



Mynydd Maen Wind Farm

Technical Appendix 3.4

Outline Borrow Pit Management Plan

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Outline Borrow Pit Management Plan (OBPMP) is submitted by Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (RES), as part of the Environmental Statement (ES). The principal objective of this document is to provide details of the proposed borrow pit management arrangements during the construction of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 The Figures referenced within the Outline BPMP have been produced for the Mynydd Maen Wind Farm ES and to avoid unnecessary duplication they have not been reproduced in this document but signpost to the relevant location within the ES.
- 1.1.3 The borrow pits are proposed as a potential source of locally won rock and sand for use primarily in the construction of tracks, hardstand areas and foundations forming part of the Proposed Development. It is estimated that the Proposed Development will require approximately 43,500 m³ of stone however this requirement is yet to be finalised through detailed design.
- 1.1.4 Utilising approximately 30 % of the proposed borrow pit search area (see Figure 3.9: Indicative Borrow Pit Details) is expected to yield approximately 45,000 m³ of a targeted rock material, including Pennant sandstone, suitable for the construction of the Proposed Development. A limited amount of material may be imported for the Site's enabling works.

2 Methods of Working

2.1 Location of Borrow Pits

2.1.1 The proposed borrow pit search areas are located as below:

Table 1 Borrow Pit Locations

Borrow Pit	Easting	Northing	Description
BP1	324590	198305	Northeast of Construction Compound.
BP2	324820	198617	West of T6.
BP3	325057	198504	South of T6.

2.1.2 The borrow pit search areas cover approximately 3.8 ha.

2.2 Programme of Implementation

2.2.1 An approximate sequence of works associated with the working of the borrow pits is outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 Outline Programme of Inspection

Stage of Construction	Considerations
Set out the borrow pit phases with the use of suitable survey equipment i.e. GPS (RTK) equipment.	The contractor shall ensure that markers which are to be used for setting out purposes are not harmful to the environment i.e. untreated wooden pegs or similar. Where possible, paints or other manmade materials will be limited.
The ECoW to complete the pre-works surveys (detailed in the ES) of habitats and protected species.	This work is detailed further in the ES chapters, and will cover a larger area that will include the borrow pit search areas.
Prior to commencement of extraction works, fence off area with temporary stock proof fencing.	Access and egress points will be provided for pedestrian access.
During the active period for reptiles ideally during September or early October, vegetation will be directionally mown to 10 cm above ground-level and then (at least 24 hours later) will be directionally stripped (towards the edges) from the borrow pit search areas, following hand-searching by the ECoW.	This work will reduce the likelihood that reptiles will hibernate within the works area during the subsequent winter.
Set out and install SuDS features, initially the surrounding cut-off drains and associated SuDS	SuDS will ensure that any suspended solids generated during construction are effectively

Stage of Construction	Considerations
works as appropriate within the proposed borrow pit areas.	mitigated and that down-catchment areas are not deprived of water supply.
Remove the top layer of vegetated material. Store the minimal topsoil deposits for later restoration of the areas.	This material will be removed and re-used to cover and promote natural re-vegetation of the reinstated borrow pits.
Excavate to rock head level and utilise non-structural overburden to form a surface water diversion bund adjacent to the cut-off drain. Additional overburden will be stockpiled within the proposed borrow pit areas.	If suitable, this material will be re-used as for partial backfill of the borrow pit.
Ripping may occur in the weathered zone of bedrock. Where rock becomes more competent, establish a first line blast to form a productive face. Utilise pattern blasting to loosen rock where required to extend the borrow pit in the desired formation.	Typically, face height will not exceed 15m or 70° slope angle and will generally follow HSE The Quarry Regulations.1999 guidance where appropriate. The peak of the existing land formation will not be removed.
Crushing/screening/grading of extracted rock prior to temporary stockpiling for removal and utilisation	Control of noise and dust emissions
Stockpiles of aggregate or overburden, where present, will remain below 5 m in elevation beyond existing topography and will rest at their natural angle of repose.	Suspended sediment in surface run-off will be diverted to either the sump at the back of the areas or the rock filled drain at the entrance.
Extraction of stone and formation of steeply graded 1.5 m high faces and 0.5 m wide benches to sloping base of the pit. Additionally, formation of ‘roll-over’ slopes along the more elevated parts the pit.	To mitigate potential effects of the extraction on visual amenity a ‘roll-over’ slope would be formed along the more elevated parts of the pit. This slope would be in keeping with existing topography in the vicinity and would be restored to dry heath and acid grassland to ensure its assimilation into the adjoining landscape.
Restoration will take place, initially using overburden materials but also local peat where appropriate, to backfill local depressions to near ground level.	Reinstatement to mimic adjacent land forms, geology and hydrogeology as far as practicable.
Vegetated material will be placed in areas where excavation faces are exposed.	It is important that this is undertaken promptly after borrow pit operations cease to speed up the re-vegetation process.

