

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Response to Rebecca Face ExQ1 Responses

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Image of an offshore wind farm

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

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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
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 Rebecca Face ExQ1 Responses

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This document has been prepared by the Applicant in response to comments made by Rebecca Face in her ExQ1 responses.
- 1.1.1.2 The Applicant has provided a response in the table below and the reference numbers cited refer to the Planning Inspectorate's Examination Library for the DCO relating to the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

2 Response to Rebecca Face ExQ1 Responses

Table 2.1: REP3-112 - Rebecca Face

Planning Inspectorate Ref. No.	Question is addressed to	ExA Question	Rebecca Face response	Applicant's response
REP3-112.1	Rebecca Face	<p>Q1.8.2 Update</p> <p>In its Response to RRs ([PDA-008], page 293) the Applicant addressed comments in your RR [RR-068] regarding watercourses and flooding around the TCC2 area. Has this addressed your concerns? If not, please explain why not.</p>	<p>In answer to the exa's question regarding watercourses and flooding in the area of tcc2, has the applicant addressed my concerns? The answer is no. The applicant's response has been to direct me back to their existing application documentation, which i have already made clear lacks any detail and has significant abnormalities, that makes looking at it again useless. The document suggested makes no mention of the fact that if they are permitted to drill their cable where they sometimes say they want to (but at other points they indicate a different track) they will alter the location of the head of a river. It is impossible to predict the new location of a spring once its track has been disturbed at depth. The river issuing from the spring that i am talking about does not even feature on the applicants mapping. So their conclusion that damaging it will be negligible, when they don't even acknowledge its existence is baffling. I do understand that the exa has confined it's question to me to watercourse and flooding, but with the exa's permission i will be writing a fuller version of my initial representation as the 500 word limit does not lead to a cohesive document that can be worked with. The site inspection, requested by stuart neil, of the area of tcc2 is vitally important, but i notice from the documents that despite the applicant indicating that they are in favour of the visit they have not included it in their itinerary for the scheduled visits.</p>	<p>For the assessment of flood risk, the Applicant has identified watercourses through a desktop study using the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordnance Survey (OS) Open Rivers Mapping Data • Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Flood Map for Planning <p>The results of this desktop study are presented in the Environmental Statement (Volume 7, Annex 2.2: Surface watercourses and NRW Flood Zones (APP-118, Figures 1.3 - 1.5). An ordinary watercourse has been identified within land parcel 06-097(Land Plans (Onshore) (AS-005)) and the hydrology and flood risk study area but outside of the red line boundary.</p> <p>The Environmental Statement Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk (APP-065) assesses the impact of increased flood risk arising from additional surface water runoff in Section 2.7.2 and confirms that "Within the hydrology and flood risk study area, impacts on flood risk would arise from any temporary change in runoff over the areas affected during construction, such as temporary construction compounds, haul road, construction accesses and the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor." Mitigations, in the form of industry standard construction methodologies, are presented in Table 2.20 (APP-065), once these are applied the significance of effect of the impacts of increased flood risk as assessed as minor adverse and not significant.</p> <p>The final profile of the trenchless crossing proposed across land parcel 06-097 (Land Plans (Onshore) (AS-005)) will be confirmed during detailed design. The results of the ground investigation will provide information on the groundwater in the area and this will inform the detailed design of the trenchless solution.</p> <p>With regard to the accompanied site inspection, please see response to REP3-115.1, which confirms that highways land in the vicinity of TCC2 was visited on the accompanied site inspection on 15 October 2024.</p>