



**Environmental Project Liaison Group meeting, Tuesday 26th May, 2pm-3.30pm at
Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Office, 20 New Road, Brighton, BN1 1UF**

Notes & Action Points

1. Introductions

Chair – Paula Seager, Natural PR

Secretary – Kate Howard, Natural PR

Chris Tomlinson - Rampion Development Manager, E.ON

Richard Carpenter - Onshore Cable Package Manager

James Eaton - Onshore Consents Manager (DCO requirements)

Philip Tarren – Substation Site Manager, E.ON

Steve O’Neill – Cable Route Site Manager, E.ON

Raphaelle Madignier - Substation Contract Package Manager

Brenda Pollack – Friends of the Earth South East

Emily Cox – Greenpeace Brighton and Hove

Alison Giacomelli – Conservation Officer, RSPB Sussex and Surrey

Trevor Beeston – South Downs Society

David Howey – Recorder, Sussex Ornithological Society

Olle Akkeson – Living Seas Office, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Jess Price – Conservation officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Chris Todd – Brighton and Hove Sustainability Partnership

John Hurwood – CPRE

Apologies

Bob Platt – Ouse Adur Rivers Trust

Steve Ankers – South Downs Society

Presentation for points 2 – 7. All of the E.ON team contributed to this. Please see presentation slides for details.

Questions were taken from the floor during the presentation

2. Final design (offshore, cable route and substation)

During this section Chris Todd asked how tall the substation equipment will be. Raphaelle said that the control buildings were reduced from two storey to single storey and that the tallest equipment would be the transformers and associated busbars 10.5m above existing ground level. A terracing

approach is being used to reduce the height of the largest pieces of equipment. In relation to ground level, this means that there will be minimal visibility from outside the site.

Brenda Pollack asked if there are currently any species on the onshore site. James Eaton explained that environmental mitigation measures had been agreed with the local planning authority, Natural England and the Environment Agency, which would aim to avoid as much disturbance as possible. Full details were available in the Ecological and Landscape Management Plan for the Project. At the substation, translocation of Great Crested Newts from the site had been completed with around 20 moved from the site.

3. Indicative construction programme

Trevor Beeston asked, if the onshore cable route trenching work is due for completion by November, then how will this be affected by things like wet weather? Richard Carpenter confirmed that the programme is designed to take into account issues such as weather, which can impact on the sequence of activities. A certain level of mitigation is built into the programme. Trevor Beeston noted that restoration would be more difficult in wet weather.

4. Minimising construction impact

Emily Cox asked whether the works would be affected by seasonal constraints. James Eaton explained where possible habitats would be cleared outside of these times or an ecological watching brief would be in place to ensure that species were identified and protected. If necessary, works would cease until the appropriate time.

John Hurwood asked if the trenching machine proposed to be used will also trench through the chalk, as this can leave extremely large dust clouds which can be seen for miles. Richard Carpenter confirmed that trenching machines are intended to be used throughout the route. Dust mitigation measures such as damping down with water are required for the work to avoid dust clouds.

Brenda Pollack asked whether she could download a communication plan including a list of footpath closures. Chris Tomlinson said that there will always be communication before construction and that this was discussed at the Public Rights of Way Project (PRoW) Liaison Group. James Eaton added that these will include fortnightly updates. Brenda said that as sometimes the exact pages can be hard to find, if she can initially have the link to the notices page, she can use it from there.

Trevor Beeston asked if there will be any PRoW permanent closures. James Eaton said that the only one will be a permanent diversion (not a closure) at the substation. Bridleway 2754, which crosses Tottington Mount would be subject to a longer term closure, but an alternative route on to a nearby 'green road' would be signposted. It was noted that this was not a popular bridleway as it was so steep.

5. Construction communications

Emily Cox asked if there will be any leaflets through doors for people who don't have computers at home or who don't use the internet. Chris Tomlinson said that E.ON are writing to every resident who lives within 1km of the proposed construction site, around 10 days prior to the start of construction of the relevant stage (1 – 12). The Rampion free phone number, website and email address will be communicated in this letter, along with the Construction Site Manager's contact details. E.ON is also holding a series of four Community Information Events along the cable route and flyers are being sent to all those within 1km of the route to promote the events.

6. Operations & maintenance

No questions were raised.

7. Supply chain, skills and education

No questions were raised.

8. PLG meetings and contact points

Chris Tomlinson asked whether this was a useful meeting and how regularly the attendees would like to come to these meetings in the future. All agreed that construction milestones provide a pertinent point at which to meet again and that three times a year is about the right amount.

Brenda Pollack asked how much interaction there had been with councillors as one or two didn't seem to know what stage the plans were at and thought they could do something to stop the wind farm. E.ON confirmed that all councillors receive Rampion communications and have done at key project milestones over the last five years. Chris had only last week emailed all Councillors with the press release announcing the final investment decision and project go ahead.

Emily Cox asked that reactions to the wind farm for the next meeting would be very useful for feeding into future projects.

Brenda Pollack asked if the Community Information Leaflet that had been provided at the meeting was also available online. Chris confirmed that it was on the project website www.eonenergy.com/rampion.

Chris Todd asked if a future meeting could be held at a site, if practical. This way they can view what has gone well, what hasn't etc. Chris Tomlinson said that this would be a great idea and that the Project Team would discuss the feasibility of doing so, with health and safety and the timing of such a visit being the key concern.

Chris Todd said that he is a good point of contact for several overlapping groups – as are some of the other attendees – so he needs to be kept in the loop.

Emily Cox asked what is the capacity factor for the wind farm used to calculate the predicted offset of CO2 emissions. Chris Tomlinson said that 0.35 was used for offshore wind farms based on existing operational data, but that E.ON's wind speed data from Rampion suggested that it would most likely be greater.

Alison Giacomelli asked whether there is any more work planned aside from the one we have seen plans for that has been funded by the £1.3bn? Chris Tomlinson replied saying this was the final project and that the reductions in the wind farm have been due to both technical engineering constraints in relation to the complexities of the seabed conditions, and stakeholder concerns relating to access to and from Shoreham Port, the popular 9-miler scallop fishing area and views from the Heritage Coast.

David Howey asked about the size of the offshore substation. E.ON replied that there are some figures available but detailed plans would be ready by October.

9. AOB

N/A