

# Statement of Community Consultation

June 2021



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## Introduction

### Purpose of the Statement of Community Consultation

Our ‘Statement of Community Consultation’ (SoCC) describes how we, Rampion Extension Development Limited, intend to consult about the proposed Rampion project. Reading our SoCC will help inform you, a member of the public, about our formal public consultation on Rampion 2.

The ultimate purpose of our public consultation is to ensure that local communities and other stakeholders have a chance to understand, comment on and inform the Rampion 2 proposals.

This SoCC is prepared in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and explains how we will consult the local community ahead of applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the project. Amongst other matters, this document sets out:

- When we will hold our consultation
- The information that will be included in it
- Who we will consult
- The method we will use to reach communities and gather their views
- How we will take into account the feedback received in shaping the proposals

As part of the preparation and finalising of the SoCC, we requested feedback from the following local authorities **who are potentially affected by onshore proposals**<sup>1</sup>:

- Arun District Council
- Horsham District Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- West Sussex County Council

They all provided feedback regarding our approach to consulting the community which has been considered and reflected where appropriate in this document for inspection by the wider public.

In addition, we sent requested feedback from the following bodies due to the potential for their communities to be affected by our offshore proposals:

- East Sussex County Council
- Adur District Council
- Worthing Borough Council
- Chichester District Council
- Brighton and Hove City Council
- Eastbourne Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Isle of Wight Council
- Wealden District Council
- Marine Management Organisation

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<sup>1</sup> S43(1) Consultees as prescribed in the Planning Act 2008 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/43>

We did not receive any additional feedback from these bodies in response to our request for feedback. However, we previously engaged with a number of them in advance of consulting and incorporated their informal advice and views as part of the development of this SoCC.

## The Planning Process

Rampion is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. This means that we must apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) which will permit us to build the project. It is our current intention to submit this application in late 2021 or early 2022.

We will submit the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) who will only accept the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for examination if it complies with the relevant statutory formalities and standards. PINS will consult with local authorities on the adequacy of consultation.

Once the application is accepted for examination, we are required to carry out further publicity in relation to the scheme. Interested parties will then be able to register their interest in the application with The Planning Inspectorate who will assess the application in an examination on behalf of the Secretary of State for BEIS.

During the examination of the application interested parties will be able to submit written comments on the proposals and participate in the public hearings. Following the examination, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State BEIS who will then decide whether or not to grant a DCO.

Further information about the DCO application and examination process is available on the Planning Inspectorate website at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> or by calling PINS at 0303 444 5000.

## The Planning Act 2008 and consultation

DCOs are governed by a statutory process which requires us to consult in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, in particular including provisions such as:

- **Section 42 (duty to consult)** - This section requires us to consult certain organisations, people and categories of people about the proposed application. The consultees include certain local authorities, persons with rights over land and other prescribed persons
- **Section 47 (duty to consult local community)** - This section requires us to prepare and publish a statement setting out how we propose to consult local people about the proposed application. We must consult with the relevant local authorities before publishing such a statement, and the local authorities must reply within 28 days. The

consultation must then be carried out in the manner set out in the statement. This statement has been produced following such consultation

- **Section 48 (duty to publicise)** - This section requires us to publicise the proposed application, including in the national and local press and to specify a deadline for consultation responses to be received

Earlier this year we undertook informal consultation and held a number meetings with specialists from statutory bodies and representative community organisations. We are currently at the stage in developing our proposals on which we will consult to meet the above requirements – this is known as a statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive to help us refine our final proposals for Rampion 2 before submitting our DCO application.

