

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Consultation Report

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Image of an offshore wind farm

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

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MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Access areas	The area from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) to mean low water springs which will be used for access to the beach and construction related activities.
Applicant	Mona Offshore Wind Limited.
Bodelwyddan National Grid Substation	This is the Point of Interconnection (POI) selected by the National Grid for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
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 (EPP)	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.
Information to Support the Appropriate Assessment (ISAA)	A report setting out a study to consider whether the Mona Offshore Wind Project could have adverse effects, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of designated European sites for which the potential for likely significant effects (LSE) has been previously established.
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.
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).
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.

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Term	Meaning
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 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.
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 OSFs 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.

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Term	Meaning
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.
Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets	The Morecambe Offshore Windfarm is located in the east Irish Sea approximately 28.75km (15.5nm) from the northwest coast of England (when measured from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)). The anticipated nominal capacity of the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm is 480MW.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project	The Morgan Offshore Wind Project is comprised of both the generation assets and offshore and onshore transmission assets and associated activities.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets	This is the name given to the Morgan Generation Assets project as a whole (including all infrastructure and activities associated with construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning).
Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets	The transmission assets for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm. This includes the Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), interconnector cables, Morgan offshore booster station, offshore export cables, landfall site, onshore export cables, onshore substations, 400kV grid connection cables and associated grid connection infrastructure such as circuit breaker infrastructure.
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.
Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	A document setting out the standards and procedures to which the Applicant will adhere to in order to manage the potential environmental impacts of construction works associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This is an outline document and the final document will be approved by the relevant planning authority prior to the commencement of the authorised development.
Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act)	Primary legislation establishing, inter alia, the Infrastructure Planning Commission and provisions about its functions and provisions about and matters ancillary to the authorisation of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) (DCLG Guidance)	The Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) (DCLG Guidance) authored by the former Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)) sets out the requirements and procedures for the pre-application process and consultation for major infrastructure project.

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Term	Meaning
Point of Interconnection (POI)	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.
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.
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 Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations)	The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations), is a statutory instrument relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations 2017)	The EIA Regulations 2017 transposed the EU system of environmental assessment into domestic law and the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 retained these provisions at the end of the transition period. With the repeal of the European Communities Act 1972 the government needs to secure powers in primary legislation if it is to repeal and replace the EU system. DLUHC is responsible for the EU derived environmental assessment regime throughout the planning system in England. This applies to projects consented under the Planning Act 2008 (i.e., the nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) regime).
The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	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.

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AEOI	Adverse Effect on Integrity
AEZ	Archaeological Exclusion Zones
AfL	Agreement for Lease
AHEF	Archaeology and Heritage Engagement Forum
AIL	Abnormal indivisible loads
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BE	Benthic Ecology
BEIS	Former Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

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Acronym	Description
CBRA	Cable Burial Risk Assessment and Burial Assessment
CCS	Current Conservation Status
CEA	Cumulative Effect Assessment
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CRNRA	Cumulative Regional Navigation Risk Assessment
dDCO	Draft Development Consent Order
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEFA	Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
dML	Draft Marine Licence
EcoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EDR	Effective Deterrent Range
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
EWG	Expert Working Group
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
FSF	Fish and Shellfish
GCN	Great Crested Newt
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HE	Historic England
HER	Historic Environment Record
HGV	Heavy Good Vehicle
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HMLR	His Majesty's Land Registry
HSC	Historic Seascape Character
IoM	Isle of Man
ISAA	Information to Support the Appropriate Assessment
JNCC	The Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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Acronym	Description
LIQs	Land Interest Questionnaires
LOQ	Landowner Questionnaire
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
MMEA	Manx Marine Environmental Assessment
MMO	The Marine Management Organisation
MNEF	Marine Navigation Engagement Forum
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MP	Member of Parliament
MS	Member of the Senedd
NE	Natural England
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
NIFPO	Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation
NPC	Non-Prescribed Consultee
NPS	National Policy Statement
NRA	Navigation Risk Assessment
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
PAD	Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
POI	Point of Interconnection
PP	Physical Processes
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PSR	Primary Surveillance Radar
PTS	Permanent Threshold Shift
PWIL	Person with an Interest in the Land
RCAHMW	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation

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Acronym	Description
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSC	Suspended Sediment Concentrations
SWFPO	South Western Fish Producers Organisation
TCE	The Crown Estate
TEP	Technical Engagement Plan
THLS	Trinity House Lighthouse Services
TTS	Temporary Threshold Shift
TWT	The Wildlife Trust
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WFA	Welsh Fishermen's Association
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
WTW	Wildlife Trust Wales
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Unit	Description
%	Percentage
kV	Kilovolt
KW	Kilowatt
MW	Megawatt
GW	Gigawatt
m	Metre
m ²	Square metres
km	Kilometre
km ²	Square kilometres
nm	Nautical Miles
dB	Decibel
kJ	Kilojoules
μPa	Micropascal

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Crynodeb gweithredol

- 1.1.1.1 Mae'r Adroddiad Ymgynghori hwn wedi'i baratoi gan Mona Offshore Wind Limited (yr Ymgeisydd), i gefnogi ei gais am Orchymyn Cydsyniad Datblygu ar gyfer Prosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Mona.
- 1.1.1.2 Mae Mona Offshore Wind Limited yn fenter ar y cyd rhwng dau gwmni ynni blaenllaw (bp Alternative Energy Investments (a elwir yn bp o hyn ymlaen) ac Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (a elwir yn EnBW o hyn ymlaen)). Fferm wynt ar y môr arfaethedig yn nwyrain Môr Iwerddon yw Prosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Mona. Mae'r prosiect yn cynnwys elfennau ar y môr i gynhyrchu trydan ac elfennau ar y môr ac ar y tir i allu trawsyrru'r trydan a gynhyrchir i grid cenedlaethol y DU drwy is-orsaf bresennol National Grid ym Modelwyddan, Sir Ddinbych.
- 1.1.1.3 Gan fod Prosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Mona yn orsaf gynhyrchu ar y môr gyda chapasiti sy'n fwy na 350 MW, wedi'i leoli yn nyfroedd Cymru, mae'n Brosiect Seilwaith o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol, fel y diffinnir gan adran 15(3) o Ddeddf Gynllunio 2008 (Deddf 2008).
- 1.1.1.4 O'r cychwyn cyntaf, mae'r Ymgeisydd wedi ymrwmo i broses ymgynghori sydd wedi'i hategu gan ethos o fod yn agored, yn dryloyw, yn adeiladol, yn gydweithredol ac yn canolbwyntio ar ddod o hyd i atebion. Mae ymgynghori â phobl sy'n byw yn agos at y prosiect a allai gael eu heffeithio gan y datblygiad yn rhan bwysig o broses gynllunio'r Gorchymyn Cydsyniad Datblygu a chynlluniwyd yr holl weithgarwch ymgynghori i fod yn hygyrch i bawb. Roedd deunyddiau, hysbysebion a phersonél allweddol a oedd yn darparu gwybodaeth ar gael yn ddwyieithog drwy gydol y broses.
- 1.1.1.5 Mae'r Adroddiad Ymgynghori wedi'i baratoi yn unol â Deddf 2008 ac mae'n cyflwyno ac yn crynhoi'r gweithgareddau ymgynghori a gynhaliwyd yn ystod cyfnod cyn ymgeisio Prosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Mona. Mae'n manylu ar bob agwedd ar y broses ymgynghori, gan gwmpasu'r cyfnodau anstatudol a statudol, fel y rhagnodir yn adrannau 42, 47, 48 a 49 o Ddeddf 2008:
- Adran 42: Yn unol â'i ddyletswydd i ymgynghori o dan adran 42 o Ddeddf 2008, ymgynghorodd yr Ymgeisydd â chyrff rhagnodedig, awdurdodau lleol, tîrffeddiawyr a phobl â buddiant mewn tir (PWIL), i sicrhau eu bod yn cael cyfle i adolygu a gwneud sylwadau ar y cynigion. Gellir gweld y rhestr lawn o'r ymgynghoreion rhagnodedig yn Atodiad D.16. Mae Adran 5 o'r adroddiad hwn yn egluro sut yr ymgynghorodd yr Ymgeisydd â'r grwpiau a'r unigolion hynny. Fel sy'n ofynnol o dan adran 46 o Ddeddf 2008, hysbysodd yr Ymgeisydd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol o'r cais arfaethedig a darparodd gopïau o'r deunyddiau ymgynghori perthnasol ar yr un pryd ag ymgynghoreion adran 42 (gweler adran 5.4).
 - Adran 47: Fel sy'n ofynnol o dan adran 47 o Ddeddf 2008, cynhaliodd yr Ymgeisydd ymgynghoriad statudol i ymgysylltu ag ymgynghoreion adran 47 yn gynnar yn natblygiad y prosiect. Paratowyd Datganiad Ymgynghori Cymunedol (SoCC) (Atodiad D.1) yn amlinellu'r dull ymgynghori cymunedol arfaethedig. Rhannwyd y ddogfen ddrafft hon a chytunwyd arni gydag ymgynghoreion perthnasol, gan gynnwys awdurdodau lleol cynhaliol. Yna rhoddwyd y dull a amlinellwyd yn y Datganiad o Ymgynghori Cymunedol ar waith, fel yr amlinellwyd yn Adran 5. Cynhyrchwyd rhestr o ymgynghoreion adran 47 gan yr Ymgeisydd drwy nodi unigolion, sefydliadau a grwpiau cymunedol â diddordeb

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yn yr ardaloedd y mae'r prosiect yn debygol o effeithio arnynt. Darperir y rhestr hon yn Atodiad D.4

- Adran 48: Mae adran 48 o Ddeddf 2008 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r Ymgeisydd roi cyhoeddusrwydd i gais arfaethedig yn y cam cyn ymgeisio, yn y modd rhagnodedig, a chynnwys dyddiad cau ar gyfer derbyn ymatebion. Rhoddodd yr Ymgeisydd gyhoeddusrwydd i'r cais yn y modd rhagnodedig. Amlinellir yr holl ddulliau cyhoeddusrwydd a ddefnyddiwyd gan yr Ymgeisydd yn Adran 5.5 o'r adroddiad hwn
- Adran 49: Yn ogystal â chyflawni ei weithgareddau ymgynghori fel y rhagnodir gan adrannau 42, 47 a 48 o Ddeddf 2008 fel y manylir uchod, mae adran 49 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r Adroddiad Ymgynghori roi manylion yr ystyriaeth a roddwyd i unrhyw ymatebion a ddarparwyd i'w weithgareddau ymgynghori. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn darparu'r wybodaeth hon yn Adran 5.7.

1.1.1.6 Fel sail i'w ymgynghoriad statudol, paratôdd yr Ymgeisydd Adroddiad Gwybodaeth Amgylcheddol Ragarweiniol (PEIR) a darparodd ddogfennau ategol i helpu ymgynghoreion i ffurfio safbwynt gwybodus ar effeithiau amgylcheddol posib y prosiect. Roedd crynodeb annhechnegol o'r PEIR hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg. Adolygodd yr Ymgeisydd yr holl adborth a dderbyniwyd ar y PEIR ac ystyriodd gyfleoedd i ymgorffori unrhyw wybodaeth neu sylwadau a dderbyniwyd i'r cynllun terfynol a gyflwynwyd fel rhan o'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol adeg ymgeisio (Dogfen gyfeirnod F1 – F8).

1.1.1.7 Mae'r Adroddiad Ymgynghori hwn yn cyflwyno ac yn crynhoi adborth rhanddeiliaid drwy bob cam o'r ymgynghoriad ac yn egluro sut mae'r Ymgeisydd wedi rhoi sylw i hyn wrth wneud penderfyniadau. Yn ogystal, mae'r adroddiad yn nodi'r gweithgarwch parhaus i ymgysylltu â'r gymuned a rhanddeiliaid sy'n parhau y tu hwnt i'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer rhoi ystyriaeth i'r adborth. I grynhoi, mae'r Adroddiad Ymgynghori yn manylu ar sut wnaeth yr Ymgeisydd ymgysylltu ag ymgynghoreion ym mhob un o'r camau canlynol yn natblygiad y prosiect:

- Cyn-gwmpasu: y cyfnod ymgysylltu cychwynnol i gyflwyno'r prosiect a pharatoi ar gyfer cwmpasu
- Cwmpasu: y broses o baratoi adroddiad cwmpasu, ei gyflwyno i'r Arolygiaeth Gynllunio a derbyn Barn Gwmpasu gan yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol (BEIS)
- Ôl-gwmpasu a chyn-PEIR: trafodaeth ar ymatebion cwmpasu ac ymgysylltu cychwynnol â'r gymuned leol, gan gynnwys ymgynghoriad anstatudol, ymgynghori ar y Datganiad Ymgynghori Cymunedol drafft, paratoi ar gyfer ymgynghoriad statudol a chyhoeddi'r PEIR a chael adborth ar sut roedd yr Ymgeisydd yn bwriadu ymgysylltu
- Ymgynghoriad statudol: y cyfnod ymgynghori statudol fel yr amlinellwyd yn Neddf 2008 gan gynnwys yr ymgynghoriad statudol ychwanegol a gynhaliwyd
- Ymgysylltu ôl-PEIR a chyn-ymgeisio: adolygiad o'r ymatebion i ymgynghoriadau statudol gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol, ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid yr effeithir arnynt ar ôl yr ymgynghoriad statudol i'w hysbysu am newidiadau i'r cynllun, ac ymgysylltu cyn ymgeisio â rhanddeiliaid perthnasol i drafod materion sy'n weddill a chamau nesaf.

1.1.1.8 Mae'r gwaith mireinio a wnaed ar y prosiect o ganlyniad i adborth a dderbyniwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad statudol ar y PEIR wedi'u nodi'n fanwl yn Adran 5.7 o'r adroddiad hwn a gellir eu crynhoi fel a ganlyn:

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- Mae Ardal Aráe Mona wedi'i leihau o ran maint ac mae bellach yn gyfan gwbl yn nyfroedd Cymru
- Mae uchafswm nifer y tyrbinau gwynt wedi'i leihau
- Mae'r pellter gwahanu lleiaf rhwng tyrbinau gwynt wedi cynyddu a chyflwynwyd parth lliniaru cregyn bylchog
- Cafwyd gwared ar y defnydd o sylfeini un postyn fel opsiwn ar gyfer sylfeini melinau gwynt yn yr amlen ddylunio
- Cafwyd gwared ar dorri ffosydd agored yn yr ardal rynglanwol
- Mae llwybr y cebl ar y tir wedi'i leihau i un coridor
- Mae'r is-orsaf ar y tir wedi'i leihau o ddau opsiwn posib a ystyriwyd yn ystod PEIR i un lleoliad arfaethedig
- Mae ôl-troed yr is-orsaf ar y tir wedi'i leihau yn seiliedig ar ddewis Peirianwaith Switsio wedi'i Inswleiddio gan Nwy (GIS)
- Mae gwelliannau wedi'u gwneud i'r paramedrau ar gyfer Coridor Cebl Alltraeth Mona.

1.1.1.9 Mae'r Ymgeisydd wedi sicrhau bod y ddogfen hon yn cyd-fynd â'r strwythur a'r cynnwys a argymhellir ar gyfer adroddiad ymgynghori cynhwysfawr ac yn rhoi disgrifiad manwl o'r holl weithgareddau ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid yn ystod y cam cyn ymgeisio sy'n ymwneud â Phrosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Mona.

1.1.1.10 Mae hyn yn unol â chanllawiau'r Arolygiaeth Gynllunio a'r rhai a osodwyd gan yr Adran Gymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol (DCLG) gynt (yr Adran Ffyniant Bro, Tai a Chymunedau (DLUHC) erbyn hyn); Deddf Gynllunio 2008: Canllawiau ar y broses cyn ymgeisio (Mawrth 2015) (Canllawiau'r Adran Gymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol).

1.2 Executive summary

1.2.1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared by Mona Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant), in support of its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.2.1.2 Mona Offshore Wind Limited is a joint venture between two leading energy companies (bp Alternative Energy Investments (hereafter referred to as bp) and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (hereafter referred to as EnBW)). The Mona Offshore Wind Project is a proposed offshore wind farm located in the east Irish Sea. The project includes offshore elements to generate electricity and both offshore and onshore elements to enable transmission of the electricity generated to the UK National Grid through the existing Bodelwyddan National Grid substation in Denbighshire, Wales.

1.2.1.3 As the Mona Offshore Wind Project is an offshore generating station with a capacity greater than 350 MW, located in Welsh waters, it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act).

1.2.1.4 From the outset, the Applicant has been committed to a consultation process underpinned by an ethos of being open, transparent, constructive, collaborative, and solutions-focused. Consulting with people living near to the project who may be affected by the development is an important part of the DCO planning process and all consultation activity was designed to be accessible to all. Key informative materials, advertisements and personnel were available bilingually throughout.

1.2.1.5 The Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with the 2008 Act and presents and summarises the consultation activities conducted during the pre-

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application phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. It details all aspects of the consultation process, covering both non-statutory and statutory stages, as prescribed by sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the 2008 Act:

- Section 42: In accordance with its duty to consult under section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant consulted with prescribed bodies, local authorities, landowners and persons with an interest in land (PWILs), to ensure that they had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposals. The full list of prescribed consultees can be viewed at Appendix D.16. Section 5 of this report explains in detail how the Applicant consulted with those groups and individuals. As required by section 46 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of the proposed application and provided copies of the relevant consultation materials at the same time as section 42 consultees (see section 5.4)
- Section 47: As required by section 47 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant conducted statutory consultation to engage section 47 consultees early in the project's development. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared (Appendix D.1) outlining the proposed community consultation approach. This draft document was shared and agreed with relevant consultees, including host local authorities. The approach outlined in the SoCC was then implemented, as outlined in Section 5. A section 47 consultee list was produced by the Applicant through identifying interested individuals, organisations and community groups within the areas likely to be impacted by the project. This list is provided at Appendix D.4
- Section 48: Section 48 of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to publicise a proposed application at the pre-application stage, in the prescribed manner, and to include a deadline for receipt of responses. The Applicant publicised the application in the prescribed manner. All publicity methods used by the Applicant are outlined in Section 5.5 of this report
- Section 49: In addition to carrying out its consultation activities as prescribed by sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act as detailed above, section 49 requires that the Consultation Report should give details of the account taken of any responses provided to its consultation activities. This report provides this information in Section 5.7.

1.2.1.6 As the basis for its statutory consultation, the Applicant prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and provided supporting documents to assist consultees in forming an informed perspective on the potential environmental impacts of the project. A non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR was also made available in Welsh and English. The Applicant reviewed all feedback on the PEIR and considered opportunities to incorporate any information or comments received into the final design presented as part of the Environmental Statement at application (Document Reference F1 – F8).

1.2.1.7 This Consultation Report presents and summarises feedback from stakeholders throughout all stages of consultation and explains how the Applicant has given regard to this within its decision-making. Additionally, the report sets out the ongoing community and stakeholder engagement activity that continues beyond the feedback consideration cut-off date. In summary, the Consultation Report details how the Applicant engaged with consultees at all the following stages of the project's development:

- Pre-scoping: the initial period of engagement to introduce the project and prepare for scoping

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- Scoping: the process of preparing a scoping report, submitting to the Planning Inspectorate and receiving a Scoping Opinion from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
- Post-scoping and pre-PEIR: discussion of scoping responses and initial engagement with the local community, including non-statutory consultation, consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation, preparation for statutory consultation and PEIR publication, and seeking feedback on how the Applicant intended to engage
- Statutory consultation: the statutory consultation period as outlined in the 2008 Act including the additional statutory consultation that was undertaken
- Post-PEIR and pre-application engagement: the review of statutory consultation responses with key stakeholders, post-statutory consultation engagement with affected stakeholders to inform them of design changes, and pre-application engagement with relevant stakeholders to discuss outstanding issues and next steps.

1.2.1.8 The project refinements made as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation on the PEIR are set out in detail at Section 5.7 of this report and can be summarised as follows:

- The Mona Array Area has been reduced in scale and is now entirely in Welsh Waters
- The maximum number of wind turbines has been reduced
- The minimum separation distance between wind turbines has increased and a scallop mitigation zone introduced
- The use of monopile foundations has been removed as a wind turbine foundation option in the design envelope
- Open cut trenching in the intertidal area has been removed
- The onshore cable route has been reduced to a single corridor
- The onshore substation has been reduced from a possible two options considered during PEIR to a single proposed location
- The footprint of the onshore substation has been reduced based on selection of Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS)
- Refinements have been made to the parameters for the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor.

1.2.1.9 The Applicant has ensured that this document aligns with the recommended structure and content for a comprehensive consultation report and provides a detailed account of all pre-application stage consultation and stakeholder engagement activities related to the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.2.1.10 This is in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's guidelines and those set out by the former Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)); Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) (DCLG Guidance).

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview and purpose of the Consultation Report

- 2.1.1.1 This Consultation Report has been written on behalf of Mona Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant), in support of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
- 2.1.1.2 The report provides a summary of consultation activity undertaken as part of the pre-application phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and describes the consultation process that the Applicant followed both in terms of the non-statutory and statutory consultation and publicity phases, as required under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act. It will outline the feedback received and explain how the feedback received was taken into account by the Applicant (as required under section 49 of the Act).
- 2.1.1.3 Additionally, the report contains details of stakeholder engagement activities that have been conducted, and are continuing, throughout the development of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. All feedback received has been referenced up to as close to the submission of the DCO application as possible.
- 2.1.1.4 This Consultation Report has been prepared following the guidance provided by the Planning Inspectorate in Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (February 2021, Version 3) which offers developers guidance on the structure and content of the Consultation Report, and Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents (Version 11).
- 2.1.1.5 Consistent with the recommendations presented in Advice Note Fourteen, this document offers a comprehensive summary of all consultation and stakeholder engagement undertaken at the pre-application stage in relation to the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
- 2.1.1.6 The report also adheres to guidelines set out by the former Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)); Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) (DCLG Guidance), for major infrastructure projects. In particular, Paragraph 80 stipulates that the consultation report should:
- provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline (section 2.5)
 - set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the 2008 Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Planning Inspectorate (see Appendix B.1)
 - set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the Applicant's statement of community consultation (see section 5.1)
 - set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses) (see section 5.7)
 - provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed (see section 5.7)
 - provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts

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- where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken and
- be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed.

2.1.1.7 More detail on how this report gives regard to the relevant legislation, guidance, and advice is given in section 3.

2.2 About the Applicant

2.2.1.1 Mona Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant) is a joint venture between two leading energy companies (bp Alternative Energy Investments (hereafter referred to as bp) and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (hereafter referred to as EnBW)). These two companies are working together as partners to deliver offshore wind projects in both Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 and ScotWind Leasing.

2.2.1.2 EnBW is one of the largest energy supply companies in Germany and supplies electricity, gas, water and energy solutions and energy industry services to around 5.5 million customers with a workforce of more than 27,000 employees. EnBW aims to strengthen its position as a sustainable and innovative infrastructure partner for customers, citizens and local authorities to an even greater extent. The repositioning of EnBW with a focus on renewable energies and smart infrastructure solutions is a key component of its strategy. With a focus on renewable energy and smart infrastructure solutions, EnBW's objective is for half of the electricity it supplies to be from renewable sources by the end of 2025. This is already having a noticeable effect on the reduction of CO2 emissions, which EnBW aims to halve by 2030 and to be climate neutral by 2035. EnBW has been involved in the operation of hydro power plants in the Black Forest for more than 100 years and has a large and continuously growing number of onshore wind farms and solar photovoltaics in Germany, France and Sweden. In addition, EnBW developed, constructed and operates four offshore wind farms in Germany (EnBW Baltic 1, Baltic 2, Hohe See and Albatros) with a total installed capacity of 945 MW, commissioned between 2011 and 2020. A further 900 MW offshore wind farm, He Dreiht, is currently under development in Germany.

2.2.1.3 bp has set out an ambition to be a net-zero company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world get to net zero, bp has set out a strategy for delivering this ambition. bp is focused on delivering its transformation into an integrated energy company, helping to provide the energy the world needs today, and investing in the energy transition.

2.2.1.4 bp entered the offshore wind sector in 2020 via a partnership with Equinor to develop offshore wind projects in the US, including the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind projects off the East Coast that have a planned potential of 4.4 GW generating capacity. In the UK, bp and partner EnBW are leading the development of the Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets and the Mona Offshore Wind Project in the Irish Sea and the Morven Offshore Wind Project in the North Sea. These projects have a combined potential generating capacity of 5.9 GW, sufficient to power the equivalent of around 6 million UK households. In early 2023, bp was successful in its bid to develop its first floating offshore wind demonstration project offshore Aberdeenshire.

2.2.1.5 In July 2023, bp was successful in its bids for two sites offshore in Germany with a potential generating capacity of 4 GW. bp has formed a strategic partnership with Japanese conglomerate Marubeni to explore offshore wind opportunities in Japan. bp

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has also formed a JV with Norway's Deep Wind Offshore, a part of which saw bp acquire a 55% stake in the company's early-stage offshore wind portfolio, which includes four projects across the Korean peninsula with a potential generating capacity of up to 6 GW.

2.2.1.6 bp already has a significant onshore wind business in the US with a gross generating capacity of 1,700 MW, operating nine wind assets across the country. On 30 November 2023 it was announced that bp agreed to acquire the 50.03% interest it did not already own in Lightsource bp, which means that bp will take full ownership of Lightsource bp following completion of the transaction. Lightsource bp aims to develop 10 GW of solar projects by 2023.

2.3 Project overview

2.3.1.1 The Mona Offshore Wind Project is a proposed offshore wind farm located in the east Irish Sea. The project includes offshore elements to generate electricity and both offshore and onshore elements to enable transmission of the electricity generated to the UK National Grid.

2.3.1.2 The offshore export cables will make landfall near Llanddulas, Conwy on the North Wales coastline and a connection to the Bodelwyddan National Grid substation in Denbighshire.

2.3.1.3 The Mona Array Area will have up to 96 offshore wind turbines in total in an area of approximately 300 km² in Welsh offshore waters (beyond 12 nautical miles (nm) from the Welsh coast). The offshore infrastructure will also include up to up to 360 km of offshore export cables, 50 km of interconnector cables and 325 km of inter-array cables.

