

**Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm (Reference: EN010117)**  
**West Sussex County Council (IP 200445228)**  
**Response to the Secretary of State Consultation Request**  
**10 January 2025**



## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This response has been prepared by West Sussex County Council (hereafter 'WSCC') with regards to the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Development Consent Order (hereafter 'the Project') and directly in response to the Secretary of States (SoS) letter of 16 December 2024. This letter requested any further commentary on submissions made by the Applicant and other Interested Parties to the SoS consultation letter dated 25 November 2024.
- 1.2 The consultation request letter and subsequent responses, covered a number of onshore and offshore topics; however, WSCC wishes to comment only on the following matters that were included in the Part 1 consultation request:
  - Securing trenchless crossings underneath Irreplaceable Habitats and SSSIs; and
  - Land rights.

## **2 Securing trenchless crossings underneath Irreplaceable Habitats and SSSIs**

- 2.1 The Applicant, Natural England, and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) were asked to provide views on the possible drafting for a new Requirement 46 'Crossing Schedule' of the DCO.
- 2.2 WSCC has actively engaged with the Applicant through the DCO process on the content and wording of the dDCO. Many areas of concern have been addressed by the Applicant to the satisfaction of WSCC. However, there were a small number of concerns still outstanding, which were documented in the WSCC Closing Statement (REP6-280). This included the need for a Trenchless Crossing Requirement, which was proposed by the Examining Authority (ExA) (PD-013) but had not been accepted by the Applicant.
- 2.3 WSCC supports the views of the SDNPA (as published in their letter dated 28 November 2024) in requesting that the original wording of the Requirement, as originally suggested by the ExA, is considered as an alternative to the wording proposed in the consultation request letter. The ExA's original wording, proposed in PD-013, required the details to be submitted before any stage of the authorised development rather than for each trenchless crossing in the respective stages. This would be a preferred approach, as the trenchless crossings, particularly those at Michelgrove Park and Sullington Hill, are substantive works that would likely be scheduled midway through the construction programme. Should any matters arise that indicate either crossing could not be delivered via trenchless means, this could result in much wider impacts upon the environment in these locations.

### **3 Updated Land Rights tracker submitted by the Applicant**

- 3.1 The Applicant was asked to provide an update on the progression of Heads of Terms with Affected Persons in relation to the compulsory acquisition of land by voluntary means, and to submit an updated Land Rights Tracker. The Applicant subsequently submitted an updated Land Rights Tracker document (Revision G) on the 10 December 2024.
- 3.2 As stated within the WSCC Closing Statement (REP6-280), it was noted that there were on-going discussions in terms of an options agreement for easements where the cable route crosses land owned by WSCC but which also forms part of the adopted highway network. The option agreements also include the Lyminster by-pass, which is under construction and due for completion early this year. There are various complications surrounding some of the land parcels obtained by WSCC through a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the construction of the by-pass. These complications include the likelihood of CPO land obtained for temporary construction purposes being returned to the original landowner(s). WSCC cannot agree to restrictive terms on this land, which will be passed onto a future owner.
- 3.3 WSCC has expressed concerns with other provisions in the options agreement; however, discussions with the Applicant and their land agents have not continued since the end of the Examination period, which is of concern to WSCC. WSCC would wish to continue these discussions and to reach an agreed position before a decision by the SoS.