

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Response to Cefn Meiriadog Community Council's Local Impact Report

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Image of an offshore wind farm

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

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MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Contents

RESPONSE TO CEFN MEIRIADOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL’S LOCAL IMPACT REPORT 1

1 RESPONSE TO CEFN MEIRIADOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL’S LOCAL IMPACT REPORT 1

 1.1 Introduction 1

2 RESPONSES TO CEFN MEIRIADOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL’S LOCAL IMPACT REPORT 2

Tables

Table 2.1: Cefn Meiriadog Community Council 2

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Applicant	Mona Offshore Wind Limited.
Appropriate Assessment	A step-wise procedure undertaken in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, to determine the implications of a plan or project on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives, where the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects.
Bodelwyddan National Grid Substation	This is the Point of Interconnection (POI) selected by the National Grid for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Competent Authority	Regulation 6(1) defines competent authorities as "any Minister, government department, public or statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding a public office".
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Evidence Plan Process	The Evidence Plan process is a mechanism to agree upfront what information the Applicant needs to supply to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) applications for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Expert Working Group (EWG)	Expert working groups set up with relevant stakeholders as part of the Evidence Plan process.
Inter-array cables	Cables which connect the wind turbines to each other and to the offshore substation platforms. Inter-array cables will carry the electrical current produced by the wind turbines to the offshore substation platforms.
Interconnector cables	Cables that may be required to interconnect the Offshore Substation Platforms in order to provide redundancy in the case of cable failure elsewhere.
Intertidal access areas	The area from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) to Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) which will be used for access to the beach and construction related activities.
Intertidal area	The area between MHWS and MLWS.
Landfall	The area in which the offshore export cables make contact with land and the transitional area where the offshore cabling connects to the onshore cabling.
Local Authority	A body empowered by law to exercise various statutory functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom. This includes County Councils, District Councils and County Borough Councils.
Local Highway Authority	A body responsible for the public highways in a particular area of England and Wales, as defined in the Highways Act 1980.
Marine licence	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires a marine licence to be obtained for licensable marine activities. Section 149A of the Planning Act 2008 allows an applicant for a DCO to apply for a 'deemed' marine licence as part of the DCO process. In addition,

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Term	Meaning
	licensable activities within 12nm of the Welsh coast require a separate marine licence from Natural Resource Wales (NRW).
Maximum Design Scenario (MDS)	The scenario within the design envelope with the potential to result in the greatest impact on a particular topic receptor, and therefore the one that should be assessed for that topic receptor.
Mona 400kV Grid Connection Cable Corridor	The corridor from the Mona onshore substation to the National Grid substation at Bodelwyddan.
Mona Array Area	The area within which the wind turbines, foundations, inter-array cables, interconnector cables, offshore export cables and offshore substation platforms (OSPs) forming part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project will be located.
Mona Array Scoping Boundary	The Preferred Bidding Area that the Applicant was awarded by The Crown Estate as part of Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4.
Mona Offshore Cable Corridor	The corridor located between the Mona Array Area and the landfall up to MHWS, in which the offshore export cables will be located.
Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas	The corridor located between the Mona Array Area and the landfall up to MHWS, in which the offshore export cables will be located and in which the intertidal access areas are located.
Mona Offshore Transmission Infrastructure Scoping Search Area	The area that was presented in the Mona Scoping Report as the area encompassing and located between the Mona Potential Array Area and the landfall up to MHWS, in which the offshore export cables will be located.
Mona Offshore Wind Project	The Mona Offshore Wind Project is comprised of both the generation assets, offshore and onshore transmission assets, and associated activities.
Mona Offshore Wind Project Boundary	The area containing all aspects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, both offshore and onshore.
Mona Offshore Wind Project PEIR	The Mona Offshore Wind Project Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that was submitted to The Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and NRW for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Mona Offshore Wind Project Scoping Report	The Mona Scoping Report that was submitted to The Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and NRW for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Mona Onshore Cable Corridor	The corridor between MHWS at the landfall and the Mona onshore substation, in which the onshore export cables will be located.
Mona Onshore Development Area	The area in which the landfall, onshore cable corridor, onshore substation, mitigation areas, temporary construction facilities (such as access roads and construction compounds), and the connection to National Grid substation will be located
Mona Onshore Transmission Infrastructure Scoping Search Area	The area that was presented in the Mona Scoping Report as the area located between MHWS at the landfall and the onshore National Grid substation, in which the onshore export cables, onshore substation and other associated onshore transmission infrastructure will be located.
Mona PEIR Offshore Cable Corridor	The corridor presented at PEIR that was consulted on during statutory consultation and has subsequently been refined for the application for Development Consent. It is located between the Mona Array Area and the landfall up to MHWS, in which the offshore export cables and the offshore booster substation will be located.