2.3.1.4 The key components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Offshore wind turbines
- Foundations (for wind turbines and Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs))
- Scour protection
- Inter-array cables linking the individual wind turbines to the OSPs
- Connection works to the Bodelwyddan National Grid Substation
- Temporary construction compounds, including storage areas
- Permanent and temporary access roads
- High Voltage Alternating Current transmission system, to include both offshore and onshore infrastructure:
 - OSPs
 - Offshore interconnector cable(s)
 - Offshore export cable(s)
 - Onshore export cable(s)
 - Onshore Substation
 - Onshore Mona 400 kV Grid Connection Cable to the National Grid.

2.3.1.5 As the Mona Offshore Wind Project is an offshore generating station with a capacity of greater than 350 MW located in Welsh waters, it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by section 15(3) of the 2008 Act. As such, a DCO from the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

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(DESNZ) is required for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

- 2.3.1.6 Full details of the Mona Offshore Wind Project design are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3).

2.4 Project background

- 2.4.1.1 In January 2021, The Crown Estate (TCE) announced that it had selected six proposed new offshore wind projects in the waters around England and Wales, through the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 process. Combined, these Round 4 sites represented just under 8 GW of potential new offshore wind capacity, offering the opportunity to deliver clean electricity for more than seven million homes and create employment opportunities across the country.
- 2.4.1.2 EnBW and bp were selected together as the Preferred Bidder for a major 60-year seabed lease in the east Irish Sea. The Plan-Level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), which requires TCE to assess the potential impacts of projects on the most valuable habitats in the UK and the UK offshore marine area, were undertaken on the six proposed sites. Following this process, the Mona Offshore Wind Project was awarded its Agreement for Lease (AfL).
- 2.4.1.3 In May 2022, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Report (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2022) to the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), which set out what was understood, at the time, to be the likely significant effects upon the environment and how they could be assessed. The Scoping Report was followed by the Secretary of State's formal Scoping Opinion, which was provided in June 2022 (The Planning Inspectorate, 2022). Subsequently, the Applicant entered into an AfL for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in January 2023.
- 2.4.1.4 Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, the Applicant has carried out a range of environmental assessments to better understand the potential impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Consultation is an important part of both the EIA and HRA processes and has been carried out with both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, including via the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), throughout the pre-application phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

2.5 The consultation processes

- 2.5.1.1 The phases of consultation undertaken by the Applicant are outlined in Figure 2.1 below.
- 2.5.1.2 To ensure early engagement with communities, the Applicant carried out a first phase of non-statutory consultation between 07 June and 03 August 2022, where search areas for the offshore transmission infrastructure, the onshore cable routes and substations were presented.
- 2.5.1.3 Between 26 September and 07 November 2022, a second, targeted non-statutory consultation was held, which focused on potential locations for the onshore substation. The Applicant's approach to non-statutory consultation is explained in more detail in section 4.

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- 2.5.1.4 The Applicant’s third consultation - its statutory consultation - ran from 19 April to 04 June 2023 and was based on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR set out the findings of the EIA and HRA up to that point and the feedback received during the three phases of consultation (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023). The Applicant’s approach to statutory consultation is explained in more detail in section 5.
- 2.5.1.5 Following statutory consultation, the Applicant reviewed all feedback received and sought further engagement with technical stakeholders as part of the ongoing EIA and HRA processes. Following this review of feedback, ongoing surveys, assessments and technical studies, the Applicant implemented design changes. These onshore and offshore refinements were announced in August and September 2023.
- 2.5.1.6 Additional targeted statutory consultation also took place; see section 5.3 for further details of dates and those involved.
- 2.5.1.7 Feedback received from all phases of activity has been considered in the preparation of the final application.



Figure 2.1: Summary of approach to consultation.

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- 2.5.1.8 The Applicant has also undertaken stakeholder engagement throughout. This includes technical meetings and workshops, one-to-one meetings and telephone calls with elected representatives, technical stakeholders, landowners and other interested parties. The Applicant also responded to queries received via the consultation email and phone line.
- 2.5.1.9 The Applicant has undertaken an EPP, a formal mechanism whereby applicants and statutory bodies agree upfront what information and evidence an applicant should submit in support of an application for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This process involves open, constructive, collaborative, and solutions-focused engagement with technical stakeholders. Further information on the EPP and technical engagement is set out in section 4.5.
- 2.5.1.10 A summary of the Applicant’s approach to technical engagement can be seen at Figure 2.2 below.

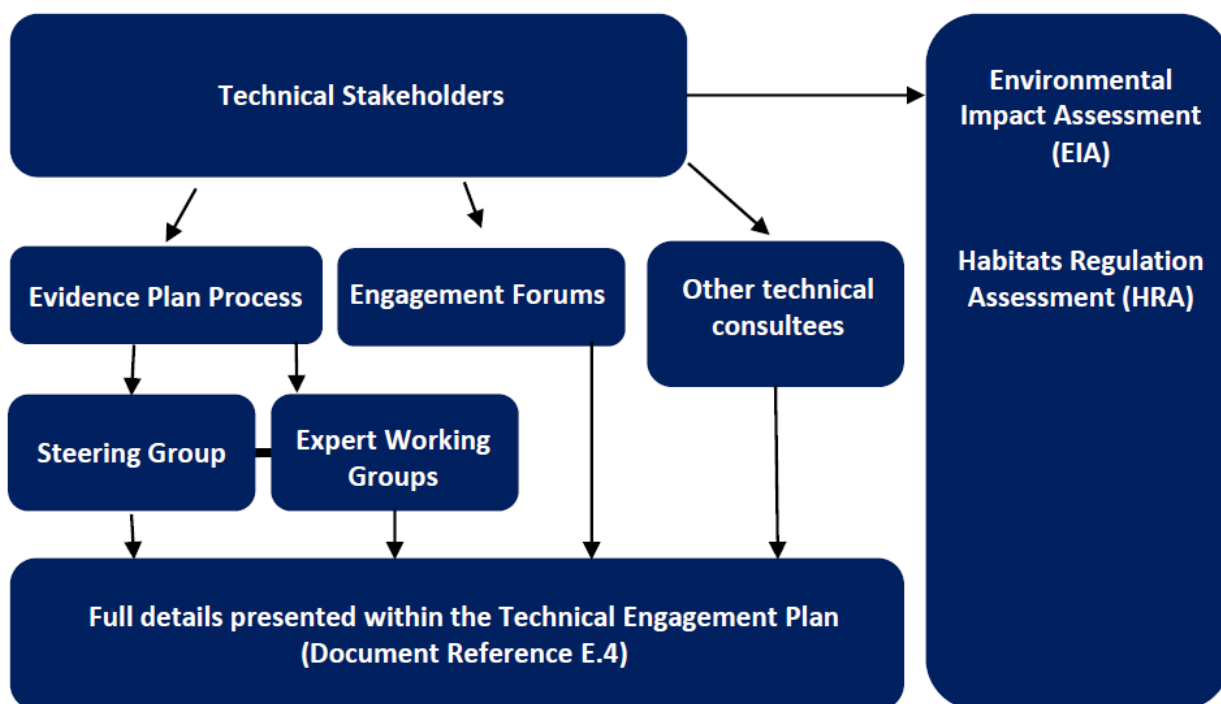


Figure 2.2: Summary of approach to Technical Engagement.

2.6 Structure of the Consultation Report

2.6.1.1 In accordance with Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report, this Consultation Report describes the consultation process carried out by the Applicant prior to submission of the application. Whilst the Advice Note does not issue prescriptive instructions, it does provide useful guidance, which this report follows in terms of the main format and structure, with the main sections covering:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Non-statutory consultation and engagement
- Duty to consult (section 42)

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- Duty to consult the local community (section 47)
- Duty to publicise (section 48)
- EIA and Habitats Regulations consultation
- Summary of responses to the pre-application statutory consultation and the Applicant's regard to them
- Post-statutory consultation and ongoing engagement
- Report appendices.

2.6.1.2 The Consultation Report is a standalone document but should be read in conjunction with other application materials where possible.

2.6.1.3 Appendices provide evidence to accompany this report and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. A list of appendices is provided in

2.6.1.4 Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Consultation report appendices.

Appendices				
Document Reference E3.1 – Consultation Report Appendices - Part 1 (A – C)				
A - Introduction				
	A.1	Summary of consultation methods, locations and projects		
B - Legislation, Policy and Guidance				
	B.1	Consultation Compliance Checklist		
C - Non-Statutory Consultation				
	C.1	Early engagement: written communication, 14 July 2021		
	C.2	Non-statutory consultation 07 June to 03 August 2022		
		C.2.1	Information Postcard	
		C.2.2	Posters	
		C.2.3	Media Release (English/Welsh)	
		C.2.4	Media Release Distribution List	
		C.2.5	Media Releases: ReNews 07 June 2022 Nation.Cymru 08 June 2022	
		C.2.6	Consultation Launch Newspaper Adverts: Isle of Man Courier 10 June 2022 Daily Post 14 June 2022 Blackpool Gazette 30 June 2022	
		C.2.7	Consultation Close Newspaper Adverts: Daily Post 13 July 2022 Isle of Man Courier 15 July 2022	
		C.2.8	Consultation Launch email	
		C.2.9	Consultation Launch email distribution list	
		C.2.10	Seldom Heard Groups email distribution list	
		C.2.11	Consultation Brochure (English/Welsh)	

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			C.2.12	Feedback Form (English/Welsh)
	C.3	Targeted non-statutory consultation 26 September to 07 November 2022		
			C.3.1	Posters
			C.3.2	Newsletter September 2022
			C.3.3	Media Release (English/Welsh)
			C.3.4	Media Release Distribution List
			C.3.5	Media Release: Nation.Cymru 27 September 2022
			C.3.6	Consultation Launch Newspaper Advert: Daily Post 26 September 2022
			C.3.7	Consultation Launch email to MPs and MSs 23 September 2022
			C.3.8	Consultation Launch email to targeted groups 26 September 2022 and distribution list
			C.3.9	Seldom Heard Groups email distribution list
			C.3.10	Feedback Form (English/Welsh)
	C.4	Landowner Engagement		
			C.4.1	Template Landowner Questionnaires Reminder Letters
			C.4.2	Example location specific site notice and location maps

Document Reference E3.1 – Consultation Report Appendices - Part 2 (D – D.24)
D - Statutory Consultation

	D.1	Statement of Community Consultation (English/Welsh)		
	D.2	Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation		
			D.2.1	First Draft Statement of Community Consultation
			D.2.2	Second Draft Statement of Community Consultation
	D.3	Publication of the Statement of Community Consultation: Daily Post 19 April 2023 (English/Welsh) Golwg 20 April 2023 (Welsh) Isle of Man Courier 21 April 2023 (English)		
	D.4	Section 47 Consultee List		
	D.5	Statutory Consultation Press Releases and distribution list		
	D.6	Consultation Website (English/Welsh)		
	D.7	Local Authority Briefing Presentation		
	D.8	Consultation Postcard		
	D.9	Consultation Brochure (English/Welsh)		
	D.10	Posters		
	D.11	Newspaper advertising		

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			D.11.1	Golwg: Consultation Launch 20 April 2023 Consultation Close 11 May 2023
			D.11.2	Isle of Man Courier: Consultation Launch 21 April 2023 Consultation Close 12 May 2023
			D.11.3	The Daily Post: Consultation Launch 19 April 2023 Consultation Close 17 May 2023
	D.12	Google Ad Consultation Launch / Consultation Close		
	D.13	Direct email communications		
			D.13.1	Advance Notice email 14 April 2023
			D.13.2	Consultation Launch email 19 April 2023 (s42/s47)
			D.13.3	Closing Soon email 22 May 2023 (s42/s47)
			D.13.4	Last Chance email 02 June 2023
	D.14	Feedback Form (English/Welsh)		
	D.15	Seldom Heard Groups communication		
	D.16	Section 42 consultee list		
	D.17	Regulation 11 list		
	D.18	Landowners and Persons with an Interest in the Land		
			D.18.1	Cover Letter and example Land Interests Questionnaires
			D.18.2	Example section 44 letter
			D.18.3	Example location specific site notice and location maps
	D.19	Communication regarding feedback form and the distribution list		
	D.20	Limited extension to consultation – number 03		
			D.20.1	Communication to Marine Scotland 19 October 2023
			D.20.2	Communication to Country Landowners Association 19 October 2023 and response
			D.20.3	Communication to Defra 19 October 2023 and response
	D.21	Notifying the Secretary of State under section 46		
			D.21.1	Email delivery report to Mr Shapps and Mr Davies
			D.21.2	Planning Inspectorate Section 46 Notification
	D.22	The section 48 notice for the Mona Offshore Wind Project		
			D.22.1	Section 48 notice (English/Welsh)

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			D.22.2	Section 48 notice in newspapers
			D.22.3	Media Articles: BBC News Isle of Man Today
	D.23	Regulation 8 letter 07 April 2022		
	D.24	Transboundary Consultation		
			D.24.1	Planning Inspectorate Regulation 32 Notice 07 November 2022
			D.24.2	Planning Inspectorate Regulation 32 Notice London Gazette 09 November 2022
			D.24.3	Regulation 32 Republic of Ireland Response 19 December 2022
			D.24.4	Regulation 32 Belgium Response 14 December 2022

Document Reference E3.1 – Consultation Report Appendices - Part 3 (D.25 – F – C)

