



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

Applicant's Response to ISH2 and ISH3 Actions

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Contents

1	Applicant's Response to ISH2 Actions.....	4
2	Applicant's Response to ISH3 Actions	8
3	References	18
	Appendix A: Written Response to Mr Davies' Comments at ISH3.....	19

Tables

Table 1:	Table of actions from ISH2 and the Applicant's responses.....	4
Table 2:	Table of actions from ISH3 and the Applicant's responses.....	8

1 Applicant's Response to ISH2 Actions

Table 1: Table of actions from ISH2 and the Applicant's responses.

DIRECTED TO	TO BE PROVIDED BY	ACTION	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
Applicant	Deadline 3a 16 December 2022	<p>Document Inconsistencies</p> <p>To review updated versions of submitted documents to ensure consistency of numbering and naming convention. To also ensure a clean version and track change version of all documents are submitted from Deadline 3a onwards.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a review to ensure consistency of numbering and naming convention for documents submitted at Deadline 4 and beyond.</p> <p>In addition to the Guide to the Applicant's Deadline 4 Submission (Document 4.1 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission), the Applicant has provided a Documents Tracker (Document 4.2 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission) which provides details on every document and subsequent revisions submitted since Application.</p> <p>Alongside this, the Applicant has revised the way that documents are referenced. From Deadline 4 onwards, any document that was submitted prior to examination will have an 'Application Reference' that is taken from the document reference provided at application stage. This application reference will sit alongside a standard deadline specific document reference such as the documents prior to Deadline 4 have been. For clarity, the Applicant will now reference the tracked and clean version of the same document by the same reference number.</p>
Applicant	Deadline 3a 16 December 2022	<p>Errata List</p> <p>To review whether documents referred to within the errata listed are to be updated. Consideration is also to be given to adding any amendments and/or changes to documents as an appendix to the existing document from Deadline 3a onwards.</p>	<p>The Applicant proposes to maintain and update the Errata List (REP1-004) and provide a final version of this document at Deadline 8, with relevant errata identified in documents requiring corrections appended to a re-submitted version of that document at Deadline 8.</p>
Applicant	Deadline 3a 16 December 2022	<p>Document Links</p> <p>Applicant to liaise with parties to provide a link to following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ the Anglesey AONB Management Plan ▲ the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan ▲ the Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan 2020 	<p>The Applicant has liaised with the relevant parties and the documents are available at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The Anglesey AONB Management Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible via: https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Countryside/Areas-of-Outstanding-Natural-Beauty-AONBs/Anglesey-AONB-Management-Plan.aspx ▪ Reference: Isle of Anglesey Council, NRW and Craggatak Consulting (2014). The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Management Plan Review 2015-2020

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		<p>▲ NRW's Seascape & visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales: Strategic assessment and Guidance documents 1-3 (White Consultants for NRW, March 2019)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Applicant understands that the Council are currently working on a 2022-2027 version of the Management Plan which is expected to be adopted in April 2023. ▲ The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible via: [REDACTED] ▪ Reference: <i>Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan 2014-2019</i> ▪ The Applicant understands that a revised version of the Management Plan was adopted in late December 2022, however the plan is not yet published online. ▲ The Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park Partnership Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible via: https://authority.snowdonia.gov.wales/the-authority/partnerships/cynllun-eryri/ ▪ Reference: Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan 2020 ▲ Seascape and Visual Sensitivity to Offshore Wind Farms in Wales: Strategic Assessment and Guidance Documents 1-3 (White Consultants for NRW, March 2019): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible via: [REDACTED] ▪ References: Seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales: Strategic assessment and guidance. Stage 1- Ready reckoner of visual effects related to turbine size; Seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore windfarms in Wales strategic assessment and guidance – Stage 2-guidance on siting offshore windfarms; and Seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore windfarms in Wales strategic assessment and guidance – Stage 3- seascape and visual sensitivity assessment for offshore wind farms.
Applicant	Deadline 3a 16 December 2022	Turbine Height To review the need to add wording to the draft Development Consent Order to confirm that all wind turbine generators will be the same height.	The Applicant will be providing additional wording in the revised dDCO to be submitted at Deadline 5 to ensure that there will be no material difference in the size and appearance of the wind turbine generators.

DIRECTED TO	TO BE PROVIDED BY	ACTION	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Off-site Landscape Enhancement To provide an update regarding off-site landscape enhancement.	<p>Following ISH2 (Seascape and related matters) the Applicant has been liaising with NRW, Eryri National Park, IACC and CCBC as a group regarding a potential landscape enhancement fund.</p> <p>The Applicant provided the group with a set of key principles for a fund on 15 December 2022. This set out a proposal for a s106 agreement to be put in place, providing funds through the operational lifetime of the Project for enhancement projects within areas of Anglesey AONB, Eryri National Park and Great Orme Heritage Coast where landscape related significant effects from the project may occur.</p> <p>The Applicant and the group met on 11 January 2023 and discussed the proposed principles of an agreement. Following that meeting, on 24 January 2023, the Applicant provided a draft s106 agreement for review by the group.</p> <p>The Applicant anticipates being able to provide the ExA with further updates at Deadline 5 (as requested in ExQ2.17.1).</p>
Applicant	Ongoing action	Heritage Mitigation Proposals Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service to be included in future discussions regarding heritage mitigation proposals.	<p>The Applicant met with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) on 26 January 2023 and provided an update on progress with a Landscape Enhancement Fund. The Applicant noted that the current draft of the s106 agreement includes provision for GAPS to be consulted by the Steering Group before Compensation Measures are delivered which relate to impacts on views for heritage assets within GAPS geographical remit. The current draft agreement also includes for the potential delivery of heritage related Compensation Measures.</p>
Applicant	Ongoing action	Tourism Fund To advise on progress of the Tourism Fund. To confirm when details of the fund is to be submitted into Examination.	<p>Following ISH2 (Seascape and related matters) the Applicant has been liaising with CCBC regarding a potential Tourism Fund.</p> <p>The Applicant provided CCBC with a set of key principles on 9 January 2023. This set out a proposal for a direct contract between the Applicant and CCBC to provide funds for tourism related activities in Llandudno and the Great Orme at the end of construction and early operation of the project.</p> <p>The Applicant and CCBC met on 16 January 2023 to discuss those principles. Following that call, on 25 January 2023, the Applicant provided a draft agreement for review by CCBC. The Applicant anticipates being able to provide the ExA with further updates at future Deadlines.</p>

DIRECTED TO	TO BE PROVIDED BY	ACTION	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
Applicant	Ongoing action	Mitigation and Enhancement Factors that are deemed to be mitigation and enhancement across the project as a whole to be clarified.	The Applicant has provided an update to the Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring in Document 4.16 of its Deadline 4 submission. The Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring now includes an additional column which specifies whether measures are defined as mitigation, monitoring, compensation or enhancement (or a combination thereof).

2 Applicant's Response to ISH3 Actions

Table 2: Table of actions from ISH3 and the Applicant's responses.