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Term	Meaning
Mona PEIR Offshore Wind Project Boundary	The area presented at PEIR containing all aspects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, both offshore and onshore. This area was the boundary consulted on during statutory consultation and subsequently refined for the application for Development Consent.
Mona Potential Array Area	The area that was presented in the Mona Scoping Report and in the PEIR as the area within which the wind turbines, foundations, meteorological mast, inter-array cables, interconnector cables, offshore export cables and OSPs forming part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project were likely to be located. This area was the boundary consulted on during statutory consultation and subsequently refined for the application for Development Consent.
Mona Proposed Onshore Development Area	The area presented at PEIR in which the landfall, onshore cable corridor, onshore substation, mitigation areas, temporary construction facilities (such as access roads and construction compounds), and the connection to National Grid infrastructure will be located. This area was the boundary consulted on during statutory consultation and subsequently refined for the application for Development Consent.
Mona Scoping Report	The Mona Scoping Report that was submitted to The Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and NRW for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
National Policy Statement (NPS)	The current national policy statements published by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero in 2024.
Non-statutory consultee	Organisations that an applicant may choose to consult in relation to a project who are not designated in law but are likely to have an interest in the project.
Offshore Substation Platform (OSP)	The offshore substation platforms located within the Mona Array Area will transform the electricity generated by the wind turbines to a higher voltage allowing the power to be efficiently transmitted to shore.
Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4	The Crown Estate auction process which allocated developers preferred bidder status on areas of the seabed within Welsh and English waters and ends when the Agreements for Lease (AfLs) are signed.
Pre-construction site investigation surveys	Pre-construction geophysical and/or geotechnical surveys undertaken offshore and, or onshore to inform, amongst other things, the final design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Point of Interconnection	The point of connection at which a project is connected to the grid. For the Mona Offshore Wind Project, this is the Bodelwyddan National Grid Substation.
Relevant Local Planning Authority	The Relevant Local Planning Authority is the Local Authority in respect of an area within which a project is situated, as set out in Section 173 of the Planning Act 2008. Relevant Local Planning Authorities may have responsibility for discharging requirements and some functions pursuant to the DCO, once made.
the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	The decision maker with regards to the application for development consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Statutory consultee	Organisations that are required to be consulted by an applicant pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 in relation to an application for development consent. Not all consultees will be statutory consultees (see non-statutory consultee definition).

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Term	Meaning
Wind turbines	The wind turbine generators, including the tower, nacelle and rotor.
The Planning Inspectorate	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs.

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AfL	Agreement for Lease
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BNG	Biodiversity net gain
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EnBW	Energie Baden-Württemberg AG
EWG	Expert Working Group
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
IEF	Important Ecological Feature
IEMA	Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment
ISAA	Information to support the Appropriate Assessment
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
NBB	Net Benefits for Biodiversity
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
PDE	Project Design Envelope
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
POI	Point of Interconnection
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SPA	Special Protection Area
TCE	The Crown Estate
WTW	Wildlife Trust Wales
TWT	The Wildlife Trusts

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Units

Unit	Description
GW	Gigawatt
km	Kilometres
km ²	Kilometres squared
kV	Kilovolt
MW	Megawatt
nm	Nautical miles

1 RESPONSE TO CEFN MEIRIADOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S LOCAL IMPACT REPORT

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 The Applicant has responded to Cefn Meiriadog Community Council's Local Impact Report below.

2 RESPONSES TO CEFN MEIRIADOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S LOCAL IMPACT REPORT

Table 2.1: Cefn Meiriadog Community Council

Reference	Written Submission Comment	Applicant's response
REP1-046.1	<p>1. This Voluntary Local Impact Report is submitted by Cefn Meiriadog Community Council (CMCC) in accordance with the guidance in the Planning Inspectorate's (PI) document Developments of National Significance, Appendix 5: Local Impact Reports.</p> <p>2. It is written without the benefit of being able to refer to any LIR submitted by the LPA (Denbighshire County Council), although it is understood that DCC has commissioned a LIR, to be submitted by the relevant deadline.</p> <p>3. In accordance with paragraph 5.4 of the PI's document referred to above, the Report is based on comprehensive local knowledge and strong awareness of local issues by the seven councillors making up Cefn Meiriadog Community Council. The provision of "robust evidence" as referred to in the document obviously cannot meet the levels of which a well-resourced LPA should be capable. However it is based on extensive discussions and interactions over a long period of time between councillors and local residents, and between councillors themselves and others at both regular council meetings and meetings called specifically to discuss infrastructure developments and proposals affecting the community, including the current proposal.</p> <p>4. CMCC is unaware of the likely impact of the application in relation to a secondary consent being granted.</p> <p>5. CMCC has referred to the following documents in drawing up this LIR: Denbighshire County Council (DCC) LDP 2006 – 2021; Welsh Government, Developments of National Significance: guide to engaging with the process; Welsh Government TAN</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes Cefn Meiriadog Community Council's Voluntary Local Impact Report.</p>
REP1-046.2	<p>6. In discussing local impacts of the Mona project, the importance of cumulative effects with other projects cannot be overstated, and all comments about the Mona project necessarily have this as a background. These are both short-term and long-term cumulative effects, the former basically covering the period of construction work and the effects of noise, traffic, etc, on residents, and the latter the longer-term effects on the community of siting the infrastructure in the location proposed. The concern of CMCC and the residents of Cefn Meiriadog is both the immediate effect of Mona but also the cumulative and overall effects on the community of all the infrastructure projects being sited in it, existing, ongoing, proposed and future. It is acknowledged in the Mona application that the construction periods for it and for Mona, if consented, will overlap. With Mona's becoming operational contingent on the NG extension being completed, of necessity the construction period of the NG extension must also coincide with the construction period of</p>	<p>Each chapter of the Environmental Statement contains a Cumulative Effects Assessment. These have been developed specifically to the individual topic, and include all relevant developments that could create potential cumulative impacts and to identify any required mitigation measures where significant effects are identified.</p> <p>The CEA considers information publicly available three months before submission of the application. The CEA has therefore been undertaken based on the latest available information in the public domain up to the 21 November 2023. If further relevant information is available on projects that would give rise to a cumulative before the Mona Offshore Wind Project receives Development Consent, the Applicant will review the information and provide any update needed to the CEA. This will include any publicly available information in respect of National Grid's Bodelwyddan Substation extension.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects Assessment set out in Section 8.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 8: Traffic and transport (APP-071) includes the National Grid Bodelwyddan substation extension</p>

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Reference	Written Submission Comment	Applicant's response
	<p>the Mona substation.</p> <p>7. A key short-term impact therefore will be the significant noise, traffic and light pollution associated with the proposed three-year construction period. With this taking place in a rural landscape of open farmland the noise impact of construction working and of haulage vehicles will be substantial and the impact of light pollution during the hours of darkness, especially in winter, even more so, both amplified by the cumulative effects of the other projects. CMCC considers it necessary therefore that the construction hours be set so as to limit these impacts on residents to the minimum necessary. It notes that an informal poll carried out among residents on social media showed that 8am to 6pm working hours (8pm to 1pm Saturday) were unanimously preferred to the 7am to 7pm working hours sought by the Applicant.</p>	<p>proposal amongst others (as set out in Section 8.10.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 8: Traffic and transport [APP-071]). The assessment confirms that the cumulative development vehicles would not result in significant increases in traffic or the composition of traffic. The HGVs associated with the construction of the cumulative developments would all be routeing through the traffic and transport study area under strict traffic management control via their respective CTMPs, and warning signage will be used where relevant (for example at access junctions) to alert other drivers of the respective construction traffic.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects Assessment set out in Section 9.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration (APP-072) includes the National Grid Bodelwyddan substation extension proposal amongst others (as set out in Section 9.11.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration (APP-0712). The assessment concludes that the representative background sound level is unlikely to be exceeded by the cumulative operation of both developments since they will be designed to meet prescribed noise limits such that significant adverse effects are avoided via the implementation of mitigation measures and layout design.</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (APP-212) includes a series of outline method statements which sets out appropriate measures and controls to manage the construction effects of the onshore development (including the onshore substation). The preparation of a detailed CoCP and method statements are secured by Requirement 9 of the draft Development Consent Order.</p>
<p>REP1-046.3</p>	<p>8. The proposed substation, at 65,000 square metres, and 15 metres high, will clearly have a very major visual impact on the local rural landscape, situated as stated on open farmland on rising ground. Visual Impact Assessments (VIAs) make their assessments based on static viewpoints and visual receptors, but from the point of view of residents in a community like Cefn Meiriadog this is a serious drawback. For those many who walk, run, cycle and ride along the byways and lanes of Cefn Meiriadog, as well as those driving its roads, it is the visual experience of seeing a changing landscape that is important and is a source of pleasure and of a sense of belonging. Assessing a single viewpoint, therefore, cannot capture the impact of the sheer scale of the proposed substation on passers-by in relation to its surroundings, and this impact will be all the greater with the revelation that a grid of twelve 30-metre high lightning masts is proposed. The minor surfaced road which passes nearest to the site is popular with residents and visitors, especially cyclists, alike, and the development will clearly impact on their activities. On this road, the extremely close proximity of the proposed substation to the Grade II listed building known as Pentre Meredydd will clearly have a substantial impact on the ability to appreciate the building in its historic landscape context. The moving around which is a characteristic of leisure activity in Cefn Meiriadog, and of simply living there given the way that settlements, individual dwellings and farms are spread out, means that the cumulative effects of the multiple projects come into play in the impact they have on people travelling around the community. If the project is to go ahead, the CMCC asks for the maximum</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns regarding the potential visual impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land use and recreation (APP-070) includes an assessment of the impact of the Project on recreational resources. The assessment confirms that there would be a minor adverse temporary impact on recreational resources as a result of construction activities due to disruption to a single footpath. The assessment confirms that impacts arising during the operational phase would be limited to maintenance and repair activities which would be small in magnitude and infrequent.</p> <p>Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069) includes an assessment of the impact of the Project on visual receptor groups and confirms that there will be some significant effects potentially experienced by people during construction and decommissioning of the onshore substation and associated equipment/activities and traffic movements which has the potential to affect people's appreciation of the surrounding landscape. An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (APP-208) has been submitted as part of the application and the preparation of a detailed LEMP is secured as a requirement of the draft Development Consent Order. The landscape and ecology management proposals have been developed to avoid, reduce and manage impacts on landscape and ecology during construction, operations and maintenance of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Section 3.9 of the Design Principles (APP-189) states that the landscape proposals have key aims to provide visual screening to residential properties, road users and walkers; to provide visual screening to users of the public bridleway to the northeast of the Mona Onshore Substation site and the public footpath to the west of the Mona Onshore Substation; to provide a woodland context</p>

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Reference	Written Submission Comment	Applicant's response
	<p>mitigation possible in terms of planting, painting, etc, to minimise the visual impact of the substation on the landscape.</p>	<p>for the Mona Onshore Substation site that compliments the long-established woodland of the area, including the woods found on Cefn Meiriadog; and to provide greater connectivity between the existing woodlands, retained hedgerows and field boundary trees. The implementation of the detailed LEMP will ensure that visually significant vegetation is retained to minimise adverse effects on visual receptors and new planting will be designed to maximise growth rates and the screening effect, where relevant.</p> <p>The assessed level of effect on the Grade II listed Pentre Meredydd is moderate adverse, reducing over time to minor adverse as the proposed landscape planting reaches maturity. The proposed programme of landscape planting around the substation, detailed within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (APP-208), would reduce this effect such that by Year 15 summer it would be minor adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms. This assessment is set out in ES Volume 7, Annex 5.6: Settings assessment (onshore infrastructure) (APP-150). Cadw has confirmed that it agrees with this conclusion and this has been captured in the Statement of Common Ground which has been prepared to capture points of agreement between Cadw and the applicant (REP1-034).</p>
<p>REP1-046.4</p>	<p>9. Cefn Meiriadog's sense of identity is bound up with its rural and agricultural character. The community of 359 people in 180 households, and just over 5 square miles, consists largely of farms and smallholdings, together with three small settlements too small to be described even as hamlets. A relatively high proportion of those 180 households are farming families, who form a vital stronghold of the Welsh language and Welsh-language culture. The impact of the continuing loss of agricultural land to this and the other projects and the threat to the viability of farms can be expected to drive some of those already farming on small margins to find other ways of making a living, resulting in changes to Cefn Meiriadog's essential character and identity.</p>	<p>The applicant acknowledges the concerns regarding the potential impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on community identity. The Applicant acknowledges that potential impacts on community identity are an important consideration in the application and that specific assessment has been undertaken to ensure effects are managed and mitigated as far as possible.</p> <p>A Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment (APP-045) has been produced to consider the predicted effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on Welsh language, culture and the community. Where adverse and beneficial effects are identified, measures are proposed to mitigate adverse effects and enhance beneficial ones. The Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment confirms an overall neutral effect is identified during construction in terms of population characteristics, quality of life, infrastructure supply and social and cultural aspects, with a beneficial effect in terms of local employment opportunities and demand for overnight accommodation. The Assessment confirms a neutral effect on Welsh language and culture during the operation of the Project.</p> <p>ES Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment (APP-078) section 4.10.4 'Community identity, culture, resilience and influence' considers the population health implication of visual change. The assessment has been undertaken to the relevant guidelines. The assessment concludes community identity in relation to visual impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project would have a minor adverse effect, acknowledging that there will be a range of subjective responses to the visual change. ES Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069) describes the approach to mitigation, including measures in section 6.8 'Landscape mitigation measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project'. ES Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment (APP-078) concludes the Mona Offshore Wind Project should not result in any significant adverse health effects for the local population.</p>

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Reference	Written Submission Comment	Applicant's response
		<p>The assessment of the effects of the Project on farm holdings is set out within Section 7.8.3.1 – 7.8.3.13 of the Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land use and recreation (APP-070). The assessment identifies that there would be potential for disruption to farming management during the construction period associated with severance, effects on drainage systems and loss of agricultural land, both temporary and permanent. The Applicant has sought to minimise the effects of the Project on farming operations through the production of an Outline CoCP (APP-212) and Outline Management Plans which include measures to control the temporary impact of construction works on the operation of farming enterprises and detailed management plans will be developed in general accordance with the Outline plans prior to the commencement of construction of the Project. The CoCP is secured as a Requirement 9 of the DCO (PDA-003).</p>
<p>REP1-046.5</p>	<p>10. The impact of these changes will inevitably be to make Cefn Meiriadog a progressively less attractive place to live in and to send children to school in. Cefn Meiriadog CP School is central to the community's cultural identity. It already has a small pupil roll and in the past has been threatened with closure. Each marginal impact on it carries a threat of reduced numbers, and parents bringing their children to and from school will be impacted for several years by the traffic situation on Glascoed Road, as well as the permanent cumulative effects the developments have on the character and identity of the community of which the school is at the heart.</p>	<p>The applicant acknowledges your concerns regarding the potential impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on community identity and on traffic.</p> <p>The Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment (APP-045) considers the predicted effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on Welsh language, culture and the community, including whether the development is likely to have an impact on local infrastructure and services provision such as local Welsh language schools. The Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment confirms that identified potential impacts on the education service are anticipated to be neutral during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the project.</p> <p>ES Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment (APP-078) section 4.10.4 'Community identity, culture, resilience and influence' considers the population health implication of visual change. The assessment concludes community identity in relation to visual impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project would have a minor adverse effect, acknowledging that there will be a range of subjective responses to the visual change.</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Chapter 8: Traffic and transport (APP-071) sets out the traffic and transport assessment for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. ES Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment (APP-078) section 4.8.3 'Transport modes, access and connections – onshore' considers the population health implications of transport changes. The assessment concludes the transport impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on local vehicle traffic (private and public transport) as well as active travel would be minor adverse. ES Volume 3, Chapter 8: Traffic and transport (APP-071) describes the approach to mitigation, including measures in section 8.8 'Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project'.</p> <p>ES Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment (APP-078) has been undertaken to the relevant guidelines, as set out in section 4.3.1. ES Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment (APP-078) concludes the Mona Offshore Wind Project should not result in any significant adverse health effects for the local population.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the applicant acknowledges that significant infrastructure developments will have impacts on a community that cannot be captured by the environmental impact assessment process.</p>

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Reference	Written Submission Comment	Applicant's response
		<p>The applicant is committed to working with the community to minimise and reduce those impacts as much as possible. The applicant has appointed a Stakeholder Engagement Manager who will plan and oversee effective community engagement, including regular and timely updates to local residents on important project milestones or activities, such as notification of any visible survey work that might be happening in the area.</p> <p>If the project is granted development consent, it will be a requirement of the Principal Contractors to appoint a Community Liaison Officer and to follow a proactive approach to communications in accordance with a Communications Plan, which forms part of the CoCP. This will include details of how important information will be disseminated, such as details of construction schedules, and contact information for addressing issues or enquiries. It is also likely to include regular briefings, newsletters, and community forums to keep the community informed of progress and address any concerns or unexpected challenges.</p>
REP1-046.6	<p>11. It is a characteristic of Cefn Meiriadog's demography that a relatively high proportion of those living here are from families who have lived here for several generations, another reflection of the importance of the farming community, although this characteristic is by no means limited to farming families. Others who have made the choice to live here have done so precisely because of the area's rural landscape and character. The cumulative impact of the various projects, and in particular the very large size of the Awel y Môr and Mona projects, and the location of the Mona substation in Cefn Meiriadog's agricultural heart has been to bring a sense of social malaise to the community as its attractiveness as a place to live and bring up children is irreversibly diminished. As an indication of the impact the project is having on mental health, two (unrelated) Cefn Meiriadog residents whose properties are in close proximity to the Mona substation site have, separately and without reference to each other, spoken of how the development makes them "feel physically sick".</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges your concerns regarding the potential physical and mental health and visual impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.</p> <p>As explained in response to REP1-046.5 above the Applicant is committed to working with the community to minimise and reduce those impacts as much as possible. The applicant has appointed a Stakeholder Engagement Manager who will plan and oversee effective community engagement, ensuring open lines of communication between the project and local communities and clear, stated methods for local people to voice their concerns, make enquiries or report complaints. This is likely to include regular briefings, newsletters, and community forums to keep communities informed of progress and address any concerns or challenges.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (AS-016) sets out the detailed site selection process. The site selection process undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project has concluded in the application for development consent for the areas and works assessed throughout the Environmental Statement. Wherever possible and practicable, the Applicant has sought to accommodate preferences and concerns raised by stakeholders through the site selection process whether by adjustments to the development boundary, areas of works, or designs being considered. The site selection process and alternatives considered have been through a process of detailed analysis of environmental, social, and engineering constraints, with key feasible alternatives taken forward for consultation. Further discussion of the selection of the final onshore substation location is set out below under response REP1-046.8. The assessment of the effects of the Project on farm holdings is assessed within Section 7.8.3.1 – 7.8.3.13 of the Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land use and recreation (APP-070).</p>
REP1-046.7	<p>12. In the context of the above, therefore, CMCC believes that, in the event of consent being granted, those mitigations, conditions and obligations are put in place which minimise the impacts of the project in all areas discussed above, but in particular in respect of working hours and of the visual impact of the proposed substation on the local landscape.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures, monitoring, compensation or enhancement measures are set out in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (APP-196). The Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule confirms the means of securing the commitments with reference to the relevant Schedule of the draft Development Consent Order and Marine Licence as applicable. The proposed working hours are sought in order to minimise the duration of construction. The Mona Offshore Wind Project is critical national infrastructure which has a key role to play both in</p>

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Reference	Written Submission Comment	Applicant's response
		<p>helping the UK to achieve its net zero ambitions, and specifically, in reaching our offshore wind generation goals. Timely delivery is therefore a key driver of the Project. Enabling construction to be completed over a shorter period of time also reduces the impacts of the community by reducing the overall duration of impacts.</p>
<p>REP1-046.8</p>	<p>13. I stated that the community's sense of identity is bound up with its rural and agricultural character. While the infrastructure developments in question and others over the past two decades might have opened the door to some aspiring developers to describe, for their own purposes, Cefn Meiriadog as being 'semi-industrial', in fact the community consists largely of farms and smallholdings, together with three small settlements not even qualifying to be described as hamlets. A relatively high proportion of the 180 households which constitute the community of Cefn Meiriadog are those of farming families. That farming community is a bastion of the Welsh language and Welsh-language culture, and the continuing loss of agricultural land and the sense of a loss of identity cannot but undermine that. More generally, the changes to its essential character and identity are inevitably making it a progressively less attractive place to live in, to send children to school in, and to walk, cycle, run, ride and drive in.</p>	<p>The location of the onshore substation site was selected following a structured BRAG (black, red, amber, green) process that considered a number of factors (see 2 Environmental Statement - Volume 5, Annex 4.2: Site Selection BRAG Report (APP-082) in determining the location for the onshore substation. The BRAG process took into account landscape and visual receptors and the local context of surrounding land uses including significant electrical infrastructure and the existing St Asaph Business park. The Applicant has sought to 'cluster' the onshore substation with other infrastructure elements as a means of reducing overall effects whilst also considering all of the other constraints associated with siting large-scale infrastructure. Whilst this approach may give rise to adverse impacts, the applicant considers this would overall have the least impact on local communities in the wider area than introducing new elements into the landscape further away from existing infrastructure. The non-statutory consultation undertaken for the substation location also identified that the proposed site was the preferred location. The Applicant recognises that there will be effects on the Cefn Meiriadog community and has proposed mitigation to ensure that these are minimised as far as possible.</p>