

AMX Protected Sites Management Software

SERVICE DEFINITION

Lot 2b: Software as a Service (SaaS)| G-Cloud 15

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Company Overview	1
1.2	Value Proposition	1
1.3	What the Service Provides.....	1
1.4	Overview of the G-Cloud Service.....	1
2	DATA PROTECTION	4
2.1	Information Assurance.....	4
2.2	Data Back-Up, Data Restoration and Disaster Recovery	5
2.3	Privacy by Design.....	5
3	USING THE SERVICE.....	6
3.1	Ordering and Invoicing.....	6
3.2	Availability of Trial Service	6
3.3	On-Boarding, Off-Boarding, Service Migration, Scope etc.	6
3.4	Training	7
3.5	Service Management.....	7
3.6	Service Levels	8
3.7	Financial Recompense Model for not Meeting Service Levels	9
4	PROVISION OF THE SERVICE	9
4.1	Customer Responsibilities	9
4.2	Technical Requirements and Customer-Side Requirements.....	10
4.2.1	<i>Dedicated Server (On Premise)</i>	10
4.2.2	<i>Azure Environment</i>	10
4.3	Termination Process.....	11
5	OUR EXPERIENCE	11
5.1	Case Studies	11
5.2	Customers	12
5.3	Contact Details	12
6	APPENDIX.....	13
6.1	Case Study: Natural Resources Wales – Protected Sites	13
6.2	Case Study: Natural Resources Wales	16
6.3	Case Study: Scottish Canals	18

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Company Overview

AMX Solutions Ltd is a leading provider of Infrastructure Asset Management software in the UK and to users worldwide, excelling in the delivery of high quality, flexible asset management software to support organisations' key aims and objectives.

1.2 Value Proposition

AMX Protected Sites Management solution is a simple system for the through life management of Protected sites, including SSSI, SACs, RAMSARs etc.

In one powerful, flexible, scalable solution, AMX allows users to view and control all aspects of protected sites management with a customisable interface empowering the customer to tailor their solution to meet business operations both now and for the future; whether they need to add new attributes, tailor data capture forms, or even add automated workflow to enforce business processes.

Streamline your operations and empower your users.

1.3 What the Service Provides

AMX Protected Sites Management is a comprehensive database solution which can hold a complete inventory of sites; underpin the full designation process, including changes to boundaries or features; record and control all issues, risks and actions required to manage the features and generate comprehensive reports to support planning.

AMX Mobile is available to support on-site working in online and offline mode to capture or update site, feature or issue/risk data, including accurate location data and photographs.

1.4 Overview of the G-Cloud Service

AMX Enterprise Asset Management solution includes the following:

Element	Standard / Optional
FUNCTIONALITY	
Full Sites Register (Customisable and includes Unitization)	Standard
Integrated Maps (Open Source Street Maps for Internet maps)	Standard
Customisable Dashboards	Standard
Corporate GIS Integration (base and optional map layers)	Standard
Issues, Risk and Action Management	Standard
Designation Process controls	Standard
Feature Library	Standard

Element	Standard / Optional
Complete Reporting Capability	Standard
Integrated Print Templates	Standard
Data Export / Import	Standard
Lifecycle Planning	Optional
Stock Control	Optional
DELIVERY	
Customer Setup/Onboarding	Standard
Database updates (unlimited)	Standard
AMX Support	Standard
OPTIONAL	
AMX Mobile Application	Optional
Database Hosting	Optional
User Training	Optional
Configuration Services (per day)	Optional

Full Sites Register (Customisable and includes Unitisation)

There are pre-installed site classifications, attributes and data capture forms to meet the standard designation process requirements, including site breakdown into management units and attribution of features. All boundary details can be captured, vetted and approved before final acceptance.

Integrated Maps (Open Source Street Maps for Internet maps)

AMX comes with integrated Internet maps which can be used to locate site boundaries using point, line and polygon details. These maps are provided using the open source Open Street Map web map services.

Customisable Dashboards

Create multiple dashboards, to suit user roles, showing all critical data in an instant view to support decision making and oversight.

Corporate GIS Integration

AMX can consume corporate GIS maps feeds such as WMS, WMTFS to provide accurate base map and feature layers to assist with data visualisation.

Issues, Risk and Action Management

Record details of Issues, Risks and their associated management actions to manage features. Monitor progress and report easily to see current status for all sites.