DIRECTED TO	TO BE PROVIDED BY	ACTION	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
The Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Transcript PINS note the issue with the transcript raised by both Mr Davies and the Welsh Government and will review the issue and add a caveat in the transcript description on the project web page.	N/A
Denbighshire County Council (DCC)	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Outline Plans DCC are to consider whether outline management plans are sufficiently developed in respect of pre-commencement works.	<p>It is acknowledged that this action is not directed at the Applicant, however the Applicant has provided the following response which the ExA may find helpful.</p> <p>The Applicant notes the response provided to the ExA by DCC following ISH3 which requested a clearer definition of 'Onshore Works' and 'Pre-Commencement' and suggested there was a need for a further DCO Requirement relating to pre-commencement activities.</p> <p>Since ISH3, the Applicant has engaged further with DCC with regards to the DCO drafting in respect of these issues as summarised below:</p> <p>The Applicant has clarified that there is no separation in the definitions of 'onshore' and pre-commencement works (pre-commencement works are part of the onshore works), but rather the difference is in what activities in those works constitute 'commencement' for which discharge of the various requirements is needed in advance of commencing works.</p> <p>The definition of "onshore works" is included in Article 2(1) of the dDCO and is stated as comprising "Work Nos. 3 to 41 inclusive and any related further associated development in connection with those Works". 'Onshore works' therefore mean works above mean low water springs. This was amended from mean high water springs (at Deadline 2) as it was recognised that DCC would have a legitimate interest in controlling works on the beach and that these should be covered by management plans to be approved by DCC such as the Noise and Vibration Management Plan included as part of the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP).</p> <p>The use of the term 'onshore' is in contrast to 'offshore' where DCC are not discharging any requirements and control of working methodology will be by NRW and secured primarily through the conditions applied to the marine licences. Onshore is not intended to be used in contrast to 'pre-commencement' works.</p>

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			<p>The Applicant agrees with DCC's understanding that Onshore Works are works the undertaking of which would be commencement of development (as defined in the dDCO) within DCC. Pre-commencement works are scoped out from being activities which 'commence' development by the drafting of Article 2 of the dDCO. This includes works necessary to inform the detail required for the onshore works (site investigation, surveys etc).</p> <p>With regards to other Requirements where there is an obligation to submit details prior to works "commencing", the definition of "commencement" is relevant. For ease of reference this is also defined in Article 2 of the dDCO and means:</p> <p><i>'carry out a material operation, as defined in section 155 of the 2008 Act comprised in or for the purposes of the authorized development other than onshore works comprising surveying or investigatory works including archaeological investigations, environmental surveys, investigations for the purpose of assessing ground conditions; preparatory works to existing infrastructure and diversion and laying of utilities and services; creation of any temporary means of access; site clearance including vegetation clearance; erection of screening and fencing, site security works, creation of temporary hard standing, or the temporary display of site notices or advertisements, and "commencement", "commenced" and cognate expressions are to be construed accordingly'</i></p> <p>These Requirements are drafted in such a way that details must be submitted and approved prior to either a particular Work No. commencing where that requirement is specific to a particular work (e.g. Requirement 8 which provides for details of the substation to be submitted prior to commencement of Work No. 31A (the substation)) or prior to "onshore works" commencing where they apply generally (e.g. Requirement 10). Where the obligation to submit details for approval is linked to a defined Work No., the undertaker must not do anything which comprises that work before details have been submitted and approved.</p> <p>As discussed in ISH1, it is not the intention (or the current proposal) for pre-commencement works to be undertaken without suitable controls in place and amendments were made to the outline plans (specifically the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) and the outline CoCP plans) at Deadline 2 to specifically address which sections and restrictions apply to pre-commencement works.</p> <p>The Applicant would therefore respectfully suggest that the need for a new requirement on pre-commencement has been superseded by the changes made at Deadline 2.</p> <p>The Applicant has discussed the response above with DCC and understands that DCC is content that 'Pre-Commencement' has been defined within the DCO.</p>

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			<p>With regards to DCC's comments on construction hours specifically, the Applicant disagrees that Requirement 15 of the dDCO as drafted does not control working hours for pre-commencement works. Requirement 15 does not refer to commencement, it covers all works including pre-commencement works because they are not excluded from the definition of onshore works. The Applicant suggests that is clear if Requirements 13 and 15 are contrasted:</p> <p><i>13.—(1) No stage of the onshore works may commence until</i></p> <p><i>15.—(1) Except as otherwise agreed in the code of construction practice and subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (4), construction of the onshore works and construction-related traffic movements to or from the site of the relevant Work may take place only between 0700 and 1900 from Monday to Saturday, with no activity on Sundays or bank holidays.</i></p> <p>There is nothing in Requirement 15 linking this to commencement or excluding pre-commencement works from its scope.</p> <p>In the context of Requirement 17, the definitions mean the undertaker would need to reinstate the land used temporarily for construction within six months of completion of the relevant stage of works comprising Work Nos. 3 to 41 and any relevant associated development for that stage.</p>
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	<p>Design Principles Document</p> <p>If representations are received in respect of the Design Principles Document, the Applicant will take these into consideration.</p> <p>The Applicant will also consider a framework for potential local level engagement to be included in the document. To also set out more detail regarding how the design panel will work, how thoughts will be fed back, acted upon etc.</p>	<p>The Applicant has updated the Design Principles Document in Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission to set out how the design review process for the substation that would be undertaken to include consultation with statutory consultees, landowners and local residents. The update also provides additional detail on the role of the Design Champion and the design review panel.</p>
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	<p>Design Principles Document</p> <p>To give further consideration to the potential use of colour which reflect the local environment for the proposed buildings and structures within the document.</p>	<p>The Applicant has updated the Design Principles Document in Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission to set out how the design review process for the substation will include consideration of colour. <i>The approach to this would be as set out in NRW's document entitled 'Environmental Colour Assessment: benefits, process and application' as well as with reference to the Landscape Institute (2018) Environmental Colour Assessment Technical Information Note 04/2018.</i></p>

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Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Mr Davies To respond in writing to the representations made by Mr Davies during ISH3.	The Applicant has written to Mr Davies to provide a response to the representations he made during the hearings. A copy of this correspondence is provided in Appendix A of this Document.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Temporary Construction Compound (TCC) To review whether the details of the temporary office and welfare facilities within the TCC are secured within the Design Principles Document and the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO).	The Applicant has updated Section 3.1 of the Design Principles Document in Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission to clarify that consideration will be given to the siting of stacked temporary site welfare units, offices and storage containers with regard to surrounding visual and heritage (setting), receptors. Where stacked, containerised units are proposed within the onshore substation (OnSS) TCC, the height of the stacked units will be included within the final CMS for approval by DCC under DCO Requirement 10.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Longer-term Maintenance To review drafting of the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) in respect of longer-term maintenance.	The Applicant has updated the oLEMP (Document 4.10 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission) to include the provision of long-term maintenance details to be included within the final LEMP.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Advanced Planting To consider advance planting in southeast and southwest area of the site as part of a review of the oLEMP.	The Applicant has updated the oLEMP (Document 4.10 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission) to include the consideration of advance planting in the south west and south east area of the site to be included within the final LEMP.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Revised Work Plan A revised work plan is to be submitted which clearly depicts Work No. 29 on Work Plan sheet 10.	An updated version of the Works Plan will be provided at Deadline 5, alongside the Schedule of Changes to Plans, in order to clearly depict and label the extent of Work 29.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Requirement 7 of the dDCO To review Requirement 7(2)(a) in respect of whether it is necessary to include maximum building heights for the proposed AIS option as has been done for the GIS option.	The Applicant will be specifying a maximum building height for the proposed AIS option in the revised dDCO to be submitted at Deadline 5.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Requirement 8 of the dDCO To review the drafting of Requirement 8 to ensure clarity in respect of which landscaping works the Requirement relates to. To update Requirement 8 if necessary.	The Applicant updated the wording of Requirement 8 in the revised dDCO submitted at Deadline 3a (REP3a-016).

