to the south – even with the coastal settlements it still retains more natural undeveloped stretches and is heavily wooded on the Island side.

15.6.142 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Eastern Solent (11c) include: Viewpoint 22 Eastoke Point (**Figure 15.47, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 43 Gilkicker Point (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

Hampshire - visual receptors

Solent Way

15.6.143 The Solent Way runs through Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex connecting Milford on Sea with Emsworth Harbour. Approximately 41km of the Solent Way is within the SLVIA study area, extending from Farham along the Solent to Gilkicker Point around the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour, and then inland around Langstone Harbour and Chichester Harbour to Emsworth. The route lies over 30km from the wind farm array area, in the west-north-west of the study area and follows the Hampshire coastline for much of its length. After crossing Southampton the Solent Way follows the Solent shoreline and crosses the River Hamble via the Gosport ferry to reach Warsash. It continues to Lee-on-the-Solent's promenade, the suburbs of Gosport crossing the Haslar Bridge to the ferry over to Portsmouth, along the waterfront of Old Portsmouth and Southsea seafront, before skirting the coastal marshes and quays of the eastern edge of Langstone Harbour. The path then skirts Havant to the village of Langstone, crossing the bridge to Hayling Island, and following the banks of Chichester Harbour to end at the town of Emsworth on the West Sussex border.

15.6.144 While sections of the route are more rural, large urban areas frequently characterise parts of the route and interrupt inland views of the South Coast Plain. To the north, the views across Southampton Water dominates while further south, the coastal nature of the way ensures panoramic views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight, just a few miles off the Hampshire Coast, for most of its length. Approaching Portsmouth the Spinnaker Tower forms the main landmark. Views from Gilkicker Point and the Southsea/Portsmouth waterfront take in the open sea and the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour. As the way skirts Langstone Harbour,

turning away from the coast, the low-lying Hayling Island across the harbour becomes the main feature in views from the route. There is a representative viewpoint on the Solent Way at Viewpoint 43 Gilkicker Point (**Figure 15.61, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

New Lipchis Way

15.6.145 The New Lipchis Way runs from Liphook, on the Hampshire/West Sussex border, through Hampshire and West Sussex through the SDNP to East Head at the entrance to Chichester Harbour. Approximately 55km of the New Lipchis Way is within the SLVIA study area, extending between Chichester Harbour AONB to Chichester and across the SDNP (The Trundle). The New Lipchis Way passes through open countryside within the South Coast Plain, following the Chichester Ship canal and the southern bank of Chichester Channel to end at Chichester Harbour, with an optional detour around East Head. It crosses the South Downs via The Trundle, before it crosses the heaths, woods and farmland of the west Weald over Older Hill and Woolbeding Common to Midhurst and Heyshott. Extensive views of the South Downs and beyond are available as the route crosses the Downs. More limited views of the surrounding landscape are available as the route traverses the South Coast Plain, skirting Chichester's western edge, following the ship canal and entering the Chichester Channel. Panoramic views of the open sea are seen from the southern end of the way at East Head. There is a representative viewpoint on the South Downs section of the New Lipchis Way at Viewpoint 50 The Trundle (**Figure 15.63, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 22 Eastoke Point (**Figure 15.47, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) is close to the start of the route in the Chichester Harbour AONB.

Hampshire - viewpoints

15.6.146 The existing view from viewpoints within Hampshire County (outside the SDNP) are described in **Table 15-21**. Baseline photographic panoramas showing the existing view from each viewpoint are shown in **Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) **Figures** as cross referenced in **Table 15-21**.

Table 15-21 Hampshire baseline views

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
43	Gilkicker Point (**Figure 15.61, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Gilkicker Point, near to Fort Gilkicker on the Solent Way, which rounds the headland and fort at this point. The viewpoint is located at the southern seaward extremity of the headland between Stokes Bay and the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour. It is a panoramic view that extends from Portsmouth Harbour, across the harbour mouth to the urban coastline of Portsmouth and Southsea Common to the east and encompasses open sea views over the eastern Solent and across to the Isle of Wight to the south. The seas of the Solent are scattered with numerous sailing boats, Isle of Wight ferries and large vessels, including naval vessels, coming in and out of Portsmouth Harbour,

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		all of which are part of the established character of the seascape of the eastern Solent visible in the view. These boats and vessels add complexity and visual interest to what would otherwise be a simple view of shingle, sea and sky. The long-distance sea view east is channelled between the headland of Selsey Bill and the coastline of the Isle of Wight, with much of the remaining sea panorama being backdropped by the hilly landform of the Isle of Wight to the south and south-east, which is wooded and well settled between Ryde and Foreland. Urban coastline prevails to the east along the mainland between Portsmouth, Hayling Island and Selsey Bill. Rampion 1 wind farm is not visible due to the intervening headland.

Isle of Wight

Overview

15.6.147 The geographic area of the Isle of Wight is shown in **Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). Its current baseline seascape, landscape and visual amenity is described as follows based on the seascape character of 'MCA06 South Wight' (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) which defines the coastline to the south of the Solent; the 'Isle of Wight NCA' (127) (**Figure 15.5, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) which defines its character at the national level; the Isle of Wight AONB's special qualities; and the LCAs within the East Wight Landscape Character Assessment (IoW Council, 2015) (**Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) that provide the baseline landscape characterisation of the Isle of Wight.

MCA06 South Wight

15.6.148 MCA06 South Wight (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) covers the south coast of the Isle of Wight from the Needles in the west to Foreland in the east, reflecting the change in marine and coastal character between the north and south coasts. Offshore, the MCA extends eastwards to meet MCA 07 off Selsey Bill and is located 10.6km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.149 MCA06 South Wight 'is a diverse MCA displaying a wide range of coastal landscapes and marine characteristics. The southern coastline of the Isle includes sections of internationally important geology, geomorphology and coastal habitats reflecting some 120 million years of evolution. The island is surrounded by offshore rocky ledges and reefs which host rich maritime biodiversity as well as the wrecks of numerous vessels that have succumbed to the dangerous waters associated with them. The scenic beauty of the island, and particularly its unrestricted sea views across the Channel, has been appreciated for centuries by eminent writers and artists – as well as the Victorian middle classes who spurred the development of its seaside resorts. The MCA's role in both World Wars as well as famous historic invasion attempts such as the Spanish Armada result in an area steeped in history. Fishing (commercial and recreational), marine

transportation and coastal and sea-based recreation (including yachting and diving) are the key human activities which shape the character of South Wight today'.

15.6.150 The adjacent coastline is defined by the Isle of Wight (127) NCA. Outside the coastal settlements of Ventnor, Shanklin, Sandown and Bembridge, the coastline falls within the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is defined by LCAs of the East Wight Landscape Character Assessment (IoW Council, 2015) – including Chalk Downs (1), the Undercliff (11), Changed Countryside (14) and Coastal Designed Landscape (15).

Isle of Wight NCA (127)

15.6.151 The Isle of Wight NCA (127) (**Figure 15.5, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) covers the whole of the Isle of Wight, separated from the mainland by the Solent and is located 31.4km to the west of the wind farm array area at its closest point. It is England's largest Island. The chalk spine crossing from east to west stretches out at the western tip in a series of three chalk stacks known since medieval times as the Needles (located outside the study area boundary). The Island exhibits, at a small scale, the key characteristics of much of lowland England, from farmed arable coastal plains to pastures and woodland, and from steep chalk downs to diverse estuarine seascapes and dramatic sea cliffs and stacks. Although most of the Island is rural, there are a wide range of settlements, including small villages, medieval planned and post-medieval towns, 19th-century seaside resorts and 20th-century development.

15.6.152 Almost half of the NCA falls within the Isle of Wight AONB, divided into five separate parcels, and much of the south coast is recognised as part of the Tennyson Heritage Coast.

Isle of Wight AONB designation

15.6.153 The Isle of Wight AONB (IoW AONB) is located 31.4km to the west of the wind farm array area at its closest point at Foreland, near Bembridge (**Figure 15.7, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), however the majority of the two main areas of the IoW AONB at Culver Down and Ventnor Down are located at slightly greater distances (approximately 32.8km to Culver Down and 39km to Ventnor Down).

15.6.154 The Isle of Wight AONB is 191km^2, approximately half the land surface of the Island (IoW AONB Management Plan 2019-2024). Unusually, the AONB area is not continuous and is made up of five distinct land parcels across the Island. This creates a strong interrelationship between the AONB and the non-designated areas. The character of this AONB is shaped by contrasting elements; sea cliffs and sweeping beaches to quiet ancient woodland; worked farmland to intricate inlets of streams. Long distance views are offered from the coastal heath and downland, and at night, the dark skies of the area allow for views of the night sky. Settlements within the AONB comprise isolated houses, hamlets and rural villages and harbour towns. The AONB remains a lightly populated, undeveloped area, popular for outdoor recreation and tourism, valued for its tranquillity, the quality of the environment and culture, however the East Wight coast is notably more developed between Bembridge, Sandown and Shanklin.

15.6.155 The special qualities of the IoW AONB have been defined in Section 2 'Statement of Significance' of Appendix 1 of the IW AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 as indicators of what comprises its natural beauty. The special qualities that are scoped in to the SLVIA are identified and described in **Table 15-22**, as those that may have potential to be significantly affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2.

Table 15-22 IoW AONB Special Qualities

ID	Special quality	Interpretation of IoW AONB special quality
1.	From majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches to the quiet solitude of ancient woodland.	The complex and diverse landscape, with many contrasting landscape character areas ranging from sea cliffs, sweeping beaches to areas of ancient woodland, deriving from the underlying predominantly chalk geology, landform and historic land uses.
2.	The ever-changing patchwork of worked fields to the timeless and enduring presence of the downs.	The altered landscape of farmland traditionally comprising small scale farmsteads and open downland and heathland dating back to the prehistoric woodland clearance of these areas.
3.	The intricate inlets of tranquil creeks to the long-distance views from coastal heath and downland.	A spectacular, undeveloped coastline of unspoilt beaches, dramatic cliffs, iconic chalk stacks, and Heritage Coasts that features in many views to and from the designated area; its open aspect, long distance views to the English Channel and special quality of light.
4.	The planned and manicured gardens of former Royal Estates and Victorian villas to the irregular undulating hedged fields of pasture.	A long, rich history of human interaction with the natural environment evident within designed landscapes associated with grand houses and former Royal Estates; and the historic enclosure of land by closely associated boundary features such as hedgerows, ditches, hedge banks, wood banks, and stone walls and associated field patterns.
5.	The dark starlit skies to the bustle and colour of festivals and events.	Tranquil and unspoilt by urban levels of artificial light, noise, development or traffic; with dark, starlit skies.
6.	The winding paths, shuts and hollow ways in the countryside to chines and steps down cliffs to the beach.	The network of public rights of way including highways, byways, paths, and tracks which record how people have travelled across the landscape: from villages to the coast; from farms to the downs and the markets of nearby towns; and from hamlets to churches and schools.

ID	Special quality	Interpretation of IoW AONB special quality
7.	Place names and dialect to poetry, literature and art.	Local distinctiveness and identity derived from dialect, customs, and folklore; and the wider influence of the island through visual art and literature, its importance to the 'Picturesque' movement and its identification as part of the English Grand Tour.
8.	Isolated houses, hamlets and rural villages to harbour towns, castles and tumuli	A long history of human settlement showing the relationship between people and place, especially the coast and sea, as shown by harbours, coastal settlements, and navigation and defensive structures.
*****	The following special quality has been scoped out of the SLVIA: 'Plants and animals to fossilised trees and dinosaur footprints'	

15.6.156 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Isle of Wight AONB include: Viewpoint 34 Bembridge Down (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 35 St. Boniface Down (above Ventnor) (**Figure 15.58, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

Isle of Wight Landscape Character

Chalk Downs (1)

15.6.157 The Chalk Downs (1) (**Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) is located in two parts of the SLVIA study area. The first is located at Bembridge and Culver Down, which coincides with the coastal part of a visually distinct central chalk downland ridge, which runs west to east across the Isle of Wight. In the East Wight it is located at Bembridge Down running east to meet the sea, where the chalk is exposed at Culver Cliff, but also extends inland, to the north of Arreton. This part of the LCA is narrow, about 1km wide, with an elevation is around 104m AOD at Bembridge Down, flanked by areas of Coastal Farmland (16) to the south and Pasture Land to the north (18). The second area is formed by Ventnor and Shanklin Downs further to the south, where the series of chalk upland downs rise to above 240m at Ventnor Downs, and dip steeply on their southern and eastern slope, where it is flanked by the Undercliff (11).

15.6.158 Both of these areas of Chalk Downs (1) form the basis of the Isle of the Wight AONB designation where it extends to meet the East Wight coast and both areas of Chalk Downs (1) are also part of the National Trust – Bembridge and Culver Downs, and Ventnor Downs and Luccombe. The Bembridge and Culver Downs is located 32.8km from the wind farm array area at its closest point, while Ventnor and Shanklin Downs is located further away at approximately 39km.

15.6.159 The key characteristics of the Chalk Downs (1) are:

- open landscape often with an exposed feel;

- long distance views across the landscape and out to sea;
- a lack of enclosure (particularly in the chalk downland in the south of the East Wight);
- dramatic exposed white chalk sea cliffs;
- landmarks and structures present where these have required or taken advantage of the elevation and unobstructed nature of the downs;
- species rich chalk grassland, acid grassland and heathland;
- a landscape rich in archaeology and heritage assets;
- ancient woodland found on steep slopes;
- few buildings and little if any settlement, with smaller hamlets and villages often being located in adjacent areas where the downland provides shelter; and
- Public rights of way run to, from and across the downland and are often an historic record of access throughout the area and there are extensive areas of open access land.

15.6.160 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Chalk Downs (1) include: Viewpoint 34 Bembridge Fort (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 35 St. Boniface Down (above Ventnor) (**Figure 15.58, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

The Undercliff (11)

15.6.161 The Undercliff (11) (**Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) is located along the southern coastline of the East Wight. It extends from Chale Bay to Luccombe Bay near Shanklin. The Undercliff (11) sits below the chalk downs and includes the dramatic inland Upper Greensand cliff, these landslip areas include dense woodland, scrub, rough ground, grasslands on flatter ground close to the coast, adjacent settlement areas such as St Catherine's, St Lawrence, Ventnor and Bonchurch. The Undercliff (11) is designated as part of the Isle of Wight AONB and parts are within the Ventnor Downs and Luccombe National Trust land. It is located approximately 35.7km from the wind farm array area at its closest point.

15.6.162 The key characteristics of the Undercliff (11c) are:

- dramatic landform due to the action of coastal erosion and the land slide complex caused by groundwater creating a series of terraced landslips;
- appreciated for its natural beauty the area was a draw for those wishing to appreciate the picturesque in the late 18th century and early 19th century, resulting in its increased popularity as a location for marine villas and cottages;
- dramatic landscape of high nature conservation and historic environmental interest;
- tranquil area in some woodland areas secretive and in some areas more open and expansive with panoramic coastal and sea views;

- open access and public footpaths allow opportunities to appreciate the character and dramatic views from the top of the inland cliff into the Undercliff;
- some areas have lost former paths and road access due to land movement; and
- parts of the Undercliff have been strongly influenced by designed parklands and ornamental gardens taking advantage of their coastal location, micro climate and shelter.

15.6.163 Viewpoints that illustrate the existing landscape character of the Undercliff (11) include: Viewpoint 35 St. Boniface Down (above Ventnor) (**Figure 15.58, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

Isle of Wight - Visual Receptors

Overview

15.6.164 Given the statutory purpose of the Isle of Wight AONB (**Table 15-1**) and its special qualities, the SLVIA focuses on views experienced by recreational users of the Isle of Wight AONB, particularly the Isle of Wight Coastal Path National Trail and long distance walking route.

Isle of Wight Coastal Path

15.6.165 The 113km Isle of Wight coastal path encircles the island with detours to the west of Thorness Bay and round the Osborne Crown Property at Osborne Bay. Sections of the path from Ryde to Bembridge and from the Needles to Yarmouth form part of the E9 E-Route. The Isle of Wight Coastal Path lies within the west of the SLVIA study area, following the coast of East Wight, over 30km from the wind farm array area. Approximately 63.5km of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path is within the SLVIA study area, between Ryde, Bembridge, Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor. The Isle of Wight Coastal Path takes in chalk downland and sandstone cliffs, popular holiday resorts and quieter inlets, bays, marshes and saltings representing the varied experience of landscape character and the designated landscape of the Isle of Wight AONB. Views from the northern coastline take in the Solent and the South Coast between Bournemouth and Portsmouth. Views from the southern coastline take in the English Channel. While views from Ryde to Bembridge are focussed on the mouth of the Solent, the eastern coastline to Ventnor has panoramic and far-ranging views of the English Channel as it meets the south coast.

15.6.166 There are three viewpoints included in the SLVIA on or near to the route of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path, providing representation of the baseline views gained sequentially from the route, including, from north to south: Viewpoint 24 Bembridge (**Figure 15.48, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 34 Bembridge Down (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 35 St Boniface Down (**Figure 15.58, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

15.6.167 The character and views from the Isle of Wight Coastal Path vary across its route. The baseline conditions of the Isle of Wight Coastal path are described with

reference to 11 distinct 'sections' defined for the purposes of this SLVIA that relate to the landform, landscape character and visibility along the route, as shown in **Figure 15.24**, **Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and described further in **Table 15-23**.

Table 15-23 Isle of Wight Coastal Path

Section	Baseline Description	Section Length (km)
1. Cowes	This section starts north of Cliff Farm, follows Solent View Road and Shore Road to follow the esplanade to Cowes Castle, from where it follows several roads offset from the coast, crosses the floating bridge across the River Medina and then follows York Avenue to New Barn Road. This section is contained within Cowes and is largely urban in character. Urban form limits views inland with coastal views largely limited to the esplanade. These look across the Solent and the entrance to Southampton Water and are enclosed by the south coast.	6.6
2. Cowes to Fishbourne	Continuing along the A3021, this section passes through Whippington, turns east along Alverston Road to Wootton Bridge and Fishbourne, where it briefly follows the B3331. It then turns along Quarr Road to Quarr Abbey. This section passes through Coastal Designed Landscape, Pasture Land and Valley Floor between the urban area of Cowes and settlement at Wootton. Views are short range around Cowes Harbour and Wootton Creek, and enclosed by development. Between the two settlements, views reach further, and are more open and rural in character. The Solent influences the character of the view while being largely imperceptible.	7.7
3. Ryde	This section continues inland through the Ryde Golf Club course and Pelhamfield to Rye's esplanade and the North Walk along the coastline to Puckpool Point and Nettlestone Point. This section passes through Coastal Designed Landscape either side of Ryde, with a more open countryside character to the west and more coastal and exposed nature to the east. West of Ryde views are limited by built form within settlements, and relatively high levels of tree cover. East of Ryde, views across the Solent to the south coast are longer and panoramic. The busy character of the Solent dominates the views, even as it approaches and widens into the English Channel, to the east.	7.1
4. Nettlestone to Bembridge Point	Intermittently continuing along the coastline, this section passes through Nettlestone, south past Horestone Point, where it passes The Priory Bay, Priory Woods, and Nodes Point Holiday Park, to join Duvers Road. It traverses The Duver, crosses Old Mill Ponds on a causeway to join the Yar River Trail to skirt the	6.1

Section	Baseline Description	Section Length (km)
	south bank of Bembridge Harbour around Bembridge Point along Pump Lane and Ducie Avenue to the coast. This section passes through areas of settlement to the north and south, separated by Coastal Designed Landscape, Changed Countryside, and Harbours and Creeks. Views from this section are largely constrained by surrounding development. More open views of parkland and across Bembridge Harbour are available, with the latter remaining enclosed by built form. Occasional coastal views of the entrance to the Solent are wide and enclosed by the south coast.	
5. Bembridge	This section follows the coastline past East Cliff and Tyne Hal l, turning inland through Bembridge (Viewpoint 24 – Bembridge (**Figure 15.48, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) at Lane End, rejoining the coast at Forelands Fields before following the clifftops to Black Rock. This section passes through Coastal Designed Landscape, and Changed Countryside, along Bembridge's coastline. At Bembridge, part of this section has a coastal aspect taking advantage of views of the English Channel. Remaining parts are set back from the coast, where built form within settlement largely screens the sea from view.	4.2
6. Culver Cliff	This section runs along the top of low cliffs above Whitecliff Bay turning inland and past The Nostrils, to climb up to Culver Down (Viewpoint 34 Bembridge Down (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))), to run along the Whitecliff Ledge to Red Cliff. From Changed Countryside, this section passes through Chalk Downs and Coastal Farmland. Far ranging views to the English Channel are discontinuous due to screening by vegetation above the cliffs. Panoramic and expansive views focussed on the open water of the Channel become available as the section climbs Culver Down and follows the coastline to Yaverland.	3.5
7. Sandown Bay and Shanklin	This section follows the coastline around Sandown Bay to Hope Beach where it is offset from the coast as far as Shanklin Chine. Here it descends to the coast and up Appley Steps, turning inland to follow Luccombe Road to Luccombe Village. The northern end of this section passes through Coastal Designed Landscape with the remainder of the section lying within urban development. Views from this coastal section are panoramic and far ranging, with the focus lying to the east where the Channel meets the south coast.	7.5

Section	Baseline Description	Section Length (km)
8. Luccombe Bay	Running parallel to the coast, this section runs through woodland on the clifftops, past Steel Bay and descends to the coast at Monks Bay. From settlement in the north, this section passes through The Undercliff with Chalk Downs (Viewpoint 35 St. Boniface Down (above Ventnor) (**Figure 15.58, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))) adjoining inland. Views from this section of the Undercliff focus on the east where the Channel meets the south coast. Panoramic and far ranging, these are intermittent due to vegetation above the cliffs and built form within the settlement to the north and south.	2.1
9. Ventnor Bay	Passing inland of Ventnor Winter Gardens, this section follows the Undercliff to Woody Point, with a short stretch along the clifftops between Castle Cove and Orchard Bay. While there is a part of The Undercliff in the north, this section is predominantly settlement and urban development. Views from this section are generally orientated south-east and south, towards the open water of the English Channel. These views are panoramic and far-ranging views out to open sea.	5.1
10. St Catherine's Point and Binne	From Woody Point this section turns inland through St Lawrence to follow the inland cliff through Niton, to West Cliff and Gore Cliff. This section passes through settlement and along the cliff tops between Chalk Downs and The Undercliff. Views from the top of the inland cliff look inland to rolling downs and out to sea over the Undercliff. These panoramic sea views towards the open water of the English Channel are much wider and far reaching than those inland.	5.3
11. Chale Bay	Passing Five Rocks, this section skirts the east of Blackgang, and follows Blackgang Road/A3055 before taking a track past Blythe Shute, rejoining at Chale and leaving the road again at Chale Bay Farm. After following Walpen Chine, it returns to the road and descends Whale Chine to follow the clifftops to cross Shepherd's Chine away from the coastline. This section passes through agricultural land atop the cliffs above The Undercliff. Views inland to the rolling downs are wide and relatively long while those out to sea and over the Undercliff are far-ranging and panoramic. The expansive open water of the English Channel is the focus of the sea views.	8.3
	Total:	**63.5km**

Isle of Wight - viewpoints

15.6.168 The existing view from viewpoints within on the Isle of Wight are described in **Table 15-24**. Baseline photographic panoramas showing the existing view from each viewpoint are shown in **Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) **Figures** as cross referenced in **Table 15-24**.

Table 15-24 Isle of Wight Baseline Views

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
24	Bembridge, Isle of Wight (**Figure 15.48, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at Bembridge, close to the RNLI Bembridge lifeboat station and within the seafront amenity area that provides public access to the seafront and includes the route of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path on its route around Foreland at this north-eastern corner of the Isle of Wight. The foreground of the view is most influenced by the railing on the edge of the seafront promenade and the concrete pier of the RNLI lifeboat station existing into the water. The view in this direction is north across the Solent to the mainland and the urbanised coastline of Portsmouth and its harbour, where tall buildings such as the Spinnaker Tower form landmarks on the coast. Forts in the Solent form landmarks in the water and the seas are scattered with numerous sailing boats, ferries and large vessels, crossing the Solent and Portsmouth Harbour, which are part of the established character of the expansive seascape. In the view east, the sea and the sky become the prevailing elements, with a simply composed view of sea extending into the long distance, interrupted only by transitory boats, cardinal buoys, and foreground railings, signage and trees on the shoreline. The view inland to the south takes in the greenspace and grounds of the Bembridge Coast Hotel. Only the tops of the blade tips of Rampion 1 wind farm are theoretically visible in the view, located 49.9km from the viewpoint.
34	Bembridge Down (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at the OS marked viewpoint just to the east of Bembridge Fort and its visitor parking, at the high point of Bembridge Down, within the IoW AONB. The viewpoint location coincides with the coastal part of the distinct central chalk downland ridge that runs from Culver Cliff to Bembridge Downs. Due to its elevation around 104m AOD the location affords panoramic views over not just the adjacent areas of coastal farmland and pastures below, but beyond over northern parts of the Isle of Wight, across the Solent to Portsmouth and north-east along the mainland coast. It is an open, exposed landscape with long distance views across the landscape and out to sea, with nearby landmarks present where these have required or taken advantage of the elevation and unobstructed nature of the downs, including Bembridge Fort and the Yarborough Monument on Culver Down. Culver Cliffs are not visible in this view east, extending straight out to the open seascape beyond Culver Down, with the

ID	Viewpoint	Baseline view
		coastal view interrupted by extensive holiday park development at Whitecliff Bay. The view illustrates some of the special qualities of the IoW AONB, notably the *'enduring presence of the downs'* (Special Quality 2) and *'long-distance views from coastal heath and downland'* (Special Quality 3). Rampion 1 wind farm is theoretically visible in the view however, it is located at very long distance, approximately 53.1km from the viewpoint.
35	St. Boniface Down above Ventnor (**Figure 15.58, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	The viewpoint is located at the OS marked viewpoint at Bonchurch Down, just to the east of the radio and radar stations, within the IoW AONB. It is coincident with the second area of chalk downs on the East Wight coast, formed by Ventnor and Shanklin Downs, where the chalk upland downs rise to above 240m and dip steeply on their southern and eastern slope, flanked by the Undercliff. Due to its position and elevation, the viewpoint provides a direct view of the sea across foreground vegetation on steep eastern slope of the down. In the view east the sea and the sky are the prevailing elements, with a simply composed view of sea extending into the long distance extending to the existing Rampion 1 wind farm in clear visibility. The view north-east extends along the east Wight coastline, taking in the urbanised coastline of Shanklin and Sandown, with the headland of Sandown Bay denoted by the white cliffs of Culver Cliffs and Bembridge Down extending inland. Beyond there are views to the Solent and the urban coastline of the mainland at Portsmouth, with tall buildings such as the Spinnaker Tower forming landmarks, backed by the distant profile of the South Downs. The view illustrates some of the special qualities of the IoW AONB, notably the '*majestic sea cliffs'* (Special Quality 1), *'enduring presence of the downs'* (Special Quality 2) and *'long-distance views from coastal heath and downland'* (Special Quality 3). Rampion 1 wind farm is theoretically visible in the view however, it is located at very long distance, approximately 59.1km from the viewpoint.

Future baseline

15.6.169 The baseline character of the landscape in the study area is likely to change in the future as a result of the effects of climate change, land use policy, environmental improvements and development pressures, regardless of whether Rampion 2 progresses to construction or not.

15.6.170 A range of policies impact on the management of the landscape, ranging from international obligations, national policy and regulation, through to community strategies and development frameworks. Landscape planning policies covering the coastal landscape within the study area, such as the AONB, generally seek to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, while recognising the need to adapt to inevitable change over time, particularly in such a dynamic coastal

landscape shaped by coastal processes, and the need to respond to development pressures that reflect the changing needs of society.

15.6.171 There is overwhelming evidence that global climate change, influenced by the human use of fossil fuels, raw materials and intensive agriculture, is occurring (IPCC 2014). Any notable change in climate is likely to present potential changes to the coastline of the study area in a variety of ways. The legislative framework already exists to ensure that no net loss of internationally important habitat occurs, but there remains a need to increase understanding of the potential effects of climate change on the characteristic landscapes of the study area and to develop longer term strategies that will mitigate any adverse effects of climate change.

15.6.172 Further development pressures which may change the baseline conditions, include suburbanisation and increased tourist development influences, particularly around the coastal landscapes and established coastal towns within the study area, which have potential to increase the developed influence and reduce perceived naturalness of the coastline.

15.7 Basis for ES assessment

Maximum design scenario

15.7.1 Assessing using a parameter-based design envelope approach means that the assessment considers a maximum design scenario whilst allowing the flexibility to make improvements in the future in ways that cannot be predicted at the time of submission of the DCO Application. The assessment of the maximum adverse scenario for each receptor establishes the maximum potential adverse impact and as a result impacts of greater adverse significance would not arise should any other development scenario (as described in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

15.7.2) to that assessed within this Chapter be taken forward in the final scheme design.

15.7.3 The maximum parameters and assessment assumptions that have been identified to be relevant to seascape, landscape and visual are outlined in **Table 15-25** and are in line with the Project Design Envelope (**Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4)).

Table 15-25 Maximum parameters and assessment assumptions for impacts on seascape, landscape and visual

Project phase and activity / impact	Maximum parameters	Maximum assessment assumptions	Justification
Construction and Decommissioning			
Offshore export cable corridor	Total length of export cables 140km	Length of offshore cable, link to shore: 19km Width of offshore cable corridor, link to shore: 1.5km Number of main laying vessels, jointing vessels, multi-cat type vessels, spoil barges and support vessels: 22 Number of return trips of main laying vessels, jointing vessels, multi-cat type vessels, spoil barges and support vessels: 148	The parameters represent the maximum parameters of the offshore cable corridor and influence of vessels in the offshore cable corridor that would potentially affect seascape, landscape and visual receptors during the construction phase.
Inter-array cable	Total array cable length: 250km	Number of main laying, burial and support vessels: 19 Number of return trips of main laying, burial and support vessels: 318	The parameters represent the maximum influence of vessels that would potentially affect seascape, landscape and visual receptors during the inter-array cable corridor construction phase.
WTGs	Rotor diameter (m): 295	Maximum number of WTGs: 65 Minimum spacing: 1130m	The parameters represent the maximum influence of construction of the WTGs in the wind farm array area that would potentially affect seascape, landscape and visual receptors during the construction phase.

Project phase and activity / impact	Maximum parameters	Maximum assessment assumptions	Justification
	Blade tip height above LAT (m): 325	Assumed locations as per **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). Multi-leg foundations installation: Number of installation vessels: 3 Number of installation vessels round trips: 40 Number of support, transport and crew transfer vessels: 23 Number of support, transport and crew transfer vessels round trips: 410 WTG installation: Number of installation vessels: 2 Number of installation vessels round trips: 25 Number of support and crew transfer vessels: 20 Number of support and crew transfer vessels round trips: 750 Helicopters - total number of return trips: 300	

Project phase and activity / impact	Maximum parameters	Maximum assessment assumptions	Justification
Offshore substation	Maximum number of substations: 3 Topside structure length and width: 80m x 50m Topside height: 65m above LAT Height of lightning protection & ancillary structures above LAT: 115m	Assumed locations as per **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).	The parameters represent the maximum influence of construction of the offshore substations in the wind farm array area that would potentially affect seascape, landscape and visual receptors during the construction phase.
O&M			
WTGs	Rotor diameter (m): 295 Blade tip height above LAT (m): 325	Maximum number of WTGs: 65 Minimum spacing: 1130m Assumed locations as per **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).	The parameters represent the maximum WTG size and the assumed number of WTGs, that would potentially affect seascape, landscape and visual receptors. The MDS layout (**Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) has WTGs located to the full eastern and western extent of the wind farm array area, and in positions that are weighted towards the northern coastward perimeters of the wind farm array area, as close as possible to the coastline within the wind farm array area, to represent the maximum effect in terms of the proximity, scale and spread of the WTGs in coastal views from receptors around the coastline, including Sussex Heritage Coast and South Downs National Park (SDNP) to the north and east, and the CHAONB and IoW AONB to the west. WTGs with the highest 325m blade tip height will have a wider geographic extent

Project phase and activity / impact	Maximum parameters	Maximum assessment assumptions	Justification
			of effect over a larger Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) than the lower 265m blade tip height WTGs. 325m WTGs will appear to have a larger scale in views than the 265m WTGs, both in terms of their overall blade tip height (which is 60m higher), but also in terms of the appearance of the larger rotor of the WTG. The larger 325m blade tip WTG will also result in a greater scale contrast with the existing Rampion 1 WTGs, at 140m blade tip height. The potential effect that results from additional WTGs of smaller size is considered to be outweighed by the larger height and scale of the 325m WTGs, with the overall area occupied by WTGs being equal. The realistic maximum design scenario layout (**Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) has a similar number of WTGs within the Zone 6 Area (30) and Extension Area (35) of the wind farm array area, providing an equal balance of WTGs between each zone in this scenario. The maximum assessment assumptions require flexibility on the balance of WTGs located within the Zone 6 Area and Extension Area. A greater proportion of WTGs than is shown in **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) could therefore be located in either zone, however it is considered that this 325m WTG layout covers the potential maximum adverse impacts of that scenario. A greater proportion of WTGs in either zone will not result in a greater worse-case effect than shown in **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15), the photomontages in **Figure 15.26** to **Figure 15.79, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and assessed in the SLVIA. WTGs will require to be located ‘behind’ and further

Project phase and activity / impact	Maximum parameters	Maximum assessment assumptions	Justification
			offshore than the other WTGs in the layout (in the 'spaces' with no WTGs evident in **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), but which are already covered visually in the span of WTGs closer to the coast, such that they will simply increase the depth of the layout offshore and will not materially increase the effect of the Proposed Development in coastal views. The realistic maximum design scenario layout (**Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) ensures that the maximum adverse effects are balanced between receptors to the east and west, including national designated landscape in both directions, such as the Sussex Heritage Coast/SDNP to the east and the IoW AONB to the west.
Foundation substructures	Multi-leg foundations (jacket) Number of legs per WTG: 4	Height of platform above LAT (m): 25m	The maximum design scenario for the SLVIA assumes that the foundation substructure design will be a 4-legged jacket foundation substructure. Field survey and experience of the visual effects of existing offshore wind farms suggests that jacket foundations are worst-case for visual impacts. Jacket foundations for Rampion 2 will also appear different to the existing monopile foundation substructure used for Rampion 1. The foundation substructures are assumed to have a working platform and tower interface, where the tower connects with the jacket foundation structure. The height of the platform level is assumed to be 25m above LAT. The jacket foundations are assumed to have four sides and four legs, supported by cross braces and painted yellow for navigational marking.

Project phase and activity / impact	Maximum parameters	Maximum assessment assumptions	Justification
WTG lighting	Hub height (height of aviation light) (m) above LAT: 177.5	Red, medium intensity aviation warning lights (2000 candela (cd)) located on either side of WTG nacelle of all peripheral WTGs of layout shown in **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). Marine aid to navigation lights fitted at platform level on significant peripheral structures (SPS) as shown in **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).	The parameters represent the maximum WTG lighting that may potentially affect seascape, landscape and visual receptors at night. The WTGs and offshore substations will be lit in accordance with the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requirements, based on the following further assumptions: aviation warning lights will flash simultaneously with a Morse W flash pattern and be able to be switched on and off by means of twilight switches; aviation warning lights will have reduced intensity at and below the horizontal and allow a further reduction in lighting intensity when the visibility in all directions from every WTG is more than 5km; search and rescue (SAR) lighting of each of the non-periphery WTGs will be combi infra-red (IR)/200cd steady red aviation hazard lights are not assessed, as they will not be switched on during normal operations and only during SAR operations; all WTGs will be fitted with a low intensity light for the purpose of helicopter winching (green hoist lamp) and will also be fitted with suitable illumination (minimum one 5cd light) for ID signs; marine aid to navigation lights will be synchronized to display simultaneously an IALA “special mark” characteristic, flashing yellow, with a range of not less than five (5) nautical miles; and it is assumed that the aviation lighting and marine navigational lighting of the existing Rampion 1 WTGs will remain in place and operate as per the current baseline conditions i.e. they will not be ‘switched off’ even though Rampion 2 WTGs will become the new peripheral WTGs to the west, south and east of Rampion 1.

Project phase and activity / impact	Maximum parameters	Maximum assessment assumptions	Justification
Offshore substation	Maximum number of substations: 3 Topside structure length and width: 80m x 50m Topside height: 65m above LAT Height of lightning protection & ancillary structures above LAT: 115m	Assumed locations as per **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).	The parameters represent the maximum number, size and proximity of offshore substations to the coast that would potentially affect seascape, landscape and visual receptors. Indicative locations of the offshore substations have been assumed for the SLVIA, located along the shoreward perimeter of the wind farm array area, as shown in **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15), where they will in theory be most visible from coastal viewpoints to the west, north and east. The SLVIA maximum design scenario assumes that each offshore substation will have a topside structure of maximum size 80m x 50m and a maximum height (excluding helideck or lightning protection) of 65m above LAT. The foundation type for the construction O&M platform is assumed to be jacket foundations, supported with cross braces and painted yellow for navigational marking. The effects of the offshore substations are assessed as part of Rampion 2 in Chapter. Offshore substations are shown in a selection of photomontage visualisations from the closest viewpoints from the wind farm array area.

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Embedded environmental measures

15.7.4 As part of the Rampion 2 design process, a number of embedded environmental measures have been adopted to reduce the potential for impacts on seascape, landscape and visual. These embedded environmental measures have evolved over the development process as the EIA has progressed and in response to consultation.

15.7.5 These measures also include those that have been identified as good or standard practice and include actions that would be undertaken to meet existing legislation requirements. As there is a commitment to implementing these embedded environmental measures, and also to various standard sectoral practices and procedures, they are considered inherently part of the design of Rampion 2 and are set out in this ES.

15.7.6 **Table 15-26** sets out the relevant embedded environmental measures within the design and how these affect the seascape, landscape and visual assessment.

Table 15-26 Relevant seascape, landscape and visual embedded environmental measures

ID	Environmental measure proposed	Project phase measure introduced	How the environmental measures will be secured	Relevance to seascape, landscape and visual assessment
C-37	The maximum blade tip height will be 325m from lowest astronomical tide (LAT) and the maximum rotor diameter will be 295m.	Scoping - updated at PEIR	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	Defines the maximum dimensions of the largest turbine that could be installed.
C-38	The selection of the foundation type will primarily be based upon the site conditions combined with the wind turbine generator (WTG) that is selected. The following foundation types are being considered: Monopile and Multi-leg.	Scoping	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	Defines the foundation type that could be installed.

ID	Environmental measure proposed	Project phase measure introduced	How the environmental measures will be secured	Relevance to seascape, landscape and visual assessment
C-40	There will be up to three offshore substations installed to serve the Proposed Development. The exact locations, design and visual appearance will be subject to a structural study and electrical design, which is expected to be completed post consent. The offshore substations will be installed on multi-leg or monopile foundations, similar to those described for the wind turbine generators (WTGs) themselves.	Scoping	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	Defines the maximum number of offshore substations that could be installed and the foundation type.
C-43	The subsea export cable ducts will be drilled underneath the beach using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) techniques.	Scoping	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	Defines the embedded environmental measure that will minimise seascape and visual effects of the export cable construction.
C-61	Due regard will be given to design principles held in Rampion 1 Design Plan and design principles to be developed for Rampion 2, with consideration of the seascape, landscape and visual impacts on the South Downs	Scoping - updated at PEIR and ES	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	This ensures that, where appropriate, the intentions of the design principles established for Rampion 1 are followed through to the Rampion 2 design plan

ID	Environmental measure proposed	Project phase measure introduced	How the environmental measures will be secured	Relevance to seascape, landscape and visual assessment
	National Park and Sussex Heritage Coast.			and have informed the design principles developed for Rampion 2 (see Design Principles below), including embedded environmental measures that address effects on the special qualities of national landscape designations and offshore views from the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast, demonstrating regard has been paid to statutory purpose.
C-62	The Proposed Development will comply with legal requirements with regards to shipping, navigation and aviation marking and lighting.	Scoping - updated at PEIR	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	This commitment ensures compliance with lighting and marking requirements for the Proposed Development, but also sets the relevant

ID	Environmental measure proposed	Project phase measure introduced	How the environmental measures will be secured	Relevance to seascape, landscape and visual assessment
				parameters for SLVIA assessment of Rampion, for example in relation to night time effects assessment.
C-94	Marking and lighting the Proposed Development offshore will be undertaken in accordance with relevant industry guidance and as advised by relevant stakeholders, in line with C-49, C-62, C-110 and C-266.	Scoping - updated at PEIR and ES	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	This commitment provides for minimising lighting impacts as far as practicable, whilst ensuring compliance with legal requirements for lighting and marking the Proposed Development.
C-98	Marine navigational lights will be fitted at the platform level on significant peripheral structures, synchronised to display IALA 'special mark' characteristic, flashing yellow, with a range not less than five nautical miles.	Scoping	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	This commitment provides for minimising lighting impacts as far as practicable, whilst ensuring compliance with legal requirements for lighting and marking

ID	Environmental measure proposed	Project phase measure introduced	How the environmental measures will be secured	Relevance to seascape, landscape and visual assessment
				the Proposed Development.
C-110	RED will agree a lighting scheme for the aviation lighting of structures (turbines and offshore support platforms) above 60m in height with the relevant authorities.	Scoping - updated at PEIR	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	This commitment provides for minimising lighting impacts as far as practicable, whilst ensuring compliance with legal requirements for lighting and marking the Proposed Development.
C-266	During operation, and where visibility conditions permit, the intensity of aviation warning lights will be reduced to no less than 200cd (in Accordance with the Air Navigation Order 2016), subject to the availability of a commercial system.	ES	DCO requirements or DML conditions.	This commitment provides for minimising lighting impacts as far as practicable, whilst ensuring compliance with legal requirements for lighting and marking the Proposed Development.

15.7.7 Further detail on the environmental measures in **Table 15-26** is provided in the **Commitments Register** which sets out how and where particular environmental measures will be implemented and secured.

Rampion 2 design principles

Introduction

15.7.8 As described in **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.3), further design evolution has occurred since the PEIR stage, which has resulted in the reduction of the PEIR Boundary to the proposed DCO Order Limits (**Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Reductions in the wind farm array area component of the proposed DCO order limits have been made to address Statutory Consultation from stakeholders (**Table 15-7**) and comments expressed during ETG consultation meetings, which highlighted concerns including seascape, landscape and visual, that may be addressed through refinement of the spatial extent of the wind farm array area.

15.7.9 The main comments relating to the design relate to concerns about the scale of the Proposed Development located within both the Extension Area and Zone 6 Area, to the east and west of the existing Rampion 1 wind farm, and its resulting adverse effects on offshore views from the coastline and the seascape setting of nationally designated landscapes including the South Downs National Park (SDNP).

15.7.10 Concerns were raised with regard to development in the Zone 6 Area located to the east of the existing Rampion 1 project, which formed part of the original Rampion 1 development area and included a Structures Exclusion Zone (SEZ) (see **Figure 3.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). This SEZ was applied to mitigate the impact of Rampion 1 on the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast by increasing its distance away from these receptors and reducing the horizontal spread, decreasing the extent to which the Rampion 1 wind farm would be visible in views out to sea.

15.7.11 It was also noted that offshore wind farm development to the west of Rampion 1 has the potential to further adversely affect the seascape setting of the SDNP and that a curtaining effect will be created, thereby reducing the extent of open views from the shore to the horizon.

15.7.12 RED has given full regard to these comments and the statutory purpose of the SDNP designation, and as a result, the Zone 6 Area (to the east) and the Extension Area (to the west) have been reduced from the proposed DCO Order Limits to form the array areas now forming the proposed DCO order limits and this is illustrated on **Figure 15.2, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

15.7.13 This section sets out the design principles that have been applied to the design of Rampion 2 particularly in regard to the spatial extent of the wind farm array area component of the proposed DCO order limits, and the seascape, landscape and visual rationale for selection of the project design envelope for the wind farm array area.

15.7.14 The reasons for the final choice of project design and boundary are multi-disciplinary and as well as seascape, landscape and visual impacts, include a number of factors such as commercial viability modelling, flexibility/resilience for future turbines, and solving multiple environmental and technical constraints, which are described further in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume**

2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and the **Offshore Design Statement [REP4-137]**.

Policy Context – NPS EN-1

15.7.15 NPS EN-1 Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (March 2023) is clear on the need for 'good design' for energy infrastructure (section 4.6), recommending *'an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic'* and that the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has taken into account *'both functionality and aesthetics'* (including…. *'visual impacts on the landscape or seascape'*) and *'good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character'*.

15.7.16 NPS EN-1 also recommends that where several different designs were considered, *'applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected*'.

15.7.17 NPS EN-1 provides a framework to structure the reasons for the selection of the preferred project design and how it addresses 'Good Design'. It refers to design principles being established to guide the development, with reference to the document - 'Design Principles for National Infrastructure' prepared by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) Design Group. This sets out four broad design principles, as follows:

- *'Climate - mitigation greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.*
- *People - reflect what society wants and share benefits widely.*
- *Places - provide a sense of identity and improve our environment.*
- *Value - achieve multiple benefits and solve problems well'.*

15.7.18 The seascape, landscape and visual design aspects of the project fall into the 'places' design principle, since *'well-designed infrastructure supports the natural environment'*, '*respects local character'* and contributes to a *'sense of identity'* (NIC).

15.7.19 Paragraph 3.3.59 of draft NPS EN-1 (DESNZ, 2023) states that *'Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of new offshore wind infrastructure (and supporting onshore and offshore network infrastructure)'* and paragraph 3.3.60 goes on to state that *'the urgent need for CNP infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible.'*

15.7.20 The Project has applied the mitigation hierarchy effectively through the embedded measures incorporated within the project design. Likely significant effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors have been reduced or mitigated following the mitigation hierarchy, including embedded design measures to reduce harms, such as on the special qualities of the SDNP and its views. The residual effects arising from Rampion 2 (CNP infrastructure) that are not capable of being

addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy are assessed in **Section 15.9** to **15.14**.

Stakeholder Comments on Design Principles

15.7.21 SLVIA topic specific design principles have been proposed by Natural England in its Statutory Consultation feedback (**Table 15-7**) with the aim of reducing the magnitude of effects of the project on the SDNP and its coastline within the Sussex Heritage Coast. Natural England recommend that the following design principles are adopted by the project:

- *There should be no turbines constructed within Zone 6.*
- *Reducing the combined horizontal extent (lateral spread) of turbines associated with a visually combined Rampion 1 and R2 scheme, or -*
- *There should be perceptible separation distance (from all land-based viewpoints) between the existing Rampion 1 OWF and the new R2 array by concentrating development in the western end of the Rampion Extension area. The distance should be sufficient that a clear distinction can be made between the two arrays, in order that they are perceived as separate objects in the seascape when viewed from the shore and from within the SDNP.*
- *Clear lines of sight should be left between the arrays (Rampion 1 and R2), so that open views to the horizon are maintained when viewed from shore and from within the SDNP.*
- *The design of the new array should aim to balance the two arrays as far as practicable in terms of apparent turbine size and spacing, taking advantage of the effects of perspective to reduce any apparent difference in size between turbines'.*

15.7.22 The SDNPA also recommended the following in its Statutory Consultation feedback (**Table 15-7**), with regards to project design:

- *'Turbines should not exceed 225m to blade tip in height.*
- *Clear separation between Rampion 1 and 2 to minimise the horizontal extent.*
- *Turbine layout is designed in coherent blocks.*
- *Full north to south extent of the extension area should be utilised to maximise the size of east/west gaps between the arrays'.*

Rampion 2 design principles

15.7.23 Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors through the application of SLVIA topic specific design principles that have shaped the design of Rampion 2, with the aim of reducing the magnitude and geographic extent of seascape, landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development and minimising harm to the special qualities of nationally designated landscapes, particularly the SDNP and the associated Sussex Heritage Coast.

15.7.24 These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and applied to reduce the spatial extent of the array area and the number of WTGs

proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic extent of effects, as follows:

- 'Field of view' – reducing the field of view or 'horizontal extent/lateral spread' of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2.
- 'Proximity' - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles).
- 'Wind farm separation zones' - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays.
- 'Separation foreground' - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible.

15.7.25 RED have explored the potential impacts of the array area boundary in respect of these principles and arrived at a project design that responds to these combined principles. The design principles were translated into the array area boundary by exploring the relationship of the spatial extent of WTGs within the array area and the resulting visual impacts with these principles, with the aim of minimising impacts and harm to special qualities of the SDNP, particularly its 'breathtaking views' and showing regard to the statutory purpose of the SDNP.

15.7.26 The spatial extent of the array area was reviewed using wireline visualisation modelling and adapted iteratively to reduce the field of view (lateral spread), increase the distance of Rampion 2 offshore and provide separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 in key views, particularly those from the SDNP and Suffolk Heritage Coast.

15.7.27 Consultation with stakeholders was undertaken through the EPP to explore their opinion on the relative merits of these design principles and the changes in spatial extent of the array area and location of WTGs. Reducing the field of view occupied by Rampion 2, in views from the Suffolk Heritage Coast particularly, was considered to afford the best opportunity, that was demonstrably capable of making a difference to the project design and impacts arising. There was also agreement that the design principles could achieve more if being combined to go hand in hand with each other, for example addressing both field of view and proximity, rather than being applied as stand-alone principles.

15.7.28 The following summary explains how these design principles were translated into the wind farm array area boundary (**Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and how they reduce the magnitude of effect on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, particularly the SDNP and its associated Heritage Coast. These embedded environmental measures are considered to address many of the recommendations provided by stakeholders in the Statutory Consultation (**Table 15-7**) and demonstrate 'good design' and effective application of the mitigation hierarchy in respect of national planning policy in NPS EN-3 (DECC, 2011) and draft NPS EN-1 (BEIS, 2023).

