

Case Study

Name	Rhyl Flats Offshore wind Farm environmental impact assessment and planning application
Capacity	Up to 150 MW
Client	Celtic Offshore Wind Limited
Project Type	Offshore wind farm

Overview

Rhyl Flats was only the third UK offshore wind farm to be consented and is presently being constructed. Our staff were instrumental in accelerating the project through the consenting process ahead of the majority of sites in Round 1, through the proactive application of highly innovative and efficient procedures.

Our role in the project encompassed the whole scope of development and thus took into full consideration the environmental, site design, consenting, public and stakeholder engagement, and the commercial and technical considerations of all parts of the project (offshore components, cables and onshore infrastructure). In particular we were instrumental in:

- Developing appropriate bird survey methodologies using aerial surveys, bringing Danish experience to the UK. This included developing appropriate statistical and GIS analyses of bird distributions, survey effort corrections and constraints mapping to inform site design. This work in addition to securing project consent, also directly supported the now adopted guidance on survey and assessment methodologies;
- Developing accurate photomontage techniques, calculating horizon effects on turbine visibility and scaling in the absence of obvious reference points. In parallel with the project EIA, advances in landscape assessment techniques assisted CCW in developing their recommended methodology for seascape assessment;
- Undertaking detailed export cable route studies, analysing engineering and environmental factors in parallel, successfully addressing a multitude of issues technical, economic and environmental issues along the route and at landfall;
- Carrying out all aspects of landside infrastructure including securing land deals, EIA and consenting; and
- Prosecuting thorough and extensive public consultation, resulting in overwhelming local public support.



Testimonial

“The staff from West Coast Energy (*now Atmos Consulting*) involved in consenting Rhyl Flats offshore wind project did an excellent job in securing planning permission in a relatively short period of time. This was one of the earliest offshore wind farms to receive consent in the UK and it required a diligent and innovative approach to overcome the challenges of developing in a new and evolving field.”

Mr Charles Williams, Project Manager, formerly Edison Mission Energy

