



Rampion hosts unique voyage of discovery to offshore wind farm

Rampion has hosted a unique trip on board the DFDS ferry, *Seven Sisters*, which was attended by 350 guests from key local stakeholder organisations. The ferry took guests on an informative tour to view the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, up close.

The memorable occasion marked the achievements in completing the development and construction phases of the project, which has involved contributions from a large number of representatives from local stakeholder organisations, who have given their valuable input to the project over many years.

The event also looked promisingly ahead to full project completion this winter, as the remaining priority works to reinstate the onshore cable route and substation surrounds continues apace.

Among the guests were Megan McCullough and Georgia Starr, former students from Davison High School for Girls, who suggested the name 'Rampion' after the county flower of Sussex. They put forward the name during a competition ran with local schools to decide what the wind farm should be called, with 'Rampion' being chosen by public vote.

The *Seven Sisters* ferry set sail at 12 noon from Newhaven Port and embarked on a 16km journey to the perimeter of the wind farm. Guests were welcomed on board by teams from DFDS and Rampion, accompanied by atmospheric jazz music performed by swing quartet *Swing Sur Seine* in the ferry's impressive art deco interior.

The event was an exclusive opportunity for guests to see the wind farm in operation, enjoy the magnificent views and

reflect on how they've helped to provide the UK with clean, green, renewable energy. Rampion will power the equivalent of 350,000 homes and reduce carbon emissions by 600,000 tonnes a year, throughout its 25-year lifetime.

Rampion would like to thank DFDS for looking after guests so warmly throughout the trip with delicious refreshments and a full buffet lunch.

Here's what a few of our guests thought:

"It was really interesting to see the wind farm up close, and fantastic to spend a great few hours talking to all the people involved with the project. There was such a diverse breadth of people from all communities on that boat, which led to some great conversations."

Dan Ross, Parks and Foreshore Manager for Adur and Worthing Borough Council

"Please accept and pass on to all concerned my thanks for a splendid day on the ferry trip around the Rampion Wind Farm. The organisation and hospitality will be happily remembered for a long time."

Cllr Michael Willett, Horsham District Council

"I really enjoyed seeing the turbines up close, thinking about all the green energy they will produce and it was great to see so many people from the Sussex community appreciating it too!"

Kata Gyöngyösi, Head of Revenue Funding at Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival and Our Future City

Bringing the past to life

On 12 June, more than 200 people attended Rampion's free archaeology evening, hosted at the Ropetackle Arts Centre in Shoreham.

The hugely popular event showcased the many archaeological discoveries made during Rampion's development and construction, with finds spanning millennia, from the late Neolithic period and Bronze Age, to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval eras.

Attracting both archaeology enthusiasts and curious members of the local community, the evening was opened by Rampion's Development and Stakeholder Manager, Chris Tomlinson, who introduced the wind farm project to a full house, followed by guest speakers.

Andy Towle from RSK described the methodology behind Rampion's archaeology works, which began in 2010 with an Environmental Impact Assessment to measure the potential archaeological impact of the wind farm. Alistair Byford-Bates from Wessex Archaeology revealed some of the most memorable offshore finds, including wooden and steel shipwrecks, a World War 2 aircraft propeller and an 18th century anchor. And finally, Matt Pope and Garrett Sheehan of Archaeology South East, introduced Rampion's onshore discoveries, including the remains of an Anglo-Saxon skeleton, a cross-dyke dated to the Middle Bronze Age and a medieval salt work.

Many of the offshore and onshore finds were on display, from the vertebrae of a Saxon skeleton with cut marks suggesting a traumatic death, to a selection of prehistoric Roman and medieval pottery and flint tools.

Rampion's archaeology works have helped to document a huge timespan in the life of the South Downs, sparking a great deal of local curiosity in the history and heritage of the area, as Chris Tomlinson explains:

"We had such an overwhelming level of interest in the event we had to turn some people away, for which we're very sorry. As a result, we're planning to host a second event next year to coincide with the publication of the full report into Rampion's archaeological discoveries."

Jim Stevenson, Project Manager for Archaeology South East said:

"It was inspiring to see such a huge level of community interest in local archaeology and the history of the area. We were thrilled with the turnout and response to our presentations and display showcasing finds made along the cable route."

Details of the next Rampion archaeology event will be released nearer the time.

Meanwhile, a post-excavation report can be viewed on the Rampion website.



A full house: an audience of 200 listen keenly to the Rampion archaeology presentations.

Investing in our future



In late August, Rampion's seventh wind turbine technician apprentice joined the 65-strong Operations & Maintenance Team based in Newhaven.

Thomas Winter, a 16-year-old student from Eastbourne, was chosen from 130 applicants for the Rampion Apprenticeship Scheme, after completing his GCSEs at UTC@harbourside.

Just as Thomas starts his career studying to become an offshore wind farm technician, Rampion's first two apprentices are coming to the end of their apprenticeships.