Field of view

15.7.29 The horizontal field of view (HFoV) that is affected by the 'lateral spread' of Rampion 2 is one of the key parameters that determines the magnitude of change to views and perceived character (**Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.2)). Generally, the less HFoV that is affected, the lower the magnitude of change and resulting effects will be, i.e. if Rampion 2 covers just a narrow part of an open, expansive and wide view, the magnitude of change is likely to be reduced as the WTGs will not affect the whole open part of the outlook. This can in part be described objectively by reference to the HFoV affected, relative to the extent and proportion of the available view.

15.7.30 The field of view or 'lateral spread' of Rampion 2 (and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2) has been minimised by reducing the easterly and southerly extent of the 'Zone 6' area of the wind farm array area, compared to the Scoping Boundary and proposed DCO Order Limits (**Figure 15.2 Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

15.7.31 Reducing the easterly and southerly spatial extent of wind farm array area reduces the field of view occupied by Rampion 2 WTGs, when viewed from the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP and from central areas of the SDNP to the north of Rampion 2, as illustrated in **Figure 15.2, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

15.7.32 The field of view reduction that has been achieved by the revised spatial extent of the array area is evident in the comparative wirelines presented from a selection of key viewpoints in **Figures 15.93 to 15.109, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and is also expressed quantitatively in **Table 15-27**.

15.7.33 The revised wind farm array area for the ES assessment achieves a field of view reduction from all viewpoints through the omission of turbine rows from the southern and eastern parts of the Zone 6 area of the proposed DCO Order Limits. The reduced eastern lateral spread is evident in southerly views from the central areas of the SDNP (such as Viewpoints 17, 18, 19, 27, 54 and 55) and East Sussex coastline (such as Viewpoints 5, 6 and 8); while the reduced southern lateral spread is evident in south-westerly views from eastern parts of the SDNP (such as Viewpoints 15, 16, and 57), including views from the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP (such as Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4 and 28).

15.7.34 Reduction in field of view / lateral spread brings greatest benefits, through a notable reduction in the extent of wind farm developed skyline, compared to the proposed DCO Order Limits, resulting in a reduction in the general scale of change arising in views and some specific reductions in the levels of magnitude of change at certain viewpoints when combined with other design changes, as summarised below and assessed in **Section 15.10**.

Proximity

15.7.35 The distance between the receptor (e.g. viewpoint or designated landscape) and Rampion 2 is also one of the main parameters that determines the magnitude of change to views and perceived character. Generally, the greater the distance of WTGs offshore, the lower the magnitude of change is likely to be, as more distant

WTGs will constitute a smaller scale component of the view, while WTGs located at closer proximity will have a larger apparent scale (all other things being equal).

15.7.36 The distance of the wind farm array area has been increased from the most sensitive areas of the SDNP coastline, to reduce the apparent height of WTGs perceived in views and increase the sense of remoteness from receptors (with consequential benefits to other design principles). This has been achieved by reducing the easterly spatial extent of the wind farm array area, which has increased the distance of the wind farm array area offshore from both the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP and the wider central and eastern areas of the SDNP to the north, compared to the Scoping Boundary and proposed DCO Order Limits (**Figure 15.2**).

15.7.37 The increase in distance offshore and reduction in apparent scale that has been achieved by the revised spatial extent of the array area is evident in the comparative wirelines presented in **Figures 15.93 to 15.109**. The scale of the Rampion 2 WTGs will appear smaller relative to the scale of the receiving seascape compared with the apparent scale of the PEIR MDS. A comparison of the distance of the Rampion 2 wind farm array area proposed at PEIR and at ES is also expressed quantitatively in **Table 15-27**.

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Table 15-27 Comparison of distance and HFoV of Rampion 2 at PEIR and ES

ID[2]	Viewpoint	Distance of Rampion 1 (km)	Visible HFoV of Rampion 1 (degrees)	PEIR MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	ES MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	PEIR MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	ES MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)
1	Beachy Head	31.8	9.8°	25.1	31.9	21.1°	17°
2	Birling Gap	28.5	10.8°	21.9	28.8	24.5°	19°
3	Seven Sisters Country Park	25.9	11.5°	19.7	26.6	28.6°	21.9°
4	Seaford Head	22.8	13°	17.1	23.9	34°	25.6°
5	Newhaven (Castle Hill)	19.7	16.4°	15.1	21.6	42.6°	31.7°
6	Peacehaven	16.7	20.5°	13.6	19.4	51.2°	38.1°
7	Beacon Hill, Rottingdean	15.1	25.9°	14.0	18.7	58.5°	44.3°
8	Brighton seafront promenade	13.8	32.8°	13.8	18.4	71.7°	53.3°
9	Shoreham Harbour / A259	13.8	37.6°	14.9	18.1	83.2°	63.2°
10	Worthing seafront promenade	13.4	41.2°	13.6	13.6	97.1°	76.8°

[2] Viewpoint identification numbers have been retained from the overall viewpoint search for ease of reference and as a result are not numbered consecutively.

ID[2]	Viewpoint	Distance of Rampion 1 (km)	Visible HFoV of Rampion 1 (degrees)	PEIR MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	ES MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	PEIR MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	ES MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)
11	Littlehampton seafront promenade	17.9	27.9°	15.4	15.4	88.2°	69.5°
12	Bognor Regis seafront promenade	23.9	19.9°	15.4	15.4	73.5°	55.5°
13	Pagham Beach	27.7	16.7°	16.1	16.1	63.2°	47.1°
14	Selsey seafront promenade	29.6	14.4°	14.9	14.9	55.5°	41.9°
15	Willingdon Hill	32.2	9.4°	26.0	32.9	23.6°	18.6°
16	Firle Beacon	26.1	14.2°	22.1	28.5	36.6°	28.2°
17	Devil's Dyke	19.6	28.1°	20.3	24.4	66.8°	51.7°
18	Cissbury Ring	19.1	31.3°	19.5	19.5	80.5°	62.5°
19	Highdown Hill	16.8	32.2°	16.7	16.7	88.5°	70°
20	Springhead Hill	25.4	23.4°	25.2	25.2	69.1°	52.9°
21	Bignor Hill	30.0	19.7°	28.1	28.1	61.6°	46.5°
22	Eastoke Point (Chichester Harbour AONB)	41.7	11.3°	26.6	27.0	36.1°	26.8°
24	Bembridge, Isle of Wight	49.9	5.7°	29.9	31.7	21.2°	17.8°

ID[2]	Viewpoint	Distance of Rampion 1 (km)	Visible HFoV of Rampion 1 (degrees)	PEIR MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	ES MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	PEIR MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	ES MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)
26	Low Weald (A24, near Ashington)	28.1	0°	28.9	28.9	12.2°	0°
27	Hollingbury Hill Fort	17.9	27.5°	17.9	22.5	61.7°	47.7°
28	Cuckmere Haven Beach	25.4	13.9°	19.3	26.2	21.5°	9.2°
29	Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve	40.4	4.2°	31.6	31.6	45.3°	34.1°
30	Halnaker Windmill	31.5	17.9°	26.1	26.2	58.7°	44.1°
31	Butser Hill National Nature Reserve	54.1	7.2°	45.1	45.1	34.2°	25.6°
32	Levin Down	37.0	0°	31.0	31.1	0°	0°
33	Arundel Castle	23.1	24.1°	21.5	21.5	74°	57.1°
34	Bembridge Down	53.1	7.6°	32.4	34.4	18°	15.6°
35	St. Boniface Down above Ventnor	59.1	6.2°	37.0	39.6	11.3°	11°
40	Climping Beach	19.1	25.8°	15.4	15.5	85.2°	66.8°
41	Slindon Folly	28.9	19.6°	25.1	25.2	63.2°	47.4°
43	Gilkicker Point	55.5	0°	37.9	39.1	23.4°	17.6°

ID[2]	Viewpoint	Distance of Rampion 1 (km)	Visible HFoV of Rampion 1 (degrees)	PEIR MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	ES MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	PEIR MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	ES MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)
47	High Weald (near Bolney)	32.7	0°	33.4	37.0	12.6°	12.2°
50	The Trundle	35.7	15.9°	28.9	28.9	52.2°	39.2°
51	Ditchling Beacon	23.2	22°	23.4	27.8	50.6°	42.3°
52	Chanctonbury Ring	22.9	26.7°	23.4	23.4	72°	55.6°
53	Amberley Mount	26.3	22.5°	25.8	25.9	67.5°	51.6°
54	Chantry Hill	24.9	23.9°	24.8	24.9	69.9°	53.7°
55	Beeding Hill	18.6	30.8°	19.9	21.5	74.5°	57.4°
57	Telscomb Tye	18.0	21.5°	15.9	21.2	51.3°	38.8°
58	Wolstonbury Hill	22.8	10.7°	23.2	28.2	58.7°	46.1°
61	A27 near Lancing College	15.5	37.6°	17.3	17.4	85.2°	65.7°
62	Beacon Hill, South Downs Way	45.7	13°	38.5	38.5	41.6°	31.1°
A	East Wittering	35.9	0°	21.4	21.6	24.8°	22.1°
B1	Chichester Marina	35.0	0°	23.2	23.3	48.6°	36.6°
B2	Dell Quay	35.1	0°	24.0	24.1	17.6°	8.9°

ID[2]	Viewpoint	Distance of Rampion 1 (km)	Visible HFoV of Rampion 1 (degrees)	PEIR MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	ES MDS - Distance of Rampion 2 (km) (array area)	PEIR MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	ES MDS - Visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)
C	Eastergate (proposed A29)	26.5	20.1°	21.0	21.1	67.5°	50.9°
D	Footpath between A259 and Colworth	28.3	18°	19.9	20.0	63.1°	47.6°
E	Ferring Gap	14.3	35.4°	13.9	14.0	96.4°	77.5°
F	Lancing Beach	13.7	42.4°	15.1	15.1	92.2°	71.3°

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15.7.38 The wind farm array area is now located approximately 15.8km from the closest point of the SDNP (near Highdown Hill), increasing by 2.3km compared to the PEIR MDS, which was previously 13.5km from the SDNP coastline between Rottingdean and Brighton. The closest point of the wind farm array area at the Highdown Hill area is now an inland location 15.8km from the array area, set back from the coast behind the urban areas of Goring and Ferring. The closest coastal part of the SDNP is now located 18.3km from the wind farm array area (coastline between Rottingdean and Brighton).

15.7.39 The wind farm array area is located approximately 23.9km from the closest point of the SDNP within the Sussex Heritage Coast (at Seaford Head) and 32km from Beachy Head (at the eastern end of the Sussex Heritage Coast), increasing by 6 - 7km further offshore of the SDNP within the Sussex Heritage Coast compared to the PEIR MDS.

15.7.40 Reduction in proximity, i.e. an increase in distance and remoteness from the receptor brings considerable benefits through a notable reduction in apparent scale of the Rampion 2 WTGs, compared to the PEIR assessment, resulting in a general reduction in the scale of change arising in views and some specific reductions in the levels of magnitude of change at certain viewpoints when combined with other design changes, as summarised below and assessed in **Section 15.10**.

Wind farm separation zones

15.7.41 Achieving a ‘wind farm separation zone’ between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays will allow the Rampion 2 array to be viewed with less contrast and as a distinct element, in terms of scale, form and layout.

15.7.42 A 1nm separation zone to the south and 1.4nm separation zone to the west of Rampion 1 with no WTGs will be maintained to Rampion 2, which provides visual benefit through separation, i.e. a separation zone between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 in views form the most sensitive coastline associated with the Heritage Coast of the SDNP. The separation zone that has been achieved by the revised spatial extent of the array area is evident in the comparative wirelines presented in **Figures 15.93 to 15.109, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

15.7.43 The separation is evident in views from the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP (such as Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, and 28), where the separation is considered sufficient that a clear distinction can be made between the two arrays, in order that they are perceived as separate objects in the seascape and as coherent blocks. This helps balance the aesthetic appearance and provides sight lines through the overall array to break the lateral spread.

15.7.44 A ‘separation zone’ cannot be achieved in views from the closest edge of Heritage Coast near Seaford Head (Viewpoint 4) since the perceived ‘separation’ between the Rampion 2 array to the south of Rampion 1 gradually closes in views moving westwards across the Heritage Coast, however even at the western edges of the Heritage Coast, there will be foreground separation (see design principle below), with Rampion 2 located clearly to the side of Rampion 1 and appearing distinct.

15.7.45 Separation between the extension area of Rampion 2 to the west of Rampion 1 is also evident in views from central areas of the SDNP and West Sussex, including Viewpoints 17, 18, 19, 52, 53, 54, 55 from elevated areas of the SDNP and Viewpoints 9, 10, E, F on the coastline of West Sussex. Again, a clear distinction can be made between the two array areas, as coherent blocks, with a sight line through the overall array to break the lateral spread.

15.7.46 Creating a separation zone between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 brings visual benefits, compared to the PEIR assessment, resulting in a general reduction in the scale of change arising in views and some specific reductions in the levels of magnitude of change at certain viewpoints when combined with other design changes, as summarised below and assessed in **Section 15.10**.

Separation foreground

15.7.47 In order to balance the apparent scale of the Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 WTGs, insofar as possible, the juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of the smaller Rampion 1 WTGs has been minimised by reducing the easterly spatial extent of wind farm array area. Siting of Rampion 2 WTGs in the north-east corner next to Rampion 1 is avoided, between Rampion 1 and the coast, such that the scale juxtaposition of larger WTGs in front of smaller WTGs is minimised in coastal views.

15.7.48 In views of the PEIR MDS, the larger apparent turbine scale of larger Rampion 2 turbines at closer range and in front of Rampion 1 was evident and resulted in an emphasis of scale and complexities in aesthetic appearance, which have been minimised through the revised spatial extent of the wind farm area array. This design change provides notable benefits in views from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, evident in the comparative wirelines presented in **Figures 15.93 to 15.109, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

15.7.49 In views from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, such as Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4 and 28, and views across it (such as Viewpoint 15), juxtaposition of larger WTGs in front of smaller WTGs is avoided, as there are no Rampion 2 WTGs sited between Rampion 1 and the coast. The Rampion 2 array sited further offshore to the south of Rampion 1 is either separated or located clearly to the side of Rampion 1, providing a clear distinction between the two array areas and minimising complexity of scale. This also provides clearer lines of sight to the horizon, due to reduced number and density of WTGs in the array. The westerly extension area array is viewed behind Rampion 1 at greater distance, thereby minimising apparent scale differences and assimilating with the existing Rampion 1 WTG array.

15.7.50 In views from the East Sussex coastline, and upland areas of East Sussex, such as Viewpoints 5, 6, 7, 8 and 16 the southern and western Rampion 2 arrays will appear clearly and rationally to either side of, and partially behind, Rampion 1, with no Rampion 2 WTGs viewed to the fore of the Rampion 1 WTGs.

15.7.51 In views from central areas of SDNP, such as Viewpoints 17, 18, 19, 52, 53, 54 and 55 the southern Rampion 2 array will be viewed behind Rampion 1, taking advantage of the greater distance offshore and the effects of perspective to reduce the apparent scale differences between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 WTGs.

Rampion 2 WTGs sited behind Rampion 1 have less scale difference than if they were located to the fore of Rampion 1.

15.7.52 Creating foreground separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 brings considerable benefits, compared to the PEIR assessment, resulting in a reduction in a general scale of change arising in views and some specific reductions in the levels of magnitude of change at certain viewpoints when combined with other design changes, as summarised below and assessed in **Section 15.10**.

Summary

15.7.53 Following Statutory Consultation feedback to the PEIR (**Table 15-7**), RED investigated the potential to reduce the Rampion 2 wind farm array area to reduce the magnitude of effect on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, particularly the SDNP and its associated Heritage Coast. The change has resulted in the following:

- A reduced field of view/lateral spread of the Rampion 2 WTGs.
- An increase in the distance of Rampion 2 offshore and reduced proximity to the coast.
- A separation zone between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2.
- Avoidance of juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs.

15.7.54 The field of view reduction design principle was most capable of 'making a difference' as it provides a reduced field of view occupied by WTGs, however the selected project design also goes further to address the other SLVIA design principles, as it is coupled within an increase in distance offshore (therefore a reduced proximity an apparent WTG height) and a visible separation from Rampion 1 in key views from the Sussex Heritage Coast, such that a clear distinction can be made between the two array areas and a juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 turbines in front of smaller Rampion 1 turbines is avoided.

15.7.55 When comparing the assessments made in the PEIR, compared to those in **Section 15.10**, there is a clear reduction and step change in impact magnitude from viewpoints in the SDNP including from its coastline within the Sussex Heritage Coast, and from elevated views to eastern and central areas of the SDNP. This is evident in the impact assessments set out in **Section 15.10** that demonstrate a clear reduction in impact magnitude when compared to the PEIR assessment findings.

15.7.56 In particular, a number key viewpoints within the most sensitive designated landscapes have seen a clear step change in impact magnitude and significance due to the combined design principles being applied to the geographic extent of the wind farm array area, these include:

- Viewpoint 1 Beachy Head and Viewpoint 2 Birling Gap – change from medium magnitude and significant (major / moderate) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to medium-low magnitude and not significant (moderate) ES assessment.
- Viewpoint 3 Seven Sisters Country Park, Viewpoint 4 Seaford Head and Viewpoint 28 Cuckmere Haven Beach – change from medium-high magnitude

and significant (major) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to medium magnitude and significant (major / moderate) ES assessment.

- Viewpoint 6 Peacehaven and Viewpoint 8 Brighton seafront – change form high magnitude and significant (major) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to medium-high magnitude and significant (major / moderate) ES assessment, with Viewpoint 7 Rottingdean also reducing to medium-high magnitude but remaining significant (major) on balance.
- Viewpoint 15 Willingdon Hill – change form medium-low magnitude and not significant (moderate / minor) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to low magnitude but remaining not significant (moderate / minor) on balance in the ES assessment.
- Viewpoint 16 Firle Beacon – change from medium-high magnitude and significant (major / moderate) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to medium magnitude and significant (major / moderate) ES assessment.
- Viewpoint 17 Devil's Dyke and Viewpoint 27 Hollingbury Hill Fort – change from high magnitude and significant (major) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to medium magnitude and significant (major / moderate) ES assessment.
- Viewpoint 18 Cissbury Ring – change from high magnitude and significant (major) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to medium-high magnitude and remaining significant (major) on balance.
- Viewpoint 26 Low Weald – change from low magnitude and not significant (minor/negligible) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to zero magnitude and not significant (none) ES assessment.
- Viewpoint 57 Telscombe Tye – change from medium-high magnitude and significant (major / moderate) preliminary assessment (PEIR) to medium magnitude and significant (moderate) ES assessment.

15.7.57 These impacts are assessed in full in **Section 15.10**.

15.7.58 The southern part of the wind farm array area is now contained entirely behind Rampion 1 when viewed from the north, pushed back further west as a separate block with a separation zone to Rampion 1 when viewed from the Sussex Heritage Coast, and offers the 'best case' area to develop within the Zone 6 that has least impact on the SDNP. It represents an 18% reduction in the total area from the original proposed ES boundary, and a 41% decrease in the eastern area.

15.7.59 The project design addresses the combined design principles and will mitigate impacts on key receptors, reducing magnitude of change to lower thresholds and minimising harm to 'breathtaking views' (special quality 1) of the SDNP and addressing NPS EN-1 'good design'. RED has taken into account 'both functionality and aesthetics' (including…. 'visual impacts on the landscape or seascape') and 'good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character', with a project design that 'demonstrates good aesthetic'.

15.7.60 The reasons for selection of the project design address the combined SLVIA design principles that have guided development and reduced impacts on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, as well other project design factors including commercial modelling, flexibility/resilience for future turbines, solving

multiple environmental and technical constraints, and respecting landscape character / aesthetics of the South Downs National Park (SDNP).

15.7.61 The revised spatial extent of the wind farm area offers a robust case for minimising harm to 'breathtaking views' (special quality 1) of the SDNP, addressing national planning policy (NPS EN-1) through demonstrable 'good design' and afford greatest potential to address stakeholder concerns expressed in the Statutory Consultation. RED will continue to observe these design principles up until the final layout of the Rampion 2 wind farm is agreed, but for the purpose of this assessment the worst-case scenario has been considered and assessed.

15.7.62 The project has applied the mitigation hierarchy effectively (as per the draft NPS EN-1) through the embedded measures incorporated within the project design (**Section 15.7**). Likely significant effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors have been reduced or mitigated following the mitigation hierarchy, including embedded design measures to reduce harms, such as on the special qualities of the SDNP and its views (**Section 15.7**). The residual effects arising from Rampion 2 (CNP infrastructure) that are not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy are assessed in **Section 15.9** to **15.14**.

15.8 Methodology for ES assessment

Introduction

15.8.1 The project-wide generic approach to assessment is set out in **Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.5). The assessment methodology for seascape, landscape and visual for the ES is consistent with that provided in the Scoping Report (RED, 2020), however some slight changes have been made since the scoping phase and PEIR in order to address comments provided during Statutory Consultation (**Table 15-7**).

15.8.2 The methodology for the assessment of seascape, landscape and visual impacts of the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm is set out in full in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.2). An overview is provided in the following sections.

Summary of SLVIA methodology

Overview

15.8.3 The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Institute and IEMA (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3), and other best practice guidance. An overview of the SLVIA process is provided here and illustrated, diagrammatically in **Graphic 15-1**.

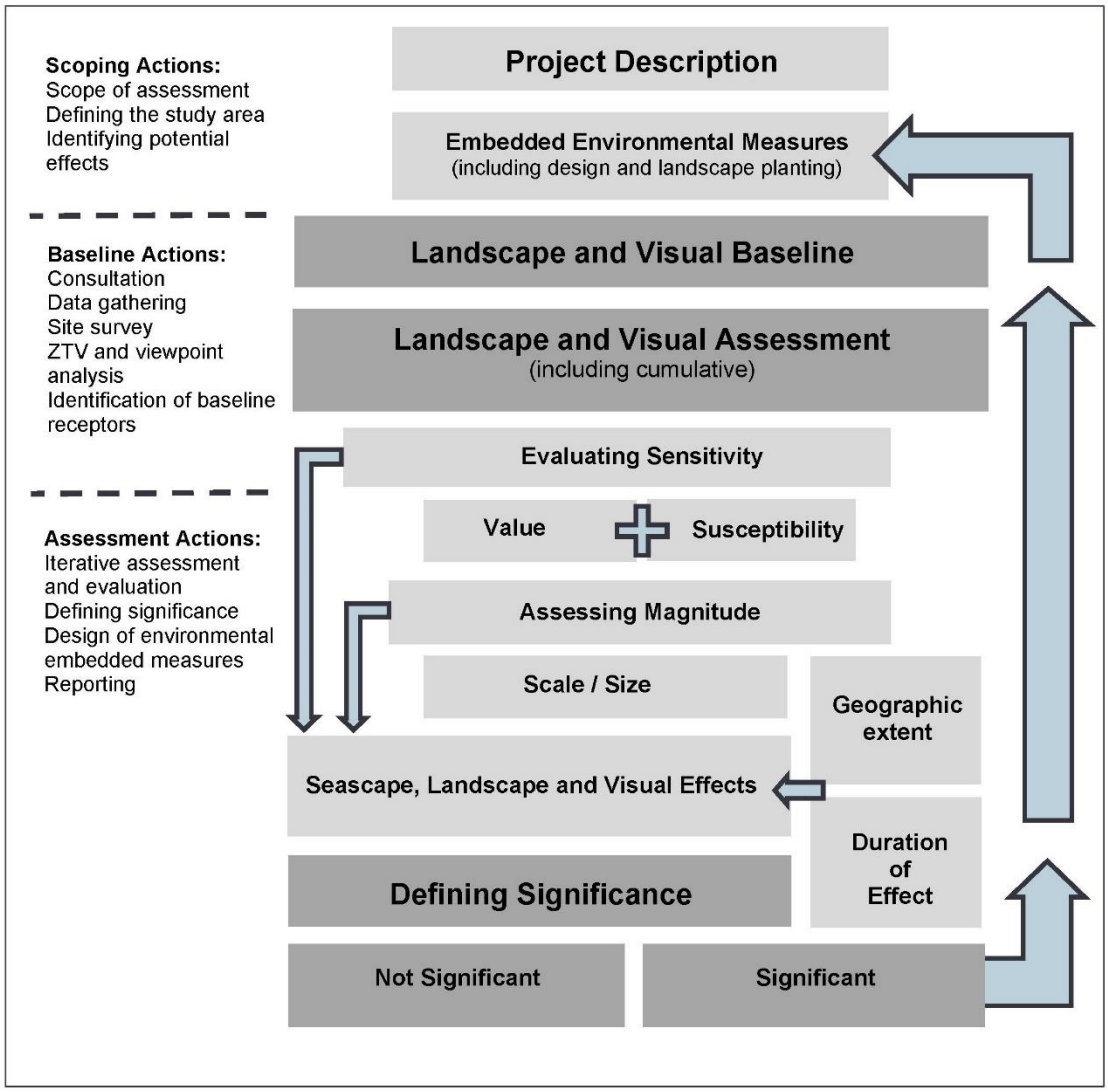
15.8.4 The SLVIA assesses the likely effects that the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the seascape, landscape and visual resource, encompassing effects on seascape/landscape character, designated landscapes, visual effects and cumulative effects.

15.8.5 The SLVIA is based on the design envelope described in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and the maximum design scenario identified as appropriate for the SLVIA as described in **Section 15.7**. In compliance with EIA regulations, the likely significant effects of a realistic maximum design scenario are assessed and illustrated in the SLVIA.

15.8.6 Essentially, the seascape, landscape and visual effects (and whether they are significant) is determined by an assessment of the 'sensitivity' of each receptor or group of receptors and the 'magnitude of change' that would result from Rampion 2.

15.8.7 The evaluation of sensitivity takes account of the value of the receptor and susceptibility of the receptor to the *'specific nature of the proposed development'* (Landscape Institute, 2013) i.e. the offshore elements of Rampion 2. This is combined with an assessment of the magnitude of change which takes account of the size and scale of the proposed change. By combining assessments of sensitivity and magnitude of change, a level of seascape, landscape or visual effect can be evaluated and determined. The resulting level of effect is described in terms of whether it is significant or not significant, and the geographical extent, duration and the type of effect is described as either direct or indirect; temporary or permanent (reversible); cumulative; and beneficial, neutral or adverse.

Graphic 15-1 Overview of approach to SLVIA



15.8.8 The assessment has also considered the whole Proposed Development or combined effects of the offshore and onshore elements of Rampion 2, as well as the cumulative effects likely to result from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and other similar proposed developments.

15.8.9 In each case an appropriate and proportionate level of assessment has been undertaken and agreed through consultation at the scoping stage. The level of assessment may be 'simple' (requiring desk-based data analysis) or 'detailed' (requiring site surveys and investigations in addition to desk-based analysis).

15.8.10 The seascape, landscape and visual assessment unavoidably, involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

Defining impact significance

15.8.11 The matrix presented in **Table 15-28** is used as a guide to illustrate the SLVIA process and helps to inform the threshold of significance when combining sensitivity and magnitude to assess significance. In line with the emphasis placed in GLVIA3 upon the application of professional judgement, an overly mechanistic reliance upon a matrix is avoided through the provision of clear and accessible narrative explanations of the rationale underlying the assessment made for each landscape and visual receptor.

15.8.12 The significance of the effect on each seascape/landscape character and visual receptor is dependent on all of the factors considered in the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change resulting from the proposed Rampion 2 project. Factors which influence levels of sensitivity and magnitude of change assessed in the SLVIA are set out in full in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.2). Judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of change are combined to arrive at an overall assessment as to whether Rampion 2 will have an effect that is significant or not significant on each seascape/landscape and visual receptor

15.8.13 Significant seascape, landscape and visual effects are highlighted in bold and shaded dark blue in **Table 15-28**. They relate to all those effects that result in a 'Major' or a 'Major / Moderate' level of effect. The light blue shaded cells are not significant, however in some circumstances, 'Moderate' levels of effect (shaded light blue) do have the potential, subject to the assessor's opinion, to be considered as significant and these exceptions are also highlighted in bold in the text and has been explained as part of the assessment, where they occur. White or un-shaded boxes in **Table 15-28** indicate a non-significant effect.

15.8.14 In those instances where there would be no effect, the magnitude has been recorded as 'Zero' and the level of effect as 'None'.

Table 15-28 Impact Significance Matrix – Seascape/Landscape Effects

Sensitivity	Magnitude of change					
	High	**Medium-high**	**Medium**	**Medium-low**	**Low**	**Negligible**
High	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate*	Moderate / Minor	Minor
Medium-high	Major (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate*	Moderate*	Moderate / Minor	Minor
Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate*	Moderate*	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor / Negligible
Medium-low	Moderate*	Moderate*	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor / Negligible	Negligible
Low	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor / Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

***Note: Moderate levels of effect may be significant or not significant subject to the assessor's professional opinion which shall be clearly explained.**

Geographical extent

15.8.15 The geographic extent over which the seascape/landscape and visual effects will be experienced is also assessed, which is distinct from the size or scale of effect. This evaluation is not combined in the assessment of the level of magnitude, but instead expresses the extent of the receptor that will experience a particular magnitude of change and therefore the geographical extents of the significant and not significant effects.

15.8.16 The extent of the effects varies depending on the specific nature of Rampion 2 and is principally assessed through analysis of the extent of perceived changes through visibility of the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm.

Duration and reversibility

15.8.17 The duration and reversibility of seascape, landscape and visual effects is based on the period over which Rampion 2 is likely to exist and the extent to which it will be removed and its effects reversed at the end of that period. The methodology used for the SLVIA does not include duration and reversibility as part of magnitude of change, as there is potential that the reversibility aspect could alter or reduce potentially significant effects even though they are long-term. The duration and reversibility of the effects is instead determined separately in relation to the assessed effects.

15.8.18 Long-term, medium-term and short-term seascape/ landscape effects are defined as follows:

- long-term – more than 10 years;
- medium-term – 6 to 10 years; and
- short-term – 1 to 5 years.

15.8.19 Duration and reversibility are not incorporated into the assessment of magnitude of change, but are stated separately in relation to the assessed effects (i.e. as short/medium/long-term and temporary/permanent) and are considered as part of drawing conclusions about significance, combining with other judgements on sensitivity and magnitude, to allow a final judgement to be made on whether each effect is significant or not significant.

Visual representations methodology

15.8.20 The methodology for the production of visual representations (photomontages and ZTVs) of the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm is set out in full in **Appendix 15.2: SLVIA methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.2).

15.8.21 The visual representations presented in **Figures 15.26** to **Figure 15.92, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) have been produced in accordance with Visual Representation of Wind farms (SNH, 2017) and Visual Representation of Development Proposals (TGN 06/19) (Landscape Institute, 2019).

15.8.22 The ZTVs in **Figures 15.13** to **Figure 15.25, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) have also been produced in line with guidance in Visual Representation of Wind farms (SNH, 2017) and are generated using GIS software (ESRI ArcGIS Version 10.5) to model the theoretical visibility of the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm.

15.9 Assessment of effects: Construction phase

Effects on Seascape Character

15.9.1 The construction of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has the potential to result in significant effects on the perceived seascape character of Marine Character Areas (MCAs) MCA05, MCA06, MCA07, MCA08 scoped into the detailed assessment in **Table 15-8**.

15.9.2 Construction phase effects on seascape character will occur as a result of the construction activities, including vessels laying new offshore export cables to shore; the presence of jack-up vessels and/or heavy lift vessels during the construction phase for the installation of foundations substructures and WTGs; windfarm service vessels and accommodation vessels; and partially constructed offshore elements; all of which may combine to alter the seascape character of the area within the offshore part of the proposed DCO Order Limits and the perceived character of the wider seascape through visibility of the construction activities.

15.9.3 The residual effects arising as a result of the construction of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on

all seascape character receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10**, differing primarily as the residual effects being short-term and temporary, occurring during the length of the construction phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the construction activities, compared to the O&M phase, mainly due the influence of offshore jack-up installation vessels, WTG installation and construction vessels that will not be present during the O&M phase. For all seascape receptors these impacts during construction are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M.

Effects on Landscape Character

15.9.4 The construction of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has the potential to result in significant effects on the perceived character of the landscape character areas, designations and their special qualities scoped into the detailed assessment in **Table 15-8**.

15.9.5 Construction phase effects on landscape character will occur as a result of the construction activities, including vessels laying new offshore export cables to shore; the presence of jack-up vessels and/or heavy lift vessels during the construction phase for the installation of foundations substructures and WTGs; windfarm service vessels and accommodation vessels; and partially constructed offshore elements; all of which may combine to alter the perceived character of the wider landscape through visibility of the construction activities.

15.9.6 The residual effects arising as a result of the construction of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all landscape character receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10**, differing primarily as the residual effects being short-term and temporary occurring during the length of the construction phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the construction activities, compared to the O&M phase, mainly due the influence of offshore jack-up installation vessels, WTG installation and construction vessels that will not be present during the O&M phase. For all landscape receptors these impacts during construction are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M.

Effects on views and visual amenity

15.9.7 The construction of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has the potential to result in significant effects on the views and visual amenity of the visual receptors scoped into the detailed assessment in **Table 15-8**.

15.9.8 Construction phase effects on views and visual amenity will occur as a result of the construction activities, including vessels laying new offshore export cables to shore; the presence of jack-up vessels and/or heavy lift vessels during the construction phase for the installation of foundations substructures and WTGs; windfarm service vessels and accommodation vessels; and partially constructed offshore elements; all which may combine to alter the views and visual amenity through visibility of these changes.

15.9.9 The residual effects arising as a result of the construction of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all viewpoints and visual receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10**, differing primarily as the residual effects being short-term and temporary occurring during the length of the construction phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the construction activities, compared to the O&M phase, mainly due the influence of offshore jack-up installation vessels, WTG installation and construction vessels that will not be present during the O&M phase. For all visual receptors these impacts during construction are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M.

15.10 Assessment of effects: O&M phase

Introduction

15.10.1 Effects on seascape character are considered holistically across the seascape of the SLVIA study area in the following Effects on Seascape Character, while landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 are assessed within each of the main geographic 'receptor areas' identified in the baseline conditions (**Section 15.6**) based on administrative boundaries (**Figure 5.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) within the SLVIA study area.

- **South Downs National Park (SDNP)** – all areas within the SDNP boundary (including parts of East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire) and its associative seascape setting, including the Sussex Heritage Coast;
- **West Sussex South Coast Plain** – specifically the South Coast Plain within West Sussex and areas of West Sussex outside the SDNP with an associative seascape setting, including the Chichester Harbour AONB;
- **East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove** – areas of East Sussex outside the SDNP with an associative seascape setting;
- **Hampshire and the Solent** – areas of Hampshire outside the SDNP and Chichester Harbour AONB (considered within West Sussex) with an associative seascape setting; and
- **Isle of Wight** – the Island of the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Wight AONB and its associative seascape setting.

15.10.2 The effect of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the landscape and visual receptors and viewpoints within these geographic areas is described in turn in the assessment for each geographic area, while the effects on perceived seascape character tend cross administrative boundaries and are assessed holistically as follows.

Effects on Seascape Character

Marine Character Areas (MCAs)

15.10.3 An assessment of the likely significant effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the seascape character of Marine Character Areas (MCAs) and Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) (**Figure 15.4 and 15.18, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) is set out below.

MCA05 The Solent

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.4 **Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the MCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the seascape has medium-high value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The majority of the MCA05 coastline within West Sussex covering 'the Witterings' coastline (Bracklesham Bay) between Selsey Bill and West Wittering does not form part of a landscape designated for its scenic value and is in part a developed coastline with the Witterings settlements, holiday parks and leisure developments, however this coastline is locally valued and parts of the MCA05 coastline fall within the CHAONB which is recognised for its landscape value. The Isle of Wight also forms the southern and western coastal edges of the MCA. The seascape of the Solent is particularly valued for recreational boating, which has a notable influence on its character. The susceptibility of the MCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives from the strong visual associations between shoreline and the seas of the eastern Solent, in which views are312agnitued east along the Solent to the open seas by the mainland coastline and Isle of Wight. There is however, a reduction in susceptibility due to the south-westerly orientation of the coastline, the oblique views and the intervening landform of the Manhood Peninsula and headland of Selsey Bill which limit associations between this seascape and the windfarm array area. Other factors also reduce sensitivity including the large-scale shipping influences, the urbanised coast and high recreational pressure, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities, and the large scale and expansiveness of the seascape.

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

15.10.5 The windfarm array area is located outside MCA05 therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in no direct changes to seascape characteristics within The Solent (MCA05). The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** and the effect **not significant (moderate / minor),** indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived seascape character of MCA05 within Chichester Harbour, which is located at long distance, with very low lying (below high spring tide level) and enclosed expanses of marine water, tidal mudflat and marsh, which are further enclosed by wooded shoreline; with its main orientation to the south/south-west, away from the wind farm array area, separated by the headland of Selsey Bill and intervening settled landscape of the Manhood Peninsula and urbanised south

coast shoreline. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the effect **not significant (moderate)** on the perceived seascape character of MCA05 along the Witterings coastline (Bracklesham Bay) between Selsey Bill and West Wittering, where visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is very limited due to the orientation of the coastline and the visual containment of oblique eastwards views by the intervening landform of the Manhood Peninsula and headland of Selsey Bill.

15.10.6 The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** and the effect **significant (moderate)** only on the perceived seascape character experienced in views from the 'open waters' at Chichester Harbour Mouth and coastal edge of Eastoke Point, where there are views along Bracklesham Bay to the WTGs, which will be viewed as new, distant landmarks in panoramic views over the water and along the Wittering Coast towards Selsey Bill (as illustrated in Viewpoint 22 from Eastoke Point). These effects occur over geographically contained area at the harbour mouth and Eastoke Point and in a limited part of the wider seascape views, outside the main directional focus into the central harbour and South Downs.

MCA06 South Wight

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.7 The sensitivity of the MCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be **high** for the inshore areas of the MCA and **medium** for the distant offshore areas towards the English Channel, due to the reduction in susceptibility with the increased distance offshore. The seascape is assessed as having high value. The majority of the maritime coastline of MCA06 forms part of either the IoW AONB or the Tennyson Heritage Coast designated for its scenic value, with the exception of the urbanised developed coastline of Shanklin and Sandown, along the east facing Sandown Bay. The MCA has notable recreational value as the focus for visitor activity at the coast and displays traditional 'beach resort' qualities and interest arising from the interaction of the open seascape and beaches with development and activities of people at the seafront and nearshore waters. There are strong visual connections between shoreline and chalk downs with the open seascape, with the inshore areas of the MCA seascape setting being integral to the character of the island context, making it of high susceptibility to changes occurring in the inshore waters, with some reduction in susceptibility to medium with increasing distance into the offshore waters of the MCA, with Rampion 2 located in the offshore waters beyond the MCA. There will also be a reduced susceptibility from the South Wight coastline and waters of the MCA to the west of St Catherine's Point, which is oriented to the south-west and has no association with the windfarm array area. Other factors also reduce sensitivity including the large-scale shipping influences, the urbanised coast of East Wight and high recreational pressure, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities, and the large scale and expansiveness of the seascape.

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

15.10.8 The windfarm array area is located outside MCA06 therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in no direct changes to seascape characteristics

within South Wight (MCA06). The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived seascape character of MCA06 from the coastal edges and chalk downs of East Wight, where MCA07 and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible in the backdrop to the South Wight seascape in views east out into the English Channel.

15.10.9 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the seascape character perceived from land, with the most prominent association relating to the 14km coastal edge of the MCA between Foreland (Bembridge) and Dunnose (Ventnor), from which Rampion 2 will result in some changes to the long-distance views over the seascape from coastal heath and downland, experienced from two main parts of the IoW AONB, at Bembridge and Culver Down/Culver Cliff; and the Chalk Downs formed by Ventnor and Shanklin Downs further to the south; as well as the perceived character of the sweeping beaches of Whitecliff Bay and the northern part of Sandown Bay. The effect of the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape character of MCA06 is assessed as **medium-low** and **not significant (moderate)** on the character of the seascape perceived from Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff and Whitecliff Bay) and **low** magnitude and the residual effect **not significant (moderate / minor)** on the perceived character of the seascape perceived from the chalk downs at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs and the beaches of Sandown Bay, which are at longer distance further to the south.

15.10.10 There will be a clear separation between these areas of the East Wight coastline and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in views, such that it is clearly viewed 'offshore' in its open seascape. Whilst the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will feature within the extent of views of the seascape, it will be viewed in the context of a vast seascape where the WTGs will be located in views at long distances from this part of the IoW AONB of at least 32.8km at Culver Down, to over 39km at Ventnor Down, without interrupting the intervening seascape off the immediate coastline of the MCA. The additional lateral spread of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is also relatively contained, typically occupying only between 11° to 18° of the horizontal field of view. Essentially, the appreciation of the seascape character of the open downs and chalk coastline as part of a wider panorama of open sea will remain, and the generally open nature and long views to and from the coast and downs will be retained, in spite of the presence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 at long distance offshore.

15.10.11 The magnitude of change on the perceived seascape character of the coastline from the South Wight coast around St Catherine's Point is assessed as reducing to **negligible** and **not significant (minor)**, where there is minimal visibility and a south facing coastal aspect**;** and **zero** and **no residual effect (not significant)** from the coastline of Chale Bay where there is no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2.

SCA 07A Selsey Bill to Worthing Inshore

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.12 **Location and boundaries:** SCA 07A is defined within the western and inshore area of MCA 07, between Selsey Bill and Worthing (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the

ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The boundary of the SCA is defined by Selsey Bill to the west, the coast to the north extending east to Worthing and extends offshore to the boundary of Rampion 1 wind farm and the Rampion 2 array area boundary with a seaward extent generally from 13.5km – 15.5km from the shoreline, where it meets the Selsey Bill to Worthing Offshore SCA 07B.

Sensitivity: Medium

15.10.13 The sensitivity of the SCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be medium, reflecting that the seascape has medium value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, based on the following assessment.

Value: Medium

- **Designation**: The SCA does not form the immediate seascape setting to a designated landscape, and its coastline is almost contiguously urbanised, developed with settlements, holiday parks, leisure developments and harbours. The SDNP does however, form a prominent ridge of downland behind the developed coastal plain forming a backdrop to the SCA and affording expansive views over its seascape from the tops and southern dip slopes of the downs. The value of the SCA derives particularly from its role as part of the wider seascape setting of the SDNP and the panoramic views over the seascape from the tops of the downs and South Downs Way.

- **Aesthetic / scenic qualities**: The Selsey Bill and the Hounds Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), and Solent Special Protection Area (SPA) covering part of the SCA but their visible qualities are not readily appreciated. The landscape within Pagham Harbour SPA / Ramsar site contributes to the scenic qualities within this restricted part of the SCA. The elevated landform of the SDNP overlooks the SCA at distance and the seascape contributes to the special qualities of SDNP's 'breathtaking views' and 'diverse landscapes' as part of the seascape setting of the designation. Aesthetic and scenic qualities are however influenced by the extent of the largely developed coastline of the SCA, its heavy visitor/tourist use and the influence of Rampion 1 wind farm.

- **Perceptual qualities**: The seascape is not valued for its wildness, remoteness or tranquillity due to its popular sea-based recreational use and the largely developed coastline of the SCA, with linear urban coastal seaside towns stretching along most of its length and major commercial ports at Shoreham and Littlehampton providing more limited commercial facilities. Rampion 1 wind farm on the eastern boundary of the SCA also forms a contemporary development that influences perceptual qualities and is visible from the SDNP. The tranquil landscape of the elevated downs of the SDNP is intervisible with the SCA but separated by the contiguous south coast urban area.

- **Cultural associations**: Some valued historic features illustrating the strategic defensive role of this coastline, with mid-19th century forts at Littlehampton and Shoreham. SCA's position on the Channel coast has produced a long and well-documented engagement in trade, transport and conflict. Artistic and cultural associations include the holiday camps at Selsey and Butlins at Bognor Regis.

- **Recreational and community value**: The SCA has notable recreational value as the focus for visitor activity at the coast and displays traditional 'beach

resort' qualities and interest arising from the interaction of the seascape and beaches with development and activities of people at the seafront and nearshore waters. The SCA is valued for its sea-based recreational activities, including small recreational crafts, watersports, diving off Selsey Bill, bird watching at Pagham Harbour and fossil hunting on the beaches at Bognor Regis and some of Britain's largest coastal resorts are on the coastline at Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis. The SCA is particularly viewed from the South Downs Way within the SDNP.

- **Rarity**: The contribution of the SCA to the inter-relationship between the expansive urban / seaside resort development framed by Selsey Bill and backed by the prominent ridge of the SDNP is distinctive and representative of the seascape character of Sussex Bay, while also being somewhat typical of the common experience of the British 'seaside'.

Susceptibility: Medium

Natural

- Coastal edge: Simple, gently curving bay and coastline. Long shingle beaches serve as the focal point for a number of popular seaside resorts and offset the major coastal resorts. Coastline of the SCA is almost entirely developed. Harbours and estuaries relating to the Rivers Adur (at Shoreham by Sea), Arun (at Littlehampton) and Pagham Harbour.
- Hinterland: extensive urban development along the coastline, consisting of a number of towns including Selsey, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Worthing and Shoreham. South Downs National Park is located inland to the north of the major settlements forming a prominent ridge but does not extend to the coastline.
- Tidal regime: Tidal currents are fast in the waters around the points of Selsey Bill, whilst the bay is more sheltered. Pagham Harbour fills and empties with each tide, creating a changing shoreline.

Cultural/social

- Use of the sea: Small recreational craft and fishing boats are the main sea uses. Sea-based recreational activities are popular, including watersports, diving, bird watching and fossil hunting. Commercial shipping from Shoreham and fishing from Shoreham and Worthing.
- Use of the coast/hinterland: Almost entirely developed along the coast including some of Britain's largest coastal resorts at Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis. Coastal towns form a colourful and busy focus along the coast with hotels, attractions, piers and recreational activities. Major commercial port at Shoreham, with Littlehampton providing more limited commercial facilities. Further inland SDNP forms backdrop and consists rural, rolling hills, open to the east and more wooded to the west.
- Historic features on coast: Historic features illustrating the strategic defensive role of this coastline. Mid-19th century forts survive at Littlehampton and Shoreham. Long and well-documented engagement in trade, transport and conflict. Artistic and cultural associations include the holiday camps at Selsey and Butlins at Bognor Regis.

Quality / condition

- Intactness: Presence of detractors including developed coast, shipping from ports, coastal / nearshore recreational use of sea and Rampion 1 wind farm visible on southern edge of SCA.
- State of repair: Generally well-maintained coast often with groynes and sea walls. There are some neglected urban spaces and evident decline in seaside resorts, and on a busy summer's day there is capacity for the environment to appear neglected by the nature of busy tourism and seafront activity.

Aesthetic and perceptual

- Scale: Large scale, expansive and open sense of space. The sea feels large scale with panoramic views. The key aesthetic features of the SCA are the wide shingle beaches.
- Openness and enclosure: Part of expansive Sussex Bay framed by the headlands of Selsey Bill (and Beachy Head beyond the SCA to the east). Openness is a key characteristic with generally open views out to sea from beaches and the downs, partially interrupted by Rampion 1 wind farm on the horizon.
- Exposure: Inshore waters, moderately exposed eroding coast, with sheltered waters in estuary and river mouths. More exposure at headlands such as Selsey Bill and further out to sea. Overall an open seascape that does not provide a perception of elemental or wild seascape character.
- Aspect: South facing, with potential for WTGs to be viewed primarily while looking into the sun, with the sun as the backdrop, rather than being front-lit. Wind farm array area is located away from sunrise and sunset positions. Viewed from both low-lying coast with views curtailed by horizon and more distant elevated downs of SDNP that have an aspect over the seascape.
- Seascape pattern and foci: Some vertical and other elements at sea, including Rampion 1 wind farm on the southern edge of SCA, as well as nearshore water recreation, some commercial traffic and shipping. Generally low-rise developed coast with SDNP high downland inland backdrop. Limited landmarks, including piers, Butlins at Bognor and occasional tall buildings and observation wheel (Worthing). General lack of natural focus points.
- Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness: Large-scale shipping influences, the urbanised coast, industrialised ports and high recreational pressure, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities. The seascape, coastal edge and hinterland of the SCA have low levels of relative tranquillity, wildness and remoteness as the coastline and hinterland of the SCA is largely developed, with linear urban coastal seaside towns stretching along most of its length, which are relatively easily accessible from the densely populated south-east of England. Seafront development and the pier add lights, colour and activity out to sea and recreational boats and vessels also animate the seascape. Elements with movement located within or on the edge of SCA, including Rampion 1 wind farm, shipping and boats, with highly developed coastline close to centres of population and human interventions.

Visual characteristics

- Key views: Views seaward from the coastline are frequently to an unbroken horizon with the main shipping traffic being located at a greater distance into the channel, however Rampion 1 wind farm partially interrupts these views to the horizon. There are long distance *'stunning, panoramic views to the sea'* from the elevated landform of the South Downs, which is a key characteristic and special quality of the SDNP. Views to and from the sea play an important part in shaping the character of both landscape and seascape. Landmarks include Selsey Bill, Worthing pier and observation wheel, tall buildings, occasional masts and Rampion 1 wind farm at sea.
- Intervisibility and associations: Strong intervisibility and associations between the adjacent coastline low sweeping, open coastline and the seascape of the SCA. SCA is physically separate from the SDNP with intervening south coast urban area, but elevated sea views from the South Downs afford associated seascape character context.
- Typical receptors: Residents of the settlements along the south coast urban area. The coast is used as an open space for a large number of visitors, both for day trips and holidays, with receptors focused on the seaside and beaches. South Downs Way / walkers are the typical receptors viewing the seascape from within the SDNP.
- Seascape experience: Seascape character is typically experienced from main coastal settlements / seafronts, including crowded beaches (particularly in summer) where focus is on beach activities and tourist attractions (rather than on enjoyment of seascape character).

Relationship between seascape and adjacent coast

- Contribution to setting: Intervening non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the SDNP and the sea, which reduces susceptibility to the influence of offshore elements in this seascape, compared to positions on the coastal edge of the SDNP. SDNP is located inland, parallel to the coast, forming the backdrop to the urban areas.

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

Magnitude of change: Medium-high

15.10.14 The western Rampion 2 array is located just outside the southern boundary of this SCA, therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in no direct changes to the pattern of elements within the SCA, but will result in changes to the perceived character of SCA 07B as perceived by people, in views from the inshore waters, coastal edge between Selsey Bill and Worthing (particularly the shoreline – LCA SC1) and the elevated central and western downs of the SDNP, where the maritime character of SCA 07B is part of the associative seascape setting. The most prominent association will occur from the nearshore water and coastal edge of the SCA between Selsey Bill and Shoreham-by-Sea, from which Rampion 2 will increase the influence of the wind farm element viewed in the immediate backdrop to SCA 07B, through an increase in the lateral spread, scale and influence of WTGs extending from Rampion 1, particularly in a westwards direction on the sea skyline, contributing to a greater degree of visual enclosure on the skyline in the seascape backdrop of the SCA. The magnitude of change to the perceived

character of the SCA 07B experienced from the coastal edge and inshore waters of SCA 07A resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-high** and the effect **significant (moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

15.10.15 The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape setting of the South Downs is assessed in respect to LCA A3 (Arun to Adur Open Down) and LCA B1 (Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland) (**Table 15-29**), which are the relevant receptors that form the central and western areas of the SDNP that experience sea views across the coastal plain and will experience changes in their seascape setting as a result of Rampion 2.

SCA 07B Selsey Bill to Worthing Offshore

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.16 **Location and boundaries:** SCA 07B is defined within the western and offshore area of MCA 07, between Selsey Bill and Rampion 1 wind farm (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The boundary of the SCA is defined offshore from Selsey Bill to the west, where there is a transition into the South Wight MCA 06, the inshore waters of SCA 07A to the north, extending east to the boundary of Rampion 1 wind farm, and south to a seaward extent of up to approximately 22km from the shoreline, which is broadly consistent with the 12 nautical mile territorial limit and bathymetry of approximately 50m, and the transition to the main channel shipping lanes of the English Channel MCA 13 begins at the south extent of the SCA.

Sensitivity: Medium

15.10.17 The sensitivity of the SCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be medium, reflecting that the seascape has medium value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, based on the following assessment.

Value: Medium

- **Designation**: The SCA does not form the immediate seascape setting to a designated landscape, and the nearest coastline beyond the Selsey Bill to Worthing Inshore SCA 07A is almost contiguously urbanised, developed with settlements, holiday parks, leisure developments and harbours. The SDNP does however, lie as an inland backdrop to the hinterland, forming a notable ridge of downland behind the developed coastal plain and the inland backdrop to the SCA, which affords expansive distant views over its seascape from the tops and southern dip slopes of the downs. The value of the SCA derives particularly from its role as part of the wider seascape setting of the SDNP and the panoramic views over the seascape from the tops of the downs and South Downs Way.

- **Aesthetic / scenic qualities**: An MCZ covers part of the SCA however these qualities are not readily appreciated visually. The elevated landform of the SDNP overlooks the SCA at distance and the seascape contributes to the special qualities of SDNP's 'breathtaking views' and 'diverse landscapes' as part of the seascape setting of the designation. Aesthetic and scenic qualities

are however influenced by the extent of the largely developed intervening coastline, its heavy visitor / tourist use and the influence of Rampion 1 wind farm on the eastern edge of the SCA.

- **Perceptual qualities**: The seascape is not valued for its wildness, remoteness or tranquillity due to the nearby shipping lanes to the south and the largely developed coastline beyond the Selsey Bill to Worthing Inshore SCA 07A to the north. Rampion 1 wind farm on the eastern boundary of the SCA also forms a contemporary development that influences perceptual qualities and is visible from the SDNP. The tranquil landscape of the elevated downs of the SDNP is intervisible with the SCA but separated by the contiguous south coast urban area.
- **Cultural associations**: Some valued historic features are located at distance on the coast and are illustrative of the strategic defensive role of the coastline to the north, with mid-19th century forts at Littlehampton and Shoreham. The SCA's position on the edge of the English Channel has produced a long and well-documented engagement in trade, transport and conflict.
- **Recreational and community value**: The SCA has low recreational value, generally limited to leisure sailing and very limited community values. The distant coastline to the north beyond the Selsey Bill to Worthing Inshore SCA 07A is the focus for visitor activity at the coast and displays traditional 'beach resort' interest and value. The SCA may be valued as part of the distant seascape setting of the SDNP, often experienced in panoramic views from the South Downs Way within the SDNP.
- **Rarity**: The SCA forms the transition between the English Channel and the inshore waters of Sussex Bay, being representative of the offshore waters that are influenced by both the major shipping lanes to the south, offshore WTGs and distant urban / seaside resort development along the coastal edge.

Susceptibility: Medium

Natural

- Coastal edge: Offshore waters with no adjacent coastal edge, which is beyond the inshore waters over 13.5km to the north and has a diminished influence. Coastline consists of simple, gently curving bay, with long shingle beaches, seaside resorts and is almost entirely developed with urban areas.
- Hinterland: Hinterland has a diminished influence due to distance beyond the inshore waters and south coast urban area but consists of extensive urban development and settlement across the coastal plain, giving way to the elevated backdrop of the SDNP located inland to the north, with the open and wooded downland providing a rural backcloth to the major settlements.
- Tidal regime: Strong tidal currents sweep around the low promontory of Selsey Bill, whilst areas within Sussex Bay are more sheltered from the prevailing south-westerly waves by Selsey Bill.

Cultural / social

- Use of the sea: Commercial shipping visible on approach to Shoreham; commercial fishing from Shoreham and Worthing; recreational yachting from Littlehampton.

- Use of the coast/hinterland: Coast / hinterland has a diminished influence due to distance beyond the inshore waters, however coastal edge is almost entirely developed including some of Britain's largest coastal resorts at Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis and there is a major commercial port at Shoreham, with Littlehampton providing more limited commercial facilities. Further inland the SDNP forms the backdrop and consists rural, rolling hills, open to the east and more wooded to the west, used primarily for agriculture and recreation with routes such as the South Downs Way and Monarchs Way.
- Historic features on coast: As a target for invasion there are many small forts and gun batteries including from the Napoleonic period. Coastal retreat limits age of features to the west. Cultural associations with the coastal resorts as part of their setting and views, shipping linking UK ports with English Channel and beyond.

Quality / condition

- Intactness: Seascape with some shipping, fishing and leisure boats. Presence of distant detractors along developed coast to north and shipping from ports. Rampion 1 wind farm prominent on eastern edge of SCA.
- State of repair: N/A, located entirely offshore, no built features / elements.

Aesthetic and perceptual

- Scale: Large scale, expansive and open sense of space. The sea feels large scale with panoramic views.
- Openness and enclosure: Very open away from the coast. Part of expansive Sussex Bay, with offshore waters partially framed by the headlands of Selsey Bill and Beachy Head (beyond the SCA to the east). Openness is a key characteristic with generally open views across sea, partially interrupted by Rampion 1 wind farm to the east.
- Exposure: Highly exposed open sea, but seascape does not provide a perception of elemental or wild seascape character due to presence of developed coastline to north, shipping and Rampion 1 wind farm to the east.
- Aspect: South facing, with potential for WTGs in this SCA to be viewed primarily while looking into the sun from the coast / hinterland, with the sun as the backdrop, but may be front-lit when viewed from offshore area in the southern parts of the SCA. Wind farm array area is located away from sunrise and sunset positions. Viewed from both low-lying coast with views curtailed by horizon and more distant elevated downs of SDNP that have an aspect over the seascape.
- Seascape pattern and foci: Some vertical and other elements at sea, including Rampion 1 wind farm on the eastern edge of SCA, as well as nearshore water recreation, some commercial traffic and shipping. Generally low-rise developed coast with SDNP high downland inland backdrop. General lack of natural focus points.
- Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness: Large-scale shipping influences, the urbanised coast, industrialised ports and some recreational use, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities. Elements with movement located within or on the edge of SCA, including Rampion 1 wind farm, shipping and

boats, with highly developed coastline to the north beyond the inshore water, with centres of population and human interventions. The seascape SCA has generally low levels of relative tranquillity, wildness and remoteness.

Visual characteristics

- Key views: Views from sea to sea across the offshore waters, including to Rampion 1 wind farm to the east, and to major shipping lanes to the south. Views from sea to land from ships and leisure craft back towards the coast with the backdrop of the South Downs beyond the south coast urban area. Views seaward from the coastline extend largely uninterrupted to the horizon, with shipping traffic in the backdrop to the SCA and Rampion 1 wind farm partially interrupts views to the horizon to the east. There are long distance *'stunning, panoramic views to the sea'* from the elevated landform of the South Downs, which is a key characteristic and special quality of the SDNP and the seascape of the SCA forms part of the wider offshore seascape setting of the central and western parts of the SDNP.
- Intervisibility and associations: SCA is physically separated from the SDNP with intervening south coast urban area, but elevated sea views from the South Downs afford associated seascape character context through intervisibility.
- Typical receptors: There are very few receptors within the offshore waters of the SCA, consisting of commercial fishing and some recreating boating. Outside the SCA, residents of the settlements along the south coast urban area and visitors to the seaside along this coastline may experience perceived changes in character through offshore WTG development within this SCA. Visual receptors engaged in recreation along the tops of the South Downs and its edges with the upper coastal plain experience intermittent and long-distance views from the largely undeveloped downland, across the intervening developed coastal plain / coastal edge, to the seascape beyond. The angle of view is generally oblique and at right angles to the direction of travel but the sea is often the focus to the south.
- Seascape experience: Seascape character is typically experienced from commercial fishing and some recreating boating out at sea, as well as from the main coastal settlements / seafronts, including crowded beaches (particularly in summer) where focus is on beach activities and tourist attractions (rather than on enjoyment of seascape character). Seascape is also experienced by receptors from elevated but distant positions within the SDNP where the focus is the view.

Relationship between seascape and adjacent coast

- Contribution to setting: Intervening inshore waters separate the SCA from the coast and hinterland, with no immediately adjacent coast. Non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the SCA and the SDNP, which reduces susceptibility to the influence of offshore elements in this seascape, compared to parts of the SDNP with a coastal edge.

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

Magnitude of change: High

15.10.18 The western part of the Rampion 2 array area is located within SCA 07B therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in direct changes to the pattern of elements and characteristics of SCA 07B. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived character of the seascape character of SCA 07B as perceived by people at sea, from the onshore coastal edges of West Sussex, particularly the shoreline (LCA SC1) between Selsey Bill and Shoreham-by-Sea, where the maritime character of SCA 07B is integral to the associative seascape setting to the south coast shoreline, and from the elevated parts of the South Downs at long distance in the associative seascape setting. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the seascape character primarily through the introduction of the WTGs of the western Rampion 2 array within SCA 07B, which will extend the westward lateral spread of WTGs from Rampion 1 wind farm. Although there will be a clear separation zone between the Rampion 1 and 2 arrays, ensuring that Rampion 2 will form a distinct and separate array, the spread of the WTG array may be relatively long and narrow, extending notably westwards towards Selsey Bill over approximately 20km of seascape to the west of Rampion 1. This will contribute to a westwards increase in WTG developed seascape character and a greater degree of visual enclosure and interruption of the sea skyline of the open waters when viewed from the coastal edge to the north and be perceptible as an increase in the wind farm developed seascape context when viewed from the elevated aspect of the top of the downs within the SDNP. The larger spread, scale and influence of the Rampion 2 WTGs will be such that offshore WTGs will become a key characteristic of SCA 07B. The magnitude of change to the perceived character of SCA 07B resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **high** and the effect **significant (major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

15.10.19 The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape setting of the South Downs is assessed in respect to LCA A3 (Arun to Adur Open Down) and LCA B1 (Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland) (**Table 15-29**), which are the relevant receptors that form the central and western areas of the SDNP that experience sea views across the coastal plain and will experience changes in their seascape setting as a result of Rampion 2.

SCA 07C Worthing to Seaford Head Inshore

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.20 **Location and boundaries:** SCA 07C is defined within the eastern and inshore area of MCA 07, between Worthing and Seaford Head (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The boundary of the SCA is defined between Worthing and Rampion 1 wind farm to the west, the coast to the north and extends offshore to the boundary of Rampion 1 wind farm with a seaward extent generally between 13km – 14km from the shoreline, where it meets the Worthing to Seaford Head Offshore SCA 07D.

Sensitivity: Medium-high

15.10.21 The sensitivity of the SCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the seascape has medium-high value and its perceived character has a medium-high susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, based on the following assessment.

Value: Medium-high

- **Designation**: The SCA does not form the immediate seascape setting to a designated landscape, and its coastline is almost contiguously urbanised, developed with settlements, holiday parks, leisure developments and harbours. The SDNP does however, form a prominent ridge of downland in the hinterland behind these settlements, and extends down to the coast to the east of the SCA at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs, forming a backdrop to the SCA and affording expansive views over its seascape from the tops and coastal cliffs of the downs. The value of the SCA derives particularly from its role as part of the seascape setting of the SDNP and the panoramic views over the seascape from the downs, including from the South Downs Way. The Sussex Heritage Coast covering the main coastal parts of the SDNP between Seaford Head and Beachy Head is located to the east outside the SCA, but affords views over this seascape.

- **Aesthetic / scenic qualities**: The Beachy Head West MCZ covers part of the SCA but its sub-tidal features are not readily appreciated and only its intertidal sediments at the coastal edge contribute to visual qualities. The elevated landform of the SDNP overlooks the SCA at distance and the seascape contributes to the special qualities of SDNP's 'breathtaking views' and 'diverse landscapes' as part of the seascape setting of the designation. Aesthetic and scenic qualities are however influenced by the extent of the largely developed coastline of the SCA, its heavy visitor / tourist use and the influence of Rampion 1 wind farm. The SDNP and Heritage Coast clearly overlooks the SCA from along the coast and from inland at a distance. The seascape character of the zone is important in reinforcing the character and seascape setting of the SDNP. The views along the Heritage Coast including the Seven Sisters towards the SCA is iconic, and the elevated rolling landform of the South Downs to the north enable panoramic views including long views out to sea.

- **Perceptual qualities**: The seascape is not valued for its wildness, remoteness or tranquillity due to its popular sea-based recreational use and the largely developed coastline of the SCA, with linear urban coastal seaside towns stretching along most of its length and major commercial ports at Newhaven, which provides cross-channel passenger ferry services to Dieppe. Rampion 1 wind farm on the southern boundary of the SCA also forms a contemporary development that influences perceptual qualities and is visible from the SDNP. The tranquil landscape of the elevated downs of the SDNP is intervisible with the SCA but separated by the magnitude south coast urban area between Worthing, Brighton and Seaford.

- **Cultural associations**: Some valued historic features illustrating the strategic defensive role of this coastline, with mid-19th century forts at Newhaven, but there have been previous defences on the site dating back to forts in the

Bronze Age and Roman period. The last of the series of Martello Towers is located at Seaford. SCA's position on the Channel coast has produced a long and well-documented engagement in trade, transport and conflict. Brighton's niche as a cosmopolitan cultural centre continues a long tradition from the Prince Regent's 18th-19th century visits which produced the iconic Royal Pavilion.

- **Recreational and community value**: The SCA has notable recreational value as the focus for visitor activity at the coast and displays traditional 'beach resort' qualities and interest, arising from the interaction of the seascape and beaches with development and activities of people at the seafront and nearshore waters. The SCA is valued for its sea-based recreational activities, including small recreational crafts with most of the harbours now used for recreational yachting e.g. Brighton Marina. Brighton is one the largest and most popular coastal resorts with the seafront and Brighton beach being the focus of visitor, recreational use and community value. The Heritage Coast and South Downs Way are very well used.
- **Rarity**: The contribution of the SCA to the inter-relationship between the expansive urban / seaside resort development framed by Beachy Head and backed by the prominent ridge of the SDNP is distinctive and representative of the seascape character of Sussex Bay, while also being somewhat typical of the common experience of the British 'seaside'.

Susceptibility: Medium-high

Natural

- Coastal edge: Wide shallow gently curving bay with shingle beaches to the west, some small estuaries and chalk cliffs to the east. Long shingle beaches serve as the focal point for popular seaside resorts such as Brighton. Coastline of the SCA is almost entirely developed, with occasional gaps at coastal downs such as Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs, which are within the SDNP. Harbour and estuary relating to the Ouse at Newhaven.
- Hinterland: extensive urban development along the coastline, consisting of a number of towns including Shoreham-by-Sea, Brighton & Hove, Saltdean, Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford. The SDNP is located inland to the north of these settlements forming a natural backdrop, prominent ridge and extends down to the coastline at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs.
- Tidal regime: Shingle beaches with groynes; intertidal wavecut platform to the east between Newhaven and Brighton Marina.

Cultural / social

- Use of the sea: Small recreational craft and fishing boats are the main sea users, with cross channel ferries from Newhaven–Dieppe and larger freight from the small ports. The main fishing ports or landing areas are Newhaven, Brighton and Shoreham, but there are also beach landings in places along the coast and some small fisheries.
- Use of the coast / hinterland: Almost entirely developed along the coast including one of Britain's largest coastal resorts at Brighton. Coastal towns form a colourful and busy focus along the coast with hotels, attractions, piers and recreational activities. Major commercial port at Newhaven and main

recreational yachting at Brighton Marina. SDNP forms backdrop to the urban coast in its hinterland to the west consisting rural, open, rolling hills and extends closes to the coast to the east at Rottingdean and Telscombe cliffs where there are coastal downs set amongst the urban context.

- Historic features on coast: Historic features illustrating the strategic defensive role of this coastline, including mid-19th century forts at Newhaven, but there have been previous defences dating further back and the last of the series of Martello Towers is located at Seaford. SCA's position on the Channel coast has produced a long and well-documented engagement in trade, transport and conflict. There are conservation areas covering parts of Brighton's seafront.

Quality / condition

- Intactness: Presence of detractors including developed coast, major shipping from Newhaven port, smaller scale shipping influences and coastal / nearshore recreational use of sea. Rampion 1 wind farm is prominent on southern edge of SCA and provides some containment of the western part of the inshore waters of the SCA.
- State of repair: Generally well-maintained coast often with groynes and sea walls. There are some neglected urban spaces and evident decline in seaside resorts, and on a busy summer's day there is capacity for the environment to appear neglected by the nature of busy tourism and seafront activity.

Aesthetic and perceptual

- Scale: Large scale, expansive and open sense of space. The sea feels large scale with panoramic views.
- Openness and enclosure: Part of expansive Sussex Bay framed by the headlands of Beachy Head to the east. Openness is a key characteristic with generally open views out to sea from beaches and the downs, partially interrupted and enclosed by Rampion 1 wind farm on the horizon, particularly from the western side of the SCA.
- Exposure: Inshore waters, moderately exposed eroding coast, with sheltered waters in estuary and river mouths / harbours. More exposure further out to sea towards transition with offshore waters. An open seascape that does not provide a perception of elemental or wild seascape character.
- Aspect: South facing, with potential for WTGs to be viewed primarily while looking into the sun, with the sun as the backdrop, rather than being front-lit. Wind farm array area is located away from sunrise position but may be viewed towards sunsets in views from the east. Viewed from both low-lying coast with views curtailed by horizon and more elevated coastal downs / cliffs of SDNP to the east, and open inland downs to the north, that have an aspect over the seascape.
- Seascape pattern and foci: Some vertical and other elements at sea, including Rampion 1 wind farm on the southern edge of SCA, as well as nearshore water recreation, recreational boating and commercial shipping traffic/ferries out of Newhaven. Generally low-rise developed coast, SDNP high downland inland backdrop. Limited landmarks, including piers, tall buildings and the i360 tower in Brighton (162m high). White chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters form the main natural focus point in sea to land views to the east.

- Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness: Large-scale shipping influences, the urbanised coast, industrialised ports and high recreational pressure, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities. The seascape, coastal edge and hinterland of the SCA have low levels of relative tranquillity, wildness and remoteness as the coastline and hinterland of the SCA is largely developed, with linear urban coastal seaside towns stretching along most of its length, which are relatively easily accessible from the densely populated south-east of England. Seafront development and the pier add lights, colour and activity out to sea and recreational boats and vessels also animate the seascape. Elements with movement located within or on the edge of SCA, including Rampion 1 wind farm, shipping and boats, with highly developed coastline close to centres of population and human interventions. The relatively tranquil and unspoilt landscape of the Heritage Coast is located outside the SCA to the east and the tops of the South Downs is intervisible with, and connected to, the character of the sea beyond the developed coastal strip.

Visual characteristics

- Key views: Views from sea to sea across the inshore waters and out to sea towards the English Channel including to Rampion 1 wind farm to the south. Views from sea to land from passenger ferries arriving in the UK at Newhaven, ships and leisure craft looking back towards the coast with the backdrop of the South Downs behind the south coast urban area. Views seen in the context of the iconic undulating chalk cliff coast along the coast. Views seaward from the coastline extend largely uninterrupted to the horizon, with shipping traffic through the SCA in its backdrop in the English Channel, and Rampion 1 wind farm partially interrupts views to the horizon to the west of the SCA. Views from low lying coast from promenades, piers and beaches. There are long distance *'stunning, panoramic views to the sea'* from the elevated landform of the South Downs, from the coastal downs at Rottingdean and Telscombe adjacent to the SCA, from inland areas of the high tops of the Downs, and from the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP to the east, between Seaford Head and Beachy Head. These views are a key characteristic and special quality of the SDNP and the seascape of the SCA forms part of the wider offshore seascape setting of the central and western parts of the SDNP.

- Intervisibility and associations: Strong intervisibility and associations between the adjacent low sweeping, open coastline and the seascape of the SCA. SCA is mainly physically separated from the SDNP by intervening south coast urban area and seascape to the east, with the exception of two small areas of coastal downs at Rottingdean and Telscombe, but elevated sea views from the South Downs afford associated seascape character context.

- Typical receptors: Residents of the settlements along the south coast urban area. The coast is used as an open space for a large number of visitors, both for day trips and holidays, with receptors focused on the seaside and beaches. South Downs Way / walkers are the typical receptors viewing the seascape from within the SDNP.

- Seascape experience: Seascape character is typically experienced from passenger ferries, commercial fishing and recreating boating out at sea, as well as from the main coastal settlements / seafronts, including crowded beaches

(particularly in summer) where focus is on beach activities and tourist attractions (rather than on enjoyment of seascape character). Seascape is also experienced by receptors from elevated but distant positions within the SDNP where the focus is the view.

Relationship between seascape and adjacent coast

- Contribution to setting: Intervening non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the majority of the SDNP and the SCA, which reduces susceptibility to the influence of offshore elements in this seascape, compared to positions on the coastal edge of the SDNP, such as Rottindean and Telscombe, which have a more direct association as adjacent coast. SDNP is located inland, parallel to the coast, forming the backdrop to the urban areas. Heritage Coast area of the SDNP is located to the east outside the SCA but affords elevated views over the SCA towards the Rampion 2 array area from its coastline between Seaford Head and Beachy Head.

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

Magnitude of change: Medium-low

15.10.22 The Rampion 2 array area is located outside SCA 07C therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in no direct changes to the pattern of elements within the SCA. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived character of the seascape character of SCA 07C as perceived by people at sea, from the onshore coastal edges of East Sussex, between Shoreham-by-Sea and Seaford, where the maritime character of SCA 07C is integral to the associative seascape setting to the south coast shoreline, and from the coastal downs and elevated parts of the South Downs at distance in the associative seascape setting. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the seascape character primarily through views of the Rampion 2 WTGs in the adjacent offshore waters, which will extend the influence of WTGs to the south and west of Rampion 1 wind farm. The majority of the southern Rampion 2 array is located beyond Rampion 1 in the English Channel MCA 13, further offshore behind Rampion 1 when viewed from the north, where the Rampion 2 turbines will be subsumed behind the existing array and have a reduced impact compared to locations to the east of Rampion 1. The lateral spread of the WTG array will be relatively narrow in the HfoV when viewed from the east and the western Rampion 2 array will be subsumed behind Rampion 1 when viewed from the east. The magnitude of change to the perceived character of SCA 07C resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the effect **not significant (moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

15.10.23 The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape setting of the South Downs is assessed in respect to LCA A1 (Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs) and LCA A2 (Adur to Ouse Open Downs) (**Table 15-29**), which are the relevant receptors that form the central and western areas of the SDNP that experience sea views across the coastal plain and will experience changes in their seascape setting as a result of Rampion 2.

SCA 07D Worthing to Seaford Head Offshore

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.24 **Location and boundaries:** SCA 07D is defined within the eastern and offshore area of MCA 07, between Rampion 1 Wind Farm and offshore from Seaford Head **(Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The boundary of the SCA is defined between the western extent of Rampion 1 wind farm, the inshore waters of SCA 07C to the north, extending east to the transition into the South Downs Maritime MCA 08, and south to a seaward extent of up to approximately 22km from the shoreline, which is broadly consistent with the 12 nautical mile territorial limit and bathymetry of approximately 50m. The transition to the main channel shipping lanes of the English Channel MCA 13 begins at the south extent of the SCA.

Sensitivity: Medium

15.10.25 The sensitivity of the SCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be medium, reflecting that the seascape has medium value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, based on the following assessment.

Value: Medium

- **Designation**: The SCA does not form the immediate seascape setting to a designated landscape, and the nearest coastline beyond the Worthing to Seaford Head Inshore SCA 07D is almost contiguously urbanised, developed with settlements, leisure developments and harbours. The SDNP does however, lie as a backdrop to the hinterland, and occasionally extends to the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe, forming a notable ridge of downland behind the developed coastal plain and the backdrop to the SCA, which affords expansive distant views over its seascape. The value of the SCA derives particularly from its role as part of the wider seascape setting of the SDNP and the panoramic views over the seascape from the tops of the downs, the Heritage Coast to the east, and South Downs Way.

- **Aesthetic / scenic qualities**: The Offshore Brighton MCZ covers part of the SCA however these qualities are not readily appreciated visually. The elevated landform of the SDNP overlooks the SCA at distance and the seascape contributes to the special qualities of SDNP's 'breathtaking views' and 'diverse landscapes' as part of the seascape setting of the designation. Aesthetic and scenic qualities are however influenced by the extent of the largely developed intervening coastline, its heavy visitor/tourist use and the influence of Rampion 1 wind farm within this SCA, which occupies much of the western part of the SCA.

- **Perceptual qualities**: The seascape is not valued for its wildness, remoteness or tranquillity due to the nearby shipping lanes to the south, the major passenger ferries into Newhaven and the largely developed coastline beyond the inshore waters to the north. Rampion 1 wind farm occupies much of the western part of the SCA and forms a contemporary development that influences perceptual qualities and is visible from the SDNP. The tranquil landscape of the elevated downs of the SDNP is intervisible with the SCA but

separated by the contiguous south coast urban area, with the exception of small sections near Rottingdean and Telscombe, and the Heritage Coast further east (which is separated by open sea).

- **Cultural associations**: Some valued historic features are located at distance on the coast and are illustrative of the strategic defensive role of the coastline to the north. The SCA's position on the edge of the English Channel has produced a long and well-documented engagement in trade, transport and conflict.
- **Recreational and community value**: The SCA has low recreational value, generally limited to leisure sailing and very limited community values. The distant coastline to the north beyond the Worthing to Seaford Head Inshore SCA 07C is the focus for visitor activity at the coast and displays traditional 'beach resort' interest and value. The SCA may be valued as part of the distant seascape setting of the SDNP, often experienced in panoramic views from the South Downs Way within the SDNP.
- **Rarity**: The SCA forms the transition between the English Channel and the inshore waters of Sussex Bay, being representative of the offshore waters that are influenced by both the major shipping lanes to the south, offshore WTGs and distant urban/seaside resort development along the coastal edge.

Susceptibility: Medium

Natural

- Coastal edge: Offshore waters with no adjacent coastal edge, which is beyond the inshore waters over 13.5km to the north and has a diminished influence. Coastline consists of wide shallow gently curving bay with shingle beaches to the west, some small estuaries and chalk cliffs to the east. Long shingle beaches serve as the focal point for popular seaside resorts such as Brighton. Coastline of the SCA is almost entirely developed, with occasional gaps at coastal downs such as Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs, which are within the SDNP.
- Hinterland: Hinterland has a diminished influence due to distance beyond the inshore waters and south coast urban area but consists of extensive urban development and settlement across the coastal edge, giving way to the elevated backdrop of the SDNP located inland to the north, with the open downland and occasional coastal downs providing a rural backcloth to the settlements.
- Tidal regime: Strong tidal currents sweep around the headland of Beachy Head, whilst areas within Sussex Bay are more sheltered from the prevailing south-westerly waves.

Cultural / social

- Use of the sea: Small recreational craft and fishing boats are the main sea users, with cross channel ferries from Newhaven–Dieppe and larger freight from the small ports. Major shipping lanes to the south within the English Channel (MCA 13).
- Use of the coast / hinterland: Coast / hinterland has a diminished influence due to distance beyond the inshore waters, however coastal edge is almost entirely developed including coastal resort at Brighton and towns at Saltdean,

Peacehaven and Seaford. Major commercial port at Newhaven and main recreational yachting at Brighton Marina to the north. SDNP forms backdrop to the urban coast in its hinterland to the west and extends close to the coast to the east at Rottingdean and Telscombe cliffs, used primarily for agriculture and recreation with routes such as the South Downs Way.

- Historic features on coast: As a target for invasion there are many small forts and gun batteries including from the Napoleonic period. Cultural associations with the coastal resorts as part of their setting and views, shipping linking UK ports with English Channel and beyond. SCA's position on the Channel coast has produced a long and well-documented engagement in trade, transport and conflict.

Quality / condition

- Intactness: Seascape with shipping influences, major passenger ferries, fishing and leisure boats. Presence of distant detractors along developed coast to north and shipping from ports. Rampion 1 wind farm occupies much of the western part of the SCA and is a key characteristic in this western area.
- State of repair: N/A, located entirely offshore, no built features / elements.

Aesthetic and perceptual

- Scale: Large scale, expansive and open sense of space. The sea feels large scale with panoramic views.
- Openness and enclosure: Very open away from the coast. Part of expansive Sussex Bay, with offshore waters partially framed by the headlands of Beachy Head (beyond the SCA to the east). Openness is a key characteristic with generally open views across sea, partially interrupted by Rampion 1 wind farm to the west.
- Exposure: Highly exposed open sea, but seascape does not provide a perception of elemental or wild seascape character due to presence of developed coastline to north, shipping and Rampion 1 wind farm located within the western part of the SCA.
- Aspect: South facing, with potential for WTGs in this SCA to be viewed primarily while looking into the sun from the coast/hinterland, with the sun as the backdrop. Wind farm array area is located away from sunrise position but may be viewed towards sunsets in views from the east. Viewed from both low-lying coast with views curtailed by horizon and more distant elevated downs of SDNP that have an aspect over the seascape.
- Seascape pattern and foci: Prominent vertical elements of Rampion 1 WTGs are located within the western part of the SCA and form a key characteristic with a regular pattern with WTGs forming a focal point in views. Water based recreation, passenger ferries and commercial shipping provide dynamic influence and foci. Generally low-rise developed coast, SDNP high downland inland backdrop. Limited landmarks, including piers, tall buildings and the i360 tower in Brighton (162m high). White chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters form the main natural focus point in sea to land views to the east / north east.
- Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness: Large-scale shipping influences, the urbanised coast, ports and recreational pressure, combine to reduce the

perceptual qualities. The coastline and hinterland to the north of the SCA is largely developed, with linear urban coastal seaside towns stretching along most of its length, which are relatively easily accessible from the densely populated south-east of England. Seafront development and the Brighton pier at add lights and colour, and activity out to sea and recreational boats and vessels also animate the seascape. The rotor blades of Rampion 1 are dynamic and form moving elements within the SCA. The relatively tranquil and unspoilt landscape of the Heritage Coast is located outside the SCA to the east and the tops of the South Downs are intervisible with, and connected to, the character of the sea beyond the SCA to the east.

Visual characteristics

- Key views: Views from sea to sea across the offshore waters, including to Rampion 1 wind farm to the west, and to major shipping lanes to the south. Views from sea to land from passenger ferries approaching the UK from France with views of the white cliffs to the east, and to the backdrop of the South Downs beyond the south coast urban area. Views seaward from the coastline extend largely uninterrupted to the horizon, with shipping traffic in the backdrop to the SCA and Rampion 1 wind farm partially interrupts views to the horizon to the west. There are long distance *'stunning, panoramic views to the sea'* from the elevated landform of the South Downs, from the coastal downs at Rottingdean and Telscombe, from inland areas of the high tops of the Downs, and from the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP to the east, between Seaford Head and Beachy Head, which are a key characteristic and special quality of the SDNP and the seascape of the SCA forms part of the wider offshore seascape setting of the central and eastern parts of the SDNP.
- Intervisibility and associations: SCA is physically separated from the SDNP with intervening south coast urban area and seascape to the east, as well as SCA 07C, but elevated sea views from the South Downs afford associated seascape character context through intervisibility.
- Typical receptors: There are very few receptors within the offshore waters of the SCA, consisting of commercial fishing, passenger ferries and some recreational boating. Outside the SCA, residents of the settlements along the south coast urban area and visitors to the seaside along this coastline may experience perceived changes in character through offshore WTG development within this SCA. Visual receptors engaged in recreation along the tops of the South Downs and its coastal edges experience intermittent and long-distance views from the largely undeveloped downland, across the intervening developed coastal edge, to the seascape beyond.
- Seascape experience: Seascape character is typically experienced from passenger ferries, commercial fishing and some recreational boating out at sea, as well as from the main coastal settlements/seafronts, including crowded beaches (particularly in summer) where focus is on beach activities and tourist attractions (rather than on enjoyment of seascape character). Seascape is also experienced by receptors from elevated but distant positions within the SDNP where the focus is the view, with the sea views being a particular focus from the coastal downs at Rottingdean and Telscombe to the north, and from the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP to the north-east.

Relationship between seascape and adjacent coast

- Contribution to setting: Intervening inshore waters separate the SCA from the coast and hinterland, with no immediately adjacent coast. Non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the SCA and the majority of the SDNP to the north, which reduces susceptibility to the influence of offshore elements in this seascape, compared to parts of the SDNP with a coastal edge, such as areas of coastal downs at Rottingdean, Telscombe and the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP to the north-east.

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

Magnitude of change: Medium-low

15.10.26 The southern part of the Rampion 2 array area is located partially within SCA 07D therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in direct changes to the pattern of elements and characteristics of part of SCA 07D. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived character of the seascape character of SCA 07D as perceived by people at sea, from the onshore coastal edges of East Sussex, between Shoreham-by-Sea and Seaford, where the maritime character of SCA 07C is integral to the associative seascape setting to the south coast shoreline, and from the coastal downs and elevated parts of the South Downs at distance in the associative seascape setting. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the seascape character primarily through the introduction of the WTGs of the southern Rampion 2 array within SCA 07D, which will extend the influence of WTGs to the south of Rampion 1 wind farm (which is also within this SCA), further offshore. The southern Rampion 2 array is partially located within SCA 07D however the majority of the array is located outside the SCA in the adjacent English Channel MCA 13. There will however be a clear separation zone between the Rampion 1 and 2 arrays, ensuring that Rampion 2 will form a distinct and separate array when viewed from the east, and lateral spread of the WTG array will be relatively narrow in the HFoV. The additional spread and larger scale of the Rampion 2 WTGs will be such that offshore WTGs will have an increased influence as a key characteristic of SCA 07D. Rampion 2 is however located behind Rampion 1 and subsumed behind it when viewed from the western parts of the coastline. This is considered to be the least sensitive part of the SCA as it is further offshore and is within the most distant part of the SCA from the SDNP (located 18km from the closest point and 24km from Seaford Head) and is located behind Rampion 1 when viewed from the north, where the R2 turbines are subsumed behind the existing array and have a reduced impact compared to locations to the east of Rampion 1. The magnitude of change to the perceived character of SCA 07D resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the effect **not significant (moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

15.10.27 The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape setting of the South Downs is assessed in respect to LCA A1 (Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs) and LCA A2 (Adur to Ouse Open Downs) (**Table 15-29**), which are the relevant receptors that form the central and western areas of the SDNP that experience sea views across the coastal plain and will experience changes in their seascape setting as a result of Rampion 2.

MCA 08 South Downs Maritime

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.28 **Location and boundaries:** SCA 08A is defined as per the boundaries of the national Marine Character Area (MCA 08). It is coincident with the area of coastline defined as the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP, along the distinctive white cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head between Seaford and Eastbourne and is the maritime extent of the SDNP (recognising that the SDNP also contains sea views from inland areas to the west as well (across SCA 07A-D). The transitional boundaries of the SCA are formed in the west by the point of Seaford Head, the headland separating SCA 07C, and by the extent of the cliff line of Beachy Head in the east. The southernmost boundary of the MCA is broadly consistent with the boundary of the South Inshore Marine Plan Area and follows the line of the inshore traffic zone. It extends to a maximum of approximately 20km offshore.

Sensitivity: High

15.10.29 The sensitivity of the SCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be high, reflecting that the seascape has high value and its perceived character has a high susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, based on the following assessment.

Value: High

- **Designation**: The SCA forms the maritime extent of the SDNP. The coastline and nearshore waters are coincident with the Sussex Heritage Coast. The zone forms the seascape in the direct view south out to sea from the SDNP coastline and Sussex Heritage Coast and contributes to the setting of these designations.
- **Aesthetic / scenic qualities**: The SDNP and Heritage Coast directly overlook the SCA. Special quality of *'Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views*' is experienced from the elevated and undulating landform of coastal downs, which enables panoramic views including long views along the coastline and out to sea. This is also a tranquil and unspoilt landscape and coast, with a windswept character complemented and reinforced by the character of the sea. Rampion 1 is visible to the west and there is some sea traffic offshore in the English Channel.
- **Perceptual qualities**: Important undeveloped section of coastline within the largely developed south coast. Strong sense of tranquillity and undeveloped seascape associated with the maritime component of the SDNP. In panoramic views from Beachy Head and the South Downs Way, it is possible to experience the grandeur of the white cliffs and their elemental qualities, wind, seabirds, changing colours and dynamics of the sea and a strong sense of wildness and remoteness. Coastline includes the undeveloped Cuckmere Haven estuary and beach which, while much visited, retains a tranquil character. Birling Gap and Beachy Head are particularly popular with visitors and on busy days there is potential for the perceptual qualities to be influenced by high visitor numbers, parked cars and tourist buses.

- **Cultural associations**: Long history of shipwrecks, located in a narrow section of the English Channel and near to one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The most prominent human features of the MCA are its two distinctive lighthouses: the Belle Tout on top of Beachy Head and the red and white lighthouse at the bottom of the cliff. Seaford Head and Belle Tout hillforts, barrows (e.g. Crowlink) – strong relationship with the sea.
- **Recreational and community value**: Cliffs of great importance for geomorphological features including chalk caves, stratigraphy and dry valley at Birling Gap. The area is popular with visitors using the beaches at Cuckmere, and recreational craft sailing – although there are limited launching facilities from the cliff edge. Popular recreational activities include bird watching, hang-gliding, walking on the South Downs Way, visitors to the Seven Sisters Country Park – all against the backdrop of the sea. The cliffs also have a long association with climbing.
- **Rarity**: SCA includes many rare features, including chalk subtidal and intertidal habitats, cliff geology, geomorphology and diverse inshore habitats. The sheer white cliffs are iconic symbols of the coastline of the south-east. Birling Gap is a near-complete cross section of a dry valley, whilst Cuckmere Haven is a rare undeveloped estuary.

Susceptibility: High

Natural

- Coastal edge: The MCA is characterised by chalk bedrock which is exposed in the distinctive, steep cliffs on the coastline. Gently curving coast with headlands, sheer chalk cliffs forming the distinctive Seven Sisters and headland at Beachy Head interspersed with valleys at Cuckmere Haven and Birling Gap. A Wave-cut chalk platform extending from Beachy Head to Cuckmere Haven, cut by narrow gullies which run perpendicular to the coast.
- Hinterland: Large-scale open elevated rolling chalk downland interspersed with flat bottomed Cuckmere valley. Birling Gap is a near-complete cross section of a dry valley, whilst Cuckhaven Estuary is a rare undeveloped estuary.
- Tidal regime: Strong tides race around Beachy Head which has been the site of many shipwrecks over the years, partly as a result of the large volumes of maritime traffic using the English Channel. The sheer vertical cliffs result in a relatively small intertidal area with shingle beaches present at Seaford, Cuckmere Haven and Birling Gap. Deep water with significant currents and dramatic tidal swells and overfalls create rough seas and a high turbidity of water.

Cultural / social

- Use of the sea: Dangerous coastal waters and proximity to the Channel's shipping lanes have left numerous shipwrecks in the area. Inshore and offshore fishing includes crustacean fishing and bass. Recreational sailing; Newhaven-Dieppe ferry route; English Channel traffic separation scheme and northern deep water channel to the south. Rampion 1 windfarm visible to the west; aggregate extraction to the far south east. Recreational fishing and recreational craft sailing.

- Use of the coast / hinterland: The area is popular with visitors using the beaches at Cuckmere and Birling Gap and the cliff tops of the South Downs, including Beachy Head, Seven Sisters and Seaford Head. Predominantly undeveloped, rural farmed chalk downland with countryside recreation/access and rural valley floodplain / marshes and steep valley sides; golf course to the west.
- Historic features on coast: A coastline rich in iconic landmarks, including the Belle Tout lighthouse on the cliffs of Beachy Head, and red and white lighthouse at the foot of the cliffs. Also range of military sites from Napoleonic batteries through to Second World War pillboxes. Association with battles (Beachy Head); offshore there is sea traffic related to English Channel; artistic associations of the area include Kipling who wrote about the influence of the sea in his poem 'Sussex', Virginia Wolf and painter Vanessa Bell. Beachy Head features in the Romantic movement in the arts.

Quality / condition

- Intactness: Seascape intact with very few detractors. The developed coast is visible to the west and east of Beachy Head, but only featuring relatively small structures. Rampion 1 is visible in good visibility to the west / south-west approximately 22.8km from the closest point of the Heritage Coast at Seaford Head and 31.8km from Beachy Head. Shipping is visible offshore.
- State of repair: The condition of the coast is good with natural features intact although subject to natural processes including sea level rise and continuing erosion of the cliffs by sea waves resulting in a receding and changing coastline. Slabs of chalk frequently fracture and fall away and as the lower cliff material is worn by the waves, with the cliffs above undermined until they eventually collapse.

Aesthetic and perceptual

- Scale: Large scale, open elevated rolling chalk download, with large scale seascape and panoramic views. The steep white cliffs at Beachy Head and Seven Sisters are of large scale.
- Openness and enclosure: Openness is a key characteristic of the coast and downs with generally open views out to sea with some framing by valley sides. Localised pockets with greater degree of enclosure at Birling Gap and the estuary of Cuckmere Haven.
- Exposure: Exposed, eroding coast. Chalk bedrock is exposed in the distinctive, steep cliffs of the coastline. Strong sense of exposure to the elements experienced from the high cliffs.
- Aspect: South and south-east facing with potential for turbines to be viewed into the sun to the south-west in the afternoon and sunsets to the west in the evening. Development often seen from higher level on clifftops, but also from lower elevation on the bottom of the cliffs and the beach at Cuckmere Haven.
- Seascape pattern and foci: Some inshore sailing and fishing. English Channel traffic visible to the south offshore; Rampion 1 windfarm visible to the west south west outside area. Generally simple coast and high downland hinterland with few elements but dominated by natural features including highly distinctive and spectacular undulating chalk cliffs with very few man-made landmarks-

notably Belle Tout lighthouse and Beachy Head lighthouse. Open, unspoilt views offshore although Rampion 1 to the west.

- Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness: Important undeveloped section of coastline within the largely developed south coast. Strong sense of tranquillity and undeveloped seascape associated with the SDNP. In panoramic views from Beachy Head and the South Downs Way, it is possible to experience the grandeur of the white cliffs and their elemental qualities, wind, seabirds, changing colours and dynamics of the sea and a strong sense of wildness and remoteness. Includes the undeveloped Cuckmere Haven estuary and dry valley of Birling Gap, which retain a tranquil character, although this is under pressure due to high visitor numbers and parked cars.

Visual characteristics

- Key views: Views between land and sea are particularly important, especially from panoramic viewpoints on the chalk cliffs of the South Downs. Land to sea views seen in the context of the iconic undulating chalk cliff coast; elevated cliff views from Beachy Head, Seven Sisters and associated scheduled monuments including hillforts; lower views from Birling Gap, Cuckmere Haven and beaches; almost continuous views from South Downs Way and England Coast Path; inland view from South Downs Way e.g. Firle Beacon. Sea to land views from leisure sailors towards iconic chalk cliffs of Beachy Head (around 160m AOD), Seven Sisters (around 60m AOD) and the backcloth of the South Downs (c. 200m AOD). Beachy Head is a popular landmark, providing extensive elevated views out to sea to an uninterrupted horizon.

- Intervisibility and associations: All of the coast is accessible and directly facing the sea with a direct relationship with the SCA. The SCA is integral to the character of the coast all lying within the limits of visual perception. Sea views are a key part of the experience, providing a resource by which people engage with the seascape character. The SDNP has no coastal boundary and extends into the MCA, with the sea being an integral part of its character. One of the special qualities of the South Downs National Park is its *'stunning panoramic views to the sea…. Culminating in the impressive chalk cliffs at Seven Sisters'.*

- Typical receptors: Users of coast within National Park and Heritage Coast; South Downs Way and England Coast Path users; visitors to beaches; leisure sailing from Brighton Marina, Newhaven, Eastbourne and various other harbours outside the zone. South Downs National Trail runs along the cliffs; sea views are a key part of the experience of this route and integral to the special qualities of the National Park.

- Seascape experience: Seascape character is typically experienced from commercial fishing and some recreating boating out at sea, as well as from the South Downs Way along the cliff tops, and 'honeypot' visitor locations at Beachy Head (a 'specific viewpoint'), Birling Gap and Cuckmere Haven, where focus is on enjoyment of the views and seascape character.

Relationship between seascape and adjacent coast

- Contribution to setting: The SCA is integral to the character of the coast all lying within the limits of visual perception. Sea views are a key part of the experience, providing a resource by which people engage with the seascape character. The SDNP has no coastal boundary and extends into the MCA, with

the sea being an integral part of its character. One of the special qualities of the South Downs National Park is its *'stunning panoramic views to the sea…. Culminating in the impressive chalk cliffs at Seven Sisters'.*

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

Magnitude of change: Medium to Medium-low

15.10.30 The wind farm array area is located approximately 10.9km outside SCA 08 from the closest parts of its offshore boundary, therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in no direct changes to seascape characteristics within SCA 08A.

15.10.31 The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived character of the seascape character of SCA 08A as perceived by people in panoramic sea views from the onshore coastal edges of the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast in particular, where the maritime character of SCA 08 forms part of the associative seascape setting where most people will experience the seascape.

15.10.32 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the seascape character perceived from this coastal edge of the MCA, with the most prominent association relating to the 12km coastal edge of the MCA between Seaford and Beachy Head, from which Rampion 2 will increase the influence of the wind farm element viewed in the adjacent Worthing to Seaford Head Offshore Waters SCA 07D, which forms the seascape backdrop to the west of SCA 08A, through an extension in the lateral spread, scale and influence of WTGs from Rampion 1 southwards.

15.10.33 The magnitude of change to the perceived character of the MCA experienced from this 12km coastal edge of the MCA resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as ranging from **medium-low** between Beachy Head and Birling Gap, to **medium** between Seven Sisters and at Seaford Head, with increasing proximity to Rampion 2 moving eastwards along the SCA coastline; and the effect is assessed as **Significant (Moderate** to **Major / moderate)**, indirect, long-term and reversible. In views from the eastern part of the Heritage Coast, there will be a separation zone between the Rampion 1 and 2 arrays, ensuring that Rampion 2 will form a distinct and separate array when viewed from the east, and lateral spread of the WTG array will be relatively narrow in the HfoV.

15.10.34 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in some **Significant** residual effects to the perceived scenic qualities of the seascape experienced in offshore panoramic views primarily from the immediate chalk coastline of the MCA, as a result of its influence within the associated seascape setting of this coast within the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast.

MCA 13 English Channel

Sensitivity to Change

15.10.35 **Location and boundaries:** MCA13 covers the central English Channel. The western boundary reflects the transition between the eastern and western English

Channel marked by the Isle of Wight. The inshore boundary follows the line of bathymetry approximately 20 kilometres offshore. The outer boundaries are formed by the edge of the offshore Marine Plan Area and territorial limits, reaching a maximum of approximately 74 km from the coast. The eastern boundary is marked by the point off Beachy Head where the Dover Strait begins.

Sensitivity: Medium-low

15.10.36 The sensitivity of the SCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is considered to be medium-low, reflecting that the seascape has medium-low value and its perceived character has a medium-low susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, based on the following assessment.

Value: Medium-low

- **Designation**: Although not immediately adjacent to the MCA, the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast includes land with views out towards this part of the English Channel. The MCA's value lies mainly in its role as part of the wider, distant seascape setting of the combined SDNP/Heritage Coast and the views from scheduled monuments and South Downs Way. Areas of high marine biodiversity associated with the offshore 'overfalls' and areas of deeper water.
- **Aesthetic / scenic qualities**: Busy shipping channel which supports heavy sea traffic as well as the passenger ferry between Newhaven and Dieppe. Much of the MCA remains in military use as Firing Practice Areas.
- **Perceptual qualities**: Busy, dynamic area defined by transport movement, regularly used by over 400 commercial vessels per day, and regular cross channel traffic between Newhaven and Dieppe.
- **Cultural associations**: Seabed contains wrecks which reflect battle history from the World Wars. Rich geomorphological history which has been used as the basis of our understanding of the English Channel. Strategic area for trade and military routes both along and across the Channel since at least the medieval period.
- **Recreational and community value**: Very limited recreational and community value.
- **Rarity**: Although many aspects of its geomorphology, tides, use of the sea and cultural history are particularly unique to the English Channel, the character of the seascape itself as a vast expanse of open sea with heavy shipping traffic is common.

Susceptibility: Medium-low

Natural

- Coastal edge: This MCA does not include an adjacent coastline. The distant coastline outside the MCA is gently curving coast with headlands, inside the SDNP with sheer chalk cliffs forming the distinctive Seven Sisters and headland at Beachy Head; and outside the SDNP shingle beaches with extensively developed urban coastline.
- Hinterland: This MCA does not include an adjacent hinterland. The distant hinterland outside the MCA is beyond the offshore and inshore waters between Selsey Bill and Beachy Head, and is extensively developed in central and

western areas, backed by large-scale open elevated rolling chalk downland and chalk cliffs to the east.

- Tidal regime: Complex tidal currents meeting from the western English Channel and the North Sea. Strong tides and the funnelling influence of the nearby Dover Strait (MCA 12) can give rise to relatively rough seas.

Cultural/social

- Use of the sea: One of the busiest shipping channels in the world, with high volumes of large commercial freight / cargo vessels and tankers, as well as the passenger ferry between Newhaven and Dieppe. Maritime traffic follows a one-way system, separated by a central traffic separation zone. Extensive dredging of seafloor gravels in the east of the MCA provides aggregates for the construction industry. Important commercial and offshore recreational fishing grounds heavily used by British, Belgian, Dutch and French trawling, potting and netting fleet.
- Use of the coast / hinterland: This MCA does not include an adjacent coastline / hinterland.
- Historic features on coast: This MCA does not include an adjacent coastline.

Quality/condition

- Intactness: Seascape intact but crossed by busy shipping lanes and approaches. Rampion 1 wind farm is located just outside the northern boundary of the MCA.
- State of repair: N/A.

Aesthetic and perceptual

- Scale: Large scale open sea. Broad east to west channel forming the central part of the wider English Channel (which stretches into French territorial waters).
- Openness and enclosure: Very open away from the coast.
- Exposure: Highly exposed open sea. Weather conditions subject to rapid change. Strong tides and the narrow topography can give rise to rough seas. Visibility is often poor, changing quickly to dense fog, even in strong or gale-force winds which can last for several days.
- Aspect: Potential for WTGs in this MCA to be viewed into the sun to the south during the large part of the day from receptors to the north.
- Seascape pattern and foci: Rampion 1 wind farm visible to the north outside area. High volumes of large commercial freight / cargo vessels and tankers, as well as the passenger ferry between Newhaven and Dieppe. Commercial fishing and dredging.
- Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness: Perceptions of the area are strongly influenced by sea and weather conditions – with visibility often poor and fog lasting for consecutive days, evoking a strong sense of remoteness despite the presence of dense marine traffic.

Visual characteristics

- Key views: The zone lies on the limits of visual perception from the SDNP / Heritage Coast and beyond to the south/south west. There are occasional views of maritime traffic on the horizon from the Sussex coast, where the westbound shipping lane is as near as 17km offshore at Beachy Head. Views towards to the MCA from the coast are predominantly to a wide uninterrupted horizon.
- Intervisibility and associations: The majority of this MCA is not visible from land. The MCA is located 12km from the SDNP at its closest point (at Beachy Head), 22km from the coastal cliffs of the SDNP at Rottingdean and 25km from the central areas of the SDNP to the north. Areas of land with views of this MCA are mainly restricted to within 5km of the coastal edge, including parts of Angmering, north Worthing, North Lancing, the northern edge of Shorham by Sea, Brighton, Saltdean, and between Firle Beacon, Seaford Head and Beachy Head (including sections of the Sussex Heritage Coast). The high point at Cissbury Ring also has good views of this MCA. Views seen in the context of the iconic undulating chalk cliff coast; elevated cliff views from Beachy Head, Seven Sisters and associated scheduled monuments including hillforts. Visibility from all areas of land to sea is however likely to be heavily influenced by atmospheric conditions, given that the MCA is located more than 20km offshore.
- Typical receptors: Users of coast within National Park and Heritage Coast. South Downs Way, Monarch's Way and England Coast Path users, visitors to beaches. Leisure sailing from Brighton Marina, Newhaven, Eastbourne and various other harbours outside the zone. Newhaven and Portsmouth ferry users.
- Seascape experience: The susceptibility of MCA13 lies mainly in the panoramic views from the SDNP coastline and the sense of remoteness of the sea, complementing the SDNP/Heritage Coast, which relate to the SDNP's special qualities. The receptor is however extensively modified and susceptibility is reduced by the distance of the MCA offshore, which means that most developments would be perceived as small and would be visible/perceptible infrequently.

Relationship between seascape and adjacent coast

- Contribution to setting: All of the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP is accessible and directly facing the sea with a relationship with the MCA but at a distance. The MCA is also visible at a distance from the elevated inland part of the SDNP.

Magnitude of change and significance of residual effects

Magnitude of change: Medium-low

15.10.37 The majority of WTGs within the southern part of the Rampion 2 array area are located within MCA 13 therefore the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in direct changes to the pattern of elements and characteristics of part of this MCA. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived character of the seascape character of MCA13 as perceived by people at sea, from the distant onshore coastal edges of East Sussex, between

Shoreham-by-Sea and Seaford, and from the coastal downs and elevated parts of the SDNP / Heritage Coast, at long distance where the maritime character of MCA13 is part of the associative seascape setting. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the seascape character primarily through the introduction of the WTGs of the southern Rampion 2 array within MCA13, which will extend the influence of WTGs to the south of Rampion 1 wind farm, further offshore. When viewed at distance from Heritage Coast area of the SDNP, there will be a separation zone between the Rampion 1 and 2 arrays, ensuring that Rampion 2 will form a distinct and separate array when viewed from the east, and lateral spread of the WTG array will be relatively narrow in the HfoV. The southern Rampion 2 array is also located behind Rampion 1 and subsumed behind it when viewed from the central and northern areas of the SDNP and south coast urban area, and have a reduced impact compared to locations to the east of Rampion 1. The magnitude of change to the perceived character of MCA13 resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the effect **not significant (minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

15.10.38 The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape setting of the South Downs is assessed in respect to LCA A1 (Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs) and LCA A2 (Adur to Ouse Open Downs), which are the relevant receptors that form the central and western areas of the SDNP that experience sea views across the coastal plain and will experience changes in their seascape setting as a result of Rampion 2.

Effects on South Downs National Park (SDNP)

Residual effects on Landscape Character

15.10.39 An assessment of the likely significant effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the landscape character of LCAs within the SDNP is set out in **Table 15-29**. These LCAs within the SDNP are highlighted in **Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) are mapped at detailed scale with the ZTV in **Figure 15.19, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

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Table 15-29 Assessment of SDNP Landscape Character

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
A1. Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs	**Sensitivity: High**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high, reflecting that the landscape has **high** value and its perceived character has a high susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. **Value:** The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming a key part of the designated landscape of the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast, the high scenic quality / distinctiveness of the landscape, particularly the chalk coastline and its rarity in forming the main LCA within the SDNP that meets the sea. It also has high recreational value and strong cultural associations, particularly along the Heritage Coast, with a strong sense of the perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness across the downlands. **Susceptibility:** The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with	**Magnitude of change:** The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as rolling chalk downland, its geology / dramatic undulating cliff line, large open skies, land use, field pattern, habitats, settlement pattern and presence of ancient earthworks, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of these open downs. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character, notably its *'sense of remoteness and tranquillity'*, and *'connections with the seascape'* as a	**Significant (Major/Moderate)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived seascape setting (connection with the seascape), experienced in panoramic views out to sea from the coastal downs between Seaford Head and Seven Sisters (within the closest parts of the Sussex Heritage Coast). The Rampion 2 WTGs are likely to effect connections with the seascape in panoramic views through the introduction of further man-made features and may effect views from this area due to their spread, apparent size and visual movement of the rotor blades. The effect of Rampion 2 is assessed as decreasing to **Not Significant (Moderate)** on perceived seascape setting in panoramic views from the coastal downs between Birling Gap and Beachy Head, where the effect of Rampion 2 reduces with distance, its narrower field of view and relative balance in apparent scale and spread; and from the open downs between the

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally from its open uninterrupted skylines and exposed undeveloped character, potential for changes to its perceptual qualities (tranquillity and remoteness) and the elevated / open landform which permits long views over its associate seascape context to the south, such that is visually susceptible to changes in the wider seascape setting. Some factors reduce sensitivity including the high visitor pressure (including car parking, signage, facilities) which reduces perceived tranquillity and remoteness in areas, the intervening urban coastal development influences on the downs between the Ouse and Cuckmere valley, the large scale and expansiveness of the seascape, and the presence of the Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context outside the LCA.	result of further WTG development influence in its distant panoramic views. These are particularly notable in the seascape views from coastal cliffs, where the LCA meets the sea in the east, and in views from the crest of the northern escarpment. The distant panoramic views out to sea from the downs of the LCA and its coastal edge will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. In particular, these changes occur from the coastal downs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head, where there is a direct association with the seascape and the magnitude of change is assessed as being **medium** from the closest parts of the LCA near Seaford Head (23.3km) and Seven Sisters (26.6km), where it may affect distant panoramic views through an increased wind farm development influence in the seascape context experienced in the panoramic views from the coastal cliffs. The magnitude of change is assessed	Cuckmere and Ouse valleys, where influence on the panoramic views is diminished by the combination of the distance of Rampion 2 array area from the LCA and the apparent influence of human activity, man-made features and development in the intervening south coast urban area. The effect on connections with the seascape experienced in panoramic views is assessed as reducing further to **Not Significant (Moderate/minor)** from the downs further inland to the north of the A259 between Eastbourne and Cuckmere Valley. The effect of Rampion 2 on the sense of remoteness and tranquillity experienced from LCA A1 is assessed as **Not Significant,** as assessed further for SDNP Special Quality 3 ‘tranquil and unspoilt places’ in **Table 15-32**. **Not Significant (none)** effect on the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA and the majority of key characteristics of the LCA. In overall terms, Rampion 2 will not change the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
		as reducing to **medium-low** magnitude with increasing distance eastwards towards Birling Gap (28.8km) and Beachy Head (32.1km), where the influence of Rampion 2 reduces with distance and the southern Rampion 2 array will be clearly distinct from Rampion 1, with a narrow additional lateral spread and a relative balance in apparent scale and spread. This magnitude of change is assessed as dropping to **low** from the downs further inland to the north of the A259 between Eastbourne and Cuckmere Valley, which are at greater distance and have larger areas of forestry screening, which limit perceived changes in character and where the spread and influence of the proposed WTGs in sea views is more limited in lateral extent. In all areas of the LCA, the characteristic large open skies, dramatic and dynamic landscape of the open downs will prevail. The magnitude of change resulting from Rampion 2 on the sense of remoteness and tranquillity experienced from LCA A1 is assessed as **medium-low**, as assessed further for SDNP Special	are critical to its distinctive character and its effects will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character (panoramic views) and connections with the seascape, such that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to its distinctive character remain unaffected.

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
		Quality 3 'tranquil and unspoilt places' in **Table 15-32**.	
A2. Adur to Ouse Open Downs	**Sensitivity: Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the landscape has **high** value and its perceived character has a **medium-high** susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. **Value:** The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming a key part of the designated landscape of the SDNP, the high scenic quality/distinctiveness of the landscape, particularly the open rolling upland of the chalk downs and the rarity of small areas of open coastal downs forming further parts the SDNP coastline amongst the largely urban coast. It also has high recreational value, strong cultural associations with the setting for Neolithic sites and Iron Age hillforts, and sense of the perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness across the elevated inland downs.	**Magnitude of change:** The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as rolling chalk landscape of blunt, whale-backed downs, large open skies, its dry valley systems, geology, land use, field pattern, habitats, settlement pattern and presence of ancient earthworks, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of these open downs. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of character, notably its connections with the seascape, as a result of further offshore WTG development influence in	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived seascape setting experienced in panoramic views out to sea from two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs, with **not significant** effects arising on tranquillity and remoteness which are limited in these areas of the LCA due their close proximity to the south coast urban area. **Significant (Moderate)** effect on the perceived seascape setting of the rolling chalk landscape of whale backed downs inland of Brighton and Hove and Shoreham, experienced in panoramic views from the open rolling upland downs between Hollingbury, Ditchling Beacon, Devil's Dyke and the Adur Valley. The influence of Rampion 2 on the sense of remoteness and tranquillity of these areas of open downs is **not significant** as it is diminished by the combination of the distance of Rampion 2 array area from

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	Susceptibility: The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally from its open, exposed character deriving from its elevated/open landform, which allows long views over its associate seascape context to the south, such that is visually susceptible to changes in the wider seascape setting outside its area. Some factors reduce sensitivity including its strong associations with the Weald landscape inland to the north, the high visitor pressure (including car parking, signage, facilities) which reduces perceived tranquillity and remoteness in areas, the intervening non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the LCA and the sea, the large/expansive scale of the wide seascape, and the presence of the Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context outside the LCA.	its distant panoramic views. The distant panoramic views out to sea from the downs of the LCA will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. In particular, these changes to panoramic views occur from the two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean (18.7km from Rampion 2 array area) and Telscombe Cliffs (19.0km from Rampion 2 array area), where there is a direct association with the seascape and the magnitude of change to the panoramic views is assessed as being **medium-high**. These changes are limited to the visual aspects of character (panoramic views) and connections with the seascape setting of the open rolling coastal downs, however these areas have a limited sense of tranquillity and lack a sense of remoteness due their close proximity to the south coast urban area. The magnitude of change to the sense of remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA is assessed as	the LCA and the apparent influence of human activity, man-made features and development in the intervening south coast urban area which occur between the LCA and Rampion 2 array area. The presence of the existing Rampion 1 wind farm is also such that the offshore areas of seascape are not undeveloped. This is assessed further for SDNP Special Quality 3 ‘tranquil and unspoilt places’ in **Table 15-32**. **Not Significant (Minor)** from the furrowed extensive branching dry valley systems where there is limited visibility of Rampion 2 and limited effects on perceived character and remoteness. **Not Significant (none)** effect on the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. In overall terms, Rampion 2 will not change the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that are critical to its distinctive character and its effects will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character (panoramic views) and connections with the seascape, such

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
		medium-low (as assessed further for SDNP Special Quality 3 'tranquil and unspoilt places' in **Table 15-32**). The magnitude of change to the visual aspects of character (panoramic views) is assessed **medium** magnitude from the tops of the open rolling upland downs inland of Brighton and Hove and Shoreham, between Hollingbury, Ditchling Beacon, Devil's Dyke and the Adur Valley, where Rampion 2 will increase the WTG developed seascape element in panoramic views from the tops of the downs, however is at increased distance, typically experiencing the sea within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the LCA and the sea. **Negligible** change occurs from the furrowed extensive branching dry valley systems which produce deep, narrow, rounded coombes that contain visibility and limit perceived changes in character and the perceived remoteness of these areas. In all areas of the LCA, the characteristic large open skies, dramatic and dynamic	that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to its distinctive character remain unaffected.

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
		landscape of the open downs will prevail.	
A3. Arun to Adur Open Downs	**Sensitivity: Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the landscape has high value and its perceived character has a medium-high susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. **Value:** The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming a key part of the designated landscape of the SDNP, the high scenic quality/distinctiveness of the landscape, particularly the open rolling upland of the chalk downs. It also has high recreational value, strong cultural associations with the setting for Neolithic sites and Iron Age hillforts, and sense of the perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness across the elevated inland downs. **Susceptibility:** The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with	**Magnitude of change:** The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as rolling chalk landscape of blunt, whales backed hills, large open skies, its dry valley systems and geology, land use, field pattern, habitats, settlement pattern and presence of ancient earthworks, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of these open downs. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character, such as the sense of remoteness and tranquillity associated with the higher reaches of	**Significant (Major)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived seascape setting experienced in extensive views over the coastal plain from the open downland to the north of Worthing (around Cissbury Ring and Highdown Hill), reducing to **Significant (Moderate)** from the more distant tops of the open downland between the Arun and Adur river valleys between Chanctonbury Ring and Chantry Hill. The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA is assessed as **Not Significant**, as these effects are diminished by the combination of the distance of the Rampion 2 array area from the LCA and the apparent influence of human activity, man-made features and development in the intervening south coast urban area and the presence of Rampion 1 wind farm forming a partially developed baseline seascape context. The Rampion 2 WTGs may influence the visual aspects of

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally from its open, exposed character deriving from its elevated/open landform, which allows long views over its associate seascape context to the south, such that is visually susceptible to changes in the wider seascape setting outside its area. Some factors reduce sensitivity including its strong associations with the Weald landscape inland to the north, the high visitor pressure (including car parking, signage, facilities) which reduces perceived tranquillity and remoteness in areas, the intervening non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the LCA and the sea, the large/expansive scale of the wide seascape, and the presence of the Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context outside the LCA.	the downs, as a result of further WTG development influence in the seascape setting in its extensive views over the coastal plain to the south. These views to the sea over the coastal plain from the higher reaches of the downs of the LCA will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. The magnitude of change to the extensive views over the coastal plain is assessed as **high** from the closest areas of the LCA's open downland to the north of Worthing in the areas around Cissbury Ring and Highdown Hill at distances between 16.5km – 20km, where the westerly spread of Rampion 2 in particular will increase the WTG developed seascape element in these extensive views over the coastal plain from the tops of the downs around Cissbury Ring and Highdown Hill. These changes are limited to the visual aspects of character (extensive views) and connections with the seascape setting,	tranquillity of the higher reaches of the LCA due to their spread, apparent size and visual movement of the rotor blades, however changes of this nature would not fundamentally remove or over-ride opportunities to experience the visual aspects of tranquillity relating to the perception of natural landscapes of the downs and its setting (woodland, grassland, downland and the sea) which will continue to prevail in its sense of tranquillity. This is assessed further for SDNP Special Quality 3 'tranquil and unspoilt places' in **Table 15-32**. **Not Significant (Moderate / Minor)** effects from the furrowed extensive branching dry valley systems (including the main Findon Valley) that limit effects on character. **Not Significant (none)** effect on the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. In overall terms, Rampion 2 will not change the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that are critical to its distinctive character and its effects will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
		however these areas have a lower sense of remoteness and tranquillity due their proximity to the south coast urban area. The magnitude of change to the sense of remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA is assessed as **medium-low** (as assessed further for SDNP Special Quality 3 'tranquil and unspoilt places' in **Table 15-32**). The magnitude of change to extensive views is assessed as reducing to **medium** from the more distant tops of the open downland between the Arun and Adur river valleys, between Chanctonbury Ring and Chantry Hill (at distances of around 23 – 26km), which are at increased distance, typically experiencing the sea within a more remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the LCA and the sea. A **low** magnitude of change will occur from the furrowed extensive branching dry valley systems (including the main Findon Valley) and their deep, narrow, rounded coombes that contain visibility and limit perceived changes in character. In all areas of the LCA, the characteristic large open	character (extensive views over the coastal plain), such that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to its distinctive character remain unaffected.

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
		skies, dramatic and dynamic landscape of the open downs will prevail.	
B1. Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland	**Sensitivity: Medium**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium, reflecting that the landscape has high value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. **Value:** The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming a key part of the designated landscape of the SDNP, the high scenic quality/distinctiveness of the ridge of chalk dominated by large woodland blocks and estates, which form some of the highest and more remote parts of the SDNP. It also has high recreational value, strong cultural associations manifesting in 18th century landed/wooded estates, and sense of the perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness, increasing with elevation of the downs to the north, and varying	**Magnitude of change:** The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as elevated wooded downland, its geology, land use, habitats, settlement pattern, presence of iron age hill forts and designed parklands, all of which will continue to define the distinct character of these wooded downs. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character, as a result of further WTG development influence in its distant panoramic views across the coastal plain from the high open ridges. The extent of woodland cover within the LCA creates an enclosed	**Not Significant (Moderate)** indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived seascape setting experienced in extensive views over the coastal plain from the high, open ridges of the downs to the south of the east–west running Lavant Valley (between Bignor Hill and the Trundle) and the lower hills to the south between Goodwood and Slindon; decreasing to **Not Significant (Minor)** over the majority of the landscape of folded downland masked and secluded by large woodland blocks that contain visibility and limit effects on perceived character. The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA is assessed as **Not Significant**, as these effects are diminished by the combination of the distance of the Rampion 2 array area from the LCA and the apparent influence of human activity, man-made features and development in the intervening south coast urban area and the presence of

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	between its enclosed woodlands to the more exposed open hill tops. **Susceptibility:** The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally from the open, exposed character of its open hill tops, although much of the LCA is densely wooded, which limits potential for perceived changes to its character. The open tops allow long views over the associate seascape context to the south, such that it has some visual susceptibility to changes in the wider seascape setting, albeit at considerable distance outside its area. Some factors reduce sensitivity including its strong associations with the landscapes inland to the north, the large areas of woodland which limit visibility and associations with the seascape/landscape outside the LCA, visitor pressure which reduces perceived tranquillity and remoteness in areas, the intervening non-designated and urbanised coastal	landscape and limits the magnitude of change to its character arising from the offshore elements of Rampion 2, as changes are restricted to the views from the open high tops of the downs. The distant panoramic views across the coastal plain from the high, open ridges will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. The magnitude of change to the seascape setting in its distant panoramic views across the coastal plain is assessed as **medium** magnitude from the high open ridges of the downs running east–west between Bignor Hill and the Trundle (at distances of around 28km) and from the lower hills to the south between Goodwood and Slindon (at distances of 25-26km), dropping to **low** over the majority of the landscape of folded downland landform masked by large woodland blocks that contain visibility and limit perceived changes in character. This LCA is at increased distance, typically experiencing the sea	Rampion 1 wind farm forming a partially developed baseline seascape context. The Rampion 2 WTGs may detract from the visual aspects of tranquillity of the higher reaches of the LCA due to their spread, apparent size and visual movement of the rotor blades, however changes of this nature would not fundamentally remove or over-ride opportunities to experience the visual aspects of tranquillity relating to the perception of natural landscapes of the downs and its setting (woodland, grassland, downland and the sea) which will continue to prevail in its sense of tranquillity. **Not Significant (none)** effect on the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. In overall terms, Rampion 2 will not change the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that are critical to its distinctive character and its effects will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character, such that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	strip between the LCA and the sea, the large/expansive scale of the wide seascape, and the presence of the Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context outside the LCA.	within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the LCA and the sea. The characteristic rural, secluded landscape and remoteness of the wooded downs of the LCA will remain and the magnitude of change to the sense of remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA is assessed as **low** (as assessed further for SDNP Special Quality 3 'tranquil and unspoilt places' in **Table 15-32**).	its distinctive character remain unaffected.
R1. South Downs Upper Coastal Plain	**Sensitivity: Medium**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **medium**, reflecting that the landscape has **medium** value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. **Value:** The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming part of the designated landscape of the SDNP and distinctiveness of its gently undulating landscape at the foot of the chalk dipslope on the southern edge of the South Downs, however it	**Magnitude of change:** The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as undulating strip of land between the dip slope of the South Downs and the coastal plain, its geology, land use, habitats and settlement pattern, all of which will continue to define its character. The magnitude of change to the perceived character of the LCA resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as	**Not Significant (Moderate / Minor)** indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of the three separate areas of this LCA at Funtington, East Lavant and Goodwood due to their long distance from the proposed WTGs, influence of the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal plain between the LCA and the sea and masking by large woodland blocks. The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived seascape setting experienced in views over the coastal plain towards the sea from Highdown Hill is assessed as locally rising to a **Significant (Moderate)**

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	is also a transitional landscape that extends outside the SDNP to the south into the adjacent, developed coastal plain. The LCA has lower recreational value than other parts of the SDNP, fewer features of the historic environment are evident, and the perceptual qualities are reduced due to the proximity of the adjacent developed coastal plain. **Susceptibility:** The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally the open, exposed character of its open hill tops. The open tops of the dip slopes of the downs and specific areas such as Highdown Hill, allow long views over the associate seascape context to the south, such that it is visually susceptible to changes in the wider seascape setting, albeit at distance outside its area. Some factors reduce sensitivity, particularly the proximity of the intervening, adjacent non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the LCA and the sea, which limits perceptual qualities, the	**low** from the three separate areas of this LCA at Funtington, East Lavant and Goodwood forming the narrow strip of land on the southern boundary of the SDNP, due to their long distance from the proposed WTGs, influence of the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal plain between the LCA and the sea and masking by large woodland blocks that contain visibility and limit perceived changes in character resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside the LCA. The eastern most area of the LCA between Arundel and Worthing includes an outlying chalk ridge at Highdown Hill where the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in a locally **medium** magnitude of change to the perceived seascape setting experienced in views over the coastal plain towards the sea from Highdown Hill, due to its closer proximity to the sea and to the Rampion 2 array area (15.8km), and the more direct exposure to the perceived changes in the associative seascape context. The characteristic views from the coastal	effect from a small area around the chalk ridge at Highdown Hill due to its closer location (15.8km) and exposure to perceived effects in the associative seascape context to the south. These effects are geographically limited in extent to the Highdown Hill area and do not extend over the wider LCA. The effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA is assessed as **Not Significant**, as these effects are diminished by the combination of the distance of the Rampion 2 array area from the LCA and the apparent influence of human activity, man-made features and development in the intervening south coast urban area and the presence of Rampion 1 wind farm forming a partially developed baseline seascape context, particularly from the Highdown Hill area. The Rampion 2 WTGs may detract from the visual aspects of tranquillity of the higher reaches of the LCA due to their spread, apparent size and visual movement of the rotor blades, however changes of this nature would not fundamentally

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	large/expansive scale of the wide seascape, and the presence of the Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context outside the LCA.	plain and towards the sea from Highdown Hill will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, particularly its western extension, and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and relatively wide spread of WTGs in the seascape when viewed from this area of the LCA.	remove or over-ride opportunities to experience the visual aspects of tranquillity relating to the perception of natural landscapes of the upper coastal plain and its setting (woodland, grassland, downland and the sea) which will continue to prevail in its sense of tranquillity. **Not Significant (none)** effect on the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. In overall terms, Rampion 2 will not change the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that are critical to its distinctive character and its effects will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character, such that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to its distinctive character remain unaffected. In overall terms, Rampion 2 will not change the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that are critical to its distinctive character and its effects will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character, such that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
			its distinctive character remain unaffected.
S1. Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline	**Sensitivity: High**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high, reflecting that the landscape has high value and its perceived character has a high susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. **Value:** The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming part of the designated landscape of the SDNP and Sussex Heritage Coast, the high scenic quality/distinctiveness of the landscape, particularly the chalk coastline and its rarity in forming the main LCA within the SDNP (along with A1) that meets the sea. It has high recreational value and strong cultural associations, particularly along the Heritage Coast, with a strong sense of the perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness, often associated with its exposure to the sea.	**Magnitude of change:** The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as an intertidal shoreline at the base of the steep chalk cliffs, its geology, shingle beaches, dynamism, land use and habitats, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of the shoreline. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of character, notably its perceived seascape setting in *'long views along the coastline to dramatic white cliffs and extensive views out across the sea to the horizon'* and its perceptual	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the views out across the sea to the horizon and the sense of remoteness and perceived wildness experienced along the narrow band of intertidal shoreline that occurs at the base of the steep chalk cliffs between Seaford and Seven Sisters, reducing to **Not Significant (Moderate)** with increasing distance from the shoreline between Birling Gap and Beachy Head. The addition of the Rampion 2 WTGs is likely to reduce the perceived remoteness and sense of wildness through the introduction of further man-made features, however these will occur in context of the existing Rampion 1 wind farm within and adjacent to areas of seascape that are already subject to development influence. The Rampion 2 WTGs may influence from the visual aspects of tranquillity in this area due to their spread, apparent size and visual movement of the rotor blades,

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	Susceptibility: The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally from its extensive views out across the sea to the horizon, its open, exposed character, and potential for changes to its perceptual qualities (tranquillity, remoteness and wildness) along the shoreline at the base of the chalk cliffs, which focus views out over the seascape to the south, such that is visually susceptible to changes in the wider seascape setting. Some factors reduce sensitivity including the high visitor pressure at certain 'honey-pot' locations (including car parking, signage, facilities and congestion on beaches) which reduces perceived tranquillity and remoteness in areas, the large scale and expansiveness of the seascape, and the presence of the Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context of the LCA.	qualities *('exposed, wild landscape'*), as a result of further WTG development. Views out across the sea to the horizon will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs, however views along the coastline to the dramatic white cliffs will not be changed due to the position of Rampion 2 out to sea and its separation with the white cliffs. The magnitude of these changes to the perceived seascape setting of the LCA in views out across the sea to the horizon resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** from the narrow band of intertidal shoreline that occurs at the base of the steep chalk cliffs between Seaford Head (23.3km) and Seven Sisters (26.6km), however it will not change views along the coastline to the dramatic white cliffs. Rampion 2 may also affect the sense of remoteness and wildness, through an	however changes of this nature would not fundamentally remove or over-ride opportunities to experience the visual aspects of tranquillity relating to the perception of the coastal landscape and its setting (steep chalk cliffs, shoreline, shingle beach and the sea) which will continue to prevail in the perceived tranquillity. In all areas of the LCA, the characteristic views along the coastline to the dramatic chalk cliffs will remain, with Rampion 2 appearing visually separate from the dramatic white chalk cliffs. Extensive views out across the sea to the horizon will also be retained, with wide open views to an undeveloped sea horizon available beyond the area of seascape influenced by Rampion 1 and Rampion 2. The shoreline it will remain a dynamic, exposed, wild landscape whose character is governed by the weather. **Not Significant (none)** effect on the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA.

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
		increased wind farm development influence in the seascape context experienced in views from the shoreline, where there is no intervening south coast urban area, and may influence the visual aspects of tranquillity in this area due to the spread, apparent size and visual movement of the rotor blades. The magnitude of change is assessed as dropping to **medium-low** with increasing distance from the shoreline between Birling Gap and Beachy Head, where the influence of Rampion 2 on views and the sense of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity diminishes with increased distance and the southern Rampion 2 array will be clearly distinct from Rampion 1, with a narrow additional lateral spread and a relative balance in apparent scale and spread.	
S2. Brighton to Rottingdean	**Sensitivity: Medium**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium, reflecting that the landscape has medium value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will	**Magnitude of change:** The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA,	**Significant (Moderate)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived seascape setting of the narrow band of intertidal shoreline that occurs at the base of the steep chalk cliffs between Brighton and Rottingdean

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. **Value:** The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming part of the designated landscape of the SDNP and its rarity in forming a small area of SDNP coastline amongst the largely urbanised adjacent coastal edges of Brighton and Rottingdean. It has some recreational value for its Undercliff walk and limited cultural associations, with large sections along the coastline controlled by man-made sea defences. Although there is a relatively strong sense of place, this derives from the relationship with adjacent urban areas and landmarks such as Brighton and Rottingdean. Perceptual qualities are associated with its exposure to the sea, but these are limited by the extent and influence of the adjacent urbanised coast, with fewer perceptual qualities resulting in a lower susceptibility. It is a robust landscape with few vulnerable inherent characteristics.	including its fundamental character as an intertidal shoreline and concrete walkway at the base of the steep chalk cliffs, its geology, dynamism, land use and habitats, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of the shoreline. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic / perceptual aspects of landscape character, as a result of further WTG development influence in its long views along the coastline and out across the sea to the horizon. These views out across the sea to the horizon will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. The magnitude of these changes to the perceived seascape setting of the LCA	Although the addition of Rampion 2 will affect the extensive views out across the sea to the horizon and increase the influence of man-made features, the effect of Rampion 2 on the perceived remoteness and tranquillity of the LCA is assessed as **Not Significant**, as these effects are diminished by the combination of the distance of the Rampion 2 array area from the LCA and the apparent influence of human activity, man-made features and development along the adjacent south coast urban area and the presence of Rampion 1 wind farm forming a partially developed baseline seascape context. In all areas of the LCA, the characteristic long views along the coastline will remain, there will still be extensive views out across the sea, and it will remain an exposed, shoreline landscape whose character is governed by the weather and the urban and manmade elements influencing this coastline. **Not Significant (none)** effect on the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA.

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	Susceptibility: The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally from its strong association with the sea in extensive views out across the sea to the horizon, its open, exposed character, and potential for changes in the focus of views out over the seascape to the south, such that is visually susceptible to changes. Other factors reduce sensitivity including the extent of adjacent urban development, including Brighton Marina, which has a visual influence on the character of this stretch of coastline, the large scale, expansiveness and simplicity of the seascape, and the presence of the Rampion 1 Wind Farm whose WTGs are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context of the LCA, forming a partially developed sea skyline and existing landmark feature in offshore views.	resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-high** in extensive views out across the sea to the horizon from the narrow band of intertidal shoreline between Brighton and Rottingdean at a distance of approximately 18km), however these areas have a limited sense of tranquillity and lack a sense of remoteness due their close proximity to the south coast urban area.	In overall terms, Rampion 2 will not change the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that are critical to its distinctive character and its effects will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character, such that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to its distinctive character remain unaffected.

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Residual effects on views and viewpoints – SDNP

Viewpoints

15.10.40 An assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on representative viewpoints within the SDNP is summarised in **Table 15-30**, with further assessment provided in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4).

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Table 15-30 Assessment of SDNP Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
1. Beachy Head (Figure 15.26, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	31.9	17°	6.5°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low.	**Not significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
2. Birling Gap (Figure 15.27, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	28.8	19°	7.3°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low.	**Not significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
3. Seven Sisters Country Park (Figure 15.28, Volume 3, of	26.6	21.9°	8.6°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	
4. Seaford Head (Figure 15.29, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	23.9	25.6°	10.5°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
7. Beacon Hill, Rottingdean (Figure 15.32, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	18.7	44.3°	18.8°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
15. Willingdon Hill	32.9	18.6°	7.5°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the	**Low**. The magnitude of	**Not significant (Moderate/minor)**

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
(Figure 15.40, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as low.	, direct, long-term and reversible.
16. Firle Beacon (Figure 15.41, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	28.5	28.2°	13.4°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
17. Devil's Dyke (Figure 15.42, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	24.4	51.7°	18.5°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
				high susceptibility to change.	assessed as medium.	
18. Cissbury Ring (Figure 15.43, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	19.5	62.5°	29.1°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
19. Highdown Hill (Figure 15.44, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	16.7	70°	39.7°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
20. Springhead Hill	25.2	52.9°	31.3°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct,

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
(Figure 15.45, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	long-term and reversible.
21. Bignor Hill (Figure 15.46, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	28.1	46.5°	32.7°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
27. Hollingbury Hill Fort (Figure 15.50, Volume 3, of the ES (Document	22.5	47.7°	19.1°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
Reference: 6.3.15))					assessed as medium.	
28. Cuckmere Haven Beach (Figure 15.51, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	26.2	9.2°	8.9°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
29. Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve (Figure 15.52, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	31.6	34.1°	26.8°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Medium-low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low.	**Not significant (Moderate)**direct, long-term and reversible.
30. Halnaker Windmill (Figure 15.53,	26.2	44.1°	33.7°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct,

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	long-term and reversible.
31. Butser Hill National Nature Reserve (Figure 15.54, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	45.1	25.6°	19.5°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as low.	**Not significant (Moderate/minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
32. Levin Down (Figure 15.55, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	31.1	0°	0°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-	**Zero**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as zero.	**Not significant (None)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
				high susceptibility to change.		
33. Arundel Castle (Figure 15.56, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	21.5	57.1°	24.5°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
41. Slindon Folly (Figure 15.60, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	25.2	47.4°	21.1°	**Medium-high** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change, based on the following assessment.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
50. The Trundle (Figure 15.63, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	28.9	39.2°	29.0°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
51. Ditchling Beacon (Figure 15.64, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	27.8	42.3°	17.3°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
52. Chanctonbury Ring (Figure 15.65, Volume 3, of	23.4	55.6°	26.6°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	
53. Amberley Mount (Figure 15.66, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	25.9	51.6°	32.0°	**Medium-high** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
54. Chantry Hill (Figure 15.67, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	24.9	53.7°	30.4°	**Medium-high** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
55. Beeding Hill (Figure 15.68, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	21.5	57.4°	22.0°	**Medium.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
57. Telscomb Tye (Figure 15.69, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	21.2	38.8°	17.3°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
58. Wolstonbury Hill (Figure 15.70, Volume 3, of the ES	28.2	46.1°	18.2°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the	**Low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of	**Not significant,** (Moderate/minor), direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
(Document Reference: 6.3.15))				receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	Rampion 2 is assessed as low.	
61. A27 near Lancing College (Figure 15.71, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	17.4	65.7°	25.7°	**Low.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be low, reflecting that the view has low value and the receptors experiencing the view have a low susceptibility to change.	**Negligible**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as negligible.	**Not significant (Negligible)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
62. Beacon Hill, South Downs Way (Figure 15.72, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	38.5	31.1°	23.7°	**Medium-high.** The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as low.	**Not significant (Moderate/minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Visual Receptors – Long Distance Routes

South Downs Way

15.10.41 An assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the South Downs Way is set out in **Table 15-31**, which is informed by the ZTV analysis of the South Downs Way presented in **Figure 15.24, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the different sections of the route described in the baseline in **Table 15-16**.

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Table 15-31 Assessment of South Downs Way

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
1. Sussex Heritage Coast & Eastbourne Downs	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 1 of the South Downs Way along the coastal cliffs between Beachy Head and Cuckmere Haven is considered to be **high**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a high value and the receptors experiencing the views have a high susceptibility to change due to their attention and interest being focused along the coast and views out to sea, relatively consistently as part of the experience of this section of the route, albeit with some factors that moderate susceptibility including the transience and duration of views. The sensitivity of users is reduced across the section of the route across the Eastbourne Downs, to **medium**, where the attention and interest of viewers is focused on the views over Eastbourne and the seascape to the east to a greater degree than the rolling downs and seascape to the south-west.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the effect **Not Significant (moderate)** from Section 1 of the South Downs Way along the coastal cliffs between Beachy Head and Birling Gap, over approximately a 4km section of the route along the coast, where there are uninterrupted panoramic sea views from the coastal cliff tops at long distance between approximately 29km (Birling Gap) and 32km (Beachy Head). Representative viewpoints include VP1 Beachy Head and VP2 Birling Gap. The magnitude of change is assessed as increasing to **medium** and the effect **significant (major / moderate)** along the coastal cliffs between Birling Gap, the cliff tops of Seven Sisters Country Park and Cuckmere Haven, over approximately a 4km section of the route along the coast where there are views from the coastal cliff tops at slightly closer range between approximately 26km (Cuckmere Haven) and 29km (Birling Gap). The magnitude of change is assessed as **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (moderate)** across the Eastbourne Downs, over approximately a 12km section of the route, where it is set back inland at greater distance and affords more open views east over Eastbourne, with reduced visibility and influence through the dry valleys that provide intermittent landform screening of sea views. Representative viewpoints include Viewpoint 15 Willingdon Hill.

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
2. Cuckmere Valley	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 2 of the South Downs Way along the Cuckmere Valley reduces slightly to **medium-high**, due to the attention and interest of viewers being focused on views and visual amenity contained within the Cuckmere Valley or channelled directly south out to sea, not directly towards Rampion 2, which is oblique to the main orientation of Cuckmere Haven, therefore moderating the susceptibility to change, despite the high value of views from this section of the route through the Cuckmere Valley.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** magnitude and the residual effect is **Not Significant (moderate / minor)** from Section 2 of the South Downs Way within the Cuckmere Valley over this 10.2km section of the route where views are largely contained within the valley, with low visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the South Downs Way within the valley and occasional longer distance views from elevated parts of the path on the valley sides; and no visibility of Rampion 2 from the route along the valley between Litlington and Alfriston.
3. Ouse to Cuckmere Downs	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 3 of the South Downs Way along the open downs between the Cuckmere and Ouse Valleys is considered to be **high**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change due to their attention and interest including panoramic views from the downs looking south out to sea, while also encompassing wider views north from the scarp looking across the Low Weald outside the SDNP and the resulting diversity of landscape. Views from this section of the South Downs Way are also at increased distance inland, typically experiencing the sea within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated	The381agnitudee of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** and the residual effect **Significant (major / moderate)** from Section 3 of the South Downs Way over this 9.3km section of the route between Alfriston, Firle Beacon and the eastern side of the Ouse Valley, as a result of the prominence, vertical scale and additional horizontal extent of offshore wind farm development occurring in the panoramic views from the downs looking south out to sea. Representative viewpoints include Viewpoint 16 Firle Beacon.

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	and urbanised coastal strip between the route and the sea.	
4. Ouse Valley	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 4 of the South Downs Way across the Ouse Valley reduces to **low**, due to the attention and interest of viewers being focused on views and visual amenity contained within the valley and sea views being screened by the intervening landform of the downs rising to the south of the valley, which are also influenced by urban development at Newhaven at the coast.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** magnitude and the residual effect is **Not Significant (negligible)** from Section 4 of the South Downs Way within the Ouse Valley over this 8.9km section of the route where views are largely contained within the valley, with no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the South Downs Way within the valley.
5. Adur to Ouse Downs	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 5 of the South Downs Way along the open downs between the Ouse and Adur Valleys is considered to be **high**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change due to their attention and interest including panoramic views from the downs looking south out to sea, while also encompassing wider views north from the scarp looking across the Low Weald outside the SDNP and the resulting diversity of landscape. Views from this section of the South Downs Way are also at increased distance inland, typically experiencing the sea within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** and the residual effect is **Significant (major / moderate)** from Section 5 of the South Downs Way over approximately a 3.5km section of the route over Swanborough Hill and Castle Hill; over a 9km section of the route between Plumpton Plain and Clayton Windmills (passing Ditchling Beacon); and over a 6.5km section of the route between West Hill near Saddlescombe and the eastern edge of the Adur Valley (passing Devils Dyke and Beeding Hill). Significant effects from these parts of the route occur as a result of the prominence, vertical scale and additional horizontal extent of offshore wind farm development occurring in the panoramic views from the downs looking south out to sea. Representative viewpoints include VP17 Devil's Dyke, VP51 Ditchling Beacon and VP55 Beeding Hill. These sections of the route where significant

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	and urbanised coastal strip between the route and the sea.	visual effects occur are interspersed with sections where there is **zero** change and **no residual effect** between Kingston near Lewes and Balmer Down (no effect) and **low** magnitude of change and **Not Significant (moderate/minor)** residual effect, between Clayton Windmills/Pyecombe/West Hill, totalling approximately 11.4km of this section of the route. The residual effect from Section 5 is therefore not a continuous visual effect, but one that is intermittent between the sections of the South Downs Way that follow the open tops of the downs, and those that drop into the dry valleys or lower downs and do not afford the same panoramic views as the more elevated open tops of the downs.
6. Adur Valley	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 6 of the South Downs Way across the Adur Valley reduces to **low**, due to the attention and interest of viewers being focused on views and visual amenity contained within the valley and sea views being screened by the intervening landform of the downs rising to the south of the valley, which are also influenced by intervening urban development at Shoreham and Worthing at the coast.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** magnitude and the residual effect is **Not Significant (negligible)** from Section 6 of the South Downs Way within the Adur Valley over the 4.7km section of the route where views are largely contained within the valley, with low visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the South Downs Way within the valley.
7. Arun to Adur Downs	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 7 of the South Downs Way along the open downs between the Adur and Arun Valleys is considered to be **medium-high**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-	The383agnitudee of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** and the residual effect is **Significant (moderate)** almost continuously from Section 7 of the South Downs Way over the 13.4km section of the route over the tops of the downs between the Adur and Arun Valleys passing Chanctonbury

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	high susceptibility to change due to their attention and interest including panoramic views from the downs looking south out to sea, while also encompassing wider views north from the scarp looking across the Low Weald outside the SDNP and the resulting diversity of landscape. Views from this section of the South Downs Way are also at increased distance inland, typically experiencing the sea within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the route and the sea.	Ring, Chantry Hill and Amberley Mount, as a result of the prominence, vertical scale and additional horizontal extent of offshore wind farm development occurring in the panoramic views from the downs looking south out to sea across the intervening dip slopes of the downs and the coastal plain, to the seascape backdrop beyond. Representative viewpoints include VP20 Springhead Hill and VP52 Chanctonbury Ring. There is a 5km length of the South Downs Way which has low or no visibility within the dry valley containing the A24 between Findon and Washington, West Sussex where the magnitude of change is **low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (moderate / minor)**.
8. Arun Valley	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 8 of the South Downs Way across the Arun Valley reduces to **low**, due to the attention and interest of viewers being focused on views and visual amenity contained within the valley and sea views being screened by the intervening landform of the downs rising to the south of the valley, which are also influenced by intervening urban development within the valley and at the coast.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** magnitude and the residual effect is **Not Significant (negligible)** from Section 8 of the South Downs Way within the Arun Valley over a 3.9km section of the route where views are largely contained within the valley, with low visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the South Downs Way within the valley.
9. Arundel Wooded Estate Downs	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 9 of the South Downs Way along the wooded estate downs to the west of the Arun Valley and Arundel, is considered to be **medium**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a high value and the receptors experiencing the view	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** and the residual effect is **Significant (moderate)** from Section 9 of the South Downs Way over a 6.2km section of the route between the downs on the western edge of the Arun Valley that climb to the open tops of Westburton Hill, Bignor Hill and

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	have a medium susceptibility to change, due to the enclosure provided by the characteristic wooded downlands, but with open tops providing opportunities where attention and interest of users of the path will include panoramic views looking south across the coastal plain to the long distance seascape backdrop beyond, while also encompassing the main focus of views from the scarp looking to the north (away from Rampion 2) across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills. Views from this section of the South Downs Way are also at increased distance inland, typically experiencing the sea within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the route and the sea.	Glatting Beacon, as a result of the prominence, vertical scale and additional horizontal extent of offshore wind farm development occurring in the panoramic views from the downs looking south across the intervening coastal plain, to the seascape backdrop beyond. Representative viewpoints include Viewpoint 21 Bignor Hill. There is **zero** change and **no residual effect** over the remaining 2.2km section of the South Downs Way that passes through the dry valley containing the A285 to Littleton Down.
10. Harting Down to Graffham Down	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 10 of the South Downs Way along the wooded estate downs between Graffham Down and Harting Down, is considered to be **medium**, reflecting that views from this section of the route have a high value, however the susceptibility of receptors is experiencing views have a medium-low susceptibility, since the main focus of views from the scarp is looking to the north (away from Rampion 2) across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills and that much of this section of the route is contained within or alongside	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as is **negligible** change and the residual effect is **Not Significant (minor / negligible)** over the 9.5km section of the South Downs Way Section 10 between Littleton Down, Heyshot Down and Cocking Down that is contained within or runs alongside extensive estate woodlands, which largely prevent views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2; and over the remaining 5.3km section of the route over Harting Down. The magnitude of change to views is assessed as rising to **low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (minor)** from the open downs of Section 10 of the South Downs Way over two short

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	extensive estate woodlands, which often screen views looking south; or limit them to the more open sections of the route between Cocking Down and Harting Down at much longer distances from the increasingly distant seascape backdrop to south. Views from this section of the South Downs Way are also at increased distance inland, typically experiencing the sea within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the route and the sea.	sections, consisting of a 3.1km section of the route between Cocking Down and Treyford Hill; and for a short 1.5km section of the route over Beacon Hill, as a result of the increased distance, reduced prominence and scale of the offshore elements in the distant seascape backdrop to the south. Representative viewpoints include Viewpoint 62 Beacon Hill.
11. Queen Elizabeth Forest	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 11 of the South Downs Way along the wooded estate downs between Harting Down and Queen Elizabeth Forest, is considered to be **medium**, reflecting that views from this section of the route have a high value, however the susceptibility of receptors experiencing views have a medium-low susceptibility, since the main focus of views from the scarp is looking to the north (away from Rampion 2) across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills, or along the northern scarp slopes of the downs, and that much of this section of the route is contained within Queen Elizabeth Forest, and at much longer distances from the increasingly distant seascape backdrop to south. Views from this section of the South Downs Way are also at increased distance inland, typically	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **zero** and **no residual effect (Not Significant)** from Section 11 of the South Downs Way over a 10.5km length of the route between Harting Down and Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Over these sections of the route, there is either no theoretical visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, or the route of the South Downs Way passes through forestry within Queen Elizabeth Forest which screens views. The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (minor)** from the upper slopes of Butser Hill and extending west over a 3km section to Hyden Hill/Hyden Wood, which is located at long distances of over 45km from the wind farm array area; and dropping to zero change and no effect for the remainder of the route through the study area between Hyden Wood and Henwood Down.