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Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Requirement 9 of the dDCO To amend the wording of Requirement 9 to refer to scheme and not schemes . To give further consideration to an extension of the time period for any replacement planting.	The Applicant updated the wording of Requirement 9 in the revised dDCO submitted at Deadline 3a (REP3a-016).
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Requirement 17 of the dDCO The purpose and extent of Requirement 17 is to be clarified.	The Applicant updated the wording of Requirement 17 in the revised dDCO submitted at Deadline 3a (REP3a-016).
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Substation and Agricultural land Table 8 of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is to be reviewed in respect of agricultural land.	The Applicant has provided a review of the effects on the agricultural land as a result of the OnSS which is provided in Document 4.19 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Photomontage VP1 Photomontage VP1 currently depicts the same platform extents for both of the proposed GIS and AIS options. To review the photomontage and confirm whether any amendments are required.	The Applicant can confirm that the platform extents shown within VP1 (APP-0181) is the same for both of the proposed GIS and AIS options and that no amendments are required. As noted in Section 2.5.8 and 2.8 of ES Volume 3, Chapter 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (AS-029), the stated limitations for the visualisations highlight that the OnSS maximum parameter includes a maximum building height of 15m plus an additional 0.8m in height to account for potential differences in finished ground level relative to the position of the OnSS GIS option within the OnSS AIS platform. This results in an over-estimation of the height of the block model in parts of the OnSS maximum parameter but represents the worst case LVIA Rochdale Envelope (MDS) in terms of assessment. With regards to the question on VP1, the platform shown in the visualisations represents the MDS and shows the greatest platform extent. The 3D block model of both GIS and AIS has been included in the visualisations as an illustrative example of how the substations could appear, however, this would be dependent on the final design and in particular where the OnSS GIS platform sits within the MDS area.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Photomontage VP3 To review the possibility of providing further detail in respect of lighting in this location.	The Applicant has reviewed the content of Photomontage VP3 (APP-183) with regards to whether lighting should be shown. The Applicant confirms that if lighting is required along the access track from Glascoed Road to the substation, this would be low level, bollard type lighting.

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			The Applicant does not consider that this would be discernible within the photomontage of VP3 and the inclusion of bollard level lighting within the photomontage would not have a material effect on the visualisation or the effect on the view.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Response to ExQ1.10.25 at Deadline 1 To add further clarity to the response provided to ExQ1.10.25 [REP1-007].	The Applicant has provided an assessment of the visual effect of the AyM Onshore Substation (OnSS) from Faenol Bropor (Document 4.20 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 Submission) to provide further clarity to the Applicant's response to question 10.25 of the Examining Authority (ExA) first round of written questions (REP1-007). The Applicant's response to question ExQ1.10.25 suggested the effect of the proposed substation on Faenol Bropor would be lower than for Viewpoint 1. This document provides further assessment to clearly establish the effects on Faenol Bropor.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	National Grid Substation Fencing Requirements To confirm whether National Grid substation fencing requirements includes colour considerations.	The Applicant has updated the Design Principles Document (Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission) to confirm that substation fencing will comply the relevant National Grid Technical Standard. The external substation perimeter security (fencing and gates), is typically required to be a Category 2 'Standard' fence system". This is an electrified fence, fronted by either a mesh or palisade barrier. Whilst galvanised palisade fence has traditionally been the preferred choice for substation fence construction, further investigation will be carried out during detailed design in order to consider the use of coloured steel mesh panel fencing An updated version of the document has been provided as Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Meeting with Mr and Mrs Evans of Faenol Broper To liaise with Mr Bibby regarding meeting(s) to be held with Mr and Mrs Evans of Faenol Broper.	The Applicant has updated the Design Principles document to include proposals for the Applicant, local residents on Glascoed Road and the landowner (Faenol Bropor), to meet and discuss proposals for landscape planting through consultation on an onshore substation design guide (as set out in the updated Design Principles Document (Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission)). The design guide will include aspects of the final LEMP that relate to the substation. Consultees will be able to provide feedback on design elements, and LEMP, before further materials are prepared and submitted to DCC to discharge DCO Requirements. This will allow discussion to take place on issues such as the planting species mix and proximity of woodland planting to Glascoed Road to take place in advance of the final LEMP and substation design materials being submitted to DCC for approval. Such discussions could then take place when the substation design was at a more advanced stage than during Examination and would allow local residents and the landowner to see landscaping proposals in the context of the emerging substation design.

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			The Applicant has also updated the oLEMP to make reference to this process for local residents and landowners to review and provide feedback upon the design guide.
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Screening To further consider coniferous species for additional screening from the north between the proposed substation and Faenol Broper.	The species mix that will be proposed for mitigation woodland planting will be set out in the final LEMP and could include native evergreen species if this is considered to be appropriate for this location and will be dependent on the final substation design and discussion with consultees. The proposals for mitigation woodland planting within the oLEMP are considered to be of sufficient depth whereby deciduous species alone would afford effective screening, however, the Applicant does acknowledge the comments and concerns raised by the landowner's agent and will give further consideration to use of evergreen species within the final scheme proposals. Evergreen species can provide effective understorey planting alongside core species and nurse species as proposed in the oLEMP. There would be an opportunity for the final species mix to be discussed with the landowner and statutory consultees via consultation on the Design Guide (as set out in the updated Design Principles Document that is provided as Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission).
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	Barn Owl Behaviour To provide a written response in respect of barn owl behaviour near substations.	<p>The Applicant is not aware of any behavioural studies of barn owls specifically in relation to electricity substations. However, barn owls frequently use active buildings for nesting and their sensitivity to human disturbance is relatively low, as evidenced in relevant literature, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The Barn Owl Trust state that 'Barn Owls can learn to tolerate noise and activity as long as they have something to hide in – such as a nestbox' (The Barn Owl Trust, 2021). ▲ NatureScot guidance quotes a maximum disturbance distance for barn owl during the breeding season of 50-100m and states that their overall likely sensitivity to disturbance is low (Goodship and Furness 2022). ▲ Hardey et al. (2013) state that barn owls will readily use nest boxes and where provision for owls is incorporated into rural dwellings owls will often nest with humans living directly below them. <p>Figure 2 in the oLEMP (Document 4.10 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission) includes indicative locations for two pole-mounted barn owl boxes. Both locations are over 100m away from the substation itself. On the basis of the above, there is no evidence to suggest that the presence of the substation is likely to prevent barn owls from using the pole-mounted boxes or prevent them from using grassland habitat in the vicinity of the substation for foraging.</p>

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Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	<p>Pre-commencement, Construction and Programme</p> <p>To provide clarification regarding the programming approach at the proposed substation site for precommencement works such as archaeological works and ground investigation, and provide details regarding the TCC for these works including site preparation/clearance.</p>	<p>There are a number of activities that are either lengthy in process, seasonally constrained, or needed at an early stage to feed into the design process where the Applicant would undertake such activities in advance of the indicative construction programme presented in Figure 2 of ES Volume 3, Chapter 1: Onshore Project Description (). These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protected species surveys that are seasonally constrained such as great crested newts or bats; ➤ The preparation and submission of licence applications (such as European Protected Species Licence) where it is prudent to allow the determining authorities sufficient time to consider an application; ➤ The advance establishment of mitigation (such as fencing for great crested newts); ➤ Tree Surveys; ➤ Soil Condition Surveys; ➤ Ground condition surveys (such as infiltration testing and geotechnical investigations); and ➤ Archaeological surveys. <p>Given the potential timescales involved, it is likely that such activities would be undertaken well in advance of onshore construction works (as set out in Figure 2 of the Onshore Project Description ES Chapter (APP-062)), and the Applicant will make such time allowances in the further development of the project programme.</p> <p>With regards to TCCs required for these works, the Applicant would highlight that geotechnical and other surveys have already taken place during the pre-applications stage where existing site access points were used. The Applicant does not anticipate the level of vehicle access required for the aforementioned activities would require the establishment of temporary hardstandings for TCCs, however, if such an area is required the use of measures such as temporary matting, or placement of hardstanding materials upon the ground surface (with a separating membrane) that would be removed after use, would enable temporary hardstanding areas to be established. These would be smaller in size than the substation TCC and shorter in duration (i.e. the Applicant does not envisage establishing the main substation TCC for the purpose of these activities).</p>
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	<p>Pre-construction Effects</p> <p>To confirm how an Interested Party would be able to consider pre-construction effects from the relevant</p>	<p>The Applicant does not consider it necessary to isolate pre-construction effects from the overall construction phase effects in the ES. As set out in Paragraph 148 of the Applicant's EIA Scoping Report (2020), the ES has addressed the following three stages of the proposed development:</p>

