

Press release

RWE and ARC marine celebrate milestone success in promoting marine biodiversity with eco-engineered scour protection at Rampion Offshore Wind Farm

- **RWE and ARC marine launch the world's first full-scale pilot using eco-engineered reef cubes® as scour protection to protect turbine foundations and enhance marine biodiversity at the same time.**
- **ARC marine are providing over 75,000 reef cubes®, made in the UK from low-carbon, recycled materials – a sustainable alternative to traditional rock scour protection, to be deployed at RWE's Rampion Offshore Wind Farm.**
- **ARC marine and RWE view this as a flagship project to demonstrate and evaluate the potential for Nature Inclusive Design (NID) solutions to effectively meet both engineering and biodiversity requirements.**

Swindon, 8 July 2025

RWE, one of the world's leading renewable energy companies, in partnership with [ARC marine](#), an industry leading marine nature inclusive design specialist, is celebrating the progress of their joint pilot project, *Reef Enhancement for Scour Protection (RESP)*, at the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm.

This first of its kind initiative, co-funded by Innovate UK, is delivering sustainable, nature-inclusive reef cubes® as an alternative to traditional rock scour protection, enhancing marine biodiversity while safeguarding critical offshore infrastructure.

Over the past 18 months, the RESP project has achieved several key milestones, marking significant progress in the application of reef cubes® as a scour protection solution that can also achieve positive outcomes for biodiversity.

The team successfully completed hydrodynamic stability testing of the reef cube® scour pad at [HR Wallingford's](#) advanced physical modelling facilities. The partners have also undertaken ecological 'baseline' surveys, secured a marine licence for the full-scale deployment of more than 75,000 reef cubes® at Rampion Offshore Wind Farm and have now placed all contracts for deployment.

In addition, a scalable manufacturing process has been developed using locally sourced, low-carbon, and recycled materials.

The reef cubes®—designed and manufactured by [ARC marine as a mix of](#) 15cm and 35cm cubes - are engineered with rough surfaces and built-in shelter spaces that promote the settlement and protection of local marine species, such as European seabass, common starfish and brown crab. This eco-engineered solution provides effective scour protection while fostering vibrant marine ecosystems.

Sven Utermöhlen, CEO RWE Offshore Wind, shared: "RESP reflects RWE's commitment to pioneering nature-positive solutions that support the resilience of our offshore wind assets and the biodiversity of marine ecosystems. We're proud to partner with ARC marine to advance this innovative solution, which offers a practical and scalable approach to sustainable offshore development."

Tom Birbeck, Founder & CEO of ARC marine, added: "This pilot is the world's first full-scale deployment of nature inclusive designed reef cubes, an alternative to imported traditional rock scour protection, which creates valuable new habitats while still addressing engineering needs. We're thrilled to see RESP move from concept to reality alongside RWE and see reef creation being actively explored during offshore energy construction."

The data and insights gathered from the RESP pilot will help to assess the potential benefits of using Nature Inclusive Design (NID) to increase biodiversity within future offshore developments while addressing a critical engineering issue. Deriving multiple benefits in this way delivers increased value and could lead to setting new practices for biodiversity integration across the renewables industry. RWE's ambition to achieve a net positive impact on biodiversity for all new assets by 2030 underlines the company's wider Growing Green strategy, which places sustainability at the core of every project.

RWE has a long-standing relationship with [ARC marine](#), following the company's winning RWE's "Innovation Ecology Award" in 2022.

Images for media use are available from the RWE Media Centre.

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RWE

RWE is leading the way to a modern energy world. With its investment and growth strategy, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. RWE is investing billions of euros in expanding its generation portfolio, in particular in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy and batteries. It is perfectly complemented by its global energy trading business. Thanks to its integrated portfolio of renewables, battery storage and flexible generation, as well as its broad project pipeline of possible new builds, RWE is well positioned to address the growing global demand for electricity, particularly driven by further electrification and artificial intelligence. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

ARC marine

ARC marine is an award-winning eco-engineering company which brings nature-inclusive solutions to traditional marine industries. Based in the UK, the company specialises in designing, manufacturing, installing and monitoring subsea protection structures in order to enhance and study biodiversity. Sustainability is at the core of ARC marine, with all our products having carbon-neutral and plastic-free construction, as well as being made from 98% recycled materials.

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