2.3 Operational (Extraction) Activities

2.3.1 The work at the borrow pits identified comprises the extraction of suitable material for reuse as aggregate for tracks, hardstand areas and foundations on the Proposed Development.

- 2.3.2 Key extraction activities at the borrow pits include rock breaking/blasting, crushing, screening/grading, stockpiling and haulage away from the borrow pits.
- 2.3.3 Once works onsite have begun it is estimated that the duration of extraction from the borrow pits is approximately 9 months. The daily operation and management of the borrow pits will be the responsibility of the contractor, however, in general the methodology set out below for careful management of the borrow pits will be adhered to to minimise potential environmental impact.
- 2.3.4 In order to make the above possible, it will be necessary to implement a working method which ensures that provisions are in place to manage topsoil or peaty topsoil removal and re-use for restoration and overburden removal and storage. Provisions for the control of surface run-off during and post construction and the re-vegetating of working faces post construction are also included. Further details on these issues are provided in the following sections.
- 2.3.5 Blasting can give rise to both ground-borne vibration and airborne pressure waves, referred to as air overpressure. Blast-generated air overpressure levels are not anticipated to be high at residential locations due to the separation distances involved. The levels of vibration due to blasting are expected to be below the satisfactory magnitude of 6mm/s defined in BS 6472-2: 2008 'Guide to evaluation of human exposure to vibration in buildings, Part 2: Blast-induced vibration' for daytime periods at residential locations. Considering this, it is proposed that the following mitigation measures are implemented:
- Good practice on blasting, as recommended by Planning Advice Note (PAN) 50 'Controlling the environmental effects of surface mineral workings', shall be followed;
 - The vibration and air overpressure reduction methods outlined in Section 8.6.9.2 of BS 5228-2: 2009+A1:2014 shall be adhered to where appropriate;
 - Advance warning shall be given to nearby residents;
 - Blasting should only occur between the hours of 0800-1800 on Mondays-Fridays or between the hours of 0800-1300 on Saturdays; and,
 - No more than three blasts per day should occur.

- 2.3.6 As a worst case, it is anticipated that blasting may occur up to 2-3 times a week for the duration of the construction works.
- 2.3.7 Once operations are sufficiently underway, restoration will take place progressively behind the working areas to encourage re-vegetation. This will minimise any impact to the surrounding environment by minimising the working areas at any point.
- 2.3.8 General site best practice will be applied through operation activities including:
- Use of fuel will be controlled to the minimum practicable by adequate management systems;
 - Vehicle engines will be switched off when not in use;
 - All vehicles will be properly maintained;
 - Staff will be briefed on fire risk from cigarettes, etc. in dry conditions. Designated safe smoking areas will be located away from the temporary mineral working, with the finalised locations to be confirmed prior to site works commencing; and,
 - No fires to be lit on Site.

2.4 Soil & Peat Material Handling

- 2.4.1 A geotechnical site investigation has yet to be carried out for the Proposed Development therefore a detailed description of the type of soils and rock to be extracted from the borrow pit, including details of the existing water table and volumes of de-watering cannot be confirmed.
- 2.4.2 The Technical Appendix 9.3: Soil and Peat Management Plan compiled by SLR indicates that, with respect to soils, across the majority of the Proposed Development is very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface. Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock are present located on the margins of the proposed development boundary.
- 2.4.3 Peat depth probing surveys have been undertaken across the Proposed Development Area and indicate that the borrow pit search areas are located in largely shallow (<0.4 m deep) peat.
- 2.4.4 The borrow pit search areas have been positioned where rock is likely to be close to the surface and also in areas where peat slide risk rating is deemed negligible to low. On removal of the peat from the borrow pit area, the risk from peat movement will be mitigated through removing material from the

higher areas down to avoid undermining or surcharging any peat materials. Peat arising from borrow pit activities will not be stored for any prolonged period and will be utilised in the restoration of the borrow pit areas, as outlined in Technical Appendix 9.3: Soil and Peat Management Plan.

- 2.4.5 Overburden will be temporarily stockpiled within a suitable area of the proposed borrow pits until the restoration phase commences. Where relevant, overburden will remain separate from peat deposits and will sit at an angle no greater than its natural angle of repose, not protrude beyond 5 m in height above the existing topography and will be laid in layers of not more than 1 m thick. Where possible, stockpiles will be placed to the side and on the flattest accessible areas and will avoid any placement on peat deposits.
- 2.4.6 Other overburden sub-soils will be utilised for the construction of a surface water diversion bund up topographic gradient, where practical.

2.5 Aggregate Material Handling

- 2.5.1 Where appropriate, stockpiles of aggregate will be temporarily stored in proximity to the crusher within the defined work area in order to avoid impacts on priority habitats and areas potentially used by protected species. To minimise environmental impact, the borrow pits are to be worked in discrete cells. As such, the location of the processed material stockpiles will be transient according to the working phases, however, all of these locations will be at least 100 m from the nearest watercourse.
- 2.5.2 Aggregate stockpiles will be formed to a maximum height of 5 m above surrounding topography. They will be shaped as it is being built to shed water and sit at an angle no greater than its natural angle of repose.

2.6 Welfare Provision

- 2.6.1 Welfare facilities for the borrow pits will be located within the temporary construction compound required for the construction of the Proposed Development.

2.7 Security

- 2.7.1 Security arrangements at the borrow pit areas will be agreed through consultation with the selected contractor and landowner. It is envisaged

that the borrow pit areas will be delineated by post and wire fencing to prevent access.

- 2.7.2 If deemed necessary, security measures may take the form of locking of the areas, CCTV and/or security personnel.

2.8 Safety

- 2.8.1 Training/induction will be undertaken for all site staff prior to working on-site. Method statements will be communicated to all relevant personnel through activity plans including:
- Provision of ongoing training and review of relevant procedures with site staff throughout the contract, including through the use of toolbox talks.
 - Provision of ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of mitigation and procedures and update as required.
 - Provision of ongoing monitoring, review and update of environmental control measures in method statements.

2.9 Environmental Inspections and Geotechnical Assessments

- 2.9.1 During operation, an on-going system of formalised assessment will be completed by a suitably qualified Geotechnical Engineer. They will be responsible for monitoring Site workings and responding to changing ground conditions accordingly.
- 2.9.2 Environmental inspections are to be carried out by personnel based at the borrow pit and by the Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW).

2.10 Working Hours

- 2.10.1 Construction traffic will adhere to programmed activities and agreed working hours specified for the Proposed Development (Monday to Saturday from 07:00 to 19:00 with no working permitted on Sundays or public holidays). No construction traffic will undertake works beyond the agreed activities and hours unless by prior agreement.

3 Environmental and Hydrological Aspects

3.1 Access and Traffic Management

- 3.1.1 Traffic associated with the borrow pits will be contained within the Proposed Development except for the delivery of plant to extract and transport material around the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.2 During the operation of the borrow pits, vehicles accessing the areas will be limited to the vehicles used by persons working at the Site, site visitors and the HGVs required to deliver plant and materials or transport the aggregate from the temporary mineral working to the construction working areas.

