

Application by Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Project (Ref: EN010112)

Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI)

Inspection 2: Environs of the application site and wider area – 1 August 2022 to 4 August 2022

This note is a brief record to inform the Applicant, Interested Parties and any other parties of the actions taken by the Examining Authority (ExA).

The ExA (or a combination of its members) undertook a USI on Monday the first, Tuesday the second, Wednesday the third, and Thursday the fourth of August 2022. The inspections took place by car or on foot and cycle, from public roads and public rights of way (PRoW). The routes were planned having regard to the Applicant's application documents and the USI enabled the ExA to obtain views of, and to become familiar with, the application site and surrounding area.

Viewpoints (VP) referred to relate to those identified in either the Applicant's Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) [AS-027] or the Applicant's Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) [AS-029]. The Applicant's photomontages / visualisations were used to assist with the visualisation of the Proposed Development from these viewpoints.

The ExA (or a combination of its members) may undertake further USIs in due course when and where necessary.

DAY 1 - Monday 1 August 2022

Weather: Cloudy with some sunny intervals

Visibility: Good

The morning's inspection was attended by ExA panel members Alex Hutson and Jason Rowlands. They visited SLVIA **VP 43** (Mynydd y Garn), **VP 1** (Bull Bay), **VP 2** (Point Lynas), **VP 3** (Mynydd Eilian), **VP 41** (Wales Coast Path north-east of Rhos-mynach-fawr) and **VP 42** (Mynydd Bodafon), in that order, driving between the viewpoints and walking along PRoW to reach the viewpoints where necessary.

In the afternoon Mr Hutson and Mr Rowlands were joined by ExA panel lead Jon Hockley. Together, they visited SLVIA **VP 44** (Beaumaris Castle), **VP 49** (Menai Bridge), **VP 50** (Gwrych Castle), and **VP 45** (Conwy Castle), in that order, driving between the viewpoints and walking along PRoW to reach the viewpoints where necessary. The settings of these heritage assets were noted.

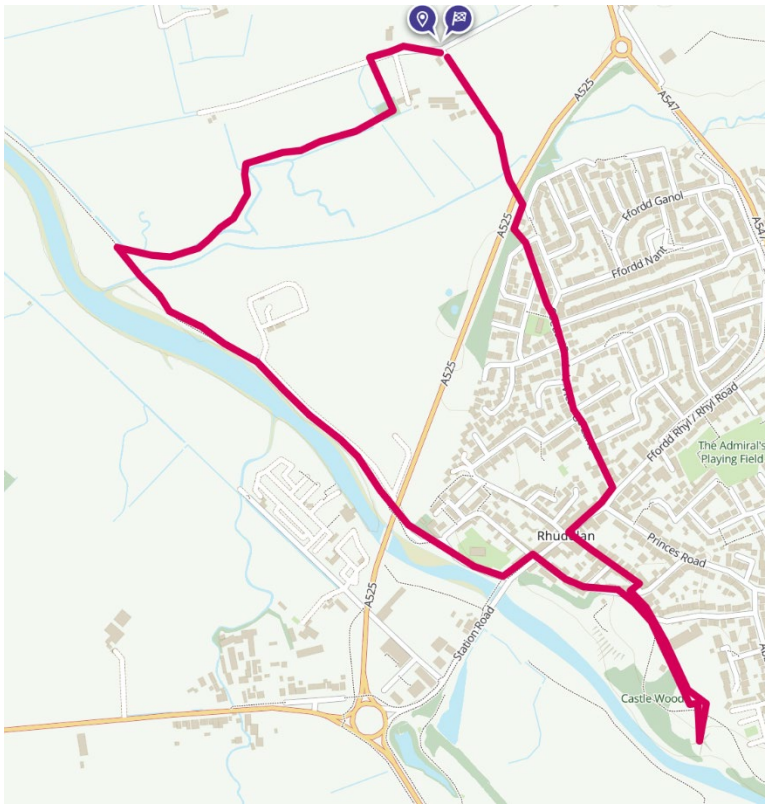
DAY 2 - Tuesday 2 August 2022

Weather: Cloudy with sunny spells and occasional rain showers.

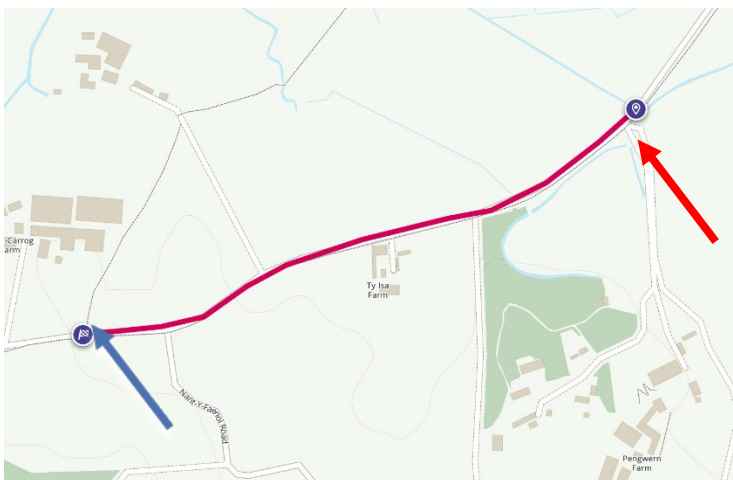
Visibility: Good

The inspection was attended by ExA panel members Jon Hockley, Alex Hutson, and Jason Rowlands. Firstly, they visited Llandudno Pier, viewing the Proposed Development site for the array from the end of this heritage asset.

Secondly, the ExA travelled by car to Rhuddlan to view part of the proposed cable route corridor (including the proposed crossing point of the River Clywd). The ExA walked along PRoW. The walk also took in LVIA VP 8 (Rhuddlan). The route walked is shown in the image¹ below.

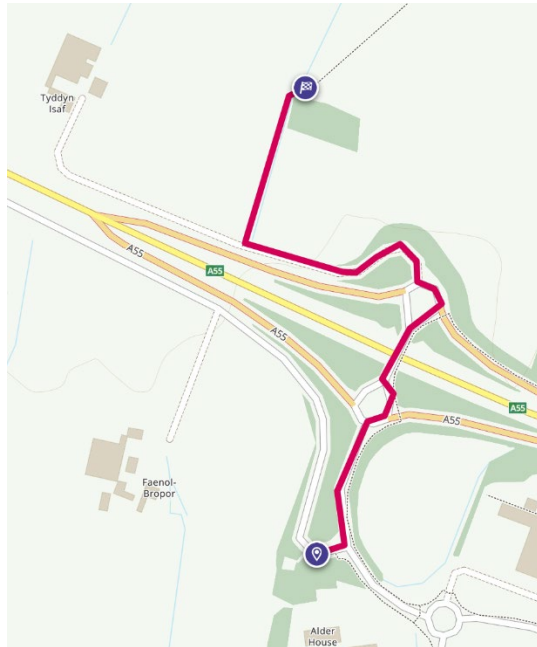


Thirdly, the ExA travelled by car to the north of Pengwern Hall College to view further parts of the cable route corridor on foot. The route walked is shown in the image below. It was noted by the ExA that the PRoW identified by the Applicant as DE/201/8 did not have a clear entry point and was unsigned at the point of the red arrow shown in the image below and that the PRoW identified as DE/206/4 was overgrown and impassable at the point of the blue arrow, which prevented the ExA from further viewing of the proposed cable route in this location.



¹ All images © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2022

Fourthly, the ExA travelled by car to the northern side of the St Asaph Business Park to view further parts of the cable route corridor on foot. En-route they also visited St Margaret's Church, St Asaph, and viewed this listed building internally and externally. The route walked to view the cable route corridor is shown in the image below. The ExA observed views encompassing the listed building of Tyddyn Isaf (and the aforementioned Church) from along the PRoW identified by the Applicant as DE/201/7 to gain an appreciation of these heritage assets and their settings.



The ExA then visited LVIA **VP 7** (St Asaph) and LVIA **VP 9** & SLVIA **VP 54** (Y Foel) in that order, driving between the viewpoints and walking along PRoW to reach the viewpoints where necessary.

