

Rampion I Onshore Windfarm Cable Corridor

Officer Explanatory Note to Accompany Aerial Photography

In July 2021, aerial photography was taken of the existing Rampion windfarm onshore cable route (Rampion I), as it runs through the South Downs National Park. The photography was taken at both close and wide range. This note provides some narrative to be read alongside the full range of photography, however some images have been selected to support the comments. Unless stated, the photography follows the cable route from north to south, and is taken looking in a westerly direction. This note does not make any assumptions regarding the reasons for successful/unsuccessful recovery.

The cable route enters the National Park south of Horn Lane, Henfield and continues south past Truleigh Manor Farm and onwards to Edburton Road. In this section, the cable route is visible above ground and significant runs of fencing remain on either side of the cable corridor. Further divisions along this part of the route appear to be intensively grazed (Fig.1) Hedgerows and other field boundary planting still demonstrate visible gaps, where new planting has either not been implemented or has not been successful.



Fig.1

As the corridor travels up the scarp slope and over to towards the South Downs Way (past Tottington Mount and the Site of Special Scientific Interest), there remains clear evidence of the works. However this is where further works following the failure of previous attempts at reinstatement have recently taken place and so there has been less time to recover. Parts of this section also remain fenced (Fig.2).



Fig.2 – looking east

Fencing appears to have been partially removed and the cable corridor managed as part of the wider land use between the South Downs Way and Mill Hill (Fig.3). Despite this, the cable route remains evident above ground.



Fig.3

As it crossed Mill Hill (south of Shoreham Cement Works) and into the Adur Valley, the route is not readily discernible (Fig.4 and 5). This is also where it moves through the Old Erringham Farm and Road Cutting Local Wildlife Site. It remains relatively discreet as it moves up the western valley side.



Fig.4



Fig.5 – looking north

The cable route becomes more visible as it crosses Coombes Road – due to the gaps in the hedgerow and differentiation in the grassland quality (Fig.6). This improves as the corridor becomes less obvious before it heads south at Beggars Bush/Titch Hill (Fig.7), skirting round Applesham Farm Bank and Steep Down Local Wildlife Sites, at which point the route is easier to follow.



Fig.6



Fig.7 – looking east

As the corridor passes Lambleys Farm, despite a mix of crops and uses, the cable route is clear and gaps in the hedgerow are highly visible (Fig.8).

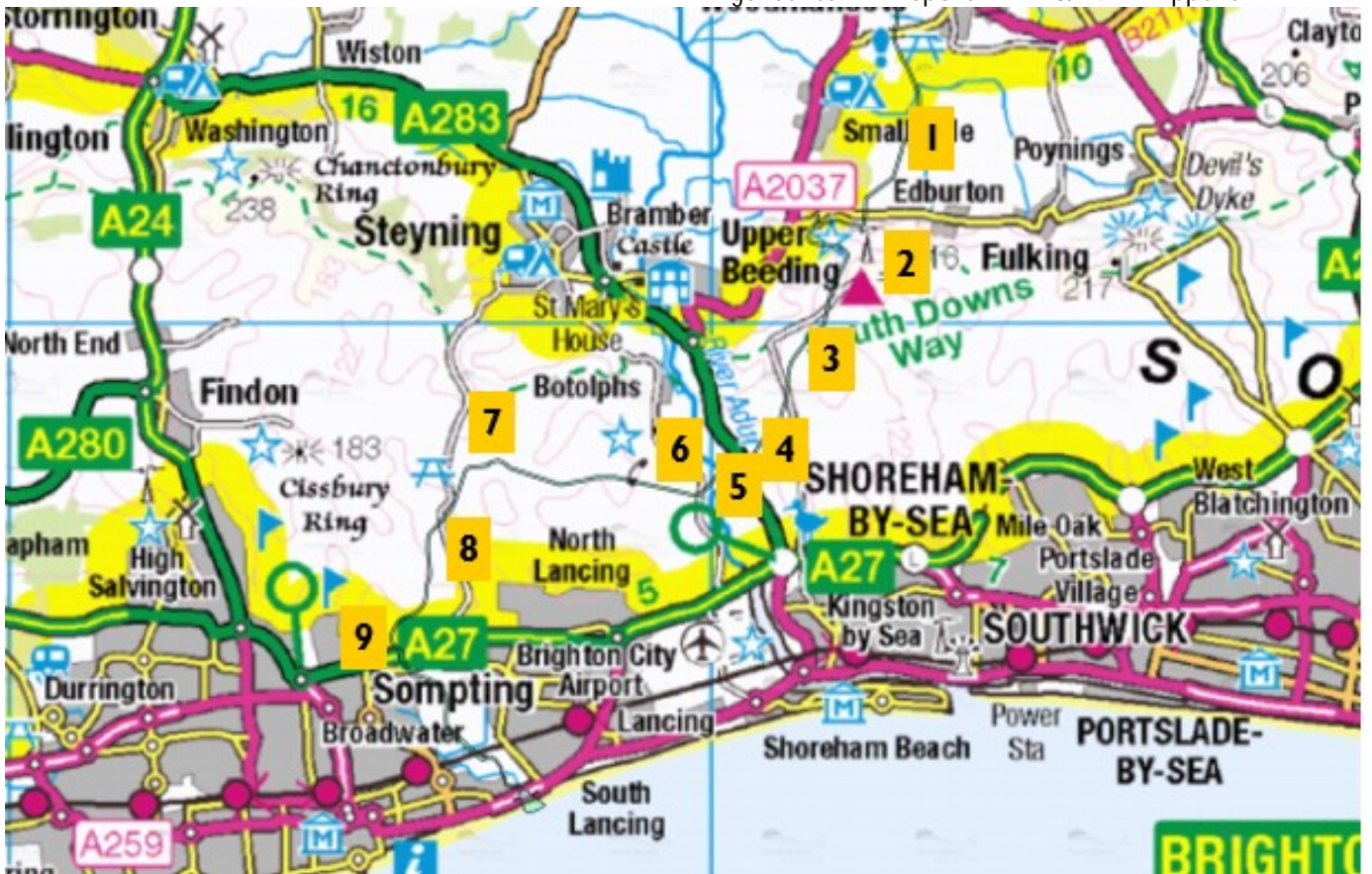


Fig.8

Prior to leaving the National Park at the A27 east of Lyons Farm, the route crosses Lambleys Lane, through the fields where the corridor is only notable as a result of the gaps in hedgerow (Fig.9).



Fig.9



Plan with broad location of figures shown

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