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Eich cyf/Your ref: EN010137

Our Unique Ref: 20048445

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By email: monaoffshorewindproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dyddiad/Date: 22 May 2025

Er sylw / For the attention of: John Wheadon

Annwyl / Dear John,

FFERM WYNT ALLTRAETH MONA / PROPOSED MONA OFFSHORE WINDFARM

**CYFEIRNOD YR AROLYGIAETH GYNLLUNIO / PLANNING INSPECTORATE
REFERECE: EN010137**

EIN CYFEIRNOD / OUR REFERENCE: 20048445

**RE: NATURAL RESOURCES WALES' RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (DATED 12 MAY 2025)**

Thank you for your Information request letter, dated 12 May 2025, requesting information from Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales' regarding the above.

Our comments are made without prejudice to any further comments we may wish to make in relation to this Application whether in relation to the Environmental Statement (ES) and associated documents, provisions of the draft Development Consent Order ('DCO') and its Requirements, or other evidence and documents provided by Mona Offshore Wind Limited ('the Applicant'), the Secretary of State Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, or other Interested Parties.

Please find below, Natural Resources Wales' (NRW)'s response to each question directed at us in the Request for Information letter.

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).

The Welsh Ministers hold a leasehold interest in plots 02-034 and 02-036, and these are managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the Welsh Ministers' behalf. The Applicant and NRW continue to have constructive discussions about the legal and practical arrangements in connection with the cable crossing these plots. NRW anticipates that final agreement is imminent, and the Welsh Ministers will then be in a position to provide the s.135 consent promptly. The parties do not currently see there is any impediment to reaching an agreed position and that section 135 consent will be forthcoming in relation to these plots as soon as possible.

Proposed Designation of New National Park

16. The Secretary of State requests an update from Welsh Ministers 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.

Following a period of engagement in 2023 and a public consultation on a Candidate Area in 2024 NRW are working towards a statutory consultation on a Designation Order in the Autumn of 2025. The outcome of this consultation will inform a final decision by NRW on the making of the Order and submission to Welsh Ministers, together with supporting documentation, for confirmation. At this stage it is unknown if there will be a need for Welsh Ministers to consider the need to call a public inquiry prior to determining whether to confirm, amend or refuse to confirm the Order.

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].

NRW Advisory's (NRW (A)) response to the Applicant's Grassholm Special Protection Area (SPA) gannet in-combination assessment is set out in Section 1.1.1.3 of our Deadline 7 response during the examination [REP7-146]. Whilst there were some precautionary elements in the assessment (as detailed in Section 1.1.1.3 of REP7-146), we were able to reach a conclusion that an Adverse Effect on Site Integrity (AEoSI) could be ruled out for in-

combination collision, displacement and collision plus displacement impacts to the features of this SPA (see paragraph 9 of REP7-146).

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.

The new conservation advice packages, including updated condition assessments, are due to be released summer 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.

Following publication of the REIS and additional submissions by the Applicant, NRW (A) submitted a closing statement to the Examination at Deadline 7 in Section 4 of REP7-146, where for offshore ornithology we were able to agree no AEoSI from the Mona project alone and in-combination for any features of any Welsh SPAs/Ramsar sites. We have no further comments to make.

Please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] ([\[REDACTED\]@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)) [REDACTED] ([\[REDACTED\]@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)) and [REDACTED] ([\[REDACTED\]@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)) should you require further advice or information regarding the above.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
**Marine Services Manager
Natural Resources Wales**