

Our ref: RML2201v1

29 July 2022

Dear Lucy Harper,

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009: PART 4 – MARINE LICENSING

LICENCE FOR GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS, MONA OFFSHORE WIND FARM, NORTH WALES

LICENCE NUMBER: RML2201v1

I am pleased to advise you that the Marine Licensing Team within Natural Resources Wales, on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, as Licensing Authority, has considered **Mona Offshore Wind Limited** email dated **08 July 2022** requesting an amendment to the method statement to include vehicles and vehicle-based equipment in the intertidal areas and updated coordinates under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and hereby grant the Marine Licence for you to undertake the above stated works.

Accordingly, please find attached for your review and retention a copy of Marine Licence **RML2201v1** and its conditions. Please note that Marine Licence **RML2201v1** supersedes Marine Licence **RML2201** in its entirety.

Marine Licence has been varied to include the use of vehicles and vehicle-based equipment in the intertidal area.

Advisory Note

NRW advise that when accessing the shore, vehicles avoid crossing down to the lower shore immediately and instead traverse eastwards at the top of the shore towards the eastern edge of the red line boundary delineated in Figure 3.1 of the Technical Note. NRW believe that this route would likely avoid the majority of sensitive vegetation located outside the SSSI.

Section 4.7.1 of the Technical Note states that “the location of the cores will be micro-sited to minimise or avoid any disturbance to the shingle bank in the region of the Llanddulas east sampling location”. NRW advise that the works should be sited to as avoid damaging the vegetated shingle feature of the SSSI.

NRW Technical Experts have advised that once the final cable corridor is known, we encourage the applicant to engage with NRW in discussions on the number of grab/camera samples that will be undertaken in the characterisation survey to inform future assessments. We also encourage the applicant to refer to NRW guidance on benthic habitat assessments for development and activities: Natural Resources Wales / Benthic habitat assessments for marine developments¹

¹ [Natural Resources Wales / Benthic habitat assessments for marine developments](#)

NRW Technical Experts have also advised that no grab sampling is undertaken on Annex I habitats and other sensitive habitats (Section 7 and OSPAR). It is noted that the applicant will be deploying a drop-down video/camera prior to taking a grab sample to avoid sensitive habitats.

It was also advised that in addition to identifying infauna in the grab samples, any fish, in particular sand eel (a Section 7 species and an important prey fish for protected birds and mammals) are also recorded. In combination with British Geological Survey Folk sediment classification and the sediment analysis this data can inform mapping of sand eel habitat suitability, which we would advise is carried out for future assessments.

Finally, NRW Technical Experts also advised that you have made a reference (incorrectly) to PPG6 in the submitted technical note, it is not appropriate for works at sea. Ships are required to comply with the MARPOL convention for preventing pollution from ships at sea.

It is also recommended that you engage with NRW Species Licensing Team regarding the potential requirement for a European Protected Species Licence as the works have potential to impact Harbour Porpoise.

Marine Licence, **RML2201v1**, constitutes a statutory consent; therefore, the conditions set out herein must be complied with in full and will be binding upon any agent or contractor who undertakes any activity on the project on your behalf.

Marine Licence, **RML2201v1** is solely granted for the work to be undertaken with the area specified in the Licence; however, it does not absolve you from applying for further consents or licences as necessary to enable the full completion of your project.

If the works authorised by this Licence are unlikely to be completed by the expiry date, the Licence Holder should apply for a replacement marine licence **at least 4 months** prior to the expiry date of this Licence.

Should you require clarification as to the reasons for the inclusion of any of the conditions attached to the Licence then you must request written notice within 28 days of the receipt of this letter.

Finally, once again, please ensure you have read and understood Marine Licence **RML2201v1**. Should you have any queries with regards to your Marine Licence then please do not hesitate to contact the Marine Licensing Team.

Yours sincerely



Jodie Pullen
Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales