

John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning
Energy Infrastructure Planning
BY EMAIL ONLY

██████████@horsham.gov.uk
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13th January 2025

Your ref: EN010117

Dear Mr Wheadon,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Rampion Extension Development Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (“the Proposed Development”)

Horsham District Council (HDC) is responding to the invitation from the Secretary of State (SoS) 16th December 2024 to all Interested Parties to comment on the information provided in responses from the Applicant and other Interested Parties to his consultation letter dated 25th November 2024.

In responses to the SoS’s 25th Nov consultation letter, HDC notes the South Downs National Park Authority provided a response to the further information requested from them on the matter below:

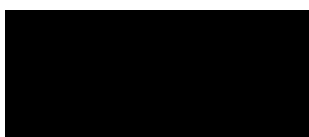
The Applicant, NE, and SDNPA should provide views on the following possible drafting for a new Requirement 46 ‘Crossing Schedule’, of the DCO: “(1) No stage of the authorised development shall commence until a trenchless crossing plan showing the final locations and extent of each trenchless crossing in that stage and its compound has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. (2) The trenchless crossings in the relevant stages shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.”

Horsham District Council has been provided copy of correspondence dated 18th December 2024 from Natural England (NE) confirming to an Interested Party of the future inclusion of the fields at Cratemans in the NE Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI) as Lowland Meadow at the next update, in March 2025. A map was attached with this email confirmation, which showed the fields in question through which the Rampion 2 cable would be routed. NE also confirmed this decision was based on the evidence submitted by the Interested Party to the DCO Examination (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Aborweald DKS/1194.2 PEA).

In the email correspondence, NE also clarified the status of PHI mapping does not confer a designation, and regulations and guidance referring to priority habitats apply to the priority habitat on the ground, not whether it is included in the PHI. The PHI flags the locations of priority habitats according to the best available evidence which Natural England holds.

Given this circumstance, Horsham District Council therefore welcomes and supports the SoS's recommended inclusion of a new Requirement 46 'Crossing Schedule'. Such a requirement would help inform the ecological baseline to securing appropriate mitigation and compensation for loss / harm of evidenced Priority Habitat within Horsham District.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Porter
Senior Planning Officer
Horsham District Council