Designation Process controls

Inbuilt milestones designed to support the relevant designation process for each site type. Ensure the site designation process can only progress when relevant steps and approvals are in place at each stage.

Feature Library

Inbuilt feature library for assignment to sites and management units, including alternative language details and references.

Complete Reporting Capability

Report on any attribute in the AMX database to support analysis, planning and business case support. Reports can include filters, sort orders and charts for ease of display and be exported for consumption by third party systems as needed.

Integrated Print Templates

Design your own print templates within the system, for example, approvals for site boundary definitions or management reports. Include logos, text, data from the system, images and maps.

Data Export / Import

Whether as a one-off or as part of a routine programme to import inspection or site data from a third party, use the inbuilt import / export tools to pull in data quickly and easily. AMX will manage imports and exports in a variety of formats including Excel, CSV, Access and GIS files.

Lifecycle Planning

AMX has a variety of tools to support lifecycle management at asset and/or element level, taking into account condition, age or reliability ratings. Setup deterioration profiles and intervention strategies to run scenarios for comparison and review.

Stock Control

Manage consumables in AMX, including defining locations (depots and shelf locations) and minimum stock levels. Assign stock to work orders and set alerts when levels need replenishment.

OPTIONAL: AMX Mobile Application

Use the AMX Mobile application on iOS, Android or Windows handheld devices to capture site details or complete inspections in the field with or without an internet connection. AMX Mobile can be used online or offline and synchronises data when internet connectivity is available.

OPTIONAL: Database Hosting

AMX Solutions can provide a fully hosted solution for the AMX system using the Microsoft Azure Cloud platform. This includes managing updates, backups and system support.

OPTIONAL: User Training

It is recommended that Beginner training is taken-up as a minimum option for all users of the system. Intermediate and Advanced training can be completed to allow more autonomous

use and evolution of the application to suit the unique needs of the organisation. Training can be delivered in person or online.

OPTIONAL: Configuration Services

AMX can provide support, guidance, system configuration and documentation to support your local implementation.

2 DATA PROTECTION

2.1 Information Assurance

AMX is GDPR and Cyber Essentials compliant and has the ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certification. The following details our current overall policy for Information Security.

AMX's business activities are critically dependent on information and information systems. Consequently, AMX has a continual commitment to protect AMX and customer information. To this end, the application of Information Security across AMX is founded upon the following guiding principles:

- Information is a critical asset. All storage and transmission of information processed or controlled by AMX must only be carried out for the lawful purposes for which it is held.
- Information will be classified and protected in a manner commensurate with its sensitivity, value, and criticality.
- Information will be protected from loss of confidentiality, integrity and availability.
- AMX information should only be provided on a need-to-know basis and disclosed only to those people who have a legitimate need for that information.
- Information security requirements will be identified by assessment of risks to determine the balance of investment in information security against the risk to AMX.
- A process of continual review and improvement will be implemented.
- Users, resources or processes that store, transmit or process information will have no more privileges than necessary to be able to fulfil their function.
- All relevant regulatory and legislative Information Security requirements will be met.
- All incidents and losses, regarding Information Security, actual or suspected, must be reported following the guidelines and timescales defined in the AMX Information Security Data Breach/ Incident Policy.
- All systems must be reviewed, prior to implementation, and undergo a rigorous security assessment as part of that process.
- All AMX managers are responsible for the implementation of Information Security Policies within their areas.
- Disregard for these Security Policies may be regarded as misconduct to which the AMX Dismissal and Disciplinary Procedure applies and a serious breach of any policy may be treated as gross misconduct and may lead to dismissal.
- All staff are responsible for upholding this policy, under the guidance and with the assistance of the Product Manager and or GDPR Advisor.
- AMX will provide appropriate security awareness training to all staff and provide specific security training where required, thereby developing and supporting a security and risk aware culture throughout our organisation.

2.2 Data Back-Up, Data Restoration and Disaster Recovery

- For customers using AMX's hosted solution, all databases and web applications are securely hosted within Microsoft Azure.
- AMX Solutions manages the entire backup, restoration, and disaster recovery process using Microsoft SQL Server technologies, ensuring resilience and data integrity.
- Backups are automated and include full, differential, and transaction log backups, enabling point-in-time recovery (PITR) within a 35-day retention window.
- Transaction log backups typically occur every 5–10 minutes, with full backups taken weekly and differential backups every few hours. This allows AMX Solutions to restore a database to any specific point within the retention period in the event of accidental deletion or data corruption.
- Additionally, Long Term Retention (LTR) can be configured where required, allowing backups to be stored beyond the standard 35-day window for compliance or operational needs. These backups can be used to restore databases to a new server even if the original SQL server has been deleted. Please note, there is an additional cost for LTR backups.
- AMX Web Applications can also be redeployed in the event of an outage, although automated recovery and cross-region failover require prior configuration and agreement with the customer.
- Customers choosing to self-host are responsible for managing their own backup, restoration, and disaster recovery processes.

