

Chapter 1 - Introduction

1.1 This Environmental Statement has been prepared by Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Limited, and its specialist consultants, to assess the environmental impact of the proposed Rhoscrowther Wind Farm.

1.2 This Environmental Statement has been prepared to support an application for planning permission will be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for determination under the Development of National Significance procedure. This Environmental Statement ('ES') is comprised of:

Volume I – Non-technical summary and ES

Volume II – Environmental Statement Figures ('ES Figure')

Volume III – Environmental Statement Appendices ('ES Appendix').

The Proposed Development

1.3 Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Limited is proposing to develop a wind farm (hereafter referred to as "the Development") on land south of the Valero Refinery near the village of Rhoscrowther, within the Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone, approximately 9km west of Pembroke and 4km east of Angle in south west Wales. The location of the Development is shown in Figure 1.2 of Volume II. The site occupies an area of circa 10.53 hectares.

1.4 The site is principally in agricultural use consisting of undulating grassland and arable land with habitats which are typical of modern agricultural holdings.

1.5 The Development will consist of 3 turbines up to 135m to tip height, with associated infrastructure including approximately 1.3km of new access tracks, turbine transformers, single storey control building and substation, underground power cables and satellite and a temporary construction compound. A site layout plan is included at ES Figure 1.1 of

Volume II.

- 1.6 Each turbine will have a generating capacity up to 4.3MW. The maximum installed capacity of the Development would therefore be circa 12.9MW depending on the choice of turbine manufacturer. The Development will provide enough energy for approximately 9,900 homes. This figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (predicted capacity factor of at least 32%) and dividing this by the annual average electricity consumption figures from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2019 Sub-national Electricity and Gas Consumption report 2019 (3,618 kWh).
- 1.7 The Development will generate electricity for 35 years after which time it will be decommissioned. Alternatively, the life of the Development may be extended subject to further environmental studies and new consents.
- 1.8 Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Limited, in conjunction with a range of other specialist consultants, has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) of the Development.

The Applicant

- 1.9 Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd, the Applicant, is a company specifically set up to promote the Development and are backed by a FTSE listed national property company with assets in excess of £300m.

Development of National Significance - Criteria

- 1.10 The statutory basis for the Development of National Significance (“DNS”) process is provided by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, which amends the Town and County Planning Act 1990, and the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) and subsequent Regulations.

- 1.11 The purpose of the DNS process is to ensure timely decisions are made on those planning applications that are of the greatest significance to Wales, because of their potential benefits and impacts.
- 1.12 Regulation 4A of the Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) Regulations 2016 states that an onshore wind generating station is to be determined under the Development of National Significance process so long as the wind generating station is expected to have (when constructed) an installed generating capacity of 10 megawatts or above.
- 1.13 As the Development will have an installed generating capacity of 12.9MW it falls with the criteria within regulation 4A and is to be determined through the Development of National Significance process.

Development of National Significance - Procedure

- 1.14 The first formal stage of the DNS process is to submit a notification of intent to submit a DNS application; this notification must be sent to the Planning Inspectorate Wales (“the Inspectorate”). This notification was provided by the Applicant on 15 October 2020 and accepted by the Inspectorate on 30 October 2020.
- 1.15 Before an application can be submitted the Applicant must undertake a formal consultation exercise for at least six weeks. The Applicant consulted on the proposed development in December 2020 – January 2021; the proposed development was initially designed to be a 5 turbine proposal however, following consultation, the Development will proceed as a 3 turbine proposal. An environmental statement for the 5 turbine proposal was included within the consultation documents as part of the pre-application consultation exercise.
- 1.16 After confirming that the application is valid, the Inspectorate will undertake a further consultation exercise.

- 1.17 An appointed Inspector will determine whether the application should be examined by written representations, hearings, inquiries or a combination of the three. The Inspector will consider evidence from the Applicant, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), other statutory consultees and interested parties.
- 1.18 Following consideration of the evidence, the Inspector will write a report to the Welsh Ministers, setting out his/her conclusions and making a recommendation as to whether the application should be granted planning permission. The Welsh Ministers will determine the application and issue the decision letter.

