

# Rampion Offshore Wind Farm

## Newsletter



London Array Offshore Wind Farm. For illustrative purposes only.

**Welcome** to our third newsletter, bringing you up to date with our final proposals for Rampion, including the changes we've made based on the feedback we've had from our consultations. We've now submitted our plans to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Many thanks to all those who attended our public exhibitions and responded to our consultations last year. We received a fantastic level of response and the feedback has helped us understand what's important to the local community, which in turn, has helped us shape our plans.

### Newhaven Port chosen as operations and maintenance base

Following a rigorous assessment of both Newhaven and Shoreham ports, we announced on 2 October 2012 that if the wind farm goes ahead, Newhaven Port has been selected for Rampion's operations and maintenance (O&M) base. This could create up to 85 full-time permanent jobs, with the majority being recruited locally.

It would also see part of Newhaven Port being modernised and redeveloped through our investment in the new facility. This would be a boost to many local businesses that supply vessel maintenance, tool hire, waste management services, office supplies, building and site maintenance, security services and hotels to name just a few.

Captain François Jean, Port Manager, Newhaven Port and Properties, said "This is great news for Newhaven Port and we're delighted to be chosen as the home of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, if it is given planning approval. This decision will kick start our plans for the regeneration of Newhaven Port and begin a new era for our wider plans to create a hub of clean, green power generation."

Councillor James Page, Leader of Lewes District Council agrees: "This is fantastic news for Newhaven and a tribute to the excellent work and vision of Newhaven Port and Properties. It's also a testament to working in partnership."

Both Newhaven and Shoreham ports put forward strong proposals to be the home of our O&M base. We'll continue to strengthen our relationships with both ports and explore further opportunities for Shoreham Port for supplying vessels, goods and services. For example, earlier this year we used Shoreham as a base for our geophysical surveys.



Newhaven Port

## How we've consulted on our plans

Throughout 2012 and early 2013, we spent over 20 weeks consulting on our draft proposals and received a fantastic response. As part of the consultation, we spoke to the following groups:

### The local community (under Section 47 of the 2008 Planning Act)

- Ran for 12 weeks from 13 February to 6 May 2012.
- Included 14 public exhibitions across Sussex.
- Featured a Community Consultation Document outlining our draft proposals.
- People had the choice to feedback online, by email or in writing, either at one of our exhibitions, or by post to our FREEPOST address.

### Statutory consultees (under Section 42 of the 2008 Planning Act)

- Ran for eight weeks from 13 June to 8 August 2012.
- Involved consulting over 100 statutory bodies and over 300 landowners.
- Included consultation on the results of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

### The local community and wider public (under Section 48 of the 2008 Planning Act)

- Ran for eight weeks from 13 June to 8 August, following requests for more information during the community consultation.
- Publicised in national and regional newspapers, Lloyd's List and Fishing News.

- Notification email sent to 2,500 stakeholder organisations including MPs, local authority councillors and officials, and local environmental groups who had asked for more detailed information.
- Draft Environmental Statement (ES) available on the Rampion website and in local council offices.
- 58 consultation responses were received.

### Top up Section 42 consultation with 'neighbouring authorities' in Surrey and Hampshire

- Ran for over six weeks from 10 January to 25 February 2013.
- No new issues were raised by neighbouring authorities.

We would like to thank the Sussex community for taking part in the consultation so wholeheartedly.

- Over 4,700 people visited the exhibitions to find out more.
- 860 came to the Worthing event alone, with over 600 and 500 attending the Shoreham and Brighton exhibitions respectively.
- The events were widely publicised in the regional media with over 220 news pieces during the consultation period.
- Around 1,500 people responded to the consultation in writing.

Norman Baker, MP for Lewes, said: "I congratulate E.ON for the way they have approached the community consultation process for the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm. They have set a very good example of best practice for others to follow and I look forward to seeing the final proposal E.ON put forward."



Worthing exhibition at St Pauls on 25 February 2012.

## Consultation feedback

We were delighted with the response to our consultation. It's given us a wide range of comments, which have helped us improve our plans, whilst showing around 60% of respondents support the wind farm. Here are some of the most common concerns.