2.3 Privacy by Design

AMX uses the Role Based Access Control, along with the principle of least privilege to control what each user can view, edit or delete. Furthermore, AMX has been designed such that data fields can be flagged as 'Data Protected' or 'Financially Protected'. Additionally, they can be permitted to go to AMX Mobile or not. User roles are used to identify those staff with permission to view and edit Data protected and financially protected fields. Users without these permissions will see a redacted field on any forms and will be unable to display, sort or filter reports using these fields.

Using reports, any Users with the Data Protection flag are able to search for names/addresses etc for removal on request.

3 USING THE SERVICE

3.1 Ordering and Invoicing

Customers wishing to order will need to submit a valid G Cloud Contract which covers all elements of service required prior to commencement.

Should any support be required for completing this process, users can contact AMX at gcloud@amxsolutions.co.uk for help.

On receipt of the Contract and agreed milestones (if applicable), AMX will submit Invoices as appropriate (with Purchase Order references if required), which will adhere to our terms of payment eg payment required within 30 days of receipt.

3.2 Availability of Trial Service

Customers are able to request a demo of the AMX system prior to ordering to confirm it will meet their requirements. This can be arranged by contacting the team at gcloud@amxsolutions.co.uk. A trial solution is not available due to the customisable nature of the system.

3.3 On-Boarding, Off-Boarding, Service Migration, Scope etc.

On-boarding will be managed by a dedicated AMX Account Manager who will conduct an initial discovery meeting to discuss specific requirements, provide technical advice and review data import requirements where applicable. Data import can be achieved either using AMX supplied Excel templates, or where agreed, using direct data import from an existing system.

As a guide the on-boarding will proceed as follows:

1. Order placed and contract signed
2. Initial discovery meeting to discuss delivery of any data import requirements as part of contract:
 - a. Customer to provide Registered user details (name, email, user role)
 - b. Customer to provide initial data for import in agreed format (optional – additional cost) to include:
 - i. Asset Register
 - ii. Historic Action records
 - iii. Street Gazetteer and/or Property Gazetteer for import if required
 - iv. Financial data such as Schedule of Rates.
 - v. Lookup/Picklist setup
3. AMX perform database setup and initial data import
4. Database uploaded to customer site/AMX hosting site
5. Users provided with login details
6. User training provided if selected
7. Initial Testing of system
8. AMX window for changes of 1 month – for any minor changes/bug fixes
9. Customer Go Live.
 - a. AMX provide User Manuals
 - b. AMX provide User access to Support site

It should be noted that user training is not included as standard but is available as an optional extra, and that all data in the database remains the property of the customer and can be exported in Excel, csv or shape format at any stage, including in the case of termination.

In the case of termination, Customers will be required to provide two months written notice to agree a schedule and plan for data migrations. Customers will be provided with a full copy of their data in a format of their choosing. They can select an SQL database, Excel, CSV or shape file export of Assets and Activities or a combination of these. Data will be available for a period of three months after termination, then it will be deleted from the AMX systems for data protection.

3.4 Training

Training is available for AMX at three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. It is recommended that all users complete the Beginner training, which includes orientation on the system, options for defining inspection and maintenance regimes and beginner reporting.

Support is provided through a dedicated support site, which all users are given access to. The support site includes a ticketed support system to put you in touch with the AMX support team directly. There you will be able to gain assistance when troubleshooting, get answers to questions and help solve known problems. Also available on the support site is an ever-growing library of searchable support articles.

Support is also available via email and telephone during normal working hours.

3.5 Service Management

AMX is constantly improving, and to ensure customers have access to the latest functionality, there will be updates released to the customer a minimum of every 6 months. These updates can be automatically applied to any AMX hosted solutions, upon agreement but are optional for application on locally hosted solutions. We strongly recommend that all implementations are updated at least once per year to ensure you have the latest tools, features, and security updates. Details of the contents of these update packages are posted on a dedicated download site, and Newsletters are used to notify customers of the availability of the update.

