

Date: 01 August 2024
Our ref: Case: 15576 Consultation: 467707
Your ref: EN010117



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Richard Allen,

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response for Examination Deadline 6.

1. Natural England's Deadline 6 Submissions

Natural England has reviewed the relevant documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6. Please find an update of Natural England's position regarding these documents in Table 1 below. In addition, Natural England is also submitting the following detailed responses, signposted from Table 1, within the following thematic appendices:

- Appendix A6 – Natural England's advice on the Development Consent Order (DCO)
- Appendix B6 - Natural England's advice on Ornithology
- Appendix C6 – Natural England's advice on Marine Mammals
- Appendix DF6 – Natural England's advice on Benthic Ecology and Coastal Processes
- Appendix E6 – Natural England's advice on Fish and Shellfish
- Appendix H6 - Natural England's advice on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Appendix I6 - Natural England's Closing Statement on Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts Assessments
- Appendix J6 - Natural England's advice on Terrestrial Ecology
- Appendix K6 – Natural England's Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement
- Appendix M6 – Natural England's Deadline 6 Risks and Issues Log
- Appendix N6 – Natural England's Response to the Examining Authorities Questions

2. Closing Statements

Natural England have provided our final position on the relevant matters in our final Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (Appendix K6) and Risks and Issues Log (Appendix M6).

Whilst no submissions have been made at Deadline 5 relevant to Seascape Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA), given the gravity of our concerns regarding the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and Sussex Heritage Coast (SHC), we have provided a formal closing statement in Appendix I6.

We highlight that an overarching concern across multiple topic areas is the volume and complexity of issues that will not be resolved until final post consent plans are submitted for consultation. We highlight this has the potential to cause delays during the post consent/pre-construction period and we advise that there is no guarantee the issues will be resolvable at that stage without additional environmental impacts arising beyond those predicted in the Environmental Statement (ES).

3. Commitments Register

We note that the updated commitments register contains text stating *'In the event that there is an inconsistency in the commitments in this register and the detail provided in the related Application Documents referenced herein, the least environmentally damaging scenario shall prevail.'* We agree that this should be the case, but that this should not replace documents being updated to ensure they are accurate. We also note that the *'least environmentally damaging'* scenario may differ between different receptors.

4. Statement of Commonality of Statement of Common Ground

Natural England advise that this document still does not clearly and accurately represent our final positions on issues. We understand that the initial intention of this document was to give an overview of the positions on issues, however we would reflect at the end of the Examination that, from our perspective at least, it is unclear whether the approach taken has achieved that intention.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

Emma Preston
Marine Senior Officer – Sussex and Kent Area Team
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Table 1 Natural England's Response/Summary Position to the Applicant's Documents Submitted at Deadline 6 that are relevant to our remit.

PINS Document Reference	Applicant's Document Name	Natural England's Response/Position Summary
REP5-001	Deadline 6 Covering Letter	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-002	1.6 Application Document Tracker Rev F	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-107	8.21 Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground (SoCoSoCG) Rev D	Natural England has not specifically commented on the SoCoSoCG at this Deadline. We have included our reflections on this document in point 4 above.
REP5-097	8.8 Statement of Common Ground-Natural England (NE) Rev E	Natural England have provided comments to the Applicant on their most recent iteration 31 st July 2024.
REP5-119	8.81 Applicant's Responses to Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2) Rev A	Natural England have commented on this where relevant to some thematic responses.
REP5-122	8.84 Applicant's Comments on Deadline 4 Submissions Rev A	Natural England have not commented on these direct responses by the Applicant.
REP5-129	8.91 Applicant's Response to Action Points Arising from ISH2 and CAH1 for Deadline 5 Rev A	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-120	8.82 Applicant's Comments on Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) Rev A	Natural England have not commented on these direct responses by the Applicant.
REP5-26	5.9 Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Rev B (tracked).pdf	Natural England refer you to our advice on the RIES provided on the 18 th July 2024. Natural England has no further comments on the RIAA.
REP5-	EN010117-001607-RAM2 Change Notification to ExA	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-	EN010117-001612-Rampion 2 Change Notification R17	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-081	7.16 Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan Rev C (tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-085	7.18 In Principle Offshore Monitoring Plan Rev D (tracked)	Natural England have provided comments on any updates to this within the relevant thematic appendices.
REP5-045	6.4.6.3 Environmental Statement Volume 4 - Appendix 6.3 Coastal processes technical report Impact assessment Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix D/F6.
REP5-030	6.2.9 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Chapter 9 Benthic, subtidal and intertidal ecology Rev C (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix D/F6.
REP5-075	7.12 Outline Scour Protection and Cable Protection Plan Rev C (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix D/F6.
REP5-087	7.22 Commitments Register Rev E (tracked)	Natural England have provided comments on this where relevant in the thematic Appendices.

REP5-083	7.17 In Principle Sensitive Features Mitigation Plan Rev E (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix D/F6 and Appendix E5.
REP5-123	8.85 Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment (Rev A)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix D/F6.
REP5-126	8.88 Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan Rev A	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix D/F6.
REP5-006	3.1 Draft Development Consent Order (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix A6.
REP5-008	3.2 Explanatory Memorandum Rev E (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix A6.
REP5-009	3.3 Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix A6.
REP5-121	8.83 Applicant's Comments on the Examining Authority's Schedule of Changes to the DCO Rev A	Natural England have not commented on these direct responses by the Applicant.
REP5-028	6.2.8 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Chapter 8 Fish and shellfish ecology Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix E6.
REP5-110	8.54.1 Applicant's Response to ExAs First Written Questions - Fish and Shellfish - Appendix H Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix E6.
REP5-047	6.4.11.3 Environmental Statement Volume 4 - Appendix 11.3 Underwater noise assessment technical report Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix E5 and Appendix C6
REP5-035	6.2.18 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix H6.
REP5-040	6.3.18 Environmental Statement Volume 3 Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact assessment - Figures Rev C (Part 1 of 6)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix H6.
REP5-041	6.3.18 Environmental Statement Volume 3 Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact assessment - Figures Rev C (Part 2 of 6)	Natural England has no comments on this submission. We support the SDNPA position regarding this document.
REP5-042	6.3.18 Environmental Statement Volume 3 Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact assessment - Figures Rev C (Part 4 of 6)	Natural England has no comments on this submission. We support the SDNPA position regarding this document.
REP5-043	6.3.18 Environmental Statement Volume 3 Chapter 18 Landscape and visual impact assessment - Figures Rev C (Part 6 of 6)	Natural England has no comments on this submission. We support the SDNPA position regarding this document.
REP5-049	6.4.18.2 Environmental Statement Volume 4 - Appendix 18.2 Viewpoint analysis Rev C (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission. We support the SDNPA position regarding this document.
REP5-051	6.4.18.3 Environmental Statement Volume 4 - Appendix 18.3 Landscape assessment Rev B (tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-053	6.4.18.4 Environmental Statement Volume 4 - Appendix 18.4 Visual assessment Rev B (tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission.

REP5-055	6.4.18.5 Appendix 18.5 Environmental Statement Volume 4 - Residential visual amenity assessment Rev B (tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-132	8.94 Landscape Enhancement Scheme Principles (South Downs National Park Authority and Horsham District Council) Rev A	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-133	8.95 Public Rights of Way Enhancements Schedule Principles (West Sussex County Council) Rev A	Natural England has no comments on this submission at this time.
REP5-031	6.2.11 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Chapter 11 Marine mammals Rev D (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix C6.
REP5-079	7.15 Draft Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix C6.
REP5-128	8.90 Applicant's Response to Action Point 22 - Bottlenose Dolphin Population Modelling	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix C6.
REP5-116	8.64 Kittiwake Implementation and Monitoring Plan Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix B6.
REP5-118	8.65 Guillemot & Razorbill Evidence and Roadmap Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix B6.
REP5-127	8.89 Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Implementation and Monitoring Plan Rev A	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix B6.
REP5-003	2.6 Tree Preservation Order and Hedgerow Plan Rev D	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6 and Appendix H6.
REP5-024	5.8 Design and Access Statement Rev C (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-037	6.2.22 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Chapter 22 Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation Rev C (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-073	7.10 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan Rev D (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6 and Appendix H6.
REP5-065	7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice Rev E (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6 and Appendix H6.
REP5-067	7.4 Outline Soil Management Plan Rev C tracked	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-069	7.6 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan Rev F (tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-112	8.60 Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-114	8.62 Outline Air Quality Management Plan Rev B (tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission
REP5-039	6.2.32 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Chapter 32 ES Addendum Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-089	7.23 Outline Construction Method Statement Rev B (tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-061	6.4.23.2 Appendix 23.2 Environmental Statement Volume 4 - Traffic Generation Technical Note Rev D (tracked)	Natural England has no comments on this submission.
REP5-063	7.1 Outline Operational Drainage Plan	Natural England's response to this document

	Rev D (tracked)	is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-057	6.4.22.15 Appendix 22.15 Biodiversity net gain information Rev B (Tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6.
REP5-125	8.87 Outline Vegetation Retention and Removal Plan (Rev A)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix J6 and Appendix H6.
PD-013	Schedule of recommended Amendments to the Applicant's draft DCO submitted at Deadline 4	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix A6.
REP4-017	Alternative Schedule 17 (on a without prejudice basis) (Tracked Changes)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix A6.
REP4-081	Schedule 18 – Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (on a without prejudice basis) Revision A	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix A6.