



# **Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm**

## **Statement of Common Ground 7 – Natural Resources Wales (Onshore)**

### **Deadline 8**

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# Contents

1	Introduction.....	5
1.1	Background.....	5
1.2	Approach to SoCG .....	6
1.3	The Development .....	7
2	NRW's role with respect to the SoCG .....	8
2.1	Introduction .....	8
2.2	Consultation Summary .....	9
3	Agreements Log.....	11
3.1	Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation .....	12
3.2	Hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk .....	15
3.3	Ground conditions and contamination .....	18
3.4	Air quality impacts to protected sites (SAC/SPA/SSSI) .....	19
3.5	Waste management relating to onshore aspects of AyM .....	21

## Tables

Table 1: Consultation undertaken with NRW (regarding onshore aspects of AyM) during pre-application and post application phases. ....	9
Table 2: Position status key.....	11
Table 3: Status of discussions relating to onshore biodiversity and nature conservation.....	12
Table 4: Status of discussions relating to hydrology, hydrogeology, flood risk & WFD (onshore).....	15
Table 5: Status of discussions relating to ground conditions and contamination. ....	18
Table 6: Status of discussions relating to air quality impacts to protected sites (SAC/SPA/SSSI). ....	19
Table 7: Status of discussions relating to waste management .....	21

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the Application) for the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'AyM').
- 2 This SoCG (SoCG 7) relates to onshore aspects of the Application and is one of three SoCGs that have been discussed between the Applicant and NRW that cover the following broad areas of the DCO application, with the relevant topics listed:
  - ▲ SoCG 5: Seascape, Landscape, Visual Impact aspects of the Application
    - Seascape;
    - Landscape;
    - Visual resources; and
    - Designated landscapes.
  - ▲ SoCG 6: Offshore aspects of the Application
    - Marine geology, oceanography and physical processes;
    - Marine water and sediment quality (including Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment);
    - Offshore ornithology;
    - Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology;
    - Fish and shellfish ecology;
    - Marine mammals;
    - Habitats Regulations Assessment.
  - ▲ SoCG 7: Onshore aspects of the Application )
    - Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation;
    - Hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk;
    - Ground conditions and contamination;
    - Air quality impacts; and

- Waste management relating to onshore aspects of AyM.
- 3 The three SoCGs should be read in conjunction with one another in order to clarify the Applicant's and NRW's position on the application.
  - 4 The need for a SoCG between the Applicant and NRW was set out within Rule 6 letter issued by the Examining Authority (ExA) on 23 August 2022.
  - 5 Following detailed discussions undertaken through pre-application and post-application consultation, the Applicant and NRW have sought to progress a SoCG. It is the intention that this document provides the ExA with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicant and NRW and will be updated as discussions progress during the Examination.

## 1.2 Approach to SoCG

- 6 This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination and examination phases of AyM. The SoCG makes reference to other submission documents that set out, in greater detail, the discussions that have taken place between NRW and The Applicant. These documents are:
  - ▲ Consultation Report [APP025]
  - ▲ Evidence Plan [APP-301]
  - ▲ The 'Consultation' section from within relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement
- 7 In accordance with discussions between the Applicant and NRW, the SoCG is focused on the Onshore topics listed in Paragraph 2.
- 8 The SoCG is structured as follows:
  - ▲ **Introduction:** Outlining the background to the development of the SoCG;
  - ▲ **NRW's role with respect to the SoCG:** Describing the main areas of discussion within the SoCG and a summary of consultation to date; and
  - ▲ **Agreements Log:** A record of the positions of the Applicant alongside those of NRW as related to the topics of discussion and the status of agreement on those positions.

## 1.3 The Development

- 9 The Application is for development consent for the Applicant to construct and operate the proposed Awel y Môr project under the Planning Act 2008. The offshore development will also require a Marine Licence, which is to be determined independently under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
- 10 AyM will comprise up to 50 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and will include infrastructure that is required to transmit the power generated by the turbines to the offshore substation via inter-array cables, before being transmitted via export cables to the proposed Onshore Substation (OnSS) located to the west of St Asaph Business Park (SABP) and then to the existing National Grid Bodelwyddan substation.
- 11 The onshore export cable configuration will include up to two cable circuits connecting to the proposed OnSS and existing National Grid Bodelwyddan substation via a Landfall to the east of Rhyl and underground cables within an onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC).
- 12 The key permanent onshore components of AyM will include:
  - ▲ Infrastructure at Landfall where the offshore cables are brought ashore;
  - ▲ Up to two Transition Joint Bays connecting the offshore cables to the onshore cables;
  - ▲ Underground cable ducts, joint pits and cables;
  - ▲ The OnSS to the west of SABP; and
  - ▲ Underground cable ducts, joint pits and cables for the grid connection from the OnSS to the existing National Grid Bodelwyddan substation located to the south of SABP.
- 13 More details on the proposed development are described in the Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 3, Chapter 1: Project Description (Onshore) (PINS Ref APP-062/ Application Ref 6.3.1)).

## 2 NRW's role with respect to the SoCG

### 2.1 Introduction

- 14 In addition to being an interested party under the Planning Act 2008, NRW exercises functions under legislation including (but not limited to) the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
- 15 NRW's roles as a regulator and statutory consultee are independent to ensure appropriate functional separation between them.
- 16 For the avoidance of doubt, this SoCG relates solely to NRW's advice in its capacity as a statutory consultee and advisor and the comments are therefore made solely in the context of the DCO. The permitting activities, , are not caught by this SoCG rather they operate independently under relevant legislation.
- 17 the project elements of interest for this SoCG are the onshore elements of the scheme comprising the landfall, onshore ECC, OnSS and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure such as temporary watercourse crossings and proposals for ecological compensation and enhancement.
- 18 In relation to AyM, NRW's responsibilities have included engagement in the pre-application process, both through membership of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) and through bilateral discussion.
- 19 The SoCG covers technical topics of the DCO application of relevance to NRW, comprising:
  - ▲ Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation
  - ▲ Hydrology, hydrogeology, flood risk, and the Water Framework Directive (WFD)
  - ▲ Ground conditions and contamination
  - ▲ Air quality impacts on protected sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI))
  - ▲ Waste management relating to onshore aspects of AyM



## 2.2 Consultation Summary

20 This section briefly summarises the consultation (regarding onshore aspects of AyM) that the Applicant has undertaken with NRW including both statutory and non-statutory engagement during the pre-application and post-application phases. The list in Table 1 is not exhaustive but provides an indication of aspects of the key discussions undertaken. A full list of pre- and post-application consultation discussions is available within the Consultation Report [APP-025] and the Evidence Plan [APP-301]. Some of the meetings below also include other parties however, for the avoidance of doubt, this SoCG is limited to matters agreed/not agreed between NRW and the Applicant.

Table 1: Consultation undertaken with NRW (regarding onshore aspects of AyM) during pre-application and post application phases.

DATE AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION
10/12/2019 (meeting)	Pre-Scoping onshore biodiversity and hydrology ETG meeting to discuss EIA Scoping, Route selection and approach to ecology survey
9/3/2020 (meeting)	Pre-Scoping ETG meeting on route/site selection
June 2020	EIA Scoping report provided and response from NRW included in PINS Scoping opinion
21/9/2020 (meeting)	Post Scoping ETG with discussion on Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) status and approach to wintering bird survey
01/10/2020	ETG meeting to review EIA scoping response relating to hydrology, hydrogeology, ground conditions and flood risk
26/02/2021 (meeting)	ETG Meeting to provide update on route selection, present initial PEA findings and proposed survey scope for protected species surveys

DATE AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION
22/03/2021	ETG meeting to provide an update on assessment work relating to hydrology, hydrogeology, and flood risk in advance of Statutory Consultation as well as proposals for drainage
24/11/2021 (meeting)	ETG meeting to discuss protected species survey findings and proposals for ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement
26/11/2021 (meeting)	Meeting to discuss proposals for mitigation, compensation and enhancement related to great crested newts
2/7/2021 (phone/e-mail)	Discussion on survey scope for bats followed by e-mail confirming acceptability to NRW
11/10/2021	ETG meeting to discuss feedback on hydrology and flood risk provided through Statutory Consultation
20/12/2021 (e-mail)	NRW confirmation that there is no requirement to consider a biodiversity net gain metric for AyM
23/08/2022 (meeting)	Discussion regarding watercourse crossings and the intention for disapplication of Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) within the DCO application.  Discussion regarding development of SOCG
03/08/2022	Post-application meetings to discuss NRW Relevant Representation and Watercourse Crossings.

### 3 Agreements Log

- 21 The following sections of this SoCG set out the level of agreement between the Applicant and NRW for each relevant component of the Application identified in paragraph 19. The tables below detail the positions of the Applicant alongside those of NRW and whether the matter is agreed or not agreed.
- 22 In order to easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or an 'ongoing point of discussion, the agreements logs in the tables below are colour coded to represent the status of the position according to the criteria listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Position status key.

POSITION STATUS	COLOUR CODE
The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties	Agreed
The matter is neither 'agreed' or 'not agreed' and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties, for example where relevant documents are being prepared or reviewed.	Ongoing point of discussion
The matter is not agreed between the parties, however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or NRW is not considered to result in a material outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed – No material impact
The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or NRW is considered to result in a materially different outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed – material impact

### 3.1 Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation

23 The status of discussions relating to biodiversity and nature conservation is set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Status of discussions relating to onshore biodiversity and nature conservation.

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Policy and Legislation	SoCG07-1.1	Section 5.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) has identified relevant legislation and policy and consideration has been given to them in the assessment.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [APP-066] has considered relevant legislation and policy.	Agreed
Baseline Information	SoCG07-1.2	Section 5.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to biodiversity and nature conservation to inform the EIA.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [APP-066] and associated appendices adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to biodiversity and nature conservation to inform the EIA.	Agreed
	SoCG07-1.3	The evolution of the baseline environment, identified in Section 5.7.6 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066), is considered appropriate.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [APP-066] adequately considers the evolution of the future baseline environment.	Agreed
Ecology Surveys	SoCG07-1.4	The study area identified in Section 5.4.1 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) is appropriate.	NRW is satisfied that the study area used for the assessment presented in the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [APP-066] is appropriate.	Agreed
	SoCG07-1.5	The habitat and hedgerow survey presented in Annex 5.2 (APP-125), is satisfactory to characterise the baseline environment in order to inform the assessment.	NRW is satisfied that the habitat and hedgerow survey presented in Annex 5.2 (APP-125/ Application Ref 6.5.5.2), is satisfactory to characterise the baseline environment in order to inform the onshore ecology assessment.	Agreed
	SoCG07-1.6	The protected species surveys undertaken for reptiles, great crested newts (GCNs), bats, otters, dormice, water voles and barn owls, as set out in Annexes 5.4 (APP-127), 5.5 (APP-128), 5.6 (APP-129), 5.7 (APP-130), and 5.10 (APP-134) are satisfactory to characterise the baseline environment relating to protected species in order to inform the assessment.	NRW is satisfied that the protected species surveys undertaken for great crested newts (GCNs), bats, otters, dormice, water voles and barn owls, as set out in Annexes 5.4 (APP-127), 5.5 (APP-128), 5.6 (APP-129), 5.7 (APP-130), and 5.10 (APP-134) adequately characterise the baseline environment relating to protected species in order to inform the assessment.	Agreed

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Assessment methodology	SoCG07-1.7	The impact assessment methodology identified in Section 5.5 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation [APP-066]) is considered appropriate.	NRW is satisfied with the assessment methodology used within the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [APP-066].	Agreed
Proposed Mitigation, compensation and enhancement – Protected Species	SoCG07-1.8	The proposals for mitigation, compensation and enhancement summarised within Sections 5.9, 5.10 and 5.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) and the revised Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) at Deadline 2 [REP1-034] are considered acceptable to manage adverse effects.	Following submission of the revised OLEMP at Deadline 1 [REP1-034], NRW agrees that the proposals for mitigation, compensation and enhancement summarised within Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) (APP-305) are acceptable to manage adverse effects with respect to Protected Species.	Agreed
Proposed Mitigation - Fish	SoCG07-1.9	In response to NRW's Written Representations (REP1-080), the Applicant has included a statement in the revised OLEMP (REP2-009) confirming that the crossing works beneath the River Clwyd will have regard to salmon.	The onshore works include watercourse crossings which may involve in-river works. We agree with the conclusions of the ES that the watercourses that may be subject to in-river works are not important spawning areas for salmonids. However, as a precaution, and as identified in NRW's Written Representations [REP1-080], we advised that the OLEMP is updated to include a statement that the works will have regard to the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Following submission of the revised OLEMP at Deadline 2 [REP2-009], we are satisfied that this matter has been addressed.	Agreed
Biodiversity benefit	SoCG07-1.10	There is no requirement for a biodiversity net gain metric within the DCO application.	NRW agrees that there is no requirement for a biodiversity net gain metric within the DCO application.	Agreed
Proposed Mitigation	SoCG07-1.11	The proposals for the management of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) that are set out in the outline INNS Management Plan as updated at Deadline 1 [REP-041] are appropriate.	Following submission of the revised Outline INNS Management Plan at Deadline 1 [REP1-041], NRW is satisfied that the proposals for the management of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are appropriate.	Agreed
Assessment Outcomes	SoCG07-1.12	The conclusion that impacts assessed within Sections 5.10 and 5.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) are not considered to be significant in EIA terms during the mid and long term.	NRW is satisfied that the impacts assessed within Sections 5.10 and 5.11 of the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [APP-066] is appropriate are not considered to be significant in EIA terms during the mid and long term.	Agreed

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
	SoCG07-1.13	The assessment of protected species presented within Sections 5.10 and 5.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) in respect of great crested newts (GCNs), bats, otters, dormice, water voles and barn owls is satisfactory.	NRW is satisfied that the assessment of protected species presented within Sections 5.10 and 5.11 of the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [PINS Ref: APP-066] in respect of great crested newts (GCNs), bats, otters, dormice, water voles and barn owls is satisfactory.	Agreed
	SoCG07-1.14	The conclusions within Sections 5.10 and 5.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Onshore biodiversity and nature conservation (APP-066) accurately conclude that, through securing appropriate mitigation as summarised within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) (REP2-009) the onshore elements of AyM will not be detrimental to the Favourable Conservation Status of protected species.	NRW is satisfied that the conclusions of the onshore biodiversity and nature conservation chapter [APP-066] accurately conclude that, through the adoption of appropriate mitigation as set out within the OLEMP (REP2-009) the onshore elements of AyM will not be detrimental to the Favourable Conservation Status of protected species.	Agreed

### 3.2 Hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk

24 The status of discussions relating to hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk is set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Status of discussions relating to hydrology, hydrogeology, flood risk & WFD (onshore).

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Policy and Legislation	SoCG07-2.1	Section 7.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 7 hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (APP-068) has identified relevant legislation and policy and consideration has been given to them in the assessment.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter [APP-068] has considered relevant legislation and policy.	Agreed
Baseline Information	SoCG07-2.2	Section 7.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 7 hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (APP-068) adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk to inform the EIA.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter [APP-068] and supporting appendices adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk to inform the EIA.	Agreed
	SoCG07-2.3	The evolution of the baseline environment, identified in Section 7.7.10 of Volume 3, Chapter 7 hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk (APP-068), is considered appropriate.	NRW is satisfied that the evolution of the baseline environment within the onshore hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter [APP-068] is appropriate.	Agreed
Baseline Information – fluvial geomorphology / WFD	SoCG07-2.4	NRW has confirmed within its Written Representation (REP1-080) that it is satisfied that WFD impacts can be avoided through securing approval of the information (set out in Paragraphs 3.3.2 to 3.3.6 of the NRW Written Rep) through a DCO Requirement, the Applicant would defer provision of this information until post consent, when it can be prepared on the basis of detailed design and further ground investigation. The Applicant is aware that without this study, there is risk that crossing options carried forward may not be appropriate or acceptable.	The applicant has submitted an updated Outline CMS into Examination at Deadline 4 [REP4-018]) which includes the following statement:  <i>“The Applicant acknowledges and accepts there is a risk that some watercourse crossing techniques may not be acceptable to NRW following detailed design and further appraisal. Upon further investigation it may be determined that an open-cut solution is not acceptable to NRW and a trenchless crossing option may remain the only acceptable method.”</i>  On the basis of the submitted Outline CMS, and the changes made, we are satisfied that WFD impacts can be avoided through securing approval of the final CMS through DCO Requirement 10	Agreed
Data Sources	SoCG07-2.5	Section 7.4.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 7 hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (APP-068) adequately identifies the baseline data sources relevant to hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk to inform the EIA.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter [APP-068] adequately identifies the baseline data sources relevant to hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk to inform the EIA.	Agreed

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Assessment Methodology	SoCG07-2.6	The approach to WFD compliance assessment, with a separate WFD report (PINS Ref APP-094) that is considered appropriate.	NRW agrees to the use of a separate WFD report [APP-094] to demonstrate WFD compliance.	Agreed
	SoCG07-2.7	The impact assessment methodology identified in Section 7.4 of Volume 3, Chapter 7 hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (APP-068) is considered appropriate.	NRW is satisfied that the impact assessment methodology used within the onshore hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter [APP-068] is considered appropriate.	Agreed
Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring	SoCG07-2.8	In view of the onshore works proposed, and as a final Construction Method Statement (CMS) (APP-313), has been provided as part of the outline Code of Construction Practice (COCP) (APP-312), that will be approved by Denbighshire County Council under a DCO Requirement, it is considered that flood risk can be appropriately/adequately mitigated.	NRW agrees that flood risk can be adequately mitigated through approval of a final CMS and the underpinning Method Statements and Management Plans (as part of the overall COCP) via DCO Requirement.	Agreed
	SoCG07-2.9	The submission to, and approval by, Denbighshire County Council of a final Code of Construction Practice (COCP), that follows the principles set out in the outline CoCP [APP-312] as controlled by DCO Requirement 10, and the underpinning Method Statements and Management Plans is considered appropriate and sufficient to manage impacts on water quality (both surface and groundwater).	Following submission of the revised Outline Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Response Plan [REP2-036] and Outline Construction Method Statement [REP2-017] (in response to points raised in paragraphs 3.6.2 and 3.6.3 of NRW's Written Representations) NRW agrees that impacts on water quality (both surface and groundwater) can be adequately managed through approval of a final CoCP and the underpinning Method Statements and Management Plans via DCO Requirement.	Agreed
Proposed mitigation – flood risk	SoCG07-2.10	The proposals for mitigation within Sections 7.9, 7.10 and 7.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 7 hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (APP-068) and the Flood Consequences Assessment (Annex 7.1 - Onshore Export Cable Corridor Flood Consequence Assessment (APP-137) and Annex 7.2 - Onshore Substation Flood Consequence Assessment (APP-138) are considered acceptable to manage adverse effects.	With respect to flood risk, NRW is satisfied that the proposals for mitigation within the onshore hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter [APP-068] the Flood Consequences Assessment (Annex 7.1 - Onshore Export Cable Corridor Flood Consequence Assessment (APP-137) and Annex 7.2 - Onshore Substation Flood Consequence Assessment (APP-138) are considered acceptable to manage adverse effects.	Agreed



DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Assessment Outcomes	SoCG07-2.11	The Flood Map for Planning (FMfP) and Development Advice Map (DAM) shows that the proposed onshore substation is not at risk of flooding from the sea or fluvially.	NRW agrees that the Flood Map for Planning (FMfP) and Development Advice Map (DAM) shows that the proposed onshore substation is not at risk of flooding from the sea or fluvially	Agreed
	SoCG07-2.12	The conclusion that impacts assessed within Sections 7.10 and 7.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 7 hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (APP-068) are not considered to be significant in EIA terms.	NRW agrees with the conclusion that impacts assessed within the onshore hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter [APP-068] are not considered to be significant in EIA terms.	Agreed
Permitting	SoCG07-2.13	The Applicant considers it appropriate to disapply the need for a future FRAP application through disapplication of FRAP via the DCO. However the Applicant acknowledges that this can only be done with NRW's consent. As outlined in NRW's submission REP6-048, NRW does not consent to disapplication of FRAP. Therefore the Applicant is no longer seeking to disapply the FRAP via the DCO and has amended the DCO at Deadline 7 to reflect this. The two parties are in agreement with this approach	As detailed in NRW's Written Submission for Deadline 6 [REP6-048] NRW does not consent to the disapplication of the need for FRAP(s).	Agreed

### 3.3 Ground conditions and contamination

25 The status of discussions relating to ground conditions and contamination is set out in Table 5.

Table 5: Status of discussions relating to ground conditions and contamination.

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Policy and Legislation	SoCG07-3.1	Section 6.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 6 ground conditions and land use (APP-067) has identified relevant legislation and policy and consideration has been given to them in the assessment.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore ground conditions and land use ES chapter [APP-067] has considered relevant legislation and policy.	Agreed
Baseline Information	SoCG07-3.2	Section 6.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 6 ground conditions and land use (APP-067) adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to ground conditions and land use to inform the EIA.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore ground conditions and land use ES chapter [APP-067] adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to ground conditions and land use to inform the EIA.	Agreed
Data Sources	SoCG07-3.3	Section 6.4.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 6 ground conditions and land use (APP-067) adequately identifies the baseline data sources relevant to ground conditions and land use to inform the EIA.	NRW is satisfied that the onshore ground conditions and land use ES chapter [APP-067] adequately identifies the baseline data sources relevant to ground conditions and land use to inform the EIA.	Agreed
Assessment Methodology	SoCG07-3.4	The impact assessment methodology identified in Section 6.4 of Volume 3, Chapter 6 ground conditions and land use (APP-067) is considered appropriate.	NRW is satisfied that the impact assessment methodology used for the onshore ground conditions and land use ES chapter [APP-067] is considered to be appropriate	Agreed
Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring	SoCG07-3.5	The proposals for mitigation within Sections 6.9, 6.10 and 6.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 6 ground conditions and land use (APP-067) alongside the measures outlined in the outline Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Plan (OPPEIRP) [APP-318] are considered acceptable to manage adverse effects.	NRW is satisfied that the proposals for mitigation within the onshore ground conditions and land use ES chapter [APP-067] alongside the measures outlined in the outline Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Plan (OPPEIRP) [APP-318] are considered acceptable to manage adverse effects.	Agreed
Assessment Outcomes	SoCG07-3.6	The conclusion that impacts assessed within Sections 6.10 and 6.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 6 ground conditions and land use (APP-067) are not considered to be significant in EIA terms.	NRW agrees with the conclusion that impacts assessed onshore ground conditions and land use ES chapter [APP-067] are not considered to be significant in EIA terms.	Agreed

### 3.4 Air quality impacts to protected sites (SAC/SPA/SSSI)

26 The status of discussions relating to air quality impacts to protected sites (SAC/SPA/SSSI) is set out in Table 6.

Table 6: Status of discussions relating to air quality impacts to protected sites (SAC/SPA/SSSI).

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Policy and Legislation	SoCG07-4.1	Section 11.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 11 air quality (APP-072) has identified relevant legislation and policy and consideration has been given to them in the assessment of air quality impacts on protected sites	NRW is satisfied that the air quality ES chapter [APP-072] has considered relevant legislation and policy.	Agreed
Baseline Information	SoCG07-4.2	Section 11.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 11 air quality (APP-072) adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to air quality impacts on protected sites to inform the EIA.	NRW is satisfied that the air quality ES chapter [APP-072] adequately identifies the baseline environment relevant to air quality impacts on protected sites to inform the EIA.	Agreed
Assessment Methodology	SoCG07-4.3	The impact assessment methodology identified in Section 11.4 of Volume 3, Chapter 11 air quality (APP-072) is considered appropriate to assess air quality impacts on protected sites to inform the EIA.	NRW is satisfied that the impact assessment methodology within the air quality ES chapter [APP-072] is considered appropriate to assess air quality impacts on protected sites to inform the EIA.	Agreed
Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring	SoCG07-4.4	It is agreed that the mitigation proposed in the outline air quality management plan (APP-315), provided as part of the outline Code of Construction Practice (COCP) (APP-312), is sufficient to demonstrate that dust impacts on protected sites will be appropriately managed.	NRW agrees that the mitigation proposed in the outline air quality management plan is sufficient to demonstrate that dust impacts on protected sites will be appropriately managed.	Agreed
Assessment Outcomes	SoCG07-4.5	The conclusion that construction and operational onshore traffic associated with AyM is unlikely to have significant effects on any designated nature conservation site (SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar site) assessed within Sections 11.10 Volume 3, Chapter 11 air quality (APP-072).	NRW agrees with the conclusion that onshore traffic associated with construction and operation of AyM is unlikely to have significant effects on any designated nature conservation site (SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar site).	Agreed
	SoCG07-4.6	Air emissions from marine vessels will not have a significant effect on onshore coastal habitat.	Following submission of the Vessel Emissions Clarification Note by the Applicant at Deadline 1 [REP1-020], NRW agrees that marine vessels are not likely to have significant effects on any designated onshore coastal habitat.	Agreed

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
	SoCG07-4.7	The conclusion that impacts assessed within Sections 11.10 Volume 3, Chapter 11 air quality (APP-072) are not considered to be significant in EIA terms with regard to air quality impacts on protected sites.	NRW agrees with the conclusion that impacts assessed within the air quality ES Chapter are not considered to be significant in EIA terms with regard to air quality impacts on protected sites.	Agreed

### 3.5 Waste management relating to onshore aspects of AyM

27 The status of discussions relating to waste management relating to onshore aspects of AyM is set out in Table 7.

Table 7: Status of discussions relating to waste management

DISCUSSION POINT	REF	APPLICANT'S POSITION	NRW POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring	SoCG07-5.1	The submission to, and approval by, Denbighshire County Council of the final Site Waste Management Plan and the final Code of Construction Practice (COCP) [APP-317] are considered appropriate and sufficient to manage impacts arising from onshore waste generated during construction of onshore elements of the scheme. NRW should be consulted on the final Site Waste Management Plan prior to discharge of Requirement 10.	NRW agrees that the approval of the final Site Waste Management Plan by DCC, in consultation with NRW, should be sufficient to manage impacts arising from onshore waste generated during construction of onshore elements of the scheme.	Agreed



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