

# Design Review Report

Tidal Stream Energy Project, Ynys Môn  
Anglesey

**DCFW Ref: N179**

Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018



## Review Status

Meeting date  
Issue date  
Scheme location  
Scheme description  
Scheme reference number  
Planning status

## CONFIDENTIAL

6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Anglesey  
Energy infrastructure  
N179  
Pre-application

## Declarations of Interest

---

Panel members, observers and other relevant parties are required to declare ***in advance*** any interests they may have in relation to the Design Review and meeting Agenda items. Any such declarations are recorded here and in DCFW's central records.

## Consultations to Date

---

Various early consultations with statutory consultees and the local community have now been undertaken and are ongoing. A consultation plan is now in place and was detailed during the design review. DCFW welcome the through approach to consultation befitting of a significant infrastructure project.

## The Proposals

---

The project proposes the use of sub-sea and surface positioned tidal stream energy generating devices, to be located just offshore within a demonstration area with a theoretical capacity identified of 8 x 30MW zones making a total of 240MW. The zone is among those identified and designated by the Crown Estate in an assessment process as appropriate for such use and occupies the coast of Ynys Môn off Holy Island and Treaddur Bay. The devices will be connected to a shoreside substation. This will condition the electricity to grid standards and transport to the grid connection, allowing users access to the low carbon energy source.

We understand a flexible consent will be sought by the project promoter/"landlord" Menter Môn for up to 240MW with a decision on final capacity sought undertaken next year following a review of the EIA and also the market conditions and economics/market support mechanism for tidal energy in the UK.

## Main Points

---

We welcome the further client and design team engagement with the Commission at this stage in the process. Continued engagement will help to ensure that the project maximises quality and contributes positively to the context, especially in later phases when land side interventions are likely, either through enabling development, equipment transportation and maintenance access or visitor/education facilities.

The following points summarise key issues from the review that should be considered in further design development:

### **Community benefit**

The unique position of Menter Môn as a social enterprise, with a vested interest in regenerating and optimising benefits for local communities, is valuable to a scheme of this nature. Not only does this facilitate close community engagement, it allows Menter Môn to potentially be seen as an 'honest broker' between the commercial and community requirements.

The initiative and commitment taken by Menter Môn is commendable and encouraging.

### **Consultation strategy**

The consultation strategy presented is commendable and thorough. The strategy appears to have defined the key stakeholders, along with points in the process at which consultation will be valuable and allow these groups to inform the scheme. This includes seasonal residents around which the consultation event dates respond.

Opportunities for local people to contribute towards identifying additional community benefits will be valuable in optimising the local benefit, in light of the scheme being led by the Menter Môn social enterprise.

The established and transparent community exchange should be maintained to ensure that local people feel involved and able to influence throughout the process.

### **Awareness raising**

The project team should endeavour to not lose sight of the unique and innovative nature of this project; and particularly its potential as a nationally significant source of low carbon energy generation. However, the economic and social benefits of a largely unstaffed 'powerstation' such as this on the local economy may be modest; and will depend in part of the commercial/contractual manufacturing and maintenance supply decisions made by the subsequent developer 'tenant(s)' of the marine zone. This should be made clear during consultations, and the expectations in respect of stakeholder and public design input/influence and local socio-economic benefits should be managed appropriately.

The benefits to the local community, and further afield, should therefore include awareness raising and education. This is particularly pertinent given the increased interest and awareness of climate change amongst young people.

In addition to in-school educational programmes, the team could consider a research or education centre to accompany the scheme which can inform groups wider than students. This could appeal to local people and visitors, contributing to the nature of the scheme as innovative and the first of its kind. It would be a shame not to celebrate this unique opportunity.

### **Offshore development**

The panel understands that the envelope of potential development typologies within the application allows for a variety of technology of different visual impact. This is unpredictable at this stage and is being reasonably considered by minimum and maximum impact scenarios.

The photomontages of these scenarios will be imperative during consultation so as not to mislead the community. The panel understands that Menter Môn are keen for these

photomontages to be as accurate as possible to ensure all engagement on visual impact is genuine and transparent, this is encouraged by the Commission. Night time studies will also be required as part of this work.

### **Onshore development**

The design team are beginning to explore locations for the relatively limited proposed on-shore infrastructure. The studies of zones of theoretical visibility are helpful in evaluating these locations, however the panel understands that negotiation of land is ongoing.

The Commission reiterates the importance of high-quality design of any on-shore infrastructure, whilst supporting the general principle of sensitively integrating any structures into the AONB location to limit visibility from the Wales Coast Path. The building required need not be substantially different to other buildings in the context i.e. it could take a similar form to farming outbuildings, however it should be of a high quality in terms of materials and detailing to mitigate the impact on the AONB and reinforce the perception of an innovative project.

Although the area is exposed and potentially hostile to some species, a landscape architect should be engaged to develop a sensitive landscape strategy which mitigates for some of the infrastructure where necessary.

### **Next steps**

The Commission welcomes further opportunity to review the scheme with the aim of enhancing design quality opportunities through ongoing constructive dialogue at key stages in the programme. It would be advantageous to see the scheme once the illustrative photomontages of the range of device deployment scenarios (and onshore infrastructure) are available, along with initial seascape and landscape characterisation and assessment material.

**Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru Design Commission for Wales is the trading name of DCFW LIMITED, a Private Limited Company established under the Companies Act 1985 and 2006, Company No: 04391072 incorporated in England and Wales as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Welsh Government. Registered office: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cambrian Buildings, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF10 5FL T: 029 2045 1964 E [connect@dcfw.org](mailto:connect@dcfw.org). The comment recorded in this report, arising from formal Design Review through our Design Review Service, is provided in the public interest for the consideration of local planning authorities as a material consideration, and other users of the Design Review Service. It is not and should not be considered 'advice' and no third party is bound or required to act upon it. The Design Review Service is delivered in line with DCFW's published protocols, code of conduct and complaints procedure, which should be read and considered by users of the service.**

***A Welsh language copy of this report is available upon request.***

## Attendees

---

Agent/Client/Developer:

Gerallt Lewellyn Jones, James Orme, Graham Morley, Morlais

Design Team:

Rhys Evans, Morlais

Design Review Panel:

Chair

Kedrick Davies

Lead Panellist

Simon Power

Simon Richards

Wendy Maden, Design Advisor, DCFW

Observers:

Daniella Dickinson, Daisy Tomkins, Cardiff Council