



# **Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm**

## **Applicant's Statement of Commonality for SoCG**

### **Deadline 1**

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of Statement of Commonality

- 1 This document provides the Examining Authority (ExA) with an overview of the position of each Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the 'Applicant') and the Interested Parties (IPs) (see Annex H of Rule 6 Letter PD-007) in relation to Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'AyM') at Deadline 1. This document will be updated and submitted at relevant Examination deadlines outlined in the Examination timetable.

## 1.2 Structure of this Statement of Commonality

- 2 The Statement of Commonality is structured as follows:
  - ▲ Section 1: Introduction;
  - ▲ Section 2: Approach to capturing commonality – Outlines the approach to commonality with IPs;
  - ▲ Section 3: Status of commonality – Describes the status of commonality with each IP, to be updated at each deadline;
  - ▲ Section 4: Summary of Commonality – Identifies the commonality of topic areas of interest with each IP;
  - ▲ Section 5: Additional commentary – Provides additional information on the status of agreements and notable consultation activities undertaken through the Examination; and
  - ▲ Section 6: Final positions – Where final positions have been reached with IPs, this section outlines those final positions.

## 2 Approach to capturing commonality

### 2.1 List of Commonality

- 3 Table 1 provides the list of SoCGs that have been requested by the ExA in the Rule 6 letter issued on 23 August 2022 and the Applicant's approach to capturing commonality.

### 2.2 Letters of Comfort and Position Statements

- 4 In some instance, Letters of Comfort (LoC) and Positions Statements (PS) are being prepared instead of a full formal SoCG, with agreement from the IPs. This is because the matters on which some IPs are interested in are limited in scope (e.g. substantive matters are either agreed or can be addressed post-consent through crossing and/or proximity agreements) and so the LoCs in these cases are considered to be more appropriate than a SoCG in order to capture status of discussions. Where a LoC or PS is being prepared instead of SoCG, this is detailed in Table 1.
- 5 A PS is substantively the same as a SoCG but follows a simpler format to allow each party to identify the issues pertinent to (for example) their commercial interests and to determine the level of detail to put before the ExA pending the conclusion of commercial discussions, which are being progressed outside the DCO process and may pertain to commercially sensitive information. The PSs will be updated in the same way as a SoCG, with updates provided to the ExA at relevant deadlines.

### 2.3 Statements of Common Ground

- 6 At the point of Deadline 1, SoCGs have been prepared and issued to IPs for review and comment. The Applicant will update the SoCGs and provide updates at relevant deadlines throughout the examination, in agreement with the IPs.

Table 1: List of parties and the Applicant's approach to capturing commonality.

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
<b>SOCGS REQUESTED BY THE EXA IN ANNEX H OF THE RULE 6 LETTER</b>	
Denbighshire County Council (DCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) NWLA on SLVIA (SoCG 01); and</li> <li>▲ Standalone SoCG on non-SLVIA matters (SoCG 02).</li> </ul>
Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) NWLA on SLVIA (SoCG 01); and</li> <li>▲ Standalone SoCG on non-SLVIA matters (SoCG 03).</li> </ul>
Gwynedd Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) NWLA on SLVIA (SoCG 01).</li> </ul>
Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) NWLA on SLVIA (SoCG 01); and</li> <li>▲ Standalone SoCG on non-SLVIA matters (SoCG 04).</li> </ul>
Flintshire District Council (FCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) NWLA on SLVIA (SoCG 01).</li> </ul>
Snowdonia National Park (SNP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) NWLA on SLVIA (SoCG 01).</li> </ul>

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
Llandudno Town Council	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with Llandudno Town Council. However, the responses from Llandudno Town Council have been limited and a SoCG is not considered necessary.
Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian yn Rhos Community Council	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian yn Rhos Community Council. However, the responses from Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian yn Rhos Community Council have been limited and a SoCG is not considered necessary.
Llanddulas and Rhyd Y Foel Community Council	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with Llanddulas and Rhyd Y Foel Community Council. However, the responses from Llanddulas and Rhyd Y Foel Community Council have been limited and a SoCG is not considered necessary.
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ SoCG covering SLVIA and LVIA matters (SoCG 05);</li> <li>▲ SoCG covering offshore topics (excluding Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) (SoCG 06); and</li> <li>▲ SoCG covering onshore topics (excluding Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (SoCG 07).</li> </ul>
Cadw	▲ SoCG covering onshore and offshore archaeology and cultural heritage (SoCG 08).
National Trust	▲ SoCG covering the matters raised in the Relevant Representation (RR-029)– Archaeology and cultural heritage, SLVIA, tourism and recreation (SoCG 09).
Isle of Man Government	SoCG covering the matters raised in their Relevant Representation (RR-027) – Commercial fisheries, offshore ornithology and marine mammals (SoCG 10).