Section	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	experiencing the sea within a remote context setting beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the route and the sea.	
Summary	In summary, over much of the route of the South Downs Way through the study area, the offshore elements will not result in significant effects on views experienced by users of the South Downs Way. The residual effect resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on views experienced by users of the South Downs Way through the study area is assessed as significant over several sections of the route intermittently when looking in a southerly direction from the South Downs Way towards the seascape. Significant effects on views experienced by users of the South Downs Way will occur over several main sections of the route, namely part of Section 1 along the Sussex Heritage Coast between Birling Gap, Seven Sisters and Cuckmere Haven; across the tops of several sections of open downs – Section 3 Ouse to Cuckmere Downs; 5. Adur to Ouse Downs and 7. Arun to Adur Downs. These sections where significant residual effects will be experienced are not contiguous, but often occur over stretches of between 4-10km in length at a time, punctuated by sections of the route over which significant effects will not arise, including from the main valleys – Sections 2, 4, 6 and 8 (Cuckmere, Ouse, Adur and Arun Valleys); and from the more distant and increasingly wooded sections 10 and 11 of the route between Graffham Down, Harting Down and Queen Elizabeth Forest.	

Monarch's Way

15.10.42 The assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the Monarch's Way is informed by the ZTV showing the route of the Monarch's Way presented in **Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the assessment of representative viewpoints on or near to the Monarch's Way in **Table 15-33**.

15.10.43 The sensitivity to change of users of the Monarch's Way is considered to vary considerably along the route depending on the landscape context, with many factors that moderate susceptibility including the transience/duration of views and changeable experiences and views from the route, which includes sections of both open and wooded downland through the SDNP, lower sections along the dip slopes of the SDNP nearer the developed coastal plain, as well as views from the urbanised coastline through the City of Brighton & Hove. Walkers/cyclist users of the Monarch's Way generally have a medium-high sensitivity from the distant, inland parts of the SDNP which it crosses; reducing to medium from the dip slopes near the coastal plain; low sensitivity through the City of Brighton apart from the coastal section where there is a high sensitivity due to the exposure of this coastal section of the route to changes in sea views.

15.10.44 The magnitude of change to views from the Monarch's Way resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, is assessed as **medium-high** and the effect **Significant** along the 8km coastal section of the route between Shoreham-by Sea and Brighton seafront, for example, as shown in Viewpoint 8 and 9. Residual effects on views experienced from the Monarch's Way are also assessed as being **Significant**, although of **medium** magnitude and intermittently, from the 10.5km section of the route over the edges of the South Downs to Beeding Hill, but drop to **medium-low** and **Not Significant** from the open downs between the Adur and Arun Valleys, where visibility is lower passing through the more contained dip slopes from Steyning, Findon, and to **low** and **Not Significant** through woodlands at Angmering and across the Arun Valley to Arundel.

15.10.45 The majority of the section of the Monarch's Way through the Arundel wooded estate downs, between Arundel and West Dean, passes through extensive woodlands within Arundel Park, Houghton Wood Eartham Wood and Goodwood Park, which contain visibility and limit seascape views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, such that the magnitude of change to views is assessed as **low** and the effect **Not Significant**. Views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are limited to the occasional short section, such as from Stane Street Roman Road; and the hill-top view from the Trundle (Viewpoint 50) where the routes passes over St Roche's Hill, where the magnitude of change is assessed as **medium** and the effect **Significant (moderate)**.

15.10.46 To the west of The Trundle, there will be **zero** change and **no effect** on views experienced by users of the Monarch's Way for a long stretch of the route between West Dean, Stoughton and Walderton villages; and passing through Stansted Forest, Havant Thicket and the urban area of Horndean. Beyond Horndean to the west, although there are small sections of theoretical visibility from the route as it passes between Catherington and Hambledon, views are at distances over 40km where the magnitude of change is assessed as **low** and **Not Significant**.

15.10.47 In summary, of the approximately 113km of the Monarch's Way within the SLVIA study area, significant residual effects are predicted over the 8km coastal section of route following the promenade/seafront between Shoreham-by Sea (Viewpoint 9) and Brighton seafront (Viewpoint 8); the 10.5km section of the route over the edges of the South Downs to Beeding Hill (Viewpoint 55); and to occasional long distance views from the wooded estate downlands such as from Stane Street Roman Road; and the hill-top view from the Trundle (St Roche's hill) (Viewpoint 50).

Residual effects on SDNP special qualities

15.10.48 An assessment of the magnitude of change and residual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the defined special qualities of the SDNP is set out in **Table 15-32**. Although there are pockets of the SDNP landscape where the baseline conditions are such that the value of particular features or aesthetic dimensions are reduced, the SDNP is, as a whole, of high value, recognised through its designation as a National Park. Although the inherent sensitivity of the SDNP is high, there is some variation in the susceptibility of the different areas/LCAs within the SDNP to the specific nature of changes associated with the Proposed Development, since the assessment of susceptibility to change is tailored to the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Assessment of the sensitivity to change of LCAs within the SDNP is contained in **Table 15-29** and is reflected in the assessment of SDNP special qualities. The assessment of special qualities of the SDNP set out in **Table 15-32** addresses the special qualities relating to seascape, landscape and visual matters, that may be affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Further information and assessment of the effects of Rampion 2 on the special qualities of the SDNP is contained within **Further information for Action Point 27 - South Downs National Park [REP1-024]**.

Table 15-32 Assessment of SDNP special qualities

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
1. Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will not result in any direct changes to the predominantly chalk geology of the South Downs that underpins its special qualities and creates its diversity of landscapes. There will also be no direct changes to the diversity of landscapes of the SDNP, expressed through its wooded and heathland ridges that form the Western Weald, its wide, open chalk downlands, its river valleys, hidden villages, market towns and historic estates, which will all fundamentally remain definitive to its character and diversity, regardless of the presence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The physical features of the SDNP's diverse landscapes will not be changed, and the majority of key characteristics of the landscape that are critical to its diverse character will not be affected. The changes arising as a result of Rampion 2 will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character and qualities in the *'stunning panoramic views to sea'* experienced from parts of the elevated downs and the chalk cliffs at Seven Sisters. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived character of some of these '*diverse, inspirational landscapes'* of the SDNP, as a result of changes to the *'breathtaking views'* experienced from these landscapes of the SDNP, particularly from the coastal downs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head (within the Sussex Heritage Coast) and the elevated open chalk downlands between the Arun, Adur, Cuckmere and Ouse valleys. These are visual qualities and are not related to the 'landscape fabric' of the SDNP, nor the majority of its key landscape characteristics . Special qualities that relate to the identified residual effects arising from Rampion 2 are those where the indicator relates to, or is supported by, an aspect concerning the visual contribution made by seascape to the SDNP and the SDNP's relationship with this seascape, within '*extensive'* or '*panoramic'* views that are described in its special qualities as '*breathtaking'* and '*stunning'*. Broadly, the Sussex Heritage Coast is identified as representing the geographic extent of the SDNP most likely to experience changes to the character of its '*diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views'* as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, forming the main geographic area where the SDNP meets the sea. The most prominent association with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the SDNP relates to the coastal cliff top extents between Seaford and Beachy Head approximately 12km in length between Beachy Head and Seaford Head, defined by its distinctive cliff faced coastline and forming the culmination to the South Downs Way. These areas of the

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
	South Downs fall within LCA A1 (Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs) and the shoreline falls within LCA S1 (Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline) (**Table 15-29**) and includes viewpoints from Beachy Head (Viewpoint 1), Birling Gap (Viewpoint 2), Seven Sisters Country Park (Viewpoint 3), Seaford Head (Viewpoint 4) and Cuckmere Haven (Viewpoint 28). The elevated cliff tops afford extensive and panoramic views *'out across the sea to the horizon'* and *'along the coastline to the dramatic white chalk cliffs'* (SDNPA, 2020). There are also from two further smaller areas of open coastal downs, where the SDNP meets the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs, outside the Sussex Heritage Coast, located further to the west. These small areas of downs fall within LCA A2 (Adus to Ouse Open Downs) and the shoreline falls within LCA S2 (Brighton to Rottingdean) (**Table 15-29**) and includes viewpoints from Rottingdean (Viewpoint 7) and Telscombe Tye (Viewpoint 57). In terms of Special Quality 1, the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will not affect the breathtaking views of the landscape within the SDNP experienced from either of these geographic areas, but will result in changes within its associate seascape setting, as part of a large, open seascape in views, rather than being viewed 'within' the landscape of the SDNP. Offshore wind farm development (Rampion 1) is also part of the established seascape character within these 'breathtaking views' from the SDNP. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will contribute to the existing influence of offshore wind energy development that already forms part of the perceived character within sea views from the SDNP. The effect of Rampion 2 on the SDNP special quality of the *'breathtaking views'* component of special quality 1 resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as being **medium** magnitude and **Significant (major / moderate)** from the closest parts of the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP between Seaford Head, Cuckmere Haven and Seven Sisters at distances of approximately 23km – 27km. The effect of Rampion 2 on *'breathtaking views'* is assessed as reducing to **medium-low** magnitude and **Not Significant (moderate)** with increasing distance eastwards between Birling Gap and Beachy Head, where the closest part of the Rampion 2 array is located at distances of approximately 29km – 32km and the Rampion 2 array area adds only a relatively narrow additional lateral spread of WTGs to the field of view (6.5° to 7.5°), forming a clearly separate array grouping with a relative balance in apparent scale and spread with existing Rampion 1 Wind Farm. Changes to scenic qualities occur as a result of views from the SDNP directly out to sea from the closest parts around Seaford Head and within views out to sea, oblique to the coast, particularly from the coastal cliff top extents of the South Downs Way and from specific visitor locations such as Birling Gap, Beachy Head and Seven Sisters. In general,

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
	there is clear separation between the coast and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in views, such that it is clearly viewed 'offshore' on the horizon in its open seascape, and it does not affect the portion of the view along the coastline to the dramatic white cliffs, such as is evident in Viewpoints 1 – 4 from the cliff tops of the Sussex Heritage Coast. There are only occasional discrete locations such as Cuckmere Haven Beach (Viewpoint 28), at sea level, in which the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are viewed in more direct context of the dramatic white cliffs of the coast. Whilst the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will feature within the extent of views, it will be viewed in the context of a vast seascape where the turbines will be located at distances from the SDNP within the Sussex Heritage Coast of at least 23.8km, without interrupting the intervening seascape off the immediate coastline of the SDNP/Sussex Heritage Coast or the views along the coast to the white cliffs. 'Extensive' and 'panoramic' views are most experienced around Beachy Head, at the headland, where the views extend east and south over a wider panorama, which is not affected by Rampion 2. The additional lateral spread of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is also relatively contained in views from the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP, with its spread on the horizon being less than the horizontal field of view occupied by the existing Rampion 1 windfarm. The seaward outlook will therefore remain inclusive of a wider panorama of open sea, with the open sea skyline of large vistas remaining unaffected across the majority of the field of view out to sea to the south. Changes of **medium-high** to **medium** magnitude and **Significant (major** to **moderate)** effects have been assessed on views from the two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean (as represented by Viewpoint 7) and Telscombe Cliffs (as represented by Viewpoint 57), at closer range at distances of around 18.5 – 21km from the closest part of the Rampion 2 array area. Views form this 2.7km section of open downland coastline between Brighton and Rottingdean which falls within the SDNP, are not considered to be entirely representative of the *'breathtaking views'* referred to under special quality 1. Although the views are panoramic and include the sea, the views have several notable built development influences in the baseline that reduce scenic qualities (compared to the views from the Sussex Heritage Coast and from the core elevated areas of the South Downs to the north), due to the extensive urbanised coastal edge development at Rottingdean / Saltdean / Peacehaven to the east and Brighton along the coast to the west. Effects on the *'breathtaking views'* component of SDNP special quality 1 are assessed as occurring at varying magnitude and significance, from the wider South Downs escarpment within a range of inland vantage points, defined

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
	as the tops of the open downs between the Cuckmere and Ouse valleys (LCA A1); the tops of the open downs inland of Brighton and Shoreham, between the Ouse and Adur Valley (LCA A2); the tops of the open downland between the Arun and Adur river valleys (LCA A3); and the elevated open areas of the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland (LCA B1), where the sea is a component in views south across the south coast urban area and the coastal plain Within this range of inland vantage points where the sea is a key component in views south across the south coast urban area and the coastal plain, and particularly from the closer elevated tops of the downs, the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will form a noticeable additional element in the seascape context of Rampion 1 wind farm. Rampion 2 will therefore add elements (WTGs) that are already a characteristic in existing views to the seascape setting. Views from inland areas of the SDNP typically experience the sea within a remote context setting beyond intervening landscape influences. This is particularly the case for the more distant northern and western parts of the SDNP, where the seascape becomes a smaller, narrower element and influence in views. The strong inter-visibility associations between the elevated parts of the downs and the seascape to the south, do however form an 'auditorium' for views over the coastal plain and south coast urban areas, to the sea, from the closer parts of the upland areas of the SDNP, within which changes to the breathtaking views are most likely to be experienced. Changes of **medium-high** magnitude and **Significant (major)** effects have been assessed on views from a localised area around Cissbury Ring (Viewpoint 18) and **medium-high** magnitude and **Significant (major / moderate)** in the areas around Highdown Hill (Viewpoint 19), between the Arun and Adur (LCA A3), which form some of the closest areas of the SDNPs open downland, at distances between 16.5km – 20km. The larger scale of the Rampion 2 WTGs and wider lateral spread of the Rampion 2 array area is notable in the elevated views over the sea from this area, where its full horizontal extent in the seascape is perceived, behind and to the west of the Rampion 1 wind farm, and contributing to an additional western lateral spread of WTGs in the seascape viewed across the coastal plain. Changes of **medium** magnitude and **Significant (moderate)** effects have been assessed on views from more distant tops of the central downs (LCA A2 and A3), where the additional lateral spread of Rampion 2 WTGs is generally less, in which the southern array of Rampion 2 is viewed almost entirely behind Rampion 1, with limited increase in the eastern spread of development and where the Rampion 2 western array contributes to increasing the horizontal extent of development. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in a notable addition to the sea skyline in these long

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
	distance and panoramic views south to the sea from the elevated vantage points of the central downs (LCA A2 and A3), however the effect on *'breathtaking views'* is moderated by Rampion 2 being located at long distance and within the seascape backdrop beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip that visually influences and separates the downs from the sea and Rampion 2. The principal directional focus of the panoramic views from the escarpment of the South Downs is often to the north, across the Low Weald are unaffected in these views, and it is this viewing direction which is particularly recognised in many of the views from the open downs of the SDNP, with views south to the sea being part of the wider setting across the developed south coast urban area and coastal plain to the south. Residual effects on the 'breathtaking views' experienced from SDNP would remain looking out to the seascape, from locations along the Sussex Heritage Coast and open downlands, occurring only in certain weather and visibility conditions and therefore on limited occasions during the year. In these locations, views are only part of the experience of the varied special qualities, which would remain fundamentally unchanged in other regards. Although the potential for effects on the *'breathtaking views'* component of special quality 1 extends over a notable range across the tops of the SDNP's whale backed hills, the effects of Rampion 2 relate to views south across the coastal plain out to sea occurring from elevated areas, and will not occur continuously, with large geographic areas of the SDNP likely to have no change to their breathtaking views (such as its valleys and dry-branching systems) or low levels of change at greater distances into the wooded estate downland landscapes to the north-west of the SDNP. The effect on the *'diverse, inspirational landscapes'* component of SDNP special quality 1 is assessed as being **medium-low** magnitude and **Not Significant**, on balance, with the diverse, inspirational landscapes of the SDNP coastline fundamentally remaining present and experienced in the context of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The effects of Rampion 2 will be indirect and limited to the visual aspects of character, such that the majority of key characteristics that are critical to its diverse character will remain unaffected.
3. Tranquil and unspoilt places	Tranquillity is a *'state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of landscape'* (Landscape Institute, 2013). It is a perceptual quality of the landscape and is '*influenced by things that people can both see and hear in the landscape around them'* (SDNPA, 2017).

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality

The CPRE Tranquillity Report 2008 is useful in defining the terms '*seeing, tranquillity'* (i.e. visual) and *'hearing, tranquillity'* (i.e. audible), both of which contribute to the experience of tranquillity. With respect to the audible aspect of tranquillity, the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no effect** on the tranquillity that people gain from the quiet experienced in the landscape of the SDNP.

Changes resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 relate to the visual aspects of tranquillity, i.e what is seen by people in the landscape and whether its visible elements detract from the perception of such 'seen' tranquillity.

In many areas of the SDNP, the landscape lacks intrusive development and includes relatively 'unspoilt places'. These are however, '*not characteristics that apply uniformly across the National Park'* (SDNPA, 2017). Some areas are more tranquil than others, dependent on a number of influences. Areas of relative tranquillity are mapped within the SDNP in Appendix 1 of the SDNPA Tranquillity Study (2017) based on CPRE (2008) data and sample surveys undertaken within the SDNP.

Areas of lowest tranquillity are often located within or on the edge of urban areas, particularly along the southern edges of the SDNP, or along major transport routes, such as those running through the Arun, Adur and Ouse valleys, or the A3 road corridor through the western downs. These areas have a greater amount of negative tranquillity factors, such as a greater concentration of people, urban development/settlement, roads, railways, power lines and overhead light pollution (at night). These areas of lowest tranquillity do not demonstrate the special quality of *'tranquil and unspoilt places'*, therefore the magnitude of change to their relative tranquillity resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **zero** resulting in **no effects** (**Not Significant)** on areas of the SDNP with lowest tranquillity along the urban edges of the SDNP and major transport routes.

Areas of intermediate tranquillity are frequent and include the lower slopes around the 'core' areas, their southern dip slopes, upper coastal plain and the upper valley sides of the Arun, Adur and Ouse valleys. Areas of highest tranquillity are consistently the tops of the chalk downs along the whale backed spine of the SDNP, but particularly the Wooded Estate Downland LCAs (B1 and B2) of the western and north-western part of the SDNP; the tops of the Open Downs LCAs (A1, A2 and A3) between the Arun, Adur, Ouse and Eastbourne; and the cliff tops of the SDNP coastline and pockets between Beachy Head and Cuckmere Haven. Tranquillity is greatest at the 'core' areas around the tops of the downs, dropping gradually towards the outer edges of the SDNP which become more influenced by development and

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
	urban areas. The inland 'core' areas of the downs are recorded as having higher tranquillity, in general, than the coastal parts of the SDNP within the Sussex Heritage Coast. These areas have a greater amount of positive (visual) tranquillity factors and often relate to the perception of natural landscapes, such as 'natural' vegetation cover, wide open spaces, perceived wildness/remoteness, trees/woodland, streams/rivers/lakes, views to the sea and the stars at night. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will have no effect on many of these tranquillity factors, including its natural vegetation cover, trees, woodlands, streams, river and lakes. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 only have potential to effect other tranquillity factors relating to – wide open spaces, perceptions of remoteness/wildness and seascape views/extensive views out to sea. The inland 'core' areas formed by the tops of the chalk downs of the SDNP, which experience highest levels of relative tranquillity, are separated from the seascape by large and almost contiguous urbanised areas of the south coast plain – which are neither tranquil nor unspoilt. Views from the inland 'core' areas of downs, to the seascape, invariably encompass extensive settlement and urban development on the coastal plain, with the seascape extending beyond, which includes the existing Rampion 1 Wind Farm. It can be seen from CPRE's national tranquillity mapping, contained within the CPRE Tranquillity Report (Northumbria University, 2008 revised) and its associated 'Tranquillity Map' and an 'Intrusion Map' of England, that the large scale urban areas located just outside the southern boundary of the SDNP and extending into the edges of the SDNP, form notable areas that are disturbed by noise and visual intrusion (in Figure 2) with least tranquillity (Figure 1). The presence of these development influences and intrusion on relative tranquillity, both within the edges of the SDNP, outside it throughout the coastal plain and within the associative seascape setting of Sussex Bay, reduces the perceived tranquillity. There are however, opportunities to experience tranquillity within the core areas of the tops of the downs, which are relatively 'undisturbed' and 'most tranquil' despite the presence of outside development influences. This will continue to be the case in relation to the addition of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Simply seeing the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in the associated seascape context would not be sufficient to negate opportunities to experience tranquillity within the SDNP, through its wide open spaces, perceptions of remoteness / wildness and seascape views / extensive views, which would all be retained despite the changes resulting from Rampion 2. The experience of all other visual aspects of tranquillity, such as those described above (natural vegetation cover, trees, woodlands, streams, river and lakes), would also not be denied in the presence of the

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
	offshore elements of Rampion 2. Other aspects of the natural environment which contribute to the experiences of tranquillity from these core areas of the SDNP would continue to prevail and provide some offset to the influence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The magnitude of change to the *'tranquil and unspoilt places'* of the inland 'core' areas formed by the tops of the chalk downs of the SDNP resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** resulting in **Not Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible effects. The influence on the experience of tranquillity and 'unspoilt' place is diminished by the combination of the distance of Rampion 2 array area and the apparent influence of human activity, man-made features and development in the intervening south coast urban area. The coastal parts of the SDNP within the Sussex Heritage Coast between Beachy Head and Seaford Head, have a more direct maritime influence and association with the seascape, with no intervening developed landscapes between them and the sea. They offer the opportunity to experience a sense of relative tranquillity influenced by the seascape when compared with that available elsewhere in the SDNP, where the seascape is less of a component of the wider setting. In these areas, the seascape setting and extensive sea views contribute more to the experience of relative tranquillity, particularly in good weather conditions and during calm seas, with the visual tranquillity provided by the open space of the chalk downs along the cliffs, large open skies, pockets of remoteness on the high reaches of the downs, the extensive sea view aspects from the coastal cliffs and a general lack of intrusive development. The existing seascape does however include the existing Rampion 1 Wind Farm, which is visible from the SDNP coastline between Beachy Head and Seaford Head, on the sea horizon, such that changes in tranquillity have to be measured in the context of this existing wind farm influence in the seascape context. The coastal parts of the SDNP within the Sussex Heritage Coast also include some of the SDNP's most popular visitor and recreational locations. The influence of large numbers of visitors, visible in the form of traffic, large numbers of parked cars and people using the main visitor hubs, trails and beaches, reduces the perceived tranquillity, particularly around the main visitor hubs, such as Beachy Head, Birling Gap and Cuckmere Haven/Seven Sister Country Park where this visitor pressure is concentrated. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will form an intervention in the distant, but not immediate, seascape setting of these coastal landscapes of the SDNP, extending the existing wind farm development influence in the offshore waters of Sussex Bay. The visual movement of the rotor blades incorporates a kinetic element into an already dynamic

seascape. The relatively slow visual movement of the WTG rotors, the WTG scale and long distance offshore reduces the potential changes in perceived tranquillity. A material sense of unrest/ disturbance of calmness and quietude would not be induced by this slow and consistent visual movement, especially at such distance outside the SDNP. The appearance of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 relates rationally to the exposure to the wind and exposure along the SDNP coastline and to the existing wind farm elements present in the seascape.

Rampion 2 will introduce some changes to the tranquillity experienced in sea views, as an array of additional built/modern elements, which interrupt and define a further presence or limit on the aspect out to sea through the apparent height, spread and movement of the WTGs rotor blades. On balance however, changes of **medium-low** magnitude and **Not Significant (moderate)** effects are assessed as occurring on the SDNP special quality of *'Tranquil and unspoilt places'* from the coastal parts of the SDNP within the Sussex Heritage Coast, including pockets of more remote sections of elevated chalk downs and discrete shoreline locations at the coastal edge. The changes identified do not affect the strength of the tranquillity perceived within the SDNP to the degree the qualities are substantially eroded and are considered to be not significant.

In order to have a significant effect on tranquillity, the offshore elements of Rampion 2, would require to be viewed in close proximity, with larger vertical scale, a sense of surrounding and prevailing visual movement of the rotor blades, which will not occur. Nor would changes of this nature influence opportunities to experience a sense of tranquillity as the wind farm element would not over-ride the existing naturalistic elements in the landscape, nor its open space and extensive sea views (which will remain in the presence of Rampion 2) and are the basis for tranquillity. Effects are also likely to be infrequent due to the long distance offshore from this section of SDNP coast and the prevailing weather conditions that influence visibility at such distance.

Night-time: The offshore elements of Rampion 2 also have potentially to affect the ability to experience dark skies, which is assessed separately in **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation lighting visual effects, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.5) and summarised in **Section 15.10** of this SLVIA. Night-time lighting of the WTGs will introduce further lighting in the relatively dark night skies. However, the WTGs will be viewed at long distance offshore, in the context of existing wind turbine lighting from parts of the SDNP and other lighting of cardinal buoys and vessels in the waters and result in relatively low change to the tranquillity experienced within the SDNP coastline.

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
5. Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences	The magnitude of change to the *'opportunities for recreational activities'* resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** resulting in **Not Significant (Minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible effects. Although significant effects on the *'inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views'* experienced by people walking, cycling and experiencing other forms of outdoor recreation within the SDNP have been assessed as significant as part of Special Quality 1, there will be minor and not significant effects on the opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. These opportunities will be present and provided for within the SDNP regardless of the influence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. While the assessments undertaken in respect of Special Quality 1 have confirmed some significant effects on landscape character and views experienced by people undertaking recreational activities within the SDNP, this does not equate to significant effects on opportunities for recreational activities. Opportunities for recreational activity rely on the provision of access, paths for walking and cycling, access to nature reserves and cultural heritage sites, and the provision of interpretation, signage, facilities and activities – on which the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will have no influence. The fact that the visual amenity and views experienced by people partaking in recreation will be changed, does not influence in any way the opportunity for recreational activities, which will be present and provided for within the SDNPs recreational resource of paths, trails, visitor locations and facilities, regardless of the influence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Recreational amenity also differs from visual amenity, as it includes many other 'non-visual' influences, such as the weather, exercise/physical challenge, company, sense of adventure/exploration, etc. The recreational amenity experience of outdoor activities, such as walking or cycling, in the SDNP comprise many aspects, including exercise/physical challenge, sense of adventure, fresh air, the company of others and the feeling of open space. These aspects will not be affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, even if it is visible and the recreational user does not consider wind farms to be aesthetically pleasing – the opportunity for recreational activities and learning experiences remains. The South Downs will continue to offer a wide range of recreational and learning opportunities to large populations, to over 3,200km of public rights of way, the South Downs Way, walking, cycling, horse riding and many other outdoor

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
	activities. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will have no direct influence on the variety of landscapes and wildlife that provides opportunities for learning about the South Downs, which will remain in the presence of Rampion 2. An assessment of relevant socioeconomic effects is presented in **Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.18**).**
6. Well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage	*'The distinct character of many areas of the South Downs has been created by well-conserved historical features, some of which are rare and of national importance. Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age hill forts, Saxon and Norman churches, dew ponds, historic houses and landmarks of the two World Wars help to give the National Park strong links to its past human settlement. These links are reinforced by the variety of architectural building styles spanning the ages. Evidence of earlier farming traditions can still be seen today in the pattern of field boundaries, and relics of the industrial past remain in the form of old iron workings, brickworks, quarries and ancient coppiced woodlands'.* *'The South Downs has a rich cultural heritage of art, music and rural traditions. There is a strong association with well-known writers, poets, musicians and artists who have captured the essence of this most English of landscapes and drawn inspiration from the sense of place: Virginia Woolf, Jane Austen, Hilaire Belloc, Edward Thomas, Gilbert White, Edward Elgar, Joseph Turner, Eric Gill and Eric Ravilious, among many others. Today traditions continue through activities such as folk singing and events like Findon sheep fair. Culture lives on with new art and expression, celebrating the strong traditions of the past'.* There will be no direct effects on 'well conserved historical features' as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, however there may be effects on their setting as assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25).
7. Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real	The baseline description of this special quality recognises that significantly more people live in the major urban areas that surround the SDNP, including communities that are actively involved in the South Downs, such as Brighton and Hove, and Eastbourne. The town of Eastbourne is located entirely outside the SDNP and outside the ZTV (**Figure 15.20, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) with no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The magnitude of change on Eastbourne as a distinctive town and community is therefore **zero** and **no effect (Not Significant)**. The market towns of Lewes, Petersfield and Midhurst; and the villages of Selborne, Charlton and

Special Quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on SDNP special quality
pride in their area	Alfriston, are also described as part of the baseline special qualities. Although they are located within the SDNP, all of these towns and villages are outside the ZTV (**Figure 15.20, Volume 3, of the ES (**Document Reference: **6.3.15)**) with no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, which results in **zero** change and **no effect** on the character and appearance of these towns and villages in the SDNP, which derives in large part from the distinctive local building materials and their setting in the landscape, which will not be affected. Of all the towns and villages located within the SDNP, only Brighton and Hove has been scoped into the assessment as requiring detailed assessment of the potential significant effects resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The City of Brighton & Hove includes areas within the SDNP, at the coast between Brighton and Rottingdean (Viewpoint 7), and around its inland backdrop including Falmer Downs, Stanmer Park, Hollingbury Hill (Viewpoint 27) and the open downs to the south of Devils Dyke. Although the magnitude of change to views from these areas within the city and SDNP, has been assessed as high and effects on views significant (major), these visual effects are not considered to direct translate to significant effects on the distinctiveness of Brighton and Hove that is experienced, or the pride of this community in its area, which are assessed as experiencing **low** change and **Not Significant (moderate/minor)** effects. The distinctive city and townscape of Brighton and Hove would not be affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, only the views from certain, mainly coastal, parts of it. The distinctive views towards the settlement from the elevated edges of the South Downs will also be affected by the increased influence of larger scale and spread of WTGs in its seascape backdrop to the city, however the City of Brighton & Hove and its townscape would still remain distinctive in these views and a source of pride for people living in the area. The wider setting of the city at the edges of the open downs of the SDNP will also be retained and is not affected by the presence of additional development offshore. [3]

[3] Italic text throughout table references The SDNP, Special Qualities (Unknown Publication date), South Downs National Park Authority

South Downs International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR)

15.10.49 An assessment of the likely effects that would arise from visibility of the proposed aviation and marine navigation lighting has been undertaken in **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation night-time lighting, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.5).

15.10.50 The study area for the assessment focuses on landscapes with defined dark skies qualities – 'skies relatively free of light pollution where you can see a clear starry sky and importantly, our own galaxy the Milky Way', within the South Downs IDSR. It also considers effects arising from urban areas outside the South Downs IDSR, which do not have dark skies.

15.10.51 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 are not located within the South Downs IDSR, although the aviation and marine navigational lights are likely to be visible from viewpoints within the South Downs IDSR

15.10.52 The IDSR takes in the entire SDNP boundary but is largely defined by a critical 'Dark Sky Core', a Buffer Zone and Transition Zone. These zones reflect the quality of the sky overhead, the IDSR designation and the general level of lighting.

15.10.53 The Dark Sky Core is located 22.6km from the wind farm array area at its closest point; the Buffer Zone is 20.6km and Transition Zone 15.7km.

15.10.54 The large majority of the Dark Sky Core of the South Downs IDSR will afford no visibility of the aviation lights to people viewing the night sky. The aviation lighting would also not be seen by people viewing the night sky from two of its four dark skies discovery sites (2 – Old Winchester Hill; and 4 – Iping Common) as they are outside the ZTV.

15.10.55 The principal area of the Dark Sky Core with theoretical visibility of the aviation lights occurs along the east-west ridgeline of elevated tops of the wooded downlands to the north-west of Arundel around Bignor Hill (Dark Sky Discovery Site 5) extending across the tops of the downs to Harting Downs and Queen Elizabeth Forest/Butser Hill (Dark Sky Discovery Site 3).

15.10.56 Many of these areas of the Dark Sky Core of the South Downs IDSR have dense areas of woodland which limit visibility of lighting in the wider landscape and seascape at night.

15.10.57 Changes to views at night would therefore occur principally from the sections of isolated open hill tops of the downs in long distance views from this area of the Dark Sky Core, which allow longer range views to the seascape to the south where the aviation lighting of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 may be visible under certain atmosphere conditions.

15.10.58 The three dark sky discovery sites within the Dark Sky Core in the study area are located 28.1km (Bignor Hill), 40.7km (Iping Common) and 45.1km (Butser Hill) from the wind farm array area respectively, at considerable distance.

15.10.59 Based on the assessment of the representative viewpoints considered in the assessment at Dark Sky Discovery Sites 3 (Butser Hill) and 5 (Bignor Hill), the visual effect of the aviation and marine navigation lighting of the proposed

Rampion 2 WTGs on the night-time views from the Dark Sky Core is assessed as **Not Significant**.

15.10.60 Views from the Dark Sky Core are located at long distances from the potential source of light within the windfarm array area, which reduces its susceptibility to change as viewers are unlikely to perceive the aviation or marine navigation lights to any degree of intensity at such long range. It is unlikely that the Rampion 2 WTG lights will be visible at all from the more distant parts of the Dark Sky Core, towards the outer parts of the study area, at 45-50km, as the Rampion 1 WTG lights have not been observed at such distances.

15.10.61 There are also many readily discernible light sources that are visible in the views from the tops of the downs of the Dark Sky Core across the coastal plain and intervening urban coastal conurbations to the south-east in the direction towards the windfarm array area.

15.10.62 In views along the undeveloped spine of the South Downs, there is a continuity between the dark landscape of the downs below to the dark skies above. The Rampion 2 aviation and marine navigation lighting does not interrupt this continuity.

15.10.63 There are relatively high levels of baseline lighting in the intervening landscape to the south-east and south which reduce the effects of further lighting in this direction, and the ability of receptors to perceive the intensity of lights out to sea, sometimes through the skyglow of the intervening developed coastal strip.

15.10.64 Similarly, in views from the open downs within the Buffer Zone, such as Devil's Dyke, the visual effects of the aviation and marine navigation lighting of the proposed Rampion 2 WTGs are assessed as **Not Significant**. The lighting of the Rampion 2 WTGs will be visible at long distances, with the principal effect of the lighting of the Rampion 2 WTGs being to extend the lateral spread of existing Rampion 1 WTG lights over a wider portion of the view.

15.10.65 While this adds to the visual influence of offshore lighting in the existing view of the sea at night, due to the wider spread of lighting, the aviation and marine navigation lights will be familiar elements viewed next to the existing Rampion 1 WTG lighting and viewed primarily beyond the city lights and through the skyglow of the intervening urban areas, which will reduce the perceived intensity of the lights out to sea and diminishes the effects of distant aviation lighting.

15.10.66 The proposed Rampion 2 WTG lighting does not affect the 'continuity' of darkness, which is already fundamentally interrupted by the urban lighting, and to a lesser extent the existing Rampion 1 WTG lighting beyond. The view of the dark skies above is predominately affected by brightness and skyglow from the street-lights and lighting within the larger urban environment, rather than the additional influence of the Rampion 2 aviation and marine navigational lighting.

15.10.67 In views from both the Dark Sky Core and Buffer Zone, the aviation lights will be visible low to the horizon and do not extend high into the sky, thus limiting the amount of the night-sky that is impeded and having limited influence on the view of stars in the night-sky.

15.10.68 The aviation lights are not expected to result in obtrusive light that impedes the wider expanse of night sky, which can be experienced readily above the aviation

lights, nor result in brightening of the night sky (skyglow) or glare on to the sea surface and would therefore not be of detriment to the overall experience of the night skies in this view.

15.10.69 The aviation and marine navigation lights are considered to integrate with the baseline WTG lighting in views from these areas of the South Downs IDSR, forming an extension of a familiar feature, they are viewed primarily beyond the intervening urban lighting and through its skyglow, and at long distance, such that their perceived intensity is lessened and does not compromise or diminish the view of the night sky or the dark landscape of the visible parts of the South Downs.

Effects on West Sussex South Coast Plain

Residual effects on Landscape Character – West Sussex

15.10.70 An assessment of the effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the landscape character of LCAs within West Sussex is set out in **Table 15-33**. These LCAs within West Sussex are highlighted in **Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and mapped at detailed scale with the ZTV in **Figure 15.19, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)

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Table 15-33 Assessment of West Sussex Landscape Character

LCA	Sensitivity to Change	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Effect (operation)
SC1. South Coast Shoreline	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium, reflecting that the landscape has medium value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The value of the LCA derives principally from the informal attraction of the seaside. The LCA is not subject to landscape designation for its scenic quality, however it functions as a valued coastal landscape resource for tourism and recreation, focused on the beaches and seafront attractions. Although there is a relatively strong sense of place, this derives from the character of the urban coastal resort developments, in the context of the low, sweeping coastline and seascape. The perceptual qualities are associated with its exposure to the sea, but these are limited by the extent and influence of the adjacent urbanised coast, with fewer perceptual qualities resulting in a lower susceptibility. It is a robust landscape with few vulnerable inherent characteristics. The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as an intertidal shoreline backed by extensive linear urban coastal resort development, its dynamic character, land use and habitats, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of the shoreline. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects, particularly its open and exposed character, as a result of further WTG development influence in its open views out across the sea to the horizon. These open views out across the sea to the horizon will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting	**Significant (Moderate)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of the long narrow shoreline of shingle banks extending between Selsey Bill and Shoreham-by-Sea, dropping to **Not Significant (Moderate/minor)** from the shoreline west of Selsey Bill, extending between Selsey Bill and West Wittering.

LCA	Sensitivity to Change	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Effect (operation)
	Rampion 2 derives principally from its strong association with the sea in extensive views out across the sea to the horizon, the potential for development in the seascape to disrupt visual unity and the loss of open views, due to the openness and intervisibility of the shoreline with the sea, and the southerly orientation of the wide curving bay, making it visually susceptible to changes in the sea. Many factors reduce sensitivity, including the extent of the urbanised developed coast, the presence of ports and industrial elements (such as at Shoreham) and the extent of tourism related development and activities, which provide detractors to scenic quality. The seascape is also of large, expansive scale, with a simple broad coastal landform and is separated from the Windfarm array area by open sea, within which the WTGs of Rampion 1 Wind Farm are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context, forming a partially developed sea skyline and landmark in existing seaward views.	change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. The magnitude of these changes to the perceived character of the LCA resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-high** from the long narrow shoreline of shingle banks to the east of Selsey Bill, extending between Selsey Bill and Shoreham-by-Sea at a distance of 13.4km from closest point of the Rampion 2 array, which has an overriding visual and physical association with the sea. The magnitude of change to the perceived character of the LCA drops to **medium-low** to the west of Selsey Bill, where the Rampion 2 WTGs may be visible in the backdrop in oblique views along the shoreline of sandy beaches, dry sand dunes and grasslands extending between Selsey Bill and West Wittering at distances over 16.3km from the Rampion 2 array area. In all areas of the LCA, the characteristic views along the coastline will remain, there will still be open views out across the sea, and it will remain an exposed, shoreline landscape whose character is governed by the dynamic influences of the sea and weather, and	

LCA	Sensitivity to Change	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Effect (operation)
		the linear urban coastal developments that define this coastline.	
SC3 Chichester Harbour	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the landscape has high value, and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The value of the LCA derives principally from it forming the majority of the designated landscape of the CHAONB, the high scenic quality/distinctiveness of the landscape, particularly the blend of land and sea formed by expanses of open waters and narrow inlets/creeks, the flatness of the landform accentuating the sea and its relatively unspoilt and unobtrusive character. It has high recreational value, particularly the open water of the central area of the Harbour for recreational boating, evident cultural associations and perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness, associated with the open water. The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives from the strong visual associations between the harbour mouth and the seas of the eastern Solent, where	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as an enclosed natural harbour of marine water, tidal mudflats and saltmarsh, its wooded shores, range of habitats, wildlife and distinctive historic features, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the character of the harbour. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** on the perceived character SC3 Chichester Harbour, which is located at long distance over 20.3km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 array area, with very low lying (below high spring tide level) and enclosed expanses of marine water, tidal mudflat and marsh, affording very limited visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, which are further enclosed by wooded shoreline and intervening landscape elements within the adjacent	**Not Significant (Moderate/minor)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of SC3 Chichester Harbour as a result of its distance, orientation, enclosure and separation from the offshore elements of Rampion 2, which limit effects on its perceived character.

LCA	Sensitivity to Change	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Effect (operation)
	there are views across the Solent and along Bracklesham Bay to the open seas. There is, however, a reduction in susceptibility due to the limited section of coastline at the harbour mouth, its south-westerly oblique orientation, the intervening landform of the Manhood Peninsula/headland of Selsey Bill, and the flatness/enclosure of the majority of the waters of the central harbour and narrow inlets/creeks, which limits associations between this LCA and the windfarm array area.	coastal plain. The main orientation of the LCA is also to the south/south-west, away from the wind farm array area, with a small area of associated coastline at the harbour mouth, separated by the headland of Selsey Bill and intervening settled landscape of the Manhood Peninsula and urbanised south coast shoreline.	
SC4 Pagham Harbour	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the landscape has medium-high value, and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The value of the LCA derives principally from the distinctiveness of the Pagham Harbour landscape, particularly the blend of land and sea formed by enclosed natural harbours of marine water, tidal mudflats and saltmarsh, although the LCA does not form part of a designated landscape. It has high recreational value, particularly for recreational boating and some perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness,	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as an enclosed natural harbour of marine water, tidal mudflats and saltmarsh, its marsh vegetation and shingle banks, range of habitats, wildlife and land use, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the character of the harbour. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** on the perceived character of SC4	**Not Significant (Moderate/minor),** indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of SC4 Pagham Harbour due to its distance and enclosure by shingle banks and urban areas of Pagham that restrict views out to the seascape and limit effects on its perceived character.

LCA	Sensitivity to Change	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Effect (operation)
	associated with the open water. The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives from the strong visual associations between the harbour mouth and the seascape, where there are views across to the open seas. There is, however, a reduction in susceptibility due to the limited section of coastline at the harbour mouth, the intervening coastal spit landforms at the harbour mouth limit views from within the harbour, and the flatness/enclosure of the majority of the waters and narrow inlets/creeks, which limits associations between this LCA and the windfarm array area.	Pagham Harbour, which is located over 15.4km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 array area and dominated by low-lying, vast tidal mudflats and fringing marsh vegetation enclosed to the south by open shingle banks that restrict views out to the seascape beyond, affording very limited visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and limiting potential changes in perceived character of the landscape within Pagham Harbour.	
SC10. Lower Arun Valley	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium, reflecting that the landscape has medium value, and its perceived character has a medium-low susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The value of the LCA derives principally from the role of its river corridor and floodplain in forming a break between intrusive surrounding suburban activities, offering a less developed coastal edge sand dune system at Climping, as well as the	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as the valley and floodplain of the River Arun, its land use, habitats and views of Arundel towards the chalk downs, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of the valley. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its	**Not Significant (Minor)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of the Climping area of the Arun Valley closest to the coast; and **Not Significant (Minor/negligible)** on the perceived character of the Arun Valley further north between Climping and Arundel.

LCA	Sensitivity to Change	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Effect (operation)
	value associated with views of Arundel, its setting and the South Downs across the valley to the north. The perceptual qualities are associated with its potential exposure to the sea near Climping and the meandering river/agricultural floodplains, however perceptual qualities have been eroded by the extent of adjacent intrusive suburban development and activities. The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives from the visual associations between the coastal areas near Climping and the sea, where there is potential for development in the seascape to interrupt open views due to the intervisibility with the sea. There is, however, a reduction in susceptibility due to the limited amount of the LCA forming the coastal edge at this location, with most of the LCA extending inland along the Arun Valley away from the coast, being low lying and visually contained by the intervening dunes (which fall within SC1 – South Coast Shoreline), the influence of adjacent urban development and the golf course alongside the dunes at its coastal edge.	perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context, from limited coastal areas of the LCA near Climping. The magnitude of change to the perceived character of the LCA resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** from the Climping area of the Arun Valley closest to the coast between Climping, Atherington and the River Arun at distances over 15.3km from the Rampion 2 array area, where the intervening sand dunes and urbanised coast of Littlehampton in the adjacent South Coast Shore (SC1) LCA restrict sea views and limit changes to the perceived character; dropping to **negligible** change to the perceived character of the Arun Valley further north between Climping and Arundel.	

Residual effects on views and viewpoints – West Sussex

Viewpoints

15.10.71 An assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on representative viewpoints within West Sussex (outside the SDNP) is set out in **Table 15-34**, with further assessment provided in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4).

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Table 15-34 Assessment of West Sussex Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect
9. Shoreham Harbour / A259 (Figure 15.34, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	18.1	63.2°	19.7°	**Medium-low**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-low, reflecting that the view has low value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Not significant (Moderate/ minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
10. Worthing seafront promenade (Figure 15.35, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	13.6	76.8°	35.1°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**High**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as high.	**Significant (Major)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
11. Littlehampton seafront promenade	15.4	69.5°	52.7°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting	**High**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore	**Significant (Major)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect
(Figure 15.36, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as high.	
12. Bognor Regis seafront promenade (Figure 15.37, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	15.4	55.5°	46.3°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major/ moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
13. Pagham Beach (Figure 15.38, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	16.1	47.1°	41.0°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect
14. Selsey seafront promenade (Figure 15.39, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	14.9	41.9°	36.3°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
22. Eastoke Point (Chichester Harbour AONB) (Figure 15.47, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	27.0	26.8°	25.4°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
26. Low Weald (A24, near Ashington)	28.9	0°	0°	**Medium-low**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-low, reflecting	**Zero**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore	**Not significant (None)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect
(Figure 15.49, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-low susceptibility to change.	elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as zero.	
40. Climping Beach (Figure 15.59, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	15.5	66.8°	52.1°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**High**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as high.	**Significant (Major)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
47. High Weald (near Bolney) (Figure 15.62, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	37.0	12.2°	12.2°	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-low susceptibility to change.	**Negligible**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as negligible.	**Not significant (Minor/negligible)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect
A. East Wittering (Figure 15.73, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	21.6	22.1°	21.5°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
B1. Chichester Marina (Figure 15.74, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	23.3	0°	0°	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a low susceptibility to change.	**Zero**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as zero.	**Not significant (None)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
B2. Dell Quay (Figure 15.75, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	24.1	0°	0°	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the	**Zero**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as zero.	**Not significant (None)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect
				view have a low susceptibility to change.		
C. Eastergate (proposed A29) (Figure 15.76, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	21.1	50.9°	39.9°	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Medium-low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low.	**Not significant (Moderate/minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
D. Footpath between A259 and Colworth (Figure 15.77, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	20.0	47.6°	38.6°	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a low susceptibility to change.	**Zero**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as zero.	**Not significant (None)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
E. Ferring Gap (Figure 15.78, Volume 3, of	14.0	77.5°	54.0°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be	**High**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the	**Significant (Major)**, direct,

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HfoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect
the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))				medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as high.	long-term and reversible.
F. Lancing Beach (Figure 15.79, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	15.1	71.3°	26.6°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**High**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as high.	**Significant (Major)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

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Visual receptors – settlements

Overview

15.10.72 There are a number of settlements within West Sussex which form the almost contiguous, linear urbanised coastline between Shoreham-by-Sea, Worthing, Lancing, Littlehampton, Selsey and Bognor Regis. The sensitivity of residents of these coastal edge settlements to the changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high, reflecting that the views have medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.

15.10.73 The open sea views are informally recognised through the seaward alignment of the urban seafrontages and the popularity of the beaches/seafronts to visitors however, the views are not within a designated landscape nor afforded planning policy protection. Views have some scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the visible landscape, particularly the large-scale, open and exposed sea and skies viewed from the low coastline, however there are extensive urban development influences and tourism influences and activities which influence the scenic qualities at the seafront.

15.10.74 Susceptibility to change is assessed as high, since views are representative of seafront coastal viewpoints from these settlements, experienced by residents from the primary place of residence who experience views of long duration, whose main attention and interest are partially on the sea views, as well as the other elements of their immediate surroundings. Views from these settlements are often experienced by a relatively large number of people, residing in the settlements. On a busy summer's day there is capacity for the character of views to be fundamentally changed by intensity of public use at the seafront and beach activity. There are direct views out to sea from the coastal edge, from the low coastline over open and exposed sea, in which viewers are more liable to be influenced by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, however, the visual amenity experienced by the viewers is already influenced by the presence of the existing Rampion 1 WTGs. This clear and prominent existing wind farm influence in sea views moderates susceptibility to change as WTGs are characteristic elements in the sea views and further WTGs will be viewed in the context of this wind farm developed skyline. There are also a number of elements associated with the urbanised coast and the extent of tourism influences and activities, which detract from the existing visual amenity and moderate visual sensitivity.

Shoreham-by-Sea

15.10.75 Shoreham-by-Sea is a generally low-lying settlement, coincident with the plateau of the coastal plain, but including elevated residential neighbourhoods at its northern extents. Shoreham, including the adjacent urban areas of Southwick and Portslade-by-Sea comprises an extensive area of residential development, with a focus of commercial development around the harbour and an overall diverse, sprawling urban character. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the town, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES

(Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the density of built development and the low-lying character of the landform will limit views to those from the seafront, from open space near the coast and higher buildings within the town. The distance and context of views towards the sea from the majority of the town will include the foreground context of Shoreham and be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings and vegetation, such that for the majority of Shoreham, the magnitude of change will be **low** and the potential effect **Not Significant (minor)**. The greatest potential for views of the proposed development will be experienced from the seafront properties at Shoreham Beach and around Shoreham Harbour. Views from Shoreham Beach will be defined by open, direct views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, where it will be a prominent element in good visibility at a range of approximately 14.9km, resulting in a **high** magnitude of change and **Significant (major)** effect on views experienced by residents and users of Shoreham Beach. Views of the sea from the residential areas skirting the northern edge of the harbour will be heavily filtered by the enclosing harbour wall, large scale warehouses and storage buildings within the harbour context and Shoreham Power Station, such that their effect is slightly reduced to **medium-high** magnitude at the harbour area, compared to that experience at Shoreham Beach, but remaining significant.

