



# **Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm**

## **Statement of Common Ground 4 – Isle of Anglesey County Council**

### **Deadline 8**

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# 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 Isle Of Anglesey County Council (IoACC) to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'AyM').
- 2 The need for a SoCG between the Applicant and IoACC was set out within Rule 6 letter issued by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 23 August 2022.
- 3 This SoCG covers the topic of Socioeconomics, with a focus on a requirement for a Skills and Employment Strategy and a Supply Chain Action Plan to be secured within the Development Consent Order (DCO).
- 4 A separate SoCG has been prepared between the Applicant and the North Wales Local Planning Authorities, including IoACC, regarding the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and associated historic asset settings. This SoCG therefore does not cover these topics.
- 5 Following detailed discussions undertaken through pre-application consultation, the Applicant and IoACC have sought to progress a SoCG. It is the intention that this document provides PINS with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicant and IoACC and will be updated as discussions progress prior to, and during, the Examination.

## 1.2 Approach to SoCG

- 6 This SoCG has been developed during the examination phase of AyM. In accordance with discussions between the Applicant and IoACC, the SoCG is focused on issues raised in IoACC's Pre-application advice and Relevant Representation.
- 7 The SoCG is structured as follows:

- **Introduction:** Outlining the background to the development of the SoCG;
- **IoACC's remit:** Describing the remit of IoACC, the relevance of their interest in the Application, 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 IoACC as related to the topics of discussion and the status of agreement on those positions.

## 2 IoACC's remit as an Interested Party

### 2.1 Introduction

- 8 IoACC is a prescribed consultee for the proposed development under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 9 In relation to AyM, IoACC's responsibilities include engagement in the pre-application process. as an Interested Party in the examination process.
- 10 The following matter was agreed as not forming areas of focus for IoACC as it is considered outside the scope of the DCO application and therefore no Statement of Common Ground is required for this topic areas:
  - ▲ Ports – the potential use of Holyhead and Amlch ports for all development phases.
- 11 The SoCG covers technical topics of the DCO application of relevance to IoACC, comprising matters concerning socio-economics and tourism.

### 2.2 Consultation Summary

- 12 Table 1 in this section briefly summarises the consultation that the Applicant has undertaken with IoACC, including both statutory and non-statutory engagement during the pre-application and post-application phases.

Table 1: Consultation undertaken with IoACC regarding matters concerning socio-economics including tourism.

DATE AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION
<p>11, October 2021 - PEIR</p>	<p>PEIR Consultation response:</p> <p>The Council is supportive of low carbon developments providing that they are sustainable in form and that local benefits including local employment, skills enhancement and supply chain opportunities are maximised and realised.</p> <p>The IACC strongly believes that a significant proportion of construction jobs should come from the local region. The IACC would encourage RWE to consider these opportunities now to enable local people and companies to train or upskill to capitalise on these opportunities. The Council would also like to see minimum local employment targets as well as the provision of apprenticeship and work placement opportunities to ensure that local young people can capitalise on the opportunities during both construction and operation.</p> <p>Similarly, local companies need to be made aware of the supply chain opportunities that will be made available during all stages of the project to allow them to plan accordingly and ensure that they can capitalise on the opportunities presented</p> <p>Tourism contributes to local prosperity and quality of life in Anglesey. The Island needs to manage and develop tourism because this is where it has a natural comparative advantage.</p> <p>The Tourism &amp; Recreation Chapter of the PEIR concludes that the impacts on the tourism economy would be 'low' or 'negligible'.</p>



DATE AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION
	<p>The Seascape, Landscape and Visual Assessment (SLVIA) that forms part of the PEIR consultation confirms that the Awel y Môr proposal at the scale and height proposed would be a major feature and substantial detractor to several special qualities associated with the designated landscape and leisure, tourism and heritage receptors (see further details in the next section of our response below).</p> <p>This results in significant concerns regarding the potential indirect negative impacts that the landscape and visual impacts of the proposal may have on Anglesey and the wider region as a key tourist destination as well as associated socio-economic impacts. It is requested that this is given further consideration in terms of further potential mitigation measures that can be designed into the project to minimise potential impacts.</p>
6 July, 2022 – IoACC Written Representation	IoACC emphasises the importance of maximizing local socio – economic benefits as part of the development. This includes requirements as part of any DCO to submit a 'Skills and Employment Strategy' together with a 'Supply Chain Action Plan'.
6 September 2022 -Microsoft Teams meeting with PowerPoint	A meeting was held between the Applicant and IoACC to discuss the approach to SoCGs, and also to discuss IoACC Representation regarding a Skills and Employment Strategy and Supply Chain Plan (Gwynedd Council attended to discuss the SoCG process, but did not attend for further discussions).
October 2022 – DCO Deadline 1	<p>Relevant Representation</p> <p>As previously confirmed, the IoACC considers that an outline Skills and Employment Strategy for the project should form part of the DCO application in order to identify the employment and</p>

DATE AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION
	<p>training opportunities that will be available both locally and regionally, demonstrating and confirming the potential local benefits arising from the project and how they will be maximised, promoted and achieved.</p> <p>Since our last representation, the IACC is pleased to confirm that during its further engagement with all relevant Local Authorities within the region, that the applicant has been working on establishing an outline Skills and Employment Strategy and have been engaging with local stakeholders to explore opportunities within the local area for skills and employment and apprenticeship opportunities. This is very much welcomed. The IACC considers that an Outline Plan should be made available during the examination of the DCO and then the provision made within the DCO requirement for the final detailed plan to be approved.</p> <p>The IACC confirms that in terms of drafting this plan, a range of stakeholders needs to be involved including (but not limited to) the Welsh Government, North Wales Regional Skills Partnership, Ambition North Wales, M-Sparc, local education providers (Grwp Llandrillo Menai and Bangor University) and relevant Local Authorities (including Economic Development Teams).</p> <p>As previously confirmed, the IACC considers that an Outline Supply Chain Action Plan should be made available during the examination of the DCO and then the provision made within the DCO requirement for the final detailed plan to be approved. This is to ensure that discussions in relation to supply chain opportunities take place early to ensure that local and regional companies are ready to fully benefit from the opportunities presented by the project.</p>

DATE AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION
	<p>It is noted within Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement (ES) that the jobs which are likely to be generated include port related activities, chartered and operation of non-specialist vessels and civil works related to installation of onshore infrastructure. The IACC would encourage the developer to consider these opportunities now and to identify how much of these skills are available locally and regionally in order to enable local people and companies to train or upskill to capitalise on these opportunities.</p> <p>The Tourism &amp; Recreation ES Chapter 4 concludes that the impacts on the tourism economy within North Wales would be 'low' or 'negligible'.</p> <p>However, the SLVIA and LVIA notes that significant effects are identified for users of the Wales Coastal Path in sections C-F, covering Dulas Bay to Penmon Point. Effects on sections C, D and part of E are classed as moderate, while effects on the eastern part of section E and section F are moderate-major. This reflects the closer views of the proposal from around Penmon Point, and is consistent with the findings relating to the viewpoints.</p> <p>This results in significant concerns regarding the potential indirect negative impacts that the landscape and visual impacts of the proposal may have on Anglesey and the wider region as a key tourist destination as well as associated socio-economic impacts.</p> <p>The IAC requests that the likely impact confirmed in the SLVIA and LVIA are given further consideration within a socio-economic impact perspective including consideration for potential further mitigation and / or enhancement measures that can be designed into the project to minimise potential impacts.</p>

DATE AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION
24 October 2022 - Microsoft Teams meeting with PowerPoint	Initial consultation/meeting to discuss AyM Skills & Employment Plan ( <i>Iwan Jones and Tudur Jones to attend/in attendance from IoACC</i> )
30 January, 2023	<p>Meeting between IACC and AyM at M-Sparc regarding supply chain, led by Helen Thomas from RWE.</p> <p>RWE provided an overview of matters relating to the Supply Chain including a Background to CfDs and an introduction to the UK Supply Chain Plan process. This included timelines for preparations and discussion regarding potential commitment ideas across the four categories of: Green Growth, Innovation, Skills, Infrastructure development.</p> <p>It was agreed that details of the Supply Chain Plan would be shared with IACC before formally submitting as part of the CfD process. This would allow the IACC to submit comment and observations with respect to the document. It was also requested that a working group is established at this early stage of the process in order to ensure that local companies are at the forefront of any supply chain discussions.</p>

### 3 Agreements Log

- 13 The following sections of this SoCG set out the level of agreement between the Applicant and IoACC for each relevant component of the Application identified in paragraph 11. The tables below detail the positions of the Applicant alongside those of IoACC and whether the matter is agreed or not agreed.
- 14 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 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 IoACC 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 IoACC is considered to result in a materially different outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed – material impact

Table 3: Status of discussions relating to Skills and Employment Strategy.