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
National Air Traffic Services Ltd (NATS)	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with NATS. However, discussions with NATS have focused on aviation safeguarding and progression of a commercial agreement to secure radar blanking mitigation. The Applicant understands that NATS are content to continue engaging on this matter via commercial means and do not consider a SoCG necessary.
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	▲ SoCG covering matters related to shipping and navigation (SoCG 11).
Trinity House Lighthouse Service (THLS)	▲ SoCG covering matters related to shipping and navigation (SoCG 12).
UK Chamber of Shipping (CoS)	▲ SoCG covering matters related to shipping and navigation (SoCG 13).
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	▲ SoCG covering offshore ornithology (SoCG 14).
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	▲ SoCG covering marine mammals (SoCG 15). The Applicant received correspondence from JNCC on 13 October 2022 indicating that JNCC were content to provide advice on marine mammals only.



INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS)	The Applicant notes the request for a SoCG with GAPS. However, the Applicant has engaged via correspondence with GAPS and received confirmation on 8 September 2022 indicating GAPS are content to provide advice via the relevant LPA in their advisory capacity, and therefore do not require a separate SoCG.
North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT)	▲ SoCG covering onshore and offshore ecological matters (SoCG 16).
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with National Grid. The Applicant is continuing discussions with National Grid and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Appendix C to Document 1.7 of the Applicant's Deadline 1 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
SP Energy Networks (SPEN) on behalf of SP Manweb (SPM)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with SPEN (on behalf of SPM). The Applicant is continuing discussions with SPEN and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Appendix C to Document 1.7 of the Applicant's Deadline 1 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
Diamond Transmission Corporation	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Diamond Transmission Corporation. The Applicant understands that Diamond Transmission Corporation are content to continue commercial discussions and therefore do not consider a SoCG necessary.

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
EirGrid	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with EirGrid. The Applicant understands that EirGrid are content to continue commercial discussions outside of the DCO process and therefore do not consider a SoCG necessary.
Rhyl Flats Wind Farm Limited (Rhyl Flats)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Rhyl Flats. The Applicant is continuing discussions with Rhyl Flats and will update the ExA in response to question 3.26 of the ExA's written questions (Document 1.7 of the Applicant's Deadline 1 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
North Hoyle Wind Farm Limited (North Hoyle)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with North Hoyle. The Applicant understands that North Hoyle are content to continue commercial discussions and therefore do not consider a SoCG necessary.
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Network Rail. The Applicant is continuing discussions with Network Rail and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Appendix C to Document 1.7 of the Applicant's Deadline 1 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig (DC) / Welsh Water	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Welsh Water. The Applicant is continuing discussions with Welsh Water and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Appendix C to Document 1.7 of the Applicant's Deadline 1 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.

**PARTIES NOT REQUESTED BY THE EXA IN ANNEX H OF THE RULE 6 LETTER**

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	The Applicant notes that the ExA has not requested a SoCG with the CAA and has therefore not progressed a SoCG.
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	The Applicant notes that the ExA has not requested a SoCG with MoD. The Applicant has engaged with the MoD during the pre-application process (see the Evidence Plan Report and its supporting appendices (APP-301, APP-302 and APP-303, respectively)) and notes the MoD do not consider the project will have significant effects on its operations and has therefore not deemed it necessary to progress a SoCG.
Natural England	The Applicant notes that Natural England has expressed its desire not to register an interest in the Application, and therefore a SoCG with Natural England has not been deemed necessary. Natural England have been involved in the Evidence Plan process in relation to marine mammals and offshore ornithology (see the Evidence Plan Report and its supporting appendices (APP-301, APP-302 and APP-303, respectively)).
Gwynt y Môr Offshore Transmission Owner (Gwynt y Mor)	The Applicant notes that the ExA has not requested a SoCG with Gwynt y Môr OFTO, with whom a cable crossing and cable proximity agreement is required. The Applicant understands that Gwynt y Môr OFTO are content to continue commercial discussions and therefore do not consider a SoCG necessary.

### 3 Status of Commonality

- 7 Table 2 lists the individual SoCGs being developed between the Applicant and IPs with a summary of the current status of the document as of Deadline 1.

Table 2: List of documents and their status at Deadline 1.