The apprenticeship takes around three and a half years, with the first two years mainly classroom based, spent completing a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and a range of practical training courses.

Rampion apprentices Tony Walker and Ross Muirhead started their training in 2015 and are now in the final year of their apprenticeship, also based with the Operations & Maintenance Team in Newhaven. Both are now working hard to complete a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering Maintenance.

Rampion's other apprentices, Sussex locals Alex Reah and James McMillan, joined the team in 2016 and have now completed their BTEC qualification. Toby Newman and James Daniels, also from Sussex, started their apprenticeship in August 2018.

Richard Crowhurst, Plant Manager at Rampion, said: "We're delighted to be able to offer this apprenticeship programme which provides a level of training second to none within the industry. The development of highly skilled people is key to the fast-growing renewables industry and we're delighted to welcome Thomas to the team."

Growing numbers of people visit Rampion using services provided by local charter vessels



Photo credit Brighton Diver.

Since the final turbine was installed and Rampion began producing clean, green energy in November 2017, a growing number of people want to visit the wind farm and see the turbines in operation.

Today, a number of charter vessel operators along the Sussex coast run trips out to the site, with many agreeing the number of visitors has grown significantly over the last year.

Paul Jackman of Defiance Charters explains what impresses and surprises people most:

“The first impression of Rampion is the scale of the project and the size of the turbines which can’t be appreciated from shore, or even up close, until you see one of the Rampion team working on the site to give you a perspective. After a slow start in 2016, interest in the trip has grown massively. I run four trips every weekend, weather permitting, which normally means I’m booked two weeks in advance.”

Paul Dyer of Brighton Diver said:

“There’s been a large amount of interest in the wind farm and I must have taken more than 200 people out to see it. Most of those who visit Rampion live along the coast, from Bognor Regis to Seaford, and have seen it being built.”

Chris West of Buccaneer Charters agrees

“Interest in visiting Rampion has grown towards the end of the project, especially during the summer school holidays when we had excellent weather. The weather has to be pretty calm for people to enjoy the trip.”

Chris West and Paul Dyer also explained that the one feature most people are impressed with and surprised by is the sheer size and scale of the wind farm site, and of the individual turbines.

These boat trips are becoming an increasingly popular way for people to learn more about Rampion and clean, green offshore wind energy.

A full list of local charter services running boat trips out to the wind farm is available on the Rampion website.

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Paul Jackman of Defiance Charters.



Supporting our local communities

19 community groups from across East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove have been awarded a total of £230,249 from the second round of the £3.1 million Rampion Community Fund, managed by the Sussex Community Foundation.

Grants were awarded to a wide range of local projects, from supporting disadvantaged young people into internships, to helping society's most vulnerable members discover their natural environment.

The fund has also helped community buildings become more energy efficient and benefit from renewable energy, including Ashurst Village Hall in West Sussex, which has used a £10,000 grant to install solar roof panels. The hall, which also has an air source heat pump and under-floor heating, has been a focal point for villagers since the early twentieth century, offering activities like art and yoga to bring people together and improve community cohesion.

Community Transport Sussex will be using their £45,500 grant to tackle loneliness and become more energy efficient too.

They will be replacing their aging diesel community bus with a new eco-efficient minibus and two zero-emission, wheelchair-accessible electric vehicles. These will help to provide around 9,000 more journeys for elderly, disabled or disadvantaged people who find it difficult to access public transport.



Cycling Without Age, based in Brighton, received a grant of £5,800 to support their work.

The group takes elderly people from local care homes out on cycle rides along the seafront in a three-wheeled trishaw, enabling them to meet people and enjoy their surroundings.

Kevin Richmond, CEO at Sussex Community Foundation said: "We were delighted by the quality of the funding applications we received, with over half being from groups that have never applied to us before. That was very encouraging as we're always looking to reach out to sections of the community that need support from our growing band of fund-holders and donors."

A full list of grant beneficiaries can be found on the Rampion website.



Onshore reinstatement progresses towards completion

The Rampion team have made significant headway in returning the 26.8km length onshore cable route to its pre-construction condition, with works nearing completion.

Dry weather conditions over the summer months have meant that most of the soil works, including top soiling and seeding, have been accomplished, with the team now focusing their efforts on restoring all the boundary fencing between fields and finishing off the planting.

Just over 90% of the land is in the process of being returned to landowners and once complete, along with all planting and construction works, the 10-year monitoring cycle will commence. During this period, Rampion will continue to check on, and care for, areas the team have planted to make sure new vegetation grows successfully.

Tottington Mount is one area of vital importance to local stakeholders, now in the final stages of being handed back to the landowners. Rampion's Onshore Cable Package Manager, Richard Carpenter said, "We can look forward to seeing areas along the cable route, including Tottington Mount, green and growing by the start of summer next year."

"We would like to thank local residents and all those who have been affected by these works for their patience whilst we have made sure the land is reinstated properly. We appreciate there have been delays, largely due to unfavourable weather conditions during construction, and we are grateful to everyone for bearing with us."

