

# MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

## Response to Isle of Anglesey County Council ExQ1 Responses

Deadline: 4

Application Reference: EN010137

Document Reference: S\_D4\_28

Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10379

4 November 2024

F01



Image of an offshore wind farm

**MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT**

**Document status**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Purpose of document</b>	<b>Authored by</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Review date</b>
F01	Submission at D4	RPS	Mona Offshore Wind Ltd	Mona Offshore Wind Ltd	4 Nov 2024

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**MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT**

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## 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,

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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.

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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
CfD	Contract for Difference
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
SEP	Skills and Employment Plan
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area

## MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Acronym	Description
TCE	The Crown Estate
WTW	Wildlife Trust Wales
TWT	The Wildlife Trusts

## Units

Unit	Description
GW	Gigawatt
km	Kilometres
km <sup>2</sup>	Kilometres squared
kV	Kilovolt
MW	Megawatt
nm	Nautical miles



# **1 Response to Isle of Anglesey County Council ExQ1 Responses**

## **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1.1 The Applicant has responded to the Isle of Anglesey County Council's response to the Examining Authority's ExQ1 below.

## 2 Response to Isle of Anglesey County Council ExQ1 Responses

Table 2.1: REP3-080 - Isle of Anglesey County Council

Planning Inspectorate Ref. No.	Question is addressed to	ExA Question	Isle of Anglesey County Council response	Applicant's response
REP3-080.1	The Applicant Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)	OSEP - Q1.21.7 What progress has been made between the parties on the matters raised by the IoACC [REP1-023], ref IoACC.SE.13, in relation to the content of the OSEP [APP-210]?	<p>The IoACC held a meeting with the applicant on the 4th September regarding the Outline Skills and Employment Plan (OSEP).</p> <p>As confirmed in its representation, the IoACC considers that the OSEP is a key tool to provide adequate assurance that every effort will be made at all project phases to ensure maximum local and regional employment, skills and supply chain opportunities.</p> <p>The Council considers that the OSEP in its current form does not include enough details in relation to the activities and proposals the applicant is to put in place to ensure such opportunities.</p> <p>The Council requires further information to what proportion of workforce is likely to be local and details in relation to how this will be secured and maximized as a commitment by the developer.</p> <p>The IoACC also considers that greater detail on the potential of expanding existing skill-bases activities is required. This includes working with education providers such as Coleg Llandrillo Menai and Bangor University which have exceptional opportunities to support the industry and are ready to work with industry to further those opportunities.</p> <p>During the course of the meeting, the applicant confirmed that engagement with relevant stakeholders has commenced in an effort to understand the existing baseline and availability and to align these with the project requirements. This will allow an understanding of what is available to the project and to identify any gaps in order to put early interventions and actions in place to ensure maximum local opportunities and benefits are secured.</p> <p>The Council is of the opinion that this engagement should be long term and continue across all project phases to ensure maximum local benefits are realized from the project.</p> <p>Many of the activities need to be in place early enough to ensure that progress is made before the skills and supply chain opportunities are required by the project.</p> <p>The Council has also underlined the importance to understand the timescales and requirements of other projects in the region in order to ensure alignment of opportunities and that skills can be transferred from one project to the other.</p>	<p>The Applicant reiterates the point that the Outline Skills and Employment Plan's purpose is to set out an outline approach that will be finalised following the grant of the DCO and in consultation with the relevant authorities. It is the Applicant's full intention to contribute positively to the regional economy of North Wales by ensuring the provision of as much local and regional employment, skills and supply chain opportunities as possible, and is already in dialogue with various stakeholders in this regard.</p> <p>Given the current stage of the Mona application it would be premature at present to provide the level of detail requested by the Council, as further engagement with a number of parties is needed to meaningfully develop the Applicant's strategy in this respect.</p>
REP3-080.2	DCC, CCBC, IoMG and IoACC	Skills and Employment Plan - Q1.21.9 As named relevant authorities for the purposes of R19 [REP2-004], are you content that the Skills and Employment Plan would (following consultation with you) be subject to notification rather than approval? If not, provide suggested alternative wording for R19	<p>The IoACC request that the wording of the requirement be altered so it is subject to an approval rather than a notification. This would allow all relevant planning authorities to influence and have an input on the Plan. This method of requirement was recently adopted by PINS when approving the Awel y Mor Offshore Wind Farm DCO. The IoACC suggests the following worded requirement:</p> <p>No stage of the authorised development may commence until a Skills and Employment Plan, substantially in accordance with the Outline Skills and Employment Plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The skills and employment strategy must be implemented in accordance with the approved details.</p>	<p>Further discussions took place regarding the drafting of Requirement 19 during Issue Specific Hearing 5 regarding the proposed drafting updates to Requirement 19. The Applicant is reviewing the position in light of these comments and will provide an update to the Examining Authority and the local authorities at Deadline 5.</p>