

Correspondence with the Welsh Government

**Development of National Significance
Pre-Application Consultation**

Alaw Môn Solar Farm

Land west of the B5112, 415m south of Llyn Alaw, 500m east of Llantrisant and 1.5km west of Llannerch-y-Medd, Anglesey

October 2023



From: Arwel.Williams@gov.wales <Arwel.Williams@gov.wales> **On Behalf Of** LQAS@gov.wales
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 3:06 PM
To: robaskew@btinternet.com
Cc: Simon Chamberlayne <simon.chamberlayne@ensoenergy.co.uk>;
Ben.Lewis@bartonwillmore.co.uk; Robert Styles <robert.styles@ensoenergy.co.uk>;
Ian.Rugg@gov.wales; Helen.Porter@gov.wales; adrian.rochford@live.co.uk; rd.met@hotmail.co.uk;
Ben.Kwok@bartonwillmore.co.uk; Arwel.Williams@gov.wales
Subject: RE: Detailed ALC: Alaw Môn Solar Farm, Isle of Anglesey

Dear Rob Askew,


(others – for information)

Re: Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey validation – Alaw Môn Solar Development, Anglesey.

Thank you for the formal request for validation of the detailed ALC survey report for the proposed Alaw Môn Solar Development. This advice relates to technical information only on ALC grading; not the merits or otherwise of the proposal.

1. Agricultural Land Classification (ALC):

The Department has commissioned an independent validation of the ALC report survey (Ref: C772, by Askew Land & Soil Ltd, dated 15th June 2021 – see link below to document an Annexes). The independent validation report has also been reviewed and agreed by our senior ALC surveyor.

 https://askewlandandsoil-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/robaskew_askewlandandsoil_onmicrosoft_com/EhUJi_HoANBH7kp3UhjkPkBK7CGMaOQwfGeJEfIVfTjxA?e=MGwWA4

The Department can confirm that the ALC survey has been conducted in accordance with the '[Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Assessing the Quality of Agricultural Land \(MAFF 1988\)](#)'. **The report confirms the presence of 39.0ha Grade 2, 147.1ha Subgrade 3a, 99.0ha Subgrade 3b, 7.5ha Grade 4 and 7.2ha 'other land' – Total of 299.8ha surveyed.**

2. Advice:

The ALC Survey Report (Ref: C772, by Askew Land & Soil Ltd, dated 15th June 2021) has been completed to an acceptable standard and therefore can be accepted as an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality on the site. **The report confirms the presence of 186.1ha (63% of the survey area - approx. 460 acres) of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.**

The Department, at this point, do not endorse or wish to comment on Section 2 of the report – but may wish to offer a view when consulted at pre-application and

application stage as per arrangements under TAN6; Annex B. This section may be more appropriate as a separate document from the ALC survey report for clarity.

The Department does not agree with the statement in section 4.2.5 of the report '*The presence of approximately 99.0ha of Subgrade 3b (or 33.0%) at the Site represents some of the poorest quality land on Anglesey*'. The Department has [published statistics on ALC grades](#) for each local authority based on the Predictive Map. Anglesey has 22,317ha of ALC subgrade 3b (*moderate quality*) covering some 31% of the LPA area, and a total of over 8,000ha (11%) of land is grade 4 (*poor quality*) and grade 5 (*very poor quality*) agricultural land.

The Department expects to be fully consulted by the LPA/Determining Authority on any future planning application on the site as per arrangements in TAN6, Annex B.

Regards

Arwel Williams

Arwel Williams

Cynghorydd Polisi Pridd a Defnydd Tir Amaethyddol / Agricultural Land Use & Soil Policy Advisor
Is-adran Tirweddau, Natur a Choedwigaeth / Landscapes, Nature and Forestry Division
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From: robaskew@btinternet.com <robaskew@btinternet.com>

Sent: 15 June 2021 15:34

To: LQAS <LQAS@gov.wales>

Cc: simon.chamberlayne@ensoenergy.co.uk; Ben.Lewis@bartonwillmore.co.uk; robert.styles@ensoenergy.co.uk; Rugg, Ian (E&M - Landscapes, Nature & Forestry) <Ian.Rugg@gov.wales>; Porter, Helen (E&M - Landscapes, Nature & Forestry) <Helen.Porter@gov.wales>; 'Adrian Rochford' <adrian.rochford@live.co.uk>; 'ruth metcalfe' <rd.met@hotmail.co.uk>; 'Ben Kwok' <Ben.Kwok@bartonwillmore.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Detailed ALC: Alaw Mon Solar Farm, Isle of Anglesey