	D.25	Summary of responses to statutory consultation and applicant regard		
			D.25.1	Overarching consultation process and non-technical comments table of responses
			D.25.2	Introduction and glossary table of responses
			D.25.3	Policy and legislation table of responses
			D.25.4	Project description table of responses
			D.25.5	Site selection and consideration of alternatives table of responses
			D.25.6	Environmental Impact Assessment methodology table of responses
			D.25.7	Physical processes table of responses
			D.25.8	Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology table of responses
			D.25.9	Fish and shellfish ecology table of responses
			D.25.9.1	Underwater noise table of responses
			D.25.10	Marine mammals table of responses
			D.25.11	Offshore ornithology table of responses
			D.25.12	Commercial fisheries table of responses
			D.25.13	Shipping and navigation table of responses
			D.25.14	Marine archaeology table of responses
			D.25.15	Other sea users table of responses
			D.25.16	Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions table of responses
			D.25.17	Hydrology and flood risk table of responses

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			D.25.18	Onshore ecology table of responses
			D.25.19	Historic Environment table of responses
			D.25.20	Land use and recreation table of responses
			D.25.21	Traffic and transport table of responses
			D.25.22	Noise and vibration table of responses
			D.25.23	Air quality table of responses
			D.25.24	Onshore and intertidal ornithology table of responses
			D.25.25	Seascape, landscape and visual resources table of responses
			D.25.26	Aviation and radar table of responses
			D.25.27	Climate change table of responses
			D.25.28	Socio-economics table of responses
			D.25.29	Human health assessment table of responses
			D.25.30	Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment table of responses
			D.25.31	Draft Development Consent Order (including deemed marine licences) table of responses

E - Post-Statutory Consultation Engagement

	E.1	Newsletter August 2023
	E.2	Newsletter September 2023

F - Ongoing Engagement Activities and Statements of Common Ground

	F.1	Ongoing engagement with stakeholders – host local authorities
		F.1.1 Letter to Conwy Local Authority
		F.1.2 Letter Denbighshire Local Authority

2.7 Approach to the Welsh language

- 2.7.1.1 As the Mona Offshore Wind Project is located in Wales and Welsh waters, the Welsh language has been an important consideration throughout the planning and delivery of the consultation. The Applicant acknowledges that under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the Welsh language has official status, and should be treated no less favourably than the English language.
- 2.7.1.2 Although the operational language of the UK offshore wind industry is English, the Applicant welcomes and promotes the use of Welsh wherever it can when working in Wales. It has endeavoured to engage in its stakeholders' language of choice wherever possible.
- 2.7.1.3 The Applicant's commitments to the Welsh language during its public engagement activities are set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). It states that

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the Applicant recognises the importance of the Welsh language and was committed to ensuring the consultation was accessible for those who wanted to take part in Welsh.

- 2.7.1.4 All community consultation materials were available in Welsh, and Welsh speaking project representatives were available at all consultation events and webinars. People were able to provide feedback in Welsh and receive an acknowledgement in Welsh. Had an enquiry been submitted via phone in Welsh, a Welsh speaking member of the team would have responded to that individual.
- 2.7.1.5 No feedback was submitted in Welsh, but for the purposes of analysing and reporting Welsh language feedback alongside other responses, any Welsh language feedback would have been translated by the appointed translation agency, which is based in North Wales and a full member of the Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters and the Association of Translation Companies, as well as a Welsh translation framework supplier for Welsh Government.

2.8 Co-ordinated consultation approach

- 2.8.1.1 The Mona Offshore Wind Project, the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets (being promoted by Flotation Energy Ltd. and Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios, S.A. (Cobra)) are three offshore wind farms being developed in the Irish Sea. Due to the geographical proximity of the three wind farm arrays, their similar timelines and their potential for cumulative impacts, the respective applicants decided to hold their statutory consultations concurrently.
- 2.8.1.2 Based on their location, the Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm were required to consult in Wales and the Isle of Man. The Morgan Offshore Wind Project was required to consult on mainland England and the Isle of Man.
- 2.8.1.3 The approach for statutory consultation was to carry out combined activities and create combined materials where appropriate, thus minimising the materials consultees would need to digest. This also allowed for the likelihood that attendees to the consultation events would expect alignment from the projects in terms of consultation events.
- 2.8.1.4 The two applicants for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets were conscious of avoiding 'consultation fatigue' by consulting on the geographically adjacent (but separate) projects consecutively in the same areas of North Wales and on the Isle of Man.
- 2.8.1.5 Despite this joint consultation, the two remain separate projects, which are each the subject of their own DCO applications. Consideration was therefore given on how to minimise potential confusion among stakeholders and communities. The Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets combined some promotional materials and activities for publicising their consultations in Wales and on the Isle of Man. Specifically, the projects decided to create single postcards promoting the consultation and joint consultation events, a single poster distributed to display locations and share online, print and Google advertising space.
- 2.8.1.6 In addition, joint exhibitions were also held to help increase participation in the two consultations. This approach enabled visitors to the joint events to find out about, and provide feedback in relation to either project, or both projects, during a single visit. Each project published its own SoCC, consultation brochure, feedback forms and exhibition displays.

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2.8.1.7 A table showing a summary of consultation methods, locations and projects represented is provided at Appendix A.1.

3 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1.1 The consultation report has been prepared and submitted in accordance with the requirements set out within section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). Section 37(3)(c) requires an application for an order granting development consent to be accompanied by a Consultation Report. Section 37(7) sets out that the consultation report should give details of:

- What has been done to comply with the duty to consult with prescribed consultees and local authorities (section 42), the local community (section 47) and to publicise the application (section 48)
- Any relevant responses, and
- The account taken of any such responses.

3.1.1.2 Relevant responses are defined in section 49(3) of the 2008 Act as responses received to consultation under section 42, 47 and 48, by the deadline published. Additionally, where possible and necessary (for example, where the Applicant became aware of additional section 42 consultees), this feedback has also been referenced, up to as close to the submission of the DCO application as possible even where this was outside the response period given.

3.1.1.3 The legislative context of these sections of the 2008 Act and how the Applicant has met these requirements is further described in the associated sections of the consultation report as follows:

- The duty to consult under section 42 is addressed in section 5.2
- The duty to consult under section 47 is addressed in section 5.1 and
- The duty to publicise under section 48 is addressed in section 5.5.

3.1.1.4 The report also details non-statutory consultation that takes place outside of the requirements of the 2008 Act to ensure that the Planning Inspectorate and others have a comprehensive understanding of all consultation activity undertaken. This is addressed in section 4.

3.2 Relevant legislation and guidance

3.2.1.1 The Applicant developed a phased approach to the pre-application consultation and in doing so gave careful consideration to the specific requirements set out in the following legislation:

- The Planning Act 2008
- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations)
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations 2017)
- The Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020
- The Wales Act 2017, which amended the way the 2008 Act operates in Wales
- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Planning (Wales) Act 2015
- The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

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- 3.2.1.2 The Applicant has also taken into consideration the National Policy Statements (NPSs). The NPSs were first designated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in 2011 and revised in November 2023. They describe the national case and establish the need for certain types of infrastructure development including energy, as well as identifying key issues that should be considered by the Examining Authority and decision-maker when examining an application for development consent. There are six energy NPSs, three of which are relevant to offshore wind development and therefore the Mona Offshore Wind Project specifically:
- Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023a)
 - NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023b)
 - NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023c).
- 3.2.1.3 The revised NPSs were designated on 17 January 2024.
- 3.2.1.4 Section 50 of the 2008 Act provides for guidance to be issued, regarding pre-application requirements and that an Applicant must have regard to any such guidance. In undertaking consultation and preparing this Consultation Report, the following guidance and advice notes have been taken into consideration and complied with:
- The former Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)) Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) (DCLG Guidance)
 - Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation and notification (August 2017, version 7) (Advice Note Three)
 - Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Six, the preparation of application documents (version 11) (Advice Note Six)
 - Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven, EIA: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping (June 2020, version 7) (Advice Note Seven)
 - Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Eleven, Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (November 2017, version 4) (Advice Note Eleven)
 - Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Twelve, Transboundary Impacts and Process (December 2020, version 6) (Advice Note Twelve)
 - Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen, Compiling the Consultation Report (February 2021, version 3) (Advice Note Fourteen).
- 3.2.1.5 Section 5.6 of this report sets out a brief summary of consultation undertaken in accordance with the EIA and Habitats Regulations, with further details set out in the submitted Environmental Statement (Document References F1 – F8) and Technical Engagement Plan (TEP) (Document Reference E4). The primary focus of this Consultation Report is on consultation undertaken in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act.
- 3.2.1.6 To demonstrate that the Applicant has met the requirements of both legislation and guidance regarding pre-application consultation, a Consultation Compliance Checklist is provided within Appendix B.1.

3.3 Approach to Consultation

- 3.3.1.1 In addition to adhering to all legal requirements, the Applicant committed to a consultation underpinned by an ethos of being open, constructive, collaborative, and solutions focused. The Applicant's website states its commitment to seek to:
- Listen to its stakeholders and engage with integrity and respect
 - Set out its principles openly and transparently
 - Recognise differences and work together to find mutually acceptable solutions that are reasonable and proportionate to our impact in the local area.
- 3.3.1.2 The Applicant believes that, at the heart of every consultation are the people who live and work in the community. Consulting with people living near to the Mona Offshore Wind Project who may be affected by the development is an important part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process and section 47 of the 2008 Act describes these as people *'living in the vicinity of the land'* to which the proposed application relates.
- 3.3.1.3 The insight and local knowledge received through each phase of consultation allowed the Applicant to understand the expectations of those who live and work closest. When developing the primary zone (see section 5.1.5 below), the Applicant made sure to take into account the need to engage with a wide cross section of society. The consultation was designed to be open to anyone who felt directly or indirectly impacted by the proposals, including:
- Local communities – people with homes and businesses in the consultation zone and those outside who have previously commented on the proposals
 - Elected representatives – community councils; county councillors
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Senedd (MSs)
 - Seldom heard groups
 - Identified special interest groups
 - Prescribed bodies and statutory consultees
 - Local authorities
 - Landowners and/or those with an interest in the land.
- 3.3.1.4 The Applicant gave regard to equal opportunities and diversity throughout its consultations. For example, the Consultation Brochures for both non-statutory and statutory phases of consultation stated that readers could request the information in an alternative (more accessible) format. All consultation events were organised in accessible venues. The Applicant recognises the importance of the Welsh language and was committed to ensuring the consultation was accessible for those who wanted to take part in Welsh.
- 3.3.1.5 From the outset, the Applicant took data privacy seriously and all data was held in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) best practice. The feedback form clearly stated why data was being collected and that the data might be shared with relevant government bodies, such as the Planning Inspectorate and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), to support the planning application process, along with contractors and suppliers with whom the Applicant had contracts in place to support the development of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The notice stated that the Applicant would keep the information for the time required to fulfil the purposes of the application.
- 3.3.1.6 This Consultation Report and its accompanying appendices are also in compliance with GDPR best practice.

4 NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1.1 Consultation and ongoing engagement activities conducted beyond the statutory obligations under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) are referred to within this report as non-statutory consultation.
- 4.1.1.2 Feedback from non-statutory consultation and ongoing stakeholder engagement activities has been considered by the Applicant and used throughout the development of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to inform the design, alongside comments received during statutory consultation.
- 4.1.1.3 While the consenting strategies for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets were still being developed, the two projects would often be referred to in the same materials/communications. Once the consenting strategies for the two projects had been confirmed, and prior to submission of the Mona EIA Scoping Report (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2022), the projects were referred to separately in materials/communications.

4.2 Relevant guidance

- 4.2.1.1 By its very definition, there is no statutory requirement for non-statutory consultation to be undertaken. However, the Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), set out by the former Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)), highlights at paragraph 29 the likely need for detailed, technical input from expert bodies in advance of formal consultation in compliance with the pre-application requirements. It details: *'Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make change at later stages in the process.'*
- 4.2.1.2 Paragraph 70 also goes on to suggest that applicants may wish to consider undertaking early non-statutory consultation at a stage where options are still being considered, as this may help inform proposals and assist the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation. Paragraph 76 considers that non-statutory targeted consultation may be appropriate in certain circumstances.
- 4.2.1.3 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen (February 2021, version 3) also recognises that applicants may have engaged in non-statutory consultation prior to statutory consultation under the 2008 Act. The Advice Note advises that any consultation not carried out under the provisions of the 2008 Act is separately identified from statutory consultation within the Consultation Report. Engaging with stakeholders in early non-statutory consultation, although not required under the 2008 Act, promotes best practice and encourages full engagement with local communities.

4.3 Early engagement

4.3.1 Early engagement, Spring/Summer 2021

- 4.3.1.1 Non-statutory consultation started in spring/summer 2021, with a written communication to stakeholders in July 2021.

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4.3.1.2 This introduced both the Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morgan Generation Assets to stakeholders in North Wales. This early communication was positioned as a broad introduction - establishing the Applicant for the first time and opening a line of communication. Given the very early nature of this communication, both the Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morgan Generation Assets were referred to and the communications sent to stakeholders in the relevant regions of both Wales and England. An example of this correspondence, dated 14 July 2021, is included in Appendix C.1.

4.3.1.3 This communication recognised that this could have been the first time many of the stakeholders would have been made aware of the Applicant's intention to develop the wind farm(s), and set out the following key points:

- Introducing bp and EnBW as the successful Round 4 bidders within the leasing process run by The Crown Estate (TCE)
- The likely size and generating capacity of Mona Offshore Wind Project (and Morgan Generation Assets)
- The fact that the Points of Interconnection (POI) to the electricity transmission network were not yet known
- That local landowners would start to be engaged in relation to early environmental survey work
- Offshore surveys had commenced, as had liaison with key marine/maritime stakeholders
- There would be consultation with communities and stakeholders, with informal engagement starting shortly and feeding into formal community consultations in 2022
- It was hoped the projects would be in a position to start generating energy by 2028
- A project website¹ launched by bp and EnBW would provide further information.

4.3.1.4 The communication was sent, via email, to lead officers and elected representatives at local authorities as set out in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Recipients of July 2021 email communication (lead officers and elected representatives).

Local Authority	Position
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Deputy Chief Executive - Communities, Environment and Economy
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Climate Emergency
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy/Conwy County Borough Council	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation
Cyngor Gwynedd/Gwynedd Council	Cabinet Member for Environment/Councillor for Y Felinheli
Cyngor Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire County Council	Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment/Councillor for Rhyl South East
Cyngor Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire County Council	Leader of the Council
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey County Council	Major Projects and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

¹ www.enbw-bp.com

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Local Authority	Position
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey County Council	Leader of the Council/Councillor for Talybolion
Fylde Council	Chair of Planning Committee
Fylde Council	Head of Planning
Knowsley Council	Head of Planning
Lancashire County Council	Head of Planning
Lancashire County Council	Leader of the Council
Liverpool City Council	Head of Planning
Preston City Council	Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation/Councillor for Lea & Larches
Sefton Council	Cabinet Member - Planning and Building Control
Cyngor Sir y Fflint/Flintshire County Council	Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
Cyngor Sir y Fflint/Flintshire County Council	Chief Officer - Planning and Environment
South Ribble Borough Council	Cabinet Member for Planning, Business Support and Regeneration
St Helens Council	Head of Planning
West Lancashire Borough Council	Portfolio Holder for Planning
Wirral Council	Chair - Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee

4.3.1.5 In addition, the notification was sent to Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Senedd (MSs) representing local and regional constituencies across North Wales as set out in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: MP and MS recipients.

Constituency	MP/MS
Member of Parliament for Wirral South	Alison McGovern MP
Member of Parliament for Wallasey	Angela Eagle MP
Member of Parliament for Sefton Central	Bill Esterson MP
Member of the Senedd for North Wales	Carolyn Thomas MS
Member of Parliament for City of Chester	Chris Matheson MP
Member of Parliament for Southport	Damien Moore MP
Member of Parliament for Walton Liverpool	Dan Carden MP
Member of the Senedd for Clwyd West	Darren Millar MS
Member of Parliament for Clwyd West	David Jones MS
Member of the Senedd for Vale of Clwyd	Gareth Davies MS
Member of Parliament for Knowsley	George Howarth MP
Member of the Senedd for Delyn	Hannah Blythyn MS
Member of Parliament for Arfon	Hywel Williams MP

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Constituency	MP/MS
Member of the Senedd for Alyn and Deeside	Jack Sargeant MS
Member of Parliament for Vale of Clwyd	James Davies MP
Member of the Senedd for Aberconwy	Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of Parliament for Ellesmere Port and Neston	Justin Madders MP
Member of Parliament for South Ribble	Katherine Fletcher MP
Member of the Senedd for North Wales	Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Member of Parliament for Wirral West	Margaret Greenwood MP
Member of Parliament for Preston	Mark Hendrick MP
Member of the Senedd for North Wales	Mark Isherwood MS
Member of Parliament for Fylde	Mark Menzies MP
Member of Parliament for Alyn And Deeside	Mark Tami MP
Member of Parliament for Bootle	Peter Dowd MP
Member of the Senedd for Ynys Môn	Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
Member of Parliament for Delyn	Rob Roberts MP
Member of Parliament for Aberconwy	Robin Millar MP
Member of Parliament for West Lancashire	Rosie Cooper MP
Member of the Senedd for North Wales	Sam Rowlands MS
Member of the Senedd for Arfon	Siân Gwenllïan MS
Member of Parliament for Ynys Môn	Virginia Crosbie MP

- 4.3.1.6 As further detail became available, between November 2021 and January 2022, introduction briefings were followed by project updates to planning officers and lead members at local authorities across North Wales. Engagement also began with stakeholders as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) in November 2021 (see section 4.5).
- 4.3.1.7 This series of briefings were held via Microsoft Teams and centred around a PowerPoint presentation. The presentations were either ‘technical’ presentations, where the attendees were planning or other officers from local authorities or ‘non-technical briefings’ where the attendees were wholly or largely elected members. In practice, the presentations were similar in scope, but with ‘technical’ briefings offering more detail on the consenting and site selection processes.
- 4.3.1.8 The presentations introduced the fact National Grid were considering a number of different potential locations for the POI for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
- 4.3.1.9 This in turn would help to determine the broad location at which the export cables would make landfall and the broad location of the onshore substation. The presentation made clear that a final decision on which POI would be used would be made by National Grid, and not the Applicant, but that the Applicant was keen to engage in an early and transparent manner. Specifically, the presentations covered:
- An overview of the Mona Offshore Wind Project

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- Activities conducted during 2021
- An indicative project timeline
- A stakeholder engagement timeline
- An overview of the site selection process, flagging the potential for a POI at either Wylfa on Anglesey, Pentir in Gwynedd, Bodelwyddan in Denbighshire or Connah's Quay in Flintshire
- The guiding principles that would be used to determine potential cable routes to any onshore substation site that was ultimately selected by National Grid
- Site specific insights to potential local constraints that already been identified in relation to each possible POI, including possible scoping boundaries
- High level assessments of the potential economic impacts.

4.3.1.10 Briefings were conducted with:

- Conwy County Borough Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Gwynedd Council (now known as Cyngor Gwynedd)
- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Snowdonia National Park (now known as Eryri National Park).

4.3.1.11 A briefing was also offered to Denbighshire County Council, which declined the offer due to a lack of available resources. The invitation was left open by the Applicant, with a commitment made to continue updating the authority on progress.

4.3.2 Follow-up meetings

4.3.2.1 Follow-up meetings were held with elected representatives and regional forums between 2022-2023 to keep them updated on progress, as set out in Table 4.3 below.

Table 4.3: Meeting with elected representatives and regional forums.

	Date	Minister/MS
Welsh Government Ministers and MSs	09 February 2022	Janet Finch-Saunders MS
	04 April 2022	Lesley Griffiths MS
	27 May 2022	Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
	29 June 2022	Vaughan Gething MS
	23 September 2022	Gareth Davies MS
	18 May 2023	First Minister Mark Drakeford MS and Leslie Griffiths MS
	08 March 2023	Vaughan Gething MS
MPs	03 May 2022	Virginia Crosbie MP (Ministerial roundtable with Greg Hands MP)
	25 May 2022	Virginia Crosbie MP
	06 June 2022	Dr James Davies MP
	05 July 2022	Virginia Crosbie MP
	23 September 2022	Dr James Davies MP
	17 May 2023	Dr James Davies MP
Regional Forums	01 February 2022	North Wales Regional Skills Partnership

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Date	Minister/MS
01 March 2022	North Wales Planning Officers Group
14 March 2022	
24 October 2022	
07 June 2023	
08 July 2022	
07 November 2022	

4.4 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping

- 4.4.1.1 The Applicant submitted the Mona EIA Scoping Report (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2022) pursuant to Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations), to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – as the marine regulator for projects in Welsh waters on 5 May 2022.
- 4.4.1.2 The Scoping Report was sent in parallel to NRW as, in addition to the marine licence for all licensable activities related to the offshore wind farm generation infrastructure located within the Mona Array Area which will be deemed under the Development Consent Order (DCO), there will also be a separate application made to NRW for a marine licence for the offshore export cables and related transmission works located within the Mona Array Area and the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas. See Marine Licence Principles Document (Document Reference J9).
- 4.4.1.3 The Mona EIA Scoping Report was subsequently consulted on by the Planning Inspectorate and a Scoping Opinion was received on 15 June 2022 (The Planning Inspectorate, 2022).

4.5 The Evidence Plan Process, Engagement Forums and Technical Consultation

4.5.1 Overview

- 4.5.1.1 The Applicant has met with stakeholders to undertake technical consultation throughout the pre-application phase. Feedback from this technical consultation provided the information and evidence required for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) processes.
- 4.5.1.2 These discussions took place as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), Engagement Forums and wider technical consultation. The Technical Engagement Plan (TEP) (Document Reference E4) presents full details of all technical consultation carried out with stakeholders outside the statutory consultation process and is summarised below.
- 4.5.1.3 Please also refer to Figure 2.2 for an overarching summary of this technical engagement.

4.5.2 Evidence Plan Process

- 4.5.2.1 The Applicant has undertaken an EPP for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Evidence Plans are formal mechanisms to agree between applicants and statutory bodies, what information and evidence an applicant should submit in support of an application for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Whilst the process was initially aimed at ensuring compliance with the Habitats Regulations (Defra, 2012), it has increasingly also been applied to relevant EIA matters, as well as the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) assessment process.
- 4.5.2.2 Evidence Plan aims to reduce the risk of NSIPs being delayed by issues relating to the Habitats Regulations (also EIA and MCZ matters for this Evidence Plan) during the evolution of a proposed DCO application. The process records the key areas of agreement and any outstanding areas of disagreement between the relevant participants, which will ultimately form the basis of Statements of Common Grounds (SoCGs) which will start to be prepared during the pre-examination phase and updated, as required, through the examination (see section 7 for further information).
- 4.5.2.3 An Evidence Plan Steering Group has been established for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, which has met at key milestones throughout the EIA process. In addition, EWGs have been established to discuss topic-specific issues with relevant stakeholders. Those involved as part of these groups are listed below.

Steering Group

- 4.5.2.4 An Evidence Plan Steering Group has been established and comprises:
- The Planning Inspectorate
 - The Applicant
 - Natural England
 - The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
 - Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
 - The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).
- 4.5.2.5 These participants were invited as the key regulatory and Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs).
- 4.5.2.6 Both the Mona Offshore Wind Project and the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets DCO applications have been discussed under one Evidence Plan, as such the Steering Group includes both English and Welsh stakeholders. The Steering Group has overseen the development and monitoring of the Evidence Plan and its subsequent progress. They first met at the start of the EPP in November 2021 and have continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the project programme. Full details of the Steering Group remit and meeting details are set out in the Technical Engagement Plan (TEP) (Document Reference E4).

Expert Working Groups

- 4.5.2.7 In addition, as part of the EPP, Expert Working Groups (EWGs) have been established to discuss topic-specific issues with relevant stakeholders. EWG meetings have been held regularly throughout the process since February 2022 to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to give feedback and advice to inform the environmental impact assessments and HRA process, as well as site selection and project development and refinement. The process has been iterative, and each group has worked through the

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discussion points and to reach agreement, as far as possible, during the pre-application phases. Full details are set out in the TEP (Document Reference E4).

4.5.2.8 Table 4.4 sets out the EWGs which have been established and their participants, the Applicant and advisors are represented within each EWG. Note that the onshore ecology and ornithology EWG has not included any discussions regarding the Morgan Generation Assets as there are no onshore components to that project.

Table 4.4: Expert Working Groups and the participants.

Expert Working Group	Participants
Benthic Ecology, Fish and Shellfish and Physical Processes (BE, FSF and PP)	Natural England MMO Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture (Cefas) JNCC NRW Environment Agency (EA) The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) Isle of Man Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture (IoM, Defa)
Marine Mammals	Natural England JNCC MMO TWT Cefas NRW IoM Defa
Offshore Ornithology	Natural England Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) MMO NRW TWT JNCC IoM Defa
Onshore Ecology Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council RSPB NRW North Wales Wildlife Trust Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust Welsh Government Woodland Trust

4.5.3 Engagement Forums

4.5.3.1 In addition to the technical consultation undertaken under the EPP, Engagement Forums were set up to engage stakeholders outside of the EPP.

Marine Navigation Engagement Forum

4.5.3.2 The objectives of the Marine Navigation Engagement Forum (MNEF) was to provide a platform for the exchange of information, knowledge and experience, allowing marine developers and relevant shipping and navigation stakeholders to coexist in the marine environment. The overarching strategy was to establish and actively maintain a structured basis by which the project and relevant shipping and navigation stakeholders engage with each other and share information, evidence and feedback.

Archaeology and Heritage Engagement Forum - offshore

4.5.3.3 The Archaeology and Heritage Engagement Forum (AHEF) – offshore, aimed to address offshore archaeology and heritage issues early on in the pre-application process, streamlining these decisions whilst also focussing on the evidence requirements which aim to be proportionate to the potential impacts. The overall aim of the forum was to ensure that impacts of offshore archaeology and heritage were identified, reduced, assessed and mitigated.

Archaeology and Heritage Engagement Forum – onshore

4.5.3.4 The AHEF – onshore, aimed to address and decide upon onshore archaeology and heritage issues early on in pre-application process, streamlining these decisions whilst also focussing on the evidence requirements which aim to be proportionate to the potential impacts. The overall aim of the forum was to ensure that impacts of onshore archaeology and heritage were identified, reduced, assessed and mitigated.

4.5.3.5 Table 4.5 sets out the participants of each Engagement Forum; the Applicant and their advisors are represented within each Engagement Forum.

