



Rampion Offshore Wind Farm



ES Section 33 – Amended Development Area

RSK Environmental Ltd

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E.ON Climate & Renewables UK Rampion Offshore Wind Limited

RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No: 41318

Title: Rampion Offshore Wind Farm
Amended Development Area

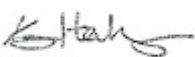
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Date: 25 February 2013

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33 AMENDED DEVELOPMENT AREA

33.1 Background

- 33.1.1 E.ON Climate & Renewables UK Rampion Offshore Wind Ltd (E.ON) is proposing the development of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm ('the Project') off the Sussex coast. As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under section 14(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and, owing to the size and nature of the Project, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended).
- 33.1.2 E.ON had previously submitted an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2012 for the Project, which was subsequently temporarily withdrawn in January 2013 to allow for some further consultation to be carried out. During the time between withdrawal and resubmission, E.ON elected to make some minor amendments to the application.
- 33.1.3 This document accompanies the resubmitted application.

33.2 Amended Development Area

- 33.2.1 Following completion of the EIA for the Project, further engineering work and discussions with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) have identified that due to potential visibility issues relating to access and egress the most appropriate access point from Wineham Lane for the temporary construction access road to the proposed onshore substation site may fall outside the original Development Area submitted in December 2012 (and subsequently withdrawn). The application area has therefore been revised to include an area of additional land. The Amended Development Area is shown on Figure 33.1.
- 33.2.2 The Development Area has been extended 120m north along Wineham Lane, to allow an additional length of Wineham Lane to be considered in determining the most appropriate construction access location.
- 33.2.3 A bell mouth type junction will be used to create an access point from Wineham Lane to the proposed onshore substation temporary access route. The bell mouth junction will be 30m wide and will be located adjacent to Wineham Lane within the Amended Development Area.
- 33.2.4 The Amended Development Area comprises 0.47 hectares of agricultural land separated from Wineham Lane by a narrow woodland belt.

33.3 This Document

- 33.3.1 In light of revisions to the Development Area, a detailed examination of the onshore sections of the Environmental Statement has been undertaken to establish the nature, composition and characteristics of the baseline environment potentially affected by the increased land take, and to determine whether the increased land take materially changes the declared conclusions of the EIA.
- 33.3.2 This document reports the findings of this process, and has accordingly been presented as an addendum to the Environmental Statement. The content relates solely to the onshore elements of the Project, specifically the means of construction access to the proposed onshore substation, and should therefore be read in conjunction with Section 2b (Project Description) and Sections 20 – 29 (onshore technical assessments) of the Environmental Statement.

33.4 Impact Assessment Review

Table 33.1: Impact Assessment Review

Environmental feature/receptor	Change to the baseline considered	Changes to outcome of the impact assessment
Section 20: Agriculture and Soils		
Development Area	The Environment Statement considered a Development Area for the substation site covering an area of approximately 23.3 hectares. The Amended Development Area for the substation site covers an area of approximately 23.8 hectares.	The increase of 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Land-use	The Environmental Statement considered agriculture as a key land use in the Development Area. The additional land within the Amended Development Area is currently used for agricultural purposes.	Inclusion of an additional 0.47 hectares of land is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment. Accordingly, there is no change to land use considered in the assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Agricultural Land Classification	Agricultural land at the substation site is grade 3. Land within the Amended Development Area also comprises grade 3.	The additional 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment and there is no change to the ALC grade considered in the assessment. Therefore the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Notifiable Scheduled Diseases	There are no records of notifiable scheduled diseases within the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Injurious Weeds and Invasive Species	There are no records of injurious weeds or invasive species within the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Section 21: Air Quality		
Air Quality	The inclusion of land within the Amended Development Area does not affect the baseline parameters considered in the air quality assessment.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Section 22: Ground Conditions		
Development Area	The Environment Statement considered a Development Area for the substation site covering an area of approximately 23.3 hectares. The Amended Development Area for the substation site covers and area of approximately 23.8 hectares.	The increase of 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Soils	A review of soils mapping indicates the additional land within the Amended Development Area comprises the same soil types and	Inclusion of an additional 0.47 hectares of land is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment and there