DOCUMENT	STATUS AT DEADLINE 1
SoCG 01: NW LPAs	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 02: Denbighshire County Council	The Applicant is awaiting detailed feedback from DCC via the Written Representation and Local Impact Report (LIR) before progressing a SoCG. However, the Applicant notes that DCC are content to progress with a SoCG during the Examination once that detail is provided regarding issues not already covered by SoCG 1).
SoCG 03: Conwy County Borough Council	The Applicant has recently been in discussions with CCBC regarding issues raised in RR-002 and is awaiting detailed feedback via the Written Representation before progressing a SoCG. However, the Applicant understands that CCBC are content to progress a SoCG during the Examination once that detail is provided regarding issues not already covered by SoCG 1.
SoCG 04: Isle of Anglesey County Council	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 05: NRW - SLVIA	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 06: NRW - Offshore	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 07: NRW - Onshore	SoCG issued to IP for review.

DOCUMENT	STATUS AT DEADLINE 1
SoCG 08: Cadw	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 09: National Trust	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 10: Isle of Man	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 11: MCA	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 12: THLS	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 13: CoS	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 14: RSPB	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 15: JNCC	SoCG issued to IP for review.
SoCG 16: NWWT	SoCG issued to IP for review.

## 4 Summary of Commonality

- 8 This section provides a summary of the topics covered in each of the SoCGs.
- 9 As the examination progresses, the Applicant will populate this table to show where there is a commonality in the topics or matters being discussed with the stakeholders.
- 10 Table 4 presents a summary of the topics covered in each of the stakeholder SoCGs. using the following colour code in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of commonality key.

	Topic covered in stakeholder SoCG
	Topic not relevant to the stakeholder or deferred
	Topic agreed.

Table 4: Summary of Commonality with each stakeholder in relation to each topic covered at Deadline 1.

SOCCG	MARINE GEOLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES	MARINE WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY	OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY	BENTHIC SUBTIDAL AND INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY	FISH AND SHELLFISH ECOLOGY	MARINE MAMMALS	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION	SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	OFFSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	OTHER MARINE USERS AND ACTIVITIES	MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION	ONSHORE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	SOCIOECONOMICS	TOURISM AND RECREATION	ONSHORE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	GROUND CONDITIONS AND LAND USE	HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND FLOOD RISK	ONSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	AIRBORNE NOISE AND VIBRATION	AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC HEALTH
SoCG 01: NW LPAs																							
SoCG 02: DCC																							
SoCG 03: CCBC																							
SoCG 04: IoACC																							
SoCG 05: NRW - SLVIA/LVIA																							
SoCG 06: NRW - Offshore																							



SoCG	MARINE GEOLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES	MARINE WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY	OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY	BENTHIC SUBTIDAL AND INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY	FISH AND SHELLFISH ECOLOGY	MARINE MAMMALS	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION	SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	OFFSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	OTHER MARINE USERS AND ACTIVITIES	MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION	ONSHORE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	SOCIOECONOMICS	TOURISM AND RECREATION	ONSHORE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	GROUND CONDITIONS AND LAND USE	HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND FLOOD RISK	ONSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	AIRBORNE NOISE AND VIBRATION	AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC HEALTH
SoCG 07: NRW - Onshore																							
SoCG 08: Cadw																							
SoCG 09: National Trust																							
SoCG 10: Isle of Man																							
SoCG 11: MCA																							
SoCG 12: THLS																							
SoCG 13: CoS																							

SoCG	MARINE GEOLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES	MARINE WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY	OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY	BENTHIC SUBTIDAL AND INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY	FISH AND SHELLFISH ECOLOGY	MARINE MAMMALS	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION	SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	OFFSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	OTHER MARINE USERS AND ACTIVITIES	MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION	ONSHORE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	SOCIOECONOMICS	TOURISM AND RECREATION	ONSHORE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	GROUND CONDITIONS AND LAND USE	HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND FLOOD RISK	ONSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	AIRBORNE NOISE AND VIBRATION	AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC HEALTH
SoCG 14: RSPB																							
SoCG 15: JNCC																							
SoCG 16: NWWT																							

## 5 Additional commentary

### 5.1 Deadline 1

- 11 The Applicant has not been in a position to provide initial SoCGs to the ExA at Deadline 1. However initial SoCGs have been issued to all parties (except where noted above in Table 2 and are actively engaging positively with all IPs identified. The ExA should be confident that whilst the Applicant has not provided initial SoCGs at Deadline 1, that outstanding matters are being discussed with the relevant IPs, and an update will be provided at subsequent deadlines. As noted in the Section 8 of the Preliminary Meeting Note (EV-008), the Applicant advised that submissions of SoCGs at Deadline 1 are not generally considered to be helpful unless it has been agreed with the IP. It is also noted that the LPAs present at the Preliminary Meeting were in agreement with this position.

## 6 Final positions

- 12 This will be completed and submitted to the ExA at the relevant deadlines that final positions are reached with IPs.
- 13 At Deadline 1, the Applicant is not in a position to report on the final positions of any IPs with SoCGs.



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