Table 4.5: The Engagement Forums and participants.

Engagement Forum	Participant
MNEF	ABP
	Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers Organisation
	Belfast Harbour
	Boskalis
	Cruising Association
	Dublin Port
	ENI
	Floatation Energy
	Harbour Energy
	His Majesty’s Coastguard
	International Chamber of Shipping
	Isle of Man Fisherman
	Isle of Man Steam Packet Company
	Irish Chamber of Shipping
	Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation

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Engagement Forum	Participant
	Lancashire Fire and Rescue
	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
	Ministry of Defence (MOD)
	MMO
	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
	North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
	Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation (NIFPO)
	Northern Lighthouse Board
	Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer
	Ørsted
	P&O Ferries
	Peel Ports
	Port of Mostyn
	Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
	Royal Yachting Association
	Scottish Fisherman's Federation (SFF)
	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
	Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority
	Seatruck Group
	Spirit Energy
	Stena Line
	Trinity House Lighthouse Service (THLS)
	UK Chamber of Shipping
	Warrenpoint Harbour
	Welsh Fishermen's Association – Cymdeithas Pysgotwyr Cymru (WFA)
	West Coast Sea Products Ltd
	WS Mezeron
AHEF - offshore	Cadw
	Historic England (HE)
	MMO
	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)
AHEF - onshore	Cadw
	Conwy and Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT)
	RCAHMW

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4.5.3.6 Full details of the Engagement Forums and meetings are set out in the TEP (Document Reference E4).

4.5.4 Other Technical Consultation

4.5.4.1 Technical engagement has also taken place with stakeholders relating to the following topics:

- Commercial Fisheries
- Shipping and Navigation
- Aviation and radar
- Other sea users
- Seascape, landscape and visual resources
- Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions
- Hydrology and flood risk
- Land use and recreation
- Traffic and transport
- Noise and vibration
- Socio-economics.

4.5.4.2 Full details of discussions held are set out in full in the 'Other Technical Consultation' section of the TEP (Document Reference E4).

4.6 Non-statutory consultation

4.6.1 Non-statutory consultation, 07 June to 03 August 2022

4.6.1.1 Following the initial engagement with stakeholders detailed previously, a first phase of non-statutory consultation ran for 58 days between 07 June and 03 August 2022.

4.6.1.2 The consultation materials covered the following key project areas:

- Project rationale and information about bp and EnBW
- Onshore infrastructure including broad plans for a Point Of Interconnection (POI), substation and cable route
- Offshore infrastructure including broad plans for turbines and background information on the construction of offshore wind farms
- The planning application process and how Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are consented
- Ongoing environment and technical assessments
- Potential jobs and skills opportunities
- Engagement with ports and harbours
- Next steps.

4.6.1.3 The consultation launched on 07 June 2022 and was promoted in the following ways:

- An information postcard (Appendix C.2.1) was distributed to 27,897 addresses within the onshore scoping search area. These included residential and business addresses with postcodes including LL29, LL22, LL19, LL18 and LL17. The postcards were sent in advance of the consultation launch on 07 June 2022
- Ahead of the consultation launch, posters were sent to 71 local community organisations and councils in Wales with a request to display at appropriate locations. The posters were received on the day of the consultation launch on

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07 June 2022. Posters were also sent to 13 locations in Blackpool due to the potential for visual impacts from the array area (Appendix C.2.2)

- A media release (Appendix C.2.3) was distributed to media outlets (Appendix C.2.4) on 07 June 2022 announcing the launch of the consultation and explaining how to access consultation materials and provide feedback. The media release was covered by ReNews on 07 June 2022 and Nation.Cymru on 08 June 2022. (Appendix C.2.5)
- An advertisement appeared in three publications, Daily Post, Isle of Man Courier and Blackpool Gazette. The first advertisement, detailing the launch of the consultation and encouraging people to take part, appeared in Isle of Man Courier on 10 June 2022, the second appeared in the Daily Post on 14 June 2022 and the third appeared in Blackpool Gazette on 30 June 2022 (Appendix C.2.6)
- Two adverts were also published to announce the close of the non-statutory consultation. The first appeared in Daily Post on 13 July 2022 and second in the Isle of Man Courier on 15 July 2022 (Appendix C.2.7)
- An email (Appendix C.2.8) was distributed to local stakeholders (Appendix C.2.9), alerting them to the launch of the consultation and inviting them to take part. These stakeholders included MPs, MSs for immediate and neighbouring constituencies, local planning authorities, local elected leaders, community councils and interest groups such as associations, universities, government agencies and environmental groups
- The email was also distributed to local seldom heard groups (Appendix C.2.10).

4.6.1.4 A new website was launched at the start of consultation² (known hereafter as the consultation website), and new content was added. This included:

- Information about the Mona Offshore Wind Project
- Information about the Applicant
- Brochure (Appendix C.2.11)
- Interactive feedback map
- Feedback form (Appendix C.2.12).

4.6.1.5 Consultation events were held and attended as set out in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6: First phase non-statutory consultation events.

Type	Date	Location	Time	Number of attendees
Pop-up	29 June 2022	Amlwch Co-op, Lon Goch, Gwynedd, LL68 9AL	10-2pm	Estimated 15 visitors (it could not be confirmed whether all visitors had come for the pop-up exhibition)
Event	29 June 2022	Venue Cymru, Llandudno, LL30 1BB	3-8pm	5 visitors
Event	07 July 2022	Glyndwr University, St Asaph, LL17 0JD	2-7pm	28 visitors
Event	08 July 2022	Llanddulas Village Hall, Llanddulas, Abergele, LL22 8FH	2-6.30pm	39 visitors

² www.morganandmona.com

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Type	Date	Location	Time	Number of attendees
Pop-up	09 July 2022	Rhyl Tourist Information Centre, Rhyl, LL18 1HZ	11-2pm	7 visitors
Online	12 July 2022	Webinar	6.30-8pm	22 registrations and 12 attendees

4.6.1.6 A total of 42 pieces of feedback were received as a result of the non-statutory consultation:

- 10 printed feedback forms
- 17 emails
- 10 comments submitted online, using the interactive map function
- online feedback forms.

4.6.2 Summary of responses

4.6.2.1 These responses can be summarised as follows:

4.6.2.2 **Q1. Our offshore infrastructure will include the turbines, offshore substations and cables.**

Do you have any comments that could help inform the route for our offshore cable, or any other elements of the offshore infrastructure? For example, information on ecology, important viewpoints or how the marine environment is used?

4.6.2.3 Several issues were raised regarding offshore infrastructure. These included the potential for impact on marine ecology, negative effects on house and land prices and the potential for negative visual impacts.

4.6.2.4 Other feedback asked whether existing cable routes could be utilised (from existing offshore wind farms) and whether underground water springs had been taken into an account, as they are an important resource for local trout fisheries.

4.6.2.5 Ferry routes to and from the Isle of Man were also raised, with feedback highlighting concerns that the project would trigger diversions to ferry routes or delays to services.

4.6.2.6 **Q2. Our onshore infrastructure will include an underground cable.**

Do you have any comments on the cable corridors that we've identified through our early work on the project? For example, information on ecology, cultural heritage, properties or land use?

4.6.2.7 Keeping noise and disruption to a minimum and utilising farmland/existing cable routes were the key issues raised.

4.6.2.8 Other more site-specific matters included concerns about the potential for cable routes passing through ancient woodland and archaeological sites.

4.6.2.9 Concerns were also raised about the potential for the cable route to run to the east of Abergele and the potential for negative impacts on the Denbighshire Memorial Park and Crematorium.

4.6.2.10 Concerns were also raised that the cable route could impact Nant Fawr or Pant Idda, with feedback noting that the areas have numerous Grade II listed properties and productive farmland. Other issues raised included drainage, the protection of

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hedgerows and trees and the potential for the cable route to run in proximity to Pen y Corddyn Camp.

4.6.2.11 **Q3. Our onshore infrastructure will include building a new substation.**

We've identified a broad search area where we think a new onshore substation could be located. Do you have any comments that could help inform a detailed location and design for the substation? For example, information on ecology, cultural heritage, properties or land use.

4.6.2.12 There were limited comments in this section, however a number of people simply requested that the substation should be located in the least obstructive location.

4.6.2.13 Other feedback queried whether an underground substation could be used.

4.6.2.14 **Q4. As we progress our project, we'll be looking carefully at how we manage our construction and how we can reduce any impacts on local communities.**

Do you have any comments that could help us develop our plans for construction? For example, important local roads to consider or dates or times to avoid.

4.6.2.15 Issues raised included suggestions that the project should create construction jobs for local people and request that the project should avoid unnecessary impacts on the A55, as it is already considered to be too congested. Feedback also proposed that construction work should take place during autumn and winter, avoiding the busier summer months.

4.6.2.16 Respondents were also keen that the local community continues to be kept informed as the project progresses and that local people were given an opportunity to benefit, for example through the provision of cheaper electricity.

4.6.2.17 **Q5. We're looking at ways that our project can support jobs and skills in the local area and wider region.**

Do you have any comments on how we can help support jobs and skills?

4.6.2.18 There were limited comments provided in response to this question. The majority of feedback focused on whether local people could be trained/utilised by the project so that they could benefit from the new jobs that would be created.

4.6.2.19 Other feedback suggested that local schools could be involved in the project, as well as Glyndwr University, so that local school pupils and students could be encouraged to take subjects and courses that would put them in good positions to access jobs on the project. There was also a desire to see more details on how apprenticeship opportunities could be created.

4.6.2.20 **Q6. Do you have any comments on how we are carrying out our consultation?**

4.6.2.21 This question received a number of positive comments, mentioning that event staff were helpful and that the consultation was well presented and informative.

4.6.3 **Applicant's response to feedback.**

4.6.3.1 The Applicant considered all feedback received and had regard to that feedback as the Mona Offshore Wind Project progressed.

4.6.3.2 The Applicant noted feedback that asked for the substation to be located as sensitively as possible. The Applicant considered the proximity of homes when assessing possible sites, as well as the potential visual impact. In autumn 2022, a targeted consultation was conducted, looking specifically at potential locations for the onshore

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substation and inviting local feedback on those options, as detailed in section 4.7. That feedback was used to inform the eventual preferred location for the substation.

4.6.3.3 The Applicant understands the vital importance of the ferry routes serving the Isle of Man and is committed to developing designs for The Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morgan Generation Assets in a way that minimises impacts on those links. The Applicant has worked with a range of marine stakeholders, by setting up and engaging those within the Marine Navigation Engagement Forum (MNEF), see section 4.5.3 for further details and continues to collaborate with them to ensure any impacts identified are addressed appropriately.

4.6.3.4 The project team confirmed its early commitment to engaging with the education sector in North Wales to make the most of the opportunities that would be created by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Applicant also launched a dedicated supplier portal online, where local companies could pair their skills with the projects' needs³.

4.7 Targeted non-statutory consultation

4.7.1 Targeted non-statutory consultation, 26 September to 07 November 2022

4.7.1.1 Following the first phase of non-statutory consultation, the Applicant launched a second phase of non-statutory consultation later the same year.

4.7.1.2 The purpose of this targeted consultation was to share information and ask for views on a number of identified potential substation locations, which were all in the vicinity of National Grid's existing Bodelwyddan substation in Denbighshire.

4.7.1.3 This targeted substation consultation was conducted between 26 September and 07 November 2022 and ran for 43 days.

4.7.1.4 The consultation was delivered online and in-person, including two consultation events and a webinar was held for those not able to, or who did not wish to, attend the events in person. Details are set out in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7: Targeted non-statutory consultation events and attendance.

Type	Date	Location	Time	Number of attendees
Online	12 October 2022	Webinar	6.30-8pm	10 registrations and 6 attendees
Event	14 October 2022	Bodelwyddan Village Hall, Rhyl, LL18 5TE	3-7pm	24 visitors
Event	15 October 2022	Bodelwyddan Village Hall, Rhyl, LL18 5TE	10-1pm	4 visitors

4.7.1.5 Information about the consultation was published online using the consultation website. This information covered the following key project areas:

- A project update/summary
- The seven possible locations being considered for the new substation, each illustrated on a map alongside a summary of the geographical specifics of each location (See Volume 1 Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of

³ <https://www.enbw-bp.com/suppliers/>

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alternatives of the Environmental Statement, Document Reference F1.4 for more detail)

- An update on cable routing
- An explanation of how feedback is used to refine the project
- Details of public events and how to register for the consultation webinar
- Details of how to participate in consultation and provide feedback.

4.7.1.6 The consultation launched on 26 September 2022, using the following promotional channels:

- Ahead of the consultation launch, posters were sent to 35 businesses and community hubs in the consultation zone with a request to display in appropriate locations. (Appendix C.3.1)
- A promotional newsletter (Appendix C.3.2) was distributed to 3,626 addresses, these included residential and business addresses in postcode areas LL22, LL18, LL17 and LL16
- A media release (Appendix C.3.3) was distributed to media outlets (Appendix C.3.4) on 26 September 2022, announcing the launch of the consultation and explaining how to access consultation content and provide feedback. The media release was covered by Nation.Cymru on 27 September 2022 and by The Planner on 30 September 2022 as part of its Wales roundup, linking readers to the Nation.Cymru article. (Appendix C.3.5)
- An advertisement appeared in Daily Post (Appendix C.3.6) on 26 September 2022, detailing the launch of the consultation and encouraging people to take part
- An email (Appendix C.3.7) was distributed to MPs and MSs in the direct vicinity of the consultation zone on 23 September 2022 prior to the consultation launch. A second email was sent to MPs and MSs, local planning authorities, local elected leaders, community councils and interest groups such as associations, universities, government agencies and environmental groups (Appendix C.3.8) on the day of the consultation launch on 26 September 2022
- The email was also distributed to local seldom heard groups (Appendix C.3.9).

