

# Important safety advice for sea users



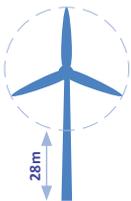
**As an offshore wind farm and sea lovers ourselves, we fully understand the appeal of the sea and the many sites of interest along the coastline.**

Our home on the Sussex coast is a popular area for diving, sailing, fishing and water sports and ensuring the safety of sea users has always been a top priority for us.

We've created this leaflet to help you stay safe in the water, and to provide you with useful information to help you plan ahead.

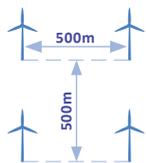
## Sailing through the wind farm

To make sure you enjoy your time on the water safely, there are a number of hazards you and your vessel should be aware of when sailing close to the wind farm.



### Mast heights and clearance

The clearance for all wind turbines is at least 28m from the highest astronomical tide (HAT), so please be aware of mast heights and clearance. Remember, your vessel should always maintain a safe distance from all structures and other vessels within the wind farm.

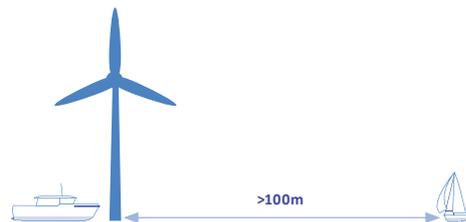


### Turbines

Our turbines are around 500m apart, so plan your route carefully and keep a vigilant watch at all times, especially for work vessels in the area.

### Vessels at work

Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) and other work vessels may be working within the wind farm site. We recommend staying at least 100m away from them at all times. They are carrying out vital work for the wind farm and providing crucial safety cover for our teams working offshore.



## A safety checklist for vessels

- Please contact the Rampion Control Centre before entering the wind farm to make sure it's safe to sail. Call: 01273 514588 or email: [rampion.controlroom@rwe.com](mailto:rampion.controlroom@rwe.com)
- VHF Marine Radio is unaffected by the wind farm and should always be monitored on channel 16.
- Turbulence can occur downwind from the turbines.
- Restrictions on available routes through the wind farm should be considered at all times, as well as manoeuvrability around and near other vessels.
- All our 116 turbines are clearly marked and visible day and night.
- The wind farm's large metal structures can interfere with the performance of radar equipment. Therefore, we recommend you don't rely on it to sail safely around the site.

# Stay safe – know the hazards

## Unpredictable currents

The currents in these waters are very strong and can turn very quickly, sometimes faster than tide tables predict. As with any subsea structures, wind turbine foundations can cause a 'vortex' type current on the leeward side, with a suction effect that could pull a swimmer downwards and make it difficult to surface.

## Changeable sea conditions

The wind farm is between 13-20km offshore and therefore the sea and weather conditions can be very different compared to the coast, or onshore. Check the weather and tides before entering the water.

## Snag hazards

There are many subsea features at Rampion that could potentially entangle a sea user or your equipment, including anodes protecting the turbines from corrosion, ladders, and cable entry points.

## Sharp marine growth

Marine growth in and around the wind farm can be very sharp and could potentially cause personal injury or damage to equipment.

## Falling objects

It isn't always possible to tell if a turbine is occupied by a maintenance team or not. We take all precautions to avoid dropping objects from height, but if our team is working above you, there is always a potential risk.

## High speed traffic

There are numerous vessels working in and around the wind farm site, including work boats and high speed CTVs travelling between Rampion and Newhaven Port/Brighton Marina.

## Preventing emergency access

Sea users in the area could prevent or delay a rescue vessel reaching a turbine or our substation in the event of an emergency, such as an injury to one of our maintenance team. Please be aware of this when in the area and avoid restricting access to our ladders.

## High voltage seabed cables

Mooring anchors and shot lines from vessels can damage the wind farm's high voltage seabed cables. The location of these cables is shown below with more information available online via [kis-orca.eu](http://kis-orca.eu)

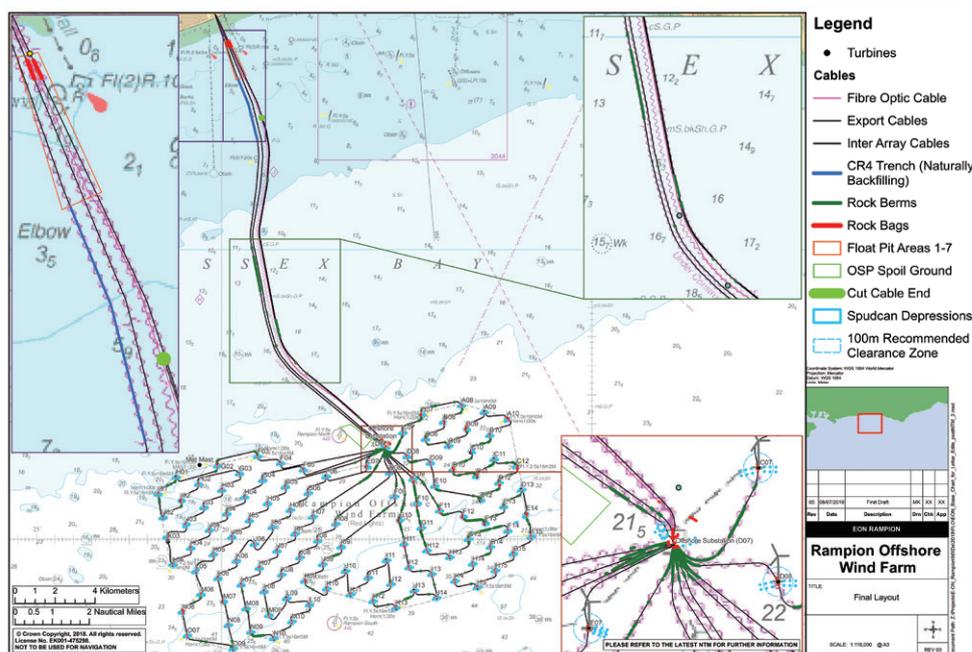
## Shallow buried cables

Cables are connected to each turbine through two holes at the bottom of its foundation, close to the seabed. To make this connection, cables need to be raised as they approach this entry point, so they're a significant snag hazard. To prevent cables becoming exposed, we used an advanced construction technique known as rock bagging, but they should still be avoided.

## Access to our offshore structures

Please do not moor to any of our offshore structures. For your safety, and the safety of our team, access to our offshore structures is restricted. Do not attempt to climb onto a turbine or offshore platform, to do so could cause serious injury.

## Location of subsea hazards at Rampion



## Stay safe – be sure

We recommend visiting the RNLI website and reading their guidance before entering the water. [rnli.org/safety](http://rnli.org/safety)

## Need to contact Rampion?

Freephone:  
**0800 2800 886**

Email:  
[info@rampionoffshore.com](mailto:info@rampionoffshore.com)