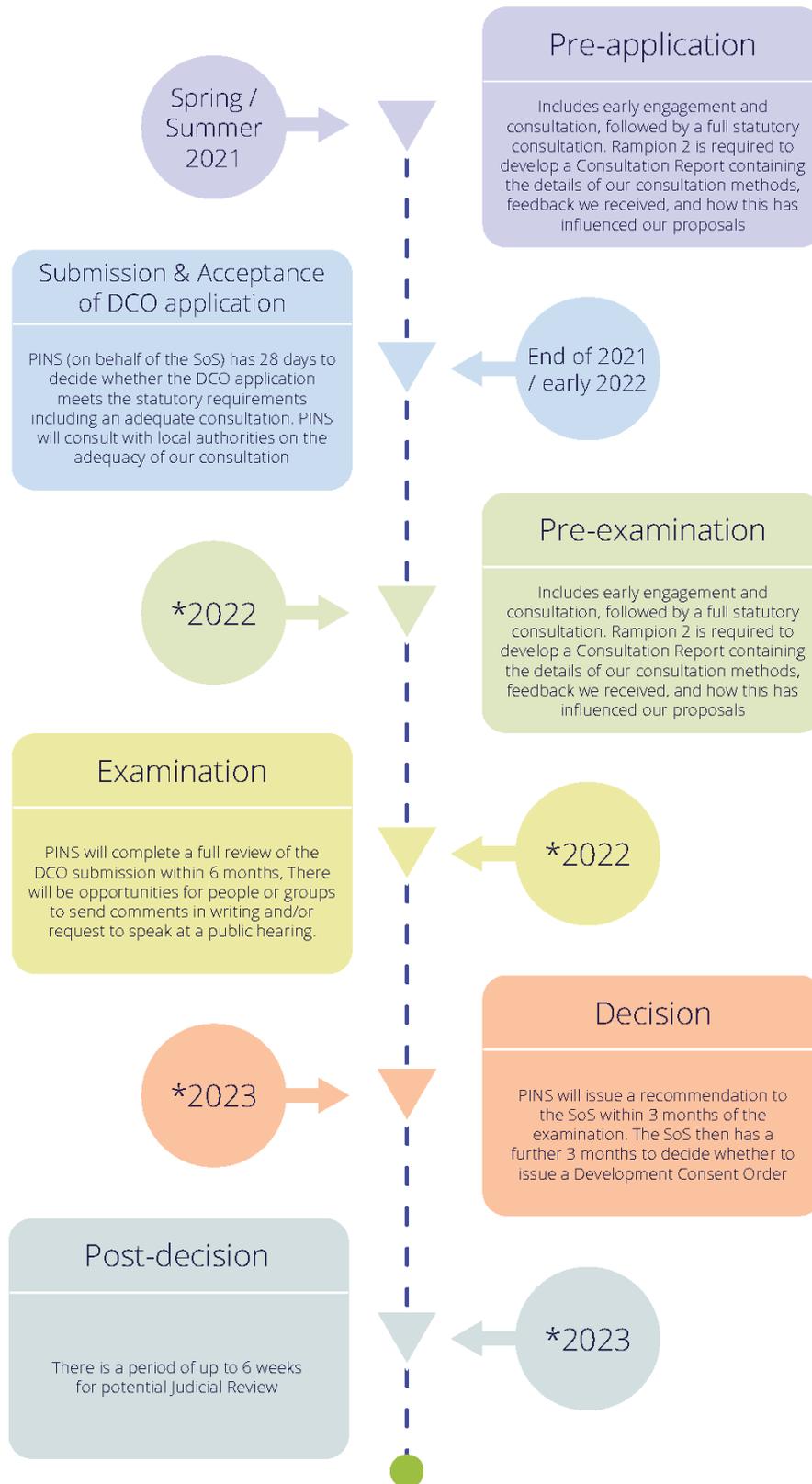
As part of our DCO application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing our approach to consultation, the feedback that we receive during the statutory consultation, and how we have given due regard to it in finalising the proposals. When considering our DCO application, the Secretary of State must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate and compliant with the legislative requirements.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

For the proposed Rampion 2, we are required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of our proposals. In legal terms, this means it is considered to be 'EIA development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

We must assess the potential environmental impacts from our proposals and, where appropriate, propose mitigation or possible enhancement measures. We will report on this process in a document called an Environmental Statement ('ES') which will form part of the DCO application we submit. At this statutory consultation stage, we will be sharing and seeking feedback on the preliminary results of our assessments, through a document referred to as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Figure 1: The planning process



\* We have estimated 15-18 months between DCO submissions and PINS decision based the typical time frame of previous NSIP projects

## The Proposed Rampion 2 Wind Farm

### About us

Rampion 2 is owned by a joint venture company called Rampion Extension Development Limited. The joint venture company comprises of: RWE<sup>2</sup> (50.1%), a Macquarie-led consortium (25.0%) (comprising Macquarie European Infrastructure Fund 5, the Green Investment Group and the Universities Superannuation Scheme) and Enbridge (24.9%).

