

Important safety advice for divers



Diving safely within Rampion Offshore Wind Farm

Sea user safety remains of paramount importance to the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm team. We've created this leaflet to help divers stay safe and provide you with useful information to help you plan your dive.

The Sussex Coast is a popular area for diving with many sites of interest – but there are a number of hazards divers and diving vessels should be aware of when diving within the wind farm.

“We recommend you avoid diving along Rampion's export cable route and within 100 metres of our turbines and substation. The export cable route takes electricity from the wind farm, onshore to the National Grid.”

Stay safe – know the hazards

Unpredictable currents

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

Snag hazards

There are many subsea features at Rampion that could entangle a diver or diving equipment including anodes (protecting the turbines from corrosion), ladders and cable entry points.

Sharp marine growth

Marine growth in and around Rampion can be very sharp and could cause injury to divers or damage to equipment.

Falling objects

As a diver, there is no way to tell if a turbine is occupied by a maintenance team or not. We take all precautions to avoid dropping objects, but if our team is working above you, there is always a potential risk.

High speed vessel traffic

There are numerous vessels operating in and around the wind farm site, including work boats and high speed crew transfer

vessels (CTV) travelling between the wind farm and Newhaven Port/Brighton Marina.

Preventing emergency access

A dive team in the area could prevent or delay a rescue vessel reaching a turbine or substation in the event of an emergency – such as an injury to one of our maintenance team. Please bear this in mind when choosing dive sites, and try to avoid restricting access to our ladders.

High voltage seabed cables

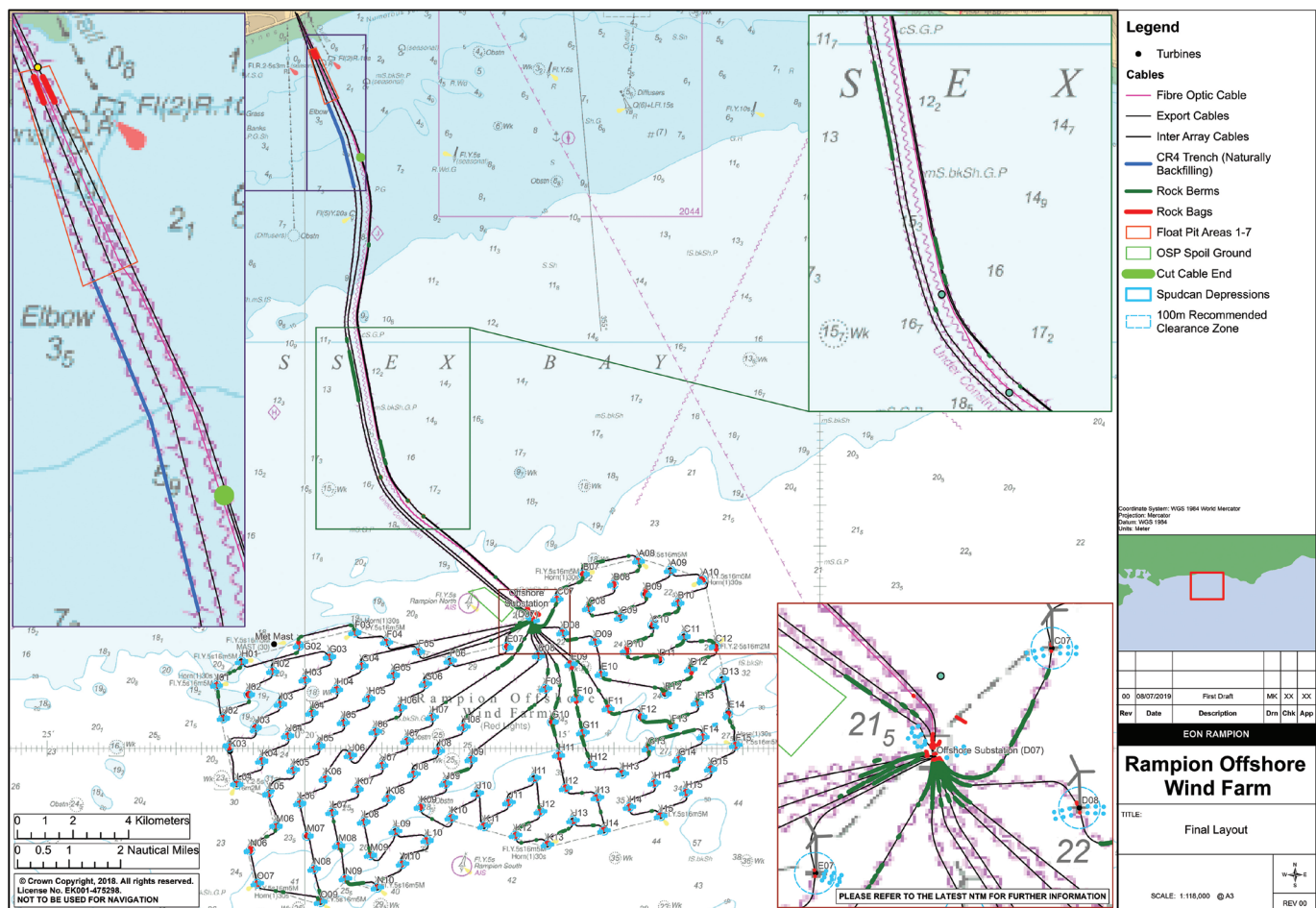
Mooring anchors and shot lines from diving vessels can damage the wind farm's high voltage seabed cables. The location of these cables is shown overleaf with more information available online via the KIS-ORCA website.

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.

Location of subsea hazards at Rampion



Stay safe – make the call

For your own and others' safety, please let the Rampion Control Room know in advance if you're planning a dive trip within the wind farm and you're an independent diver or dive team using your own vessel – including your planned passage and activities.

You should also contact the Rampion Control Room when you depart port or before you start your dive to confirm:

- The name of the wreck or location of the site you're diving in.
- Your expected time of arrival and departure.
- Your vessel name and call sign.
- The number of divers expected in the water.

Rampion Control

Tel: 07816 061968

Email: rampion.controlroom@rwe.com

VHF Channel: 16

Do you need to charter a vessel for your dive trip?

You'll find a list of local charter boat operators on our website. The list is for information only, and isn't an endorsement of any particular dive charter by Rampion.

Remember – it's your responsibility as a diver or dive team to be aware of all admiralty charts and navigation advice on diving near wind farm installations and buried subsea cables.

