

## **Community (Coastal) Project Liaison Group Project Liaison Group (PLG)**

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2023: 5pm – 6pm**

### **Attendees:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
Natural PR - Chair	Paula Seager
Rampion2 - Development & Stakeholder Manager	Chris Tomlinson
Rampion 2 – Senior Consents Manager	Karen Algate
Lancing Parish Council?	Celia Price
Littlehampton Town Council	Cllr Christine Wiltshire
Felpham Parish Council	Cllr Glen Hewlett
Clymping Parish Council	Tim Hibbert
The Littlehampton Society	Elizabeth Marogna
Note taker – Ruth Chapman	Natural PR

### **Item 1: Public consultation recap**

Following the initial consultation in 2021, Rampion 2 analysed feedback received from statutory bodies, landowners, community organisations, residents and businesses. This was considered alongside findings from ongoing engineering and environmental studies and in October / November 2022, Rampion 2 offered a second public consultation showcasing a series of potential alternatives and modified cable routes. Over 800 people attended 20 meetings and events to discuss these options and 400 written responses were received.

Discussions continued in early 2023 with targeted consultation on a short, 3km potential alternative cable route known as ‘1d’ on the approach to Sullington Hill. This was in addition to a local consultation to extend the Bolney National Grid substation and further targeted landowner consultations, held in April and May 2023. All feedback was studied carefully, culminating in a decision to select the cable route for Development Consent Order (DCO) submission, that was largely driven by ecological concerns whilst also reducing impacts on the residential and business community.

### **Item 2: Meeting summary:**

The Rampion 2 team offered a recap on the onshore fixed elements of the project, explaining their reasoning for the selection of the Bolney Road / Kent Street site (now named Oakendene) as the location for the substation. Its larger size provides greater flexibility during construction and for designing the substation, offering more space for mitigation landscaping and planting. Direct access from the A272 means there is no need to use country roads. Together, these factors reduce the potential impact on the community during the construction and operational period.

The team then moved on to show the onshore cable route they have chosen following the consultations. The selected route includes the Longer Alternative Cable Route (LACR) 1a with 1d, which proved to be the best performing for ecology, noise, traffic and impact on business.

Further north on the exit from the Oakendene Substation, the northern cable route option was selected to take the cables between Oakendene and Bolney substations.

Rampion 2 presented a recap on the offshore fixed elements. Large areas in the east and southeast of the original site have now been omitted, along with 10km<sup>2</sup> from the western extent. The turbine array area being submitted in the DCO application is now around half the size of the original site area, with the number of turbines now reduced from 116, to a maximum of 90 turbines. This still gives Rampion the capacity to produce 1200 megawatts (MW) and by retaining the maximum 325m tip height, allows them to future-proof for advances in technology.

### Item 3: Feedback on project overview

Raised by	Issue / concern	Project response
<b>Construction</b>		
TH (Clymping Parish Council)	<p>We were not too happy about the number of construction compounds being proposed. We put forward a solution – I’m not sure whether or not you’ve considered that solution in terms of the compound location?</p> <p>Are you aware of major problems that have been occurring on Climping Beach over the last few months? We have had major difficulty with flooding which has created issues relating to the access to the beach.</p>	<p>We will be drilling underneath the intertidal zone and Climping beach and the compound will likely be located where we bring the cables ashore to join the onshore cables, a few hundred metres north of the beach. We will share the map so you can see the compound area – anything that is greyed out is no longer being proposed, instead we are looking at the pink areas which are confirmed we are taking to DCO submission following a review of the various consultations that we summarised during the presentation. Keep in mind this is just a preview – we will have much more detailed maps going into the DCO application later in the summer.</p>
TH (Clymping Parish Council)	<p>The county council have just completed a consultation on improving the A259, which includes a number of issues around the Climping area. I think we will need a clearer understanding of the relevant timescales for Rampion 2 as I believe the Council’s work on the A259 is on a similar timeline.</p> <p>I suspect you would need to address this before your DCO application.</p>	<p>In terms of the timeline for construction, should we get approval, we would be looking at starting in late 2026 / early 2027. As part of the process, we would engage with the local authority as well as the highways authority to ensure we are co-ordinating with regards to our work. This would include phasing it, so the area is not cut off.</p>