Offshore concerns including the potential impact of the wind farm on:

- views from the Heritage Coast
- commercial fishing
- fish ecology from piling noise
- wave climate.

Onshore concerns including the potential impact of the cable route on:

- Public Rights of Way (PRoW)
- hedgerows and semi-natural ancient woodland
- chalk grasslands (especially Tottington Mount)
- the South Downs National Park.

The potential impact of the onshore substation, including:

- traffic on Bob Lane during construction
- lorries turning on the construction site
- the effect of muddy roads on road safety
- lighting during construction and operation
- noise

Together with concerns about:

- the footprint of the substation
- the location of the substation within the area of search
- the need for mitigation screening to minimise the substation’s visual impact.

Full details of the feedback will be publicly available in the Consultation Report. Everyone who responded to the consultation will have already heard from us, with details of how to access the application documents and see how we’ve responded to their comments.

We’ve addressed the issues raised during the consultation in either our final ES or Consultation Report, both of which are available to view on the Rampion page of the Planning Inspectorate website at <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-east/rampion-offshore-wind-farm/>

Our DCO application is also available at the venues shown on the right, until 11 May 2013.

DCO viewing locations

Venues and opening times

Adur District Council Offices

Ham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 6PR  
Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Brighton & Hove City Council

Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 4AH  
Monday to Friday 8.45am – 4.30pm

Horsham District Town Hall

Park House, North Street, Horsham RH12 1RL  
Monday to Thursday 8.45am – 5.20pm, Friday 8.45am – 4.20pm

Mid Sussex District Planning Offices

Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath RH16 1SS  
Monday to Thursday 9am – 4.30pm, Friday 9am – 4pm

Newhaven Town Council

18 Fort Road, Newhaven BN9 9QE  
Monday to Friday 8.30am – 3.30pm

Worthing Library

Richmond Road, Worthing BN11 1HD  
Monday to Friday 9am – 7pm, Saturday 9am – 5pm

Finalising our proposal

We’ve evaluated all the responses we’ve had to our consultation very carefully, and the issues raised have helped us to develop our final plans and improve the ES.

Our revised offshore proposals and the changes we’ve made

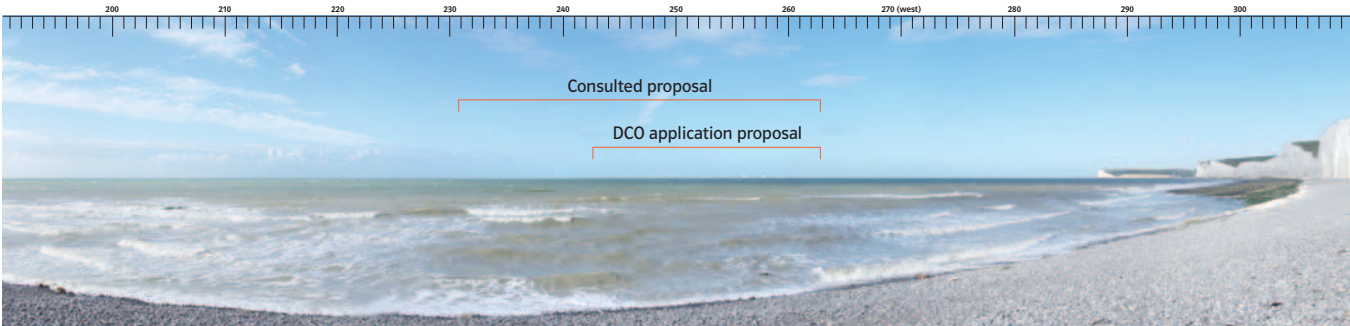
Based on the feedback received from our consultations, we’ve:

- reduced the maximum area of the offshore wind farm site by 24%, from 167km<sup>2</sup> to approximately 139km<sup>2</sup>, including the potential for a more compact layout within the final red line boundary. The proposed area is now 50% of the original ‘Zone 6’
- lowered the maximum number of turbines by 20, to a maximum of 175, while maintaining the installed capacity of 700MW
- decreased the field of view from 31° to 20°, to minimise the impact of the wind farm on views from the Heritage Coast

- narrowed the offshore export cable corridor to minimise the impact of construction on the environment and commercial fishing, and avoid conflict with the anchor zone for ships near Shoreham Port
- outlined mitigation proposals in our planning application, including using a technique known as soft-start piling to reduce the impact on marine ecology. We’ll also liaise with the diving community during construction
- limited the maximum number of gravity based foundations to avoid affecting wave height and coastal processes.

As part of the application, we’ve proposed a maximum offshore wind farm area and assessed the worst case in terms of turbine numbers and the extent of the layout. This will be further refined when we select our turbine design.

View from Birling Gap beach within the Heritage Coast



Indicative visual representation of the offshore wind farm. For illustrative purposes only. Shows the relative reduction in the view from the Heritage Coast.

## Onshore plans: mitigation and minimising the impacts of construction

During the consultation, we had positive feedback on our intention to lay the whole of the onshore cable underground – this will connect the wind farm to the national electricity network. We've addressed some concerns raised about the routing of the cable and explained in our ES the technical factors which dictated the need to cross the National Park and the constraints that influenced the route selection. We've also listened to concerns about the construction of the route.

In response, we've proposed a number of solutions as part of our DCO application, designed to mitigate and minimise the impacts of the cable route.

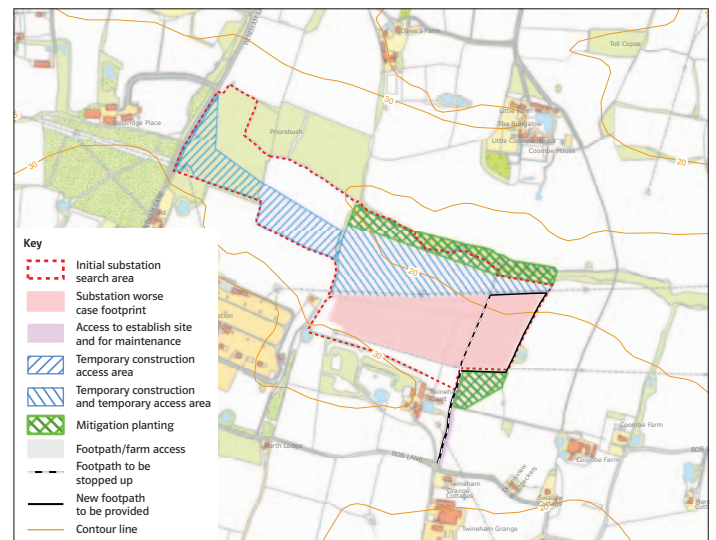
- We'll use a duct-based construction method, which means each section of the cable route (around 1km) will be trenched, ducted and backfilled in days and weeks rather than months. The cable itself can then be pulled through the ducting from jointing bays between each section at a later date, reducing the impact on Public Rights of Way and allowing us to reinstate at an earlier date.
- The route will be refined to avoid other projects we're aware of, like the Environment Agency's Teville Stream enhancement project, as well as ecologically sensitive sites, such as areas of semi-natural ancient woodland.
- The construction method used at Tottington Mount will be tailored to reduce the impact on the chalk grasslands. We'll also develop a bespoke methodology for reinstating the chalk grassland with the aim to enhance it, once the construction work is finished.
- We'll develop a scheme for the restoration and enhancement of the chalk grasslands with South Downs National Park Authority, using current best practice.
- Similarly, we'll develop ecology and hedgerow management and restoration plans to minimise the impact on important hedgerows, which will need to be approved by West Sussex County Council's ecology team. We'll also carry out arboricultural surveys along the route before construction starts.
- We'll work closely with English Heritage to develop a method for crossing the Bronze Age cross dyke at Tottington Mount, which will include archaeological mitigation, monitoring and reporting.
- A Traffic Management Plan will be developed to ensure traffic is managed to reduce impacts on the local community.
- Local people and visitors will be kept up to date with any road closures or diversions during construction with a Public Rights of Way (PRoW) communications strategy.

## Refined onshore substation site plan

Since consulting on our draft proposals, we've looked very carefully within the original search area, to find the best location for our substation.

We sought to minimise the impact on the local community, while also considering a range of technical, environmental and economic factors.

We've also listened to the concerns raised by residents of Bob Lane regarding construction traffic. In response to those concerns, we now propose to access the construction site from Wineham Lane.



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The mitigations below have been included as proposed conditions in our draft DCO application. Under the terms of our DCO, they will need to be signed off by the relevant authority before construction work goes ahead.

### During construction of the substation, we'll:

- develop a Traffic Management Plan with the local community, for approval by the Highways Authority, which will include:
  - dedicated construction transport routes
  - a one-way system for deliveries within the site
  - wheel-washing facilities on site to help prevent muddy roads
  - improved road safety signage.
- introduce measures to keep construction noise, dirt and dust to a minimum
- establish a Community Liaison Committee, made up of local residents, to help reduce impacts even further.

### To mitigate the operational impacts, we'll:

- agree a minor diversion of the existing footpath around the substation, with West Sussex County Council and local landowners
- landscape the area using tree planting and natural screening to reduce the visual impact of the substation
- liaise with the local authority to ensure noise from the substation will be at an acceptable level.



## Our final proposals at a glance

**Offshore location** – 13km to 23km off the Sussex coast.

**Site area** – up to approximately 139km.<sup>2</sup>

**Water depth** – 19m to 50m.

**Installed electrical capacity** – up to 700MW.

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

**Turbine numbers** – 100 to 175 turbines, depending on the turbine size selected. For larger turbines, the number of turbines needed to generate the maximum output of 700MW would vary, eg 140 x 5MW or 116 x 6MW turbines.

**Onshore works** – a 26.4km underground cable route from landfall (where the electricity cable comes ashore) to the 400 kilovolts (kV) substation (owned by National Grid), around 2km south-west of Bolney village.

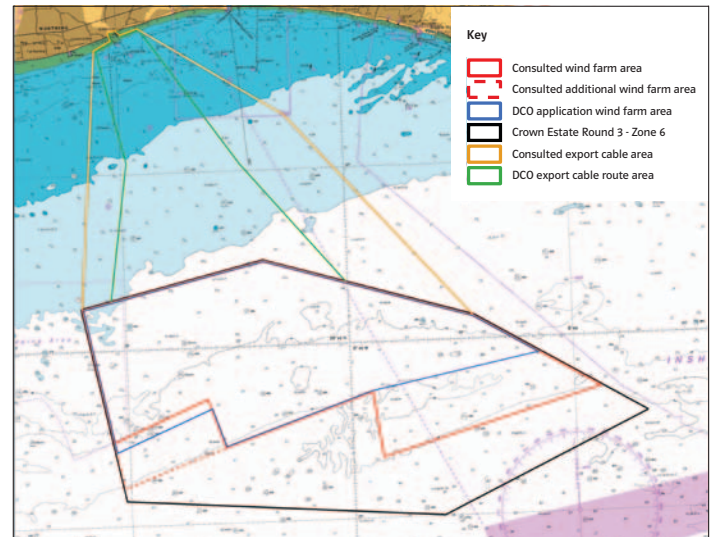
**Power output** – based on our current expectations of the area's wind resource over the long-term, we estimate the site could generate more than 2,100 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity each year.\* This is enough to power the equivalent of around 450,000 homes†, more than two-thirds of the homes in 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 from the met mast.

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

‡Office of National Statistics census data.

## Proposed development area



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## The planning and consent process

Rampion is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the 2008 Planning Act, because it would have an electrical output greater than 100MW. This means we need to apply to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a DCO, rather than submit a planning application to the local authority. We submitted our DCO application to PINS on 1 March 2013 and it was accepted for examination by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 25 March 2013.

### What happens next?

We've published a notification of acceptance in local newspapers, as required under Section 56 of the 2008 Planning Act and notified all those who responded to our consultation. We'll also let you know how you can read our DCO application in full and register your interest with PINS, if you'd like to become an interested party. This means you'll be kept up to date with details of the planning and consent process. Please note, you must register your interest by 11 May 2013.

Once we issue Section 56 notification, control of the timetable falls to PINS, but we've estimated the key dates below as a guide.

- **May 2013** – if you've registered as an interested party, PINS will get in touch with you directly, to let you know how to submit comments on our application and the deadline for doing so.
- **May 2013 onwards** – details and timescales regarding the examination process will be made available to interested parties by PINS.
- **Summer 2013** – the examination period begins, including written representations and hearings.

- **June 2014** – final decision expected from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

### Project timetable (subject to consent)

- **Early 2014 to early 2015** – we'll finish meeting any planning conditions and finalise our mitigation documents.
- **2015** – construction expected to start.
- **2018/19** – Rampion is fully commissioned and begins generating electricity.

To take a look at our DCO application documents and find out more about the consenting process, please visit, [infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-east/rampion-offshore-wind-farm/](http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-east/rampion-offshore-wind-farm/)



## Geophysical and geotechnical site investigations

Over the winter, we carried out a geophysical survey of the seabed around the wind farm area and export cable route. The survey was done by a specialist contractor from a survey boat, and the results will tell us if there's any natural or man-made obstructions on the seabed that could potentially impact our proposals. If there are, we'll develop appropriate design and/or mitigation measures to deal with them.

This spring, we're also planning to start geotechnical site investigations offshore. This will involve drilling boreholes to obtain soil samples and in-situ soil testing at potential wind turbine locations. The results of the investigations will tell us more about ground conditions at the site and help us design the best foundations for the wind turbines. One or two specialist drill ships and/or jack-up vessels will be used for the work, which could take up to six months to complete.

## Met mast installed

In April 2012, Fugro Seacore installed a meteorological (met) mast on the Rampion site on our behalf, 13km off the coast of East Worthing. The 110m tall structure is measuring wind speeds, wave heights, sea currents and other offshore environmental data to help shape the design of the wind farm. Whilst the mast was being installed, we put a comprehensive communications strategy in place to let divers and other sea users know, and set up a temporary exclusion zone to keep them safe. We had positive feedback on the information we provided and will take the same approach during construction, if Rampion goes ahead.

## Opportunities for local businesses, training and education

We're continuing to work closely with local universities and are delighted to say we're helping two local students study for an MSc in Energy Policy at the University of Sussex. The students were awarded a bursary following a competition and one is also being mentored by Renewable World, the international renewable energy charity based here in Sussex.

We're also involved in a project led by Marine South East, along with local authorities, to see how the wind farm could benefit local businesses. So far, the project has:

- carried out an in depth analysis, to identify the types of products and services that will be needed whilst the wind farm is being built
- identified over 600 local businesses that could supply these, linked directly to specific sub sectors
- held three information events in Newhaven, Shoreham and Chichester, to raise awareness of the opportunities Rampion could provide
- ran three free, full day workshops to help local businesses improve their chances of submitting competitive bids
- completed a gap analysis, to identify opportunities for local businesses with the potential to develop new products and services.

Next steps will include 'Meet the Buyer' events to make sure local suppliers and contractors are aware of the opportunities early on, and an online directory of relevant local businesses, to make it easier for Rampion to procure products and services locally.

## Wind energy: Your questions answered

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

**Q: Are wind turbines inefficient?**

**A:** No. A modern wind turbine doesn't need much wind to start turning, which is why they generate electricity around 80-85% of the time throughout the year, with the level of output depending on the wind speed. Over a year, an offshore wind farm will generate about 35% of its theoretical maximum output, depending on the location. The UK has enough wind energy already installed to power nearly five million UK homes.

**Q: What happens when there's no wind?**

**A:** Electricity will still be provided from other sources, by wind farms in other parts of the country, or by conventional gas, coal and nuclear power stations. Our electricity system is mostly made up of large power stations and it's designed to cope, even if the largest of these plants had to shut down immediately.

### 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:

Write to:

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