



# **Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm**

## **Outline Code of Construction Practice**

### **Deadline 1**

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# Glossary of terms

TERM	DEFINITION
Array	The area where the wind turbines will be located.
AyM	The Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Project.
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
Order Limits	The area within which development will be carried out including all works, access routes, Temporary Construction Compounds (TCCs), visibility splays and discharge points.
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement (the documents that collate the processes and results of the EIA).
Final CoCP	The version of the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) which the Applicant will be required to submit to Denbighshire County Council (DCC) for approval, as relevant planning authority, under a requirement of the DCO
Landfall	The Landfall denotes the location where the offshore export cables are brought ashore and jointed to the onshore export cables in TJBs.
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The PEIR was written in the style of a draft Environmental Statement (ES) and formed the basis of statutory consultation.

Principal Contractor	The contractor that will be appointed by Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited to plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety during construction of AyM.
The Applicant	Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

TERM	DEFINITION
ALEP	Artificial Light Emissions Plan
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
CMS	Construction Method Statement
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCC	Denbighshire County Council
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
GyM	Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm
H&SP	Health and Safety Plan
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
INNSMP	Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan
NVMP	Noise and Vibration Management Plan
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
OL	Order Limits
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm

TERM	DEFINITION
PAMP	Public Access Management Plan
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPEIRP	Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Response Plan
SMP	Soil Management Plan
SWMP	Site Waste Management Plan
TCC	Temporary Construction Compound
WTGs	Wind turbine generators

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The Application

- 1 Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (The Applicant) has submitted an application to the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (AyM) under the Planning Act 2008. A separate application for Marine Licences for the works required to construct AyM is being made to Natural Resources Wales (NRW), who act as the marine licensing authority on behalf of the Welsh Government.
- 2 AyM is a sister project to the operational Gwynt y Môr (GyM) located off the north east coast of Wales. GyM consists of 160 wind turbine generators (WTGs) and has been operational since 2015.
- 3 AyM will comprise of up to 50 WTGs. The WTGs will be situated to the west of the operational GyM. A grid connection will be made at the existing National Grid Bodelwyddan Substation, located to the south of St Asaph Business Park in Denbighshire and two export circuits of approximately 12 km in length will be installed (underground) between the landfall at Ffrith Beach to the east of Rhyl and the grid connection. A new onshore substation will be constructed approximately 760 m to the north west of National Grid's existing Bodelwyddan substation.

## 1.2 The Applicant

- 4 The Applicant is Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited, owned by RWE Renewables (60%), Stadtwerke München (30%) and Siemens Financial Services (10%). RWE is leading on the development activities on the AyM OWF.
- 5 RWE is the largest renewable energy operator in Wales, generating approximately one third of all of Wales' renewable electricity. Put together, the onshore, offshore and hydro projects RWE operates in Wales produce enough electricity to meet the equivalent needs of almost half the households in Wales.

- 6 As a leading European energy company, RWE has extensive experience in developing, building and operating renewable energy projects that make a significant contribution towards the Welsh Government's ambitious target to generate 70% of its electricity needs from Welsh renewable sources by 2030 and to reach "net-zero" by 2050.

### 1.3 Purpose of this Outline CoCP

- 7 The purpose of this Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) is to set out the measures which will be taken to manage the potential environmental impacts of the onshore construction of AyM and limit the disturbance from onshore construction activities such as site preparation, material delivery and removal, works activities and site reinstatement as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 8 This is an outline document that, by reference to the assessments reported in the Environmental Statement (ES), sets out the key elements that will be secured in the Final CoCP which the Applicant will be required to submit to Denbighshire County Council (DCC) for approval, as relevant planning authority, under a requirement of the DCO. In reviewing and approving the Final CoCP, and associated management plans, DCC will consult Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Table 1 lists which CoCP documents upon which NRW are to be consulted)

### 1.4 Scope of this Outline CoCP

- 9 For the avoidance of doubt, this Outline CoCP relates to the onshore elements of AyM only (i.e. landward of Mean High Water Springs). Although this document does not relate to offshore works seaward of Mean High Water Springs that are principally marine activities, it has been drafted to tie in with the approach that will be taken in the carrying out of those works.