The Environmental Statement

- 1.19 This Environmental Statement has been prepared to accompany the proposed planning application, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, as amended and referred to hereafter as the EIA Regulations.
- 1.20 Under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations wind farms that involve the installation more than two turbines, or where the hub height of any turbine or height of any other structure exceeds 15 meters, shall be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) where the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its size, nature or location.
- 1.21 An application for planning permission accompanied by this Environmental Statement will be made to the Welsh Ministers under the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016.
- 1.22 This Environmental Statement comprises the following documents:

Non-Technical Summary:	A standalone summary of the information presented in Volumes I, II and III
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Environmental Statement Volume I:	EIA Text (this document) which comprises the project description and effects assessment and mitigation with a Non-Technical Summary
Environmental Statement Volume II:	Figures and drawings
Environmental Statement Volume III:	Technical Appendices and standalone technical reports which supplement and inform the findings presented within Volume I

1.23 The structure of ES Volume I is detailed in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Structure of the ES Volume I

Chapter No	Title
	Non-Technical Summary
1	Introduction
2	Environmental Impact Assessment
3	Project Description
4	Planning & Energy Policy Context
5	Landscape & Visual Impact
6	Socio-economic
7	Ecology
8	Historic Environment
9	Hydrology & Hydrogeology
10	Noise
11	Existing Infrastructure & Aviation
12	Transport Assessment

13	Shadow Flicker
14	Geology & Soils

The Project Team

1.24 The EIA has been project managed by Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Limited with technical input from a range of specialist consultants with renewable energy expertise. Table 1.2 below identifies the team members and their responsibilities.

Table 1.2: Project Team

Area of Expertise	Consultant
Project Management	Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd
Introduction	Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd
Environmental Impact Assessment	Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd
Project Description	Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd / Pell Frischmann
Planning & Energy Policy Context	Frampton Town Planning
Landscape & Visual Impact	HBA Environment
Socio-Economic	ADAS
Ecology	ADAS
Historic Environment	Headland Archaeology
Hydrology and Hydorgology	WYG
Noise	Parker Jones Acoustics
Existing Infrastructure & Aviation	Pager Power Ltd
Transport Assessment	Pell Frischmann

Shadow Flicker	Pager Power Ltd
Geology & Soils	WYG
Other Issues	Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd
Legal Review	Aaron & Partners LLP

Regulation 17(4) Statement of Expertise

1.25 The team of specialist consultees that have been used to produce this Environmental Statement have extensive experience in the preparation of environmental statements, including those relating to onshore wind developments. A brief summary of the expertise is included below:

Consultant	Expertise
Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd	<p>The directors of Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd have been involved in the preparation of the environment statements of the following wind farm proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rhoscrowther (2014) – Hendy (Powys) – Bryn Blaen (Powys) – Griffe Grange (Derbyshire)
Frampton Town Planning (Peter Frampton)	<p>Peter Frampton holds a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Town Planning. He is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He is a Director in the firm of town planning consultants and chartered surveyors that bears his name, Framptons Town Planning Ltd trading as ‘Framptons’.</p> <p>Mr Frampton has advised on the following wind farm projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Carland Cross (Cornwall) – Floods Ferry March (Cambridgeshire)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – French Farm Thorney (Cambridgeshire) – Barmoor between Ford and Lowick, (Berwick on Tweed) – Hallburn Farm (Longtown Carlisle) – Llandinam (Mid-Wales Co-joined Wind Farm Inquiry) – Thornholme (East Riding) – Mynydd y Gwynt (Powys) – Bryn Blaen (Powys) – Hendy (Powys) – Rhoscrowther Wind Farm
<p>HBA Environment (Kay Hawkins)</p>	<p>Ms Hawkins is a Chartered Landscape Architect and Director of Hawkins Bell Associates Ltd (t/a H:B:A Environment), a landscape practice and environmental consultancy based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.</p> <p>Ms Hawkins holds a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Ecology from the University of Lancaster (1982) and a post-graduate Bachelor in Landscape Design from the University of Manchester (1986). Ms Hawkins is a Member of the Landscape Institute, a Supervisor for candidates on the Landscape Institute’s Pathway to Chartership and an Examiner for the Institute’s Professional Practice examinations.</p> <p>Ms Hawkins’ professional involvement in wind energy began in 1994 and in the last 23 years I have been involved in over 200 proposed onshore wind farm sites in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and also several offshore wind farms sites.</p> <p>Ms Hawkins has managed teams of experts undertaking the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of proposed wind farms, I have prepared site selection and feasibility studies, undertaken consultations, scoping studies and site layout designs and have edited and compiled environmental statements (ESs). I have undertaken seascape, landscape, visual, cumulative and cultural heritage assessments for both EIA and non-EIA renewable energy developments.</p> <p>Ms Hawkins has also produced written representations, hearing statements and proofs of evidence and presented</p>