AMX updates are a combination of bug fixes and responses to customer Requests for Change. Customers may submit Requests for Change through the support portal ticket system. Following the ITIL Service Management process, change requests are reviewed at a periodic board and where they are considered to be of value to all customers, the changes are incorporated into the main AMX solution. Once tested, these are released as part of an update package to ensure all customers have access to the best possible solution.

Customer databases are fully customisable by the customer, so as part of the setup 'System Administrator(s)' will be identified who will be awarded permissions to customise the system. They will be able to:

- Add new data fields (attributes) for Assets, Actions and Defects (and other entities)
- Update all Schedules of Rate data
- Create and edit Forms for data capture on the main system and AMX Mobile
- Setup New Users and User Roles
- Create new Reports and Print Templates
- Manage lookup libraries
- Manage map layers
- Add or amend workflow (e.g. calculated fields)

3.6 Service Levels

Service Levels may be negotiated where required, however the standard AMX SLA outlines our service level as follows:

Normal Working Hours

Services support will be available during Normal Working Hours, i.e. 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding UK Public Holidays.

Services Outside Normal Working Hours

Services outside normal working hours will not usually be required but occasional out-of-hours support can be arranged.

Service Levels

Requests for improvement or fault reporting should initially be made by telephone, Email or via the AMX support site.

Calls are given a priority based on incident description, subject and overall impact to the business e.g. impact on individual, site or organisation. This is determined at the point of call and is reasonably assigned a priority.

A 'Response' from Support Team is a response which will result in one or more of:

- A fix to the problem or completion of a service request.
- A recommendation to implement a temporary workaround.
- A request for further information regarding the problem or further investigative procedures to be carried out.

Following a call being logged either by telephone, email or via the website the Service Desk will update support records of resolutions of faults in order that any recurrence of the fault is avoided.

Description of support service for service requests

The following description demonstrates the minimum level of Service that will be delivered for all hosted clients (support to self-hosted clients may be slower depending upon the level of access available to the AMX Support team). In all cases we will endeavour to provide support as soon as possible in order to meet the business needs of the customer.

	SLA	Response	Response ¹
Incident Class	Aim to fix	Service Desk	Support Team
Low	2 weeks	Immediate	48 hours
Med	72 hours	Immediate	24 hours
High	24 hours	Immediate	2 hours
Critical	same day	Immediate	30 minutes

Incident Classes:

- *Critical* (e.g. AMX inoperable to all users). Options for resolution: Site Visit, Database Script, System Patch.
- *High* (e.g. One AMX module inoperable to all users). Options for resolution: Site Visit, Database Script, System Patch.
- *Medium* (e.g. System behaving in an unexpected way/Bug). Options for resolution: System Patch.
- *Low* (e.g. System behaving in an unexpected (non-critical) way/Bug but work around possible). Options for resolution: System Patch.

3.7 Financial Recompense Model for not Meeting Service Levels

We will endeavour to achieve the Service Levels described. There is no financial compensation for failure to meet these levels.

4 PROVISION OF THE SERVICE

4.1 Customer Responsibilities

The following outlines the responsibilities of the Customer:

Training: It is expected that all users accessing AMX and requesting support have completed the Beginner AMX training course so that they have a good basic understanding of the operation of the system.

User Contact Details: It is expected that customers will provide full and unique details for all registered users, including email addresses. These details will be used to provide access to the AMX system and the AMX Support Portal.

System Administrator: All customers should identify at least one System Administrator who will be responsible for review, approval and implementation of local customisations on AMX. This user should complete the Intermediate training course and be a more experienced user of the system. This user should have the Data Protection User Role assigned and be approved to manage sensitive data within AMX.

Contract Manager: Customers are required to identify at least one Contract Manager who will act as the Primary contact for all contract related queries. This individual should have the rights and permissions to discuss and agree contractual matters on behalf of the organisation.

Database Management: It is expected that, where the customer is hosting their database locally, they are responsible for routine backups, database restoration, application of all updates and data security. It is strongly recommended that the Database Administrator creates a second test copy of the database which can be used for customer development and testing of updates prior to release to a Live environment. Where the solution is hosted by AMX, these duties will be the responsibility of AMX.

Software Updates: For self-hosted clients, the customer is required to maintain and update the AMX Web Application and associated components. The solution should be updated annually to the latest version to ensure it complies with security, legislation and has access to latest features and functionality.