### 1.5 Structure of this Outline CoCP

- 10 This Outline CoCP is structured as follows:

- ▲ Section 2 sets out the over-riding principles being proposed for the implementation of the Final CoCP; and

- ▲ Section 3 sets out the general site operations for the major stages of the onshore construction works with respect to working hours, general site layout and appearance, and security.
- 11 This Outline CoCP also introduces environmental management plans which are provided as Outline Appendices to this Outline CoCP.
  - 12 Those specific management plans are detailed in Table 1 below, and outline versions of those documents are included as appendices to this Outline CoCP:

Table 1: Environmental Management Plans

NAME	DESCRIPTION	APPENDIX AND APPLICATION REFERENCE	NRW CONSULTED
Outline Construction Method Statement (CMS)	Sets out the scope of the construction works for the project and the management methods employed to limit its environmental impacts.	1 (application ref: 8.13.1)	Yes
Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP)	Sets out the approach to minimising noise impacts and details the methods that will be used.	2 (application ref: 8.13.2)	
Outline Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)	Sets out the approach to minimising emissions.	3 (application ref: 8.13.3)	Yes
Outline Soil Management Plan (SMP)	Sets out the approach to retain soil condition and quality and effective re-instatement.	4 (application ref: 8.13.4)	Yes
Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP)	Sets out the approach to minimising and controlling the amount of construction waste to be disposed.	5 (application ref: 8.13.5)	Yes

NAME	DESCRIPTION	APPENDIX AND APPLICATION REFERENCE	NRW CONSULTED
Outline Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Response Plan (PPEIRP)	Sets out measures to avoid and control pollution, and the recording and response measures to be implemented in the case of a pollution incident.	6 (application ref: 8.13.6)	Yes
Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	Sets out the approach that will be taken to manage the potential impacts of construction traffic.	7 (application ref: 8.13.7)	
Outline Public Access Management Plan (PAMP)	Sets out the approach that will be taken to manage the potential impacts upon Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Active Travel Routes	8 (application ref: 8.13.8)	
Outline Travel Plan	Provides a framework for promoting and encouraging a reduction in private cars	9 (application ref: 8.13.9)	
Outline Artificial Light Emissions Plan (ALEP)	Sets out the approach to minimising artificial light impacts and the methods that will be used.	10 (application ref: 8.13.10)	Yes
Outline Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan	Sets out the approach to management of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) during construction	11 (application ref: 8.13.11)	Yes

NAME	DESCRIPTION	APPENDIX AND APPLICATION REFERENCE	NRW CONSULTED
Outline Communications Plan	Sets out the communication measures which may be implemented during the construction of the onshore works	12 (application ref: 8.13.12)	

## 2 General Principles

### 2.1 Introduction

- 13 The general management of the construction site is important in controlling environmental impacts from construction activities. This section sets out the over-arching principles being proposed for the implementation of the CoCP.

### 2.2 Construction Principles

- 14 AyM will be constructed in an environmentally sensitive manner and will meet the requirements of all relevant legislation, codes of practice and standards identified in the Environmental Statement.

### 2.3 Environmental Principles

- 15 AyM will be built, where reasonably practicable, in accordance with current best practice for minimising the adverse effects of construction on the environment and the local community.
- 16 The Applicant will review the environmental performance of the main construction contractors as part of the tender selection process.

### 2.4 Construction Environmental Management Plans

- 17 The final CoCP will be developed by the Applicant for the route of the works in consultation with DCC outlining the principles to be adopted by all contractors and subcontractors as explained in this Outline CoCP.
- 18 The implementation and management of these principles will be further developed in the specific environmental management plans that set out the procedures and records to be adopted for key areas where mitigation measures will be required. Table 1 above describes the plans that will be required, and where indicative versions of such plans can be found within this Outline CoCP.