DISCUSSION POINT	APPLICANT' S POSITION	IACC POSITION	POSITION STATUS
Requirement for a Skills and Employment Strategy secured in the DCO	The Applicant has included a Requirement for a Skills and Employment Strategy within Requirement 20 of the dDCO (REP6-005). The Applicant is progressing engagement with IoACC and other Interested Parties on the contents of the outline Skills and Employment Strategy, which was provided to the Examination at REP4-007.	The IACC welcomes the Applicant's inclusion of an Outline Skills and Employment Strategy within the Examination. The IACC is satisfied that DCO requirement 20 requires the approval of a detailed Skills and Employment Strategy prior commencement of construction stage, with the outline Strategy forming a basis.	Agreed
Requirement for a Supply Chain Action Plan secured in the DCO	<p>The Applicant is working towards a Supply Chain Plan (SCP) will be submitted to the SoS for approval as part of any Contract for Difference (CfD) application, which is expected to be made in Q1 2024. The Applicant's understanding is that the SCP will be submitted prior to this, towards the end of Q3 2023.</p> <p>The range and quality of commitments within the SCP across the categories of Green (Business) Growth, Innovation, Skills &amp; Infrastructure will be assessed and approved by the UK Government via the Secretary of State and will include requirements for monitoring and reporting on progress regarding implementing commitments. Amongst a number of other criteria, within the category of 'Green Growth', it is expected the Applicant will be incentivised to maximise local content.</p>	Whilst the IACC would prefer for an outline Supply Chain Action Plan to be submitted into the examination process, the Applicant's position is acknowledged, and the council is broadly content with the approach taken. The IACC is actively engaging with the Applicant to discuss how the SCP should be developed in partnership with other local authorities, commerce bodies, education providers and skills representatives.	Agreed
Impact upon the tourism economy	<p>Although the SVLIA and LVIA find significant effects on views in a small number of locations along the Coastal Path in Anglesey, the Applicant considers this does not necessarily mean that there will be negative impacts on tourism in Anglesey.</p> <p>The Tourism and Recreation chapter of the ES (APP-065) considers that the presence of offshore wind farms neither have a long-term negative nor positive effects on tourism.</p> <p>The Applicant has in principle agreed a Landscape Enhancement Fund (see REP6-022) with the North Wales Authority group which is intended to offset impacts to the Anglesey AONB (in addition to the Eryri National Park and Great Orme Heritage Coast) and</p>	<p>The Tourism &amp; Recreation ES Chapter 4 concludes that the impacts on the tourism economy within North Wales would be 'low' or 'negligible'.</p> <p>However, the SLVIA and LVIA notes that significant effects are identified for users of the Wales Coastal Path in sections C-F, covering Dulas Bay to Penmon Point. Effects on sections C, D and part of E are classed as moderate, while effects on the eastern part of section E and section F are moderate-major. This reflects the closer views of the proposal from around Penmon Point, and is consistent with the findings relating to the viewpoints.</p> <p>This results in significant concerns regarding the potential indirect negative impacts that the landscape and visual impacts of the</p>	Agreed

DISCUSSION POINT	APPLICANT' S POSITION	IACC POSITION	POSITION STATUS
	could provide potential benefits in terms of improvements to sections of the Wales Coastal Path within the remit of the IACC.	<p>proposal may have on Anglesey and the wider region as a key tourist destination as well as associated socio-economic impacts.</p> <p>The IACC requests that the likely impact is given further consideration within a socio-economic impact perspective including consideration for potential further mitigation and / or enhancement measures that can be designed into the project to minimise potential impacts.</p> <p>The IACC acknowledges that the landscape enhancement fund could support projects that include involve improving the Wales Costal Path including additional signage, interpretation methods and improving accessibility and the types of projects have been included in the long list of projects that have been identified for the purpose of the S106 agreement.</p>	



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