

# West Sussex Local Access Forum

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Sent by email to: [Rampion2@rwe.com](mailto:Rampion2@rwe.com)

29 November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) is an independent advisory body, established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to give access advice to local authorities, statutory organisations and non-government organisations. In giving that advice, the Forum's main objective is to ensure the existing network of Public Rights of Way, as well as the wider access network, is protected and where possible enhanced. The Forum has a balanced membership of knowledgeable and experienced users. For further information about the Forum please visit [www.wslaf.org](http://www.wslaf.org).

## **RAMPION 2 MODIFICATIONS TO THE ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Forum Members have looked at the maps and reasoning provided for the cable route modifications which are the subject of the consultation and initially agreed there were no specific comments we wish to make on the changes proposed. The modifications are very comprehensively explained and we believe that local organisations and residents who are the actual PRoW and road users in the parishes affected by the cable route work, are better placed to highlight any problems or make suggestions.

However, following attendance at a Rampion 2 ETG meeting on Friday 25th November we would like to comment on an issue that was raised and discussed. This was regarding proposals to use restricted byway 2092, and some bridleways as temporary access routes for construction vehicles. As pointed out at the meeting, mixing PRoW users with HGVs in close proximity is likely to cause problems, especially for equestrians, and some mitigation would be needed i.e. passing places with drivers alerted to take extra care. We do understand that there are environmental 'trade offs' here as regards to creating separate new routes but feel we do not have enough information on this as yet to give an opinion.

As stated in our previous response (Aug 2021), the Forum's main concerns are in relation to the management of PRoW affected by the construction of the onshore cable route. This includes: the movement of construction traffic; how access to the paths will be maintained; how any temporary closures will be dealt with; how users safety will be protected when using or crossing the construction accesses 'shared routes'; and the availability of a 'helpline' for any problems.

Members were impressed with the management of Rampion 1 during installation and reinstatement with the impact on PRoW being as minimal as possible. We trust that any lessons learnt through the process will ensure that Rampion 2 will be the same, if not better. Listed below are the main points we wish to emphasise.

- a) Mitigation measures for any temporary PRow closures, which should be as short as possible, should focus on communicating clear information to potential users. These should include on-site weatherproof notices displayed on the actual route well in advance of the closure, giving dates of closure and reinstatement, maps, and alternative routes where available.
- b) The use of local roads by construction traffic will also affect the safety of Non-Motorised Users (NMUs), who often use these roads as links in the PRow network. Maps and information about construction traffic routes should be provided on the Rampion website.
- c) High level latches should be installed on all gates used by equestrians to allow riders to use them without the need to dismount, and all gates should swing freely for ease of use.
- d) A link to the Rampion website should be provided to user organisations (Ramblers, Cycling UK, British Horse Society, Sustrans), WSCC, SDNPA, District Councils, Parish Councils, local groups, and other sources of information likely to be consulted by potential users when they are planning walks or rides, and the 'helpline' telephone number for reporting of any problems should also be made widely available.
- e) Where the cable route crosses the South Downs Way (SDW) there are several interlinked bridleways used as circular routes. Closure of these at the same time would be very disruptive for users. Many charity events and activities take place on the South Downs Way (SDW), especially at weekends, so close liaison with the SDW National Trail Officer is essential.
- f) Following installation of the cable route, reinstatement should be to the appropriate standard agreed with WSCC, as in Rampion 1 which was excellent. WSCC requested improvements to be made under the S106 agreement must be agreed following final decisions on the onshore cable route and location of the sub-station.

The Forum looks forward to continuing work with the Rampion 2 team, through the Public Rights of Way Liaison Group.

Yours sincerely



Jane Noble, Forum Officer  
West Sussex Local Access Forum

Copy for information to: All WSLAF members  
Nick Scott, WSCC Principal Rights of Way Officer