Environmental feature/receptor	Change to the baseline considered	Changes to outcome of the impact assessment
	characteristics associated with the substation site and immediate surroundings.	is no change to the soils interests considered in the impact assessment. Therefore, the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Geology	Underlying geology was considered in a regional context, rather than at a site level. There will be no change to the underlying geology considered. There are no additional Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) associated with the Amended Development Area.	The additional 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment and there is no change to the geology considered in the impact assessment. Therefore, the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Hydrogeology	As the underlying geology was considered in a regional context, rather than at a site level, there is no change to the hydrogeology considered. There are no additional Source Protection Zones or groundwater abstractions within the Amended Development Area.	The additional 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment and there is no change to the hydrogeology considered in the impact assessment. Therefore, the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Contaminated Land	There are no additional records of contaminated land within the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Section 23: Surface Water Hydrology and Flood Risk		
Development Area	The Environment Statement considered a Development Area for the substation site covering an area of approximately 23.3 hectares. The Amended Development Area for the substation site covers an area of approximately 23.8 hectares.	The increase of 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Hydrology	The assessment considered a 500m area surrounding the proposed substation site. Surface water features within the area comprised approximately 23 surface water lagoons, possibly associated with water retention for irrigation purposes, and a small drainage ditch parallel to an existing north south hedge line. No additional hydrology features are located within the Amended Development Area	No additional hydrological features will be impacted as a result of the Amended Development Area; therefore the conclusions of the impact assessment remain valid.
Flood Risk	The substation site is located in Flood Zone 1. The additional land within the Amended Development Area is also designated as	The additional 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment and there is no change to

Environmental feature/receptor	Change to the baseline considered	Changes to outcome of the impact assessment
	Flood Zone 1.	the flood zones considered in the impact assessment. Therefore, the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Section 24: Ecology		
Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP)	The additional land within the Amended Development Area falls within the UK (Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland) and Sussex (Woodland) BAP Priority Habitat type.	The scale of the change in impacts is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Landscape-scale initiatives	No additional landscape-scale initiatives are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Statutory Designated Sites	No additional statutory designated sites are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Non-Statutory Designated Sites	No additional non-statutory designated sites are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Woodland, Scrub and Trees	A 30 m section from the strip of woodland adjacent to Wineham Lane will be permanently lost. The woodland comprises mostly semi-mature <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash) trees over a shrub-layer including <i>Acer campestre</i> (Field Maple), <i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel) and <i>Prunus spinosa</i> (Blackthorn).	The scale of this change is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment. The trees will be replanted with native species, preferably of local origin at a 2 for 1 ratio.
Hedgerows	No additional hedgerows are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Grassland	The area of semi-improved grassland within the Amended Development Area is of the same quality and species composition as the area assessed within the Environmental Statement.	The nature of this change is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Marshy Grassland and Swamp	No additional areas of Marshy Grassland and Swamp are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Tall Herb and Fen	No additional areas of Tall Herb and Fen are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Coastal Habitats	No additional coastal habitats are affected by the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Watercourses and ponds	No additional watercourses or ponds are affected by the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Other Habitats	No additional habitats not listed above are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.

Environmental feature/receptor	Change to the baseline considered	Changes to outcome of the impact assessment
Notable Plant Species	No additional areas of notable plant species are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Badger	Signs of Badger foraging activity (two latrines) were found within the strip of woodland in the Amended Development Area, indicating an additional loss of Badger foraging habitat will occur.	The scale of this change is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Bats	No additional trees with bat roost potential are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area. However, there will be an additional loss of a linear woodland feature which has the potential to act as a commuting and foraging route for bats.	The scale of this change is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Dormouse	No Dormice were recorded in the vicinity of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Great Crested Newt	The woodland strip adjacent to Wineham Lane is suitable terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newt. The woodland is within 500 m of a known Great Crested Newt breeding pond and therefore additional Great Crested Newt habitat will be affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	The scale of this change is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Otter	No Otter signs were recorded in the vicinity of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Water Vole	No Water Vole signs were recorded in the vicinity of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Nesting Birds	Additional areas of potential nesting bird habitat (namely the woodland strip adjacent to Wineham Lane) are affected as a result of the Amended Development Area.	The scale of this change is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment.
Reptiles	No reptiles were recorded in the vicinity of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Terrestrial Invertebrates	No additional habitats of high value for terrestrial invertebrates are affected by the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Aquatic Invertebrates	No additional watercourses or ponds are affected by the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Section 25: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage		
Historic Landscape Characterisation	Additional land take falls within HLC designation HWS6791, Fieldscapes / Cohesive Asserts. No 'important hedgerows' are	No impacts are identified and the conclusions of the assessment are unchanged.