- 19 Each environmental management plan will be complied with by the Principal Contractor and subcontractors (or contractors) employed by the Applicant to carry out the works for each stage of the works. The Principal Contractor will be an experienced contractor in the sector who will comply with industry best practice standards and regulations.

## 2.5 Health and Safety Principles

- 20 Appropriate industry standards will be adopted and implemented for the health, safety and welfare of the construction staff on the project and arrangements will be in place for the discharge of duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (or updated as appropriate).
- 21 The Principal Contractor for the onshore works will develop Health and Safety Plans (H&SP) to address the safety of construction workers, visitors to the site and the general public for each stage of the works. The H&SPs will set out how all health and safety risks are identified and managed in accordance with legal requirements and current best practice for each stage of the onshore works.

## 2.6 Community Liaison

- 22 An identified member of the construction team will be responsible for communication with local residents, businesses, local councils and highways authorities. A Communications Plan will be submitted for comment to DCC for each stage of the onshore works in line with the outline Communications Plan that is provided in Appendix 12 (application ref: 8.13.12). Communication will be carried out in accordance with the relevant plan for each stage of the onshore works including information about types and timings of works, transport routes and likely hours of traffic movements and key traffic management measures.
- 23 DCC will be informed in writing in advance of proposed works and key milestones. A system for dealing with enquiries or complaints will be agreed with DCC and established by the Principal Contractor.

# 3 General Site Operations

## 3.1 Introduction

24 This section sets out the general site requirements for the major stages of the onshore construction works with respect to working hours, general site layout and appearance, and security.

## 3.2 Working Hours

25 Construction hours for onshore elements of AyM are anticipated to be between 0700 hours and 1900 hours Monday to Saturday with no work where noise is audible beyond the Order Limits (OL) on Sundays, Bank Holidays or in the night-time without prior agreement.

26 There may be particular activities where construction activities or deliveries are required outside these hours.

27 Where continuous periods of construction are required for works such as trenchless crossing operations, concrete pouring and finishing, and electrical circuit pulling, jointing and testing; delivery and unloading of abnormal loads; these will be agreed in advance with DCC.

28 HDD (or other trenchless crossing works) at the landfall and other major crossing points will require works to take place 24hrs a day. Where continuous 24-hour working is required this will be agreed in advance with DCC through a requirement of the DCO.

## 3.3 Ecological Clerk of Works

29 As noted in the Construction Method Statement (Application Ref: 8.13.1) and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP), an ECoW shall be employed for the duration of the project to ensure species specific mitigation, method statements and plans are implemented effectively. Further details of the ECOW role are provided within the OLEMP.

### 3.4 Construction Site Layout and Good Housekeeping

- 30 A good housekeeping policy will be applied to the construction areas and TCCs at all times. As far as reasonably practicable the following principles will be applied:
- ▲ Working areas to be kept in a clean and tidy condition;
  - ▲ The site will be secured to prevent unauthorised access;
  - ▲ Wheel washing facilities will be cleaned frequently;
  - ▲ Open fires will be prohibited at all times;
  - ▲ All necessary measures will be taken to minimise the risk of fire and the contractor will comply with the requirements of the local fire authority;
  - ▲ Adequate welfare facilities will be provided for construction staff;
  - ▲ Waste from the construction areas will be stored securely to prevent wind blow; and
  - ▲ Waste will be removed at frequent intervals.
- 31 Temporary Construction Compounds (TCCs) will be required for the storage of materials, plant, assembly of large items and parking of mobile plant and vehicles. Within these areas material and plant storage will be located to limit adverse environmental effects where possible.