DIRECTED TO	TO BE PROVIDED BY	ACTION	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
		<p>construction sections of the Environmental Statement chapters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Construction – the works, activities and processes that will be required to build the proposed development, including preparatory works; ▲ Operation and Maintenance – the works after the developed scheme construction works are completed and in operation; and ▲ Decommissioning – the works and processes required to undertake the closure, dismantling and removal of the development. <p>The presentation of likely significant effects under the three main areas of construction, operation and decommissioning is typical for NSIP and non-NSIP ES's and follows the requirements of paragraph 5(a) of Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), which requires an ES to provide:</p> <p><i>'A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia</i></p> <p><i>(a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;'</i></p> <p>The Applicant notes that the Scoping Opinion provided in July 2020 by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS in respect of the Proposed Development did not request that the Applicant alter the proposed approach to differentiate 'Pre-Construction' from 'Construction' effects.</p> <p>The Applicant does note paragraph 4.2.3 of NPS-EN1 which states:</p> <p><i>4.2.3 For the purposes of this NPS and the technology-specific NPSs the ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. In some circumstances (for example, gas pipe-lines) it may be appropriate to assess effects arising from commissioning infrastructure once it is completed but before it comes into operation. Details of this and any other additional assessments are set out where necessary in sections on individual impacts in this NPS and in the technology-specific NPSs. In the absence of any additional information on additional assessments, the principles set out in this Section will apply to all assessments.</i></p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a review other recent DCO applications for offshore wind farms and notes that the isolation of pre-construction phase effects from construction phase effects appears to be without precedent. Whilst the AyM ES does not explicitly differentiate between impacts arising from pre-construction or construction activities, pre-construction impacts are included within the overall construction period and are therefore assessed in compliance with NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.2.3. The AyM ES is also in</p>

DIRECTED TO	TO BE PROVIDED BY	ACTION	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
			<p>compliance with Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations in this regard through reporting construction, operation and decommissioning effects.</p> <p>The Applicant further notes that the approach of considering both pre-construction and construction activities within the construction phase impact assessment is consistent with industry guidance. The Applicant cites the example assessment within Appendix 1 of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (CIEEM, 2019), which gives an example of a construction phase impact assessment of 'site clearance and construction activities'.</p> <p>The effect of pre-construction activities would be of no greater significance than the predicted construction effects identified within each chapter.</p>
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	<p>Indicative Construction Compound Indicative Layout</p> <p>To consider if a buffer and/or protective measures at the boundary of Glascoed Nature Reserve is required.</p>	<p>With regard to hedgerow trees located along the boundary of the Nature Reserve, in accordance with the outline Onshore Construction Method Statement (CMS) (Document 4.14 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission), secured by DCO Requirement 10, a pre-construction walkover survey of the working area will be undertaken by an appropriately experienced arboriculturist and the guidance set out in BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Construction. The survey will define specific mitigation measures required for all trees situated in or adjacent to the working width, including where practical, measures such as the erection of protective fencing in order to minimise the impacts on trees and their roots. Those measures will be identified in the final CMS for the OnSS works. Particular regard will be given in the north eastern corner of the substation platform footprint where the final platform design will need to ensure roots are not damaged and the trees remain unaffected.</p>
Applicant	Deadline 4 30 January 2023	<p>Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP)</p> <p>To review and update oSMP in respect of topsoil and earthworks phasing.</p>	<p>The Applicant has updated the outline SMP to confirm that the final SMP will set out the locations where stripped soil will be stored during different phases of the onshore substation works noting that that multiple handling of soil materials will be minimised. The determination of soil storage locations will acknowledge other site considerations such as root protection zones and temporary ecological compensation areas.</p> <p>An updated version of the document has been provided in Document 4.13 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission.</p>

3 References

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Hardey, J., Crick, H.Q.P., Wernham, C., Riley, H., Etheridge, B., Thompson, D. (2013). Raptors: A field guide for surveys and monitoring (3rd Edition). The Stationery Office Edinburgh.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] [Accessed: 01 2023].

Appendix A: Written Response to Mr Davies' Comments at ISH3

[REDACTED]

Dyddiad: 26/01/2023
Enw: Paul Carter
ff: 0800 1978232
e: awelymor@rwe.com

26 Ionawr 2023

Ynghylch: Ymateb i Sylwadau Llafar

Annwyl Mr Davies,

Rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch ar ran Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Ltd er mwyn rhoi ymateb ysgrifenedig i chi i'ch sylwadau llafar yng Ngwrandawiadau Mater Penodol Archwiliad Gorchymyn Cydsyniad Datblygu (DCO) Fferm Wynt ar y Môr Awel y Môr (AyM) ar 7fed ac 8fed Rhagfyr 2022, a gynhaliwyd yn Venue Cymru yn Llandudno.

Mae Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd (yr Ymgeisydd) yn croesawu eich cyfranogiad yn y broses Archwilio ac yn gobeithio bod yr ymatebion isod yn ddefnyddiol. Rydym wedi gosod y rhain yn erbyn y meysydd allweddol a nodwyd gennych yn ystod y gwrandawiadau.

Lle bo'n berthnasol, rydym wedi cynnwys enw'r ddogfen gais briodol y cyflwynir gwybodaeth ynddi. Rydym wedi cynnwys hyperddolenni a fydd yn agor y ddogfen berthnasol o wefan yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio os caiff ei hagor (ei chlicio) o fersiwn electronig o'r llythyr hwn ac os oes cysylltiad rhyngurwyd ar gael. Mae'r holl ddogfennau cais a gyflwynwyd ar gyfer Fferm Wynt ar y Môr Awel y Môr, gan gynnwys dogfennau a ddarparwyd yn ystod yr Archwiliad, ar gael yn:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/cy/projects/fferm-wynt-alltraeth-awel-y-mor/>

Fel arall, byddai'r Ymgeisydd yn fodlon darparu copïau caled o'r dogfennau y cyfeirir atynt yn y llythyr hwn ar gais.

[REDACTED]

Dewis Safle

Holasoch am y broses dewis safle a holasoch pam y dewiswyd safle maes glas, yn hytrach na safle tir llwyd neu safle ym Mharc Busnes Llanelwy.

Ar ôl i National Grid ddynodi Is-orsaf bresennol National Grid Bodelwyddan fel y lle priodol i gysylltu AyM â'r rhwydwaith trydan cenedlaethol ehangach, cafodd ardal chwilio ei diffinio gan yr Ymgeisydd ar gyfer is-orsaf arfaethedig Awel y Môr. Yn yr ardal hon, nid oes safleoedd tir llwyd addas wedi'u nodi a oedd yn darparu digon o le ar gyfer yr is-orsaf arfaethedig a'r compownd adeiladu wrth ei hochr a fyddai'n angenrheidiol i adeiladu'r is-orsaf. Cafodd cyfanswm o 14 ardal bosibl, lle gellid cynnwys is-orsaf, eu nodi i'w hystyried ymhellach, fodd bynnag, roedd pob un o'r rhain yn faes glas o ran eu natur.

Er bod tir wedi'i ddatblygu o'r blaen (tir llwyd) yn y parc busnes, mae gan hwn eiddo preswyl yn ffinio â'r safle posibl ac nid oedd yn ddigon mawr i ddarparu ar gyfer yr is-orsaf a'r compownd adeiladu. O ganlyniad, ni chafodd y tir hwn ei ystyried ymhellach.

