

INPUT TO DEADLINE 6; CLOSING STATEMENT; 1ST AUGUST 2024

EXAMINATION BY
THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE FOR DCO EN010117 RAMPION 2 (RED)

INTERESTED PARTIES CLOSING STATEMENT

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This closing statement is my view and also shares the view of Constructive Heritage LLP and local community groups Protect Coastal Sussex, begot from shared concerns of the Rampion 2 proposal, and of The Littlehampton Society, formerly Littlehampton Civic Society, who consisted at the time of a number of retired professionals including an entomologist, a biologist and civil servants. The breadth of this proposal, disrupting not only the inhabitants of the host communities (including myself) but also to the landscape, the South Downs National Park, rare ancient chalk geology, the sensitive marine life and newly regenerating kelp forests (as celebrated by Sir David Attenborough) and to species such as nesting and migrating birds, bats and insects.

The potential of harm to the environment this project is purported to be trying to save, outweighs benefits for the following reasons that appear clear to me. This includes the attitude of the developer; how this is dealt with conveys the message of the way in which our citizenship accepts treatment by multinational corporations when they come to our shores to take advantage of our abundant subsidy packages.

1) Experience during consultation: The keystone of the DCO:

The hinge which the application pivots on is surely how the Applicant interacts with host communities. This sets the stage for the relationship to come, as it may be many decades long and an exchange of resources. This multinational consortium of RED (German, Australian, Canadian) behaved in a less than straightforward manner during the consultation. For example, during the initial consultation (beginning in October 2020), community groups and individuals of the host community Littlehampton organised a public meeting to discuss the project and gain insight from experts in relevant fields. Alongside this, we asked the representatives from Rampion 2 to attend to and share their information on the project. I had a rare position as a consultee, being the honorary secretary of The Littlehampton Society (formerly the Littlehampton Civic Society). I had been invited to briefings of the Rampion 2 proposal from the beginning. During one of these online Zoom briefings I took the opportunity to invite Rampion 2 representatives as well as all attendees to the public meeting we were arranging. The representative asked for an invite via email which I provided. It was ignored until further messages were sent, then replied to asking for an alternative date, which we were happy to accommodate, however, no further communication from him or his team was received. On the day preceding the public meeting I had a phone call from the representative asking that he and his team member attend the meeting via Zoom, and give their presentation and field all the questions for answering. We accommodated them for their presentation and the Q&As were shared with the other speakers. We heard a similar situation occurred in a nearby village, the Rampion 2 tactics were perceived as contemptuous by the community.

As you are aware, the consultation was re-run as it was highlighted by community groups and general public that many who were claimed to be consulted by the developer indeed were not.

This points to unfair consultation, along with exaggerated and misleading claims as to output and the project's impact on southern Sussex specifically.

If the UK is an attractive place for offshore investors, then standards should be stringently high to maintain fair treatment of its citizenship and to allow only the most respectful companies to participate in the sharing of the bountiful benefits that UK government subsidies afford.

2) The Environment at large:

These above stated issues of respect and fair treatment also apply to our places of safe harbour for humans and wildlife alike – to name a few:

- the South Downs National Park
- Marine Conservation Zones Kingmere, and, Offshore Overfalls
- Protected species such as Nightingales, Seahorses, Black Seabream
- Priority Habitats such as Subtidal Chalk, Kelp Forests

Please refer to my previous representations [EN010117-001015](#), [EN010117-001019](#), [EN010117-001014](#), [EN010117-001147](#), [EN010117-001338](#) which highlight ecological sensitives that have been seemingly played down by the applicant, most particularly seahorses (Protected Species) and the complete absence of research on migrating insects and bats. More in-depth analysis can be found in the Protect Coastal Sussex Local Impact Assessment [EN010117-000891](#) pages 149-185.

3) Legalities and moving forward:

The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects that harm the environment more than benefit it cannot be in the National interest. There are legal frameworks and policies put in place to protect our country. These include and are not limited to:

- The Marine Policy Statement (2011)
- The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (Dec 2023)
- European Convention on Landscapes
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended 1981)

As well as the protected status of the South Downs National Park, on its land and also the surrounding areas that constitute the views taken in by visitors to the Park.

Construction and operation of offshore wind turbines create significant noise. The research on the impact to environmental receptors such as humans, marine life, etc, including maximum worst case scenario, have not been published. This needs a lot more clarification and evidence that safe noise levels can be generated, mitigated, maintained and monitored so that harms can be minimised.

The electricity grid infrastructure is currently not able to cope well and a further reliance on intermittent energy generation furthers its destabilisation. The life we know now of reliable electricity is in jeopardy; what is essential is more stable, instantaneously dispatchable energy generation.

Our future and that of our children will be shaped by the decisions of the present. This is a crossroads of major importance as we change from a liquid fuel lifestyle to something that is still in

its infancy. Setting aside the emotion that is portrayed by the media, there is an essential need to maintain level-headed policy on how to best take this monumental leap as a nation, and soon after, globally so not to create a landscape of brown-outs and energy insecurity.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and all the other documentation connected to this examination.