### Key Issues

The cable route will traverse Tottington Mount, which is an elevated ridge of chalk land within the South Downs National Park. This area is complicated by geology (chalk), ecology (chalk grassland), and the presence of a Bronze Age Cross Dyke Scheduled Monument.

### Purpose of the project

Rampion Offshore Wind Farm is proposed 13-23 km off the Sussex coast. The wind farm will comprise 100 to 175 turbines, depending on the turbine size selected.

The project includes a 26.4 km underground cable route from landfall (where the electricity comes ashore) to a new substation located approximately 2 km south-west of Bolney village in mid-Sussex.

### Description of the project

For the majority of the onshore cable route, the cables will be buried using a trench and backfill method. The maximum width of the cable route, once construction is complete and the site reinstated, will be 15 m. During construction, an additional working width of up to 15 m for access along the cable route as well as temporary storage of removed topsoil/subsoil will be required.
Lessons learnt

The importance of the chalk grassland habitats, landscape and visual impacts, and the Scheduled Monument were noted at an early stage of the Project.

RSK undertook a preliminary landscape and visual review including an initial vantage point survey for the preliminary cable route. As a result, the cable route was realigned to a slightly shallower slope to the west following the path of an existing scar.

RSK ensured the early involvement of specialist contractors to assist in the selection of appropriate construction techniques to minimise impacts on, and the restoration of, chalk grasslands at Tottington Mount.

Lessons learnt cont.

RSK liaised closely with English Heritage during the EIA process to agree an appropriate location for the crossing of the Scheduled Monument at Tottington Mount, as well as an appropriate mitigation strategy.

The project forms a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. Early engagement with stakeholders such as English Heritage and Natural England benefited later discussions undertaken during the Planning Inspectorate examination phase including agreeing Statements of Common Ground.

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