

The Planning Inspectorate Via E-Mail: <u>RampionWindFarm@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk</u>

8 January 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Rampion Off-Shore Wind farm – Impact upon South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has sought to engage fully with the public examination attending eleven days of hearings, submitting in excess of 270 pages of evidence and working positively and proactively to assist the examination panel and Secretary of State in reaching an informed assessment of the impact upon the South Downs National Park.

Whilst there are many technical points that have been made by the SDNPA throughout the process that require consideration it is the following five key overriding concerns, that the SDNPA has consistently evidenced, that I would like to draw your attention to as the examination process draws to a close:

- 1. The proposed wind turbines will have a detrimental and unacceptable impact upon the Sussex Heritage Coast
- 2. The proposed wind turbines will have a detrimental and unacceptable impact upon the landscape character of the National Park
- 3. The proposed cable corridor and associated construction works will have a detrimental and unacceptable impact upon the landscape character of the National Park. This will include, as accepted by E.ON, an irreversible detrimental impact to the area of Chalk Grassland at Tottington Mount
- 4. The proposed cable corridor will restrict access to the National Park harmful to the enjoyment of users of the National Park and the local tourist economy
- 5. The proposal does not include a s106 agreement of appropriate scope or value to either acceptably mitigate the above impacts or enhance the National Park

Given the above, and as set out in the SDNPA representations^{*}, the SDNPA would request that great weight is given to the designation of the South Downs National Park and that consent is not granted.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Steney

Tim Slaney Director of Planning

* http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/rampion-offshore-windfarm