RWE is developing the project on behalf of the joint venture. RWE ranks among the largest global players in renewable power generation with a total installed generation capacity of 9 gigawatts and an additional 2.6 gigawatts under construction. The company specialises in onshore and offshore wind, utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar power and energy storage projects. RWE employs 3,600 renewables professionals who develop, build and operate large renewable energy assets in 15 countries across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. RWE's goal is to rapidly expand the use of renewable energy technologies that address the growing concern about energy security, energy affordability, and climate change.

### Background to Rampion 2

Rampion 2 is a proposed expansion of the existing Rampion offshore wind farm located in the English Channel off the Sussex coast. The broad offshore area of search being reviewed for development is adjacent to the existing Rampion wind farm which was developed under The Crown Estate's third leasing Round of Offshore Wind. The Crown Estate own and lease the seabed.

Offshore wind is one of the most cost-effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the UK Government has identified it as a key solution. The Government has set a target to deliver over a third of UK electricity from Offshore Wind by 2030, up from 10% today.

Rampion 2 will contribute to decarbonising the UK's power supplies in a significant way. To give you an idea; maximising the project's technical potential would enable Rampion 2 to meet the electricity needs of over 1 million homes and save 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. The design will be optimized, chiefly based on environmental, economic and engineering factors; considering your views as members of the public as well as the views of other consultees.

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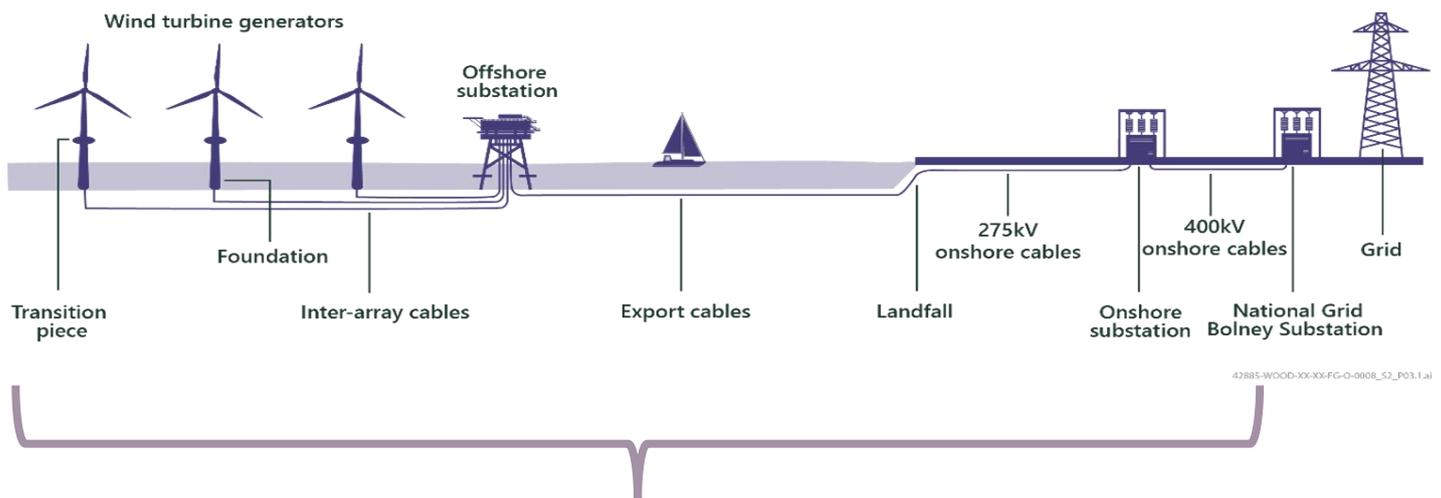
<sup>2</sup> Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk ("RWE") <https://www.group.rwe/en>

## Rampion 2 proposals

Infrastructure being proposed as part of the development includes:

- Up to 116 wind turbines, up to three offshore substations and an export cable search area to bring the power to shore at Climping Beach
- An underground electricity cable connection from Climping Beach to Bolney, Mid Sussex, where the electricity would feed into the National Grid transmission system.
- One new substation located near the existing Bolney substation, which would be required to transform the power from the wind farm up to the required voltage (400kV), in order to connect to the transmission grid.