	<p>expert evidence at examinations in public (EiPs), hearings and public inquiries for over 40 wind farm appeals throughout the UK, twelve of which have been for appeals in Wales (including Bryn Blaen Wind Farm, Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm, Newton Down Wind Farm, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Wind Farm, Scarweather Sands Offshore Wind Farm, Parc Cynog Wind Farm and Cemmaes B Wind Farm).</p>
<p>ADAS</p>	<p>ADAS has carried out the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) of more than 15 large proposed wind farms in Wales, Scotland and England, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and Developments of National Significance (DNS). ADAS has had overall responsibility for full EclA of survey areas. This has included detailed ornithological survey (breeding birds, Vantage Points, single species surveys), otter, water vole, bats, badgers, great crested newt, Phase I habitat survey, National Vegetation Classification, Invasive Species survey, constraint mapping and peat assessment. All surveys have been to recognised and standard techniques and are in line with relevant legal parameters. EclA has also included the formulation of mitigation and compensation measures and the production of EclAs for ES. Habitats Regulations Assessments have been carried out for several sites. ADAS has also provided expert witness for wind farm ecology issues. A number of sites have received planning permission.</p> <p>ADAS has carried out the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of a number of large proposed wind farms in Wales, Scotland and England. The socio-economic impact assessment included in the Environmental Statement was largely desk-based, drawing on data and evidence from published sources. The assessment covered the potential direct, indirect and wider social-economic effects (primarily employment impact) associated with the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm projects using estimated project expenditure and employment data as well as wider multiplier data derived from input-output method. The impact of wind farms on tourism and house prices were also included based on review of relevant literature.</p>

<p>Headland Archaeology (Stephen Carter)</p>	<p>Mr Carter was a director and founder member of Headland and is a leading heritage consultant and provides advice and expert witness services on cultural heritage issues, with experience both of public inquiries and criminal prosecutions.</p> <p>Mr Carter has worked in the cultural heritage profession for over 30 years. Over the past 10 years this knowledge has been directed towards environmental impact assessment and he has developed particular expertise in mineral extraction and wind farms. Stephen has been involved in many planning enquiries. Most notably, he was the Principal Heritage Consultant for Clyde Wind Farm, the largest onshore consented scheme in Europe.</p> <p>Mr Carter is involved in the wider cultural heritage sector. He is active in various committees and working groups of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (the professional institute for the sector) and has served in a voluntary capacity on the boards of leading third sector organisations including the Council for British Archaeology, Archaeology Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland.</p>
<p>WYG (Dr Neil Dickinson and Conor Lydon)</p>	<p>Chapter 9 has been prepared by Dr Neil Dickson, a qualified hydrogeologist under the supervision of Conor Lydon, a Chartered Environmentalist with the Institution of Environmental Sciences. Mr Lydon is an Associate Director and Consultant Hydrogeologist at WYG Environmental and Planning (Northern Ireland) Limited (WYG).</p> <p>Dr Dickson is qualified with a Bachelor of Science (with honours) degree in Geography from Queen’s University Belfast, holds a Master of Science degree in Heritage Science from Queen’s University Belfast and holds a Doctoral degree in Environmental Engineering (hydrogeological modelling) from the Queen’s University Belfast.</p> <p>Mr Lydon has 17 years of experience in the field of hydrogeology and has produced and peer reviewed in excess of sixty environmental impact assessments, ranging in complexity from small scale developments to Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects. Mr Lydon is qualified with</p>

	<p>a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Earth Science from the National University of Ireland, Galway and holds a Master of Science degree in Hydrogeology from the University of Birmingham.</p>
<p>Parker Jones Acoustics</p>	<p>With nearly 10 years’ experience in building and environmental acoustics with MACH Acoustics and SLR Consulting respectively Chris Parker-Jones has amassed a wide range of experience as a lead consultant.</p>
<p>Pager Power</p>	<p>Pager Power’s core business is the provision of technical consultancy services for wind farm development, the services that Pager Power is able to offer relate to wind turbines and aviation, radar and communications. Pager Power has been providing assessments of aviation and radio issues for wind developers and consultants in the UK since 2002, and also provides such services overseas.</p> <p>Pager Power undertook its first Wind Farm Aviation Assessment in 2002 and has been advising on wind turbine radar impacts ever since. The company helped Scottish Power and BAA overcome issues associated with the 62 turbine Black Law wind farm and its potential impact on the radar at Edinburgh Airport in 2003. The company has acted for the majority of major UK wind farm developers on hundreds of wind farm proposals and has worked on over 24% of wind turbines that are currently operational in the UK.</p> <p>Pager Power uses a range of bespoke software for modelling the impacts of wind turbines on air traffic control radar, air defence radar, meteorological radar, television, microwave communications links and private radio systems. This software can also identify zones of potential impact and lists of potentially affected installations in a particular area. Much of our work is customized to our customers’ specific requirements, rather than standard reports in a standard format.</p> <p>Pager Power has a good working relationship with Ofcom, The Civil Aviation Authority, National Air Traffic Services, the Ministry of Defence and many other aviation and radar</p>

	<p>stakeholders. Pager Power has extensive knowledge and experience of technical mitigation solutions as well as the complex planning and aviation publications that impact the practicalities of implementing such solutions.</p> <p>The company has also worked on renewable energy developments in Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, Bulgaria, Seychelles, Mauritius, Oman, South Africa, Greece, Serbia, Kosovo, France, Spain, Chile, Finland, India, Jordan, Colombia, Singapore, Indonesia, Cyprus, Kenya, United States and Australia.</p>
<p>Pell Frischmann (Gordon Buchan)</p>	<p>Mr Buchan is a Divisional Director in the Transport Planning team and has over 24 years’ experience and has provided abnormal load route survey, Transport Assessment and traffic impact review advice on over 500 wind farm sites across the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia.</p> <p>Mr Buchan holds the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – BEng (Hons) Civil & Transport Engineering – MSc Transport Engineering & Planning – CMILT – MCIHT
<p>Aaron & Partners LLP</p>	<p>Aaron & Partners LLP is a firm of solicitors with offices in Chester, Shrewsbury and Manchester. Aaron & Partners have advised on renewable energy developments for over 20 years and have a particular expertise in Welsh planning law.</p> <p>Aaron & Partners are recognised in the independent legal directory, the Legal 500, for its expertise in planning and environmental law and energy.</p> <p>Aaron & Partners have advised on a number of wind farm proposals in Wales, including the Llaithddu, Mynydd y Gwynt, Bryn Blaen, Hendy and the previous Rhoscrowther wind farm.</p>

1.26 Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Ltd has provided key information and input on the proposed

development, the site selection process, the iterative site layout design process, the landscape and visual impact assessment, the ecological assessment and mitigation measures to minimise the environmental effects of the Development.

Commenting on this Environmental Statement

1.27 This Environmental Statement has been produced to support an application for planning consent that will be submitted to the Welsh Ministers. This Environmental Statement, and the other documents that must be consulted on, are available at www.rhoscrowtherwindfarm.co.uk. Paper copies of this Environmental Statement are available to purchase at a cost of £200. Copies of the Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge.

1.28 The contact details for commenting comment on, or requesting a hard copy of, this Environmental Statement are:

– Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Limited, C/O Positif, Regus House, Falcon Drive Cardiff, CF10 4RU; or

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