4.2 Technical Requirements and Customer-Side Requirements

The following outlines the minimum specification required to support AMX operations:

4.2.1 Dedicated Server (On Premise)

Web Application

Modern Browsers supported: Chrome, Edge, Microsoft Edge (Chromium), , Safari.

Web Application Server

Processor: x64 Processor 3.2 GHz +

- Memory: 8 GB +
- MS Windows 2016 Server or above
- IIS 10 or above
- .NET Framework 4.8

Microsoft SQL Server

- Processor: 3.2 GHz +
- Memory: 8 GB +
- HDD: As a guide a new installation with initial data import is approximately 200Mb and standard usage increases this by less than 1 GB per annum.
- MS SQL Server 2016 or above (Also Express Versions)

AMX Web Service Server (Optional)

- Processor: 3.2 GHz +
- Memory: 8 GB +
- MS Windows 2016 Server or above
- IIS 10 or above
- .NET Framework 4.8 or higher

AMX Mobile Web Service Server (Optional)

- Processor: 3.2 GHz +
- Memory: 8 GB +
- HDD: Size of the webservice is approximately 100MB plus additional storage for mobile data storage. Mobile files are generally 1-5MB per inspection recorded*
- MS SQL Server 2016 or above (Also Express Versions)
- IIS 10 or above
- .NET Framework 4.8 or higher

AMX Mobile Web Service Server (Optional)

- Processor: 3.2 GHz +
- Memory: 8 GB +

4.2.2 Azure Environment

Modern Browsers supported: Chrome, Edge, Microsoft Edge (Chromium), Safari.

App Service Plan (Web Application)

- P0V3
- P0V3 is the minimum service plan. (1vCPU, 4 GB RAM, 250 Remote Storage)

- NET Version ASP.NET 4.8

AMX Web Service Server (Optional)

- P0V3 is the minimum service plan. (1vCPU, 4 GB RAM, 250 Remote Storage)
- NET Version ASP.NET 4.8

AMX Mobile Web Service Server (Optional)

- P0V3 is the minimum service plan. (1vCPU, 4 GB RAM, 250 Remote Storage)
- NET Version ASP.NET 4.8

Note: The Web Application, Service Server and Mobile Web Server can be hosted in the same asp. The minimum requirement is P0V3, **but for some clients, they may need a separate dedicated ASP to host the Mobile API.**

Azure SQL Server

- Standard S3 (DTU 100) is minimum model but customers with complex workflows large database (typically over 50 GB) may require S4 (DTU 250)

4.3 Termination Process

The AMX Account Manager will work closely with customers to support a successful migration of data from AMX in the case of termination.

On providing written notice of termination, or at the end of the contract period, the Account Manager will liaise with the Contact Manager to agree timescales and data extraction process. Data can be provided in SQL, Excel, CSV or shp formats. The data will be available via FTP (or alternative agreed method) for three months from termination. After this period all data will be deleted.

As per AMX terms of service, there are no refunds for early termination of the contract.

5 OUR EXPERIENCE

5.1 Case Studies

AMX Solutions Ltd have worked with public sector organisations for over 15 years to deliver an effective solution to meet their changing needs. Through understanding the challenges of budgeting and supporting the operational efficiencies of team leaders in the public sector, AMX scales with the organisation to deliver comprehensive accurate, relevant and information.

The success of AMX has also attracted private sector customers whose prime contracts are often public-sector organisations both in the UK and overseas. Private sector consulting firms tend to see AMX as a best practice tool that facilitates the operational and technical requirements of the contract while empowering the customer, in addition to managing their own delivery and accountability.

See our case studies in the appendix for real examples.

5.2 Customers



5.3 Contact Details

All G-Cloud enquiries should be sent to gcloud@amxsolutions.co.uk. The Primary contact at AMX Solutions for all matters pertaining to this solution is Karen King.

6 APPENDIX

6.1 Case Study: Natural Resources Wales – Protected Sites



ASSET MANAGEMENT EXPERT



CASE STUDY

NATURAL RESOURCES WALES: PROTECTED SITES

BACKGROUND

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body which came into being in April 2013, largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales, and the Environment Agency in Wales, as well as certain Welsh Government functions. NRW employs almost 1,900 staff across Wales with a budget of £180 million. Its purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and utilised, now and for the future. Welsh Government define priority outcomes that NRW is required to achieve each year.



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

12% of the Welsh land area and 69% of Welsh inshore waters is designated to safeguard the continuing health of particular flora, fauna and earth science features in line with National and International regulations. Area-based Environment Teams are responsible for over 1000 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Wales, many of which fall under additional international designations such as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) along with National Parks, Nature Reserves and Marine Conservation Zones.



