

Marine Licensing Decision

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

Applicant: Mona Offshore Wind Limited
Application reference no: RML2201

North Wales

**Geophysical Surveys Mona Offshore Wind Farm,
North Wales**

18/05/2022

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OUR DECISION

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations NRW has decided to grant the marine licence sought by the Application subject to the conditions set out in Annex.

This decision document:

- explains how the application has been determined, having regard to the relevant legal framework outlined in section 4;
- explains how relevant considerations have been taken into account and how each of the legal requirements have been considered in determining the Application;
- provides a record of the decision-making process; and
- sets out the reasons for any conditions imposed in connection with any marine licence granted pursuant to the Application.

1. APPLICATION DETAILS

1.1. The Application

Applicant Name and Address	The Applicant is the person or organisation set out below: Company name: Mona Offshore Wind Limited Company number: 13497266 Address: Chertsey Rd, Sunbury-onThames TW16 7LN
Application Reference Number	RML2201
Date Application was duly made	25/01/2022
Proposal[s] covered by the application	Geophysical Survey, Mona Offshore Wind Farm (the Project)
Licensable marine activities	Grab Samples along potential export cable corridors and the zone of influence around the Mona bidding area. Vibrocores along potential export cable corridors and bidding area.
Marine Plan Area	Welsh inshore region and Welsh offshore region
Application documents:	RML 2201 NRW Marine Works Application Form_bpEnBW_Offshore Surveys Grabs and Cores v2.0 (signed), received 17/01/2022 RML2201 Morgan_Mona_coordinates v2, received 17/05/2022

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	RML2201 methodstatement_vibrocore_drilling_V3_April2020, received 17/01/2022 RML2201 Technical Note Morgan and Mona Geotechnical and Environmental Surveys v2.pdf, received 17/01/2022 RML2201 BP_M_M_Fig_1_survey_area_OA_ZI_OFTO_20220516, received 17/05/2022 RML2201 bp 2022 Offshore Surveys WNMP Assessment, received 17/01/2022 RML2201 WFD Assessment Morgan and Mona 2022 Surveys v2, received 17/01/2022
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2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

2.1. The Application

The Application was accepted by Natural Resources Wales (**NRW**) and considered duly made on 25 January 2022. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination, but not that it necessarily contained all the information we needed to complete that determination, and the documents considered may therefore include documents provided after the Application was first made.

2.2. Documents considered

In reaching its decision, NRW has considered the documents listed in section 1 of this decision document along with such other information provided by the Applicant or received by consultees as NRW considered relevant.

2.3. Commercial Confidentiality

The Applicant made no claim that any information forming part of the Application was subject to commercial confidentiality and we have not received any information in relation to the Application that appears to be commercially confidential.

2.4. Publicity and advertising

As required by s. 68 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the 2009 Act), notice was given to Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Gwynedd County Councils on 8 March 2022.

As required by s. 68 of the 2009 Act NRW has required the Applicant to publish notice of the Application.

Public notice advertising the Project was placed in The Daily Post on 24 February 2022. The application documents were made available to the public at on the [public register](#), and they could also be requested from Natural Resources Wales Marine Licensing Team, Ty Cambria, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP.

The public were given a period of 28 days from the date of the Public Notice to provide comments on the application.

No public responses were received in response to the Public Notice.

2.5. Environmental impact Assessment

Council Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment aims to protect the environment and the quality of life by ensuring that projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects by virtue of their nature, size or location are subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before permission is granted.

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 ("the Regulations") transpose the EIA Directive in Wales and England for marine licence applications.

Having considered the Application NRW has determined that it does not constitute a development requiring EIA under the Regulations.

