

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Deadline 3 Cover Letter

Deadline: 3

Application Reference: EN010137

Document Reference: S_D3_1

Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-JVW-10300

30 September 2024

F01



Image of an offshore wind farm

Document status

Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
F01	Submission at D3	Mona Offshore Wind Ltd	Mona Offshore Wind Ltd	Mona Offshore Wind Ltd	30 Sep 2024

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Prepared for:

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30 September 2024

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House, Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Dear Madam / Sir,

Planning Act 2008

The proposed Mona Offshore Wind Farm

PINS Reference: EN010137

Mona Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant) encloses its submission for Deadline 3. Please find below an overview of key documents within this submission.

Deadline 3 submissions

The Applicant has responded to the representations submitted at Deadline 3.

The content of a small number of representations identified below was such that no response was required from the Applicant (these may have been, for instance, covering letters accompanying more detailed WRs). Those representations are from Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council (REP2-095) and Bodorgan Marine Limited (REP2-101).

Examining Authority's First Written Questions

The Applicant has responded to the ExQ1 in document S_D3_25 Response to Written Questions (ExQ1) and its appendices S_D3_25.1 through to S_D3_25.10. The Applicant has responded to all questions directed to it and to provide further clarity in a small number of cases where questions are directed to other organisations.

Draft Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum and Schedule of Changes

The Applicant has not submitted an updated draft Development Consent Order (REP2-005), Explanatory Memorandum (REP2-006) or Schedule of Changes (REP2-093) as there have been no substantive changes to the drafting since submission at Deadline 2.

Land Plans

The Applicant has not submitted updated land plans as there is no change to those submitted previously. The latest versions are: Land Plan (Onshore) (REP1-004), Crown Land Plan (Onshore) (AS-006) and Special Category Land (AS-007).

Offshore Ornithology

In accordance with the Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's Rule 17 Letter (REP2-077), the Applicant has submitted the following documents at Deadline 3:

- Offshore Ornithology Cumulative Effects Assessment and In-combination Gap-filling Historical Projects Technical Note (S_D3_12) (Gap-fill Note); and
- Offshore Ornithology Supporting Information Technical Note (S_D3_19) (Technical Note).

The Gap-fill Note (S_D3_12) has been provided to address concerns raised by Natural Resources Wales (Advisory) (NRW (A)) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in their relevant representations (RR-011 and RR-033, respectively) and written representations (REP1-056 and REP1-066/REP1-067, respectively). The Gap-fill Note quantifies the predicted displacement and collision impacts from historical offshore wind farms in the Irish Sea that were previously only considered qualitatively within the Applicant's Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) (presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology (REP2-016/REP2-017) and in-combination assessment (presented in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Stage 2 Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) Part Three: Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites Assessments (REP2-010/REP2-011)).

This gap-filling exercise demonstrates that the inclusion of quantitative estimates for historical projects does not change the predicted magnitude of impact for any of the species considered and is, therefore, not considered to alter the conclusions presented in the CEA and ISAA. As such, the Applicant maintains that there are no significant cumulative effects and no adverse effect on integrity (AEoI) in-combination with other plans and projects beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

The Technical Note (S_D3_19) has been provided to give the statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs) clarity on the Applicant's assessment approach at application and provide additional assessment information, particularly with respect to HRA, using the methods and parameters requested by the SNCBs in their relevant representations (RR-011 and RR-033, respectively) and written representations (REP1-056 and REP1-066/REP1-067, respectively).

This additional information is not considered to alter the conclusions of Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology (REP2-016) (ES) and ISAA and thus, the Applicant maintains that there is no AEoI from the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

The Applicant has engaged with the relevant SNCBs on the two technical notes. Details of this engagement, including key feedback from the SNCBs and how the Applicant has considered this, are presented in section 1.1 of the respective technical notes.

The Applicant wishes to highlight that, in preparation of its Deadline 3 submissions, several additional minor errata have been identified. These errata have been corrected in the Applicant's ornithological submissions at Deadline 3 and have also been recorded in the Errata Sheet (S_PD_1 F04) and a separate Offshore Ornithology Errata Clarification Note (S_D3_26) submitted at Deadline 3. None of these additional errata are considered to impact the conclusions drawn or the conclusions presented in the ES and ISAA.

In light of comments received at Deadline 2 in NRW(A)'s Deadline 2 Submission (REP2-099), the Applicant has confirmed in its Response to NRW D2 Submission (S_D3_6) that a revised version of the Offshore Ornithology Assessment of Pen y Gogarth / Great Orme's Head SSSI note will be submitted at Deadline 4 to address, where required, the matters raised by NRW(A).

Outline Highways Access Management Plans

An updated Outline highways access management plan has not been submitted at Deadline 3 as the Applicant is still considering the revisions needed following comments from Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council in their local impact report (REP1-049).

Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)

Statements of Common Ground have been prepared and submitted at this Deadline between the Applicant and Denbighshire County Council SoCG (S_D3_22) and Conwy County Borough Council SoCG (S_D3_23).

In addition, SoCGs have been updated and submitted at this Deadline between the Applicant and Isle of Man Government – Territorial Sea Committee (S_D1_11 (F02)), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (S_D1_16 (F02)), Trinity House (S_D1_17 (F02)), UK Chamber of Shipping (S_D1_18 (F02)), NATS (S_D1_19 (F02)), Defence Infrastructure Organisation (Ministry of Defence) (S_D2_21 (F02)), Blackpool Airport (S_D1_21 (F02)) and Eni UK (S_D1_31 (F02)).

Yours faithfully,



Paul Carter
Mona Consents Lead