Worthing and Lancing

15.10.76 Worthing is a generally low-lying settlement, coincident with the plateau of the coastal plain, but including elevated residential neighbourhoods at its northern extents. Lancing is slightly separated to the east, but at the coast there is a perception of contiguous urban development. Worthing includes a notable 'seafront character with typically large scale and ornate buildings laid out in a distinctive regular grid layout, but with extensive inland residential suburbs. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of Worthing and Lancing, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the density of built development and the low-lying character of the landform will limit views to those from the seafront, from open space near the coast, high rise buildings and from the more elevated northern edge of the town. The distance and context of views towards the sea from the majority of the town will include the foreground context of Worthing and Lancing and be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings and vegetation, such that for the majority of Worthing and Lancing, the magnitude of change will be **low** and the potential effect **Not Significant (minor)**. Seafront views, including those from Worthing's seafront promenade and Lancing Beach will be defined by open, direct views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, as illustrated by Viewpoint 10 (**Figure 15.35, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where they will be a prominent element in good visibility at a range of approximately 13.6km, with the western extension resulting in an additional lateral spread of WTGs of approximately 35.1° to the offshore field of view, resulting in a **high** magnitude of change and **Significant (major)** effect on views experienced by residents and users of Worthing and Lancing seafront.

Littlehampton

15.10.77 Littlehampton is a low-lying settlement, coincident with the plateau of the coastal plain. The town includes a notable commercial emphasis around the harbour and western town extents, but with a wider expanse of inland residential suburbs. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the town, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the density of built development and the low-lying character of the landform will limit views to those from the seafront, from open space near the coast and higher buildings within the town. Seafront views, including those from the seafront promenade will be defined by open, direct views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, as illustrated by Viewpoint 11 (**Figure 15.36, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where they will be a prominent element in good visibility at a range of approximately 15.4km, with the western extension resulting in an additional lateral spread of WTGs of approximately 52.7° to the offshore field of view, resulting in a **high** magnitude of change and **Significant (major)** effect on views experienced by residents and users of Littlehampton seafront.

Selsey

15.10.78 Selsey is a low-lying settlement, coincident with the headland of Selsey Bill on the end of the Manhood Peninsula. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the town, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the density of built development and the low-lying character of the landform will limit views to those from the seafront and from open space near the coast. The distance and context of views towards the sea from the majority of the settlement will include the foreground context of Selsey and be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings and vegetation, such that for the majority of Selsey, the magnitude of change will be **low** and the potential effect **Not Significant (minor)**. Seafront views, including those from the seafront promenade will be defined by open, direct views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, as illustrated by Viewpoint 14 (**Figure 15.39, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where they will be a prominent element in good visibility at a range of approximately 14.9km, with the western extension resulting in an additional lateral spread of WTGs of approximately 36.3°the offshore field of view, resulting in a **medium-high** magnitude of change and **Significant (major / moderate)** effect on views experienced by residents and users of Selsey seafront.

Bognor Regis

15.10.79 Seaside recreational influences are the prevailing elements within the character of the built up area, notably defined by the seafront Butlins complex and the various seafront tourism related developments and facilities. The greater majority of the settlement is however defined by expansive residential suburbs. The distance and context of views towards the sea from the majority of the settlement will include

the foreground context of Bognor Regis and be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings and vegetation, such that for the majority of Bognor Regis, the magnitude of change will be **low** and the potential effect **Not Significant (minor)**. The density of built development and the low lying character of the landform will however typically limit views towards the proposed development to those from the coastal edge. The experience of such views will include the Conservation Areas at The Steyne and Waterloo Square. Seafront views, including those from the seafront promenade will be defined by open, direct views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, as illustrated by Viewpoint 12 (**Figure 15.37, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where they will be a prominent element in good visibility at a range of approximately 15.4km, with the western extension resulting in an additional lateral spread of WTGs of approximately 46.3° to the offshore field of view, resulting in a **medium-high** magnitude of change and **Significant (major/moderate)** effect on views experienced by residents and users of Bognor Regis seafront.

Visual receptors – Long Distance Routes

Arun Way

15.10.80 The assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the Arun Way is informed by the ZTV showing the route of the Arun Way presented in **Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the assessment of representative viewpoints on or near to the Arun Way in **Table 15-34**.

15.10.81 The sensitivity to change of users of the Arun Way is considered to vary considerably along the route depending on the landscape context, with many factors that moderate susceptibility including the transience, duration of views and changeable experiences and views from the route. Walkers/cyclist users of the Arun Way generally have a medium-high sensitivity from the coastal edges between Littlehampton and Atherington, reducing as the route extends away from coast inland along the Arun Valley to medium sensitivity between Climping and Arundel; and low sensitivity to the north of Arundel, where there is limited or no association between the route and the seascape.

15.10.82 The magnitude of change to views from the Arun Way resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, is assessed as **high** and the effect **Significant (major)** along the 3km coastal section of the route between Littlehampton Marina and Atherington (Climping Beach), for example, as shown in Viewpoint 11 (**Figure 15.36, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 40 (**Figure 15.59, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

15.10.83 The magnitude of change to the views experienced by users of the Arun Way resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, is assessed as **low** and the effect **Not Significant (moderate / minor)** from the Arun Way between Atherington, Climping and Arundel, where the intervening landform, vegetation and urban areas of Littlehampton and the coastal plain restrict sea views and limit changes in visual amenity from the route of the Arun Way which is contained within the Arun Valley.

15.10.84 The magnitude of change to the views experienced by users of the Arun Way resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, is assessed as **negligible** and the effect **Not Significant (minor)** from the Arun Way to the north of Arundel from this lengthy section of the route along the flood plain of the River Arun, passing Amberley to West Chiltington, from which there is limited or no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 due to the containment of the valley landform by the adjacent South Downs, as well as there being increasing distance inland between the route and the distant seascape to the south.

15.10.85 In summary, much of the route of the Arun Way has contained views of the enclosing landform of the Arun Valley, contained by the South Downs as they rise on either side of the valley, and by the landform of the downs to the south of Weald. Views of the sea tend to be limited to the sections of the Arun Way near to the coast near Atherington and Littlehampton where the route approaches and runs along the coast, over which significant effects will be restricted to a 3km section of the route at the coast, which represents a geographically limited section of the 36km of the Arun Way.

Residual effects on Chichester Harbour AONB – special qualities

15.10.86 An assessment of the effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the defined special qualities of the Chichester Harbour AONB is set out in **Table 15-35**. An assessment of the magnitude of change and residual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the defined special qualities of the SDNP is set out in **Table 15-32**. Although there are pockets of the CHAONB landscape where the baseline conditions are such that the value of particular features or aesthetic dimensions are reduced, the CHAONB is, as a whole, of high value, recognised through its designation as an AONB. Although the inherent sensitivity of the CHAONB is high, there is some variation in the susceptibility of the different areas/LCAs within the AONB to the specific nature of changes associated with the proposed development, since the assessment of susceptibility to change is tailored to the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Assessment of the sensitivity to change of LCAs within the CHAONB is contained in **Table 15-33** and is reflected in the assessment of CHAONB special qualities.

Table 15-35 Assessment of Chichester Harbour AONB special qualities

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
1. The unique blend of land and sea – especially the combination of expanses of open waters, narrow inlets and intimate creeks.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** and the effect **Significant (major / moderate)** on views and the perceived 'unique blend of land and sea' experienced from the open waters and coastal edges at the mouth to Chichester Harbour, at the coastal strip edges of LCA F1 South Hayling Island (CHAONB LCA 2019), where there are open views of the sea and in particular views south-east along the Witterings toward Selsey Bill. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will introduce additional WTG elements in views along the coast, extending out to sea beyond the headland of Selsey Bill

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	and effecting the blend of land and sea visible along the coastline and extending out along the sea skyline (as illustrated in Viewpoint 22 from Eastoke Point). These effects are geographically contained to the open waters at the mouth of the harbour (LCA A1) and adjacent coastline at Eastoke Point and are not experienced from the open water of the Chichester Harbour Central Basin (B1), where the magnitude of change on the expanses of open waters is assessed as **negligible** and **Not Significant (minor)** due to the very limited theoretical visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, the low-lying landscapes, wooded shorelines and the degree of intervening screening by vegetation and development on the Manhood Peninsular, between the CHAONB and the windfarm array area. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the perceived blend of land and sea experienced from the 'narrow inlets' and 'intimate creeks' of the CHAONB where there is limited or no visibility.
2. The frequently wooded shoreline.	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss to the 'frequently wooded shoreline' of the CHAONB. The magnitude of change to the physical state of the wooded shoreline and the intactness of this landscape quality and condition of these individual elements will be **zero** and the residual effect **Not Significant (no effect)**. Views to the shoreline from within the Chichester Harbour central basin sometimes have a wooded appearance, with the panoramic views of open water, mudflats and the Harbour peninsulas having wooded margins. Harbourside trees, copses and hedgerows merge together in views from the water to give the impression of a wooded shoreline. These layers of vegetation forming the 'wooded shoreline', provide further screening in views from the central harbour towards the offshore elements of Rampion 2.
3. The flatness of the landform, unusual among AONBs, accentuates the significance of sea and tide and of distant landmarks across land and water.	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss to the 'flatness of the landform' of the CHAONB. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 have the potential to interrupt the distinctive unspoilt views across the CHAONB, which can be attributed in part to the general flatness of the landscape and sea. The low-lying flat landform and sea means that tall spires and towers are important features, seen as distant landmarks across the land and water, against the backdrop of the South Downs, to the north, in which the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **negligible** change and **Not Significant (minor)** residual effects due to its position in a different direction of view (to the east/south-east) and the level of intervening landform and vegetation screening in views. As such the

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	offshore elements of Rampion 2 will also result in **negligible** change and **Not Significant (minor)** residual effects to the long views towards landmarks such as Chichester Cathedral and the South Downs, framed views of the inlets and the yachts moored along them and attractive views of historic waterside development, notably at Bosham, West Itchenor, Emsworth, Langstone and Dell Quay. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium** and the residual effect **Significant (moderate)** only on the perceived 'significance of the sea' and of 'distant landmarks across water', experienced in views from the 'open waters' at Chichester Harbour Mouth and coastal strip edges of F1 South Hayling Island (CHAONB LCA 2019), where the WTGs will be viewed as new, distant landmarks in panoramic views over the water and the Wittering Coast towards the landmark headland of Selsey Bill (as illustrated in Viewpoint 22 from Eastoke Point). These effects occur over geographically contained areas at the harbour mouth and Eastoke Point and in a limited part of the wider seascape views, outside the main directional focus into the central harbour and South Downs. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the flatness of the CHAONB landform, or the significance of sea and tide that is expressed with the flat landscape.
4. The open water of the central area of the Harbour.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)** on the perceived character and qualities of the open water of the central area of the harbour. The open water of the central harbour basin forms a large uniform expanse of open water at high tide, and bare mudflat and saltmarsh at low tide. Although it is wide and open, it is very flat and low lying, never offering elevated vantage points, with restricted views of the wider landscape to the east beyond the immediate edges of the containing Manhood Peninsula (LCA I1), whose landform and vegetation define the visual envelope of the harbour and limit the potential changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the perceived special qualities of the open waters of the central basin of the CHAONB. Views to south to the seascape are in a different directional focus to the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and are also partially restricted due to the slightly elevated spits that enclose a narrow Harbour mouth.
5. The overall sense of	No physical attributes that contribute to the 'wilderness' special qualities of the CHAONB will be changed as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, such as its open water, dunes and wooded

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
wilderness within the seascape.	shorelines. Development located outside the CHAONB may only impact on perceptual responses or the perception of relative 'wilderness'. It is particularly the central harbour basin with its wide openness and perception of remoteness, and the dynamic influence of the weather upon the estuary, where the perception of wildness is most evident and readily experienced within the CHAONB, however this is not considered to be 'wilderness' (as expressed in the special quality). The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)** on the perceived 'wilderness' qualities within the seascape, including of the open water of the central area of the harbour, its inlets and channels, where there are restricted views of the wider landscape to the east beyond the immediate edges of the containing Manhood Peninsula (LCA I1), which limits visibility and the potential changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the perceived wildness qualities of the CHAONB.
6. The particularly strong historic environment and heritage assets.	There will be no direct effects on the 'strong historic environment' of the SDNP as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, however there may be effects on the setting of heritage assets as assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25). It is the finding of this assessment that the majority of the heritage assets within the SLVIA study area are considered unlikely to be impacted due to the nature of the asset, topography, intervening vegetation and built infrastructure, and the relative distance from the Rampion array area. This also includes some heritage assets with views out to sea but where those views do not make an important contribution to the asset's heritage significance, therefore any perceptibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is unlikely to impact that heritage significance. Table 25-32 of **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25) lists all of the potential effects arising through change to setting of heritage assets during the operation and maintenance phase of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and it is the finding of this assessment that the setting of all heritage assets will not be significantly affected with only minor adverse effects predicted to occur on the setting of heritage assets within the SDNP.
7. The picturesque harbourside settlements.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)** on the setting and views from picturesque harbourside settlements within the CHAONB, generally dispersed and in low lying positions along the waters' edge, including the villages of West Thorney and Bosham. Both of these particular villages are located outside the ZTV (**Figure 15.15,**

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) of Rampion 2, due to the low-lying positions at the waters edge and are located at long distances of 28km and 26.5km respectively. The picturesque setting and relationship of these settlements with the water, jetties, pontoons and slipways along the inlets will be retained and unaffected and will continue to define their special quality and character.
8. The unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)** on the unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty of the CHAONB. The undeveloped character of the Harbour will be retained and in no way will it become 'developed' as a result of the distant influence of Rampion 2, which only occurs in views to the sea from a small area of water at the mouth of Chichester Harbour and around Eastoke Point. As such, the CHAONB will remain 'unspoilt' and the undeveloped character of the Harbour will remain almost unique on the south coast as a large and undeveloped tidal river mouth. The landscape of the CHAONB will remain a dynamic landscape that is sculpted primarily by natural processes, with these natural processes and the high-quality habitats of the CHAONB remaining unaffected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and these habitats will continue to contribute to the 'natural beauty' of the harbour landscape, along with the 'flat openness' and 'enclosure' of the harbour.
9. The very special sense of peace and tranquillity, largely engendered by the gentle way the AONB is used and closeness to nature that is experienced.	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the tranquillity that people gain from the quiet experienced in the landscape of the CHAONB. Changes resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 relate to the visual aspects of tranquillity, i.e what is seen by people in the landscape and whether its visible elements detract from the perception of such 'seen' tranquillity. Areas of relative tranquillity are shown in CPRE's national tranquillity mapping, contained within the CPRE Tranquillity Report (Northumbria University, 2008 revised) and its associated 'Tranquillity Map' and an 'Intrusion Map' of England. Areas that are disturbed by noise and visual intrusion (Figure 2) with least tranquillity (Figure 1) occur around the edges of the CHAONB, associated with the developed landscapes around its boundary, such as Hayling Island to the west, Havant and Emsworth to the north and Chichester to the north-east. These have not, however, been sufficient to deny existing opportunities to experience a sense of tranquillity within the peninsulas and open water of the CHAONB, where the experience of tranquillity is greatest, despite the presence of some outside development influences beyond the

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	boundary of the CHAONB, with tranquillity reducing gradually towards the outer edges of the CHAONB as a result. This will continue to be the case in relation to the offshore elements of Rampion 2, which will not change the 'gentle way the AONB is used', often from recreational boats on the open water of the central harbour areas and would only influence views of the open sea from a limited area of the narrow harbour mouth where boats enter and exit the harbour. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 only have potential to effect tranquillity factors relating to seascape views from this small area at the harbour mouth, with no effect on the majority of factors which define the tranquillity of the CHAONB, including its natural vegetation cover, open water, inlets, wooded shoreline, natural processes and habitats. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and residual effects are **Not Significant (minor)** on the sense of peace, tranquillity and closeness to nature experienced from the peninsulas and open water of the CHAONB, where these qualities are most experienced. Changes of the nature proposed would not significantly influence opportunities to experience a sense of tranquillity as the wind farm element would not over-ride the existing naturalistic elements in the landscape, nor its open water and occasional extensive sea views at the harbour mouth, which will remain in the presence of Rampion 2.

Effects on East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove

Residual effects on views and viewpoints – East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove

Viewpoints

15.10.87 An assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on representative viewpoints within East Sussex (outside the SDNP) is set out in **Table 15-36**, with further assessment provided in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4).

Table 15-36 Assessment of East Sussex and City of Brighton & Hove viewpoints

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
5. Newhaven (Castle Hill) (Figure 15.30, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	21.6	31.7°	15.4°	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
6. Peacehaven (Figure 15.31, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	19.4	38.1°	21.8°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major/moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
8. Brighton seafront promenade (Figure 15.33, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	18.4	53.3°	17.6°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-high**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high.	**Significant (Major)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Visual receptors – settlements

Overview

15.10.88 There are a number of settlements within East Sussex which form the almost contiguous, linear urbanised coastline between Brighton and Hove, Woodingdean, Rottingdean, Saltdean, Peacehaven and Seaford. The sensitivity of residents of these coastal edge settlements to the changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-high**, reflecting that the views have medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a high susceptibility to change.

15.10.89 The open sea views are informally recognised through the seaward alignment of the urban seafrontages and the popularity of the beaches/seafronts to visitors, however, the views from these settlements are not within a designated landscape nor afforded planning policy protection. Views have some scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the visible landscape, particularly the large-scale, open and exposed sea and skies viewed from the low coastline, however, there are extensive urban development influences and tourism influences and activities which influence the scenic qualities at the seafront.

15.10.90 Susceptibility to change is assessed as varying between medium to high, depending on the seascape context of the settlement and the influence of detracting elements associated with the urbanised coast, major ports (such as at Newhaven) and the extent of tourism influences and activities, which detract from the existing visual amenity and moderate visual sensitivity. Views are representative of seafront coastal viewpoints from these settlements, experienced by residents from the primary place of residence who experience views of long duration, as well as being representative of views experienced by people visiting the seafront, beaches and visitor attractions, whose main attention and interest are partially on the sea views, as well as the other attractions and interests of their immediate surroundings. Views from these settlements are often experienced by a relatively large number of people, residing in the settlements or visiting the beaches and seafront. On a busy summer's day there is capacity for the character of views to be fundamentally changed by intensity of public use at the seafront and beach activity. There are direct views out to sea from the coastal edge, from the low coastline over open and exposed sea, in which viewers are more liable to be influenced by the offshore elements of Rampion 2, however, the visual amenity experienced by the viewers is already influenced by the presence of the existing Rampion 1 WTGs. This clear and prominent existing wind farm influence in sea views moderates susceptibility to change as WTGs are characteristic elements in the sea views and further WTGs will be viewed in the context of this wind farm developed skyline. There are also a number of elements associated with the urbanised coast and the extent of tourism influences and activities, which detract from the existing visual amenity and moderate visual sensitivity.

Brighton and Hove

15.10.91 Brighton and Hove includes notably 'gentrified' seafront character areas with typically large scale and ornate buildings laid out in distinctive regular grid layouts. Whilst the settlement area includes a notable seafront character, the greater

massing of Brighton and Hove extends onto the lower slopes of the South Downs, which affords a southerly seaward outlook from parts of the urban area. The importance of sea views to the character and sensation of space within Brighton and its seafront is a notable part of its visual baseline, although the introduction of Rampion 1 has already changed the uninterrupted nature of the seascape, particularly in good visibility. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the coastal edge, western and mid areas of the town. Subtle valley landform cutting through the town, coincident with main rail and road routes, will afford notable visual containment from views of the proposed development, within the extent of urban area. Views from the 'inland' areas of the City will be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings within the line of sight to the sea, landform and vegetation, such that for the majority of Brighton, the magnitude of change will be **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)**. As illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the density of built development and the low-lying character of the landform will limit views to those from the seafront, from open space near the coast, higher buildings within the City and from the elevated land on its northern such as near Hollingbury.

15.10.92 High rise and seafront views, including the coastal residential areas of Hove, Brighton's main seafront near Brighton Pier, Kemp Town and Brighton Marina residential will be defined by open, direct views of the proposed development, in which it will form a prominent element as an addition to the west and east of the existing Rampion 1 wind farm, as illustrated by Viewpoint 8 (**Figure 15.33, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where they will be a prominent element in good visibility at a range of approximately 18.4km, with the western extension resulting in an additional lateral spread of WTGs of approximately 17.6° to the offshore field of view, resulting in a **medium-high** magnitude of change and **Significant (major / moderate)** residual effect on views experienced by residents and users of Brighton seafront.

15.10.93 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 are likely to result in material visual impact on receptors at Brighton seafront, both residents and in the context of the seafront being viewed as a major attraction for the city, where the addition of Rampion 2 will interrupt a further part of the open expansive sea views and encroaching on the sense of openness, but will also extend to result in material visual impact on other areas of the city further inland, where there will be changes of **medium** magnitude and **Significant (moderate)** residual effects on views from tall buildings of the city or from the more elevated suburbs and vantage points on the higher vantage points over the city, akin to that experienced from Hollingbury Hillfort (Viewpoint 27).

Woodingdean, Rottingdean, Saltdean and Peacehaven

15.10.94 Woodingdean, Rottingdean (and Ovingdean), Saltdean and Peacehaven form a series of separate but geographically associated residential settlements to the east of Brighton. Woodingdean occupies an elevated inland position with varying extents of visibility of the sea, influenced by the intervening undulating downland topography. Rottingdean and Ovingdean are lower lying with views of the sea

largely screened by the intervening landform of Castle Hill and Beacon Hill, such that it is just the clifftop coincident positions of Rottingdean, Saltdean and Peacehaven extending along the coast, that afford elevated seaward aspects. Visibility is subtly influenced by the undulating topography, which creates areas of containment within the settlement areas. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the coastal edge and from south-west facing slopes, though with notable areas of visual containment associated with the undulating landform. Views towards the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from Rottingdean and Saltdean typically associated with properties located on south-west facing valley slopes and the clifftops, as represented by Viewpoint 7 Beacon Hill (**Figure 15.32, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). Peacehaven is located within a more uniform landform setting, which typically limits seaward views to the most immediate coastal facing settlement edge, such as represented by Viewpoint 6 (**Figure 15.31, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). There will be a **medium-high** magnitude of change in views from residential areas in the northern extents of Woodingdean, the coastal edge and south-west facing slopes of Rottingdean and Saltdean and the coastal edge of Peacehaven with a resultant **Significant (major / moderate)** residual effect.

Seaford and Rookery Hill

15.10.95 Seaford is the easternmost limit of notable settlement influence along the coast with beach resort associations and a seafront promenade at its eastern end, situated at Seaford Bay. Rookery Hill adjoins the western edge of Seaford and lies to the north of the A59. There are extensive views along Seaford Bay along the coastline to the cliffs extending east towards Brighton and over Peacehaven Harbour. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the town, however, as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the density of built development and the low-lying character of the landform will limit views to those from the seafront, from open space near the coast and higher buildings within the town. Seafront views, including those from the seafront promenade will be defined by open, direct views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, as illustrated by Viewpoint 4 (**Figure 15.29, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where they will be a prominent element in good visibility at a range of approximately 23.9km occupying 25.6° of the offshore field of view, resulting in a **medium** magnitude of change and **Significant** (**moderate**) residual effect on views experienced by residents and users of Seaford seafront. The potential for significant effects will however typically be limited to the immediate coastal edge with scope for inland views largely filtered by intervening buildings and vegetation.

Visual receptors - National Cycle Network Route 2

15.10.96 The assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on users of the Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 2

(NCNR2) is informed by the ZTV showing the route of the NCNR2 presented in **Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the assessment of representative viewpoints on or near to the route in **Table 15-34** and **Table 15-36**.

15.10.97 Cyclist users of the NCNR2 generally have a medium sensitivity to change, with much of the route occurring along, or within, urban areas that form the linear coastal edge of urban and resort development between Worthing and Newhaven; reducing to low sensitivity along the section of NCNR2 between Eastbourne and Bexhill which has limited or no association with the seascape of Sussex Bay in which the windfarm array area is located. There are many factors that reduce susceptibility including the transience of cyclists passing through the landscape, duration of views and changeable experiences and views from the route, which is generally within or alongside the urbanised coast.

15.10.98 The magnitude of change to views from NCNR2 resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, is assessed as **medium-high** to **high** and the effect **Significant (moderate to major / moderate)** along the 30km coastal section of the route between Worthing and Peacehaven, taking in views from Worthing (Viewpoint 10), Shoreham-by-Sea (Viewpoint 9), Brighton (Viewpoint 8), Rottingdean (Viewpoint 7) and Peacehaven (Viewpoint 6). The visual effect of Rampion 2 is also assessed as being significant from the 2.5km section of the route along Seaford Bay (Viewpoint 4) and the southern edges of Seaford.

15.10.99 The magnitude of change to views from NCNR2 resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, is assessed as **low** and the effect **not significant (minor)** along the 10km section of the route set back from the coast within the urban areas of Peacehaven, Newhaven and Rookery Hill. The magnitude of change to views from NCNR2 is assessed as **zero** and **no effect** (**Not Significant**) along the 24km section of the route between Seaford extending inland along the Cuckmere Valley and eastwards past Eastbourne to Bexhill, where there is no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the route of NCNR2.

Effects on Hampshire and the Solent

Residual effects on Landscape Character - Hampshire and the Solent

15.10.100 An assessment of the effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the landscape character of LCAs within Hampshire is set out in **Table 15-37**. LCAs within Hampshire are highlighted in **Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and mapped at detailed scale with the ZTV in **Figure 15.19, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

Table 15-37 Assessment of Hampshire Landscape Character

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
11c. Eastern Solent	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium, reflecting that the landscape has medium value and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The coastline of MCA05 within Hampshire does not form part of a landscape designated for its scenic value. It is an almost contiguously developed coastline with the major urban areas of South Hayling, Portsmouth and Gosport, as well as the major commercial, ferry and naval port, around Portsmouth Harbour. There are strong visual associations between shoreline and the seas of the eastern Solent, however there is reduction in susceptibility due to the southerly orientation of the coastline and the intervening landform of the Manhood Peninsula and headland of Selsey Bill which reduce associations between this coastline and the windfarm array area. Other factors also reduce sensitivity including the large-scale shipping influences, the urbanised coast and high recreational pressure, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities, and the large scale and expansiveness of the seascape.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** on the perceived character of the eastern Solent, which is located at long distance over 25.3km from the closest point of the Rampion 2 array area, with its main orientation to the south, separated by the headland of Selsey Bill and intervening urbanised coastline. The area within the LCA is entirely seascape, whose character is perceived only by water-based receptors. There are numerous prominent elements and features within the Solent and its coastline, such that the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will form a background feature on the distant skyline and have a limited characterising influence on the seascape of the eastern Solent.	**Not Significant (Minor)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of the eastern Solent.

Residual effects on views and viewpoints – Hampshire

Viewpoints

15.10.101 An assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on representative viewpoints within Hampshire (outside the SDNP) is set out in **Table 15-38**, with further assessment provided in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4).

Table 15-38 Assessment of Hampshire Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
43. Gilkicker Point (Figure 15.61, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	39.1	17.6°	17.6°	**Medium**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.	**Low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as low.	**Not Significant (Minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

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Visual receptors - settlements

15.10.102 The settlements of South Hayling and Portsmouth form the relevant urbanised coastline within Hampshire, which form the almost contiguous urbanised coastline on the northern coast of the Solent between Hayling Island at the mouth of Chichester Harbour to the City of Portsmouth and Gosport. The sensitivity of residents of these coastal edge settlements to the changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium, reflecting that the views have medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change.

15.10.103 The open sea views are informally recognised through the seaward alignment of the urban seafrontages and the popularity of the seafronts to visitors however, the views are not within a designated landscape nor afforded planning policy protection. Views have some scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the visible landscape, particularly the views along and across the Solent, including to the Isle of Wight AONB, implying a higher value to these areas of the view, and views over the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour and its landmarks, where it meets the open sea, looks along the eastern Solent. There are however, extensive urban development, major ports and industrial influences which influence the scenic qualities at the seafront.

15.10.104 Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium. Views are representative of seafront coastal viewpoints experienced by residents of these settlements of South Hayling and Portsmouth, who experience views of long duration, and whose attention and interest is partially on their immediate surroundings, however views towards the windfarm array area are at long-distance, oblique and partially enclosed by the intervening mainland coastline, with the focus and interest in views being across the Solent to the south-west towards the Isle of Wight. The sea views are heavily influenced by the busy seascape with numerous large vessels coming into Portsmouth, ferries crossing the Solent and extensive recreational boating use in the intervening seascape and the urban coastline. There are also a number of elements associated with the urbanised coast and the extent of tourism influences and activities, which detract from the existing visual amenity and moderate visual sensitivity.

South Hayling

15.10.105 South Hayling is located at the southern end of Hayling Island, in a low-lying position extending across Hayling Bay, between Chichester Harbour and Langstone Harbour mouths. The town includes a notable holiday and visitor attractions at the seafront, but with a wider expanse of residential suburbs extending north on Hayling Island. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the settlement, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the built development within the settlement and on the intervening Manhood Peninsula, together with the low-lying landform of this peninsula extending to Selsey Bill, will limit views to those from the seafront. Views from the ‘inland’ areas of the settlement will be subjected to the local screening influence of

urban buildings within the line of sight to the sea, landform and vegetation, such that for the majority of South Hayling, the magnitude of change will be **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)**.

15.10.106 Seafront views are oriented to the south to the open sea and south-west across the Solent, towards the Isle of Wight, in this main directional focus. Views from the seafront residential areas will be restricted in the south-easterly direction towards Rampion 2, due to the orientation of the southern coastline of Hayling Island and the intervening landform of the Manhood Peninsula to the east, which will largely screen views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on views experienced by residents and users of South Hayling seafront is assessed as **medium-low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (moderate / minor)** only on views from the seafront residential areas, where a limited number of WTGs at the western end of the windfarm array area will be viewed as new, distant landmarks in oblique views over the water and the Wittering Coast towards Selsey Bill.

Portsmouth

15.10.107 The City of Portsmouth is a port city primarily built on Portsea Island and is located at the southern end, forming a contiguous urban conurbation occupying a low-lying position between the coast, Portsmouth Harbour to the west, Langstone Harbour to the east and the M27/A27 corridor to the north. The city is a major commercial, ferry and naval port, with a focus to the west around Portsmouth Harbour, with a wider expanse of residential suburbs extending south to the end of Portsea Island. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the settlement, however, as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the built development within the settlement and on the intervening Hayling Island and Manhood Peninsula, together with the low-lying landform, will limit views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to the very southern edge of the city at the seafront, between Southsea Castle and Fort Cumberland. Views from the 'inland' areas of the city will be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings within the line of sight to the sea, landform and vegetation, such that for the almost all of Portsmouth, the magnitude of change will be **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor / negligible)**.

15.10.108 Seafront views are oriented to the south to the open sea and south-west across the Solent, towards the Isle of Wight, in this main directional focus. Views from the seafront residential areas of Portsmouth will be restricted in the south-easterly direction towards Rampion 2, due to the orientation of the southern coastline of Portsea Island and the intervening landform of the Manhood Peninsula to the east, which will partially screen views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on views experienced by residents and users of the southern Portsmouth seafront between Southsea Castle and Fort Cumberland is assessed as **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)** on views from the seafront residential areas, where a limited number of WTGs at the western end of the windfarm array area will be viewed as new, distant landmarks in oblique views over the water

across a busy seascape with major vessel movements and use in the intervening seas.

Visual receptors – Long Distance Routes

Solent Way

15.10.109 The assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on users of the Solent Way is informed by the ZTV showing the route of the Solent Way presented in **Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the assessment of representative viewpoints on or near to the route in **Table 15-38**.

15.10.110 Walkers / cyclist users of the Solent Way generally have a low sensitivity to change, with much of the route occurring along, or within, urban areas between Fareham, Lee-on-the-Solent through Gosport, across the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour and along the northern side of Langstone Harbour, between Eastney, Langstone and Emsworth. There are many factors that reduce susceptibility including the transience, duration of views and changeable experiences and views from the route, its long distance and limited association with the seascape of Sussex Bay.

15.10.111 The Solent Way extends from Fareham along the Solent to Gilkicker Point around the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour, and then inland around Langstone Harbour and Chichester Harbour to Emsworth. The route includes an apparent seaward aspect from much of its length along the Solent and Langstone Harbour, however, this will be experienced from a distinctly urban landscape through the majority of its length.

15.10.112 The magnitude of change to views from the Solent Way is assessed as **negligible** and residual effects are **Not Significant (negligible)** along the 12km section of the route between Fareham extending along the Solent past Lee-on-the-Solent to Gosport (Stokes Bay) where there is zero or negligible visibility of Rampion 2 from the route, until it approaches Gilkicker Point. There is a short 1km section of the Solent Way as it extends around and crosses Gilkicker Point, where there are eastwards views across the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour towards Rampion 2, as illustrated in Viewpoint 43 (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), where the WTGs within the western part of the windfarm array area will be visible as new, distant landmarks in views over the water across a busy seascape with major vessel movements and use in the intervening seas, and at long distances of approximately 39.1km, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change and **Not Significant (negligible)** residual effects. Similar views and levels of effect will also be gained over a 3km section of the Solent Way along the south coast of Portsea Island, between Southsea Castle and Eastney.

15.10.113 From its route through Gosport and across the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour, there will be zero change and no residual effects, where there is no visibility of Rampion 2 and the views are heavily influenced by the containing urban landscape, landmark buildings around the harbour and the major commercial, ferry and naval port. The magnitude of change to views from the Solent Way is also assessed as **negligible** and residual effects are **Not Significant (negligible)** along the 18km section of the route along the western and northern side of Langstone Harbour, between Eastney, Langstone and Emsworth, where the route

extends inland away from the coastal edge and views to the wider seascape and Rampion 2, beyond Langstone and Chichester Harbours, are contained by the intervening landforms, settlement and vegetation across Hayling Island, Thorney Island and the Manhood Peninsula.

New Lipchis Way

15.10.114 The assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on users of the New Lipchis Way is informed by the ZTV showing the route presented in **Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the assessment of representative viewpoints on or near to the route.

15.10.115 Walkers/cyclist users of the New Lipchis Way generally have a medium sensitivity to change, with much of the route occurring across the West Sussex south coast plain set well back inland from the coast and separated from it by intervening urban coastal development and vegetation, or following the western urban edge of Chichester, before taking a route that is largely enclosed within the South Downs, with the exception of a short section over Haye's Down and St Roche's Hill (The Trundle) where the sensitivity rises to medium-high due to the elevation affording open sea views to the south where viewers main attention and interest is likely to be on the panoramic views from the wooded downs over the coastal plain to the sea. There are many factors that reduce susceptibility including the transience, duration of views and changeable experiences and views from the route, its long distance and limited association with the seascape of Sussex Bay from the majority of the route.

15.10.116 There is a long 22km section of the New Lipchis Way crossing the south coast plain, between the mouth of Chichester Harbour near West Wittering, following the Chichester Channel to Birdham, Hunston and passing around the western side of Chichester and Mid Lavant where the magnitude of change is assessed as **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)**, due to the intervening screening by landform, vegetation, scattered settlement and urban development along the coast. The magnitude of change to views from the New Lipchis Way is assessed as **medium** and the residual effect is **Significant (moderate)** only over a short 2km section of the route over Haye's Down and St Roche's Hill (The Trundle) where there are hill-top views from the SDNP (Viewpoint 50, **Figure 15.59, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

15.10.117 To the north of the Trundle, there is a 31km section of the New Lipchis Way crossing the heaths, woods and farmland of the west Weald over Older Hill and Woolbeding Common to Midhurst and Heyshott, where the magnitude of change is assessed as **zero** and the residual effect **Not Significant (no effect)** where there is no visibility, or negligible visibility at very long distance, of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the route.

Effects on Isle of Wight

Effects on Landscape Character - Isle of Wight

15.10.118 An assessment of the effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the landscape character of LCAs on the Isle of Wight is set out in **Table 15-39**. LCAs within the Isle of Wight are highlighted in **Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and mapped at detailed scale with the ZTV in **Figure 15.19, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15).

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Table 15-39 Assessment of Isle of Wight Landscape Character

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
1. Chalk Downs	**High**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high, reflecting that the landscape has high value, and its perceived character has a medium-high susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The value of the LCA derives principally from the Chalk Downs forming an important part of the designated landscape of the IoW AONB, the high scenic quality/distinctiveness of the landscape, particularly the juxtaposition of the downs with chalk sea cliffs and beaches, and the long-distance views from the open, exposed downs out to sea, encompassing the wider landscape diversity and island context. It also has recreational value for walking/open access and strong cultural associations, particularly along the Tennyson Heritage Coast but also through the time-depth of the enduring character of the downs, which have a strong sense of tranquillity. There are strong visual connections between the chalk downs with the open seascape, with the seascape setting being integral to the character of the island context, making it susceptible to changes occurring in its	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as rolling chalk downland, its geology, land use, field pattern, habitats, settlement pattern and presence of ancient hill forts, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of these open downs. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character, notably its tranquillity and perception of remoteness, as a result of new WTG development influence at long distance and relatively narrow lateral spread on the sea skyline, when viewed from the LCA in panoramic sea views. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** on the perceived character of the area of chalk downs at Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff) at distances over 32.8km from the Rampion 2 array area and **low** magnitude on the area of chalk downs at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs at longer	**Not Significant (moderate)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of the area of chalk downs at Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff). **Not Significant (Moderate / minor)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of the chalk downs of the Isle of Wight at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs.

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	associative seascape setting, with some reduction in susceptibility distance to the distance into the offshore waters that Rampion 2 is located beyond the waters of the Isle of Wight. There is also a reduced susceptibility from the LCAs South Wight coastline, between Ventnor and St Catherine's Point, which is oriented to the south and has limited association with the windfarm array area. Other factors also reduce sensitivity including the large-scale shipping influences, the influence of the urbanised coast of East Wight and high recreational pressure, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities, and the large scale and expansiveness of the seascape.	distances of 39km further to the south, through the addition of new wind turbines as a feature in long distance views out to sea, having a limited characterising influence on the perceived character of the chalk downs due to their small-scale, contained extent, distance and separation from these areas of the Isle of Wight.	
11. The Undercliff	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the landscape has high value, and its perceived character has a medium susceptibility to changes that will occur as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The value of the LCA derives principally from the Undercliff forming part of the designated landscape of the IoW AONB at Luccombe Bay and along the South Wight coast, owing to its high scenic quality and distinctiveness, particularly its dramatic landform of terraced	The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the LCA. There will also be **zero** change to many of the main characteristics of the LCA, including its fundamental character as the coastal Undercliff to the rolling chalk downland, its geology, land use, habitats and settlement pattern, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of the Undercliff. Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These	**Not Significant (Moderate/Minor)**, indirect, long-term and reversible on the perceived character of on the perceived character of the Undercliff between Luccombe Bay and Dunnose/ Ventnor; dropping to **Not Significant (Minor)** along the southern

LCA	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
	landslips below the steeply rising chalk downs, and the expansive coastal and sea views. The natural beauty of the LCA has seen its popularity as a location for holiday development since the 19th century, which has subsequently reduced some of its perceptual qualities, although its underlying tranquillity and coastal expansiveness remains, and its cultural association are notable as part of the Tennyson Heritage Coast. There are strong visual connections between the Undercliff with the open seascape, with the seascape setting being integral to its character, however there is a reduced susceptibility from the LCA due to it being primarily along the South Wight coastline, between Ventnor and St Catherine's Point, which is oriented to the south and has limited association with the windfarm array area, other than a small area at Luccombe Bay/Dunnose facing eastwards. Other factors also reduce sensitivity including the influence of the urban development and high recreational pressure, which combine to reduce the perceptual qualities, the large scale and expansiveness of the seascape and the distance of the offshore waters that Rampion 2 is located beyond the waters of the Isle of Wight.	changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character, notably its tranquillity and perception of remoteness, as a result of new WTG development influence at long distance and relatively narrow lateral spread on the sea skyline, when viewed from the LCA in panoramic sea views. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** on the perceived character of the Undercliff between Luccombe Bay and Dunnose/Ventnor, at distances over 38.2km from the Rampion 2 array area, through the addition of new wind turbines as features in the open and expansive panoramic sea views, having a limited characterising influence on the perceived character of the Undercliff due to due to their small-scale, contained extent, distance and separation from these areas of the Isle of Wight and avoidance of views from the top of the inland cliff into the Undercliff which will be retained. The magnitude of change reduces to **negligible** on the perceived character of the Undercliff along the southern coastline between Ventnor and St Catherine's Point, where the coast is oriented to the south; and the magnitude of change will be **zero** on the Undercliff between St Catherine's Point and Chale Bay where there is no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2.	coastline between Ventnor and St Catherine's Point; and **no effect** on the Undercliff between St Catherine's Point and Chale Bay.

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Residual effects on views and viewpoints - Isle of Wight

Viewpoints

15.10.119 An assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on representative viewpoints on the Isle of Wight is set out in **Table 15-40**, with further assessment provided in **Appendix 15.4: Viewpoint assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.4).

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Table 15-40 Assessment of Isle of Wight Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
24. Bembridge, Isle of Wight (Figure 15.48, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	31.7	17.8°	16.8°	**Medium-high**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be medium-high, reflecting that the view has medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low.	**Not significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.
34. Bembridge Down (Figure 15.57, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	34.4	15.6°	10.2°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Medium-low**. The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low.	**Not significant (Moderate)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Viewpoint	Distance (km) to wind farm array area (km)	Total visible HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Additional HFoV of Rampion 2 (degrees)	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of residual effect (operation)
35. St. Boniface Down above Ventnor (Figure 15.58, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15))	39.6	11°	5.6°	**High**. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be high, reflecting that the view has high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.	**Low.** The magnitude of change to the view resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as low.	**Not significant (Moderate/minor)**, direct, long-term and reversible.

Visual receptors – Long Distance Routes

Isle of Wight Coastal Path

15.10.120 An assessment of the visual effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the Isle of Wight Coastal Path is set out in **Table 15-41**, which is informed by the ZTV analysis of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path presented in **Figure 15.24, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) and the different sections of the route described in the baseline in **Table 15-23**.

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Table 15-41 Assessment of Isle of Wight Coastal Path

Section of Coastal Path	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
1. Cowes	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 1 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path through Cowes is considered to be **low**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a medium value and the receptors experiencing the view have a low susceptibility to change due to their attention and interest being focused on the immediate urban landscape that contains much of this section of the route, or views north over the Solent from the coastal section of the route, which is in a different direction to the offshore elements Rampion 2.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **zero** and the residual effect **Not Significant (no effect)** from Section 1 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path through Cowes, where there is no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2.
2. Cowes to Fishbourne	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 2 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path between Cowes and Fishbourne is considered to be **medium**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a high value as the route passes through and overlooks part of the IoW AONB and the receptors experiencing the view have a low susceptibility to change due to the alignment of the route along a main road, the attention and interest of viewers being focused on the views north over Osborne Bay to the Solent or west over Medina River, or being contained within immediate urban landscape that contains the route through Wootton Bridge and Fishbourne.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor/negligible)** from Section 2 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path between Cowes and Fishbourne, where there is negligible visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the views are often contained by intervening screening landforms, vegetation and the immediate urban landscape that contains views from the route through Wootton Bridge and Fishbourne.
3. Ryde	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 3 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path between Cowes and Fishbourne is considered to be **medium-high**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a medium-high value, as	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **zero** and the residual effect **Not Significant (no effect)** from Section 3 of the Isle of

Section of Coastal Path	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	the route does not pass through the IoW AONB but takes in valued views around Ryde Harbour and Sands, and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change due to the attention and interest of viewers being focused on the views north over the Solent towards Portsmouth or being contained within immediate urban landscape that contains the route through Ryde.	Wight Coastal Path between Fishbourne and Ryde Pier, where there are no views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 through the urban areas of western Ryde. The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as increasing to **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (moderate/minor)** from the 3.5km section of Isle of Wight Coastal Path between Ryde Harbour and Nettlestone Point, where it traverses the coastal edge along Ryde East sands along North Walk, Garden Walk, Appley Walk and Springvale Road. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible at distances of 34-37km on the sea skyline to the east in views from this section of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path, particularly when walking in an easterly direction along the route, however the WTGs will occupy a relative narrow lateral spread on the distant skyline as part of the panoramic sea views and appear as distant elements behind the numerous prominent elements and features within the intervening seascape of the Solent and its mainland developed coastline, such that the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will form a background feature and have a low magnitude on views from this section of the coastal path.
4. Nettlestone to Bembridge Point	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 4 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path between Nettlestone Point and Bembridge Point is considered to be **medium-high**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the residual effect **Not Significant** (**moderate**) for two very short stretches of

Section of Coastal Path	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	high value and medium susceptibility to change. Although the route does not pass through the IoW AONB and takes a route that is larger inland from the coastal edge, it takes in intermittent views of the series of the bays that form this section of coastline including Seagrove Bay, Priory Bay and Bembridge Harbour, and the receptors experiencing the views have a medium susceptibility to change due to the intermittent sections where attention and interest of viewers is drawn to views of the sea, despite much of the route being separated from the coast itself by designed landscapes, golf courses, woodland and holiday parks.	this section of the route at Nettlestone Point along the Esplanade and along Pier Road at Seagrove Bay. Over the remainder of this section of the route, views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be screened by designed landscapes, golf courses, woodland, holiday parks, urban areas and Bembridge Harbour, that define the coast and separate the route from the immediate coastal edge, such that the magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and the residual effect is **Not Significant** (**minor**).
5. Bembridge	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 5 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path is considered to be **medium-high**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a medium value and medium-high susceptibility to change. Although this section of the coastal path largely passes through the urban areas of Bembridge, part of the route follows the coastal edge between East Cliff around Foreland to the north-eastern most point of the Isle of Wight that forms the closest part of the Isle of Wight and the coastal path to the windfarm array area.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant** (**moderate**) for a short 600m section of the route following the coastal edge between Tyne Hall and the IRB lifeboat station/Bembridge Coast Hotel at Foreland, as illustrated in Viewpoint 24 (**Figure 15.48, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible at distances of approximately 31km eastwards along the Solent, particularly when walking in an easterly direction along the route, however the WTGs will occupy a relatively narrow lateral spread on the distant skyline (21°) as part of the panoramic view as distant elements behind the numerous prominent features within the intervening seascape of the Solent and in the context of its mainland developed coastline. The remainder of this

Section of Coastal Path	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
		section of the coastal path takes a route that has been diverted away from the coastal cliffs through the urban areas of Bembridge, along Love Lane and Howgate Road, where there the magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **zero** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (no effect).**
6. Culver Cliff	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 6 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path which extends between Whitecliff Bay and over Culver Cliff to the northern side of Sandown Bay is assessed as **high**, reflecting that the views from the route have high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change. This section of the coastal path passes through the closest parts of the IoW AONB to the windfarm array area, where the value of views from the sea cliffs, coastal heath and downland are recognised in the AONB Special Qualities, which are liable to changes experienced by users of the coastal path whose attention and interest of viewers is drawn to views of the sea, with some reduction in susceptibility due to the distance of the changes occurring as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from this section of coastline.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (moderate)** on views experienced by users of this short 2km section of the coastal path along the cliffs of Whitecliff Bay and over the chalk downs at Culver Down (near Culver Cliff), as illustrated in Viewpoint 34 (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible at distances of approximately 33km offshore eastwards across the open seascape and eastern Solent, particularly when walking in an easterly direction along the route, however the WTGs will occupy a relatively narrow lateral spread on the distant skyline (18°) as part of the panoramic view as distant elements, with substantial separation from the chalk downs and cliffs experienced from this section of the route, often behind the numerous prominent features within the intervening landscape and seascape, and in the context of the developed coastline of the mainland.

Section of Coastal Path	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
7. Sandown Bay and Shanklin	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 7 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path which follows the coastline around Sandown Bay is considered to be **medium**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a medium value and users have a medium susceptibility to change. The route of this section of the coastal path does not pass through the IoW AONB and largely passes through the urban areas of Shanklin and Sandown which form an almost entirely urbanised coastline, however views of the sea and the seafront, including its sandy beaches and bays are valued and a notable factor of its attraction for visitors, which are liable to changes experienced by users of the coastal path whose attention and interest of viewers is drawn to views of the sea. There is some reduction in susceptibility due to the distance of the changes occurring as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from this section of coastline.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (minor)** on views experienced by users of this 7.5km section of the coastal path along the seafront of Sandown Bay passing along the esplanades and sections of Cliff Path/Cliff Road of Shanklin and Sandown, extending to Red Cliff to the north of Sandown Beach. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible as distant features on the sea skyline to the east, at distances of 34 to 37km offshore, in the panoramic and long distance offshore views from this coastal section of the route. The WTGs will occupy a relatively narrow lateral spread on the distant skyline as part of the panoramic view as distant elements, with substantial separation from coast experienced from this section of the route, in an open large scale seascape, and in the context of the developed coastline of Shanklin and Sandown.
8. Luccombe Bay	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 8 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path which rounds the coastal headland at Dunnose following the wooded tops of the cliffs over the undercliff of Luccombe Bay, is assessed as **medium-high,** reflecting that the views from the route have high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change. This section of the coastal path passes through the IoW AONB, where the value of views from the sea cliffs, coastal heath and downland are recognised in the AONB Special Qualities, which are liable to	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (moderate/minor)** on views experienced by users of Section 8 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path. Although the coastal aspect changes at Dunnose to afford an easterly aspect, the route of the Isle of Wight coastal path is extensively through woodland over this section as it passes Dunnose and over 'The Landslip', to Luccombe Bay, with easterly sea views almost entirely

Section of Coastal Path	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
	changes experienced by users of the coastal path whose attention and interest of viewers is drawn to views of the sea, with some reduction in susceptibility due to the distance of the changes occurring and the fact that visual interest is largely contained within the extensive woodlands that define the character of this section of coastline.	restricted by the containing mature woodland, with only fleeting and intermittent sea views to the offshore elements of Rampion 2 over Luccombe Bay passing Luccombe Village, at distances over 37km.
9. Ventnor Bay	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 9 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path which follows the coastal edge of the undercliff along Ventnor Bay, between Woody Bay/Woody Point and Horseshoe Bay below Bonchurch, is assessed as **medium-high,** reflecting that the views from the route have high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change. This section of the route does not pass through the IoW AONB on its course through the more settled coastal edge landscape of the undercliff, which is largely urbanised between St Lawrence and Ventnor, however it takes in characteristic views of the dramatic coastal landform of the undercliff, following its shoreline edge at the foot of the cliffs and affords expansive views to the sea over the series of the bays and coves that form this section of coastline. There is some reduction in susceptibility due to the orientation of the coast which is south to south-east facing, such that attention and interest in views from the coastal path is likely to be to the seascape to the south/south-east of the Isle of Wight.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **low** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (moderate/minor)** on views experienced by users of this 5.1km section of the coastal path along the coastal edge of the undercliff along Ventnor Bay. There will be limited and intermittent visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the majority of this section of the route, due to its contained position at the foot of the cliffs and intervening landform screening of the cliffs and higher St Boniface and Ventnor downs between this section of the route and the seascape to the east, within which the windfarm array area is located. Long distance easterly views towards the western part of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are oblique to the main south facing coastal views and are contained to limited sections of the route, at distances over 38km, as the coastal aspect begins to return northwards approaching Horseshoe Bay and Dunnose.

Section of Coastal Path	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change and significance of residual effect (operation)
10. St Catherine's Point and Binnel	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 10 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path which extends around St Catherine's Point, along the inland cliff edge above the undercliff, between West Cliff and St Lawrence, before dropping down to Woody Bay, is assessed as **medium-high**, reflecting that the views from the route have high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium susceptibility to change. This section of the coastal path passes through the IoW AONB, where the value of views from the sea cliffs are recognised in the AONB Special Qualities, which are liable to changes experienced by users of the coastal path, with some reduction in susceptibility due to the orientation of the coast which is south facing, such that attention and interest in views from the coastal path is likely to be to the south over the undercliff to the open seascape.	The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **negligible** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (minor)** on views experienced by users of this 5.3km section of the coastal path along the inland cliff edge above the undercliff, between West Cliff and St Lawrence. There will be limited visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 from the majority of this section of the route, due to the intervening landform screening of the higher St Boniface and Ventnor downs between this section of the route and the seascape to the east, within which the windfarm array area is located. Long distance easterly views towards the western part of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are oblique to the main south facing coastal views and are contained to limited sections of more elevated ground, at distances over 41km.
11. Chale Bay	The sensitivity to change of users of Section 11 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path along Chale Bay is considered to be **low**, reflecting that the views from this section of the route have a high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a low susceptibility to change due to their attention and interest being focused to the west/south-west of the Isle of Wight and the island blocking any association with the seascape to the east of the Isle of Wight from this section of the Isle of Wight coastal path.	The magnitude of change to views resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **zero** and the residual effect is **Not Significant (no effect)** from Section 11 of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path along Chale Bay, where there is no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2.

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Visual receptors – Settlements

Overview

15.10.121 There are a number of settlements on the eastern coast of the Isle of Wight which form a linear urbanised coastline between Bembridge, St Helens, Shanklin and Sandown. The sensitivity of residents of these coastal edge settlements to the changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-high, reflecting that the views have medium-high value and the receptors experiencing the view have a medium-high susceptibility to change.

15.10.122 The open sea views are informally recognised through the seaward alignment of the urban seafrontages and the popularity of the beaches/seafronts to visitors however, the views are not within a designated landscape nor afforded planning policy protection. Views have some scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the visible landscape, particularly the sweeping beaches and sea cliffs such as Culver Cliff, however there are extensive urban development influences and tourism influences and activities which influence the scenic qualities at the seafront.

15.10.123 Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-high, since views are representative of seafront coastal viewpoints from these settlements, experienced by residents from the primary place of residence who experience views of long duration, whose main attention and interest are partially on the sea views, as well as the other elements in their immediate surroundings, however susceptibility is moderated by the long distance of Rampion 2 offshore from this coastline, which reduces the liability of residents of the East Wight coast settlements to be influenced by the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Views from these settlements are often experienced by a relatively large number of people, residing in the settlements. On a busy summer's day there is capacity for the character of views to be fundamentally changed by intensity of public use at the seafront and beach activity. There are also a number of elements associated with the urbanised coast and the extent of tourism influences and activities, which detract from the existing visual amenity and moderate visual sensitivity.

Bembridge

15.10.124 Bembridge is located at the north-eastern corner of the Isle of Wight on the headland formed between Bembridge Harbour and Foreland, the closest point of the island to the windfarm array area at a distance of approximately 31km. The majority of the settlement is set back from the coastal edge, by land at East Cliff and Tyne Hall along its north coast; and by land at Foreland Fields along its southern coastline, with only two main areas where residential development has extended to the coast, near the IRB Lifeboat Station at Lane End; and at Forelands Fields Road/Beachfield Road. The extensive Bembridge Coast Hotel occupies the north-eastern corner of Foreland, separating these two residential areas.

15.10.125 The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the settlement, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV

with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the built development within the settlement will limit views to those from the seafront and coastal cliff edges near the IRB Lifeboat Station at Lane End; and at Forelands Fields Road / Beachfield Road. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on views experienced by these limited residential areas near the IRB Lifeboat Station at Lane End and at Forelands Fields, is assessed as **medium-low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (moderate)**, where the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible at distances of approximately 31km eastwards along the Solent, however the WTGs will occupy a relatively narrow lateral spread on the distant skyline (17.8°) as part of the panoramic view as distant elements behind the numerous prominent features within the intervening seascape of the Solent and in the context of its mainland developed coastline, as illustrated in Viewpoint 24 (**Figure 15.48, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

15.10.126 Views from the 'inland' areas of the settlement will be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings within the line of sight to the sea, landform and vegetation, such that for the remainder and majority of Bembridge, the magnitude of change on views experienced by residents resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)**.

St Helens

15.10.127 St Helens is located at the western corner of Bembridge Harbour, approximately 34km from the windfarm array area. The village is located on high ground to the north of Bembridge, giving it views over the busy harbour, however it is set back from the open sea by the expanse of water within Bembridge Harbour and by the coastal spits at St Helens Duver and Bembridge Point, which form the narrow mouth of the harbour and contain views to the open sea. The orientation of the village is to the south/south-east towards the harbour. The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the village, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the built development within the settlement, the well wooded shoreline of the harbour and enclosing coastal spit at St Helens Duver will limit visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, such the magnitude of change on views experienced by residents resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)**.

Shanklin and Sandown

15.10.128 The urban areas of Shanklin and Sandown form an almost entirely urbanised coastline along the eastern coast of the Isle of Wight along Sandown Bay, however views of the sea and the seafront, including its sandy beaches and bays are valued and a notable factor of its attraction, which are liable to changes experienced by residents whose attention and interest of viewers is drawn to views of the sea.

15.10.129 The Blade Tip ZTV (**Figure 15.21, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) indicates the potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to be visible from the majority of the settlement, however as illustrated in the Blade Tip ZTV with surface feature screening (**Figure 15.15, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and confirmed by field survey assessment, the built development within the settlement will limit views to those from the seafront and coastal cliff top edges of Shanklin and Sandown. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on views experienced by residents of these coastal residential areas of Shanklin and Sandown, is assessed as **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (moderate / minor)**. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be visible as distant features on the sea skyline to the east, at distances of 35 – 37km offshore, in the panoramic and long distance offshore views from these coastal areas of the settlement. The WTGs will occupy a relatively narrow lateral spread on the distant skyline as part of the panoramic view as distant elements, with substantial separation from coast experienced across an open large scale seascape, and in the context of the developed coastline of Shanklin and Sandown.

15.10.130 Views from the 'inland' areas of the settlement will be subjected to the local screening influence of urban buildings within the line of sight to the sea, landform and vegetation, such that for the remainder and majority of Shanklin and Sandown, the magnitude of change on views experienced by residents resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be **negligible** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)**.

Effects on Isle of Wight AONB – special qualities

15.10.131 An assessment of the effects arising from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the defined special qualities of the Isle of Wight AONB is set out in **Table 15-42**. Although there are pockets of the IoW AONB landscape where the baseline conditions are such that the value of particular features or aesthetic dimensions are reduced, the IoW AONB is, as a whole, of high value, recognised through its designation as an AONB. Although the inherent sensitivity of the IoW AONB is high, there is some variation in the susceptibility of the different areas/LCAs within the IoW AONB to the specific nature of changes associated with the Proposed Development, since the assessment of susceptibility to change is tailored to the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Assessment of the sensitivity to change of the Chalk Downs (1) and The Undercliff (11) LCAs within the IoW AONB is contained in **Table 15-39** and is reflected in the assessment of IoW AONB Special Qualities.

Table 15-42 Assessment of Isle of Wight AONB special qualities

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
1. From majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches to the quiet	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the *'quiet solitude of ancient woodland'*, as it will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss of quiet solitude experienced within the ancient woodlands of

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
solitude of ancient woodland.	the IoW AONB. It will also result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the physical landscape fabric of the majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches of the AONB, expressed in this special quality. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has potential to result only in changes to views from its *'majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches',* effecting the perception of the seascape, and as a result, the perception of the diverse and contrasting landscape of the IoW AONB, which is recognised in this special quality, with the potential to introduce a new, distant offshore wind farm element to the diversity experienced, when visible from the sea cliffs/chalk downs at Bembridge and Ventnor Downs in particular, on the East Wight IoW AONB coast. The underlying geology; habitats and species of plants and animals; historic and current land use and settlement pattern; boundary features such as hedgerows, stone walls, hedge banks, streams and ditches; traditions, customs and cultures; all add to its diversity of landscape recognised in this special quality. The landscape elements and features of lowland England can all generally be found in one small geographical area on the Isle of Wight. Being an island, the sea and its influence are a major part of the special qualities of the IoW AONB, including its *'majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches'.* The different aspects of its southern coastline, which is exposed and subject to storms and waves; compared to the northern low, slumped coasts and estuaries, which experience the gentler influence of the Solent, also contributes to the diversity of seascape experience expressed in this special quality. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will not result in any direct changes to the landscape elements and features of the IoW AONB that underpins its special qualities and creates its diversity of landscapes. There will also be no direct changes to the diversity of landscapes of the IoW AONB, which will all fundamentally, regardless of the presence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The physical features of the IoW AONBs diverse landscapes will not be changed, however there will be some changes to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character and views offshore. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the perceived character of the majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches of West Wight, i.e. the coastal landscapes to the west of St Catherine's Point and Cowes, which are either outside the SLVIA study area (beyond 50km from the windfarm array area) or have no visibility of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. This includes many of the 'iconic' sections

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	of 'majestic sea cliffs' including the Needles, at the western extremity of the Isle of Wight; the Hamstead Heritage Coast and the majority of the Tennyson Heritage Coast. The IoW AONB is unusual in that it comprises five separate land parcels, rather than the more usual one or two continuous areas found in other AONBs. There is no characteristic that is common to the whole IoW AONB other than perhaps its diversity and variety. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will only result in perceived changes to this special quality of *'majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches'* experienced within two of these five separate landscape parcels of the IoW AONB in East Wight, namely the Chalk Downs at Bembridge and Culver Down (particularly the coastal part of the visually distinct central chalk downland ridge, which runs west to east across the Isle of Wight); and the Chalk Downs formed by Ventnor and Shanklin Downs further to the south (where the series of chalk upland downs rise to above 240m and dip steeply on their southern and eastern 'Undercliff'). The Bembridge and Culver Downs area is located approximately 33km from the wind farm array area at its closest point, while Ventnor and Shanklin Downs is located further away at approximately 39km. The magnitude of change resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** and residual effect **Not Significant (moderate)** on the perceived character and special qualities of the sea cliffs near Culver Cliff and sweeping beaches at Whitecliff Bay within the Bembridge and Culver Down area at the closest parts of the IoW AONB (approximately 31.4km); which reduces to **low** magnitude and the residual effect **Not Significant** (**moderate/minor**) on the perceived character and special qualities of the sea cliffs and sweeping beaches near Luccombe Bay and Sandown Bay, which form the coastal parts of the Ventnor and Shanklin Downs area of the IoW AONB further to the south. These areas of sea cliffs are extensively wooded, which reduces the potential for perceived changes in character; and are at greater distance of 38km and above from the windfarm array area. There will be no direct changes to the sea cliffs and sweeping beaches that define this special quality of the IoW AONB, with changes arising from the addition of Rampion 2 in views from this limited geographic area of the IoW AONB directly out to sea, and within views along Culver Cliffs and the sweeping beaches at Whitecliff Bay and northern part of Sandown Bay, to the seascape beyond. In general, there is clear separation between the coast and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in views, such that it is clearly viewed 'offshore' in its open seascape. Whilst the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will feature within the extent of views, it will be viewed

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	in the context of a vast seascape where the WTGs will be located at distances from this part of the IoW AONB of at least 31.4km, without interrupting in the intervening seascape off the immediate coastline of the IoW AONB. The additional lateral spread of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is also relatively contained in views from the direction of this section of the IoW AONB. The appreciation of the sea cliffs and sweeping beaches as part of a wider panorama of open sea will therefore remain.
2. The ever-changing patchwork of worked fields to the timeless and enduring presence of the downs.	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the *'ever-changing patchwork of worked fields'*, as it will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss to the agricultural landscape of the IoW AONB. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has some potential to result in changes to the perceived *'timeless and enduring presence of the downs'* relating to the addition of modern elements perceived in the same landscape context as the downs, where there is a visible time depth to the open downland and heathland, dating back to the prehistoric woodland clearance of these areas. The inherent character, together with historic changes relating to human activities and more recent modern interventions, including the potential addition of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 into the distant seascape setting of the downs, can be experienced and understood together in the landscape. Views of modern artefacts such as the Rampion 2 WTGs may influence the 'timeless' aspects of the Downs, however the relevant two areas of the IoW AONB downs at Bembridge/Culver Down, and Ventnor/Shanklin Downs, are influenced by an altered landscape of farmland, farmsteads and other numerous forms of modern development, including holiday parks, urban development, airfields and transmitting stations. The introduction of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will increase the evidence of apparent human activity as a modern intervention in the distant, but not immediate, seascape setting of the downs of the IoW AONB, however the changes identified are not considered to significantly affect the 'timeless and enduring presence' of the downs perceived within the AONB, to the degree that these existing qualities are substantially eroded and the magnitude of change is assessed to be **low** and the residual effect **Not Significant (minor)** on this special quality. Crucially the enduring presence of the downs will continue to prevail, despite the distant influence of Rampion 2, which also results in changes that are reversible such that its influence will not be permanent or an enduring presence.
3. The intricate inlets of tranquil	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the perceived character of the

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
creeks to the long-distance views from coastal heath and downland.	*'intricate inlets of tranquil creeks'* of the IoW AONB, since they are physically contained by landform and afford limited or no visibility of Rampion 2. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in some changes to the *'long-distance views from coastal heath and downland'*, experienced from two main parts of the IoW AONB, namely the Chalk Downs at Bembridge and Culver Down; and the Chalk Downs formed by Ventnor and Shanklin Downs further to the south. These areas fall within LCA 1 Chalk Downs and include Viewpoint 34 (Bembridge Down) and Viewpoint 35 (Ventnor Down). The scenic quality of key views within these areas of the IoW AONB results from interaction between different landscape character areas and the visual contrast of differing key characteristics. In particular, the coastline and chalk downland of these areas of the Isle of Wight AONB is an important part of their natural beauty and often features in many of the views to and from the designated area. These open chalk downs also have panoramic views along the central ridge of the IoW, important in appreciating the islands diversity, and across the lowlands to the open aspect of the sea, with long distance views to the English Channel and over the eastern Solent. The effect on the IoW AONB special quality of *'long-distance views from coastal heath and downland'* resulting from the O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as **medium-low** magnitude and residual effect **Not Significant (moderate)** on the perceived character and special qualities from the Bembridge and Culver Down area at the closest parts of the IoW AONB (approximately 31.4km); which reduces to **low** magnitude and residual effect **Not Significant** (**moderate/minor**) on the perceived character and special qualities of the *long-distance views from the coastal downland* of Ventnor and Shanklin Downs of the IoW AONB further to the south. These areas of sea cliffs are extensively wooded, which reduces the potential for perceived changes in character; and are at greater distance of 38km and above from the windfarm array area. Views from the downland are not just out to sea but encompass a wide range of landscapes and influences. These effects occur on visual qualities and are not related to 'landscape fabric' of the IoW AONB. The special qualities which relate to the identified residual effects are those where the indicator relates to, or is supported by, an aspect concerning the visual contribution made by seascape to the IoW AONB and its relationship with this seascape. There will be a clear separation between these areas of downs and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in views, such that it is clearly

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	viewed 'offshore' in its open seascape. Whilst the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will feature within the extent of views, it will be viewed in the context of a vast seascape where the WTGs will be located in views at long distances from this part of the IoW AONB of at least 32.8km at Culver Down, to over 39km at Ventnor Down, without interrupting the intervening seascape off the immediate coastline of the IoW AONB. The additional lateral spread of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is also relatively contained in views from the direction of this section of the IoW AONB, typically occupying only between 11-18° of the horizontal field of view and representing an addition to a seascape that has some existing wind farm influence, in the form of Rampion 1, which is only visible in excellent visibility conditions. Essentially, the appreciation of the open downs and chalk coastline as part of a wider panorama of open sea will therefore remain, and the generally open nature and long views to and from the downs will be retained, in spite of the presence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 at long distance offshore. The magnitude of change and significance of effect on the long distance views from the central and southern IoW downs is assessed as reducing with increasing distance further west, occurring at distances beyond 40km from the windfarm array area.
4. The planned and manicured gardens of former Royal Estates and Victorian villas to the irregular undulating hedged fields of pasture.	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the historic enclosure of land, including the *'undulating hedged fields of pasture'* of the IoW AONB; and **zero** change and **no residual effect** on the *'planned and manicured gardens of former Royal Estates and Victorian villas'*; as it will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss to the landscape elements of the IoW AONB.
5. The dark starlit skies to the bustle and colour of festivals and events.	An assessment of the likely effects that would arise from visibility of the proposed aviation and marine navigation lighting has been undertaken in this **Appendix 15.5: Assessment of aviation and navigation lighting visual effects, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference 6.4.15.5). The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as resulting in a **medium-low** to **low** magnitude of change and **Not Significant** effects on the 'dark starlit skies' special quality of the IoW AONB. In views from both the IoW AONB, the aviation lights will be visible low to the horizon and do not extend high into the sky, thus limiting the amount of the night-sky that is impeded and having limited influence on the view of stars in the night-sky. Rampion 2 will not affect people's ability to see a clear starry sky in night-time views from the IoW AONB, and will also not reduce the observed quality of easily visible astronomical features. The Rampion 2 aviation lights will generally be viewed in the context

Special quality	Magnitude of change and residual effect on AONB special quality
	of brighter lights and skyglow of urban areas along the coast, that forms an existing light influenced section of views. The aviation lights are considered unlikely to result in 'obtrusive' light, nor impede the expanse of night sky to the point of being obtrusive. Generally, this is because the aviation lights will be viewed relatively near the horizon, or even below the skyline from elevated parts of the IoW AONB, so while they may have effects by breaking into the darkness as point features of light, appearing visible in the seascape, they are not expected to result in obtrusive light that would harm the enjoyment of the 'dark starlit skies'.
6. The winding paths, shuts and hollow ways in the countryside to chines and steps down cliffs to the beach.	The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in **zero** change and **no residual effect** to the physical network of public rights of ways and informal access routes within the IoW AONB, as it will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss of elements within the IoW AONB. PRoW will remain an essential means of sustainable access to the IoW AONB landscape and will continue to provide a historic record of how people have travelled across the landscape: from villages to the coast; from farms to the downs and the markets of nearby towns; and from hamlets to churches and schools. The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in some changes to offshore views experienced from some sections of the public right of way network, and the promoted routes of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path, however the views from these routes are not explicitly part of the '*winding paths, shuts and hollow ways in the countryside'* defined by this special quality. The changes to long-distance views are assessed in respect of Special Quality 3 above and in **Table 15-41** in respect of views from the Isle of Wight Coastal Path.
7. Place names and dialect to poetry, literature and art.	There will be **no effects** on *'place names and dialect to poetry, literature and art'* as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2.
8. Isolated houses, hamlets and rural villages to harbour towns, castles and tumuli	There will be **no effects** on *'Isolated houses, hamlets and rural villages''* as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, however there may be effects on their setting as assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25).

15.11 Assessment of effects: Decommissioning phase

Effects on Seascape Character

15.11.1 The decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has the potential to result in significant effects on the perceived seascape character of Marine Character Areas (MCAs) MCA05, MCA06, MCA07, MCA08 scoped into the detailed assessment in **Table 15-8.**

15.11.2 Decommissioning phase effects on seascape character will occur as a result of the decommissioning activities the presence of jack-up vessels and/or heavy lift vessels during the decommissioning phase for the decommissioning of foundations substructures and WTGs; windfarm service vessels and accommodation vessels; and partially decommissioned offshore elements; all of which may combine to alter the seascape character of the area within the windfarm array area itself and the perceived character of the wider seascape through visibility of these changes.

15.11.3 The residual effects arising as a result of the decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all seascape character receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10**, differing primarily as the residual effects being short-term, temporary and reducing during the length of the decommissioning phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the decommissioning activities, compared to the O&M phase, mainly due the influence of offshore decommissioning vessels and partially decommissioned WTGs that will not be present during the O&M phase. For all seascape receptors these impacts during decommissioning are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M. The effect of Rampion 2 on seascape character post-decommissioning is assessed as zero.

Effects on Landscape Character

15.11.4 The decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has the potential to result in significant residual effects on the perceived character of the landscape character areas, designations and their special qualities scoped into the detailed assessment in **Table 15-8.**

15.11.5 Decommissioning phase effects on landscape character will occur as a result of the decommissioning activities, including the presence of jack-up vessels and/or heavy lift vessels during the decommissioning phase for the installation of foundations substructures and WTGs; windfarm service vessels and accommodation vessels; and partially decommissioned offshore elements; all of which may combine to alter the perceived character of the wider landscape through visibility of these changes.

15.11.6 The residual effects arising as a result of the decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all landscape character receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10**, differing primarily as the residual effects being short-term, temporary and reducing occurring during the length of the

decommissioning phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the decommissioning activities, compared to the O&M phase, mainly due the influence of offshore decommissioning vessels and partially decommissioned WTGs that will not be present during the O&M phase. For all landscape receptors these impacts during decommissioning are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M. The effect of Rampion 2 on landscape character post-decommissioning is assessed as zero.

Effects on views and visual amenity

15.11.7 The decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has the potential to result in significant residual effects on the views and visual amenity of the visual receptors scoped into the detailed assessment in **Table 15-8**.

15.11.8 Decommissioning phase residual effects on views and visual amenity will occur as a result of the decommissioning activities, including the presence of jack-up vessels and/or heavy lift vessels during the decommissioning phase for the installation of foundations substructures and WTGs; windfarm service vessels and accommodation vessels; and partially decommissioned offshore elements; all of which may combine to alter the views and visual amenity through visibility of these changes.

15.11.9 The residual effects arising as a result of the decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all viewpoints and visual receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10**, differing primarily as the residual effects being short-term, temporary and reducing during the length of the decommissioning phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the decommissioning activities, compared to the O&M phase, mainly due the influence of offshore decommissioning vessels and partially decommissioned WTGs that will not be present during the O&M phase. For all visual receptors these impacts during decommissioning are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M. The effect of Rampion 2 on views and visual amenity post-decommissioning is assessed as zero.

15.12 Assessment of cumulative effects

Approach

15.12.1 A cumulative effects assessment (CEA) has been carried out for Rampion 2 which examines the result from the combined impacts of Rampion 2 with other developments on the same single receptor or resource. The overall method followed in identifying and assessing potential cumulative effects in relation to the offshore environment is set out in **Section 5.10**, **Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.5).

15.12.2 The offshore screening approach is based on the PINS Advice Note Seventeen (The Planning Inspectorate, 2019), with relevant components of the RenewableUK (RenewableUK, 2013) accepted guidance, which includes aspects specific to the marine elements of an offshore wind farm.

15.12.3 There are no under-construction / consented, application stage or scoping stage offshore wind farms within the 50km radius SLVIA study area (**Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), nor within UK waters within approximately 140km of the array area. The closest offshore wind farms within French waters are located approximately 70km to the south. There are also no onshore projects that require cumulative assessment with the offshore elements of Rampion 2.

15.12.4 It is considered that there is no potential for the offshore elements of Rampion 2 to have cumulative effects with other offshore wind farms or onshore projects, beyond those arising with the existing Rampion 1 project (which are considered in the main assessments in **Sections 15.9, 15.10** and **15.11**). For this reason, the potential cumulative effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 with other projects are scoped out of the SLVIA (**Table 15-6**), the Planning Inspectorate agreed that cumulative seascape, landscape and visual effects of Rampion 2 with other offshore wind farm projects (with the exception of Rampion 1) can be scoped out of the EIA. In accordance with GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2013) (para 7.13), existing offshore wind farms are included in the baseline for both seascape, landscape and visual effects assessments. The baseline includes the extent to which Rampion 1 has altered character, views and sensitivity to offshore windfarm development. An assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development is undertaken against a baseline that includes Rampion 1 within the main assessment in **Section 15.10**.

15.13 Transboundary effects

15.13.1 Transboundary effects arise when impacts from a development within one European Economic Area (EEA) states affects the environment of another EEA state(s). A screening of transboundary effects has been carried out and is presented in Appendix B of the Scoping Report (RED, 2020).

15.13.2 The Rampion 2 wind farm array area is located approximately 97.5km from the coastline of the nearest EU member state (France). The ZTV in **Figure 15.14a-b, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15) shows that there is no theoretical visibility of the offshore elements of the Rampion 2 wind farm beyond approximately 75km due to the effects of earth curvature, which would effectively 'hide' the wind turbines behind the horizon at this distance.

15.13.3 Transboundary effects have therefore been scoped out of the SLVIA, since there is no potential for significant effects at such long distance; the coastline of other EU member states is outside the SLVIA study area and would have no visibility of the construction and operation of the offshore infrastructure.

15.14 Inter-related effects

15.1.1 The inter-related effects assessment considers likely significant effects from multiple impacts and activities from the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of Rampion 2 on the same receptor, or group of receptors.

15.14.1 Inter-related effects could potentially arise in one of two ways. The first type of inter-related effect is a Proposed Development lifetime effect, where multiple phases of the Proposed Development interact to create a potentially more significant effect on a receptor than in one phase alone. The phases for Rampion 2 are construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning. All Proposed Development lifetime effects are assessed in **Chapter 30: Inter-related effects, Volume 2** (Document Reference: 6.2.30).

15.14.2 The second type of inter-related effect is receptor-led effects. Receptor-led effects are where effects from different environmental aspects combine spatially and temporally on a receptor. These effects may be short-term, temporary, transient or longer-term. Full results of the receptor-led effects assessment can be found in **Chapter 30: Inter-related effects, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.30).

15.15 Summary of residual effects

15.15.1 The SLVIA identifies and assesses the significance of changes resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. This is carried out in relation to both the seascape character and landscape character as environmental resources in their own right, and on people's views and visual amenity.

15.15.2 Consultation with regards to SLVIA has been undertaken via an Expert Topic Group, with numerous meetings held between September 2020 – June 2022 and through an online public consultation. Publication of the Rampion 2 Scoping Report (RED, July 2020) has also provided opportunities for feedback which has been considered in preparing the ES.

15.15.3 The SLVIA is based on the design envelope described in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). In compliance with EIA regulations, the likely significant effects of a realistic maximum design scenario are assessed and illustrated in the SLVIA. The realistic worst-case layout assessed as the project design envelope for the SLVIA consists of an indicative 65 x 325m WTG layout, as shown in **Figure 15.1, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15). This layout has the highest WTG blade tip height (325m), with largest rotor diameter (295m) with WTGs occupying locations that represent the impacts arising from the closest parts and full extent of the wind farm array area.

15.15.4 Following consultee feedback on the proposed DCO Order Limits the design of the Proposed Development was amended, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the wind farm array area. **Section 15.7** sets out how Rampion 2 responds to 'good design' in respect of seascape, landscape and visual receptors. SLVIA topic specific design principles are described, which set out how the design of Rampion 2 has been shaped by potential seascape, landscape and visual effects, with the aim of reducing the magnitude and geographic extent of effects of the Proposed Development, principally through a reduction in the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and reduction in the number of WTGs. These design principles have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and include:

- ‘Field of view’ – reducing the field of view or ‘horizontal extent’ of Rampion 2 and the visually combined lateral spread of Rampion 1 and Rampion 2.
- ‘Proximity’ - increasing the distance of Rampion 2 from most sensitive areas of coastline to reduce the apparent height of WTGs and increase sense of remoteness (with consequential benefits to other design principles).
- ‘Wind farm separation zones’ - achieving a separation between Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays, with a clear distinction and clear lines of sight between arrays.
- ‘Separation foreground’ - avoiding juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs, to balance arrays and apparent turbine size, insofar as possible.

15.15.5 During the design process these design principles were applied to reduce the spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area and the number of WTGs proposed, such that the project design responds to these combined principles and reduces the magnitude and geographic extent of effects. This provides effective embedded environmental measures by minimising effects on the special qualities of the SDNP and the effects on other coastal receptors within East Sussex and West Sussex, through careful design consideration in terms of scale, size and location, and taking account of stakeholder feedback, relevant policy and guidance. Due regard to the statutory purpose of the SDNP is being had through the project design process, in order to reduce adverse seascape, landscape and visual effects, their magnitude and geographic extent. Although some significant effects on views from the SDNP have been identified in the assessment, effects of major significance in EIA terms have been avoided, with the highest levels of effect being major/moderate on views from the closest parts of the SDNP outside the most sensitive area defined by the Sussex Heritage Coast.

15.15.6 **Table 15-43** presents a summary of the assessment of significant impacts, any relevant embedded environmental measures and residual effects on SLVIA receptors.

Table 15-43 Summary of seascape, landscape and visual effects

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
Construction				
Impact of the construction of Rampion 2 on perceived seascape character, landscape character, designated landscapes and views/visual amenity	The effects arising as a result of the construction of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all seascape, landscape and visual receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10** and summarised below, differing primarily as the effects will be short-term and temporary, during the length of the construction phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the construction activities, compared to the O&M phase, mainly due the influence of offshore jack-up installation vessels and WTG installation, that will not be present during the operational phase. For all seascape, landscape and visual receptors these impacts during construction are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M.			
Operation and Maintenance (O&M)				
Impact (daytime) of the O&M of the Project on seascape character				
Direct impact on perceived seascape character	SCA 07B Selsey Bill to Worthing Offshore **Medium**	**High**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	SCA 07D Worthing to Seaford Head Offshore **Medium**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
Indirect impact on perceived seascape character	MCA05 The Solent **Medium-high**	**Low** to **Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate to moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	MCA06 South Wight **High** to **medium**	**Low** to **Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate to moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	SCA 07A Selsey Bill to Worthing Inshore **Medium**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	SCA 07C Worthing to Seaford Head Inshore **Medium-high**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	MCA 08 South Downs Maritime **High**	**Medium** to **medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate to moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	MCA 13 English Channel **Medium-low**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
Impact (daytime) of the O&M of the Project on perceived landscape character				

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
Indirect impact on perceived landscape character of SDNP	A1. Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs **High**	**Medium** on views from the closest parts of the LCA near Seaford Head and Seven Sisters. **Medium-low** with increasing distance eastwards towards Birling Gap and Beachy Head and **low** from the downs further inland. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and majority of the key characteristics of the LCA.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** on views from closest parts of the LCA near Seaford Head and Seven Sisters. Major/moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** on views from the coastal downs between Birling Gap and Beachy Head and downs further inland. Moderate to moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and majority of key characteristics of the LCA.
	A2. Adur to Ouse Open Downs **Medium-high**	**Medium-high** on views from two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs. **Medium** from the tops of the open rolling upland downs inland of	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** on views from two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs. Major/moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** on views from the tops of the open rolling upland downs inland of Brighton and Hove

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
		Brighton and Hove and Shoreham. **Negligible** from the furrowed extensive branching dry valley systems. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.		and Shoreham; and the branching dry valleys. Moderate to minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
	A3. Arun to Adur Open Downs **Medium-high**	**Medium-high** on views from the closest areas open downland north of Worthing around Cissbury Ring and Highdown Hill. **Medium** from distant tops of open downland between Arun and Adur river valleys.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** on the closest areas open downland north of Worthing around Cissbury Ring and Highdown Hill. Major/moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** on the distant tops of open downland between Arun and Adur river valleys and branching dry valley systems. Moderate to moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
		Low from the furrowed extensive branching dry valley systems. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.		**Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
	B1. Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland **Medium**	**Medium** on views from the high open ridges of the downs between Bignor Hill and the Trundle and lower hills between Goodwood and Slindon. **Low** over majority of the LCA of folded downland landform masked by large woodland blocks. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** on views from the high open ridges of the downs between Bignor Hill and the Trundle and lower hills between Goodwood and Slindon. Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** over majority of the LCA of folded downland landform masked by large woodland blocks. Moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
				many key characteristics of the LCA.
	R1. South Downs Upper Coastal Plain **Medium**	**Medium** on views from localised area of LCA around Highdown Hill. **Low** from areas of LCA at Funtington, East Lavant and Goodwood forming narrow strip on boundary of SDNP. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** on localised area of LCA around Highdown Hill. Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** on areas of LCA at Funtington, East Lavant and Goodwood forming narrow strip on boundary of SDNP. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
	S1. Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline **High**	**Medium** on views from the closest parts of the LCA near Seaford Head and Seven Sisters. **Medium-low** with increasing distance eastwards towards	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** on views from closest parts of the LCA near Seaford Head and Seven Sisters. Major/moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** on the coastal downs between Birling Gap and Beachy Head.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
		Birling Gap and Beachy Head. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.		Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
	S2. Brighton to Rottingdean **Medium**	**Medium-high** on views from the narrow band of intertidal shoreline between Brighton and Rottingdean. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** on views from the narrow band of intertidal shoreline between Brighton and Rottingdean. Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
Indirect impact on perceived landscape character of West Sussex	SC1. South Coast Shoreline **Medium**	**Medium-high** from the long narrow shoreline of shingle banks to the east of Selsey Bill, extending between Selsey Bill and Shoreham-by-Sea.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** from the long narrow shoreline of shingle banks to the east of Selsey Bill, extending between Selsey Bill and Shoreham-by-Sea. Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
		Medium-low to the west of Selsey Bill to West Wittering. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.		**Not significant** to the west of Selsey Bill to West Wittering. Moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
	SC3 Chichester Harbour **Medium-high**	**Low** change to perceived character. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
	SC4 Pagham Harbour **Medium**	**Medium-low** change to perceived character. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	SC10. Lower Arun Valley **Medium**	**Low** from the Climping area of the Arun Valley closest to the coast between Climping, Atherington and the River Arun **Negligible** on the Arun Valley further north between Climping and Arundel. **Zero** change to fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Minor to minor/negligible in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on fabric of physical landscape and many key characteristics of the LCA.
Indirect impact on perceived landscape character of Hampshire	11c. Eastern Solent **Medium**	**Low** change to perceived character.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
Indirect impact on perceived landscape character of the Isle of Wight	1. Chalk Downs **High**	**Medium-low** on the chalk downs at Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** on the chalk downs at Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff). Moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
		Low on the chalk downs at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs		**Not significant** on the chalk downs at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs. Moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	11. The Undercliff **Medium-high**	**Low** on the Undercliff between Luccombe Bay and Dunnose/Ventnor. **Negligible** on the Undercliff along the southern coastline between Ventnor and St Catherine's Point. **Zero** on the Undercliff between St Catherine's Point and Chale Bay.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** on the Undercliff between Luccombe Bay and Dunnose/Ventnor Moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** on the Undercliff along the southern coastline between Ventnor and St Catherine's Point. Minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible. **Not significant** (no effect) on the Undercliff between St Catherine's Point and Chale Bay.
Impact (daytime) of the O&M of the Project on special qualities of designated landscapes				
Indirect impact on perceived SDNP Special Qualities	*1. Diverse, inspirational*	*'Breathtaking views':*	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	*'Breathtaking views':*

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	landscapes and breathtaking views **High**	**Medium** from closest parts of the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP between Seaford Head, Cuckmere Haven and Seven Sisters; from the wider South Downs where the sea is a key component, defined as the tops of the open downs between the Cuckmere and Ouse valleys (LCA A1); from the two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs; the tops of the open downs inland of Brighton and Shoreham, between the Ouse and Adur Valley (LCA A2); and the tops of the open downland between the Arun and Adur river valleys (LCA A3).		**Significant** and major/moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible from closest parts of the Sussex Heritage Coast area of the SDNP between Seaford Head, Cuckmere Haven and Seven Sisters; from the wider South Downs where the sea is a key component, defined as the tops of the open downs between the Cuckmere and Ouse valleys (LCA A1); from the two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs; the tops of the open downs inland of Brighton and Shoreham, between the Ouse and Adur Valley (LCA A2); and the tops of the open downland between the Arun and Adur river valleys (LCA A3). **Not significant** and moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible with increasing distance eastwards between Birling Gap and Beachy Head *'Diverse, inspirational landscapes':*

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
		Medium-low with increasing distance eastwards between Birling Gap and Beachy Head *'Diverse, inspirational landscapes':* **Medium-low**		**Not significant** and moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible.
	3. Tranquil and unspoilt places **High**	**Medium-low** from inland 'core' areas formed by the tops of the chalk downs of the SDNP and from pockets of the more remote sections of elevated chalk downs and discrete locations at the coastal edge.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible from inland 'core' areas formed by the tops of the chalk downs of the SDNP and from pockets of the more remote sections of elevated chalk downs and discrete locations at the coastal edge.
	5. Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences **High**	**Negligible**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	6. Well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage **High**	**Zero** change to fabric of well conserved historical features.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect) to the fabric of well conserved historical features. Effects on their setting as assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25).
	7. Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area **High**	**Low** to the distinctiveness of Brighton & Hove **Zero** change to the distinctiveness of all other towns and villages in the SDNP with no visibility of the Rampion 2 array area.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and moderate/minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible to the distinctiveness of Brighton & Hove. **Not significant** (no effect) to the distinctiveness of all other towns and villages in the SDNP with no visibility of the Rampion 2 array area.
Indirect impact on perceived CHAONB Special Qualities	*1. The unique blend of land and sea – especially the combination of expanses of open waters, narrow inlets and intimate creeks* **High**	**Medium** from the open waters and coastal edges at the mouth to Chichester Harbour. **Negligible** from open water of the Chichester	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** and major/moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible from the open waters and coastal edges at the mouth to Chichester Harbour.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
		Harbour Central Basin (B1).		**Not significant (minor)** from open water of the Chichester Harbour Central Basin (B1).
	2. The frequently wooded shoreline **High**	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)
	3. The flatness of the landform, unusual among AONBs, accentuates the significance of sea and tide and of distant landmarks across land and water **High**	**Negligible** change to the long views towards landmarks such as Chichester Cathedral and the South Downs. **Medium** on the perceived 'significance of the sea' and of 'distant landmarks across water', experienced in views from the 'open waters' at Chichester Harbour Mouth and coastal strip edges of F1 South Hayling Island.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible effect on the long views towards landmarks such as Chichester Cathedral and the South Downs. **Significant** and moderate in EIA terms, long-term, reversible effect on the perceived 'significance of the sea' and of 'distant landmarks across water', experienced in views from the 'open waters' at Chichester Harbour Mouth and coastal strip edges of F1 South Hayling Island.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	4. The open water of the central area of the Harbour **High**	**Negligible**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	5. The overall sense of wilderness within the seascape **High**	**Negligible**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	6. The particularly strong historic environment and heritage assets **High**	**Zero** change to 'strong historic environment'.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect) to the 'strong historic environment'.
	7. The picturesque harbourside settlements **High**	**Negligible**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	8. The unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty **High**	**Negligible**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	9. The very special sense of peace and tranquillity, largely engendered by the gentle way the AONB is used and	**Negligible**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	closeness to nature that is experienced **High**			
Indirect impact on perceived IoWAONB Special Qualities	*1. From majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches to the quiet solitude of ancient woodland.*	**Medium-low** to **low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and moderate to minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	2. The ever-changing patchwork of worked fields to the timeless and enduring presence of the downs.	**Low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	3. The intricate inlets of tranquil creeks to the long-distance views from coastal heath and downland.	**Medium-low** to **low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** and moderate to minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	4. The planned and manicured gardens of former Royal	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	Estates and Victorian villas to the irregular undulating hedged fields of pasture.			
	5. The dark starlit skies to the bustle and colour of festivals and events.	**Medium-low** to **low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61, C-266	**Not significant** and moderate to minor in EIA terms, long-term, reversible
	6. The winding paths, shuts and hollow ways in the countryside to chines and steps down cliffs to the beach.	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)
	7. Place names and dialect to poetry, literature and art.	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)
	8. Isolated houses, hamlets and rural villages to harbour towns, castles and tumuli	**Zero** change to fabric of historical features.	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect) to the fabric of historical features. Effects on their setting as assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic**

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
				environment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25).
Impact (daytime) of the O&M of the Project on views/visual amenity				
Direct impact on view from SDNP during operation of Rampion 2	Viewpoint 1. Beachy Head **High**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 2. Birling Gap **High**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 3. Seven Sisters Country Park **High**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 4. Seaford Head **High**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 7. Beacon Hill, Rottingdean **High**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 15. Willingdon Hill **Medium-high**	**Low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	Viewpoint 16. Firle Beacon **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 17. Devil's Dyke **High**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 18. Cissbury Ring **High**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 19. Highdown Hill **Medium**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 20. Springhead Hill **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 21. Bignor Hill **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 27. Hollingbury Hill Fort **High**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	Viewpoint 28. Cuckmere Haven Beach **High**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 29. Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve **Medium-high**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 30. Halnaker Windmill **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 31. Butser Hill National Nature Reserve **Medium-high**	**Low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 32. Levin Down **Medium-high**	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect).
	Viewpoint 33. Arundel Castle **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	Viewpoint 41. Slindon Folly **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 50. The Trundle **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 51. Ditchling Beacon **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 52. Chanctonbury Ring **Medium-high**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 53. Amberley Mount **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 54. Chantry Hill **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 55. Beeding Hill **Medium**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	Viewpoint 57. Telscomb Tye **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 58. Wolstonbury Hill **Medium-high**	**Low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
Direct impact on view from West Sussex during operation of Rampion 2	9. Shoreham Harbour / A259 **Medium-low**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	10. Worthing seafront promenade **Medium-high**	**High**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	11. Littlehampton seafront promenade **Medium-high**	**High**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	12. Bognor Regis seafront promenade **Medium-high**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	13. Pagham Beach **Medium-high**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	14. Selsey seafront promenade **Medium-high**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	22. Eastoke Point (Chichester Harbour AONB) **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	26. Low Weald (A24, near Ashington) **Medium-low**	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)
	40. Climping Beach **Medium-high**	**High**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	47. High Weald (near Bolney) **Medium**	**Negligible**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Minor/negligible in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	A. East Wittering **Medium-high**	**Medium**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	B1. Chichester Marina **Medium**	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	B2. Dell Quay **Medium**	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)
	C. Eastergate (proposed A29) **Medium**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	D. Footpath between A259 and Colworth **Medium**	**Zero**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** (no effect)
	E. Ferring Gap **Medium-high**	**High**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	F. Lancing Beach **Medium-high**	**High**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
Direct impact on view from East Sussex and City of Brighton & Hove during operation of Rampion 2	5. Newhaven **Medium**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	6. Peacehaven **Medium-high**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
	8. Brighton sea front promenade **High**	**Medium-high**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** Major/moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
Direct impact on view from Hampshire during operation of Rampion 2	43. Gilkicker Point **Medium**	**Low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible
Direct impact on view from Isle of Wight during operation of Rampion 2	24. Bembridge, Isle of Wight **Medium-high**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible
	34. Bembridge Down **High**	**Medium-low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible
	35. St. Boniface Down above Ventnor **High**	**Low**	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible
Impact (daytime) of the O&M of the Project on visual receptors				
Direct impact on views from recreational route (SDNP)	South Downs Way **High** to **medium**	**Medium** to **negligible** varying along route **Zero** from sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** to **not significant** Major/moderate to negligible in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
				Not significant (no effect) on sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)
	Monarch's Way **High** to **medium**	**Medium-high** to **low** varying along route **Zero** from sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** to **not significant** Major/moderate to minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible **Not significant** (no effect) on sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)
Direct impact on views from recreational route (West Sussex)	Arun Way **Medium-high** to **low**	**High** to **negligible** varying along route **Zero** from sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** to **not significant** Major/moderate to minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible **Not significant** (no effect) on sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)
Direct impact on views from recreational route (East Sussex)	National Cycle Network Route 2 **Medium**	**High** to **low** varying along route **Zero** from sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** to **not significant** Major/moderate to minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible **Not significant** (no effect) on sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
Direct impact on views from recreational route (Hampshire)	Solent Way **Low**	**Low** to **negligible** varying along route **Zero** from sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Minor to negligible in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible **Not significant** (no effect) on sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)
	New Lipchis Way **Medium**	**Medium** to **low** **Zero** from sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Significant** to **not significant** Moderate to minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible **Not significant** (no effect) on sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)
Direct impct on views from recreational route (Isle of Wight)	Isle of Wight Coastal Path **High** to **low**	**Medium-low** to **negligible** varying along route **Zero** from sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)	C-37, C38, C40, C43, C-61	**Not significant** Moderate to minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible **Not significant** (no effect) on sections of route outside ZTV (with no visibility)
Impact (night-time) of the O&M of the Project on visual receptors / views				
	Viewpoint 21 Bignor Hill **Medium-high**	**Medium-low**	C-62, C-94, C-98, C-110, C-266	**Not significant**

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
Direct impact on views from South Downs IDSR (Dark Sky Core)				Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 31 Butser Hill **Medium**	**Negligible**	C-62, C-94, C-98, C-110, C-266	**Not significant** Minor/negligible in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
Direct impact on views from South Downs IDSR (Intrinsic Rural Darkness and Buffer Zone)	Viewpoint 2 Birling Gap **Medium-high**	**Medium-low**	C-62, C-94, C-98, C-110, C-266	**Not significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
	Viewpoint 17 Devil's Dyke **Medium-high**	**Medium-low**	C-62, C-94, C-98, C-110, C-266	**Not significant** Moderate in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
Direct impact on views from South Downs IDSR (Transition Zone)	Viewpoint 27 Hollingbury Hillfort **Medium**	**Medium-low**	C-62, C-94, C-98, C-110, C-266	**Not significant** Moderate/minor in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
Direct impact on views from South Downs IDSR (Urban)	Larger settlements within the SDNP, including Lewes, Ditchling, Petworth, Midhurst, Femhurst, East Liss and Petersfield	**Zero**	C-62, C-94, C-98, C-110, C-266	**Not significant** (no effect)

Activity and impact	Receptor and sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Embedded environmental measures	Assessment of residual effect (significance)
Direct impact on views from urban areas outside the South Downs IDSR	Viewpoint 8 Brighton Seafront **Low**	**Low**	C-62, C-94, C-98, C-110, C-266	**Not significant** Negligible in EIA terms, direct, long-term, reversible.
Decommissioning				
Impact of the decommissioning of Rampion 2 on perceived seascape character, landscape character, designated landscapes and views/visual amenity	The effects arising as a result of the decommissioning of Rampion 2 are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all seascape, landscape and visual receptors as those arising due to their O&M, as assessed in **Section 15.10** and summarised above, differing primarily as the effects will be short-term and temporary, during the length of the decommissioning phase. There may also be some variation in appearance of the decommissioning activities, compared to the operational and maintenance phase, mainly due the influence of decommissioning vessels and partially decommissioned WTGs, that will not be present during the O&M phase. For all seascape, landscape and visual receptors these impacts during decommissioning are assessed to be of no greater magnitude and effects of no greater significance than the effects assessed during O&M.			

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Summary of Seascape, Landscape and Visual Effects

15.15.7 The seascape, landscape and visual effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed in this SLVIA within several main geographic 'receptor areas' based on administrative boundaries within the SLVIA study area (**Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)): the SDNP; West Sussex; East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove; Hampshire and the Solent; and the Isle of Wight.

15.15.8 The effect of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 has been assessed as not significant on all seascape, landscape and visual receptors within the geographic areas of Hampshire and the Solent and the Isle of Wight. In addition, no significant residual effects on the landscape character or views from the High Weald and Low Weald have been identified in the SLVIA. Significant seascape, landscape and visual effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are contained within the areas of the SDNP, West Sussex, East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove.

South Downs National Park (SDNP)

Introduction

15.15.9 The baseline character of the SDNP (**Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) is described in the SLVIA based on the 'South Downs NCA' (125) and the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (2020), which provides a baseline landscape characterisation, together with the South Downs Maritime MCA (08) which defines the associative seascape setting of the SDNP coastline.

