

Safety advice for fishers and other sea users



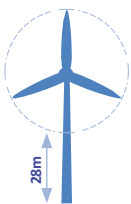
As an offshore wind farm and sea lovers ourselves, we fully understand the appeal of the sea and the many sites of interest along the coastline.

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

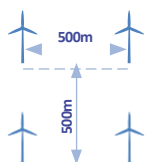
Sailing through the wind farm

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. Your vessel should always maintain a distance of at least 50m from all structures within the wind farm.

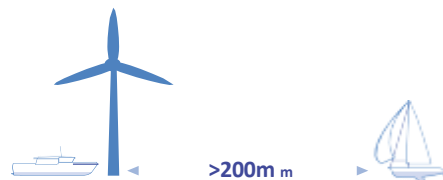


Turbines

Our 116 turbines are around 500m apart, covering an area of 72 square kilometres. Each turbine has a capacity to generate 3.45MW, giving the wind farm a total capacity of 400MW.

Vessels at work

Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) and other work vessels, such as a Jack-Up Vessel (JUV) or Cable-Laying Vessel (CLV), may be working within the wind farm site. Please stay at least 200m from such vessels at all times, and if possible at least 500m for your own safety. 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 Room before entering the wind farm to make sure it's safe to sail. Call: 01273 514588 or email: 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 maneuverability 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.

Notice to Mariners

Maintenance activities on the wind farm will be notified to fishers via Notice to Mariners (NtMs). Rampion will endeavour to circulate NtMs 14 days in advance of works. While 50m is the standard safe distance to keep from all infrastructure, extended safe distances may be required by specific maintenance works – these distances will be stated in the NtMs issued. The project may also notify fishers of particular hazards, such as dropped objects or exposed cables through NtMs. Vessels under charter to Rampion will endeavour to maintain safe distances from fishing vessels. All static fishing gear must be sufficiently marked to ensure visibility and minimise the risk of negative interactions between site vessels and fishing gear.

In the case of an emergency within or near the windfarm, sea users can request help from operations and maintenance vessels on site, and our crew will attempt to provide assistance where possible. Sea users should also familiarise themselves with [Marine Guidance Note \(MGN\) 372 Amendment 1\(M+F\) Guidance to mariners operating in the vicinity of UK OREIs](#) (“MGN 372”). Sea users should also familiarise themselves with [International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 \(COLREGS\)](#) and International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS).

General safety information can be found on the [Kingfisher Bulletins](#) by Seafish. The location of Rampion sub-sea cables and turbines can be found on KIS-ORCA or can be provided in plotter format upon request by contacting the Rampion Fisheries Liaison Officer, Meg Kalafat. Email: Meg.Kalafat@brownmay.com.

Stay safe – know the hazards

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.

Preventing emergency access

Sea users could prevent or delay a rescue vessel reaching a turbine or our substation in the event of an emergency. Please avoid restricting access to our ladders, maintain a distance of at least 50m from all infrastructure at all times and keep well clear of boat landing points as a priority.

High voltage seabed cables

Mooring anchors, fishing gear 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. Short-term leisure sea-users are advised not to drop anchor anywhere within the windfarm without first contacting the Rampion control room (contact details above), or referring to current Notices to Mariners.

Falling objects

It isn’t always possible to tell if a turbine is occupied by a maintenance team or not. While we take every precaution to avoid dropping objects from height, there is always a risk. There is also the risk of falling ice sheets in the winter as they melt during the daytime.

Unpredictable currents

The currents in these waters are very strong and can change 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 13-20 km 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 underwater features at Rampion that could potentially tangle with sea users or their equipment, including anodes protecting the turbines from corrosion, ladders, and cable entry points.