**Environment / Ecology**

<p>EM (The Littlehampton Society)</p>	<p>I am concerned about erosion around the horizontal drilling sites. It is full of flint and sand with lots of plants. Drilling can cause a disturbance / collapse and speed up the erosion. What will be done to compensate for that? Will there be some kind of proposal in place to correct any damage?</p>	<p>We understand your concerns and are committed to restoring the land back to what it was before we started to work.</p> <p>The key thing is to make sure we have a robust design in place to prevent erosion. At this point it is too early to discuss depths but when we come to laying out the plans, our engineers will make their calculations based on extensive technical and environmental studies so that we can ensure we are protecting the area.</p> <p>In terms of the process, we would be drilling down from a relatively distant location underneath the beach and then on shore. The drilling has to be of sufficient depth to ensure we clear whatever is above – be it beach, river or road – so it could be as deep as 15 to 20 metres.</p> <p>We use a relatively small diameter drill that does not leave a cavity, as robust cable ducting is pulled through very quickly to fill the space.</p>
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**Timeline**

<p>CW (Littlehampton Town Council)</p>	<p>Can I clarify what will actually happen next?</p>	<p>We are looking at submitting our DCO application later this summer. There will then be 4-6 weeks for the planning inspectorate to review it. If they accept the application, there will be a period in which you can register your interest.</p> <p>To make sure you don't miss your chance to respond, we recommend you register on the Planning Inspectorate website – follow the link on the presentation slides. This also means you will be kept abreast of all the developments and invited to make subsequent written representations or attend public hearings to speak.</p> <p>It's also the best way to see all of the information that has been submitted to the planning inspectorate, not just by us but by other interested parties.</p>
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EM (The Littlehampton Society)	When you say summer for submission, when exactly do you mean?	<p>We are keen to move as quickly as possible to submit our application but it is difficult for us to say exactly when that will be – this is a big, complicated project with a huge amount of work going into the final proposals &amp; plans, Environmental Statement and Consultation Report. Pulling all of that detail together to get it submitted is a challenging process.</p> <p>In case your concern is that it will be submitted during the summer holidays and your opportunity to comment is missed, I can assure you that there is a six-week period of review and so it is unlikely that we would be accepted before the end of the summer holidays. It is only at that point of acceptance that we would get in touch to encourage you to feedback to the planning inspectorate.</p>
<b>Project</b>		
CW (Littlehampton Town Council)	<p>I understand technology is changing all the time but when will we know what size the turbines will actually be? And will that predetermine where you're actually going to put them?</p> <p>If further investigation for the location, specifically the boreholes, determines that the location is not suitable, is there a possibility that it may not go ahead?</p>	<p>It is far too early in the process to know the final size of the turbines – we would not know this until we reach the point of ordering them, which would be in 2026 / 2027. That is why our plans have a 'worst case scenario' - the greatest number of turbines, the largest sea area, the highest turbines – this allows us to assess impact whilst also future-proofing for what's likely to be available in the marketplace at the time of order.</p> <p>In terms of locating the turbines, that relies on a number of things. Rampion 1 has given us a good understanding of the seabed, but subject to consent we would carry out more detailed geotechnical site investigations, where you drill a borehole at least 50 metres into the seabed across a good number of sites on the seabed area. The data will help inform what kind of foundations we need in relation to the weight, size and kinetic forces of our turbines, and how we space them for maximum efficiency. This is an iterative process, and we will keep you informed as we progress.</p>

#### **Item 4. Action Points**

**ALL** – to share information with networks

**CT & KA** – liaise with TH (Clymping PC) about access at Climping and timeline of construction in relation to the Council's work on the A259. CT to also send a map to show more detail on the compound.

#### **Item 5. Next Steps**

The Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted later this summer. Subject to the Planning Inspectorate accepting the application, the timetable for the examination process will be announced and there will be an opportunity for people to submit 'relevant representations' - essentially a request to be kept informed and to keep open the option to submit written representations and appear at Public Hearings during the examination phase. The examination is due to take place from the end of 2023 until spring 2024. The next PLG meetings are proposed to be held once the examination timetable has been announced.

A decision on whether to award DCO consent is most likely to happen towards the end of 2024.

#### **Item 6. AOB**

PS thanked everyone for attending. Contact details for the team to provide feedback or comments:

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Paula Seager – [paula@naturalpr.biz](mailto:paula@naturalpr.biz)