

**Mona Offshore Wind Ltd**

**Via email only: [monaoffshorewindproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:monaoffshorewindproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)**

**27<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Dear Sirs

**Mona Off Shore Wind Farm ('the Project')**  
**G Lloyd Evans & Sons ('the Owners')**  
**Bryn Hen, Groesffordd Marli, LL22 9ED ('the Property')**  
**Written Representation**  
**Registration ID: 20048549**

We are writing on behalf of our above clients who farm at Bryn Hen and who will be severely affected by the project.

By way of a background, our clients, took on the family farm as teenagers along with their Mother and over the years, through their dedication and hard work, have built up a very successful and viable dairy business. They operate a "High Health" closed herd (this means replacements are from their own herd and no stock is bought in) of 340 dairy cows together with followers. They are contracted to ARLA.

The proposed works would take out approximately 25.40ha of vital grazing land out of an established grazing platform year on year of 82ha. The farm business supports three livelihoods, as well as various permanent and temporary staff and local contractors.

At the outset of the project in 2022, two proposed routes were put forward to our clients. A northern route and a southern route. We had various correspondence with the project's agents, Dalcour Maclaren (DM) and informed them that we were strongly opposed to any route, especially the southern route. During a meeting in April 2023, we again told DM our concerns of the impact of the project and they noted the "meeting highlighted the severity of your clients concerns towards the project." DM were also informed that our preference would be for the project to be drilled.

We were informed in August 2023 that the project had chosen the southern route and were told the reasons and potential impact could be discussed in a meeting.

A meeting was arranged for November 2023 and our clients again strongly informed DM that their preference was for drilling and failing that, the northern route. Although it would have a detrimental impact on their farming operation, it would be manageable.

The proposed southern route would decimate the viable and profitable farm business, due to the fact that this route goes through a huge part of 'grazing' land, which is imperative to the business. It was agreed with DM in November 2023 that our clients would instruct their experienced Farm Business Consultant, Mr Andrew Hawkins from Promar, to undertake an economic assessment of the impact the southern scheme would have on the farm business. A redacted copy, undertaken in December 2023, is attached, and the full assessment is available for inspection, but our clients, in the interest of confidentiality, do not wish for the assessment to be shared in the public domain.

The report highlights that the southern route would have dire consequences. Our clients would see a huge loss of their grazing land available and as a result, an estimated 105 milking cows out of 340 would need to be sold. The summer housing of the herd is not an option as their milk purchaser would not accept this due to the milk contract and management rules. Without their current ARLA contract, profit would immediately decrease as they would be unlikely to achieve their current milk price elsewhere.

In addition to the above, it should be noted that these cows are bred for producing milk from grazed grass and this is their advantage over other breed types.

In the event our clients did sell 105 cows, it is highly likely they would be sold at less than their worth to our clients. Farmers using this type of system generally breed their own replacements and therefore the market is not strong for this type of cow. Additionally, due to the fact they operate a high health herd, they could not simply purchase cows to restock and build up numbers after the completion of the scheme. It would be necessary to breed their own replacements and this would take at least 3 years.

Our clients have invested heavily in the farm over the last 9 years to secure viability and future proof the business for the next generation. They would also expect a return on this investment and feel that this is now in jeopardy.

Following various correspondence with DM, a further meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. In this meeting, it was confirmed to us that our preferred northern route was not an option and the southern route had been chosen.

It was confirmed DM would not share the full BRAGG report with us to show the reasons the northern route could not be used, but they would share relevant bits relating to our clients land. We have still never received this. It was agreed we would commission an independent review (at our own cost) to ensure the reasons were valid.

Despite the above, it seemed that DM had become sympathetic to our clients plight and they confirmed they wanted to work together with our clients to mitigate the impact. They unexpectedly raised with us the possibility that a large length of cable (covering most of the land affected) could be installed using direct drilling "HDD." However, we were informed that they the project could not commit to HDD until they had carried out intrusive surveys. Our clients agreed to this immediately.

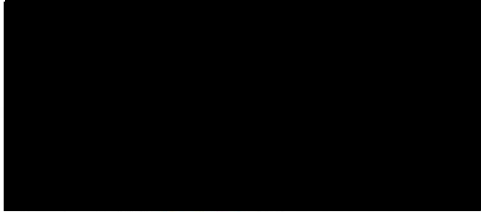
Given HDD would greatly reduce the impact of the scheme on our clients, they were agreeable to exploring this method of installation and would be amenable to working with DM on this basis. The impact this would have on their business would be far less than the proposed open trench, as we had told DM numerous times.

Several months later, our clients were very upset and disappointed when an email was received on 21<sup>st</sup> August and told us the devastating news that the project is not in a position to commit to HDD on their land (c.2000m). The email cited economic reasons and the fact that a contractor has not yet been appointed.

We therefore feel misled by DM agents who implied in our meeting in February that subject to the results of intrusive surveys and one potential 'engineering constraint', it should be possible to drill. To now be told at this late stage that they cannot commit to drilling for 'economic' reasons and the fact that a contractor is not yet on board, (which would have been known at the time of the earlier meetings) is not acceptable.

Bearing in mind the above, in our opinion and due to the catastrophic impact of the southern route if it is trenched, we feel that the entire length on our clients land should be direct drilled.

We would welcome an inspection to show you the farm, so that you can understand the affect the southern option will have if trenched and therefore why this project should be taken forward using HDD.



**Susie Griffiths MPROF**

**For and on behalf of J Bradburne Price & Co**