Environmental feature/receptor	Change to the baseline considered	Changes to outcome of the impact assessment
	associated with this designation.	
Designated Heritage Assets	No designated heritage assets are located within the Amended Development Area.	No impacts are identified and the conclusions of the assessment are unchanged.
Non-Designated Heritage Assets	No non-designated heritage assets are located within the Amended Development Area.	No impacts are identified and the conclusions of the assessment are unchanged.
Archaeological Potential	The Amended Development Area is contained within plot 14/08 which has been assessed for archaeological potential within the original assessment	No impacts are identified and the conclusions of the assessment are unchanged.
Field Boundaries	No 'important hedgerows' are identified within the Amended Development Area.	No impacts are identified and the conclusions of the assessment are unchanged.
Geoarchaeology	The Amended Development Area was included and considered within the study area of the original assessment.	No impacts are identified and the conclusions of the assessment are unchanged.
Section 26: Landscape and Visual Impacts		
Landscape Features	The Environment Statement considered a Development Area for the substation site covering an area of approximately 23.3 hectares of arable land (semi-improved grassland). The Amended Development Area for the substation site covers an area of approximately 23.8 hectares of arable land (semi-improved grassland). The previously assessed Development Area would result in the direct loss of a 16m wide strip of woodland as a result of the temporary construction access. The Amended Development Area would result in the loss of up a 30m wide strip of woodland.	The additional 0.47 hectares is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment. Therefore, the conclusions of the assessment remain valid. The additional loss of woodland is not considered to significantly change the outcomes of the assessment. Therefore, the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Landscape Character	There will be no additional landscape character impacts as a result of the Amended Development Area.	There is no change to the impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Visual Impact	The Environment Statement considered the visual impacts during the substation construction phase, based on a list of likely activities associated with substation construction. This included, "Site clearance and removal of existing vegetation; and temporary construction access from Wineham Lane, through private land..."	There is no change to the impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.

Environmental feature/receptor	Change to the baseline considered	Changes to outcome of the impact assessment
	The Amended Development Area covers an additional 0.47 hectares of land and will result in the loss of a 30m wide strip of woodland. As this falls within the aforementioned, 'likely activities associated with substation construction', no additional visual impacts as a result of the Amended Development Area are predicted.	
Section 27: Noise and Vibration		
Noise and Vibration	The change does not affect the baseline parameters considered in the noise and vibration assessment.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Section 28: Onshore Socio-Economics		
Onshore Socio-Economics	The change does not affect the baseline parameters considered in the onshore socio-economic assessment.	There is no change to impact assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.
Section 29: Transport		
Transport	The Amended Development Area concerns an area of agricultural land adjacent to Wineham Lane, within which a new access track and bell mouth entrance will be formed. The Amended Development Area will result in modifications potentially being made to Wineham Lane further north than previously considered in the assessment.	A review of the EIA and the Amended Development Area concluded that the revisions will not result in a requirement for additional workers, vehicle trips, abnormal loads or changes to the composition of vehicles accessing the site during construction or during future operational maintenance events over those previously estimated in the assessment. Proposed haul routes for vehicles, plant and machinery will remain unchanged from those identified previously, as will the degree of perceived severance, accident risk, journey delays, and nuisance. Accordingly, it is considered that the Amended Development Area does not alter the conclusions of the assessment.

33.5 Conclusion

- 33.5.1 Following further engineering work and discussions with WSCC regarding temporary construction access to the proposed onshore substation from Wineham Lane, it was considered necessary to extend the application boundary to allow a greater length of Wineham Lane to be considered for this purpose.
- 33.5.2 The review of the *Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Statement* presented above, concluded that the Amended Development Area does not significantly affect the Environmental Impact Assessment and the conclusions of the assessment remain valid.