WHY CHANGE?

The existing management system had become dated and no longer supported the team's requirements for reporting on, collecting and updating site information. Furthermore, it was reliant on a paperwork heavy and lengthy process for managing the legal designation of new and existing sites. The Oracle based software was also found to be environmentally inefficient in terms of the physical set-up of the servers and databases and it was deemed necessary for a more flexible, carbon-friendly solution to be sought. NRW ran a tender procurement exercise in which several organisations submitted responses and AMX was successfully awarded the contract in March 2019.



The ability to build bespoke reports on the conservation management issues affecting the most important areas of land and sea for biodiversity, and sharing both internally and with external partners to support collaboration and action, plays an important role in our strategy to tackle the nature and climate emergency declared in Wales. Reconfiguring and migrating data from a long established, dated and unsupported system threw up some challenges, however the joint NRW/AMX project team worked well, and their perseverance and skills always ensured successful resolution!

Christine Edwards

Lead Specialist Advisor: Protected Sites Programme, Natural Resources Wales



WHAT ASSETS IS AMX MANAGING?

Whilst this was a very new area of use for AMX software, it was determined that the core product could be used with customisation and configuration to meet the specific needs of the existing data. Within AMX, the managed habitats, species and earth science special interests, referred to as 'features' of a site are identified as being the 'assets'. These features all need to be spatially recorded, regularly monitored and the habitats and environment they live in managed to ensure their protection and survival. In database terms, the assets table was used for the features as this would easily facilitate the standard AMX management functionality, similar to inspections and maintenance, and fulfil the needs of the business. Sitting above the asset table, the geographical Sites, catalogued by legal designation, were created and, using GIS tools, interlinked and crossreferenced with each other and other pertinent map layers such as county boundaries and flood risk. Each Site also then has its own smaller breakdowns known as 'Units' (usually following land management boundaries) to make the large Sites and Features within them easier and more manageable.

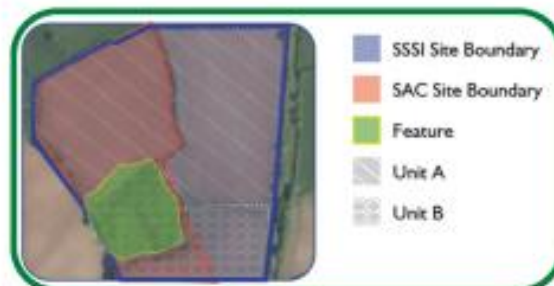


Risks / Issues and Management Actions

Sites are designated to protect their important features. Effective management requires identifying any conservation issues or risks. AMX helps pinpoint these risks, assess their impact and likelihood, and supports planning measures between parties to reduce them.

Site Contacts

Linking the AMX system with NRW's customer database allows the consultation process to be recorded, relevant stakeholders to be assigned, and future communication on risk mitigation and monitoring to be managed.



WHO WAS INVOLVED?

The team working on the project involved a number of different stakeholders. From NRW the project board extended to representatives from several departments involved with the day-to-day creation or management of Protected Sites. In addition there was support from Data Architects who looked after the transposition and organisation of data from the legacy system into importable formats, a business analyst to design the specific requirements to meet the business processes (some of which had previously been paper-based) and members from IT to support the integration and setup of environments to host and move data aided by the Test team to sign-off the functionality delivered after each sprint. Within AMX, the team had a dedicated project manager that oversaw the day-to-day elements and contributed towards the configuration of the system, in addition to a dedicated developer and test manager.



HOW DID THE PROJECT EVOLVE?

AMX used an agile approach to delivering the project. Following a number of initial business requirement workshops to establish key functionality, the team worked together to devise user stories which allowed for the project to be split into smaller monthly sprints. Over a managed period of two years the system was configured, tested, integrated with other NRW applications and finally resulted in a major data import to facilitate the system going live.

