

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Planning Committee - 30 November 2022
SUBJECT:	Rampion 2 Wind Farm Proposal – Supplementary Statutory Consultation
LEAD OFFICER:	Neil Crowther – Group Head of Planning
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Terence Chapman
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximise opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the district.• To consider climate change, sustainability, biodiversity and the environment in everything the council is responsible for and encourage its community and local businesses to do the same.• Protect and enhance our natural environment.• Increase opportunities for more high-quality, well-paid employment, encouraging more people to live, work, study and visit Arun.• Make best use of our natural assets to help drive the economy.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT: <p>This report gives an update on the amendments to the Rampion2 Wind Farm consultation.</p>	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: <p>No financial implications.</p>	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the proposed amendments to the onshore elements of the Rampion2 Wind Farm proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the proposed alternative routes and confirms that there are no additional comments that are specific to these proposals and that the resolution on the Committee in September 2021 remains unchanged.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 This is an amended consultation process (following that carried out in summer 2021) due to amended proposals for the onshore cable corridor to a newly proposed substation at Cowfold in Horsham District. The proposals now consist of up to 90 turbines (reduced from 116). This is not a re-run of the previous consultation but is a targeted consultation on the proposed changes to the scheme. An updated Statement of Community Consultation accompanies this targeted consultation process.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1 Planning Committee consider the Council's response to the initial pre-application consultation on 8 September 2022. The response to that consultation was agreed at the meeting.
- 4.2 A new consultation is being carried out as a result of the proposed change to the on-shore cable route as a result of a different site being selected for a substation – this being Cowfold instead of Bolney. This is a targeted consultation only in respect of the proposed changes and any comments on the amendments will be supplementary to previous comments. A Preliminary Environmental Impact Report Supplementary Information Report (SIR), which includes more detailed preliminary environmental information about our proposed alternatives and modifications has been produced as part of this consultation.
- 4.3 Off-shore changes now include the reduction from up to 116 turbines previously proposed to up to 90.
- 4.4 The proposed new onshore cable route to the new substation location involves some additional areas of land that were not contained within the original Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PIER) in summer 2021.
- 4.5 For Arun, the amended proposals include an alternative cable route, two modified routes (MR), two new trenchless crossings (TC) and three alternative accesses (AA). The first modification relates to where landfall is taken. This is now proposed to be approximately 300m east of the previous proposal. This has been proposed as a result of comments during consultation in respect of coastal erosion and flood risk. There may be a need for a temporary drilling compound approximately 400m back from the beach. There is also a very slightly modified route immediately north of Ferry Road. An alternative access to link construction compounds to the cable is proposed off Church Lane, Climping.
- 4.6 A slightly amended cable route is also proposed where it crosses the railway at Arundel Junction (to the north of Kingley Gate. The proposed route would run parallel to the railway line on the western side.
- 4.7 A significant change is proposed to the cable route between Lyminster – A27. It is now proposed to run the route from west – east between the railway line west of Lyminster to a point approximately 750m east of the A280 Lyminster bends. It would then head north and cross the A27 east of Crossbush. This has been proposed in order to avoid potential archaeological interest and to stay further away from Brookside Caravan Park.
- 4.8 This consultation has included adverts in the requisite newspapers, four face to face public consultation events, two of which were in Arun District, a virtual public forum, leaflets delivered to individual properties and depositing of copies of consultation material in local libraries. All Parish Council's affected have been written to (Ferring, Rustington, Climping, Angmering, Arundel, East Preston, Yapton, Felpham, Walberton, Kingston, Littlehampton, Ford and Lyminster).

4.9 As outlined in the previous report;

Export cables from the array area will make landfall at Climping. The onshore elements of the proposal comprise a transmission cable running approximately 36km from landfall at Climping, to a 'satellite' substation.

The cable route will be undergrounded for the entirety of the route using a trench and ducting methodology. However, horizontal directional drills will be used to tunnel underneath Climping Beach, the River Arun, the railway and major roads to reduce environmental impacts and keep traffic and trains running during construction.

During installation of the onshore cables, the topsoil and subsoil will be stripped and stored on site within the temporary working corridor and stored in separate stockpiles. The trenches will then be excavated using a mechanical excavator, and the cables will be installed into the open trench. The cables are then buried by backfilling the trench with the excavated material before the land is reinstated to its previous use.

4.10 The applicants, in their submitted Supplementary Environmental Report, conclude that there are no new or different residual effects which would alter the original assessment within the PIER. Any landscape impacts will be temporary.

4.11 Going forward, a formal Development Consent Order is scheduled for submission in early 2023. Pursuant to the resolution of Planning Committee in September 2021, Officers are currently in the process of trying to instruct consultants to act on behalf of Arun District Council to consider these proposals and prepare a Local Impact Report for the Council to agree as part of this process.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 See para 4.8.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6.1 Not applicable

7. COMMENTS BY THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

7.1 No financial implications.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 None.

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('NSIPs') are dealt with under the procedure set out in the Planning Act 2008 and involve an application to the

Secretary of State for development consent ('a DCO'). Consultation is the first stage in the process, and the Council is a statutory consultee. The Council responded to the first consultation following consideration of the proposals by the Planning Committee on 8 September 2022. The report details changes to the initial proposal and recommends that the Committee notes the additional routes and confirms that there are no further comments on the proposed amendments for the purposes of the consultation on the proposed amendments.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 None.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

11.1 No significant health and safety implications identified at this time as a result of the amendments. Officers will continue discussions with the applicant regarding any potential health and safety issues, particularly those areas of land where there is public access and/or land owned by Arun District Council.

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 None

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 None.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 The proposed Rampion 2 Wind Farm development would provide a significant amount of renewable electricity to the grid and provide households and businesses across the UK with the opportunities to purchase renewable electricity. It would help ensure the transition away from the fossil fuel generation of electricity which has a large impact on the environment, through the direct burning of the fuels themselves and the impact to the surrounding environment during the harvesting of the fuels.

14.2 In support of fighting climate change and reducing the Council's impact on the environment the Council declared a climate emergency in January 2020 and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. Since this date the Carbon Neutral Strategy and Climate action and biodiversity work plan have both been adopted, along with one of the four key pillars in the Council's vision document being 'supporting our environment to support us.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 None.

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 None.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 None.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Neil Crowther
Job Title: Group Head of Planning
Contact Number: 01903 737 839

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Planning Committee agenda 8 September 2021

[Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm | National Infrastructure Planning
\(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

[Consultation 2022 - Rampion 2](#)