Aseswyd y 14 ardal a nodwyd yn erbyn ystod eang o bynciau, gan gynnwys:

- Dynodiadau ecolegol a rhywogaethau a warchodir
- Y tirwedd ac Effeithiau Gweledol
- Defnydd tir
- Dyraniadau Cynllunio a'r cyd-destun cynllunio
- Mynediad i'r Safle
- Hydroleg a'r Perygl o Lifogydd
- Archaeoleg a Threftadaeth
- Topograffeg y Safle
- Cyflwr y Tir
- Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus

O'r rhestr hir o 14 ardal, lluniwyd rhestr fer gychwynnol o 6, a gafodd ei mireinio ymhellach i restr fer o 3 ardal lle gellid lleoli is-orsaf. O'r rhain, dewiswyd safle arfaethedig yr is-orsaf (ardal 5) oherwydd presenoldeb coetir presennol i'r gogledd a'r gorllewin o'r safle sy'n cynnig sgrinio gweledol. Yn ogystal â sgrinio, mae gan yr ardal/safle ddigon o le i ddarparu ar gyfer Systemau Draenio Cynaliadwy (SuDS), planhigion tirlun, gweledol ac ecolegol ychwanegol, ac roedd llai o dderbynyddion gweledol yng nghyffiniau'r safle dan sylw nag yn yr ardaloedd eraill sydd ar y rhestr fer. Mae gan y safle dan sylw hefyd well potensial ar gyfer mynediad, gyda sawl opsiwn mynediad safle ar gael. Disgrifir y broses o ddewis safle yn y Datganiad Amgylcheddol, Cyfrol 1, Pennod 4: Dewis Safle ac Opsiynau Eraill (cyfeirnod: APP-044). Gellir gweld y ddogfen hon ar wefan yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio yn:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000186-6.1.4_AyM_Volume1Chapter4_SSA_vFinal.pdf

Mae'r broses o ddewis safle wedi cynnwys ymgynghori ar wahanol gamau, sydd wedi cynnwys ymgysylltu parhaus â Chyngor Sir Ddinbych (fel awdurdod lletya AyM), Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a Llywodraeth Cymru, a rhanddeiliaid eraill. Mae hefyd wedi cynnwys ymgynghoriadau cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys ymgynghoriad statudol AyM yn ystod hydref 2021.

Paramedrau Is-orsaf

Yn ystod Gwrandawriad Mater Penodol 3 ar yr is-orsaf ddydd Iau 8fed Rhagfyr 2022, gofynasoch am faint yr is-orsaf a safle ehangach yr is-orsaf.

Bydd yr is-orsaf yn cynnwys nifer o elfennau gan gynnwys gêr switsh, barrau bysiau, trawsnewidyddion, cynwysorau, adweithyddion, offer cyfadfer pŵer adweithiol, ystafelloedd batri, hidlyddion, offer oeri, adeiladau rheoli a lles, rhodenni amddiffyn rhag mell (os bydd angen) a mynedfa fewnol i'r ffordd. Bydd ffens ddiogelwch yn amgylchynu compownd yr is-orsaf.

Bydd maint terfynol yr is-orsaf ei hun yn dibynnu ar ba fath o gêr switsh sy'n cael ei ddewis; bydd hyn naill ai'n Gêr Switsh wedi'i Inswleiddio gan Aer (AIS), neu Gêr Switsh wedi'i Inswleiddio gan Nwy (GIS).

Mewn is-orsaf AIS mae'r offer gêr switsh y tu allan i'r adeiladau ac felly mae angen ôl-troed mwy. Gan nad yw'r adeiladau'n cynnwys yr offer gêr switsh, maent yn is o ran uchder nag is-orsaf GIS. Os dewisir AIS ar gyfer Awel y Môr, byddai ôl troed yr is-orsaf hyd at 5 Ha (12.36 erw).

Mewn is-orsaf GIS mae'r offer gêr switsh yn yr adeilad ac felly mae uchder yr adeilad yn fwy nag is-orsaf AIS. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ôl-troed yn ei gyfanrwydd yn gofyn am lai o le nag is-orsaf AIS. Pe bai GIS yn cael ei ddewis ar gyfer Awel y Môr, byddai uchder yr adeilad hyd at 15m a byddai ôl troed yr is-orsaf yn ei gyfanrwydd yn hyd at 3 Ha (7.4 erw).

Bydd dewis AIS neu GIS yn rhan o'r broses ddylunio fanwl a bydd penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud ar ôl cael caniatâd cyn dechrau adeiladu.

Mae'r Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol wedi cael ei gynnal gan ddefnyddio 'amlen' uchafswm a fyddai'n addas ar gyfer y ddau opsiwn (h.y. ôl-troed hyd at 5 Ha gydag uchder o hyd at 15m), ac felly mae'n asesu'r achos gwaethaf. Mae'r delweddau a ddarperir yn dangos opsiynau GIS ac AIS ar gyfer is-orsaf.

O ran y gwahaniaethau rhwng AIS a GIS o safbwynt tirlun a gweledol, mae manteision ac anfanteision i'r ddau opsiwn. Ar gyfer AIS byddai'r adeiladau is nag ar gyfer GIS, ac felly byddai'r gwaith plannu arfaethedig o amgylch yr is-orsaf yn sgrinio mwy o'r adeiladau'n gyflymach nag ar gyfer adeiladau talach. Fodd bynnag, byddai gan yr AIS ôl-troed mwy yn ei gyfanrwydd a byddai mwy o gyfarpar allanol i'w weld. Er y byddai'r opsiwn GIS yn arwain at adeiladau uwch, byddai'r arwynebedd llai yn caniatáu mwy o hyblygrwydd o ran ei leoli o fewn yr ardal o'r safle sydd wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer datblygiad yr is-orsaf.

Mae'r ardal ehangach o amgylch safle'r is-orsaf yn 32.5 Ha (oddeutu 80 erw). Bydd yr ardal ehangach hon yn cynnwys ôl troed yr is-orsaf a hefyd yn cynnwys nifer o wahanol ddefnyddiau, gan gynnwys compownd adeiladu dros dro sydd i'r gogledd orllewin o'r safle ehangach. Mae'r compownd adeiladu wedi'i leoli yn y gornel gogledd orllewin er mwyn ei leoli i ffwrdd oddi wrth drigolion Ffordd Glascoed ac er mwyn defnyddio'r coetir presennol at ddibenion sgrinio (byddai'r compownd wedi'i leoli'n rhannol rhwng dau floc o goetir).

Mae'r Ymgeisydd hefyd wedi cynnig plannu'r dirwedd yn yr ardal ehangach o amgylch yr is-orsaf a fydd yn darparu rhagor o sgrinio gweledol ochr yn ochr â digolledu ecolegol am yr ardal sydd i'w datblygu. Yn ogystal â digolledu am ardal datblygu adeiledig, mae yna hefyd ofyniad polisi cynllunio pendant ar gyfer gwelliant ecolegol yng Nghymru, sydd ar gyfer prosiect Awel y Môr yn cael ei ddarparu yn yr ardal ehangach o amgylch yr is-orsaf. Mae'r ardal ehangach o amgylch yr is-orsaf yn cynnwys ardal o Goetir Hynafol (a fyddai'n aros yno, ac ni fyddai'r cynigion yn effeithio arni). Ar ben hynny, mae angen i dir gynnwys mesurau i reoli draenio dŵr wyneb yn ogystal â threfniadau mynediad i'r safle.

Mae'r Ymgeisydd wedi cyflwyno Dogfen Egwyddorion Dylunio (Cyf: REP3-014) sy'n nodi'r paramedrau dylunio y mae'r Ymgeisydd yn bwriadu eu cymhwyso i'r is-orsaf wrth wneud gwaith dylunio manwl. Gellir gweld y ddogfen hon ar wefan yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio yn:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000990-3.13_D3_AyM_Design%20Principles_Document_Clean_RevB.pdf

Mae'r Ymgeisydd hefyd wedi cyflwyno Cynllun Rheoli Tirwedd ac Ecoleg amlinellol (Cyf: REP2-010) sy'n nodi'r egwyddorion ar gyfer plannu'r dirwedd a digolledu/gwella ecolegol o amgylch yr is-orsaf. Gellir gweld y ddogfen hon ar wefan yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio yn:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000921-2.9_D2_%20AyM%20Outline_Landscape_and_Ecology_Management_Plan_Tracked_RevC.pdf

Cynigion Tirlunio

Yn dilyn y drafodaeth ar gynigion tirlunio o amgylch yr is-orsaf yn ystod Gwrandawriad Mater Penodol 3, mynegwyd pryder gennych y byddai'r Ymgeisydd yn plannu coed ac yn creu ardaloedd mawr o goetir (tebyg i goedwig), na fyddai'n cyd-fynd â'r ardal gyfagos. Yr oeddech yn pryderu y byddai'r plannu'n amharu ar olygfa bresennol trigolion Ffordd Glascoed. Gofynasoch hefyd pwy fyddai'n gyfrifol am y tir a'r coed o flaen tai Ffordd Glascoed.

Mae'r cynigion ar gyfer tirlunio ar ffurf amlinellol ar hyn o bryd, ac maent wedi'u nodi yn y Cynllun Rheoli Tirwedd ac Ecoleg amlinellol (Cyfeirnod: REP2-009). Bydd Cynllun Rheoli Tirwedd ac Ecoleg terfynol yn cael ei ddatblygu ar ôl i'r is-orsaf (ar ôl caniatâd) gael ei dylunio'n fanwl, yn unol â'r egwyddorion sydd wedi'u nodi yn y Cynllun Rheoli Tirwedd ac Ecoleg amlinellol. Byddai'r Cynllun Rheoli Ecoleg a'r Dirwedd (LEMP) terfynol yn nodi manylion y cynigion ar gyfer tirlunio, gan gynnwys lleoliadau unrhyw blannu arfaethedig, cymysgedd o rywogaethau, dwyseddau plannu, y rhaglen weithredu gysylltiedig a'r darpariaethau ar gyfer cynnal a chadw a rheoli. Bydd y ddogfen yn cael ei chymeradwyo gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych fel yr awdurdod gwesteio, mewn ymgynghoriad â Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC), fel rhan o gyflawni'r Gofynion DCO (proses debyg i honno ar gyfer cyflawni amodau cynllunio). Bydd trigolion lleol yn cael cyfle i roi sylwadau i Gyngor Sir Ddinbych fel rhan o'r broses hon. Ar ben hynny, bydd yr Ymgeisydd yn ymgynghori â thrigolion lleol ar y cynigion sy'n cael eu paratoi ar gyfer yr is-orsaf a phlannu'r dirwedd drwy'r broses o adolygu'r dyluniad.

Mae'r coetir presennol i'r gorllewin a'r gogledd o'r is-orsaf arfaethedig yn sylweddol ac, ynghyd â llystyfiant ac elfennau adeiledig eraill yn y dirwedd ehangach, mae'n darparu elfen o sgrinio gweledol ar gyfer llawer o dderbynyddion gweledol yn yr ardal ehangach.

Bydd yr ardal o goetir hynafol sydd tua 200 m i'r de orllewin o Faenol Bropor (sydd i'r gogledd o safle'r is-orsaf) yn cael ei chadw heb unrhyw waith yn cael ei wneud a fyddai'n achosi effaith niweidiol sylweddol ar y coetir. Byddai'r coetir yn cael ei reoli'n sensitif i sicrhau bod yr effeithiau sgrinio'n cael eu cynnal drwy gydol oes y prosiect.

Mae'r egwyddorion plannu amlinellol wedi cael eu datblygu i ategu'r coetir a'r llystyfiant presennol hwn.

Mae'r plannu arfaethedig yn cynnwys rhywogaethau coetir a gwrychoedd brodorol a byddai'n cael ei leoli o amgylch yr is-orsaf. Dyma brif amcanio y plannu arfaethedig:

- darparu sgrinio gweledol i eiddo preswyl, defnyddwyr ffyrdd ac ymwelwyr â'r Amlogfa ar Ffordd Glascoed i'r de-ddwyrain o'r is-orsaf;

- darparu sgrinio gweledol i ddefnyddwyr y Llwybr Ceffylau a leolir rhwng yr is-orsaf a'r Faenol Brodor ac eiddo i'r gogledd o safle'r is-orsaf;
- darparu cyd-destun coetir i safle'r is-orsaf sy'n cyd-fynd â choetir yr ardal sydd wedi'i hen sefydlu; gan gynnwys coed sydd wedi'u lleoli ym Mharc a Gardd Hanesyddol Cofrestredig Parc Bodelwyddan; a
- darparu gwell cysylltedd rhwng y coetiroedd presennol, y gwrychoedd sy'n cael eu cadw, y coed ffiniau caeau a'r Warchodfa Natur gyfagos a fyddai'n arwain at fanteision o ran tirwedd ac ecoleg.

Byddai plannu'r coetir arfaethedig yn cynnwys cymysgedd o rywogaethau 'maethu' sy'n tyfu'n gynt a rhywogaethau 'craidd' sy'n tyfu'n arafach. Byddai rhywogaethau maethu, fel gwern, bedw, a phoplys du yn tyfu'n gyflymach fel y byddent tua 7-10m o uchder ar ôl 15 mlynedd. Byddent yn darparu lloches i annog rhywogaethau craidd megis derw, llwyfen a masarn. Er y byddai'r rhywogaeth maethu yn tyfu'n ddigon cyflym i sgrinio'r is-orsaf yn sylweddol ar ôl 15 mlynedd, byddai'r rhywogaethau craidd yn byw yn hirach na'r rhywogaethau maethu ac yn darparu coetir brodorol dymunol gyda strwythur mwy cadarn yn nes o ran cymeriad at goetiroedd cyfagos eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â Pharc Bodelwyddan.

Mae'r cynigion amlinellol yn cynnwys darn bach o goetir sydd i'r gogledd o Ffordd Glascoed yn agos at eiddo preswyl ond wedi'i lleoli'n ôl oddi wrthynt fel y byddai'r blaendir yn aros yn agored. Nod y coetir hwn yw darparu rhywfaint o sgrinio ar gyfer yr is-orsaf tra'n osgoi plannu coed yn fwy helaeth a fyddai'n amharu ar rannau helaeth o'r olygfa bresennol ar gyfer y tai hynny (h.y. byddai plannu sribed eang o goed ochr yn ochr â Ffordd Glascoed ac yn gyfochrog â hi yn cynnig mwy o sgrinio, ond byddai hynny ynddo'i hun yn rhwystro'r golygfeydd presennol sydd ar gael i rai o'r tai, ac felly ni chynigir hyn). Mae'r darn hwn o goetir yn dod o fewn Terfynau'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig (ffin llinell goch) a byddai'n eiddo i'r Ymgeisydd ac yn cael ei reoli ganddo (neu unrhyw weithredwr is-orsaf dilynol). Bydd trigolion lleol yn cael cyfle i roi adborth ar y cynllun plannu sy'n cael ei baratoi fel rhan o'r broses adolygu dyluniad, yn ogystal â rhoi sylwadau i Gyngor Sir Ddinbych pan fydd y cynllun datblygedig yn cael ei gyflwyno i'w gymeradwyo drwy gyflawni Gofynion y DCO.

Cydymffurfio â Chynllun Datblygu Lleol Cyngor Sir Ddinbych (2006-2021)

Yn ystod Gwrandawriad Mater Penodol 2, a gynhaliwyd ddydd Mercher 7fed Rhagfyr 2022 yn Llandudno, gofynnodd pam nad oedd yr is-orsaf ym Mharc Busnes Llanelwy, sydd yn eich barn chi yn lle mwy priodol ar gyfer datblygiad adeiledig.

Mae Parc Busnes Llanelwy yn cael ei ddyrannu fel Ardal Gyflogaeth yng Nghynllun Datblygu Lleol Sir Ddinbych 2006-2021. Ni fyddai defnydd o'r ardal hon ar gyfer is-orsaf

yn cael ei ystyried yn unol â pholisi lleol, gan y byddai'n atal defnydd at ddibenion cyflogaeth. Fel y nodwyd uchod, mae yna ddiffyg safleoedd hefyd yn y Parc Busnes sydd â digon o arwynebedd i ddarparu ar gyfer yr is-orsaf a'r compownd adeiladu.

Fel arfer, nid yw Cynlluniau Datblygu Lleol yn cynnwys mathau addas o ddyraniad defnydd ar gyfer seilwaith trydanol, a dyna pam y gallai is-orsafoedd fod yn fwy nodweddiadol ar safleoedd maes glas.

Posibilrwydd o Effeithiau Llwch a Sŵn i Drigolion Ffordd Glascoed

Yn ystod Gwrandawriad Mater Penodol 3 ar yr is-orsaf, gofynasoch hefyd am y posibilrwydd i sŵn adeiladu a llwch effeithio ar drigolion y tai ar Ffordd Glascoed.

Mae'r Ymgeisydd wedi asesu'r potensial ar gyfer effeithiau sŵn a llwch drwy broses Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol, ac mae'r canfyddiadau wedi'u cyflwyno yn y Datganiad Amgylcheddol. Dyma'r penodau perthnasol:

- Cyfrol 3, Pennod 10: Sŵn a Dirgryndod (Cyfeirnod: APP-071), a
- Cyfrol 3, Pennod 11: Ansawdd Aer (Cyfeirnod: APP-072).

Gellir gweld y dogfennau hyn ar wefan yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio yn:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000211-6.3.10_AyM_ES_Volume3_Chapter10%20Noise_and_Vibration_Final.pdf

a:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000212-6.3.11_AyM_ES_Volume3_Chapter11_Air_%20Quality_Final.pdf

Mae'r Ymgeisydd hefyd wedi darparu cynlluniau rheoli amlinellol ar gyfer sŵn adeiladu a llwch fel rhan o'r Cod Ymarfer Adeiladu. Mae'r dogfennau hyn yn nodi'r mesurau a fyddai'n cael eu dilyn i reoli effeithiau amgylcheddol yn ystod y cam adeiladu, a byddai angen cwblhau fersiwn terfynol o bob un yn dilyn dyluniad manwl ac i'w gymeradwyo gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych cyn dechrau adeiladu. Byddai trigolion lleol yn gallu rhoi sylwadau i Gyngor Sir Ddinbych ar y dogfennau hyn fel rhan o'r broses i gyflawni'r Gofyniad DCO. Dyma'r cynlluniau rheoli perthnasol:

- Cod Ymarfer Adeiladu Atodiad 2: Cynllun Rheoli Sŵn a Dirgryndod amlinellol (Cyfeirnod: REP2-020)
- Cod Ymarfer Adeiladu Atodiad 3: Cynllun Rheoli Ansawdd Aer Amlinellol (Cyfeirnod: REP2-032).

Tudalen 8/8

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000931-2.19_D2_AyM_Outline_Noise_and_Vibration_Management_Plan_Tracked_RevC.pdf

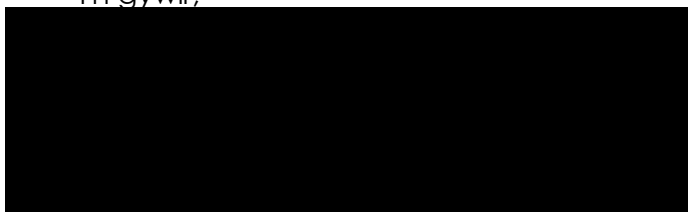
a:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000893-2.31_D2_AyM_Outline_Air_Quality_Management_Plan_Clean_RevC.pdf

Daw'r penodau Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol i'r casgliad, wrth weithredu'r mesurau lliniaru a gynigir yn y ddau gynllun rheoli, na fyddai'r effeithiau fyddai'n deillio o sŵn adeiladu a llwch ar drigolion Ffordd Glascoed yn sylweddol.

Gobeithio y bydd yr ymateb hwn i'r materion allweddol a godwyd gennych yn y gwrandawriadau o fudd i chi. Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â ni i gael rhagor o wybodaeth.

Yn gywir,



Paul Carter, Rheolwr Caniatadau
Awel y Môr

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[REDACTED]

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26 January 2023

RE: Response to Oral Representations

Dear Mr Davies,

I am writing on behalf of Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Ltd in order to provide you with a written response to your oral representations at the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (AyM) Development Consent Order (DCO) Examination Issue Specific Hearings on the 7th and 8th December 2022, held at Venue Cymru in Llandudno.

Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd (the Applicant) welcomes your participation in the Examination process and hopes that the responses below are helpful. We have set these out against the key areas you identified during the hearings.

Where relevant, we have included the name of the appropriate application document within which information is presented. We have included hyperlinks that will open the relevant document from the Planning Inspectorate website if opened (clicked) from an electronic version of this letter and an internet connection is available. All of the submitted application documents for Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm, including documents provided during Examination, can be found at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/awel-y-mor-offshore-wind-farm/>

Alternatively, the Applicant would be happy to provide hard copies of the documents referred to in this letter on request.

Site Selection

You asked about the site selection process and questioned why a greenfield site had been selected, rather than a brownfield site or a site within St Asaph Business Park.

[REDACTED]

Following the identification, by National Grid, of the existing National Grid Bodelwyddan Substation as the appropriate place to connect AyM to the wider national electricity network, an area of search was defined by the Applicant for the proposed Awel y Môr substation. Within this area there are no suitable brownfield sites identified that provided sufficient space for the proposed substation and the construction compound alongside it that would be required to build the substation. In total, 14 potential zones, within which a substation could be accommodated, were identified for further consideration, however, all of these were greenfield in their nature.

Although there is previously developed land (brownfield land) within the business park, this has residential properties immediately adjacent to the potential site and it was not large enough to accommodate both the substation and construction compound. As a result, this land was excluded from further consideration.

The 14 identified zones were assessed against a wide range of topics including:

- Ecological designations and protected species
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Land Use
- Planning Allocations and planning context
- Site Access
- Hydrology and Flood Risk
- Archaeology and Heritage
- Site Topography
- Ground Conditions
- Public Rights of Way

From the long list of 14 zones, an initial shortlist of 6 was made, which was then further refined to a shortlist of 3 zones within which a substation could be located. From these, the proposed substation site (zone 5) was selected due to the presence of existing woodland to the north and west of the site that affords visual screening. In addition to screening, the zone/site has sufficient space to accommodate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), additional landscape, visual and ecological planting and there were fewer visual receptors in the vicinity of the selected site than for the other shortlisted zones. The selected site also has better potential for access with several site access options available. The site selection process is described in the Environmental Statement, Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives (Ref: APP-044). This document can be accessed from the Planning Inspectorate website at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000186-6.1.4_AyM_Volume1Chapter4_SSA_vFinal.pdf

The site selection process has included consultation at various stages, which has included ongoing engagement with Denbighshire County Council (DCC) (as AyM's host authority),

Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government, and other stakeholders. It has also included public consultations, including AyM's statutory consultation in Autumn 2021.

Substation Parameters

During Issue Specific Hearing 3 on the substation on Thursday 8th December 2022, you asked about the size of the substation and the wider substation site.

The substation will contain a number of elements including switchgear, busbars, transformers, capacitors, reactors, reactive power compensation equipment, battery rooms, filters, cooling equipment, control and welfare buildings, lightning protection rods (if required) and an internal road access. A security fence will surround the substation compound.

The ultimate size of the substation itself will depend on which type of switchgear is chosen; this will either be Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).

An AIS substation has the switchgear equipment located outside of the buildings and so requires a larger footprint. As the buildings do not contain the switchgear equipment, they are lower in height than for a GIS substation. If AIS is chosen for Awel y Môr, the substation footprint would be up to 5 Ha (12.36 acres).

A GIS substation has the switchgear equipment located within a building and so the building height is greater than for an AIS substation, however, the overall footprint requires less space than for an AIS Substation. If GIS is chosen for Awel y Môr, the building height would be up to 15 m and the overall substation footprint would be up to 3 Ha (7.4 acres).

The choice of AIS or GIS will be part of the detailed design process and a decision will be made post-consent prior to construction commencing.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken using a maximum 'envelope' that would accommodate both options (i.e. a footprint up to 5 Ha with building heights up to 15 m), and so assesses a worst case. The visualisations that are provided show both GIS and AIS substation options.

In relation to the differences between AIS and GIS from a landscape and visual perspective, there are advantages and disadvantages for both options. For AIS there would be lower elevated buildings than for GIS, and so the proposed planting around the substation would screen more of the buildings more quickly than for taller buildings. However, AIS would have a larger overall footprint and have more external equipment visible. Whilst the GIS option would result in taller buildings, the smaller area of the GIS option would allow greater flexibility in locating it within the area of the site set aside for the substation development.

