



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

Category 6: Environmental Statement

Volume 5, Annex 8.4 Onshore Archaeological Watching Brief

Date: April 2022

Revision: B

Application Reference: 6.5.8.4

Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)



REVISION	DATE	STATUS/ REASON FOR ISSUE	AUTHOR:	CHECKED BY:	APPROVED BY:
A	August 2021	PEIR	Wessex	RWE	RWE
B	March 2022	ES	Wessex	RWE	RWE

www.awelymor.cymru

RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon
Wiltshire SN5 6PB
T +44 (0)8456 720 090
www.rwe.com

Registered office:
RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon



Awel y Mor, Denbighshire

Onshore Archaeological Watching Brief

Ref: 231901.04
January 2022



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Unit R6
Sheaf Bank Business Park
Prospect Road
Sheffield
S2 3EN

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Awel y Môr, Denbighshire Onshore Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GoBe Consultants Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of geotechnical inspection holes related to the Awel y Môr Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) and Substation. The monitored works comprised the excavation of a total of nineteen boreholes and three test pits, located between Rhyl and the Bodelwyddan Estate, Denbighshire (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was part of staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the proposed Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) and Substation zone. Other works undertaken for this purpose include the production of a desk-based assessment and the carrying out of a geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2022 a and b). This document will be used as part of the baseline for the ES chapter.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The monitored boreholes and test pits were located in three principal areas: close to the shore line to the east of Rhyl; in the vicinity of Bryn Cwnin Farm/the A525 to the south of Rhyl; and, to the east of the Bodelwyddan Estate.

1.2.2 Existing ground levels within the monitored areas varied between 3.7 m OD and 42.8 m OD.

1.2.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Sandstone of the Kinnerton formation and Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone of the Warwickshire Group (British Geological Survey Accessed 2022). Superficial deposits within the monitored areas chiefly comprise Tidal Flat Deposits, Till (Diamicton) and Alluvium.

2 RESULTS

2.1 General

2.1.1 No archaeological remains (finds, features or deposits) were observed in any of the monitored boreholes and no environmental samples were collected. A summary of the deposits recorded in each of the monitored excavations is tabulated below, moving from north to south. Borehole and test pit locations are shown on **Figure 1**.

Table 1 Summary of results of archaeological watching brief

Borehole (BH)/test pit (TP) number	Location (NGR)	Date monitored	Deposit sequence (depth below ground level in metres)	Plates
BH306	303425.193, 382622.641	07/09/21	0–0.3: Mid brown silty sand 0.3 m–6 m+: Pale yellow pebbly sand	1
BH304	303510.059, 382502.676	07/09/21	0–0.25: Mid brown silty sand 0.25–0.50: Fine pale yellow sand 0.5–4.00: Wet, dark grey/black muddy sand	2



Borehole (BH)/ test pit (TP) number	Location (NGR)	Date monitored	Deposit sequence (depth below ground level in metres)	Plates
BH301	303631.004, 382175.315	05/10/21	0–0.36: Mid to dark brown silt and clay 0.36–1: Mottled buff/grey clay 1–1.1: Rich brown peat 1.1–1.2+: Pale grey silty sand	3
BH702	302833.997, 379751.404	23/09/21	0–0.22: Greyish brown silty clay 0.22–0.49: Yellowish brown clay silt 0.49–1.2+: Orange brown silty clay	4
BH701	302725.516, 379681.924	21/09/21	0–0.27: Modern gravel 0.27–0.61: Yellowish brown sandy clay 0.61–2: Greyish brown sandy clay 2+: Brownish grey clay	5
BH501	302554.242, 379299.294	04/10/21	0–0.40: Mid to dark brown sandy clay 0.4–1.2+: Reddish brown clay	6
BH502	302446.671, 379220.106	10/09/21	0–0.13: Mid brown silty clay 0.13–0.42: Mid yellowish brown sandy silt 0.42– 0.9: Mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay 0.9–1.2+: Greyish brown silty clay	7
BH601	301542.913, 378610.117	10/09/21	0–0.3: Mid brown silty clay 0.3–0.85: Pale blue/grey clay silt 0.85–1: Blue grey clay 1–1.9: Brown clayish peat 1.9 m+: Soft greyish brown gravelly clay	8
BH602	301433.07, 378551.987	27/09/21	0–0.27: Greyish brown silty clay 0.27–1.2+: Greyish brown silty clay	9
BH603	301315.733, 378505.15	30/09/21	0–0.31: Greyish brown silty clay 0.31–1.2+: Dark greyish brown silty clay	10
BH404	301436.655, 375044.893	20/09/21	0–0.35: Greyish brown sandy clay 0.35–0.53: Yellowish brown silty clay 0.53–1.2+: Reddish brown silty clay	11
BH401A	301683.105, 374927.145	28/09/21	0–0.33: Greyish brown sandy clay 0.33–0.58: Orangey brown sandy clay 0.58–1.2+: Reddish brown sandy clay	12
BH401	301686.837, 374923.991	24/09/21	0–0.3: Greyish brown sandy clay 0.3–0.58: Orangey brown sandy clay 0.58–1.2+: Reddish brown sandy clay	13
BH403A	301454.614, 374863.989	29/09/21	0–0.28: Greyish brown silty clay 0.28–0.48: Yellowish brown sandy clay 0.48–1.2+: Reddish brown sandy clay	14



Borehole (BH)/ test pit (TP) number	Location (NGR)	Date monitored	Deposit sequence (depth below ground level in metres)	Plates
BH403B	301450.579, 374858.822	04/10/21	0–0.54: Brown silt and clay 0.54–1.2+: Light brown/red clay, slightly sandy/silty	15
BH403	301456.31, 374857.527	27/09/21	0–0.26: Greyish brown silty clay 0.26–0.38: Yellowish brown sandy clay 0.38–1.2+: Reddish brown sandy silty clay	16
MMTP04	301178.551, 374481.11	16/09/21	0–0.35: Greyish brown silty clay 0.35–0.55: Yellowish brown clay sand 0.55–1.5: Reddish brown sandy clay 1.5–2.5: Reddish, blueish brown sandy clay	17
MMBH03	300950.31, 374339.827	21/09/21	0–0.32: Greyish brown silty clay 0.32–0.5: Yellowish brown silty clay 0.5–1.6: Reddish brown silty clay 1.6+: Reddish brown clay	18
MMBH02	301145.866, 374311.322	15/09/21	0–0.26: Mid greyish brown silty clay 0.26–0.48: Mid brown silty clay 0.48–1.2: Reddish brown silty clay 1.2–2: Greyish reddish brown silty clay	19
MMTP02	301090.503, 374225.799	16/09/21	0–0.27: Greyish brown sandy silt 0.27–0.86: Reddish brown silty clay 0.86–1.2 Dark blueish brown silty clay	20
MMBH01	301003.524, 374150.583	16/09/21	0–0.22: Mid greyish brown silty clay 0.22–0.46: Mid yellowish brown clayish sand 0.46–0.8: Reddish brown silty clay 0.8–1.2: Reddish brown silty clay	21
MMTP01	300875.692, 374057.568	16/09/21	0–0.26: Greyish brown silty clay 0.26–0.36: Orangey brown sandy clay 0.36–1.2+ Reddish brown silty clay	22

3 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, although such remains can be hard to identify within the small areas monitored. Deposits of apparent paleoenvironmental potential were encountered, with the peat deposits in BH301 and 601 signalling the potential for the presence of anaerobic preservation conditions within parts of the proposed route.



4 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

4.1 Security copy

- 4.1.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



REFERENCES

- British Geological Survey *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed January 2022)
- Brown, D H 2011 *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition). Archaeological Archives Forum
- Wessex Archaeology 2022a Awel y Môr Onshore, Denbighshire: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment. Unpublished rep. 231901.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2022b Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm: Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report. Unpublished rep. 245490.03



List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location

List of Plates

Plate 1: BH306

Plate 2: BH304

Plate 3: BH301

Plate 4: BH702

Plate 5: BH701

Plate 6: BH501

Plate 7: BH502

Plate 8: BH601

Plate 9: BH602

Plate 10: BH603

Plate 11: BH404

Plate 12: BH401A

Plate 13: BH401

Plate 14: BH403A

Plate 15: BH403B

Plate 16: BH403

Plate 17: MMTP04

Plate 18: MMBH03

Plate 19: MMBH02

Plate 20: MMTP02

Plate 21: MMBH01

Plate 22: MMTP01



Plate 1: BH306



Plate 2: BH304

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Plate 3: BH301



Plate 4: BH702

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Plate 5: BH701



Plate 6: BH501

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Plate 7: BH502



Plate 8: BH601

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Plate 9: BH602



Plate 10: BH603

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Plate 11: BH404



Plate 12: BH401A

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Plate 13: BH401



Plate 14: BH403A

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Plate 15: BH403B



Plate 16: BH403

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Plate 17: MMTP04



Plate 18: MMBH03

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Plate 19: MMBH02



Plate 20: MMTP02

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Plate 21: MMBH01



Plate 22: MMTP01

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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



FS 606559



RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon
Wiltshire SN5 6PB
T +44 (0)8456 720 090
www.rwe.com

Registered office:
RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon