***Email Letter to*:**

Mr Vaughan Weighill

Project Manager for Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm

Rampion Extension Development Ltd

7th September 2021

Dear Mr Weighill,

**Response to Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm Statutory Consultation 14th July-16th September 2021**

I am writing to you to express the comments of Washington Parish Council on the proposed Rampion 2 Windfarm, specifically the onshore cable corridor through Washington Village.

Whilst Washington Parish Council is supportive of the principle of a renewable energy programme if done responsibly, it does not support this current routing proposal (“Route B”) which would result in additional traffic to already congested local roads.

Nor does it support the inappropriate locations of the proposed construction compounds around the village which is largely in a Conservation Area and within the South Downs National Park.

The Parish Council is disappointed that the proposed route, which would go through the National Trust’s Jockey’s Meadow and the adjoining Washington Recreation Ground/Allotment land, has been selected without prior discussion with the local community. These areas of land are designated as protected Green Spaces in the parish’s joint Neighbourhood Plan with neighbouring Storrington and Sullington Parish Council.

The Recreation Ground is a registered Village Green and charity, owned and managed by the Parish Council as trustees. As such, it has a duty to make best use of this asset in the interests of its residents, so that they can enjoy its facilities without impediment. Councillors are mindful that a proposed underground cable, with its protected status and associated inspections and maintenance regime for years to come, would prevent or seriously restrict any future improvement of the land for the better enjoyment of the residents . This would be unacceptably harmful to the community both socially and economically.

The Parish Council also raises serious concerns about the proposed construction compounds around the village, and the excessive disruption this will cause residents, including a popular primary school and camp site.  Any location in the parish or elsewhere in the vicinity would be entirely inappropriate given the existing traffic pressures on the local A283 and A24, including Washington Roundabout and the surrounding country road network. At the time of writing, there is a planning application for the restatement of the Rock Common Quarry nearby. If successful, this would generate up to 500 daily lorry movements for 5 to 10 years to enable the transport and processing of inert waste. There are other quarries in the area which generate significant lorry movements, notwithstanding current and emerging housing developments to meet the district’s Government-set housing targets. A construction compound for a period of 4 years, assuming the build runs to plan, will cause significant HGV disruption to a locality that is already at capacity. Add to this the potential conflict of another major scheme, the A27 Arundel bypass which subject to approval will commence 2022/23. Such an unsustainable volume of traffic with more HGV movements will negatively impact on local residents and businesses as well as exacerbating the air quality problems identified in the wider area.

Local residents were vociferous in their views at a public meeting with Rampion at Washington Village Hall on 2nd September and deserve to know that all options of the cable corridor to avoid the village will now be robustly pursued.

Specifically, the Parish Council asks that serious consideration be given to options around the original “Route A” as defined by Rampion and taking account of the significant information on local topography provided by Wiston Parish Council. Wiston PC’s suggestion that the currently proposed route from Kilometre 15 to Kilometre 22 be substantially rerouted to the south of Washington, would avoid the village and minimise the impact on the sensitivities at Sullington Hill and on farmland along the originally proposed route. But the scenic views from frequently used footpaths, bridleways and views from the South Downs National Park must not be compromised and there must be detailed measures produced that protect environmental, ecological and archaeological receptors in this sensitive locality

Kind Regards



Zoe Savill

Clerk of Washington Parish Council

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