

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Response to Ministry of Defence ExQ1 Responses

Deadline: 4

Application Reference: EN010137

Document Reference: S_D4_32

Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10383

4 November 2024

F01



Image of an offshore wind farm

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Document status

| Version | Purpose of document | Authored by | Reviewed by | Approved by | Review date |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| F01 | Submission at D4 | RPS | Mona Offshore Wind Ltd | Mona Offshore Wind Ltd | 4 Nov 2024 |

Prepared by:

RPS

Prepared for:

Mona Offshore Wind Ltd.

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| | RESPONSE TO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EXQ1 RESPONSES | 1 |
| 1 | RESPONSE TO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EXQ1 RESPONSES | 1 |
| 1.1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | RESPONSE TO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EXQ1 RESPONSES | 2 |

Tables

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Table 2.1: | REP3-088 - Ministry of Defence | 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 |

Units

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

1 Response to Ministry of Defence ExQ1 Responses

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 The Applicant has responded to the Ministry of Defence ExQ1 responses below.

2 Response to Ministry of Defence ExQ1 Responses

Table 2.1: REP3-088 - Ministry of Defence

| Planning Inspectorate Ref. No. | Question is addressed to | ExA Question | Ministry of Defence response | Applicant's response |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| REP3-088.1 | Defence Infrastructure Organisation The Applicant | Q1.3.1 Effects on air traffic control radar at BAE Warton The ExA notes that the parties are actively engaging to agree a mitigation solution for potential effects on air traffic control radar at BAE Warton [REP2-089]. Given that agreement with a number of other operational and proposed OWFs is contingent upon the outcome of those discussions, the ExA requests that any progress toward agreement with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation is reported to the Examination at the earliest opportunity. | The ExA request is noted, MOD will provide any updates to its position as soon as is possible. | The Applicant notes the MOD DIO response. |
| REP3-088.2 | Defence Infrastructure Organisation | Q1.3.2 Physical Obstruction to Aircraft Can the Defence Infrastructure Organisation provide a plan showing the extent of Low Flying Area 17, as referred to in [REP1-054]? | A plan showing the extent of Low Flying Area 17 (LFA 17) including the layout of Low Flying Areas across the United Kingdom and its territorial waters can be found by following the link below at 10.2 Figure 3 Map of Day Low Flying Areas. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-pattern-of-military-low-flying-across-the-uk-20212022/the-pattern-of-military-low-flying-across-the-uk-20212022#low-flying-compensation-payments | The Applicant notes the MOD DIO response. |
| REP3-088.3 | Defence Infrastructure Organisation | Q1.3.3 Aviation lighting scheme Further to submissions in [REP1-054] and [REP2-089], is the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in agreement with the wording of Requirement 3 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP2-004], Schedule 2 ('Aviation safety') or are any amendments to the drafting sought? | The MOD is generally content that the wording of Requirement 3 (1) would address the necessity that the development is fitted with appropriate aviation safety lighting. The requirement makes clear that the undertaker would be required to consult the MOD (through DIO Safeguarding) to determine the standard of lighting, and that such lighting would be exhibited for the life of the development. In the interest of ensuring aviation safety is maintained, a requirement detailing the submission, approval, and implementation of an aviation lighting scheme that would be applied during the construction phase should also be included. Requirement 3 (2) is also considered acceptable and would ensure that sufficient data is submitted to allow the development to be accurately charted. | Subsequent to the MOD DIO position in response to Q1.3.3, the MOD DIO has confirmed to the Applicant on 31 October that no changes to the drafting of Requirement 3 are sought. The Statement of common ground with the MOD DIO (REP3-033) will be updated to reflect the MOD DIO position and submitted at Deadline 5. |