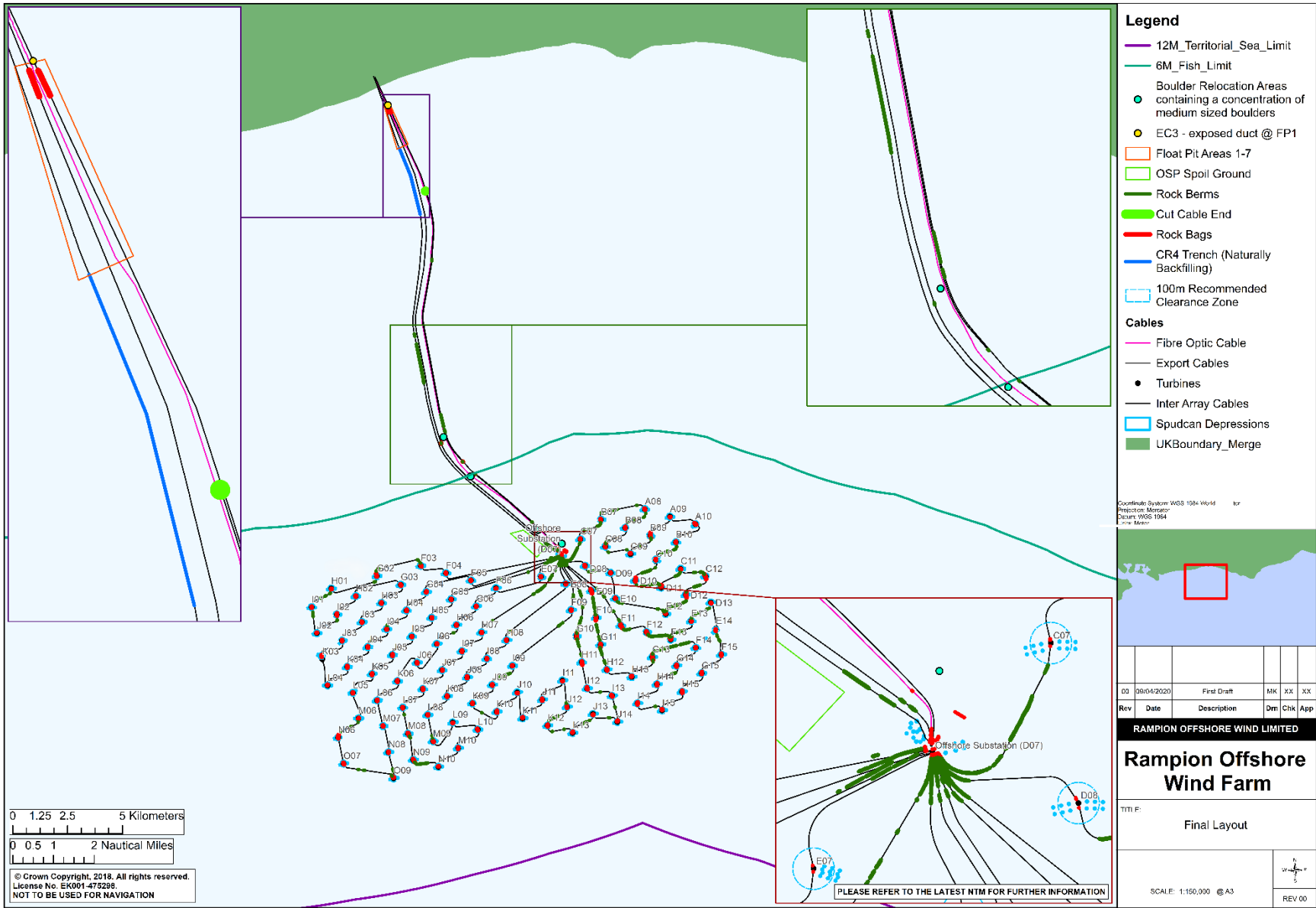
Sharp marine growth

Marine growth on turbines, such as barnacles and mussels, can be very sharp and could cause injury to sea-users or damage to equipment.

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.

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](https://www.rnli.org/safety)

Need to contact Rampion?

Freephone:

0800 2800 886

Email:

info@rampionoffshore.com

Or contact the Rampion Control Room

Tel:

01273 514588

Email:

rampion.controlroom@rwe.com