

Rampion Offshore Wind Farm

Newsletter



Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm, Solway Firth. For illustrative purposes only.

Welcome to our second newsletter, introducing the formal community consultation for the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm proposal

On Monday 13 February 2012, we'll be launching the draft plans for the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm proposal. This marks the beginning of a 12 week consultation with the local community. It's important for the development of the project that you give us your comments before the closing date of Sunday 6 May 2012, so we can consider them to help shape our proposal.

Project status

Since January 2010, when The Crown Estate awarded us the exclusive right to seek to develop an offshore wind farm off the Sussex coast, we've been actively engaging with statutory bodies, stakeholder organisations and the local community.

In seeking to develop draft plans for the project, we've carried out a number of engineering and environmental surveys to help guide our development proposals. This has helped us define an offshore wind farm site, a connection point to the National Grid and an underground onshore cable route between the wind farm and the connection point.

We're continuing to progress our Environmental Impact Assessment in order to assess the potential impacts of our proposal and identify mitigation options to reduce these impacts. We've now reached the point where we wish to present our proposal to the local community.

The Rampion Offshore Wind Farm could have an installed capacity of up to 700 megawatts (MW), which is of a scale comparable to many conventional power stations. We estimate the project could generate enough electricity for the domestic needs of the equivalent of around 450,000 homes*. That's more than two thirds of the homes in the whole of Sussex*, including the city of Brighton and Hove. With a population of over 1.5 million, Sussex has a huge demand for electricity and the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm offers a unique opportunity to make a valuable contribution to securing electricity supplies for the future.

Why Rampion?

The project has been named the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm after the county flower of Sussex. We held a competition among local schools to choose a name for the site. Pupils from Davison High School in Worthing put forward the shortlisted entry and the final name was decided by a public vote.



* Based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 4,700KWh (DECC) and wind speed data from our existing offshore wind farms in UK waters. This will be updated as Rampion site specific data is gathered.

* Office of National Statistics census data.

Project overview

The project has offshore and onshore elements, all of which have been influenced by our design principles. These can be found in the Community Consultation Document on pages 20 and 29:

Offshore

- Turbines and foundations.
- Inter array cables.
- Two offshore substations.
- Offshore export cables.

Onshore

- Cable 'landfall' (where the offshore export cables come to shore).
- Underground onshore cable route.
- Onshore substation (to connect to the National Grid).

What could the wind farm look like?

If you come to one of our public exhibitions, you'll be able to view photomontages from five different viewpoint locations; Birling Gap near Beachy Head, Brighton Seafront Promenade, Worthing Seafront Promenade, Bognor Regis Seafront Promenade and Devil's Dyke on the South Downs. Photomontages are photographic illustration tools which give an indication of the potential scale and extent of the site. They're used to provide an indication of how the proposed development may appear within any given view and are intended for guidance only.

We'll also show a 'fly-through' computer simulation of the wind farm, so you can see what the turbines could look like, both from a distance and close up. The simulation will fly over the coast to the sea, taking you on a journey around the wind farm before heading back to shore. The visualisation is intended for guidance only.



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Site statistics

Location – 13km to 23km off the Sussex coast

Site area – 167km²

Water depth – 19m to 50m

Installed electrical capacity – up to 700MW

Turbine size – turbines will have a generating capacity of between 3MW and 7MW, with respective maximum height to tip of 180m and 210m.

Turbine numbers – up to a maximum of 195 x 3MW or 3.6MW units. For larger turbines, the number of units needed to generate 700MW would vary.

Onshore works – a 27.8km underground cable route from the landfall to the 400 kilovolts (kV) substation (owned by National Grid), around 2km south-west of Bolney village.

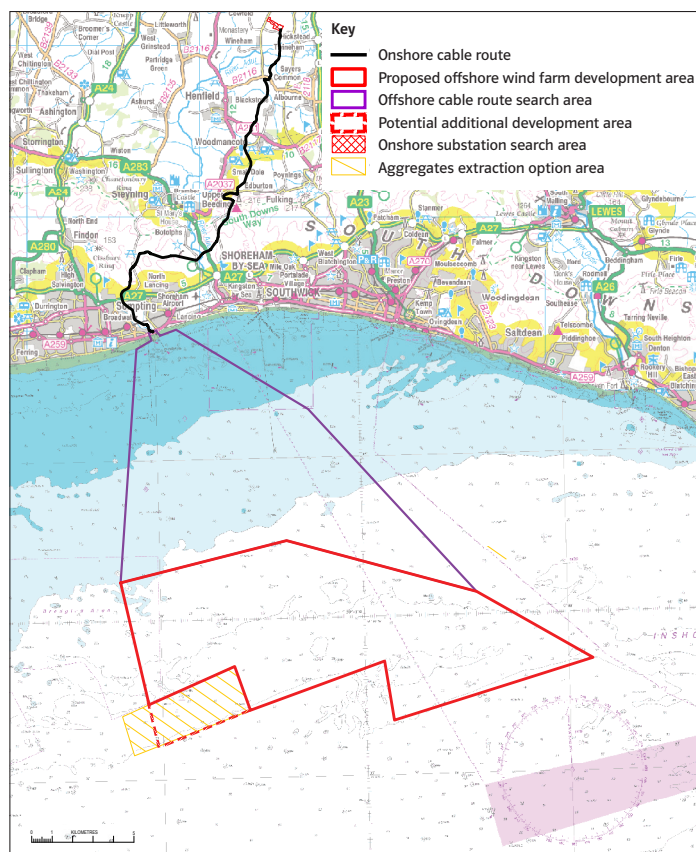
Power output – based on our current expectations of the area's wind resource over the long-term, we estimate the project could generate more than 2,100 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity each year*. In a typical year, we estimate the project could generate enough electricity for the domestic needs of the equivalent of around 450,000 homes†. That's more than two thirds of the homes in the whole of Sussex*, including the city of Brighton and Hove.

* Based on wind speed data from our existing offshore wind farms in UK waters. This will be updated as Rampion site specific data is gathered.

† Based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 4,700kWh (DECC).

* Office of National Statistics census data.

Proposed development area of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm



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Scroby Sands Offshore Wind Farm Visitor Centre, Great Yarmouth.

Consenting process

The Rampion Offshore Wind Farm proposal is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. This is because it will have an electrical output greater than 100MW.

Unlike planning applications which are submitted to local authorities under the Town and Country Planning Act, we'll be applying to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008. The IPC currently decides applications for NSIPs within the framework of the relevant National Policy Statements.

Community consultation

There is a legal requirement for developers of NSIPs, such as the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, to consult with the community under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. A Consultation Report detailing consultation responses will accompany our application for a DCO to the IPC later in 2012.

Although we're legally required to consult with the community, we also understand that our relationship with the community is vital in developing a successful project. As with all our other projects around the UK, we're keen to build strong relationships with the community and be good neighbours throughout the lifetime of the project.

The aims of our community consultation are to:

- provide an opportunity for you to review our proposals, understand the project and what it will mean to you
- enable you to put forward your views and ideas which may influence certain elements of our proposals
- help you understand any impacts our proposals may have, and help shape any potential mitigation measures we could use to lessen these impacts
- encourage communities to actively participate and engage with us.

The community consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks, from Monday 13 February 2012 until Sunday 6 May 2012.

How can I get involved?

We'll be holding 12 public exhibitions in locations around Sussex, at coastal venues and along the proposed underground cable route.

Brighton

Saturday 18 February, 10am – 6pm

Brighton Unitarian Church and Hall, New Road BN1 1UF

Worthing

Saturday 25 February, 10am – 6pm

St Pauls (diagonally opposite library), Main Hall, Chapel Road BN11 1EE

Newhaven

Monday 27 February, 12pm – 8pm

Hillcrest Community Centre, Main Hall, Hillcrest Road BN9 9EA

Steyping

Wednesday 29 February, 12pm – 8pm

The Steyping Centre, Coombe Court, Fletcher's Croft, off Vicarage Lane BN44 3XZ

Shoreham-by-Sea

Monday 5 March, 12pm – 8pm

Holmbush Shopping Centre, Main Atrium, Upper Shoreham Road BN43 6TD

Hove

Saturday 10 March, 10am – 6pm

St Andrew Old Church Hall, Church Road (in between George Street and Tesco) BN3 2AD

Seaford

Monday 12 March, 12pm – 8pm

The Clinton Centre, Clinton Hall, Clinton Place BN25 1NP

Albourne

Saturday 17 March, 10am – 6pm

Albourne Village Hall, Main Hall, The Street, Hassocks BN6 9DJ

Peacehaven

Wednesday 21 March, 12pm – 8pm

Community House, The Anzac Room, Meridian Centre BN10 8BB

Henfield

Tuesday 27 March, 11am – 6:30pm

Henfield Village Hall, Main Hall, Coopers Way, off High Street BN5 9DB (rear of Budgens)

Lancing

Thursday 29 March, 12pm – 8pm

Lancing Parish Hall, Jubilee Hall, South Street BN15 8AJ

Littlehampton

Wednesday 4 April, 12pm – 8pm

Manor House (council building), New Millennium Chamber, Church Street BN17 5EW

If you can't make it on the day, don't worry. You can contact us by telephone, email or post and complete the questionnaire online instead.



How can I respond to the consultation?

We've prepared a Community Consultation Document which includes a description of the project elements, information about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which constitutes Preliminary Environmental Information and details of how you can respond to the consultation.

Pick up a copy of the Community Consultation Document and use this to complete the community consultation questionnaire. You can go online to eon-uk.com/rampion to fill in the questionnaire, hand it in to a member of the project team at one of the public exhibitions, or post it to **FREEPOST RAMPION OFFSHORE WIND FARM** (no stamp required).

You can also respond to the consultation in the following ways:

- Email us at rampion@eon.com
- Write to our freepost address: **FREEPOST RAMPION OFFSHORE WIND FARM** (no stamp required).
- Call our consultation line: **01273 694 876** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

All the consultation documents are available to download from eon-uk.com/rampion or call **01273 694 876** if you would like us to send you a printed or CD copy. There are 37 public venues where the consultation documents can also be viewed, see eon-uk.com/rampion for details of these.

The closing date for responses is Sunday 6 May 2012.

It's important that you submit your feedback and comments to us before the closing date so we can consider them to help shape our proposals.

Wind energy: Your questions answered

In each edition of the newsletter, we'll bring you the answer to a question we're frequently asked about wind energy.

Q: Can wind energy really make a big difference to meeting our energy needs and reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions?

A: Government targets call for 15% of all energy to be generated from renewable sources by 2020, and offshore wind energy in particular is expected to contribute significantly to this target. Due to its exposed location, the UK has the best wind resource in Europe, and with our extensive coastline and relative shallow waters we're well placed to build and operate offshore wind farms on a large scale. In fact, the UK is leading the world in offshore wind, with enough projects in operation or under construction to power the equivalent of around 2.3 million homes* and save over 4.5 million tonnes of CO₂ each year†.

* Based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 4,700kWh (DECC).

† bwea.com/ukwed/index.asp

Contact us

Chris Tomlinson is the Rampion Development Manager based in Brighton. If you'd like any more information, you can contact him using the following details:

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Call: **01273 603 721**