Figure 2: Rampion 2 Wind Farm Components



New proposed infrastructure to be built as part of Rampion 2 Wind Farm

## Our approach to community consultation

### Principles of community consultation

Our primary objective for the community consultation is to ensure that people and communities who feel that they are affected by the development have a chance to understand, comment on and inform the proposals.

There are founding principles that apply to public consultation in the UK to ensure that project such as Rampion 2 undertake lawful consultations. These are known as The Gunning Principles:

- Principle #1: Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage
- Principle #2: Sufficient reasons must be put forward for the proposal to allow for intelligent consideration and response
- Principle #3: Adequate time must be given for consideration and response
- Principle #4: The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account

The Rampion 2 community consultation will adhere to these principles by adopting the following key commitments:

<p><b>Gunning 1: Formative stage</b></p> <p>Our community consultation will be held ahead of finalising project designs and environmental assessments and will be subject to review and possible changes taking into account feedback received in consultation.</p>	<p><b>Gunning 2: Intelligent consideration</b></p> <p>Our consultation material will include background information describing the design development process, alternative options assessed, both positive and negative effects of the development and reasonings for the preferred proposals being presented for public input.</p>
<p><b>Gunning 3: Adequate time</b></p> <p>We will extend the community consultation beyond the 28 days (4 week) statutory requirement to 63 days (9 weeks), to ensure that members of the community have adequate time to review our consultation documents, raise questions, ideas or concerns with the project time and submit a consultation response.</p>	<p><b>Gunning 4: Feedback taken into account</b></p> <p>We will collect and review all responses received and analyse key themes to identify opportunities to inform and improve our proposals. We will report back to respondents our responses to the issues raised during the consultation, identifying how feedback has been considered and taken into account.</p>

In addition to these key principles, we are adopting the following objectives for our community consultation:

1. To reach out to and engage with people and groups from a wide range of demographics which reflect the large and diverse population surrounding the project area;
2. To be proportionate in our engagement efforts and awareness campaign – targeting those who live or work in the vicinity of the project and visitors who use the area for school and recreation;
3. To be transparent by:
  - a) Making communities aware of the proposals and keeping them informed throughout the planning process
  - b) Preparing communities for the consultation through early and ongoing engagement
  - c) Making information available to those that responded to the consultation which sets out what we heard through the consultation and how input has informed our proposals

### Consulting during the COVID-19 pandemic

We are aware of how important it is to make sure that anyone in the community who wants to find out more or share their views on the proposals can do so. We are consulting at a time when the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may mean that there are restrictions or social gathering requirements that affect holding public meetings and events.

Given the uncertainties of social distancing requirements during our consultation period, for the purpose of this SoCC, we are formally planning for primarily virtual methods of consultation and engagement. However, we will give consideration to small-scale, in-person, outdoor meetings and community engagement methods having regard to the latest advice and guidance from Government regarding Covid-19 and safe working practices<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Guidance from the UK Government <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

## Community Consultation Timeline

The community consultation for Rampion 2 will take place over a 9-week time period between **14 July and 16 September**. We will publicise the dates of the consultation in local newspapers.

During this consultation period, the latest information about our proposals will be available for view on [www.rampion2.com](http://www.rampion2.com).

## What will be consulted on

We encourage local communities to give their views about how Rampion 2 proposals may affect them or their local area. We will be seeking specific feedback to help develop our proposals regarding, but not limited to:

- Feedback on our preliminary assessment of the onshore and offshore environmental, community and economic impacts and proposed mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts;
- Feedback on our early thinking on a construction methodology and the measures we would require of our contractors and sub-contractors to minimise any impacts of construction on local communities;
- Comments on the merits or disbenefits of substation and cable route alignment proposals where there are options being considered.