### 3.5 Screening and Fencing

- 32 Secure temporary fencing will be installed around the TCCs and will also be provided for sections of the onshore export cable route as appropriate with allowances for private land access, stock crossing and relevant ecological constraints.
- 33 The type of fencing will be selected to suit the location and purpose and will be agreed with DCC and landowners. All boundary fences/screens will be installed prior to the commencement of works and maintained in a tidy condition and fit for purpose.
- 34 All construction areas will remain demarcation fenced at all times during construction. All temporary screening and fencing will be removed as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of the works.

## 3.6 Security

- 35 Adequate security of the TCCs will minimise the opportunity for unauthorised entry, protect the public, and prevent theft from and damage to the works. Site gates will be secured when there is no site activity and appropriate security measures will be implemented. Where possible, access to construction areas will be limited to specified entry points and all personnel entries/exits will be recorded for security and health and safety purposes.

## 3.7 Agricultural Operations

- 36 As set out in the Outline Soil Management Plan (SMP) in Appendix 4 (application ref: 8.13.4), a qualified Land Agent will be employed to ensure that information on existing agricultural management and soil/land conditions is obtained, recorded and verified by way of a detailed pre-construction condition survey. The Land Agent will undertake site inspections during construction to monitor working practices and ensure landowners' and farmers' reasonable requirements are fulfilled. The Land Agent will also retain a function with regards to agreeing reinstatement measures following completion of the works.
- 37 In relation to temporary land take requirements the Applicant will seek to liaise with landowners to agree commercial terms with affected parties including any loss of ongoing payments or penalties relating to agri-environmental stewardship schemes.
- 38 Where required, crossing points will be used in suitable places in order that livestock and vehicles can cross the working width.
- 39 Wherever possible, general disruption impacts will be mitigated early in the construction planning process by allowing a sufficient time period between the serving of notice for entry and the commencement of on-site activities; this will allow farmers and landowners time to adapt their working practices in anticipation of the works.

### 3.8 Emergency Contacts and Procedures

- 40 An emergency response plan will be developed by the Principal Contractor in accordance with the Outline Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Response Plan (PPEIRP) at Appendix 6 (application ref: 8.13.6), of the Outline CoCP for each stage of the onshore works and all contractors and subcontractors will work in accordance with this plan.
- 41 Emergency procedures will be developed for the onshore works taking into account the anticipated hazards and the conditions at each work site.
- 42 The final PPEIRP for each stage of the onshore works will include:
- ▲ Emergency pollution control measures based on Environment Agency guidelines;
  - ▲ Fire and safety;
  - ▲ Site evacuation; and
  - ▲ Spill prevention and control procedures.
- 43 The emergency procedure will contain emergency contact details of relevant local and statutory authorities. The procedures will be displayed at the work sites and all site staff will be required to follow them.

### 3.9 Lighting and Visual Intrusion

- 44 External lighting of the construction site will be designed and positioned to:
- ▲ Provide the necessary levels for safe working;
  - ▲ Minimise light spillage or pollution; and
  - ▲ Avoid disturbance to adjoining residents and occupiers.
- 45 An Artificial Light Emissions Plan (ALEP) for each stage of the onshore construction works will be agreed with DCC and implemented as approved. An Outline ALEP can be seen at Appendix 10 of this Outline CoCP (application ref 8.13.10).

### 3.10 Other Impacts

- 46 Other environmental impacts of the project will be minimised through the adoption of recognised methods to control dust, mud, noise and vehicle emissions. The precise methods to be used will be agreed with DCC prior to works starting on site and will be contained within the:
- ▲ Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) for each stage of the onshore works – to be based on the Outline NVMP at Appendix 2 (application ref: 8.13.2), of this Outline CoCP;
  - ▲ Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for each stage of the onshore works – to be based on the Outline AQMP at Appendix 3 (application ref: 8.13.3), of this Outline CoCP; and
  - ▲ Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for each stage of the onshore works – to be based on the Outline CTMP at Appendix 7 (application ref: 8.13.7), of this Outline CoCP.

### 3.11 Pest Control

- 47 The risk of pest/vermin infestation will be reduced by ensuring any putrescible waste is stored appropriately and regularly collected from the construction areas, and effective preventative pest control measures are implemented. Any pest infestation will be dealt with promptly and notified to DCC as soon as possible.

### 3.12 Waste

- 48 All waste arising during the construction of the project will be stored in designated waste areas located away from sensitive environmental receptors. Where appropriate, waste will be stored in secure containers to prevent the escape of waste and wind blow.
- 49 Hazardous wastes will be stored separately from other wastes. All waste will be handled and managed in accordance with the Duty of Care requirements. Each transport of waste from the site will be accompanied by a Waste Transfer Note which includes:
- ▲ A description of the waste (including an industry SIC code);
  - ▲ Quantity, and details of any pre-treatment undertaken;
  - ▲ Specific handling requirements (where appropriate);

- ▲ The name and permit reference of the facility to where the waste is being taken; and
  - ▲ The waste carrier details.
- 50 These matters will be addressed in detail in accordance with the Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) at Appendix 5 (application ref: 8.13.5) of this Outline CoCP.

### **3.13 Welfare**

- 51 The TCCs shall be serviced by temporary construction offices and necessary welfare facilities, including mess rooms, locker rooms, showers and toilet facilities, plus facilities for mobile construction teams in compliance with The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) (or updated as appropriate).

### **3.14 Utilities**

- 52 Where the construction works will be in close proximity to existing utilities, or any works affecting existing drains, sewers or chambers works will be undertaken in a manner agreed with the relevant statutory authority.
- 53 Details of procedures to be followed will be set out in the CMS for each stage of the onshore works. An Outline CMS can be seen in Appendix 1 (application ref: 8.13.1) of this Outline CoCP. Those procedures will include preventing surface water entering foul sewers and foul sewage entering surface water drains.

### **3.15 Unexpected Contamination**

- 54 Any visual/ olfactory signs of contamination encountered during excavation would be reported to the Principal Contractor and investigated.
- 55 Areas where unexpected contamination is encountered or suspected will be photographed and annotated on a site drawing. Where necessary works on site at that location will cease until any identified contamination has been assessed by a suitably qualified Environmental Consultant in accordance with the Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2006;

56 Soil (soil vapour/ groundwater) samples would be collected and analysed. The risks associated with contamination would be assessed. When required, a remediation strategy would be designed and agreed with NRW and DCC before implementation.

### **3.16 Managing risk to workers arising from existing contaminations**

57 Potential risks to construction and maintenance workers arising from contamination within soil and groundwater during the construction phase(s) of the proposed development would be controlled through:

- ▲ The CDM Regulations 2015;
- ▲ The requirement to work in accordance with best practice and statutory guidance; and
- ▲ The requirement for Personal protective equipment (PPE), as standard working practice.

58 PPE, requirements will be defined by risk assessment, and may include nitrile gloves, protective overalls, safety goggles and face masks especially by those workers who are likely to be coming into contact with soil or water, such as those carrying out hand digging activities.

### **3.17 Monitoring**

59 As part of the ongoing process for ensuring that impacts due to the construction of the onshore works are minimised, a monitoring strategy will be agreed between the Applicant and DCC as part of the Final CoCP. Each contractor will be required to comply with the final CoCP and the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be required to monitor compliance and report breaches.

60 In addition, a public hotline will be made available to members of the public. The hotline number will be published within the relevant local media channels for the area, so that the general public can raise queries or complaints to a representative of the Principal Contractor.

### 3.18 Clearance of Site on Completion

- 61 TCCs and accesses will be cleared as work progresses and when they are no longer required for the construction. On completion of construction work all plant, temporary buildings or vehicles will be removed.
- 62 Following completion of works the working area will be reinstated in line with the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) (application ref 8.4). Further details will be set out in the CMS for each stage of the onshore works, which shall accord with the Outline CMS which can be seen at Appendix 1 (application ref: 8.13.1), of this Outline CoCP.



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