



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

Visual Effects from Faenol-Bropor (Tracked)

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1 Visual effects from Faenol-Bropor

1.1 Introduction

- 1 This landscape and visual response presents an assessment of the visual effects from the Faenol-Bropor property as a result of the onshore elements of the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (AyM), hereafter referred to as AyM. The assessment considers construction and operational effects.
- 2 The visual effect of the Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) was assessed in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) (AS-029), and the relevant sections are extracted into this response for reference. The focus of this additional assessment relates to the visual effect of the AyM Onshore Substation (OnSS) from the property, and to provide further clarity to the Applicant's response to question 10.25 of the Examining Authority (ExA) first written questions (REP1-007).
- 3 The Applicant's response to 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.
- 34 This revised version of the response is to ExAQ3.8.1 whereby the listed status of the Faenol-Bropor farmhouse noted in this response and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Volume 3, Chapter 2 of the ES) (AS-029) was questioned. The Applicant confirms that it is the barn to the north-west of Faenol-Bropor that is Grade II listed. This further response corrects this error and takes account of this revised understanding.

1.2 Approach

- 45 This response has been informed by the description of onshore elements of AyM within ES Volume 3, Chapter 1: Onshore Project Description (APP-062). The methodology used in this response is set out in ES Volume 3, Chapter 2, Section 2.5 - Assessment criteria and assignment of significance (AS-029). The response relies upon field survey undertaken for

the LVIA (AS-029) during periods of clear visibility between March and June 2021 and in January 2022. This response should be read in conjunction with the following Figures:

- ▲ Figure 1: View from Faenol-Bropor (Sheets A-F).
- ▲ (APP-163) - Volume 6, Annex 2.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Figures - Figure 2.7 (Context Photos).
- ▲ (APP-181) - Volume 6, Annex 2.3: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Visualisations - Figure 2.18 (Viewpoint 1: Bridlepath nr Faenol-Bropor).

1.3 Assessment

1.3.1 Baseline

56 The baseline for Faenol-Bropor was described in the LVIA (AS-029) but has been expanded upon for the purposes of this further assessment. In addition to this a visualisation (Figure 1: View from Faenol-Bropor) has been prepared that shows the Maximum Parameter Extent, that forms the basis of this assessment, as well as illustrating the indicative layouts of both the AIS and GIS substations, as was the case for the visualisations prepared for the LVIA (AS-029). This viewpoint has been located in a worst-case position at the southern edges of the east garden area, which has an open aspect across the neighbouring field towards the OnSS.

67 Faenol-Bropor is a large ~~Grade II listed~~ farmhouse set within an open agricultural setting. Several large farm buildings are found to the west of the property within its immediate context. The majority of the property is two storeys in height and has an 'L' shaped layout, with a small single storey wing to the rear. The front aspect of the property is north facing and has a centrally positioned front entrance overlooking the large garden. There is a Grade II listed barn located to the north-west of the farmhouse. Windows in the farmhouse property are relatively small with only one small upper landing window facing in the direction of the OnSS. Walls to the rear of the property enclose a small courtyard and rear entrance. Several small outbuildings and lean to sheds found at the rear of the property are attached to these walls and to the property. See Photographs F2, F3 and F5 on LVIA Figure 2.7d within (APP-163) - Volume 6, Annex 2.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Figures - Figure 2.7 (Context Photos), which show the front aspect, entrance gate

and rear aspect of the Faenol-Bropor property.

78 A large garden area wraps around the front (north facing) and side (east facing) aspects of the property. Views are more open to the north and east across the surrounding fields and from the front of the property views are towards the A55 where there are more windows. The principal view from this property is considered to be to the north from the front aspect of the house.

89 Views to the south across neighbouring fields and towards the AyM OnSS site are limited from within the property to the only window which is located on a stair landing, views to the south are also available from the side garden and courtyard. Whilst there are mature trees, tree clusters and small woods in the view south from the property, a wide gap between these trees allows views across the hedgerows of the Bridlepath, towards Glascoed Road including the higher elevated agricultural landscape in the Groesffordd area. Electricity pylons appear in this gap and break the higher elevated skyline.

910 The land to the south of this property is gradually rising towards the site of the proposed AyM OnSS. In views from the property, the field immediately to the south occupies much of the foreground of the view with the fields of the AyM OnSS site area only occupying a narrow vertical extent of the landscape in the view beyond. This is partly due to subtle changes in the gradually rising topography across the whole area and partly due to the screening effect of the Bridlepath hedgerow. On approach to the property from the north, and at the entrance gate, the property is in alignment with the view south towards the proposed AyM OnSS along the driveway, albeit it is set much further back and distant relative to the long driveway.

1.3.2 Sensitivity

11 The sensitivity of Faenol-Bropor was assessed in the LVIA (AS-029) at Table 13, as follows. This has been adjusted to take into account the fact that the farmhouse is not Grade II listed. –

12 Value is considered to be medium. The property overlooks agricultural landscape that is not designated for its scenic quality. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high and taking this into account sensitivity is

assessed to be medium-high.

~~‘Value is considered to be medium-high. The property overlooks agricultural landscape and is not designated for its scenic quality, however it is grade II listed. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high and taking this into account sensitivity is assessed to be high.’~~

1.3.3 Magnitude of Change

Onshore ECC

~~1113~~ The visual effect of the onshore ECC is assessed in the LVIA (AS-029) which assessed a high magnitude of change based on the following –

~~1214~~ *‘The HDD compounds for the A55 cable crossing would be located to the east of this property, the construction activity of cable route section F to the south of the A55 HDD compound would also be visible as it approaches the OnSS.’*

AyM Onshore Substation

~~1315~~ The AyM OnSS would be visible from the property in the view south from the east garden area, long driveway and from the upper landing window on the rear elevation of the property. Views to the north from the principal aspect of the property would be unaffected by the AyM OnSS. When visible the AyM OnSS would appear beyond the immediately neighbouring fields and Bridlepath to the south. The eastern parts of the AyM OnSS align with the wide gap in the trees described in the baseline whilst western parts would be partly obscured by a combination of field boundary trees and woodlands. The upper parts of the AyM OnSS buildings would appear beyond the Bridlepath hedgerows, however, lower parts of buildings, the OnSS platform and associated earthworks would not be visible due to the subtle changes in topography and vegetation of the Bridlepath that intervenes. Whilst a section of the bridlepath hedgerow vegetation will need to be removed to allow the excavation and installation of cables, this hedgerow vegetation will be replaced following completion of construction activity.

~~1416~~ From this property, construction activities associated with the onshore

ECC will be visible in combination with the construction of the AyM OnSS. Construction lighting would be evident in winter months when working days would extend into hours of darkness. The effects of the onshore ECC are described above and in the LVIA (AS-029), and the resulting intensification of construction related effects is also taken into account in this assessment. The construction activity may also be seen through the section of removed hedgerow and for the purposes of this assessment a worst case location for the cable route is assumed that will align with views from Faenol Bropor. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change during construction is considered to be high.

1517 Whilst in relatively close proximity at approximately 430m to the proposed platform area, the AyM OnSS would be partly obscured by the existing screening elements in the view such as the subtle changes in topography and mature trees / woods that intervene with western parts of the AyM OnSS. The AyM OnSS would also only be visible from a part of the garden area and a small upper landing window, moderating the magnitude of change. However, given that any proposed planting would not have a screening effect in year 1 the operational magnitude of change is considered to be medium-high reducing over time as vegetation establishes.

1618 This is a precautionary assessment based on a worst-case scenario for assessment. There are opportunities for these effects to be mitigated as part of the detailed design process. In addition, as set out in Revision C of the Design Principles document (Document 4.9 of the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission; Application Reference 8.8) consultation with landowners and people living near to the substation will be undertaken in order to ensure they understand what is being proposed, and also to allow them the opportunity to provide feedback on landscaping and design elements before further materials are prepared and submitted to DCC to discharge DCO Requirements.

1719 In year 15, the mitigation planting would have a notable influence on the view from this property due to its position within the gradually sloping landscape and the corresponding line of sight from this lower elevated property. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change would reduce to medium-low in year by 15 once mitigation planting establishes.

1.3.4 Significance of Effect

Onshore ECC

~~18~~20 The visual effect of the onshore ECC is assessed in the LVIA (AS-029), concluding a Major and Significant construction effect. Construction effects are adverse, short term and reversible. The assessed effect remains significant.

AyM OnSS

~~19~~21 The effect during construction is considered to be Major and Significant in EIA terms. The operational effect in year 1 following completion of construction is considered to be Moderate-Major and Significant in EIA terms. The cessation of construction activities would reduce the magnitude of change experienced from this property. In addition, the landscape reinstatement of the Onshore ECC would bring further mitigation potential in year 1, however, an open view would potentially remain towards the built elements of the AyM OnSS (assuming worst case cable route location that aligns with the property) until mitigation planting establishes resulting in a Significant adverse effect. The assessed effects remain as Significant during construction and the early years of operation.

22 The Applicant has noted that there was an error in the previous version of this document whereby the high sensitivity and medium-low magnitude of change at year 15 was recorded as having a Moderate-Minor Not Significant effect when it should have reported a Moderate Not Significant effect.

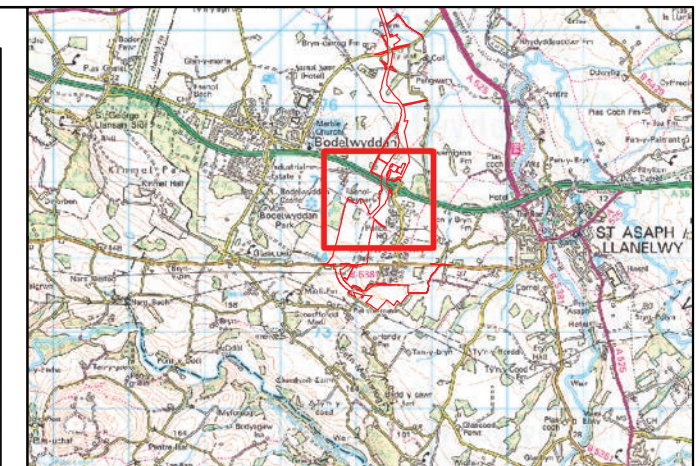
~~20~~23 Following the review of the sensitivity set out in this document ~~in~~ year 15 of the operational phase, given the medium-high sensitivity and medium-low magnitude of change assessed the effect would ~~be reduce to~~ Moderate-Minor and Not Significant effect once mitigation planting establishes. Whilst in relatively close proximity, the AyM OnSS would be partly obscured by existing screening elements, would only be visible from a part of the garden area or a small rear window and the mitigation planting would reduce the amount of the AyM OnSS visible. The assessed effects remain as Not Significant from year 15 of operation.

~~21~~24 Construction effects are adverse, short term and reversible. Operational

effects are adverse long term and reversible.

2225 Effects would vary from this property depending on the relative location of receptors within the property and the final design of the AyM OnSS. This assessment considers the worst-case proximity and scale of development within the AyM OnSS maximum parameter.

2 View from Faenol-Bropor (Sheets A-F)



- LEGEND**
- Substation Footprint
 - Proposed Woodland
 - Proposed Hedgerow
 - Photomontage Viewpoint Location (53.5 degrees HFOV)

Note: Proposed woodland mostly comprises indigenous woodland species with a mix of faster growing 'nurse' species and slower growing 'core' species. Nurse species, such as alder, birch and black poplar would grow quicker and would provide shelter to bring on core species, such as oak, elm and sycamore. After 15 years the Proposed Woodland is estimated to be approximately 7-10m in height (as shown on the year 15 visualisations at an average of 8.5m).

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Figure 1: View from Faenol-Bropor (Sheet A)



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



TYPE 3 VISUALISATION: Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

OS reference: 301302 E 374767 N	Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)	Camera: Canon EOS 6D	Enlargement Factor: 150% @A1
Eye level: 21.1 m AOD	Principal distance: 812.5mm	Lens: Canon EF 50mm f/1.4	
Direction of view: 209 °	Paper size: 841 x 297 mm (half A1)	Camera height: 1.5m	
Dist. to Substn. Zone: 0.43 km	Correct printed image size: 820 x 260 mm	Date and time: 24/05/2022 12:47	

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Maximum Parameter Extent



TYPE 3 VISUALISATION: Illustrative Photomontage of AIS Substation at Year 0

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

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OS reference: 301302 E 374767 N
Eye level: 21.1 m AOD
Direction of view: 209 °
Dist. to Substn. Zone: 0.43 km

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)
Principal distance: 812.5mm
Paper size: 841 x 297 mm (half A1)
Correct printed image size: 820 x 260 mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D
Lens: Canon EF 50mm f/1.4
Camera height: 1.5m
Date and time: 24/05/2022 12:47

Enlargement Factor: 150% @A1

View from Faenol-Bropor (Sheet C)
AWEL Y MÔR OFFSHORE WINDFARM

Maximum Parameter Extent



TYPE 3 VISUALISATION: Illustrative Photomontage of GIS Substation at Year 0

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

OS reference: 301302 E 374767 N
Eye level: 21.1 m AOD
Direction of view: 209 °
Dist. to Substn. Zone: 0.43 km

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)
Principal distance: 812.5mm
Paper size: 841 x 297 mm (half A1)
Correct printed image size: 820 x 260 mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D
Lens: Canon EF 50mm f/1.4
Camera height: 1.5m
Date and time: 24/05/2022 12:47

Enlargement Factor: 150% @A1

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View from Faenol-Bropor (Sheet D)
AWEL Y MÔR OFFSHORE WINDFARM

Maximum Parameter Extent



TYPE 3 VISUALISATION: Illustrative Photomontage of AIS Substation at Year 15

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

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OS reference: 301302 E 374767 N
Eye level: 21.1 m AOD
Direction of view: 209 °
Dist. to Substn. Zone: 0.43 km

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)
Principal distance: 812.5mm
Paper size: 841 x 297 mm (half A1)
Correct printed image size: 820 x 260 mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D
Lens: Canon EF 50mm f/1.4
Camera height: 1.5m
Date and time: 24/05/2022 12:47

Enlargement Factor: 150% @A1

Maximum Parameter Extent



TYPE 3 VISUALISATION: Illustrative Photomontage of GIS Substation at Year 15

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

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OS reference: 301302 E 374767 N
Eye level: 21.1 m AOD
Direction of view: 209 °
Dist. to Substn. Zone: 0.43 km

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)
Principal distance: 812.5mm
Paper size: 841 x 297 mm (half A1)
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