3. CONSULTATION

3.1. Consultees

NRW considered it appropriate to consult the bodies listed in the table below on 08 March 2022, due to their particular expertise. These bodies were consulted for a period of 28 days. For those bodies which responded to the consultation an 'Y' can be found in the response received column, and those which did not respond to the consultation an 'N':

Consultee	Response received (Y/N)	Date(s) of receipt
The Crown Estate	N	
NRW	Y	07/04/2022
MoD - Safeguarding Defence	Y	15/03/2022
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	Y	04/04/2022
Trinity House	N	
Royal Yachting Association	Y	10/03/2022
Local Biodiversity Officers for Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Gwynedd	N	
Local Planning Authority for Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Gwynedd	Y	08/04/2022
Local Harbour Authority for Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Gwynedd	Y	11/03/2022
Local Port Authority for Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Gwynedd	N	
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	N	
Welsh Government Marine Enforcement Officers	N	
Welsh Archaeological Trust	Y	08/03/2022 – 14/03/2022
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	Y	23/03/2022
Cadw	Y	01/04/2022
Chamber of Shipping	N	

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NERL Safeguarding	Y	10/03/2022
National Federation Fisherman's Organisation	N	
Welsh Fisherman's Association	N	
Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities	Y	11/03/2022
JNCC	Y	28/04/2022

Consultees who did not provide a response were assumed to have no comment.

NRW has had regard to all consultation responses received in making its decision. Where these have impacted on NRW's decision making, this has been noted in the relevant paragraph in section 4 of this decision document.

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4. BASIS FOR OUR DECISION

In determining this application, including the terms on which it was granted, NRW has had regard to the factors set out in section 4 below in accordance with the 2009 Act.

Under the 2009 Act NRW is required to have regard to the following:

- the need to protect the environment (see section 4.1);
- the need to protect human health (see section 4.2);
- the need to prevent interference with legitimate uses of the sea (see section 4.3);
- in the case of an application for a licence to authorise construction, alteration or improvement of works within the UK marine licensing area, the effects of any use intended to be made of the works in question when constructed, altered or improved (considered, if relevant in sections 4.1 to 4.5 below);
- any representations which it has received from any person having an interest in the outcome of the application (summarised in section 3 and where relevant considered in sections 4.1 to 4.5 below); and
- such other matters as it thinks relevant (see section 4.5 below).

4.1. The need to protect the environment:

The reference to the “environment” includes the local and global environment; the natural environment; and, by virtue of section 115(2) of the 2009 Act, any site of historic or archaeological interest. The natural environment may include the physical, chemical and biological state of the sea, the sea-bed and the sea-shore, and the ecosystems within it, or those that are directly or indirectly affected by an activity, whether within the marine licensing area or otherwise.

In considering the need to protect the environment we have considered the relevant environmental legislation set out below.

4.1.1. Water Framework Directive, Groundwater Directive and Water Environment Regulations

a) The legal framework

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (**Water Environment Regulations**) implement the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (**WFD**) (Directive 2000/60/EC) which requires consideration as to whether that proposals for development may cause deterioration or prevent a water body from achieving ‘good status’. Proposals likely to cause deterioration or prevent a waterbody from achieving good status should be rejected, unless derogation procedures have been applied.

Under the Water Environment Regulations, NRW must exercise its relevant functions to ensure compliance with the requirements of the WFD, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (Directive 2008/105/EC) and the Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EEC).

b) Factors relevant to our determination

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NRW has considered the potential effect of the Proposed Activities on the following WFD waterbodies:

- North Wales, GB641011650000
- Anglesey North, GB641010620000
- Dee (N Wales), GB531106708200
- The Skerries, GB611010390000
- Menai Strait, GB681010120000
- Conwy Bay, GB671010400000

A Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment has been undertaken for the Proposed Activities and taken into account in this decision. This assessment concludes that the activity/project is considered as having no risk of causing deterioration or preventing any water body or WFD Protected Area from reaching its objectives and taking account of the advice from technical officers - is considered compliant with the Water Framework Directive/Regulations

Based on this assessment it is considered that the Proposed Activities when considered alone and in combination, will not pose a risk to deterioration in the status of any of the above listed waterbodies or jeopardise their attainment of good surface water status.

Further details are described within the Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment.

4.1.2. Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty**a) The legal framework**

Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 requires that we seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of our functions, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, in a manner that is consistent with the proper exercise of our functions.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

During consultation, NRW Technical Experts (TE) requested that any fish, in particular sandeels (a Section 7 species and an important prey fish for protected birds and mammals) are recorded in addition to identifying infauna in the grab samples. This should be done in combination with the sediment analysis and reported together with the British Geological Survey Folk sediment classification. This data should be used to inform mapping of sandeel habitat suitability, which has been advised is carried out for future assessments.

NRW TE also advised the deployment of a drop-down video/camera before each grab sample to ensure no grabbing takes place on sensitive habitats (Annex I, Section 7 and OSPAR such as *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs or Horse mussel beds), as stated in the applicant's method. NRW TE also requested for the applicant to seek further advice, once the final cable corridor is known, on the number of grab/camera samples needed in the characterisation survey to inform future assessments. These requests as well as NRW guidance on benthic habitat assessments for development and activities ([Natural Resources Wales / Benthic habitat assessments for marine developments](#)) have been shared with the applicant in the Marine Licence Cover Letter.

NRW PS is satisfied that in this case, we have taken into account and had due regard to this duty in so far as it is consistent with the function of determining an application for a Marine Licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

4.1.3. European Protected Sites and Ramsar Sites

a) The legal framework

European sites are those designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (**Habitats Regulations 2017**) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (**Offshore Habitats Regulations 2017**) as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

The Habitats Regulations 2017 and the Offshore Habitats Regulations 2017 require that any project that is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) must be subject to an appropriate assessment. NRW undertakes a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to establish whether an appropriate assessment is required.

In addition NRW must exercise its functions under the 2009 Act so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the relevant European Directives. NRW also has a duty under the Habitats Regulations 2017 to support wild birds by protecting habitats and avoiding pollution.

A Ramsar site is a wetland which has been designated under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention does not place specific legal requirements on its parties (though Ramsar sites are often SSSIs or SPAs, considered below), however Ramsar status is considered by NRW as matter of policy in its decision making.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

The Project may affect the following European Protected Sites:

- Dee Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar - UK9013011, UK0030131,
- Menai Strait and Cowy Bay SAC - UK0030202
- North Anglesey SAC - UK0030398
- Liverpool Bay SPA - UK9020294
- Lavan Sands SPA - UK9013031
- Anglesey Terns SPA - UK9013061

A Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Proposed Activities has been undertaken, and NRW (as Statutory Nature Conservation Body) consulted on the HRA.

NRW PS has considered the following conclusions of the HRA in making this decision. NRW TE originally raised concerns regarding the impacts of noise produced by the vibrocoring on the Harbour Porpoise feature of North Anglesey SAC. JNCC also raised similar concerns as the original proposed survey was located within North Anglesey Marine SAC. However the applicant later confirmed that they had refined cable routes and would no longer be sampling in survey areas near the North Anglesey SAC. NRW TE therefore agreed that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the North Anglesey SAC as a result of the proposed works. NRW PS concluded that the project has been screened for likelihood of significant effects and, taking account of the advice received from protected sites advisors, is considered not likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000/Ramsar site. Further details are described within the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

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JNCC also raised concerns with the geophysical surveys associated with this application as these include the use of sub-bottom profilers (SBPs) requesting that JNCC's marine mammal mitigation guidelines for geophysical surveys were to be followed. However, since these activities are not considered Marine Licensable, the advice and guidance provided by JNCC was shared with the applicant. Moreover, JNCC recommended that if the geophysical survey route were to traverse the site undertaking other non-licensable "noisy" activities, then the developer should coordinate with other developers conducting works within the site and attempt to minimise the level of "noisy" activities on the same day to avoid breaching the daily 20% noise threshold. This recommendation has also been communicated to the developer in the Marine Licence Covering Letter.

