

Sent by e mail to
C/O

Date 02 December 2022

Dear Consultee,

**MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007
(AS AMENDED) (“The Regulations”)**

**REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION – Bedwyn Sands and North Middle Grounds
Marine Aggregate Extraction licence renewal**

The Natural Resources Wales Permitting Service (NRW PS) has received a request for a scoping opinion under the Regulations from Severn Sands Holdings Ltd to ascertain whether the above proposal, will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the submission of an Environmental Statement, and steer on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES).

I have attached a copy of the scoping request and supporting information for your review.

In accordance with the requirements of the Regulations the NRW PS is consulting organisations that we believe may have an interest in the proposal, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, or local or regional competences, in order to inform our screening and scoping opinion.

Please note, should an ES be required, this would support an application to NRW PS for a Marine Licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, in respect of works to be undertaken below mean high water springs.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are the consenting authority in England. The MMO have also received a scoping opinion request under The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended) and will undertake their own consultation.

Procedure for reaching scoping opinion

I am canvassing your views on behalf of NRW in respect of whether the enclosed scoping report is adequate in terms of:

- a) Describing the proposal

- b) The matters proposed to be addressed in the Environmental Statement (as described in Schedule 3 of the Regulations), are suitable to inform an assessment of the potential environmental effects
- c) Identification of cumulative impacts
- d) Identification of transboundary impacts

If you believe either to be insufficient, please describe any additional issues which should be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment and the reasons for that opinion.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 – Regulation 63

Further to the above, it would also be helpful if you could give your view as to whether the proposed works are likely to have a significant effect (either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects) on a European site/s and/or European Protected Species, and therefore whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

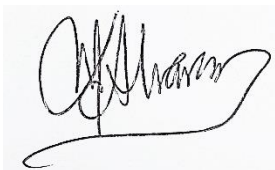
Request for comments

I would be grateful for your response within **35 days** of the date of this letter, this being **06 January 2023**. If I do not hear from you by this date I shall assume you have no comments to make on this scoping request. However, please note you will be consulted on any formal application that may follow.

You will be provided with a copy of our Scoping Opinion once issued. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this request please do not hesitate to contact me quoting reference number **SC2204**.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely



Maria Alvarez
Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales