

A joint venture project
being developed by

RWE

the latest from
the newsroom

February 2024



Fferm Wynt Alltraeth

AWEL Y MÔR

Offshore Wind Farm

www.awelymor.cymru

February 2024

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Awel y Môr newsletter for 2024.

It's going to be a busy year for the project, with site investigation works continuing offshore and more site investigations and archaeological works planned for spring and summer onshore.

We will also be preparing a new home for the small population of great crested newts that have been found close to the onshore substation.

We also have an update on our ongoing offshore site investigations and some information about a new member of the Awel y Môr team. If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact the team with the contact details provided on this newsletter.

STEP programme

If you're part of a company working in offshore wind or would like to find out about how you can stay on top of opportunities within the Awel y Môr supply chain, please consider registering for RWE's Supplier Transparency Engagement Programme (STEP).

Those registered are part of an open-search database alongside other suppliers, receiving project updates and regular opportunities to meet with our supply chain managers.

More info can be found here:
<https://awelymor.cymru/suppliers/>

Preparation Works

Surveys undertaken over the last few years have confirmed a small number of great crested newts in some of the ponds surrounding the onshore substation site. Great crested newts are the UK's largest newt and a protected species.

Although we are still some way from starting construction of the Awel y Môr wind farm, preparation begins months in advance, so this spring and summer we will be installing fencing close to the substation site and preparing a new home for the newts in a nearby field, adjacent to Glascoed Nature Reserve. We will then move any newts we find to their new home before they hibernate over winter.

We will also be undertaking some archaeological 'trial trenching' works around the substation to investigate potential buried archaeology in the area, in addition to drilling some boreholes to take soil samples. All of the investigations will take place under the correct supervision to ensure no newts are disturbed.

As well as the substation location, we will also take borehole samples along the 12km cable route – all the way to Ffrith beach, east of Rhyl, taking around 60 samples using a small drilling rig. This work is expected to complete in the early part of summer 2024, with the results used to help finalise methods for cable installation.

Throughout this process, if you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the project team.



Examples of similar work on other RWE-led projects



The site investigation work will take place within these yellow areas

What archaeological trial trenching is and why we do it

While archaeology has always arisen out of a need to preserve and document history in the face of a changing world, it has been a formal part of development applications since the 1990s.

The first stage of any archaeological investigation is research-based; investigating old (and new) records of finds and maps. Following this, for a major project like Awel y Môr, geophysical surveys are undertaken. These use non-intrusive technology such as magnetometry (which uses changes in the earth's magnetic forces to help identify any potential areas of interest underground).

A series of trial trenches are then dug by machine, some over "potential archaeology" identified by the geophysical surveys and

some in "blank" areas where there is low potential for finds. The locations of our trenches have been agreed in advance with the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust. Any archaeological finds are recorded and some are removed by hand for further investigation. When excavations at a trench are complete, the ground is reinstated.

The Triton Knoll wind farm located off the coast of Lincolnshire, which was also led by RWE, uncovered a series of Roman era and Bronze Age artefacts, including three Roman skeletons, an axe head, ancient farming tools and parts of a musical instrument.

New onshore consents manager joins Awel y Môr team

With a busy 2024 programme now well underway, the Awel y Môr team continues to grow.

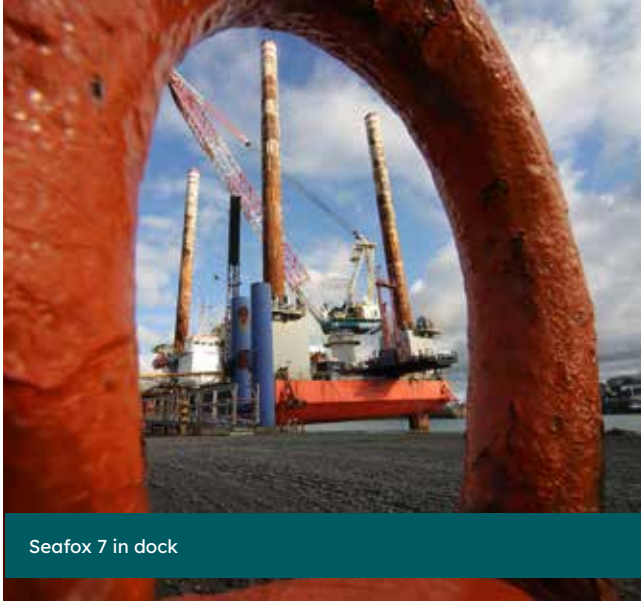
Hayley Meadley joins having most recently worked on the RWE-led Sofia Wind Farm in the north sea; specifically on the onshore and offshore export cable route of what will be one of the biggest offshore wind farms in the world.

Hayley has worked in the renewables industry for more than 20 years, successfully moving a number of onshore projects in Scotland from the drawing board into construction and operation.

Based in West Lancashire, she regularly visits north Wales with her family and two dogs, and has recently begun learning the Welsh language.

Hayley said: "Having built my career in renewable energy, I'm pleased to be able to bring those skills to a project close to home.

"North Wales is an incredibly beautiful part of the world with a long history of innovation in renewables going back more than a century, and I'm thrilled to be able to play a part in this next step."



Seafox 7 in dock

Borehole testing continues offshore

The Seafox 7 continues with its site investigation programme in the area where the Awel y Mor turbines will be located.

The jack-up barge, which is being operated by contractors Fugro, set sail from the Port of Holyhead at the end of 2023.

The site investigation involves drilling and taking borehole samples, which will be analysed in order to inform the methods of construction of the wind farm. This is necessary because of the complex nature of the geology underneath the seabed.

Ahead of each individual drilling operation, the barge is precisely manoeuvred by two tug boats, the “Fairplay 32” and “Elisa” before lowering its legs to the seabed and raising itself above the waves, ensuring a stable position to use the onboard crane. The borehole is then drilled and the sample removed before the vessel moves on to the next location.

Each core sample is viewed onboard to identify the different rock layers, grain size and colour with other preliminary observations also taken. The sample is then taken onshore to a laboratory, where it is tested to see how porous and strong it is, plus further observations of its material content.

The stormy weather has resulted in a delay to the vessel’s programme of work, which is now set to continue into late spring.

RWE always looks to minimise impacts on mariners as far as reasonably practicable and has avoided requesting fisheries clearance areas during this current campaign within the array site, in an effort to reduce disruption. RWE encourages feedback from mariners to support ongoing good relations and ensure effects are kept as small as possible.

Timeline of activity for 2024

November 2023 – May 2024

Offshore Site Investigations (Boreholes November 2023 – May 2024. Further surveys throughout the year)

March to July 2024

Onshore Ground Investigations (boreholes) at the substation site, along the cable route and onto Ffrith

May - June 2024

Archaeological trial-trenching (onshore substation only)

July - Sept 2024 (indicative)

Great crested newt fencing

* all dates are indicative and subject to change

RWE and development in north Wales

In addition to the development of Awel y Môr, north Wales is hosting a number of renewable and other energy developments which are moving forward through their respective planning processes.

RWE’s 60MW Alwen Wind Farm project recently completed an eight-week formal public consultation period, which ran from 13 December to 7 February.

If planning permission is awarded, the nine turbine project near Llyn Brenig could generate power equivalent to the needs of 63,500 homes by 2028. More information can be found at <http://www.rwe.com/alwen/>

Elsewhere, the MaresConnect project, which could provide a 750MW electricity connection between north Wales and Eire is to hold its own public consultation events in north Wales in February. More information can be found at <http://www.maresconnect.ie/>

The Awel y Môr project team will continue to liaise with other developers working in the region as our plans progress.

The Alwen Wind Farm project held two consultation events: one in Cerrigydrudion and the second in Nantglyn near Denbigh



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