



## **Marine Licensing Variation Decision**

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

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**Applicant: Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd**

**Variation application reference no: RML2323v3**

**Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Geotechnical  
Survey**

**23 September 2024**

**Contents**

	Our decision
1.	Variation Application Details
2.	Variation Application Procedure
2.1	The Variation Application
2.2	Documents considered
2.3	Commercial Confidentiality
2.4	Publicity and advertising
2.5	Environmental Impact Assessment
3.	Consultation
3.1	Consultees
4.	Conclusions and Recommendations
ANNEX 1: Conditions and Reasons	
ANNEX 2: Existing Marine Licence	

**Application Number: RML2323v3**

## **OUR DECISION**

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations NRW has decided grant the variation to the Existing Marine Licence (see Annex 2) sought by the Variation Application (subject to the additional conditions set out in Annex 1).

This decision document:

- explains how the Variation Application has been determined, having regard to the relevant legal framework outlined in section 4;
- explains how relevant considerations have been taken into account and how each of the legal requirements have been considered in determining the Variation Application;
- provides a record of the decision-making process; and
- sets out the reasons for any conditions imposed in connection with any marine licence granted pursuant to the Variation Application.

## **1 APPLICATION DETAILS**

### **1.1 The Variation Application**

Applicant name and address	The Applicant is the company set out below:  Company name: Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd Address: Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB
Variation Application reference number	RML2323v3
Existing Marine Licence reference number	RML2323v2
Date Variation Application was duly made	19 September 2024
Description of variation	Applicant to extend the end date of the license from 31 December 2024 to 31 December 2025
Proposal[s] covered by the Variation Application	Offshore geotechnical investigation to characterise the site area for the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (the <b>Project</b> )
Licensable marine activities	Removal Activities:  - Up to 68 boreholes to a depth of 80m  - 98 Cone Penetration Tests  - Up to 30 vibro-cores to a depth of 6m  (the <b>Proposed Activities</b> )
Marine Plan area	Welsh inshore region and Welsh offshore region
Variation Application documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RML2323v3 Application Form</li></ul>

**Application Number: RML2323v3**

## **2 VARIATION APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### **2.1 The Variation Application**

The Variation Application was accepted by Natural Resources Wales (**NRW**) considered duly made on **19 September 2024**. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination, but not that it necessarily contained all the information we needed to complete that determination, and the documents considered may therefore include documents provided after the Variation Application was first made.

### **2.2 Documents considered**

In reaching its decision, NRW has considered the documents listed in section 1 of this decision document along with such other information provided by the Applicant or received during any consultation, that NRW considered relevant.

### **2.3 Commercial Confidentiality**

The Applicant made no claim that any information forming part of the Variation Application was subject to commercial confidentiality and we have not received any information in relation to the Variation Application that appears to be commercially confidential.

### **2.4 Publicity and advertising**

The application sought to extend the licence end date to allow additional time for the licenced activity to take place. The licenced activities remain the same as within the existing consent therefore no notice was given to Local Authorities and no Public Notice was advertised for this Marine Licence variation.

### **2.5 Environmental impact Assessment**

Council Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment aims to protect the environment and the quality of life by ensuring that projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects by virtue of their nature, size or location are subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before permission is granted.

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 ("the Regulations") transpose the EIA Directive in Wales and England for marine licence applications.

Having considered the Variation Application NRW has determined that it does not constitute a development requiring EIA under the Regulations.

## **3 CONSULTATION**

### **3.1 Consultees**

As there were no changes to the licensable activities no additional impacts are expected above that which were considered during the determination of RML2323, NRW did not consider it appropriate to reconsult on this occasion.

## **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations including consultation responses, NRW's decision is to grant the variation to the Existing Marine Licence sought by the Variation Application. We have reached this decision having had regard to the relevant legal framework outlined in section 4 and have also explained in section 4 how each of the legal requirements have been considered. NRW has determined that a Marine Licence for the Proposed Activities should be granted.

**Application Number: RML2323v3**

Conditions have been attached to the Marine Licence as set out in Annex 1. The reason for the inclusion of each condition is set out with the conditions.

**AUTHORISATION**

<b>Report by: Rhiannon Smith</b> <b>Position:</b> Marine Licencing Officer	<b>Date:</b> 19 September 2024	<b>Signed:</b> 
<b>Authorised by: Emmer Litt</b> <b>Position:</b> Marine Licensing Team Leader	<b>Date:</b> 23 September 2024	<b>Signed:</b> 

**Application Number: RML2323v3**

**ANNEX 1 – Variation to the Marine Licence**

The licence end date has been changed in Section 1.3 of the Marine Licence from **31 December 2024** in **RML2323v2** to **31 December 2025** in **RML2323v3**.

**Application Number: RML2323v3**

**ANNEX 2**

Existing Marine Licence