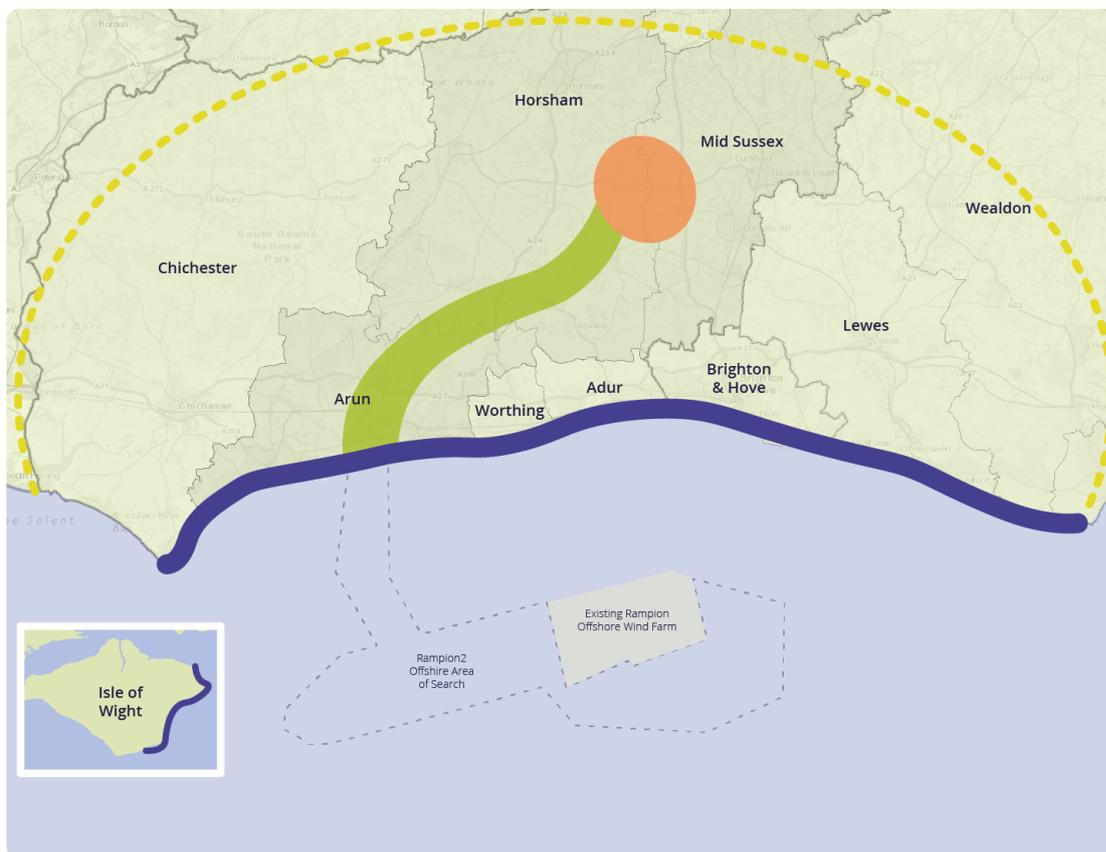
## Who we will consult in the community

We will strive to reach out to all local communities and those who visit the area with the opportunity to participate in the consultation. We will carefully consider the views of members of the public who feel they have an interest in or will be impacted by Rampion 2 proposals. Our consultation will be accessible to any member of the public as it will be available online all day, every day during the consultation period.

In order to be proportionate in our approach to publicising the consultation and engaging with the local community, we have identified 'zones of consultation' to define our scale and methods for publicising the consultation.

Figure 3: Rampion 2 Consultation area

 <p><b>Zone 1</b> Area of proposed substation sites</p>	<p>Those persons or groups most likely to have a direct interest in or experience impacts from any of the proposed onshore substation options presented during the community consultation. This Zone is defined as those within 3km of the proposed substation options</p>
 <p><b>Zone 2</b> Area of proposed cable route</p>	<p>Those persons or groups most likely to have a direct interest in or experience impacts from the proposed onshore landfall and underground cable route options presented during the community consultation. This Zone is defined as those within 1km of either side of the outer cable corridor (PEIR) boundary.</p>
 <p><b>Zone 3</b> Coastal area</p>	<p>Those person or groups whose property is within 100m of the Sussex Coastline between Beachy Head and Selsey Bill, and the eastern coastline of the Isle of Wight between Seaview and Ventnor.</p>
 <p><b>Wider area</b></p>	<p>Those persons or groups outside of the target zones listed above, but who may have an interest in the proposals and want the opportunity to have their say. This area is defined as those persons or groups who may use the Sussex coast, South Downs National Park and Public Rights of Way for business or pleasure purposes, and those within the local authority areas that may host proposed onshore infrastructure or may have coastal views of the proposed offshore infrastructure .</p>



## Publicising the consultation

We will use a range of techniques to maximise awareness of the project. These are designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the consultation in a way that is convenient to them while complying with Government guidance on COVID-19. These are set out in Figure 2 below.

Figure 4: Our methods for promoting consultation



## Removing barriers to participation

It is important to ensure that consultation is inclusive and enables participation from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultation such as young people and those for whom English is not a first language. We will do this by identifying the reasons why some people might not wish to or be able to engage with us and make every effort to remove their barriers to participation.

Figure 5: Our methods for removing barriers to participation

Potential barrier	Those who might experience this	How we plan to address it
<b>No time to participate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long or unusual working hours</li> <li>• Managing various commitments</li> <li>• Parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation materials and questionnaire will be made available 24/7 on our website</li> <li>• We will offer opportunities for virtual meetings on evenings and weekends.</li> <li>• Consultation documents will be organised such that participants can easily direct their attention to the information that interests them most and at the level of detail they feel they require to provide intelligent consideration</li> </ul>
<b>Not aware of the project or consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Didn't see any advertisements</li> <li>• Not linked to local civil groups or community networks</li> <li>• Other things competing for your attention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a variety of techniques for publicising the consultation, including traditional media, social media, and posters at places within communities they are most likely to be seen</li> <li>• Early engagement with local parishes to ensure we are reaching out to all local communities and publicising through the best channels</li> </ul>
<b>Don't believe participating will make any difference</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had a bad experience with similar projects, the planning system or politics in the past</li> <li>• Those who wish to understand the proposals by speaking face-to-face with the project team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure our consultation includes a Legacy Document setting out successes and challenges from the original Rampion Wind Farm and how we plan to apply lessons learned to Rampion 2</li> <li>• Brief local communities and Parish Councils in advance of the consultation on the project design development and planning processes</li> <li>• Communicate in our consultation documents our early construction plans and principles</li> <li>• Offer virtual meetings with those that have concerns based on previous experiences, to hear and understand their perspective to help shape our proposals going forward</li> </ul>
<b>Not able to understand the proposals or consultation materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not speak English as a first language or have a lower literacy level</li> <li>• Information is too technical to be understood by the average person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify local cultural and religious groups and contact them ahead of consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of its members and ask them to disseminate information and encourage participation information</li> <li>• Provide the opportunity to request project materials in different languages or in Easy Read format</li> <li>• Ensure that consultation documents are written in plain English and that we supplement technical concepts with visual aids (videos, graphics, diagrams, etc)</li> </ul>
<b>Not able to access information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone with a disability</li> <li>• Those that have slow internet speeds, limited or no access to a computer, or difficulty navigating complex websites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify local groups that represent persons with disabilities and contact them ahead of the consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of its members and ask them to disseminate information and encourage participation</li> <li>• Provide the opportunity to request project materials in different formats (eg large print, or audio)</li> <li>• Ensure that consultation documents are written in plain English and are easy to navigate and download from our website, and that we supplement technical concepts with visual aids (videos, graphics, diagrams, etc)</li> </ul>

## The Consultation Arrangements

We will use a range of techniques to consult the community. These are designed to allow people with different needs to take part in the consultation in a way that is convenient to them while complying with Government guidance on COVID 19. These are set out below.

### Information to be provided to consultees

In order to ensure that communities have sufficient project and background material to provide informed consideration of and feedback on our proposals, we will prepare a number of documents, maps and plans showing the nature and location of the proposed scheme.