These were the core themes for delivery:

- **Legal Designation Process for creating a new site**
- **Feature information including area, count, scientific names, vulnerability**
- **Unit information and cross-referencing**
- **Risks & Issues – adding and updating**
- **Management Actions – adding and updating**
- **API integrations – with NRW CRM, GIS, Sharepoint**
- **Amending existing sites – updating and changing contact details, features and boundaries.**

The next phase of development is to successfully co-ordinate and integrate the data collection elements of caring for Protected Sites, also known as Evidence and Monitoring. This team are responsible for maintaining, in practical terms, the evidence on the features required to inform future management of any conservation management issues and risks. This involves site visits, sample collection, data counts and information gathering and observations. These types of activity more closely align with the original purpose of AMX and will form a relatively straight-forward roll-out and enhancement of the existing system to allow all the relevant cross-referencing of data across all geographical points and their corresponding protection designations and allow for future programming of maintenance programmes.

A further phase will also allow for stakeholders to review their management action agreements with NRW in the context of protecting features, and subsets of the Site data will be publicly available via a web page to ensure it's always up to date.

To arrange a demonstration of AMX and find out how it can benefit your organisation, contact us on 0333 456 0768 or email info@amxsolutions.co.uk.

6.2 Case Study: Natural Resources Wales

CASE STUDY



Natural Resources Wales goes live with AMX

September 2015

Introduction

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body which came into being in April 2013, largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales, and the Environment Agency in Wales, as well as certain Welsh Government functions.

NRW employs almost 1,900 staff across Wales with a budget of £180 million. Its purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, sustainably enhanced and sustainably used, now and in the future. The priority outcomes it is required to achieve is set out each year by the Welsh Government.

NRW manages seven per cent of Wales' land area, which includes 311,000 acres of woodlands and many National Nature Reserves. It also operates water and flood defences, five visitor centres, and recreation facilities including over 680 miles of mountain bike, horse riding and walking trails, hatcheries as well as an accredited laboratory.

NRW has lead responsibility for flood risk management in Wales for main rivers and the sea and it owns and maintains over 15,000 flood assets which includes almost 319 miles of flood defences which reduce the risk of flooding to over 73,000 properties. Maintaining these assets is essential to protecting people and property from flooding.



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**



Why change?

In July 2015, NRW replaced a legacy Asset Management system from the Environment Agency, with a new system, "Asset Management eXpert" (AMX).

The reasons for change included:

- Removing a legacy system and service provided by the Environment Agency, resulting in reduced costs to NRW and provide value for money.
- Providing a new solution which brings together in one place all the information and functionality to deliver Total Asset Management for our Flood Assets.
- Obtaining a solution which is flexible to allow NRW to make system changes to reflect changing business needs.

"Bringing together all of our Flood Asset information into AMX, will allow us to make better decisions on how we spend public money to maintain our flood assets to protect people and property from flooding."

**Gareth Jones,
Project Manager**

CASE STUDY



Why AMX

Following early demonstrations and a comprehensive tender process, it became clear to the NRW Project Team that the AMX solution would not only meet our immediate requirements, it would also be flexible to respond to our future business needs. Importantly, the feedback we received from their existing customers was that AMX Solutions Ltd were excellent to work with and this has certainly been our experience.

How has AMX supported NRW

On the award of the contract, a significant scoping project was carried out to agree the specific requirements of the system to fit NRW's existing business processes and help develop new ones. With a dedicated account manager and developer, the AMX Solutions team spent five months working closely with the NRW ICT team and the NRW Business Users Project Team, to customise AMX to meet NRW needs and implement the functionality required for the introduction of the first phase in July 2015.

First Phase implemented:

- Import of Flood asset information for Wales from a legacy system.
- Flood asset inspection.
- Public Safety Risk Assessment.
- Using AMX in the field environment including field data capture for Flood asset inspection.
- Flood asset defect reporting.
- Map view of flood assets.
- Programming, Scheduling & Reporting of Asset Inspection.
- Role specific & permission based interface.

Future

Work is underway to implement other data and functionality, such as:

- Flood asset maintenance information for Wales.
- Using AMX in the field environment including field data capture for Flood asset maintenance work.
- Integration with NRW Document Management System & NRW Geographical Information System.

Further data and functionality will be introduced following this work.

“Our users have already told us that AMX is straightforward to use and easy to navigate. We are already receiving positive feedback on future enhancements that users would like to see. The beauty of AMX is that its flexibility will allow us to be able to implement enhancements, which will improve the information and functionality available to our users.

