

Design Review Report

Tidal Stream Energy Project, Ynys Môn
Anglesey

DCFW Ref: N179

Meeting of 11th October 2018



Review Status

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

CONFIDENTIAL

11th October 2018
22nd October 2018
Anglesey
Energy infrastructure
N179

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

No pre-application consultation has yet been undertaken. DCFW has afforded time-limited confidential status for this report whilst full details of the project have not been placed in the public domain.

The Proposals

The project proposes the use of sub-sea and surface positioned tidal stream energy generating devices, to be located within a demonstration area with 8 x 30MW zones making a total of 240MW. The zone is among those identified and designated by the Crown Estate 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.

Main Points

We welcome the client and design team engagement with the Commission at this early 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:

Opportunity

This project represents the opportunity to set a precedent for renewable energy generation of this type and scale. It should, therefore, be of the highest design quality, the greatest public value, maximise opportunities to provide visitor facilities alongside education and learning, and contribute positively to the local context.

This education and learning potential could come in the form of a high quality research and innovation centre which truly engages the public, businesses and technology developers with this tidal technology. This centre could help to facilitate worldwide interest and learning from the project. Given the remote yet valuable nature and significance of the site, any land side development/ buildings would need to be of the highest design quality, setting the tone for this project, and positively contribute to the context. DCFW considers that an approach which simply looks at mitigating potentially negative impacts will not necessarily deliver a high-quality design response.

Opportunities to feed local electric transit vehicle charging are welcomed among the means which may optimise the wider potential benefits for the local community.

Visual impact

Whilst the visual impact of the infrastructure is at this time not considered to be significant, given that it is in evidence predominantly underground or off-shore or sub-sea, the associated surface level structures should be well considered to ensure they have a positive impact on the context.

Despite the current position, it remains important that the visual impact of the off-shore elements of the project should be thoroughly tested and assessed on a worst-case scenario basis, in the context of both high and low tide, as well as seasonal conditions. This should include an options study for the different types of device that could be used at the site.

Logistics and maintenance

The nature of the project, with its provision for installation and testing of new technologies, may require frequent deliveries to and from the site. This should be properly considered and the impact on the context fully assessed.

Narrative

Given the complexity of the scheme, thorough consideration is needed to ensure the narrative of the design process and rationale for decisions made is clearly communicated. This should include demonstration of the study of various options, associated benefits and impacts, and the rationale for decisions based on the studies. This will aid understanding and public and stakeholder perception as well as priorities and decision making aligned with key objectives and the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations Act Wales.

Programme

Early consultation with statutory consultees is encouraged as the planning complexity of this project, with two consenting regimes, one for onshore works and one for offshore, will benefit from frontloading the process. This consultation should include ongoing engagement with the Design Commission built into key strategic points in the programme. A full stakeholder engagement plan should be composed to detail how consultees and local people will be engaged throughout the process. The Design Commission would also welcome a better understanding of the likely consenting regime that the developer plans to go through and how the previous work to establish the suitability of this location has been established.

Next steps

The Commission welcomes further opportunity to review the scheme with the aim of enhancing design quality opportunities through constructive dialogue. Future engagement with the Commission will involve setting out the 'need' or justification for the project; key objectives and the principles of the development as well as discussion of above ground/visible infrastructure and exploring further opportunities to add value.

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

Attendees

Agent/Client/Developer:	Graham Morley, Morlais
Design Team:	James Orme, Morlais Catrin Jones, Morlais
Design Review Panel:	
Chair	Cora Kwiatkowski
Lead Panellist	Simon Power Andrew Linfoot Jonathan Vernon-Smith Wendy Maden, Design Advisor, DCFW Carole-Anne Davies, Chief Executive, DCFW
Observers:	Tony Thicket, Rob Sparey, Chris Sweet, Emily Park Planning Inspectorate