



To:
Mona Offshore Wind Limited
Natural Resources Wales (Advisory)
Welsh Ministers
Ørsted IPs
Stena Line UK Limited
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
NatureScot
Daera
Natural England

Our Ref: EN010137

Date: 12 May 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Mona Offshore Wind Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Mona Offshore Wind Farm (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 16 January 2025, the Examining Authority (“ExA”) submitted its Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 16 April 2025. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”), the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. The Secretary of State requests that the **Applicant, Natural Resources Wales (Advisory) (“NRW(A)”)**, the **Welsh Ministers, Ørsted IPs, Stena Line UK Limited (“Stena”), the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (“DIO”), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (“RSPB”), NatureScot, Daera, and Natural England** provide information as set out below.

Wake effects

3. The Secretary of State notes the positions of the Applicant and IPs, in particular Ørsted IPs, in relation to wake effects. The Secretary of State also notes the policy in 2.8.197 and 2.8.200 of NPS EN-3, as well as the specific policy on wake effects set out in the draft NPS EN-3 which is currently out for consultation. Those policies

suggest that an assessment be carried out, that steps be taken to minimise impacts and that an applicant shows they have made reasonable efforts to work collaboratively with those who may be impacted.

4. The Secretary of State requests that the **Applicant** provide, without prejudice, a proposal to secure:
 - a. the provision of an assessment (if the assessment contained in the Wood Thilsted Report is not agreed); and
 - b. further consideration of means to minimise any assessed impacts, including opportunities to work with impacted windfarms to achieve this.
5. The **Applicant** should provide its views on the final version of the Wood Thilsted Report commissioned by Ørsted IPs.
6. **Ørsted IPs** should provide views on the Applicant's technical note "Calculation of the net effects on GHG emissions" AS-033.

Noise and Vibration - Revisions to Management Plans

7. The Secretary of State notes that the suite of documents comprised within the Code of Construction Practice ("CoCP"), including the outline CoCP and the outline Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan currently refer to working hours of 0700 to 1900 from Monday to Saturday, with no activity on Sundays or bank holidays.
8. The Secretary of State requests that the **Applicant** provide, without prejudice, updated versions of these documents to refer to working hours of 0700 to 1900 from Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1300 on Saturday, with no activity on Sundays or bank holidays.

Amendments to outline Code of Construction Practice

9. The Secretary of State requests that the **Applicant** provides, without prejudice, an amended version of the outline CoCP that includes a commitment to use horizontal directional drilling to undertake the proposed works between points A and B of the Evans' landholding.
10. If the Applicant considers that a commitment to horizontal directional drilling is not possible, it should explain why and confirm if any alternative methods are possible to limit the impact on this section of the Evans' landholding.

Protective Provisions for the protection of Stena

11. The Secretary of State notes that Stena submitted protective provisions at Deadline 7 of the Examination. The **Applicant** should provide its views and comments on the proposed protective provisions.

12. Both the **Applicant** and **Stena** should provide an update on the status of their negotiations. If agreement has not yet been reached, updates should include details of when agreement is expected by.

Section 135 consent for woodland plots 02-034 and 02-036

13. **The Applicant, Welsh Ministers** and **NRW** should provide an update on: whether or not section 135 consent has been obtained for plots 02-034 and 02-036; and whether or not NRW has given occupier's consent in respect of its legal interests in Gwrych Wood (also plot 02-034 and 02-036).

Section 106 agreement for the Landscape Enhancement Scheme

14. The **Applicant** should confirm if it is now in a position to provide a signed and executed section 106 planning agreement for the Landscape Enhancement Scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to the landscapes of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape and the Eryri National Park. If a signed and executed version is not yet available, the **Applicant** should confirm the date by which it intends to submit it.

Warton Aerodrome Primary Surveillance Radar

15. The Secretary of State invites the **DIO** to comment on the drafting of the following requirement, which is included as Requirement 23 in the Applicant's final draft Development Consent Order:

Warton Aerodrome Primary Surveillance Radar

(1) No wind turbine generator forming part of the authorised development is permitted to rotate its rotor blades on its horizontal axis until the Secretary of State, having consulted with the Ministry of Defence and the Operator, confirms in writing that appropriate mitigation will be implemented and maintained for the life of the authorised development and that arrangements have been put in place with the Operator to ensure that such appropriate mitigation is implemented.

(2) For the purposes of this requirement—

“appropriate mitigation” means measures to prevent or remove any adverse impacts which the operation of the authorised development will have on the Operator's ability to provide safe and efficient air traffic services for Warton Aerodrome during the life of the authorised development;

“approved mitigation” means the appropriate mitigation measures agreed with the Ministry of Defence and the Operator in accordance with sub-paragraph (1);

“Ministry of Defence” means as represented by Defence Infrastructure Organisation – DIO Safeguarding, DIO Head Office, St George's House,

DMS Whittington, Litchfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9PY or any successor body; and

“Operator” means BAE Systems (Operations) Limited incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (Company Number 01996687) whose registered office is Warwick House, PO Box 87, Farnborough Aerospace Centre, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 6YU or such other organisation as is licensed from time to time under sections 5 and 6 of the Transport Act 2000 to provide air traffic services for Warton Aerodrome.

(3) The undertaker shall thereafter comply with all obligations contained within the approved mitigation for the life of the authorised development.

Proposed Designation of New National Park

16. The Secretary of State requests an update from **Welsh Minsters** and **NRW(A)** on the proposed designation of a new National Park in Wales based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and when they expect the assessment procedure to be completed.

Updates in respect of Habitats Regulation Assessment submitted towards end of examination

17. **NRW(A)** and the **JNCC** are requested to confirm that they are content with the Applicants in-combination assessment for northern gannet, regarding the Grassholm Special Protection Area (“SPA”) [REP6-088].
18. The Secretary of State requests an update from **NRW(A)** on the status of the updated condition assessments for Welsh SPAs, which were anticipated to be published in March 2025.
19. Noting that HRA information was submitted by the Applicant, the JNCC and NRW following publication of the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES), the Secretary of State invites the **Applicant**, the **JNCC**, **NRW(A)**, and the **RSPB**, **NatureScot**, **Daera** and **Natural England** to provide any outstanding comments on that information.

Deadline for response

20. Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to monaoffshorewindproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by **23:59 on 23 May 2025**.
21. Responses will be published on the Mona Offshore Wind Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after **23 May 2025**:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/mona-offshore-wind-farm/>

22. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development or any part of the project.

23. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of John Wheadon.

John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero