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Application by Mona Offshore Wind Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Farm (Ref. EN01037)

Submission for Examination Deadline 4 4 November 2024

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC):

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) publication



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Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) publication

As the RIES is to be published by the ExA on 19 November 2024 between Deadline 4 and Deadline 5, JNCC notes that only submissions up to Deadline 4 on 4 November 2024 will be considered in the RIES. As a result, the RIES as published on that date will not take account of updated advice on various Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA) aspects beyond that point, and we have concerns that the RIES may not therefore present a full and robust account of impacts on relevant protected sites, particularly with regard to in-combination impacts. We understand that comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State (page A8 of Appendix A to the Mona Examination Timetable, PD-010), and we will be pleased to take this opportunity. JNCC suggests that the RIES is updated, particularly in light of any updates the Applicant makes to the in-combination assessment, before it is included alongside the ExA report to the Secretary of State (SoS), so that a full account of the Examination's consideration of HRA matters is presented in one place.