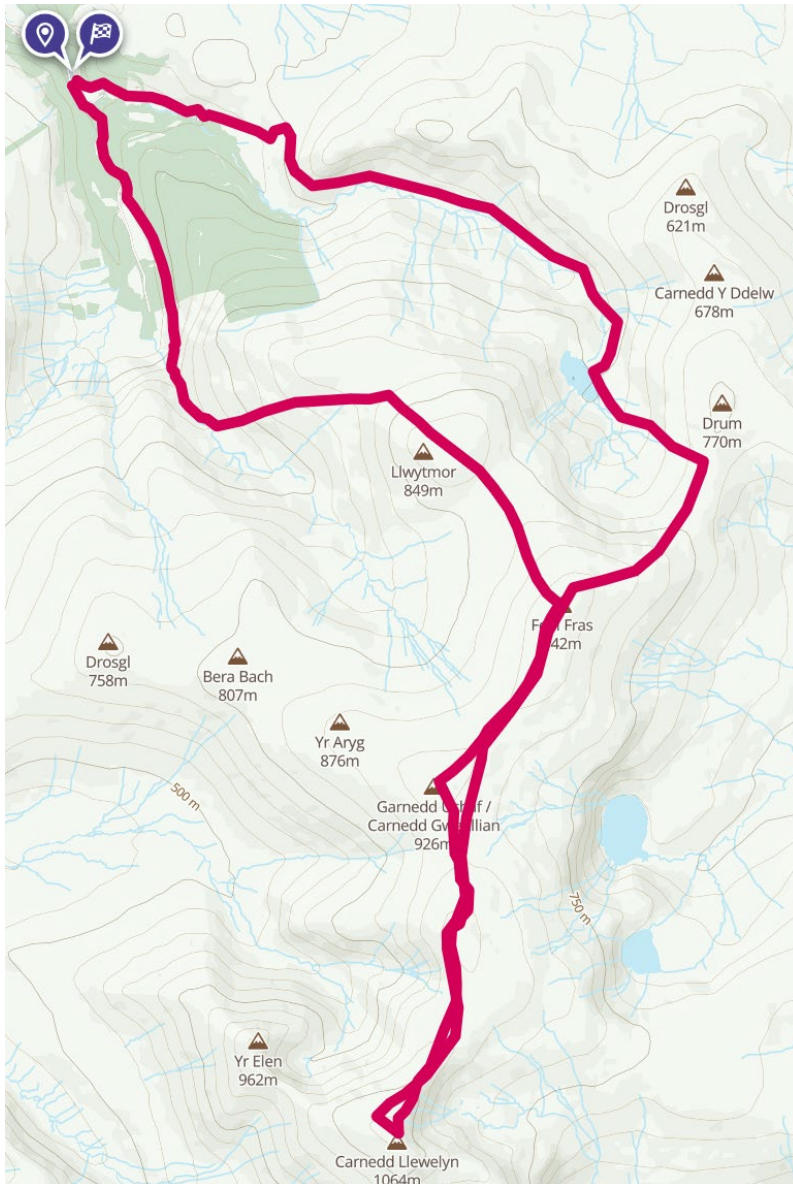
Panel members Alex Hutson and Jason Rowlands then visited SLVIA **VP 61** (Llandudno promenade near Venue Cymru), **VP 58** (Little Orme) and **VP 62** (Great Orme near Toll Booth), in that order, driving between the viewpoints and walking along PRoW to reach the viewpoints where necessary.

DAY 3 – Wednesday 3 August 2022

Weather: Mixed; good at lower levels, cloudy with occasional rain at higher points

Visibility: Largely good. Although cloudy at times at higher levels, clouds were quick moving and allowed good visibility in breaks between them.

The inspection was attended by ExA panel members Jon Hockley, Alex Hutson and Jason Rowlands. They visited SLVIA **VP 38** (Foel Fras) and **VP 10** (Carnedd Llewelyn), in that order, walking between them. The route they walked is shown in the image below.



DAY 4 – Thursday 4 August 2022

Weather: Good

Visibility: Good

ExA Panel members Jon Hockley and Alex Hutson visited SLVIA **VP 52** (Pen-y-Dinas Camp at Interpretation Sign). Alex Hutson then visited SLVIA **VP 63** (A55 at Penmaenmawr), **VP 64** (A55 at Puffin Roundabout), **VP 36** (Tal y Fan), **VP 19** (Rhos-on-Sea), **VP 55** (Footpath above Cilgwyn Mawr), **VP 65** (A55 at jetty north of Penmaen), **VP 56** (Pen-y-corddyn-mawr), **VP 57** (Moelfre Isaf), **VP 23** (Rhyl Aquarium), **VP 24** (Graig Fawr), **VP 26** (Bryn-llwyn Viewpoint (Prestatyn Hillside Viewpoint, Gwaenysgor)), **VP 25** (Prestatyn Nova Centre) and **VP 27** (Point of Ayr), in that order, driving, walking or cycling between them.

End of USI2