3.2 Ecology & Ornithology

General

- 3.2.1 To discourage Site staff from potentially impacting upon the surrounding environment, the working areas, associated access tracks and storage areas will be marked by a fence or marker posts at all times during the operation of the borrow pits. No excursion beyond the delineated boundary will be permitted without authorisation. The Proposed Development ECoW will undertake pre-construction surveys for reptiles, amphibians (including great crested newt), badger and ground-nesting birds (if works are to be carried out during the nesting season (March to September as a guide)).
- 3.2.2 The ECoW will monitor the construction works in accordance with the approved Scope of Works submitted to the local Councils.

Ornithology

- 3.2.3 Ornithological commitments apply to the Proposed Development as a whole and are relevant but not specific to the borrow pit area. Should any evidence of nesting passerines (such as skylark or meadow pipit) be discovered, a suitable buffer (based on professional judgment of the ECoW¹) will be established and clearly delineated around the nest and works in that area stopped until the birds either fledge or the nesting attempt ends, e.g. as the result of nest predation.

¹ The buffer will be dependent on a range of factors such as species involved, topography and adjacent works intended.

- 3.2.4 During the toolbox talk, contractors will be made aware of the relevant ornithological commitments set out above and they will be required to comply with them.

Ecology

- 3.2.5 Protected species commitments apply to the Proposed Development as a whole and are relevant but not specific to the borrow pit areas. Notwithstanding the above, should any evidence of a protected species having colonised the location since the walkover be discovered (e.g. a badger sett) an appropriate buffer (e.g. 30 m for badger) will be established and clearly delineated around the identified feature and works in that area(s) stopped and the ECoW contacted to organise how to proceed.
- 3.2.6 Prior to commencement of work a great crested newt mitigation licence will be sought for the development. Works completed will accord with the measures set out in that document.
- 3.2.7 In order to ensure that no reptiles or amphibians are affected during the establishment of borrow pits, once the area is defined, and following a hand-search by the ECoW, vegetation within the works area will be cut and stripped during the active period for reptiles (mid-March to mid-October as a guide, dependent on weather conditions) ideally during September or early October², whilst air temperatures are at or above 9°C. The cut will be directional (towards the edges) and will be to a sward height of 10 cm. Once at least 24 hours has elapsed, vegetation will be stripped to ground-level, leaving an unbroken surface lacking vegetation and unsuitable for hibernating reptiles or amphibians (during the subsequent winter).
- 3.2.8 During the toolbox talk, site contractors will be made aware of the species that could be present and the requirement to temporarily cease works if any protected species are found, whilst the advice of the ECoW is sought.
- 3.2.9 All contractors will be required to comply with all relevant ecological commitments set out above.

² Outside of the typical hibernation period for reptiles and amphibians, and outside the typical nesting bird season.

3.3 Archaeology

3.3.1 The proposed extraction of aggregate from the borrow pits will not affect any known archaeological or cultural heritage sites. Furthermore, given the small scale and temporary nature of the proposed works, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not give rise to any significant indirect impacts upon archaeological or cultural heritage receptors in the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area. Although considered unlikely, the potential for unidentified remains being present is a possibility. Therefore, Site staff will be briefed on the nature of common archaeological finds including:

- Brick or tile fragments;
- Coins or pottery;
- Bone fragments or skeletons;
- Timber joists or post holes;
- Brick or stone foundations;
- In-filled ditches.

3.3.2 If any other suspected archaeological features are uncovered during excavation of the borrow pits, excavation activities will cease and the Construction Site Manager informed immediately.

3.4 Drainage and Surface Water Management

3.4.1 The borrow pit locations have been selected away from watercourses and beyond a 100 m buffer area defined for Site selection.

3.4.2 Cut-off drainage and or face crest bunding will divert surface flow around the operational areas and leave only incident rainfall to collect in the borrow pits. All cut-off drains will be constructed in advance of any operations occurring within the Proposed Development Area.

3.4.3 Borrow pit floor level will slope gently down to the rear of the area forming a natural pool to retain any surface water and enable suspended sediments to settle out. Water collected in a sump in the low point of any borrow pit will then be pumped to a SuDS settlement lagoon (located within the proposed borrow pit area, out of the rock extraction area) sequence prior to natural drainage. Diverted surface flow will also be retained and treated through a SuDS settlement lagoon sequence. No water from excavations and dewatering activities will be allowed to enter surface waters directly.

- 3.4.4 Staff will be briefed on the location of these features and importance of preventing water run-off from exiting the borrow pit and will be given regular toolbox talks about the risks of working near water and the potential to cause pollution.
- 3.4.5 Stockpiles (of superficial deposits and aggregate) will be located in suitable locations to ensure that there is no risk of material washing out and contaminating watercourses.
- 3.4.6 No refuse or debris will be stored at any borrow pit, however, it will be gathered daily and stored in secure skips located at the temporary construction compound (within the Proposed Development), prior to regular removal to avoid risk of polluting watercourses.
- 3.4.7 The source of any water used to suppress dust will be in accordance with legal requirements and if doubt exists about what is permissible consultation with NRW will occur.
- 3.4.8 All plant and equipment will be maintained appropriately including checking for leaks and cleaning/removing visible oil.
- 3.4.9 Any contaminated soil will be disposed of to a licensed waste disposal site in accordance with legal requirements.
- 3.4.10 There will be no sewage discharges from the borrow pits.
- 3.4.11 Following completion of the interim site restoration, the sites will be inspected by suitably qualified personnel, to ensure that any drainage features retained within the sites are functioning properly and that the sites are in good condition.

3.5 Waste Management

- 3.5.1 There is no waste developed by works at the borrow pits anticipated, natural soils will be either utilised as dressing material or for restoration.
- 3.5.2 No facilities will be present within the borrow pits, no hydrocarbon storage will take place. A diesel-powered pump will be situated on a drip tray. Regular inspections will take place to check for leaks and drips. The drip tray will have the capacity to safely store at least 110 % of total fuel capacity of the pump.

3.6 Dust and Air Pollution Management

3.6.1 The main activities on the Proposed Development that may cause dust emissions include the following:

- Excavation and movement of Site won material;
- HGV movement on borrow pit haul roads;
- Stockpiles.

3.6.2 The potential issue of dust creation during the works will be weather and season dependent, therefore detailed dust management methods will be subject to the works programme and contractor working methods.

3.6.3 Dust management will be carried out at all times in accordance with industry best practice measures to ensure that any local sensitive receptors are not affected by nuisance levels of dust from the works.

3.6.4 The Construction Site Manager will be responsible for undertaking and recording the daily checks to manage dust emissions detailed in **Table 3**.

3.6.5 The following methods of dust suppression will be implemented during the construction phase of the borrow pit working:

- Access tracks to be damped down using bowser or other suitable system;
- Speed limits to be put in place to ensure low vehicle speeds;
- Damping of dry excavations and cutting/crushing activities which generate dust; and,
- Programming of works to minimise the time that materials are exposed.

3.7 Responding to Environmental Incidents

3.7.1 Environmental controls will be implemented through the RES '*Safety and Environmental Requirements of Contractors - 01059R00038*' procedure, and should any incidents occur contracts will comply with the '*Emergency Procedure in the Event of a Contaminant Spillage - 01276R00001*'. These documents will be detailed in the Construction Environment Management Plan prior to construction.

3.8 Daily Check Management

3.8.1 A daily management check will be implemented and will generally follow the example in **Table 3** below.

Table 3 Daily Check Management

Daily Check	Description
Weather forecast	Check the local weather forecast at start of working day to identify likely daily weather conditions.
Sensitive receptor	Identify which sensitive receptors may be affected by dust pollution from the Site.
Dry weather	Apply water bowsers to excavations, haul roads and soil storage areas regularly throughout the day.
	Undertake regular visual checks throughout the day to ensure dust at the above locations is being suppressed.
Wind	Cover open skips and stockpiles containing loose fines.
	In the event that dust is being blown off-site, cease dust generating activities until wind conditions improve or dust is suitably managed
On-site activities	Undertake regular visual checks throughout the day of dust management during excavation, crushing, and regular movement of HGVs on haul roads.
	Focus water bowsers on areas where dust is being generated.
Neighbour notification	In the event that there is a risk of dust being transported off-site despite the above management measures being put in place, inform neighbours in advance of risk and what management measures have been put in place.
	Actively monitor dust management and where dust pollution is likely to affect neighbours, cease all activities until suitable management procedures can be implemented.
Complaints	A record will be kept on-site of all dust related complaints and remedial actions taken.
	If required, staff will be briefed on changes required to working practices to ensure the incident is not repeated.

3.8.2 In addition to the above daily checks, the following dust management will be followed:

- All staff will be trained in the importance of dust management procedures,
- Activities on-site will be planned to ensure risk of pollution from wind-blown dust is reduced to minimum,
- Stockpiles (of fines and aggregate) will be no greater than 5 m above surrounding topography. The material will be tipped to ensure that the sides of the stockpiles are stable,
- Only appropriate plant will be used, and all equipment will be regularly maintained,
- No unauthorised burning of materials will be permitted on-site,
- Regularly monitor the performance of dust management procedures at the Proposed Development Area.

4 Restoration and Aftercare Plans

4.1.1 All restoration works will be undertaken following consultation with RES, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Torfaen County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales, and other consultees.

4.2 Restoration Concept

4.2.1 The restoration proposal for the proposed borrow pits are illustrated in the Indicative Borrow Pit Details drawings included within the ES as Figure 3.9.

4.2.2 The restoration of the three potential on-Site borrow pits presents an opportunity to create several further ponds / clusters of ponds. These would be designed for amphibians (including great crested newts) by an experienced ecologist. Hibernacula would be constructed around and between them using rock and soil sourced from the Site. The ponds would also provide invertebrate rich feeding areas and drinking resources for red grouse, and the hibernacula would provide opportunities for reptiles.

4.2.3 The waterbodies will be designed to limit livestock use to a proportion of their edges. This can be done through design (some steep sides / rocks piled along some margins along with establishment of gorse / thorn scrub and varying depths).

4.2.4 The ponds will be designed to have scalloped edges (to increase micro-habitats), sub-surface bars and deeper areas, and areas of shallow gently

profiled edges to maximise biodiversity value. Design and depth will be dictated by location (e.g. soil depth) and will need to be confirmed at the detailed habitat management plan stage. The new ponds at the borrow pit locations are to be a minimum of 3-4 m diameter if created in clusters, or larger (a minimum of approximately 10 m diameter) if isolated.

4.3 Restoration Materials

- 4.3.1 Excavated spoil will be used, along with other material, to create features close to the ponds that are suitable for use by amphibians and reptiles as hibernacula.
- 4.3.2 The restoration will be connected hydrologically to adjoining areas of existing peatland by means of the breaking out of any impermeable barrier between existing peatland habitats and those within the borrow pit.

4.4 Aftercare and Monitoring

- 4.4.1 Long-term management actions will be identified to prevent widespread scrub incursion and keep the ponds open.
- 4.4.2 The restored site will be subject to a programme of annual aftercare throughout the operational life of the Proposed Development. Key priorities during the aftercare period will comprise:
- Annual National Vegetation Classification (NVC) and hydrological monitoring of habitats in the borrow pit(s),
 - A programme of post-construction great crested newt survey, in accordance with the requirements of the great crested newt mitigation licence, and
 - Hydrological monitoring shall consist of groundwater level measurement and monitoring of peat turves for drying/shrinkage. If necessary (e.g. in the event of a period of drought during the early establishment of the peat habitats) artificial hydration can be initially applied to prevent peat desiccation. If turf shrinkage occurs, remediation shall consist of backfilling gaps between the turves with selected peat materials and limited hydration as appropriate.

5 Borrow Pit Site Plan

- 5.1.1 As the development of the borrow pits is largely governed by the required aggregate quantities needed for the Proposed Development construction at any given time; the overall indicative borrow pit general arrangement has been provided in Figure 3.9. The infrastructure layout for the Proposed Development is included in Figure 3.1 of the ES.
- 5.1.2 Further development of the Site operation plan with the borrow pit contractor (not yet confirmed) will be required before detailed site operation plans can be produced for submission.