

# MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

## Response to Cefn Meiriadog Community Council ExQ2 Submission

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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, licensable activities within 12nm of the Welsh coast require a separate marine licence from Natural Resource Wales (NRW).

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Term	Meaning
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 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.

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Term	Meaning
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 Bodelyyddan 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).
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.

## MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

### 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

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



# **1 Response to Cefn Meiriadog Community Council ExQ2 Submission**

## **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1.1 The Applicant has responded to Cefn Meiriadog Community Council's ExQ2s submission below.

## 2 Cefn Meiriadog Community Council response to ExQ2s

Table 2.1: REP5-087 Cefn Meiriadog Community Council

Planning Inspectorate to Ref. No.	Question ExQ2	Question	Cefn Meiriadog Community Council Response	Applicant's response
REP5-087.1	The Applicant	<p>Q.2.0.2</p> <p><b>IGP Solar 21 Limited battery storage project</b></p> <p>The ExA notes that very limited information on the IGP Solar 21 Limited battery storage project has been submitted into the public domain. As the application is due to be submitted in Summer/Autumn 2025, is it likely that construction periods for the battery storage project and the Proposed Development will overlap? If this is the case, is it correct that no assessment should be made at all, even using estimates, of potential cumulative effects?</p>	<p>The ExA notes that very limited information on the IGP Solar 21 Limited battery storage project has been submitted into the public domain. As the application is due to be submitted in Summer/Autumn 2025, is it likely that construction periods for the battery storage project and the Proposed Development will overlap? If this is the case, is it correct that no assessment should be made at all, even using estimates, of potential cumulative effects?</p> <p>(1) IGP Solar Ltd has been in correspondence with the Community Council regarding its proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be sited in fields adjacent to Mona's onshore substation, and the National Grid's substation extension. In the course of the correspondence IGP has stated the following:</p> <p>(2) Email dated 14/11/24 from ' ' at Bodelwyddan Solar "Both the solar and the BESS components will have DNS status. In terms of an indicative timeline for public engagement related to the project, please see below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November/December 2024 - Early engagement (meetings with stakeholders)</li> <li>• January to February 2025 - Non-statutory consultation</li> <li>• Summer 2025 - Statutory consultation</li> <li>• Before end of year 2025 - Application submission</li> </ul> <p>As you say, this is only an approximate timeline which is subject to change."</p> <p>(3) Following an email from myself on behalf of the Community Council asking about the construction phases of the project, a second email was received, also from ' ', dated 19/11/24, as follows:</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the response and as set out in the response to the ExA's written questions (REP5-080). It is acknowledged that very few details about the battery storage project have been published and are in the public domain including information provided to the local planning authority (in this case Denbighshire County Council). To allow any cumulative assessment to be undertaken, key parameters of the project (e.g. location, size) would have to be available in the public domain which, as set out above, are not at the present time.</p>

Planning Inspectorate to Ref. No.	Question	ExQ2 Question	Cefn Meiriadog Community Council Response	Applicant's response
			<p>“Again, thank you for your response. I have spoken to regarding your enquiry and as you say all of the below is subject to change.</p> <p>For now, we are assuming a construction period of circa 12-24 months, although this is subject to ecological requirements.</p> <p>As our broad aim is to submit this application in late 2025, we would potentially expect to be commencing construction in late 2027/early 2028 subject to determination, although it's worth heavily caveating this due to significant delays with PEDW at the moment.</p> <p>It's also worth noting that it isn't possible to split out the construction phase for the BESS and solar components at this stage, as this would only be known post-determination (should consent be granted) at the point an EPC is appointed.”</p>	
REP5-087.2	DCC	<p>Q2.12.5</p> <p><b>‘The Old Lane’, Groesffordd Marli</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From your perspective, what is the legal status of Plot no. 10-187 as shown on the BoR [REP3- 006]?</li> <li>• If it is not part of a designated Public Bridleway, are there plans to do so?</li> <li>• If it is to be designated as such, when is this likely to happen?</li> </ul>	<p>(1) The process having been initiated nearly ten years ago but subjected to a series of delays, the Community Council asked DCC on 28/11/24 when it could finally expect the designation of ‘the Old Lane’ as a Public Bridleway, and when in fact the original process had started. It received the following reply by return from , Countryside Access Officer, Highways, Facilities &amp; Environmental Services. has been the DCC officer dealing with the matter since its inception in 2015:</p> <p>(2) Email dated 28/11/24 from , Countryside Access Officer: “... – from memory ex County Cllr [note: in fact refers to ] collected user witness forms in about 2015. I remember putting notices on site for the attention of the landowner just before Covid in 2020. The statutory consultation is out at the moment and the closing date for objections is 9th December. I have just checked with our legal department and so far nothing negative has been received, they have had a letter of support from the Community Council.</p> <p>As I stated in my email dated the 4th November, if nothing negative is received in relation to the Statutory Consultation we will then be in a position to make and advertise the order. The notices &amp; advertising process is carried out by my colleague in the legal</p>	<p>The Applicant has been made aware of the proposals regarding The Old Lane, Groesffordd Marli. The Applicant engaged with the Denbighshire County Council Public Rights of Way Officer in November 2024 and no concerns were raised regarding the Applicant’s proposed use of this access. Further detail can be found in the Applicant’s response to Cefn Meiriadog Community Council Deadline 4 Submissions (REP5-057).</p>

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Planning Inspectorate to Ref. No.	Question	ExQ2 Question	Cefn Meiriadog Community Council Response	Applicant's response
			<p>department &amp; it will depend on their workload how quickly this is done, I would hope sometime in January.</p> <p>Once the order is made, advertised and notices posted on site for four weeks, anyone who wishes to object to the order can do so during this period. If nothing is received then the next step is to have the order confirmed which is the same process as above but there is as six week period for the site notices and for anyone who disagrees with the order making process to make an application to the High Court.</p> <p>If any objections are received to the making of the order that cannot be resolved the application is then taken out of Denbighshires hands and has to be sent to Welsh Government who will then assign an Inspector to make the decision if the order can be confirmed or not. This would usually involve a public inquiry and therefore would take considerably longer. I would hope it will be completed by Spring”.</p>	