



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
<b>File reference</b>	EN010117
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	19 October 2020
<b>Meeting with</b>	Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project Team
<b>Venue</b>	Meeting via MS Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project update
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given

#### ***Introduction***

Rampion Extension Development Limited (the Applicant) and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

#### ***Project Update***

The Applicant advised that they intend to submit the application to the Inspectorate in October 2021. Statutory consultation is expected to take place April – May 2021.

The Applicant advised that they had reviewed the Inspectorate's scoping opinion of August 2020. They intend to include a table as an appendix to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) showing how they have addressed the Inspectorate's comments. The Applicant confirmed that they will carry this through to the Environmental Statement (ES). The Inspectorate advised that it can be helpful to include this in each relevant chapter of the ES demonstrating how the ES will be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted.

The Applicant advised that they are working with their engineers onshore and offshore to refine the design and the project boundary. There has been a reduction in the offshore boundary to accommodate the constraints of shipping and navigation, ornithology and seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment. The Applicant confirmed that this reduction does not impact on the capacity of the project. The

Applicant also confirmed that shipping interests had been consulted on offshore matters, and that consultation is ongoing.

The Applicant has refined the number of onshore substation sites under consideration from ten down to three options, with the refined options being presented in the PEIR. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to look at the questions the Examining Authority asked in the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Examination regarding the design of the substation and ensure there is early engagement with relevant local authorities and the local community.

The Applicant advised that, due to some engineering and environmental constraints, some alternative cable route options are being considered slightly outside the scoping boundary. The Applicant does not consider these to have any implications on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment as there are no new stakeholders or new classes of environmental sensitivity in their view. The Applicant will ensure that they have relevant survey information for any new route considered.

The Applicant confirmed that their project will interact with the proposed A27 Arundel Bypass Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. The Applicant is in discussion with Highways England to consider the spatial and temporal interaction of the two projects, including whether there are any opportunities for sharing survey information and coordinating access to land.

### ***Surveys and COVID-19***

The Applicant advised that the Covid-19 pandemic had had an impact on their ability to carry out surveys. The methodology and survey approaches are being discussed and agreed with local stakeholders and regulators throughout the engagement.

### ***Consultation and engagement***

The Applicant advised that they have Planning Performance Agreements in place with the local authorities and the South Downs National Park Authority and have entered into pre-application agreements with some statutory bodies. They are holding ongoing briefings with parish councils, district, borough and county councils and local MPs. The Applicant has undertaken their first round of evidence plan expert topic group meetings seeking to agree the approach to EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Applicant confirmed that they have addressed the comments of Natural England regarding the timescales for the evidence plan process and expert topic group meetings.

The Applicant will be holding virtual public information events to raise awareness of the project in the local community. They have a website and a dedicated email address for feedback on the project. The Inspectorate advised that virtual events are seemingly working successfully on other projects but to ensure options are also available for anyone that does not have access to the internet (e.g. telephone hotlines etc).

The Applicant is starting to establish local liaison groups. The Applicant confirmed that they have a stakeholder engagement manager based in Worthing, who was also involved in the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm project and therefore has an existing network of contacts. The Rampion Visitor Centre has also recently opened in Brighton so that could be used as a hub to disseminate information about the project. The Applicant noted that they were sensitive to previous criticism that their consultation

had a tendency to be "Brighton-centric" and were making efforts to address this perception.

The Applicant is engaging with local landowners. The Applicant did not consider at this time that any requests for access to land under section 53 of the PA2008 would be required.

**Specific decisions / follow up required?**

The Inspectorate and the Applicant agreed to hold the next meeting in January/February 2021, prior to publication of the PEIR.

The Inspectorate advised that the Secretary of State's transboundary screening would likely be published within the next 6 weeks.