The wider area around the substation site is 32.5 Ha (approx. 80 acres). This wider area will include the substation footprint and also accommodates a number of different uses, including a temporary construction compound which is located to the north west of the wider

site. The construction compound has been placed in the north west corner to locate it away from residents on Glascoed Road and in order to make use of existing woodland for screening purposes (the compound would be partially located between two blocks of woodland).

The Applicant has also proposed landscape planting within the wider area around the substation that will provide further visual screening alongside ecological compensation for loss of the area to be developed. In addition to compensation for loss of the built development area, there is also a strong planning policy requirement for ecological enhancement within Wales which for the Awel y Môr project is provided within the wider area around the substation. The wider area around the substation includes an area of Ancient Woodland (that would remain and would not be affected by the proposals). In addition, there is a need for land to accommodate measures to manage surface water drainage as well as site access arrangements.

The Applicant has submitted a Design Principles Document (Ref: REP3-014) that sets out the design parameters that the Applicant proposes to apply to the substation when undertaking detailed design. This document can be accessed from the Planning Inspectorate website at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000990-3.13_D3_AyM_Design%20Principles_Document_Clean_RevB.pdf

The Applicant has also submitted an outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Ref: REP2-010) that sets out the principles for landscape planting and ecological compensation/enhancement around the substation. This document can be accessed from the Planning Inspectorate website at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000921-2.9_D2_%20AyM%20Outline_Landscape_and_Ecology_Management_Plan_Tracked_RevC.pdf

Landscaping Proposals

Following the discussion on landscaping proposals around the substation during Issue Specific Hearing 3, you raised your concern that the Applicant would be planting trees and creating large areas of woodland (akin to a forest), that would not be in keeping with the surrounding area. You were concerned that the planting would impede the current view of residents on Glascoed Road. You also asked who would be responsible for the land and trees in front of the Glascoed Road houses.

The proposals for landscaping are currently in an outline form and are set out in the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) (Ref: REP2-009). A final Landscape and Ecology Management Plan will be developed following detailed design of the substation (post-consent), in line with the principles set out in the oLEMP. The final LEMP would set out the details of the landscape proposals including the locations of any planting proposed, species mixes, planting densities, the associated implementation programme and the provisions for maintenance and management. The document will be approved by DCC, as host authority, in consultation with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), as part of the discharge of DCO Requirements (a similar process to that for discharging planning conditions). Local residents will have the opportunity to provide representation to DCC as part of this process. In addition, the Applicant will undertake consultation with local residents on the emerging proposals for the substation and landscape planting through the design review process.

The existing woodland to the west and north of the proposed substation is substantial and, together with other vegetation and built elements in the wider landscape, provides an element of visual screening for many visual receptors in the wider area.

The area of ancient woodland located approximately 200 m to the south west of Faenol Bropor (located to the north of the substation site) is to be retained with no works to be undertaken that would cause significant adverse impact to the woodland. The woodland would be sensitively managed to ensure the screening effects are retained during the lifetime of the project.

The outline planting principles have been developed to complement this existing woodland and vegetation.

The proposed planting comprises native woodland and hedgerow species and would be located around the substation. The key aims of the proposed planting are as follows:

- to provide visual screening to residential properties, road users, and visitors to the Crematorium on Glascoed Rd to the south-east of the substation;
- to provide visual screening to users of the Bridleway located between the substation and Faenol Bropor and properties to the north of the substation site;
- to provide a woodland context to the substation site that compliments the long-established woodland of the area; including woods found within Bodelwyddan Park Registered Historic Park and Garden; and
- to provide greater connectivity between the existing woodlands, retained hedgerows, field boundary trees and nearby Nature Reserve that would have both landscape and ecological benefits.

The proposed woodland planting would comprise a mix of faster growing 'nurse' species and slower growing 'core' species. Nurse species, such as alder, birch, and black poplar would grow quicker so that after 15 years they would be approximately 7-10 m in height. They would

provide shelter to bring on core species, such as oak, elm and sycamore. Whilst the nurse species would be sufficiently fast-growing to provide substantial screening of the substation after 15 years, the core species would outlive the nurse species and provide a preferred native woodland with a more robust structure closer in character to other nearby woodlands associated with Bodelwyddan Park.

The outline proposals do include a small area of woodland located to the north of Glascoed Road in close proximity to residential properties but set back from them so that the foreground would remain open. The aim of this woodland is to provide a degree of screening of the substation whilst not creating more extensive tree planting that would impede large proportions of the current view for those houses (i.e. planting a wide strip of trees alongside and parallel to Glascoed Road would afford a higher degree of screening, but would in itself impede current views available to some of the properties, and so this is not proposed). This area of woodland falls within the proposed Order Limits (red line boundary) and would be owned and managed by the Applicant (or any subsequent substation operator). Local residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the emerging planting scheme as part of the design review process, as well as providing representation to DCC when the developed scheme is submitted for approval through discharge of DCO Requirements.

Compliance with Denbighshire County Council's Local Development Plan (2006-2021)

During Issue Specific Hearing 2, held on Wednesday 7th December 2022 in Llandudno, you questioned why the substation was not located within St Asaph Business Park, which you consider to be a more appropriate place for built development.

St Asaph Business Park is allocated as an Employment Area in the Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021. Use of this area for a substation would not be considered to be in accordance with local policy, as it would preclude use for employment purposes. As noted above, there is also a lack of sites with sufficient area to accommodate the substation and construction compound within the Business Park.

Local Development Plans do not typically include suitable use allocation types for electrical infrastructure, which is why substations may more typically be located on greenfield sites.

Potential for Dust and Noise Impacts for Residents on Glascoed Road

During Issue Specific Hearing 3 on the substation, you also asked about the potential for impacts to arise from construction noise and dust for the residents of the houses on Glascoed Road.

The Applicant has assessed the potential for noise and dust impacts through the EIA process, the findings of which are presented within the Environmental Statement. The relevant chapters are:

- Volume 3, Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration (Ref: APP-071), and
- Volume 3, Chapter 11: Air Quality (Ref: APP-072).

These documents can be accessed from the Planning Inspectorate website at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000211-6.3.10_AyM_ES_Volume3_Chapter10%20Noise_and_Vibration_Final.pdf

and:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000212-6.3.11_AyM_ES_Volume3_Chapter11_Air_%20Quality_Final.pdf

The Applicant has also provided outline management plans for both construction noise and dust as part of the Code of Construction Practice. These documents set out the measures that would be followed to manage environmental impacts during construction, and would require a final version of each to be completed following detailed design and to be approved by DCC in advance of construction commencing. Local residents would be able to provide comment and representation to DCC on these documents as part of the process to discharge of DCO Requirement. The relevant management plans are:

- Code of Construction Practice Appendix 2: Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Ref: REP2-020)
- Code of Construction Practice Appendix 3: Outline Air Quality Management Plan (Ref: REP2-032).

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000931-2.19_D2_AyM_Outline_Noise_and_Vibration_Management_Plan_Tracked_RevC.pdf

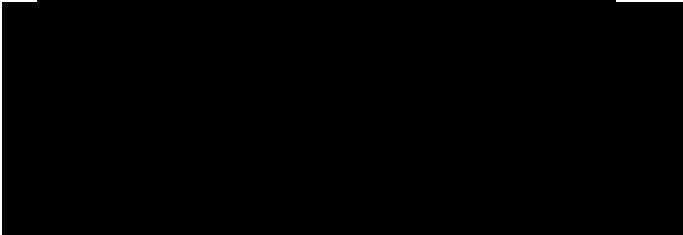
and:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010112/EN010112-000893-2.31_D2_AyM_Outline_Air_Quality_Management_Plan_Clean_RevC.pdf

The EIA chapters conclude that, with the implementation of mitigation measures proposed within the two management plans, the impacts arising from construction noise and dust on residents of Glascoed Road would not be significant.

We hope that you find this response to the key matters you raised at the hearings helpful. Please feel free to contact us for any further information.

Yours sincerely,



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