15.15.10 In essence the landscape of the SDNP comprises a chalk ridge stretching from Beachy Head in the east to Winchester in the west with a dramatic northern escarpment and gentler dip slope towards the coast. Within this simple landform structure there is notable diversity, creating a varied and complex landscape character.

15.15.11 The SDNP is of particular relevance due to its association with the closest coastal landscapes of the SLVIA study area. The most prominent association with the seascape relates to two sections of coastal cliffs forming the maritime edges of the SDNP. These are the coastal cliffs between Brighton to Rottingdean (LCA S2 and coastal edges of LCA A2) which is approximately 2.7km in length and the closest section of the SDNP located 18.3km from the wind farm array area; and the shoreline and chalk cliffs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head (LCA S1 and coastal edges of A1) which is approximately 12km in length and located at a distance of 23.8km from the wind farm array area at its closest point, extending to approximately 32km at Beachy Head. This coastal landscape formed by the white chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and Seven Sisters is also defined as the Sussex Heritage Coast.

15.15.12 There is an associative relationship between these parts of the SDNP and the marine environment, particularly within the Sussex Heritage Coast between Beachy Head and Seaford Head, where the SDNP extends to the White Cliffs

along this section of the coast, with the SDNP boundary being open at its seaward limit to encompass an associative (but not formally defined) extent of seascape. To the west of Seaford Head, the SDNP boundary is formed by a continuous inland urban edge of the coastal conurbations between Seaford, Brighton and Worthing, which form an undesignated, urbanised coastal strip that separate the SDNP from the coast, and where the SDNP extends increasingly inland moving westwards and is formed by the distinctive elevated spine of 'whale-backed' downs.

15.15.13 There is a broad geographic division between the Open Downland to the east of the SDNP and the Wooded Estate Downland to the west, divided by several major river valleys (the Ouse, Arun and Adur) and chalk valley systems. These downlands contain some of the highest and most remote parts of the SDNP and afford panoramic views across the Weald to the north and to the sea to the south across the coastal plain.

SDNP Maritime Coast

15.15.14 The South Downs Maritime MCA (08) is located to the east of the windfarm array area and is partially co-incident with the Sussex Heritage Coast, along the distinctive white chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head. This seascape forms the main maritime setting of the SDNP (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3, of the ES (**Document Reference: 6.3.15)), while recognising that the SDNP also contains sea views from the elevated downs over the wider seascape of Sussex Bay. Views between land and sea are particularly important from the coastline of the South Downs Maritime MCA, especially from panoramic viewpoints on the elevated chalk cliffs, with views along the distinctive white cliffs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head and out to the wider seascape.

15.15.15 The South Downs maritime coastline is also defined by the 'Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs' (A1) and its adjacent 'Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline' (S1) LCAs (**Figure 15.6, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). The sensitivity of these LCAs is high, reflecting their high value and their high susceptibility to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The value of this part of the SDNP landscape derives principally from it forming a key part of the designated landscape and the Sussex Heritage Coast, the high scenic quality / distinctiveness of the landscape, particularly the chalk coastline and their rarity in forming the main LCAs within the SDNP that meets the sea. It also has high recreational value and strong cultural associations, particularly along the Heritage Coast, with a strong sense of the perceptual qualities of tranquillity and remoteness across the downlands.

15.15.16 The susceptibility of this main maritime coastline of the SDNP derives principally from its open uninterrupted skylines and exposed undeveloped character, potential for changes to its perceptual qualities (tranquillity and remoteness) and the elevated/open landform which permits long views over its associate seascape context to the south, such that is visually susceptible to changes in the wider seascape setting. Some factors reduce sensitivity including the high visitor pressure (including car parking, signage and visitor facilities) which reduces perceived tranquillity and remoteness in 'honey-pot' areas. It is also a large scale and expansive seascape, with a relatively simple coastline, which is better able accommodate development than small scale seascapes with complex coastlines.

15.15.17 The Rampion 1 WTGs is also a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context outside the LCA. The views from this maritime SDNP coastline include Rampion 1 Wind Farm, located approximately 23.3km from this section of the SDNP coastline within the Sussex Heritage Coast. Although 'remote' from this coastline of the SDNP, Rampion 1 has resulted in some change to the qualities of the SDNP as a result of its visual influence in 'breathtaking views' offshore to the seascape setting of the SDNP, with the main association relating to the 12km coastal extents between Seaford and Beachy Head.

15.15.18 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in zero change to the fabric of the physical landscape of the maritime coastline of the SDNP. There will also be zero change to the majority of the key characteristics of the landscape, including its fundamental character as rolling chalk cliffs, downland and intertidal shoreline, which will continue to define the distinct character of the landscape. The characteristic large open skies, dramatic and dynamic landscape of the open downs and shoreline will also prevail.

15.15.19 Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of its perceived character as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside its area, in its associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of character in 'panoramic' and 'extensive' views, as a result of further WTG development influence in views of the sea. The distant panoramic views out to sea will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. In particular, these changes to the visual aspects of its character in the panoramic and extensive views, occur from the coastal downs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head, where there is a direct association with the seascape and the magnitude of change is assessed as being medium and significant (major/moderate) from the closest areas of the coast between Seaford Head (23.9km) and Birling Gap, reducing to medium-low magnitude and not significant (moderate) with increasing distance eastwards between Birling Gap (28.8km) and Beachy Head (31.9km).

15.15.20 Significant effects on views experienced by people along this stretch of coastline have been identified at a number of representative viewpoints including, from Seven Sisters Country Park (Viewpoint 3), Cuckmere Haven (Viewpoint 28) and Seaford Head (Viewpoint 4). Significant visual effects occur principally on views experienced by people walking on the South Downs Way or visiting the coast at these locations, due to the larger apparent scale of the WTGs due to their taller height, larger rotor diameter and closer position than Rampion 1 and the increase in lateral spread of WTGs on the sea skyline adjacent to Rampion 1. It is however notable that the closest parts of the wind farm array area will be located approximately 23.9km to 28.8km from these viewpoints, at relative distance and the additional lateral spread of the Rampion 2 WTGs (beyond that already occupied by Rampion 1 wind farm) will occupy a relatively narrow portion (approximately 6 - 10°) of the wider 180° sea view available to the observer. There is also clear separation between the coast and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 being retained in the views, such that it is clearly viewed 'offshore' in its open seascape. The appearance of the WTGs will also relate rationally to Rampion 1, the visual exposure and large scale of the seascape.

15.15.21 Significant visual effects have been avoided in views from the eastern half of the Heritage Coast area of the SDNP between Beachy Head (Viewpoint 1) and Birling Gap (Viewpoint 2), which is located at increased distance. The southern part of the Rampion 1 array area adds only a relatively small additional amount to the horizontal extent of the view occupied by WTGs, forming a clearly separate array grouping that has a narrower lateral spread than the existing Rampion 1 Wind Farm. Scale juxtaposition of larger Rampion 2 WTGs in front of smaller Rampion 1 WTGs has also been avoided in these views. Stark scale comparisons are avoided through the evident separation zone between the distinct Rampion 1 and Rampion 2 arrays. A line of sight between the arrays allows the Rampion 2 array to be viewed with less contrast and as a distinct element, in terms of scale, form and layout.

15.15.22 Significant effects on the visual aspects of perceived character have also been assessed as occurring from the small areas of coastal cliffs of the SDNP between Brighton to Rottingdean, from the coastal edges of the Adur to Ouse Open Downs (LCA A2) and the Brighton to Rottingdean shoreline (LCA S2), which is approximately 2.7km length and the closest coastal section of the SDNP located 18.3km from the wind farm array area. The high value of this landscape derives in part from the rarity of these small areas of open coastal downs within the SDNP set amongst the largely urban coastline. This landscape does, however, have a reduced susceptibility (medium-high) due to the influence of the non-designated and urbanised coastal areas adjacent to the LCA and the sea. The changes arising as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 occur on the visual aspects of the perceived character of these two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs, where there is a direct association with the seascape and the magnitude of change is assessed as being medium-high and effects significant (major).

15.15.23 Significant effects on views experienced by people along this stretch of coastline have been identified from representative viewpoints at Beacon Hill, Rottingdean (Viewpoint 7) and Telscombe Tye (Viewpoint 57). Significant visual effects occur principally due to the increase in proximity of the proposed WTGs to these viewpoints further east, the larger apparent scale of the WTGs due to their taller height, larger rotor diameter and closer position than Rampion 1 and the increase in lateral spread of WTGs on the sea skyline adjacent to Rampion 1. It is however notable that the closest parts of the wind farm array area will be located approximately 18.7km to 21.2km from these viewpoints, at relative distance and occupying a moderate portion of the wider 180° sea view available to the observer, with clear separation between the coast and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 being retained in the views, such that it is clearly viewed ‘offshore’ in its open seascape. The appearance of the WTGs will relate rationally to Rampion 1, the visual exposure and large scale of the seascape and the directional focus of the panoramic views towards landmarks such as the white chalk cliffs at Seaford Head to the south-east remain unaffected.

SDNP Open Downs

15.15.24 Significant effects on the visual aspects of the perceived character of the SDNP are also assessed as occurring from inland areas, on parts of the elevated open downs between the Adur and Ouse (A2); and between the Arun and Adur (A3).

Significant (major / moderate) effects are assessed from the tops of the open downs to the west of the Ouse, inland of Brighton and Hove and Shoreham, between Hollingbury, Ditchling Beacon, Devil's Dyke and the Adur Valley (A2); and extending further westwards from the tops of the open downs to the north of Worthing (around Cissbury Ring) and the tops of the open downs between the Arun and Adur River valleys (A3). Effects of highest magnitude (medium-high) are identified in the areas around Cissbury Ring and Highdown Hill, that form some of the closest parts of the elevated downs of the SDNP to the Rampion 2 array area at distances between approximately 17 – 20km.

15.15.25 Within this range of inland vantage points where the sea is a key component, and particularly from the most elevated tops of the downs, the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will form an additional wind farm influence in the seascape, in part due to their larger vertical scale when compared to Rampion 1, but notably due to the wide lateral spread of the proposed WTG array when viewed from these inland areas of the SNP directly to north, in which the full western spread of the array can be appreciated within its seascape context. The proposed development will increase the WTG developed seascape element in panoramic views from the tops of the downs however, it is at increased distance, typically experiencing the sea beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between these open down landscapes and the sea. Inland views from these areas of open downs typically experience the sea within a remote context setting beyond intervening landscape influences.

15.15.26 Negligible changes and not significant effects occur from the furrowed extensive branching dry valley systems of the open downs, which produce deep, narrow, rounded coombes that contain visibility and limit perceived changes in character, with effects to the visual aspects of perceived character being focuses to the high tops of the open downs.

15.15.27 Significant effects on views experienced by people along the open tops of the downs have been identified at a number of representative viewpoints, many of which are located on the South Downs Way, including from east to west, Firle Beacon (Viewpoint 16), Ditchling Beacon (Viewpoint 51), Hollingbury Hillfort (Viewpoint 27), Devil's Dyke (Viewpoint 17), Beeding Hill (Viewpoint 55), Cissbury Ring (Viewpoint 18), Chanctonbury Hill (Viewpoint 52) and Springhead Hill (Viewpoint 20). Significant visual effects occur principally on views experienced by people walking/cycling on the South Downs Way or visiting these hill top locations, due the strong inter-visibility associations between these elevated parts of the downs that form an 'auditorium for sea views' over the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in its expansive seascape context to the south. Although these viewpoints are located at distances ranging between 19.5km to 28.5km, with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 at relative distance, significant visual effects occur principally due to the combination of the scale contrast of the proposed WTGs compared to the smaller Rampion 1 WTGs and the lateral spread of WTGs extending the WTG developed skyline mainly westwards.

15.15.28 The southern array of Rampion 2 will also be viewed entirely behind Rampion 1 in these views from the open tops of the downs to the north, so it is only the western Rampion 2 array that adds to the horizontal extent of development. The western Rampion 2 array will have an additional lateral spread (over and above that already occupied by Rampion 1 wind farm) of approximately 13 - 40°, which is

considered a moderate portion of the sea view component of the wider 360° panoramic view available to the observer. A further mitigating factor is that the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be located within the seascape backdrop in the context of Rampion 1 wind farm, beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip that visually influences and separates the downs from the sea. In many of these views from the open tops of the downs, the view south to the sea over the intervening coastal plain forms a key interest in the view, however many of the viewpoints are actually focused over the northern escarpment of the South Downs to the Weald to the north, in a different direction from the seascape and Rampion 2 to the south.

SDNP Wooded Downs

15.15.29 No significant effects on the visual aspects of the perceived character of the SDNP are assessed as occurring on the more distant wooded downs to the west and north-west of the SDNP, including the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland (B1). The LCA is of high value deriving from it forming a key part of the designated landscape of the SDNP, the high scenic quality/distinctiveness of the ridge of chalk, large woodland blocks and estates, which form some of the highest and more remote parts of the SDNP. The susceptibility and therefore sensitivity of the LCA is however, reduced by its strong associations with the landscapes inland to the north, the large, dense areas of woodland which limit visibility and associations to the seascape outside the LCA. Changes occur principally from the remaining open hill tops which allow long views, however these are isolated and have distant sea views, over an intervening non-designated and urbanised coastal strip between the LCA and the sea. The seascape forms a slender horizontal element with less influence in these more distant views. Not significant (moderate-minor) effects are assessed on the perceived character of the open tops of the rolling downs to the south of the east–west running Lavant Valley between Bignor Hill and the Trundle; dropping to not significant (minor) over the majority of the landscape of folded downland masked by large woodland blocks that contain visibility and limit effects on perceived character.

15.15.30 Significant effects on occasional views experienced by people along the open tops of the downs have been identified at representative viewpoints from Bignor Hill (Viewpoint 21) and The Trundle (Viewpoint 50), however the significant visual effects identified at these viewpoints are not considered to translate to significant effects on the perceived character of the wooded downlands LCA as a whole, given the extent of woodland cover and limited character change. Significant visual effects occur in similarity to the effects from the open downs to the east, due the strong inter-visibility between these elevated viewpoints over the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in its expansive seascape context to the south. Although these viewpoints are located at distances of approximately 28-29km and are at the threshold distance in terms of significance, significant visual effects occur principally due to the combination of the scale contrast of the proposed WTGs compared to the smaller Rampion 1 WTGs and the lateral spread of WTGs extending the WTG developed skyline westwards.

15.15.31 Viewed from these areas of wooded estate downlands to the north-west, the southern array of Rampion 2 is viewed entirely behind Rampion 1, so it is only the western Rampion 2 array that adds to the horizontal extent of development, with

an additional lateral spread of approximately 30°, which is considered a relatively moderate portion of the sea view component of the wider 360° panoramic view available to the observer. A further mitigating factor is that the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will be located within the seascape backdrop beyond the intervening, non-designated and urbanised coastal strip that visually influences and separates the wooded downs from the sea, and that the seascape forms a slender horizontal element with less influence in these more distant views.

15.15.32 The effect of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as not significant on the visual aspects of the perceived character of the remaining parts of the SDNP extending to the north-west of the SLVIA study area, at increasingly long distances of approximately 30-50km from the windfarm array area, from where there is very limited theoretical visibility (**Figure 15.6a, Volume 3, of the ES (**Document Reference: 6.3.15)), at increasing range and context disassociation with the seascape of Sussex Bay with greater distances inland. Not significant effects on views experienced by people have been identified at a number of representative viewpoints in these areas of the SDNP, including from east to west, Kingsley Vale (Viewpoint 29), Beacon Hill (Viewpoint 62) and Butser Hill (Viewpoint 31). These viewpoints are located at long distances of approximately 32-45km from the windfarm array area and are assessed as being below the threshold of significance, with medium sensitivity (due to the reduced susceptibility) and medium-low or low levels of magnitude of change resulting in no significant effects. The vertical height / apparent scale of the proposed WTGs will be relatively small, at such distance, the HFoV effected by Rampion 2 is narrower and occurs in the context of a vast seascape and with effects occurring only during conditions of very good or excellent visibility, which have limited frequency. The wider panoramic views north across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills from these viewpoints, and east along the scarp slopes of the South Downs also remain unaffected.

Special qualities

15.15.33 An assessment of the effects arising from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the defined special qualities of the SDNP has been undertaken in the SLVIA (**Table 15-32**) in respect of special qualities relating to seascape, landscape and visual matters, that may be affected by the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Further information and assessment of the effects of Rampion 2 on the special qualities of the SDNP is contained within **Further information for Action Point 27 - South Downs National Park [REP1-024]**.

15.15.34 The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will not result in any direct changes to the geology of the South Downs that underpins its special qualities and creates its diversity of landscapes. There will also be no direct changes to the diversity of landscapes of the SDNP, expressed through its wooded and heathland ridges, its wide, open chalk downlands, its river valleys, hidden villages and estates, which will all fundamentally remain definitive to its character and diversity, regardless of the presence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. The physical features of the SDNP's diverse landscapes will not be changed, however there will be changes to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character and views offshore.

15.15.35 The O&M of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in changes to the perceived character of some of the 'diverse, inspirational landscapes' of the SDNP, as a result of the significant residual effects identified to the 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea' defined in Special Quality 1. In particular, the effects on this special quality of 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea' will be experienced from the coastal downs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head (within the Sussex Heritage Coast) and the elevated open chalk downlands between the Arun, Adur, Cuckmere and Ouse valleys. These are visual qualities and are not related to 'landscape fabric' of the SDNP. These special qualities which relate to the identified residual effects are those where the indicator relates to, or is supported by, an aspect concerning the visual contribution made by seascape to the SDNP and the SDNP's relationship with this seascape.

15.15.36 Broadly, the Sussex Heritage Coast is identified as representing the geographic extent of the SDNP most likely to experience residual significant effects to its 'diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views' as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2. Changes of lower magnitude, but considered significant, also occur from the wider open downs within the range of both inland and coastal vantage points where the sea is a key component, defined as the tops of the open downs between the Cuckmere and Ouse valleys (LCA A1); from the two areas of open coastal downs near the coast at Rottingdean and Telscombe Cliffs; the tops of the open downs inland of Brighton and Shoreham, between the Ouse and Adur Valley (LCA A2); and the tops of the open downland between the Arun and Adur river valleys (LCA A3). This area of the tops of the open downs of the SDNP extends across part of the inland backdrop between Seaford, Brighton and Arundel, where the proposed development will increase the influence of offshore wind farm development in 'breathtaking views' from the tops of the downs.

15.15.37 In terms of these special qualities, the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will not affect the immediate setting of the SDNP but will result in changes within its associate seascape setting, as part of a large, open seascape, rather than being viewed 'within' the landscape of the SDNP. Residual effects on the 'breathtaking views' experienced from SDNP will also remain looking out to the seascape, from locations along the Sussex Heritage Coast and open downlands, occurring only in certain weather and visibility conditions and therefore on limited occasions during the year. In these locations, views are only part of the experience of the varied special qualities, which will remain fundamentally unchanged in other regards.

15.15.38 The residual effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on other special qualities of the SDNP have been assessed as not significant, including its 'Tranquil and unspoilt places' (Special Quality 3); its 'Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences' (Special Quality 5) and its 'Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area' (Special Quality 7).

15.15.39 Due regard to the statutory purpose of the SDNP has been had through the project design process, in order to reduce adverse effects on the 'breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea' defined in Special Quality 1, their magnitude and geographic extent. The design of Rampion 2 (described in **Section 15.7**) demonstrates due regard to conserving natural beauty, through good design and appropriate embedded environmental measures that address adverse

impacts, minimise 'harm' and avoid compromising the purposes of the SDNP. The spatial extent of the Rampion 2 array area has been reduced and designed according to a set of SLVIA specific design principles (**Section 15.7**), avoiding the area to the east of Rampion 1 and focusing the Rampion 2 array to the south and west of Rampion 1 wind farm, which is further offshore at greater distance from the Heritage Coast of the SDNP, while also having a narrow additional lateral spread in the field of view and having a clear line of sight between Rampion 1 and 2 arrays which ensures that it appears as a distinct array with less contrast and a degree of balance with Rampion 1. Although some significant effects on views from the SDNP have been identified in the assessment, effects of major significance in EIA terms have been avoided, with the highest levels of effect being major/moderate on views from the closest parts of the SDNP outside the most sensitive area defined by the Sussex Heritage Coast.

15.15.40 The SDNP has the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. RED has had regard to the statutory purposes through the selected project design, which helps ensure its continued protection, which also applies when considering applications outside the boundaries of the SDNP which might have impacts within. It is considered that Rampion 2 avoids compromising the purposes of the SDNP designation and has been designed sensitively with due regard to its statutory purpose, despite the fact that it will be visible from within the SDNP and that it may have significant effects on certain special qualities – its '*breathtaking views'* and *'stunning, panoramic views to the sea'* defined in Special Quality 1. The assessment has found that significant effects would occur to this special quality of the SDNP. However, it is considered that Rampion 2 would not undermine the statutory purpose of the SDNP. Harm is caused to one of the SDNP's special qualities and this is limited to certain locations, particularly on the coastal extent of the SDNP and the elevated tops of the downs. Whilst significant harm would be caused to this quality ('breathtaking views' and 'stunning, panoramic views to the sea'), this would not compromise the purpose of the designation, as the natural beauty of the SDNP will remain and opportunities will still be present for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the SDNP, and Rampion 2 will not therefore undermine the statutory purpose of the SDNP or compromise the purposes of its designation.

West Sussex South Coast Plain

15.15.41 The South Coast Plain within West Sussex (**Figure 15.5, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) is a flat, coastal landscape between the dip slope of the South Downs and the waters of Sussex Bay (English Channel) and the Solent. It has a low, sweeping coastline with extensive urban development, with settlements along the coast dominated by conurbation, trunk roads, suburban villages and an extensive string of seaside towns. The Manhood Peninsula is one of few undeveloped stretches of coastline within the NCA, extending to its southerly headland at Selsey Bill. The coastline also includes Chichester Harbour AONB, one of several major inlets, which have distinctive landscapes and intertidal habitats.

15.15.42 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 are primarily located within the Selsey Bill to Seaford Head MCA (07) (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)). This seascape is an extensive bay ('Sussex Bay') between

the low-lying headland of Selsey Bill to the west and the distinctive chalk cliffs of Seaford Head to the east. Shingle beaches offset the major coastal resorts in the west of the MCA and vertical chalk cliffs characterise the east. It includes extensive urban development along the coastline, within both West Sussex and East Sussex, backed to the north of the major settlements by the prominent ridge of the South Downs. Small recreational craft and fishing boats are the main sea users, with cross channel ferries between Newhaven – Dieppe and freight from the ports at Shoreham, Newhaven and Littlehampton.

15.15.43 Changes to the seascape baseline conditions have occurred since publication of the MMO Seascape Assessment (MMO, 2014), such that it is no longer the case that 'views seaward are frequently to an unbroken horizon'. Rampion 1 became operational in November 2017 and forms a large-scale offshore wind farm influence within this seascape, consisting of 116 x 140m blade tip WTGs, approximately 13km from the closest part of the West Sussex coastline. The array of Rampion 1 WTGs is a prominent feature in sea views in good visibility, partially interrupting sea views from the urban coastline between Shoreham and Bognor Regis in good visibility.

15.15.44 Changes to seascape character of the Selsey Bill to Seaford Head MCA may be experienced from people in the waters of the seascape on recreational boats but will primarily be experienced from areas of adjacent largely urbanised coastline with views out to sea, including the coastal seafronts of the settlements of Shoreham-by-Sea, Worthing, Littlehampton, Bognor Regis, Pagham and Selsey and from coastal sections of the Monarch's Way. Viewpoints 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 provide representative viewpoints from the settlements along this section of coastline.

15.15.45 The coastline from which the seascape and visual effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will primarily be experienced is defined by the South Coast Shoreline LCA (SC1). The sensitivity of this coastline is considered to be medium. The value of the South Coast Shoreline derives principally from the informal attraction of the seaside, it is not subject to landscape designation for its scenic quality, however it functions as a valued coastal landscape resource for tourism and recreation, focused on the beaches and seafront. The susceptibility of the LCA to changes associated with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 derives principally from its strong association with the sea and the potential for development in the seascape to disrupt visual unity and the loss of open views. Many factors reduce sensitivity, including the extent of the urbanised developed coast, the presence of ports and industrial elements, and the extent of tourism related development and activities, which provide detractors to scenic/perceptual qualities. The seascape is also of large, expansive scale, with a simple broad coastal landform and is separated from the Windfarm array area by open sea, within which the WTGs of Rampion 1 Wind Farm are a characteristic feature of the existing seascape context, forming a partially developed sea skyline and landmark in existing seaward views.

15.15.46 Rampion 2 will result in changes to the visual aspects of the perceived character of the South Coast Shoreline as a result of the addition of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in the associative seascape context of the Selsey Bill to Seaford Head MCA (07). These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects, particularly its open and exposed character, as a result of further WTG

development influence in its open views out across the sea to the horizon. These open views out across the sea to the horizon will be altered through a partial loss of open seascape occupied by the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and the resulting change in the seascape composition from the increased influence and spread of WTGs. The magnitude of these changes to the perceived character of the South Coast Shoreline is assessed as medium to medium-high and the effect significant from the long narrow shoreline extending between Selsey Bill and Shoreham-by-Sea, which has an overriding visual and physical association with the sea. The characteristic views along the coastline will remain, there will still be open views out across the sea, and it will remain an exposed, shoreline landscape whose character is governed by the dynamic influences of the sea and weather, and the linear urban coastal developments that define this coastline.

15.15.47 Significant effects on views experienced by people along this West Sussex coastline have been identified at a number of representative viewpoints from the settlements and seafronts along this section of coastline, including from east to west, Lancing (Viewpoint F), Worthing (Viewpoint 10), Ferring (Viewpoint E), Littlehampton (Viewpoint 11), Cimpling Beach (Viewpoint 40), Bognor Regis (Viewpoint 12), Pagham (Viewpoint 13) and Selsey Bill (Viewpoint 14). Significant visual effects occur principally on views experienced by residents and visitors to the seafront areas of these settlements, due to the strong inter-visibility between the low exposed coastline to the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in its expansive seascape context to the south. Although these viewpoints are located at distances ranging between approximately 13.6km to 16.1km, with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 at relative distance, significant visual effects occur principally due to the combination of the scale contrast of the proposed WTGs compared to the smaller Rampion 1 WTGs and the lateral spread of WTGs extending the WTG developed skyline westwards. Although the southern array of Rampion 2 is viewed behind Rampion 1, the western Rampion 2 array adds to the horizontal extent of development and will have an additional lateral spread of approximately 30 - 54° which is considered a relatively wide HFoV as a portion of the 180° sea view available to the observer.

15.15.48 The residual effect of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 drops to low and not significant on the perceived character of the South Coast Shoreline to the west of Selsey Bill, from the shoreline of sandy beaches, dry sand dunes and grasslands extending between Selsey Bill and West Wittering. This stretch of coastline is oriented to the south-west across the eastern Solent and has oblique views towards the windfarm array area, restricted by the intervening headland of Selsey Bill and the Manhood Peninsula, which provide partial screening of much of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, with the exception of the proposed WTGs at the western edge which are likely to be extend along the open sea skyline beyond Selsey Bill.

15.15.49 The assessment has found that the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will have no significant residual effects on the perceived character and views from Pagham Harbour (SC4) and the Lower Arun Valley (SC10), which have short coastal edges adjoining the South Coast Shoreline. Effects on the perceived character and views from the wider south coast plain, inland from the urbanised coastal strip, including the Manhood Peninsula (SC2), Chichester to Yapton Coastal Plain (SC9) and Littlehampton and Worthing Fringes (SC11) have also been assessed as not significant, primarily due to the limited visibility of these areas of coastal plain

(**Figure 15.15, Volume 3**, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) that are low-lying, set back from the coast behind extensive intervening urban coastal development and have strong existing vegetative cover, which all contribute to restrict potential views of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 and disassociate the seascape context.

15.15.50 An assessment of the effects arising from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the defined special qualities of the CHAONB has been undertaken in the SLVIA. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in zero change and no residual effect on the 'frequently wooded shoreline' (Special Quality 2) of the CHAONB, as it will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss to the physical landscape fabric of the CHAONB.

15.15.51 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in negligible or low levels of change and not significant residual effects on the majority of special qualities of the CHAONB, including 'the unique blend of land and sea' (SQ1) experienced from the open water of the Chichester Harbour Central Basin and its narrow inlets and intimate creeks; 'The flatness of the landform' and 'significance of sea and tide' (SQ3); 'The open water of the central area of the Harbour' (SQ4); 'The overall sense of wilderness within the seascape' (SQ5); ' The picturesque harbourside settlements' (SQ7); 'The unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty' (SQ8); and 'The very special sense of peace and tranquillity' (SQ9).

15.15.52 The residual effect of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as significant only on the perceived *'unique blend of land and sea'* (SQ1) and *'significance of…. distant landmarks across land and water'* (SQ3) experienced from a limited area of the coastal edges/open seascape at the mouth to Chichester Harbour, at the coastal strip edges of LCA F1 South Hayling Island (CHAONB LCA 2019) (as represented by Viewpoint 22 Eastoke Harbour) where there are open views of the sea and in particular views south-east along the Witterings toward Selsey Bill. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will introduce additional WTG elements in views along the coast, extending out to sea beyond the headland of Selsey Bill and effecting the blend of land and sea visible along the coastline, forming new landmarks across land and water, extending out along the sea skyline (as illustrated in Viewpoint 22 from Eastoke Point). These effects are geographically contained at the mouth of the harbour and adjacent coastline at Eastoke Point and are not experienced from the open water of the Chichester Harbour Central Basin, or its narrow inlets and creeks, such that they are specific effects on visual attributes experienced over a geographically limited area that is not representative of the effect on the wider CHAONB landscape.

East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove

15.15.53 The geographic area of the county of East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove (**Figure 15.3, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) that falls outside the SDNP primarily consists of the built up coastal urban areas of the City of Brighton & Hove, Rottingdean, Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Eastbourne and small areas of LCAs which fall just outside the SDNP, such as parts of the Falmer Telscombe Downs (18). The main terrestrial areas to the north-east and east of the SDNP, are defined by the Low Weald (14 and 15), High Weald (4 and 5), Eastbourne Levels (24) and Pevensey Levels (25) which fall

largely or entirely outside the ZTV (**Figure 15.19a, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)).

15.15.54 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 are primarily located within the Selsey Bill to Seaford Head MCA (07) (Figure 16.4, Volume 3, of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) which lies off the East Sussex coastline (and extends westwards off the West Sussex coastline). This seascape is an extensive bay ('Sussex Bay') between the low-lying headland of Selsey Bill to the west and the distinctive chalk cliffs of Seaford Head to the east and includes the operational Rampion 1 Wind Farm, consisting of 116 x 140m blade tip WTGs, approximately 13km from the City of Brighton & Hove.

15.15.55 The majority of the East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment area is within the SDNP and effects on the perceived landscape character are assessed within the assessed provided for the SDNP. Changes to seascape character of the Selsey Bill to Seaford Head MCA may be experienced from people in the waters of the seascape on recreational boats but will primarily be experienced from areas of adjacent largely urbanised coastline with views out to sea, including the coastal seafronts of the settlements of the Seaford, Newhaven, Peacehaven, Rottingdean and the City of Brighton & Hove, and from coastal sections of National Cycle Network Route 2. Viewpoints 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 provide representative viewpoints from the settlements and cycle route along this section of coastline.

15.15.56 Significant effects on views experienced by people along this East Sussex coastline have been identified at a number of representative viewpoints from the settlements and seafronts along this section of coastline, including from east to west, Seaford (Viewpoint 4), Newhaven (Viewpoint 5), Peacehaven (Viewpoint 6), Rottingdean (Viewpoint 7) and the City of Brighton & Hove (Viewpoint 8). Significant visual effects occur principally on views experienced by residents and visitors to the seafront areas of these settlements, due the strong inter-visibility between the low exposed coastline to the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in its expansive seascape context to the south. Although these viewpoints are located at distances ranging between approximately 18.4km to 23.9km, with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 at relative distance, significant visual effects occur principally due to the combination of the scale contrast of the proposed WTGs compared to the smaller Rampion 1 WTGs and the lateral spread of WTGs extending the WTG developed skyline. Although the southern array of Rampion 2 is largely viewed behind Rampion 1, the western Rampion 2 array adds to the horizontal extent of development and will have an additional lateral spread of approximately 31 - 53° which is considered a relatively wide HFoV as a portion of the 180° sea view available to the observer. The distance of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 reduces moving westwards along the coast towards Brighton and the lateral spread of WTGs within the offshore field of view increases, as the westward spread of the Extension Area becomes more visible moving west along the coast, increasing the magnitude of change. The WTGs will, however, add further offshore elements to the relatively simply composed view of sand/shingle beach, sea and sky, in a large scale seascape context and will introduce elements that are characteristic in the receiving view with a similar form to the Rampion 1 WTGs which are highly visible from this stretch of coastline in existing sea views.

Hampshire and the Solent

15.15.57 The seascape of the Solent (MCA05) is located to the north-west of the windfarm array area. The Solent (**Figure 15.4, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) is also covered by LCA11c Eastern Solent, both of which cover the distinctive narrow stretch of sea of the Solent and its adjoining channels and Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbour and is one of the busiest stretches of water in the UK, both commercially and for inshore recreation, including the major ports of Southampton and Portsmouth.

15.15.58 Changes to seascape character of the Solent may be experienced from people in the waters of the Solent on passenger ferries, commercial ships and recreational boats, but primarily from areas of adjacent largely urbanised coastline with views of the Solent, including the coastal edges of settlements of South Hayling and Portsmouth, and from the Solent Way. Viewpoint 43 at Gilkicker Point (**Figure 15.61, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) provides a representative viewpoint.

15.15.59 The effect of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the seascape character of the Solent, and the landscape character and views from its adjacent coastline is assessed as not significant, due to the medium sensitivity of receptors and low magnitude of change resulting from Rampion 2. There are extensive areas of urban development, major ports and industrial influences which influence the scenic qualities of the coastline. Views towards the wind farm array area are at long-distances over 30km, oblique and partially enclosed by the intervening mainland coastline, with the headland of Selsey Bill providing screening of much of Rampion 2 and the lateral spread of the proposed WTGs occupying a narrow HFoV. In addition, the focus and interest in views is across the Solent to the south-west towards the Isle of Wight, which will not be interrupted. The sea views are also heavily influenced by the busy seascape with numerous large vessels coming into harbour, ferries crossing the Solent and extensive recreational boating use in the intervening seascape. There are numerous prominent elements and features within the Solent and its coastline, such that the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will form a background feature on the distant skyline and have a limited characterising influence on the seascape of the Solent off the Hampshire coast.

Isle of Wight

15.15.60 The seascape of South Wight (MCA06) is located to the west of the windfarm array area. South Wight (MCA06) covers the seascape of the south coast of the Isle of Wight between Foreland and St Catherine's Point, reflecting the change in marine and coastal character from the Solent off the north coast. Although South Wight is a diverse MCA, displaying a range of valued characteristics and unrestricted sea views across the channel, its Isle of Wight coastline is located at considerable distances between 31-50km from the western edge of the windfarm array area.

15.15.61 Changes to seascape character of South Wight may be experienced from people in the waters off the eastern and south coasts of the Isle of Wight, but will primarily be experienced from the adjacent eastern Isle of Wight coastline with views of the sea, including the coastal edges of the settlements of Bembridge, Sandown and Shanklin, the beaches of Sandown Bay and Whitecliff Bay, parts of the Isle of

Wight Coastal Path between Bembridge and Dunnose, and from two areas of elevated chalk down landscape at Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff) and at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs further to the south. Viewpoint 24 Bembridge (**Figure 15.48, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)), Viewpoint 34 Bembridge Down (**Figure 15.57, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) and Viewpoint 35 Ventnor Down (**Figure 15.58, Volume 3,** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.15)) provide representative viewpoints.

15.15.62 The effect of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as not significant on the seascape character of the Isle of Wight, the landscape character and views from its adjacent East Wight coastline and the special qualities of the IoW AONB.

15.15.63 Although the South Wight seascape is of high value, due to parts of its maritime coastline forming part of either the IoW AONB or the Tennyson Heritage Coast, much of the relevant East Wight coastline is not designated and consists of the urbanised coastline of Shanklin and Sandown, along the east facing Sandown Bay. There are strong visual connections between shoreline and chalk downs with the open seascape, with the seascape setting being integral to the character of the island context, making the inshore areas of high susceptibility to change, however there is a reduction to medium susceptibility to offshore development with increasing distance and beyond the offshore waters of the MCA.

15.15.64 The assessment highlights two landscapes on the East Wight coast which are most susceptible to the influence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 – the Chalk Downs (1), occurring at Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff) and at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs further to the south, and The Undercliff (11) of the latter area of chalk downs. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in zero change to the fabric of their physical landscape. There will also be zero change to many of the main characteristics of these LCAs, including their fundamental character as rolling chalk downland and its undercliff, their geology, land use, field pattern, habitats, settlement pattern and physical cultural heritage, all of which will remain unaffected and continue to define the distinct character of these open downs and their undercliff.

15.15.65 Changes will only occur to the visual aspects of the perceived character of these areas of Chalk Downs (1) and Undercliff (11) LCAs, as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 outside their area, in their associate seascape context. These changes occur to specific aesthetic/perceptual aspects of landscape character, notably the tranquillity and perceived remoteness, as a result of new WTG development influence at long distance and relatively narrow lateral spread on the sea skyline, when viewed from these LCAs in panoramic sea views. The magnitude of change resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is however, assessed as medium-low on the perceived character of the area of chalk downs at Bembridge and Culver Down (near Culver Cliff) and low magnitude on the area of chalk downs at Ventnor and Shanklin Downs, and its undercliff, at longer distance further to the south. The addition of the proposed WTGs as a feature in long distance views out to sea has a limited characterising influence on the perceived character of the chalk downs due to the small-scale of the WTGs at such long distance, their narrow lateral spread and separation from these areas of the Isle of Wight.

15.15.66 The visual effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 have also been assessed on representative viewpoints on the East Wight coast, at Bembridge (Viewpoint 24), Bembridge Down (Viewpoint 34) and Ventnor Down (Viewpoint 35). Although the sensitivity of viewpoints at Bembridge Down and Ventnor Down is assessed as high, within the relevant two areas of chalk downland of the IoW AONB, the magnitude of change to these views resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low from the closer Bembridge Down viewpoint (VP34); dropping to low magnitude from the more distant Ventnor Down viewpoint (VP35). In both cases, the residual effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 are assessed as not significant. The closest part of the wind farm array area will be located 34.4km from Viewpoint 34 (Bembridge Down) and increasing to 39.6km from Viewpoint 35 (Ventnor Down), with the offshore elements of Rampion 2 appearing as relatively small-scale elements on the distant seascape skyline, having a narrow lateral spread of 11-18° of the panoramic sea view available, occurring in the context of a vast seascape and with effects occurring only during conditions of very good or excellent visibility, which have limited frequency.

15.15.67 Similarly, the visual effects of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 have been found to be not significant on the views experienced by users of the IoW coastal path. Not significant effects of medium-low magnitude are identified on views experienced from stretches of sections 5. Bembridge and 6. Culver Cliff with visibility of Rampion 2, however the magnitude of change is assessed as dropping to low from sections 7. Sandown Bay and Shanklin, 8. Luccombe Bay and 9. Ventnor Bay of the IoW coastal path with increased distance from the windfarm array area, and where increased screening from landform and woodland limits visits from sections of the IoW coastal path at Luccombe and Ventnor Bay, which are increasingly oriented to the south-west and south away from the windfarm array area.

15.15.68 Anassessment of the effects arising from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 on the defined special qualities of the Isle of Wight AONB has been undertaken in the SLVIA. The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in zero change and no residual effect on several IoW AONB special qualities, as follows:

> *“4. The planned and manicured gardens of former Royal Estates and Victorian villas to the irregular undulating hedged fields of pasture.*
>
> *6. The winding paths, shuts and hollow ways in the countryside to chines and steps down cliffs to the beach.*
>
> *7. Place names and dialect to poetry, literature and art.*
>
> *8. Isolated houses, hamlets and rural villages to harbour towns, castles and tumuli”.*

15.15.69 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 will result in zero change and no residual effect on the historic enclosure of land, including the ‘undulating hedged fields of pasture’ of the IoW AONB; and zero change and no residual effect on the ‘planned and manicured gardens of former Royal Estates and Victorian villas’; as it will not result in any direct or physical changes or loss to the landscape elements of the IoW AONB. Similarly, there would be no direct effects on ‘place names and dialect to poetry, literature and art’ as a result of the offshore elements of Rampion 2, or

on ‘Isolated houses, hamlets and rural villages’, however there may be effects on their setting as assessed in **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference 6.2.25).

15.15.70 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 have the potential to result in residual effects on aspects of four IoW AONB special qualities, as follows:

> *“1. From majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches to the quiet solitude of ancient woodland.*
>
> *2. The ever-changing patchwork of worked fields to the timeless and enduring presence of the downs.*
>
> *3. The intricate inlets of tranquil creeks to the long-distance views from coastal heath and downland.*
>
> *5. The dark starlit skies to the bustle and colour of festivals and events”.*

15.15.71 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 have potential to result in changes to views from the ‘majestic sea cliffs and sweeping beaches’, and the ‘long distance views from coastal heath and download’ effecting the perception of the diverse and contrasting landscape of the IoW AONB, with the potential to introduce a new, distant offshore wind farm element to the diversity experienced, when visible from the sea cliffs/chalk downs at Bembridge and Ventnor Downs in particular, on the East Wight IoW AONB coast.

15.15.72 The magnitude of change resulting from the offshore elements of Rampion 2 is assessed as medium-low and effect not significant (moderate) on the perceived character and special qualities of the sea cliffs near Culver Cliff and sweeping beaches at Whitecliff Bay within the Bembridge and Culver Down area at the closest parts of the IoW AONB (approximately 31.4km); which reduces to low magnitude and not significant (moderate/minor) on the perceived character and special qualities of the sea cliffs and sweeping beaches near Luccombe Bay and Sandown Bay, which form the coastal parts of the Ventnor and Shanklin Downs area of the IoW AONB further to the south (over 39km at Ventnor Down). There will be a clear separation between these areas of downs and the offshore elements of Rampion 2 in views, such that it is clearly viewed ‘offshore’ in its open seascape. Whilst the offshore elements of Rampion 2 will feature within the extent of views, it will be viewed in the context of a vast seascape where the WTGs will be located in views at long distances, without interrupting the intervening seascape off the immediate coastline of the IoW AONB. The appreciation of the open downs and chalk coastline, including the sea cliffs and sweeping beaches, will remain as part of a wider panorama, and the generally open nature and long views to and from the downs will be retained, in spite of the presence of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 at long distance offshore.

15.15.73 These effects occur on visual qualities and are not related to ‘landscape fabric’ of the IoW AONB. The special qualities which relate to the identified residual effects are those where the indicator relates to, or is supported by, an aspect concerning the visual contribution made by seascape to the IoW AONB and its relationship with this seascape.

15.15.74 The offshore elements of Rampion 2 have some potential to result in some changes to the perceived ‘timeless and enduring presence of the downs’ relating

to the addition of modern elements perceived in the wider landscape context of the downs, where there is a visible time depth to the open downland and heathland, together with historic changes relating to human activities and more recent modern interventions, including the potential addition of the offshore elements of Rampion 2 into the distant seascape setting of the downs, which can be experienced and understood together in the landscape. Views of modern artefacts such as the Rampion 2 WTGs may influence the 'timeless' aspects of the Downs, however the IoW AONB is already influenced by an altered landscape of farmland, farmsteads and other numerous forms of modern development, including holiday parks, urban development, airfields and transmitting stations. The potential changes are not considered to significantly affect the 'timeless and enduring presence' of the downs perceived within the AONB, to the degree that these existing qualities are substantially eroded and the magnitude of change is assessed to be low and not significant (minor) on this special quality. Crucially the enduring presence of the downs will continue to prevail, despite the distant influence of Rampion 2, which also results in changes that are reversible such that its influence will not be permanent or an enduring presence.

15.16 Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Table 15-44 Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term (acronym)	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Baseline	Refers to existing conditions as represented by latest available survey and other data which is used as a benchmark for making comparisons to assess the impact of development.
Baseline conditions	The environment as it appears (or would appear) immediately prior to the implementation of the Proposed Development together with any known or foreseeable future changes that will take place before completion of the Proposed Development.
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
cd	Candela
Code of Construction Practice (COCP)	The code sets out the standards and procedures to which developers and contractors must adhere to when undertaking construction of major projects. This will assist with managing the environmental impacts and will identify the main responsibilities and requirements of developers and contractors in constructing their projects.
Construction effects	Used to describe both temporary effects that arise during the construction phases as well as permanent existence effects that arise from the physical existence of development (for example new buildings).
Cumulative effects	Additional changes caused by a Proposed Development in conjunction with other similar developments or as a combined effect of a set of developments, taken together.
Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)	Assessment of impacts as a result of the incremental changes caused by other past, present and reasonably foreseeable human activities and natural processes together with the Proposed Development.
DCO	Development Consent Order
DCO Application	An application for consent to undertake a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project made to the Planning Inspectorate who will consider the application and make a

Term (acronym)	Definition
	recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will decide on whether development consent should be granted for the Proposed Development.
Decommissioning	The period during which a development and its associated processes are removed from active operation.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	This is the means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, under the Planning Act 2008.
ELC	European Landscape Convention
Embedded environmental measures	Equate to 'primary environmental measures' as defined by Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2016). They are measures to avoid or reduce environmental effects that are directly incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline').
Environmental Statement (ES)	The written output presenting the full findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
ETG	Expert Topic Group
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach and the information required to support the EIA and HRA for certain aspects.
Future baseline	Refers to the situation in future years without the Proposed Development.
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLVIA	Guidelines for Visual Impact Assessment
HAT	Highest Astronomical Tide
Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD)	An engineering technique avoiding open trenches.
IALA	International Association of Lighthouse Authorities
Impact	The changes resulting from an action.
Indirect effects	Effects that result indirectly from the Proposed Development as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away

Term (acronym)	Definition
	from the site, or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects. Often used to describe effects on landscape character that are not directly impacted by the Proposed Development such as effects on perceptual characteristics and qualities of the landscape.
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
IR	Infra-Red
km	Kilometre
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
LCA	Landscape Character Area
Likely significant effects	It is a requirement of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations to determine the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment which should relate to the level of an effect and the type of effect.
Magnitude (of change)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short term or long term in duration'. Also known as the 'degree' or 'nature' of change.
MCA	Marine Character Area
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MW	Megawatt
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are major infrastructure developments in England and Wales which are consented by DCO. These include proposals for offshore wind farms with an installed capacity over 100MW.
NCA	National Character Area
NE	Natural England

Term (acronym)	Definition
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGV	National Grid Venture
Non-statutory consultation	Non-statutory consultation refers to the voluntary consultation that RED have undertaken in addition to the Statutory Consultation requirements.
NPS	National Policy Statement
O&M	O&M
OEP	Offshore Electrical Platform
OMM	Operational Meteorological Mast
OS	Ordnance Survey
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Proposed DCO Order Limits	The proposed DCO Order Limits combines the search areas for the offshore and onshore infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development. It is defined as the area within which the Proposed Development and associated infrastructure will be located, including the temporary and permanent construction and operational work areas.
Planning Inspectorate	The Planning Inspectorate deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England and Wales.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The written output of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report undertaken for the Proposed Development. It is developed to support Statutory Consultation and presents the preliminary findings of the assessment to allow an informed view to be developed of the Proposed Development, the assessment approach that has been undertaken, and the preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development and environmental measures proposed.
Proposed Development	The development that is subject to the application for development consent, as described in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).
Receptor	These are as defined in Regulation 5(2) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and include population and human health, biodiversity,

Term (acronym)	Definition
	land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape that may be at risk from exposure which could potentially arise as a result of the Proposed Development.
RPG	Registered Park and Garden
SAR	Search and Rescue
SCA	Seascape Character Area
Scoping Opinion	A Scoping Opinion is adopted by the Secretary of State for a Proposed Development.
Scoping Report	A report that presents the findings of an initial stage in the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
SCT	Seascape Character Type
Secretary of State	The senior minister who makes the decision to grant development consent.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value associated to that receptor.
Significance	A measure of the importance of the environmental effect, defined by criteria specific to the environmental aspect.
Significant effects	It is a requirement of the EIA Regulations 2017 to determine the likely significant effects of the development on the environment which should relate to the level of an effect and the type of effect. Where possible significant effects should be mitigated. The significance of an effect gives an indication as to the degree of importance (based on the magnitude of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptor) that should be attached to the impact described. Whether or not an effect should be considered significant is not absolute and requires the application of professional judgement. Significant – 'noteworthy, of considerable amount or effect or importance, not insignificant or negligible' (The Concise Oxford Dictionary).

Term (acronym)	Definition
	Those levels and types of landscape and visual effect likely to have a major or important / noteworthy or special effect of which a decision maker should take particular note.
SL&V	Seascape, Landscape and Visual
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
SPS	Significant Peripheral Structure
Statutory Consultation	Statutory consultation refers to consultation that is required under Section 42 and Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 with the relevant consultation bodies and the public on the preliminary environmental information.
Temporal Scope	The temporal scope covers the time period over which changes to the environment and the resultant effects are predicted to occur and are typically defined as either being temporary or permanent.
Temporary or permanent effects	Effects may be considered as temporary or permanent. In the case of wind energy development the application is for a 30 year period after which the assessment assumes that decommissioning will occur and that the site will be restored. For these reasons the development is referred to as long term and reversible.
The Applicant	Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED)
Zone of Influence (ZOI)	The area surrounding the Proposed Development which could result in likely significant effects.
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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