

Aberthaw Power Station Chimney Stack Demolition

Public Q&A Document

1. What is happening?

A controlled explosive demolition of the chimney stack at the former Aberthaw Power Station is scheduled to take place on the morning of Friday 12 June 2026, subject to suitable weather and site conditions.

The demolition will be carried out by specialist demolition and explosive engineers using a carefully planned method designed to ensure safety, precision and minimal disruption to the surrounding community.

2. Why is the chimney stack being demolished?

The chimney stack forms part of the former Aberthaw Power Station, which ceased generating electricity in 2020. The demolition is an important milestone in the site's transformation and redevelopment, helping prepare the site for future investment, innovation and clean energy opportunities.

3. Why is explosive demolition being used?

Explosive demolition is the safest and most efficient method for removing a structure of this size and height.

Compared to alternative methods, it:

- Reduces the overall duration of demolition works
- Minimises prolonged disruption to local residents
- Reduces health and safety risks to demolition operatives
- Allows the structure to be brought down in a controlled manner within a defined area

The demolition method has been carefully designed by specialist engineers and subject to extensive planning and assessment.

4. Who is responsible for the demolition?

The demolition is being undertaken by Erith Contractors, supported by a specialist team of qualified explosive engineers, demolition engineers, structural engineers and environmental specialists.

All works are being carried out in accordance with UK legislation, industry best practice and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance.

5. How is safety being managed?

Safety is the highest priority throughout the demolition process.

Measures include:

- Detailed structural and engineering assessments
- Comprehensive risk assessments and method statements
- A controlled exclusion zone around the demolition area
- Close coordination with South Wales Police, emergency services and local authorities
- Environmental monitoring before, during and after the demolition
- Temporary road and access restrictions where required

6. Why wasn't the demolition date announced earlier?

The demolition date has been released following guidance from South Wales Police and other stakeholders.

Due to the significant public interest in the event, communications have been carefully managed to help protect public safety, minimise congestion on the local road network and ensure suitable viewing arrangements are in place.

The site is accessed via a limited road network and it is essential that access remains available for residents, contractors and emergency services throughout the operation.

7. Will there be an exclusion zone?

Yes.

A temporary exclusion zone will be established around the demolition area and only authorised personnel will be permitted inside this zone during the operation.

The size of the exclusion zone has been determined by specialist engineers and is based on the design of the structure, the demolition methodology and site-specific conditions.

8. Will roads or public spaces be closed?

Yes.

Limpert Bay Road and sections of the Wales Coast Path surrounding the site will be temporarily closed for a short period to allow the demolition to take place safely.

Police officers and trained personnel will be positioned at key access points and diversions. Access will be restored as soon as the area has been confirmed safe.

9. Will there be noise during the demolition?

Yes.

The demolition will create a short-duration noise similar to a loud thunderclap as the chimney stack is brought down.

While this noise may be noticeable, it will be very brief and is expected to last only a few seconds.

10. Will residents feel vibration?

No vibration will be felt outside of the site boundary.

The demolition has been subject to detailed engineering assessment, which confirms that any ground vibration generated will be contained within the controlled site area and remain well below levels that could be felt to the surrounding community.

As an additional precaution, vibration monitoring equipment will be deployed during the demolition to verify performance and ensure that all activity remains within established safe limits.

11. Will there be dust?

Some dust is expected immediately following the demolition.

A range of control measures will be in place before, during and after the event, including:

- Water suppression systems
- Dust monitoring equipment
- Environmental monitoring around the site boundary
- Ongoing site management and clean-up operations

The demolition has been carefully planned to minimise the spread of dust and ensure it remains within acceptable limits.

12. Is there any risk from asbestos?

No.

The chimney stack has undergone extensive surveys and preparation works ahead of demolition. Any asbestos-containing materials identified within the structure have been removed by licensed asbestos specialists in accordance with strict health, safety and environmental regulations.

The demolition will also be supported by dust suppression measures and environmental monitoring throughout the operation.

Based on the surveys and remediation works completed, there is no expectation of asbestos being released as a result of the chimney stack demolition.

13. What has been done to protect wildlife and the environment?

Protecting wildlife and the environment has been a key consideration throughout the demolition and redevelopment programme.

Over the past two years, a comprehensive programme of ecological surveys has been undertaken across the site to ensure full compliance with environmental and wildlife protection requirements. These surveys have helped identify important habitats and species, enabling appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented.

As part of this commitment:

- Bird and bat boxes have been installed within the tree line to the east of the site, providing alternative nesting and roosting opportunities
- A dedicated peregrine falcon scrape has been installed in the northeast of the site
- The peregrine scrape is now actively being used by a breeding pair of peregrine falcons, demonstrating the success of the ecological enhancements delivered

Environmental considerations will continue to be monitored throughout the demolition process and wider site redevelopment.

14. Can the public watch the demolition?

Yes.

A dedicated public viewing area has been arranged at Fonmon Castle for those wishing to observe the demolition from a safe location.

The venue has been selected because it provides a suitable viewing point away from the demolition zone, with appropriate facilities and visitor management arrangements.

Members of the public are strongly encouraged to use the designated viewing area rather than attempting to view the demolition from roads, lay-bys or public spaces near the site.

15. How can I register for the viewing event?

The viewing event is being managed by Fonmon Castle and are subject to availability. Here is the link to register: [Buy Chimney demolition- 12th June- 8.30am till 11am Tickets online - Fonmon Castle](#)

16. What should members of the public do on the day?

- Follow all published guidance and temporary road restrictions
- Respect exclusion zones and restricted access areas
- Use designated viewing arrangements where available
- Follow instructions from police officers, traffic management operatives and event staff

17. What happens if weather conditions are unsuitable?

The demolition is dependent on suitable weather and site conditions.

If conditions are not considered safe, the demolition may be postponed.

Any changes will be communicated through the CCR Energy website, social media channels and other official communications.

18. What happens after the demolition?

Following the demolition:

- The collapsed material will be assessed and processed safely
- Environmental monitoring will continue
- Roads and public access routes will reopen once deemed safe
- Further demolition and site clearance works will continue as part of the wider redevelopment programme

Updates will be provided through the CCR Energy website and official communication channels.

19. Does the demolition mark the end of works at Aberthaw?

No.

While the chimney stack demolition is a significant milestone, it does not mark the completion of demolition activities at Aberthaw.

Further works, including the future demolition of the Boiler House and ongoing site redevelopment activities, remain part of the wider transformation of the former power station site.