NRW PS is therefore satisfied that the Proposed Activities, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of European Sites.

4.1.4. European Protected Species

a) The legal framework

The Habitats Regulations 2017 and the Offshore Habitats Regulations 2017 also confer protection on certain designated species (European Protected Species). A licence (EPS licence) must be obtained in order, whether deliberately or accidentally, to capture, kill, disturb or injure such a species, damage or destroy their breeding or resting places or obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW TE and JNCC consider that there could be a requirement for European Protected Species (EPS) licence. JNCC considers that the duration of surveys using sub-bottom profilers (SBPs) in the area could be long enough (up to 4 months) to result in disturbance and/or injury to cetacean EPS. Therefore, the details of NRW Species Licensing Team have been passed to the applicant with the possible requirements of an EPS licence in particular for the following protected species which is likely to be impacted by the Project:

- Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

NRW PS has taken into account the requirements for issuing an EPS licence in making this decision. Any decision taken as part of the determination of this marine licence does not constrain or bind NRW, as the statutory EPS licensing authority, in exercising its function and the consideration required to any EPS licence.

Should an application for an EPS licence in relation to the Project be made it will be determined by NRW based on all the relevant information available to NRW at that time.

4.1.5. Marine Conservation Zones

a) The legal framework

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) were established under the 2009 Act to protect nationally important, rare or threatened habitats and species. The only currently designated MCZ in Wales is Skomer.

Under the 2009 Act, NRW must exercise its functions in the manner which it considers best furthers the conservation objectives stated for any MCZ or, where that is not possible, in the manner which it considers least hinders the achievement of those objectives.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

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NRW is satisfied that there is no significant risk of the Proposed Activities on the Skomer MCZ.

4.1.6. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**a) The legal framework**

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (**1981 Act**) and protected by law to conserve their wildlife or geology. NRW must take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which an SSSI is of special scientific interest.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW is satisfied that there is no impact pathway to any SSSI.

4.1.7. The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011**a) The legal framework**

The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended) establish a legal framework for treating waste. This is designed to protect the environment and human health by emphasising the importance of proper waste management, recovery and recycling techniques to reduce pressure on resources and improve their use. Waste generated by a project or activity must in general terms be dealt with in an environmentally friendly way. To achieve this the Regulations describe a waste hierarchy which gives an order of preference for how waste is dealt with (prevention, re-use, recovery for other purposes such as energy, and finally disposal).

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW is satisfied that the Proposed Activities meet the requirements of The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

4.1.8. Other matters considered relevant to the need to protect the environment

During consultation The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) recommended that the recently published (2021) Crown Estate guidance for offshore wind (<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/3917/guide-to-archaeological-requirements-for-offshore-wind.pdf>) is added to the list of best practice guidance given in Part 7 of the technical note. This was communicated to the applicant within the Marine Licence Cover Letter upon issue.

NRW TE requested the correct pollution prevention guidelines are followed in line with [MARPOL convention](#) for preventing pollution from ships at sea. This was conveyed to the applicant in the Marine Licence Cover Letter upon issue.

4.1.9. Conclusion of our considerations under the need to protect the Environment

In summary, having considered the need to protect the environment, NRW does not consider that any impacts of the Project on the environment (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) are sufficient on their own to justify refusal of the application.

4.2. The need to protect human health

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No comments or representations were received in relation to the need to protect human health and no other concerns in this regard have been identified.

4.2.1. Conclusion of our considerations under the need to protect human health

In summary, having considered the need to protect human health, NRW does not consider that any impacts of the Project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) are sufficient on their own to justify refusal of the application.

4.3. The need to prevent interference with legitimate uses of the sea

Legitimate uses of the sea include (but are not limited to): navigation (including taking any steps for the purpose of navigational safety); fishing; mineral extraction; and amenity use.

During consultation, the Marine Coastguard Agency requested conditions to be included to promulgate maritime safety. These will be required in the form of notifications of commencement and ending of works (conditions 3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.4 as seen in Annex 1).

The MCA also advised for adequate signals when jacked up vessels are used. However, since no jack-up barges will be involved in these works no conditions were needed. However, this guidance has been included as advice in the Marine Licence Cover Letter.

4.3.1. Conclusion of our considerations regarding the need to prevent interference with legitimate uses of the sea

In summary, having considered the need to protect interference with legitimate uses of the sea, NRW does not consider that any impacts of the Project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) are sufficient on their own to justify refusal of the application.

4.4. Marine Policy Documents**a) The Legal framework**

NRW is required to take its decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

UK Marine Policy Statement 2011 (MPS)

The MPS is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.

Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP)

The WMNP is the Marine Plan for the Welsh inshore region and the Welsh offshore region and sets out the Welsh Government's policies for and in connection with the sustainable development of this area.

b) Our determination**UK Marine Policy Statement 2011**

This decision has been taken in accordance with marine policy as set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement 2011.

Welsh National Marine Plan

This decision has been taken in accordance with marine policy as set out in the Welsh National Marine Plan. This is due to the development of the wind farms being a sustainable source of renewable energy and are playing an integral part in Wales' commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The development will also have a positive effect on the economy of the region through the creation of jobs and opportunities. There will also be contribution to the well-being of local coastal communities, through payments by the developer, which recognise communities that are hosting a development, in this case referring to onshore developments such as a substation. The development will also maintain co-existence in this marine environment by consulting with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Trinity House order to ensure that the survey works can coexist with existing users of the marine environment, specifically fishermen's organisations, neighbouring port authorities, boaters, recreational users, small-scale low intensity fishers and other local stakeholders.

4.5. Other matters NRW thinks relevant

4.5.1. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

a) The legal framework

In making its decision, NRW is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its published well-being objectives, which are designed to maximise NRW's contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. NRW must also act in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

b) Our determination

NRW has taken into account its well-being objectives and is satisfied that its decision is consistent with meeting those objectives.

NRW is also satisfied that its decision is consistent with the sustainable development principle i.e. seeking to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.5.2. Sustainable management of natural resources

a) The legal framework

NRW's general purpose is to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources as set out in section 4 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its functions.

b) Our determination

NRW is satisfied that this decision, when implemented in accordance with the attached conditions, is consistent with its general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales, and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations including the consultation responses, NRW's decision is to grant the Marine Licence sought by the Application. We

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have reached this decision having had regard to the relevant legal framework outlined in section 4 and have also explained in section 4 how each of the legal requirements have been considered. NRW has determined that a Marine Licence for the Proposed Activities should be granted.

Conditions have been attached to the Marine Licence as set out in Annex 1. The reason for the inclusion of each condition is set out with the conditions.

6. AUTHORISATION

Report by: Emma Lowe Position: Marine Licensing Officer	Date: 04/05/2022	Signed: 
Authorised by: Emmer Litt Position: Marine Licensing Team Leader	Date: 18/05/2022	Signed: 

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ANNEX 1

Conditions imposed and reasons for those conditions.

Note: Condition numbers used below reflect the condition numbers used in the licence.

CONDITIONS

Notification and Inspection

3.1 Notification of Commencement

- 3.1.1** The Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority no less than **10 days** before the commencement of the Licensed Activities, or an individual phase of the Licensed Activities, is expected to commence.

Reason: To ensure the Licensing Authority are aware of the commencement of Licensed Activities.

- 3.1.2** The Licence Holder must notify Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement Branch) no less than **10 days** before the commencement of the Licensed Activities, or an individual phase of the Licensed Activities, is expected to commence.

Reason: To ensure the Marine Enforcement Officers are aware of the commencement of Licensed Activities.