Figure 6: The consultation documents

Consultation Document	Description
Consultation 'factsheets'	Information about our proposed onshore and offshore infrastructure, including rationales for our decisions taken to date and alternatives that have been evaluated
Maps and plans	Detailed maps which show the location of anticipated temporary and permanent land impacts
Drawings and/or visual simulations	Visualisation of the potential visual impacts of the offshore and onshore works and depiction of technical concepts and processes in a digestible format
Information about our approach to minimising construction impacts	Information about our plans and methods for building Rampion 2 including principles and commitments to be considerate to local communities during construction
Rampion Legacy Document	Our experiences in planning and constructing the existing Rampion scheme, and how we plan to build on our success and learn from our mistakes
The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	Detailed information about the environmental considerations and assessments that have taken place to establish the least impactful proposals by avoiding, minimising and mitigating various environmental and community impacts
A non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR	A high-level summary of the environmental impact assessments that have taken place in plain English
Report of findings from early stakeholder engagement and the informal consultation	The feedback received on our early proposals, responding to the issues and ideas raised, and highlighting where input has influenced the proposals being consulted on.

These consultation materials will be presented on our website [www.Rampion2.com](http://www.Rampion2.com). Every effort will be taken to ensure the information is accessible to participants with all levels of digital proficiency, by ensuring the navigation to documents is clear and intuitive and is functional for those who have lower internet speeds or lack IT knowledge. Additionally, all consultation documents will be available in PDF versions, which can be downloaded directly from the website or requested by emailing us at [rampion2@rwe.com](mailto:rampion2@rwe.com) or calling our freephone telephone line 0800 2800 886 (Freephone line hours of operation 7am-9pm Monday to Saturday).

We encourage people and groups to review the consultation documents in digital form, but we will accept requests for hard copies of consultation materials via phone or email for, which will be managed on a case-by-case basis. Where reasonable and depending on the specific consultation document(s) requested, we may charge a fee for printing and mailing.

### Methods for delivering consultation

Our consultation activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community, which is especially important given current Covid-19 restrictions on meeting in person owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Website

A dedicated website will be available to find out more information about the project and latest proposals at [www.Rampion2.com](http://www.Rampion2.com). The website will be updated with our consultation documents, including links to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), the PEIR Non-Technical Summary and the Consultation Questionnaire. The aim of this platform is to provide a wide-reaching way of engaging with anyone interested in the project.

**Briefings and Q&A sessions** will be arranged with local Parish Councils and local community groups. These meetings will be held via online meetings and webinars due to restrictions on public gatherings.

**Virtual project presentations** open to the wider public to allow people to ask questions about the consultation and our proposals directly to members of the project team. The details of these virtual presentations will be promoted on our website and in our targeted email newsletter.

### Reacting to the evolving social distancing guidelines

Provided that Government guidance allows for public buildings to remain open during the community consultation period, we will provide computer access to the consultation documents at select publicly accessible venues. These venues and their opening hours and any arrangements required for viewing the information will be publicised on our website [www.Rampion2.com](http://www.Rampion2.com) and in statutory public notices beginning 14 July 2021.

Given the uncertainties of social distancing requirements, for the purpose of this SoCC, we are formally planning for primarily virtual methods of consultation and engagement. However we will give consideration to.

## Using feedback to inform Rampion 2 proposals

### Collecting consultation responses

To capture participants' feedback, we will provide a consultation questionnaire inviting comments. The questionnaire will be made available on our website [www.Rampion2.com](http://www.Rampion2.com) alongside the other consultation documents, but participants may also request fillable copies by email or a hard copy by mail

### The Consultation Report

Following the community consultation, we will consider all the views that we receive and continue to develop our design for the proposed Rampion 2 ahead of submitting our DCO Application to the Secretary of State. Our DCO application will include a Consultation Report setting out how we have had regard to all responses received.

Any comments received will be analysed and may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the DCO process. We will ensure that any personal details are not placed on public record, will be held securely by Rampion Extension Development Ltd and its agents in accordance with the data protection laws and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.





## Contact us

Our team is on hand to help with queries and register your comments on the proposals for Rampion 2.

Email us at: [rampion2@rwe.com](mailto:rampion2@rwe.com)

Call our freephone information line at: 0800 2800 886

Visit our website at: [www.Rampion2.com](http://www.Rampion2.com)

Follow us on Instagram @rampion2windfarm

### Landowner interests

If you are a landowner, have an interest in any of the land which interacts with our proposals, or if you have any questions relating to land interests in the area, please contact our appointed land agents from Carter Jonas by:

Calling: 0121 794 6250

Emailing: [rampion2@carterjonas.co.uk](mailto:rampion2@carterjonas.co.uk)

If you would like this document in another language, large print, audio or braille formats, please contact us using the details above.