Our experience of working with AMX Solutions in particularly Karen and Will has been totally positive, we have provided them with some significant challenges which they responded to on every occasion. We look forward to continuing the excellent working relationship with them to develop a market leading Asset Management System”

Gareth Jones,
Project Manager,
Natural Resources Wales

6.3 Case Study: Scottish Canals

CASE STUDY



Scottish Canals get clear line of sight with AMX

Background

In 2012 British Waterways split into two organisations; The Canal and River Trust for England and Wales and Scottish Canals. Scottish Canals became responsible for the management of the 137 miles of waterway in Scotland, along with all the associated estates. Attracting approximately 22 million visitors a year, and growing, Scotland's canals provide a vital source of economic income to the area both now and for the future and as such require careful management.

The portfolio of assets for Scottish Canals not only included the miles of waterway, four of the canals being recognised as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, but also 1,500 hectares of land, 195 buildings, 242 bridges and 17 reservoirs with assets ranging from culverts to lighthouses and embankments to the world's only rotating boat lift, all of which need careful ongoing maintenance to ensure their benefit to the community continues.

With such a widespread range of assets to manage, the previous asset management software, that had served the larger British Waterways organisation well for over 25 years, was deemed unsuitable for the new smaller, more agile Scottish Canals business.

This was the perfect time to assess and implement a new solution that would incorporate new principles in this field such as ISO55000, flexible and dynamic reporting and significant improvements in mobile technology.

Requirements

The main features that Scottish Canals were looking for in an asset management solution were:

BUILDING ON CURRENT RESOURCES: Merging and utilisation of existing data from the previous database.

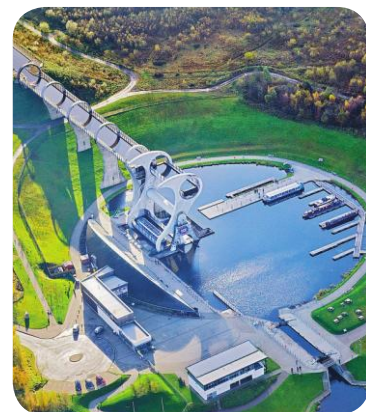
USABLE: An easy to use, intuitive interface to achieve user buy-in.

FLEXIBLE: Flexibility to improve the level and types of data captured from monthly inspections.

REPORTABLE: Customisable reports enabling cross-referencing across multiple classifications.

MOBILE: Mobile (Android) application for dedicated Asset Inspections Teams out in the field.

FUTURE PROOF: Ability to extend the system to become a hub of data for a range of functions.



"Allowing our inspectors and engineers real-time access to data in the field gives the business a new communication tool which enables immediate visibility to information and prompts a proactive response."

Andy Fletcher,
 Scottish Canals

CASE STUDY



Solutions

The AMX team worked closely with Scottish Canals to develop AMX in line with their requirements, incorporating both the best of the existing systems with the desired business processes. The resultant solution included:

BUILDING ON CURRENT RESOURCES: Import of existing data whilst improving the user interface and search & comparison functions to extract more relevant information.

USABILITY: Allowing full visibility of workflow from identifying, recording and documenting a defect through to its scheduled repair, itemised maintenance and documented completion.

REPORTABLE & FLEXIBLE: Creating flexible, customisable reporting functions across all assets, enabling comparison of disparate fields for full and beneficial data analysis.

MOBILE: Tailoring the android application to meet the unique requirements of the Inspections team to inspect linear assets with associated child assets along the lengths, whilst providing managers with immediate visibility of assets' condition.

FUTURE PROOF: Improved customisation tools to empower Scottish Canals to add their own asset classifications and expand into other areas of the business.



Images © Peter Sandground & Scottish Canals

Outcome

Over the initial 2 years, by using the customised AMX solution, Scottish Canals have:

IMPROVED CONDITION OF ASSETS: They have reduced the previously classified 'poor' condition assets from 11.3% to 9.6 which is a continuing trend.

STREAMLINED PROCESSES: By implementing a dedicated Asset Inspection Team and providing them with live access to data whilst in the field and dedicated inspection proformas on the handheld devices, inspections are instantly updated to the system for manager review.

SAVED MONEY AND TIME: They have gained new insights into assets through AMX advanced reporting functionality, enabling them to identify savings in costs and resources. To give an example, using reports comparing age, construction method and number/severity of defects for lock gates, they were able to identify that the standardised lifespan they had been using for planning was inaccurate. By fine tuning the programme they have been able to save money, effort and reduced the number of canal stoppages.

COMBINED INFORMATION TOGETHER: Plans to expand into other functional areas of Scottish Canals such as M&E and Estates.

To arrange a demonstration of AMX and find out how it can benefit your organisation, contact us on **0333 456 0768** or email **gcloud@amxsolutions.co.uk**.