- 3.1.3** The Licence Holder must ensure that local mariners and fishermen's organisations are made fully aware of the Licensed Activities through local notices to mariners **10 days** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

Reason: To minimise interference with other sea users and ensure other vessels in the vicinity can safely plan and conduct their passage.

3.2 Notification of Vessels and/or Vehicles

The Licence Holder must ensure that the details of the vessels and/or vehicles utilised to undertake the Licensed Activities are submitted to the Licensing Authority and Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement Branch) at least **24 hours** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

Reason: To ensure that the Licensing Authority are made aware, in a timely manner, of the vessels and/or vehicles operating under this licence to enable the Licensing Authority to comply with the reporting obligations in the Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended.

3.3 Notification of Agents/Contractors/Sub-contractors

The Licence Holder must ensure that details of any agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) utilised to undertake the Licensed Activities are submitted to the Licensing Authority at least **24 hours** prior to the commencement of Licensed Activities.

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Reason: To ensure that the Licensing Authority are made aware, in a timely manner, of the agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) operating under this licence and in order to enable the Licensing Authority to comply with the reporting obligations in the Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended.

3.4 Notification of HM Coastguard

The Licence Holder must ensure that HM Coastguard is made aware of the Licensed Activities at least **24 hours** prior to commencement by contacting The National Maritime Operations Centre at zone31@hmcg.gov.uk & zone33@hmcg.gov.uk.

Reason: To ensure the safety of navigation.

3.5 Inspection of Licensed Activities

The Licence Holder must allow Marine Enforcement Officers or any other person authorised by the Licensing Authority to inspect the Works at any reasonable time.

Reason: To allow for inspection of the Licensed Activities to check compliance with the Licence.

3.6 Notification of Completion

- 3.6.1** The Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority within **10 days** of completion of the Licensed Activities.

Reason: To ensure the Licensing Authority are aware of the completion of Licensed Activities.

- 3.6.2** The Licence Holder must notify Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement Branch) within **10 days** of completion of the Licensed Activities.

Reason: To ensure the Marine Enforcement Officers are aware of the completion of Licensed Activities.

3.7 Accident or Emergency

- 3.7.1** If, by reason of force majeure any substances or articles are deposited otherwise than as permitted as part of the Licensed Activities or in the Licensed Area full details of the circumstances shall be notified to the Licensing Authority within **48 hours** of the incident occurring.

Reason: To allow the Licensing Authority to take appropriate action to ensure the appropriate removal of the unlicensed deposit.

- 3.7.2** If it is necessary for the Licence Holder to recover or remove any equipment, plant or machinery used to undertake the Licensed Activities that have been dropped as a result of an accident or emergency, the Licence Holder is permitted to do so provided that

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the methodology for such recovery or removal has been approved by the Licensing Authority.

Reason: To allow for the recovery of objects that have been accidentally dropped when carrying out the Licensed Activities.

3.8 Distribution of Copies of this Licence

The Licence Holder is required to ensure that a copy of this Licence is given to:

- **All agents, contractors and subcontractors whose names have been provided to the Licensing Authority under condition 3.3 and**
- **The Masters of any vessels and transport managers responsible for the vehicles employed in accordance with this Licence whose details have been submitted to the Licensing Authority under condition 3.2.**

Reason: To ensure that all agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) and vessel Masters are aware of their obligations under the conditions established within this Licence to ensure compliance with the conditions.

3.9 Inspection of Documents

Copies of this Licence shall be made available at the following locations:

- **at the address of the Licence Holder specified in section 1.2;**
- **at any site office, located at or adjacent to the Licensed Area, used by the Licence Holder or its agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) responsible for the loading transportation or deposit of any substances or articles permitted as part of the Licensed Activities;**
- **on board each vessel or vehicle carrying out Licensed Activities.**

The documents referred to in this Condition shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by officers appropriately authorised by the Licensing Authority and authorised Marine Enforcement Officers at the locations stated in that paragraph.

Reason: To ensure that all agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) and vessel Masters may access the details of this Licence at all times and to ensure that the details of this Licence are available for inspection when required.

Vessels, Plant and Equipment

3.10 Notified Contractors, Vessels and/or Vehicles only to Carry out Licensed Activities

Only those agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s), vessels and/or vehicles whose details have been notified to the Licensing Authority may operate under the terms of this Licence. Any changes must be

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notified to and be approved by the Licensing Authority in writing prior to any such agent, contractor, subcontractors or vehicles carrying out any Licensed Activities pursuant to or otherwise operating under this Licence.

Reason: To ensure that the Licensing Authority are made aware, in a timely manner, of the agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) operating under this Licence to enable the Licensing Authority to comply with the reporting obligations in the Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended.

3.11 Refuelling of Plant and Equipment

The Licence Holder must ensure that plant, vehicles and machinery are not refuelled on the foreshore or in the sea.

Reason: To minimise the risk of fuels/other contaminants entering the marine environment.

3.12 Equipment, Structures and Access

The Licence Holder must ensure that all equipment, temporary structures, access tracks, waste and/or debris associated with the Licensed Activities are removed on completion of the Licensed activities.

Reason: To minimise impacts on the marine environment and other users of the sea/seabed.

Safety

3.13 Removal of Deposited Material

If the Licensing Authority considers it necessary or advisable for the safety of navigation, the Licence Holder must remove any deposit specified by the Licensing Authority or Marine Enforcement Officers within one month of notice being given by the Licensing Authority, and shall not replace such material until the Licensing Authority has given its written approval.

Reason: To ensure that any material which may pose a hazard to safe navigation has been removed.

Pollution control

3.14 Pollution Prevention

The Licence Holder must ensure that pollution prevention best practice is adhered to at all times. Any incidents must be reported to the Licensing Authority as soon as possible using the hotline number **0300 065 3000**.

Reason: To minimise the risk of pollution incidents and to ensure the timely report of such incidents to enable the Licensing Authority to take action as appropriate.

3.15 Spillage of Pollutants

The Licence Holder must employ bunding, storage facilities and spill kits to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils and chemicals associated with the plant, refuelling and construction equipment into

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the marine environment. Secondary containment must be used with a capacity of **no less than 110%** of the container's storage capacity

Reason: To minimise the risk of fuels/other contaminants entering the marine environment.

3.16 Prevention of Disposal of Man-made Debris

The Licence Holder must ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the disposal of man-made debris to the marine environment. Such material must be removed immediately and be disposed of appropriately. If it is not possible to prevent manmade debris from entering the marine environment during the Licensed Activities, the Licensed Activities must cease immediately.

Reason: To minimise the amount of man-made materials disposed of at sea.

3.17 Cleanliness of Equipment

The Licence Holder must ensure that equipment, machinery and PPE are washed with freshwater and/or thoroughly airdried before deployment and before moving between locations.

Reason: To minimise the risk of spread of invasive non-native species.

Activity-specific Conditions

3.18 Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries

The Licence Holder must comply at all times with the Crown Estate's Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries. The protocol can be obtained by contacting: protocol@wessexarch.co.uk. A copy of the Protocol must be available to all contractors' personnel to ensure they are fully aware of the Protocol.

To ensure all archaeological finds are reported and historical environment is protected.

3.19 Reporting of Artefacts

The Licence Holder must ensure that any artefacts accidentally recovered are retained and reported through the Marine Portable Antiquities Scheme.

To ensure all archaeological finds are reported

3.20 Boreholes or Grab Samples - Additional Notification upon Completion

The Licence Holder must inform the Licensing Authority, of the location of all completed grab samples/boreholes within **10 days** of completion of the work.

To comply with Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information) (Wales) Regulations 2011 9(2)(C)