Dear Land Quality Advice Service,

RE: Detailed ALC: Alaw Mon Solar Farm, Isle of Anglesey

Further to our email correspondence in February (as below), we have undertaken a detailed ALC survey of approximately 300ha at the proposed Alaw Mon Solar Farm (formerly referred to as the Wylfa Solar Farm). The full report, including figures and appendices, comprises 130 pages and is 24MB in size. As the file is too large to email, please find link to my company's One Drive online which will take you to a folder with a full copy of the report, plus sub-folders containing the figures

and appendices separately. For sake of ease, we broke the site up into 15 manageable parcels, referred to as Area A to Area O, as shown on Figure 1. To assist with your validation, we have provided the auger-bore data per survey area, i.e., separate auger logs for Area A to Area O. We collected nine samples of topsoil from areas across the Site and had them tested by Soil Property Testing Limited for particle size distribution (PSD) by sedimentation (hydrometer) to BS1377-2 (1990). We have also examined soil profiles in detail at five soil pits across the site, including photographs.

One Drive link to ALC report: https://askewlandandsoil-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/robaskew_askewlandandsoil_onmicrosoft_com/EhUJi_HoANBH7kp3UhjkPkBK7CGMaOQwfGeJEfIVfTjxA?e=MGwWA4

We trust this provides you with all the information you need for your review. However, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries, or require any further assistance.

Yours sincerely, Rob

R W Askew BSc (Hons) MSc F.I. Soil Sci CSci
Director

ASKEW LAND+SOIL

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M 07753 227224
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From: Arwel.Williams@gov.wales <Arwel.Williams@gov.wales> **On Behalf Of** LQAS@gov.wales
Sent: 26 February 2021 15:38
To: robaskew@btinternet.com
Cc: simon.chamberlayne@ensoenergy.co.uk; Ben.Lewis@bartonwillmore.co.uk;
robert.styles@ensoenergy.co.uk; Ian.Rugg@gov.wales; Helen.Porter@gov.wales
Subject: RE: Pre-ALC Survey Technical Advice: Proposed Wylfa Solar Farm, Isle of Anglesey

Dear Rob Askew,

Thank you for your email and the Pre-ALC survey report and proposed methodology. The Department has reviewed the document and has no comments to provide at this point. The methodology proposed appears to be an acceptable approach.

The Department can also confirm that we do not hold any detailed ALC survey information for the site in question.

The Department are available to validate any ALC survey reports from the site. Should you wish us to undertake a validation of the survey, we will need a timescale of 2 months to respond.

Regards

Arwel Williams

Arwel Wyn Williams

Cynghorydd Polisi Pridd a Defnydd Tir Amaethyddol / Agricultural Land Use & Soil Policy Advisor
Is-adran Tir, Natur a Choedwigaeth / Land, Nature and Forestry Division

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From: robaskew@btinternet.com <robaskew@btinternet.com>

Sent: 24 February 2021 10:47

To: LQAS <LQAS@gov.wales>

Cc: Simon Chamberlayne <simon.chamberlayne@ensoenergy.co.uk>;

Ben.Lewis@bartonwillmore.co.uk; 'Robert Styles' <robert.styles@ensoenergy.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Pre-ALC Survey Technical Advice: Proposed Wylfa Solar Farm, Isle of Anglesey

Dear Land Quality Advice Service,

RE: Pre-ALC Survey Technical Advice: Proposed Wylfa Solar Farm, Isle of Anglesey

Askew Land & Soil Ltd is assisting Enso Green Holdings I Limited with an assessment of agricultural land quality at the proposed 285 ha Wylfa Solar Farm, on the Isle of Anglesey. This project is likely to be the subject of a Development of National Significance (DNS) planning application in due course. At this early stage, I am writing to ask for the Welsh Government's (WG) technical advice on Agricultural Land Classification (ALC). I have utilised the WG's Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) map (Version 2) and accompanying guidance online. I note the proposed study area is predicted to comprise mainly Subgrade 3a land, with some Grade 2 and Subgrade 3b. As the agricultural land at the site is predicted to be predominantly in the Planning Policy for Wales' 'Best and Most Versatile' (BMV) category (i.e., ALC Grade 1, Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a), I understand that a detailed ALC survey should be carried out at a density of 1 auger bore per ha. To this end, please find attached a Pre-ALC Survey Report which sets out my proposed survey methodology, and summarises the findings of a desk-based study of climate, geology and soil so far.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that my proposed ALC methodology is acceptable with the WG, or provide me with further guidance on what level of survey and information you would require, assuming it goes to a DNS Application in the future.

Thank you in anticipation for your advice. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries, or require any further information.

Yours sincerely, Rob Askew

R W Askew BSc (Hons) MSc F.I. Soil Sci CSci
Director

ASKEW LAND+SOIL

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Sganiwyd y neges hon am bob feirws hysbys wrth iddi adael Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data. Os cysylltwch â Llywodraeth Cymru, mae ein [hysbysiad preifatrwydd](#) yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn anfon ateb yn Gymraeg i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. On leaving the Welsh Government this email was scanned for all known viruses. The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our [Privacy Notice](#) explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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