4.7.1.7 The consultation website was updated for consultation launch, and new content was added to the website. This included:

- Information about the Mona targeted substation consultation
- Information about the required substation infrastructure
- Interactive feedback map showing the seven possible locations for the substation
- Feedback form (Appendix C.3.10).

4.7.1.8 A total of 34 pieces of feedback were received:

- 2 printed feedback forms
- 17 emails
- 8 comments submitted online, using the interactive map function
- 7 online feedback forms.

4.7.2 Summary of responses

4.7.2.1 A summary of the responses received is given below:

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4.7.2.2 **Q1. On a scale of one to five, where five is most important and one is least important, how important do you believe each of the following factors should be in deciding on a preferred substation location?**

4.7.2.3 Where five was most important, many respondents noted all factors as being equally important. However, where a preference was noted, environmental impact was deemed to be the most important, along with proximity to homes and visual impact.

4.7.2.4 **Q2. Based on the information presented, which of the potential substation locations do you prefer?**

4.7.2.5 The most popular locations for the substation were sites 1 (accessed from a single lane road off of the B5381), 2 (southwest of Bodelwyddan National Grid Substation), 6 (south of Kinmel Park) and 7 (southwest of St Asaph), which each received the same level of support from the feedback received.

4.7.2.6 **Q3. On a scale of one to five where five is the most positive, how do you think Option 1 performs against our key criteria of:**

- **Environmental impact**
- **Proximity to homes**
- **Proximity to roads**
- **Visual impact**
- **Cultural heritage.**

4.7.2.7 Despite some positive comments noting option 1's substation location, including its proximity to homes, roads and environmental impact, it was rated poorly (scoring 1 or 2) on all criteria by the majority of residents. Option 1's impact on the environment, visual landscape, and cultural heritage are each highlighted as having a minimal positive impact. One respondent also noted that the site is lacking in Historic Environment Records (HER) with just a few isolated post medieval farmsteads scattered across the arable and pasture field landscape.

4.7.2.8 **Q4. On a scale of one to five, where five is the most positive, how do you think Option 2 performs against our key criteria of:**

- **Environmental impact**
- **Proximity to homes**
- **Proximity to roads**
- **Visual impact**
- **Cultural heritage.**

4.7.2.9 Overall, option 2 was one of the preferred locations for the substation location, receiving higher scores than the other options. One resident noted that, as this is the option located closest to the current substation, impacts to wildlife could be less significant than if any other location was selected. Furthermore, the feedback noted that the site's proximity to the St Asaph Business Park meant it could benefit from easy access from the B5381.

4.7.2.10 **Q5. On a scale of one to five where five is the most positive, how do you think Option 3 perform against our key criteria of:**

- **Environmental impact**
- **Proximity to homes**
- **Proximity to roads**
- **Visual impact**
- **Cultural heritage.**

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- 4.7.2.11 Option 3 received a varied response overall. Concerns were raised about the visual impact and the site being less contained than the alternatives and that it could therefore be more visible from the road. Respondents also noted the potential for environmental impact, including in relation to the nearby watercourse and wildlife. Others recognised that this option, similarly to option 2, has the benefits of proximity to the existing substation.
- 4.7.2.12 **Q6. On a scale of one to five, where five is the most positive, how do you think Option 4 performs against our key criteria of:**
- **Environmental impact**
 - **Proximity to homes**
 - **Proximity to roads**
 - **Visual impact**
 - **Cultural heritage.**
- 4.7.2.13 While there was some acknowledgement that Option 4 is in a relatively positive location, with a few respondents scoring 5 across all criteria, there were also concerns raised around the potential for both environmental and visual impacts at this location.
- 4.7.2.14 **Q7. On a scale of one to five, where five is the most positive, how do you think Option 5 performs against our key criteria of:**
- **Environmental impact**
 - **Proximity to homes**
 - **Proximity to roads**
 - **Visual impact**
 - **Cultural heritage.**
- 4.7.2.15 Option 5 received largely negative feedback from residents and stakeholders. Feedback noted that the site sits within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its proximity to heritage assets meant it was ultimately considered to be unviable by those who responded. The respondents noted that the area contains a significant number of indigenous trees, wildlife and countryside views that they believe should be conserved.
- 4.7.2.16 **Q8. On a scale of one to five, where five is the most positive, how do you think Option 6 performs against our key criteria of:**
- **Environmental impact**
 - **Proximity to homes**
 - **Proximity to roads**
 - **Visual impact**
 - **Cultural heritage.**
- 4.7.2.17 This site received largely unproblematic feedback from residents and stakeholders (mostly mid-range scoring), with some stating this to be their preferred location. However, local landowners and others have described this proposed site as being inappropriate, citing potential for visual impact from several directions and landscape impacts as their key concerns.
- 4.7.2.18 **Q9. On a scale of one to five, where five is the most positive, how do you think Option 7 performs against our key criteria of:**
- **Environmental impact**
 - **Proximity to homes**
 - **Proximity to roads**

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- **Visual impact**
- **Cultural heritage.**

- 4.7.2.19 Option 7 received largely positive feedback, with most respondents rating the site as 5 across all the selection criteria. Specific positive comments were submitted relating to the perceived ease of accessing the site and the perception of limited visual impact. Negative feedback relating to the site focused on the proximity of the site to homes and more general comments about the perceived ‘overdevelopment’ of the area.
- 4.7.2.20 **Q10. Is there anything else you would like us to consider when we’re choosing a preferred location or locations for our substation?**
- 4.7.2.21 This question received a limited amount of response. The majority of these responses focused on suggestions that the new substation should be located as far away as possible from homes and/or that it should be located on a brownfield site. Several comments referred to the former Pilkington Special Glass site as a potential location.
- 4.7.2.22 Further feedback received focused on whether low impact lighting could be used for the substation and whether lighting would be required at night.
- 4.7.2.23 Feedback to this question also raised the more general point that, ideally, the substation should be located as far away from St Asaph as possible, in order to minimize traffic impacts during construction. Feedback also noted the potential for cumulative negative impacts when considered alongside the existing substations in the area that service the Gwynt y Môr and Burbo Bank wind farms.
- 4.7.2.24 **Q11. What kind of mitigation would you suggest bp/EnBW considers to reduce the onshore impacts of the project at this stage? This can include landscaping, vegetation planting, appearance of substation buildings, wildlife and habitat conservation, access routes, and road improvements.**
- 4.7.2.25 Responses submitted suggested that the construction of any roads and buildings required for the delivery project should be minimised, as should any potential for disruption to traffic and the removal/disturbance of soil from the site.
- 4.7.2.26 Feedback also noted the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation. Specifically protecting the River Elwy, the potential for the planting of native vegetation such as Sessile oak and providing bird and bat boxes.
- 4.7.2.27 The project was also asked to confirm that it would consult the North Wales Wildlife Trust and Denbighshire County Council biodiversity department as the proposals progressed.
- 4.7.2.28 Finally, it was suggested that construction workers should stop vehicles during breaks, to reduce carbon emissions and that the substation should have low impact lighting, which would also be switched off at night.
- 4.7.2.29 **Q12. Local knowledge is very important when we develop our plans. Is there anything you would like to make us aware of in regards to site selection?**
- 4.7.2.30 This question was an opportunity for respondents to reinforce key points in relation to the seven sites being proposed.
- 4.7.2.31 Feedback suggested that options 2 and 7 were considered to be the least problematic sites, with limited visual and environmental impact. However, the Applicant noted concerns raised in respect of option 7 that traffic congestion could be caused as a result of the proximity to housing and to the businesses operating on the St Asaph Business Park.

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- 4.7.2.32 The feedback suggested that option 5 would be the least preferred option, due to it being situated within an AONB and near to the River Elwy. It was felt this proximity would increase the risk of negative impacts to multiple indigenous trees, wildlife and farms. The proximity to listed buildings (Plas Newydd, Grade II listed) was also noted.
- 4.7.2.33 **Q13. Construction will mean that there may be more traffic on the road network. Do you have any comments or concerns on any particular sections of the road network or road junctions that you think we should be aware of?**
- 4.7.2.34 The feedback that was submitted focused on the routes to and from the B5381 from the seven proposed sites. Respondents considered them to be narrow, largely single track roads with few passing places. It was noted that these roads may not be unsuitable for use by larger vehicles and any resulting congestion could cause delays to other road users.
- 4.7.2.35 In general, it was considered that options 2 and 7 benefited from the best levels of accessibility due to their comparative proximity to the B5381.
- 4.7.2.36 **Q14. Please provide any other views or comments on the overall approach that has been taken to developing our proposals, including feedback on how we are carrying out this consultation.**
- 4.7.2.37 The feedback received in response to this question covered a wide range of areas.
- 4.7.2.38 Feedback noted that the proposed cable corridor options (which were also shown as part of the consultation materials published in support of the substation consultation) appeared to run through the Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site, which is allocated in the Denbighshire Local Development Plan.
- 4.7.2.39 Several responses also asked whether Mona project infrastructure could be shared with, the infrastructure being proposed for the Awel y Môr offshore wind project.
- 4.7.2.40 Responses from Isle of Man residents asked whether the Isle of Man would benefit from the renewable energy being generated by the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
- 4.7.2.41 Requests were also made that future consultation events should be held in Cefn Meiriadog or St Asaph, as well as Bodelwyddan.
- 4.7.2.42 Finally, feedback asked that the project increase the quantity and quality of its landowner engagement communications.

4.7.3 Applicant's response to feedback

- 4.7.3.1 The Applicant had regard to all feedback received, specifically:
- The Applicant acknowledged the comments and feedback received and noted that, as its plans develop in more detail, the Applicant would be conducting a range of assessments to fully understand the impacts the project may have on the environment, ecology and local residents
 - The Applicant had regard to the feedback relating to the former Pilkington Special Glass site at St Asaph. The project team considered a range of potential locations for the onshore substation, which included the former Pilkington Special Glass site at St Asaph. However, due to a number of constraints – such as existing planning consent in place for the site for an alternative development, the limited available space and challenges in relation to cable routing – this site was not taken forward as a viable option to the shortlist. See Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of

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alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) for more information

- The Applicant noted the concerns regarding proximity to homes and the potential for impact to local wildlife and noted that these factors would be taken into consideration when preparing materials for the statutory phase of consultation
- Based on the public feedback provided, and the Applicant's own technical assessments on ecology, environment and traffic, the project chose not to move substation location option 1 forward to further consultation
- The Applicant noted the largely positive feedback on substation location 2, especially in relation to its proximity to the existing National Grid Bodelwyddan substation. Based on these scorings and the Applicant's own detailed assessments the project chose to move option 2 forward for further consultation
- The Applicant noted the mixed feedback on option 3, especially concerns relating to the potential for negative visual impacts. Taking this feedback into consideration, alongside ongoing site surveys and detailed assessments, the Applicant chose not to take this option forward to the next phase of consultation
- The Applicant noted the concerns raised in relation to location 4, especially in respect of the potential for visual impact, given the site is 70m above sea level. Taking this into consideration, alongside its own detailed assessments, the Applicant decided not to take this option further to the next phase of consultation.
- The Applicant noted the environmental concerns raised in relation to option 5, given the site is within an AONB. Taking this into consideration, alongside its own assessments and following engagement with expert bodies such as Cadw, the Applicant decided not to take this option forward to the next phase of consultation
- The Applicant noted the mixed feedback in relation to potential substation location option 6, including the concerns raised in relation to visual impact. It also noted that the area is considered to be rich agricultural land. Taking this into consideration, alongside its own detailed assessments, the Applicant decided not to take this option further to the next phase of consultation
- The Applicant noted the largely positive feedback on this substation location, especially in relation to its access and potential for limited visual impact. Based on these scorings and its own detailed assessments, the Applicant chose to move option 7 forward for further consultation. It noted the concerns raised in relation to the proximity of homes and made a commitment to ensure this would be addressed appropriately as part of future consultations.

4.8 Landowner engagement

4.8.1.1 The Applicant appointed Dalcour Maclaren to act as its Land Agent and to undertake land referencing, manage communications with identified landowners and arrange access as required.

4.8.1.2 To identify relevant land interests, the Applicant commissioned a search through the use of His Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR) within the Scoping Boundary. This method was used to identify all registered titles and to obtain the official documents. From this search, all registered freeholders and leaseholders (hereafter referred to as Landowners), within the Scoping Boundary were issued a Landowner Questionnaire (LOQ) to introduce the project and for them to confirm, deny or amend their interest. The Landowners were also invited to provide further information related to any other

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interests in the land the Applicant should be aware of. LOQs were issued in March 2022 and were followed up with reminder letters, phone calls, emails or the offer of a site visit where no response was received. (Appendix C.4.1 lists the template LOQs and reminder letters).

4.8.1.3 Dalcour Maclaren also erected location specific site notices regarding the proposed project to identify those with an interest in land which was unregistered at HMLR (Appendix C.4.2) and in total there were 133 site notices which were checked weekly for a period of six weeks. Unregistered Landowners were identified where possible by utilising public sources of information. Site visits and discussions with neighbours were also undertaken to assist with identifying those with an interest in land.

4.8.1.4 In addition to the issuing of LOQs to identify Landowners, non-intrusive survey access licences were issued to enable the project to undertake relevant ecological, engineering, topographical and geophysical surveys. This process began in March 2022 with further licences issued when new interests were found. Access for non-intrusive surveys was agreed either via a voluntary licence agreement or informal agreement with affected parties. A total of 190 non-intrusive licence agreements were entered into across the project scoping area. Where voluntary access was unsuccessful, Section 172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 was used to obtain access.

4.8.1.5 During the months of August 2022 and September 2022, meetings were held with 71 landowners who were identified as having an interest in land within the indicative onshore cable corridors for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. During these meetings, information was gathered to better understand the land, the use, occupation and future development plans and features. The details were collected and recorded in meeting minutes.

4.9 Ongoing engagement

4.9.1.1 The Applicant has continued to keep local stakeholders, technical stakeholders, regulators, PWILs and the community informed of key milestones and important decisions regarding any refinements. Please see section 6 for further information.

5 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

5.1 The Statement of Community Consultation and consultation under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (19 April to 04 June 2023)

5.1.1 Introduction

5.1.1.1 As required by section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), the Applicant conducted statutory consultation to engage section 47 consultees early in the development of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared outlining the Applicant's approach to consultation (Appendix D.1).

5.1.2 Legislative context

5.1.2.1 Section 47 of the 2008 Act places a duty on the Applicant to consult the local community in the following manner:

'(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.

(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.

(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.

(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the application for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).

(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).

(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the application must –

(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land.

(a) Publish in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and

(b) Publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.

(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.'

5.1.2.2 For the purposes of Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act, the statement setting how the Applicant *'proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land'* is known as the SoCC. In respect of subsection (2), a draft SoCC must be provided to the local authority, providing information which allows the authority to make an informed response to the draft SoCC consultation. Section 47(5) of the 2008 Act requires applicants to have regard to any response that is received within the 28-day period.

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- 5.1.2.3 In developing the SoCC, regard must be had to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations 2017) and relevant guidance about pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
- 5.1.2.4 The former Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)); Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) (DCLG Guidance), Paragraph 57 gives further guidance on the SoCC including that the document should be made available online, and at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should also be placed at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as may be appropriate.
- 5.1.2.5 Information about the consultations conducted, as required by section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, on the draft SoCC with local authorities ahead of its publication – including how feedback was considered - can be found in section 5.1.3 and Table 5.1 and Table 5.2.
- 5.1.2.6 Details of how the Applicant complied with the legislative requirements and guidance regarding the SoCC are set out in the overarching Consultation Compliance Checklist (Appendix B.1). Details of how the Applicant complied with commitments within the SoCC are set out in Table 5.11.

5.1.3 Preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation

- 5.1.3.1 As set out in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen (February 2021, version 3), the Consultation Report should provide evidence of how applicants have complied with the SoCC preparation process. The note also advises that evidence should be submitted which shows which local authorities were consulted about the content of the draft SoCC, what comments were received from local authorities, confirmation that they were given 28 days' notice to provide comments, and a description of how applicants have had regard to comments received.
- 5.1.3.2 Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act states that, before preparing a SoCC, applicants must consult with each local authority that is within section 43(1) on what is to be in the statement.
- 5.1.3.3 The draft SoCC (Appendix D.2.1) was the subject of two formal consultations with local authorities. The first of these consultations was undertaken from 07 October to 04 November 2022.
- 5.1.3.4 Based on the onshore aspects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, the Applicant identified two host local authorities which it had a duty to consult on the draft SoCC:
- Conwy County Borough Council (Host)
 - Denbighshire County Council (Host).
- 5.1.3.5 Although not a statutory requirement, the SoCC consultation was extended to the other local authorities in North Wales:
- Flintshire County Council
 - Cyngor Gwynedd (Gwynedd Council)
 - Powys County Council
 - Wrexham County Borough Council

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- Isle of Anglesey County Council.
- 5.1.3.6 The Applicant also consulted other relevant bodies, particularly those with an interest in the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) of the Mona Offshore Wind Project:
- Isle of Man Government (IoM)
 - Isle of Anglesey County Council
 - Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
 - Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
 - Eryri National Park Authority
 - Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
 - Welsh Government Flood and Coastal Risk Management Branch (via Environment Agency)
 - Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries
 - Welsh Government Marine Enforcement Officers
 - Welsh Government Transport Policy, Planning and Partnerships
 - Marine Energy Policy and Transmission
 - The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
 - Trinity House Lighthouse Services (THLS)
 - Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).
- 5.1.3.7 The second of these consultations on the draft SoCC was undertaken from 09 March to 06 April 2023. Due to changes in the programme in spring 2023, the start and end dates for the statutory consultation needed to be amended and minor changes were made to the draft SoCC to reflect this.
- 5.1.3.8 The Applicant therefore consulted the same list of bodies and organisations that were contacted as part of the first consultation and notified those bodies and organisations that a second consultation was taking place on the revised draft of the SoCC (Appendix D.2.2), for a further 28 days. Once again, all these bodies and organisations were contacted via email.
- 5.1.3.9 In line with section 47(5) the Applicant gave regard to the responses received from the local authorities during both consultations in the finalisation of the SoCC. Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 below sets out the responses and regard received.

Table 5.1: Responses to first consultation on draft SoCC.

Consultee	Summary of feedback received	Action taken
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	We don't usually have involvement in Statements of Community Consultation as it is separate to the advice and guidance we provide under the EIA process	No action required
Environment Agency for England	On checking the attached document I found no addresses that relate to our regions.	No action required
Gwynedd Council	Please could you add our communications team (cyfathrebu@gwynedd.llyw.cymru) to your mailing list so they may share relevant information with elected members.	All Gwynedd ward councillors were included as consultees under section 47 and therefore received all communications directly from the Applicant
NRW	No comment to make on the document. Add The Chamber of Shipping, NERL safeguarding, National, Federation of Fishermens (NFFO), Welsh	Included as consultees under section 47 and section 42 (NERL/NATS)

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Consultee	Summary of feedback received	Action taken
	Fisherman Association and the North - Western Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	The Isle of Man is not included as public event, pop up event or consultation materials deposit location	Consultation events were subsequently held in both Ramsey and Douglas. Henry Bloom Library in Douglas and Ramsey Town Library were both used as consultation materials deposit locations
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	There are other local authorities who may also be impacted – Onchan, Santon, Garff, Castletown and Malew	Not consulted individually but areas included as part of IoM-wide consultation under section 47
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	There are a number of other Government departments that should be included in the stakeholder list – the Department of Infrastructure, Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture	The Department of Infrastructure was consulted.
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	Also include Manx Utilities, Manx National Heritage	Manx Utilities were consulted and feedback to the consultation was received from Manx National Heritage via the Isle of Man Government response
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	Seeking assurances the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and Mezeron are included within the consultation	Both were consulted under section 47
Denbighshire County Council, Planning Officer	Only having Bodelwyddan Village Hall is not appropriate. The most likely impact of the preferred cable routes and substation are to the rural communities around St Asaph business park.	Consultation events held at St Asaph Parish Church and Neuadd Owen Village Hall, in addition to the proposed event in the draft SoCC at Bodelwyddan Village Hall.
Denbighshire County Council, Planning Officer	Pop up events: Rhyl Tourist Information Centre – the people located in Rhyl are unlikely to be the residents most affected by this project and a location around St Asaph/Trefnant is preferable.	Rhyl Tourist Information Centre retained due to potential for potential visual impact on coastal area.
Denbighshire County Council, Planning Officer	Publicly accessible venues where printed copies of the SoCC and consultation materials can be viewed: Denbighshire County Council, Russell House is not open to the public. Documents cannot be made available at this location. St Asaph library is appropriate. I am liaising with the local councillors and will advise you of their preferred locations. There is the possibility of several other libraries (Rhuddlan or Rhyl) or leisure centres (St Asaph).	Libraries were used as publicly accessible deposit locations for consultation materials – including the use of Rhyl Library and Museum and Library.
Denbighshire County Council, Planning Officer	In terms of engagement with elected representatives and local communities you should be aware that the preferred substation locations are within Denbighshire County Council's Trefnant ward and St Asaph West. The town and community councils that should be contacted are: Bodelwyddan, Cefn Meiriadog, St Asaph, Trefnant.	While the Applicant was already aware of these geographical factors in relation to local council wards, it was helpful for this to be confirmed by the local authority as part of the SoCC consultation process. The project also confirmed a standing offer of meeting any elected

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Consultee	Summary of feedback received	Action taken
		representative who wish to discuss the proposals.
Denbighshire County Council Corporate Director: Environment and Economy	You propose to use Russell House as a consultation venue in Rhyl, but I'd probably suggest something in the town centre instead, such as the library	A pop up event was held at Rhyl Tourist Information Centre and the Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre was used as a material deposit location

Table 5.2: Responses to second consultation on draft SoCC.

Consultee	Summary of feedback received	Action taken
Denbighshire County Council	Nothing further to add. Note date changes for proposed consultation	No action required
Denbighshire County Council – Community Development Team Leader	Would you like to meet to discuss how we can support with the community engagement for this consultation? We can advise on locations for consultation activity and arrange to help disseminate messages through our networks and social media platforms etc.	Individual consultee was invited to, and subsequently attended, Socio-economics Consultation Workshop held in January 2023. Individual was also included as section 42 consultee and therefore received all consultation-related communications
Isle of Anglesey County Council	No comments	No action required
Head of Regulation and Economic Development – Isle of Anglesey Council	The Isle of Anglesey County Council is concerned that the Statement does not in its current form identify all those communities and stakeholders that have the potential to be impacted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project and therefore does not identify how consultation will take place with these certain communities and stakeholders. This is in particular with regards to the potential impact of the location and array of the proposed offshore array and associated infrastructure. For example, the map included on page 14 of the consultation document identifies the publicity mailing zone which in the Councils view only includes those communities and stakeholders impacted by the onshore cable route and proposed substation site.	An additional map was created and added to page 14 of the SoCC, explaining that the Applicant was aware there would be interest in the Mona Offshore Wind Project beyond the primary zone (see Figure 5.3 at section 5.1.5) and confirmed the consultation would be promoted beyond that zone using advertising in local media and issuing media releases. The Applicant also confirmed it would continue to engage community councils and local authorities beyond the primary zone.
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	The following authorities all have coastline on the eastern and south of the Island – Onchan, Santon, Garff, Castletown and Malew and there may be others who will have an interest due the topography of the Island.	Not consulted individually but areas included as part of IoM-wide consultation under section 47.
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	Request that both Ørsted (offshore wind) and Crogga (hydrocarbon extraction) are engaged.	Both bodies were included within the statutory consultation under section 47
Department of Infrastructure IoM/Territorial Seas Committee	Add Ørsted (offshore wind) and Crogga (hydrocarbon extraction) to the maps contained within the SoCC, so that those wishing to engage can understand other projects within the vicinity.	Maps were included in the Other Sea Users chapter of the PEIR (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023)

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5.1.4 Publication of Statement of Community Consultation

5.1.4.1 As required by section 47(6) of the 2008 Act, the SoCC was made available for inspection by the public.

5.1.4.2 Printed copies of the SoCC were available to view from 19 April to 04 June 2023 in the following locations:

- Amlwch Library, Lôn Parys, Amlwch, Anglesey LL68 9EA
- Bangor Public Library, Gwynedd Road, Bangor LL57 1DT
- Henry Bloom Noble Library, Douglas Borough Council, Douglas, IoM IM1 2AY
- Llandudno Library, Mostyn Street, Llandudno LL30 2RP
- Ramsey Library, Parliament Square, Ramsey, IoM IM8 1RT
- Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre Church Street, Rhyl, LL18 3AA

5.1.4.3 Newspaper notices (statutory section 47 notices) were published stating where and when the SoCC could be inspected. These appeared in Welsh and English in the Daily Post on 19 April 2023 and Golwg (a Welsh language publication) on 20 April 2023, and in English only in the Isle of Man Courier on 21 April 2023. Copies of these notices as they appeared in print are available in Appendix D.3.

5.1.4.4 A note was included within the deposit material boxes inviting staff/members of the public to contact the consultation hotline or email address if they required further information about the consultation or wanted to request additional copies of materials. All materials were also available for viewing and download from the Applicant's consultation website.⁴

5.1.5 Defining the consultation zone

5.1.5.1 During non-statutory consultation, the Applicant consulted within a first consultation zone which was identified largely by reference to the search area for onshore infrastructure, but which was also defined by giving consideration to the potential visual impacts of the turbines themselves. This covered 27,897 residential and business addresses as shown in Figure 5.1.

⁴ www.morganandmona.com/en/consultationhub/

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Figure 5.1: First consultation zone – used for non-statutory consultation.

5.1.5.2 A second, targeted consultation was also held at the non-statutory phase to seek feedback on a list of seven possible substation locations. The following revised consultation zone – which included 3,626 residential and business addresses - was used for a newsletter mailing. It was created by reviewing the areas most likely to be impacted by the proposals being consulted on, with consideration being given to impacts relating to the seven possible substation locations, as shown in Figure 5.2.

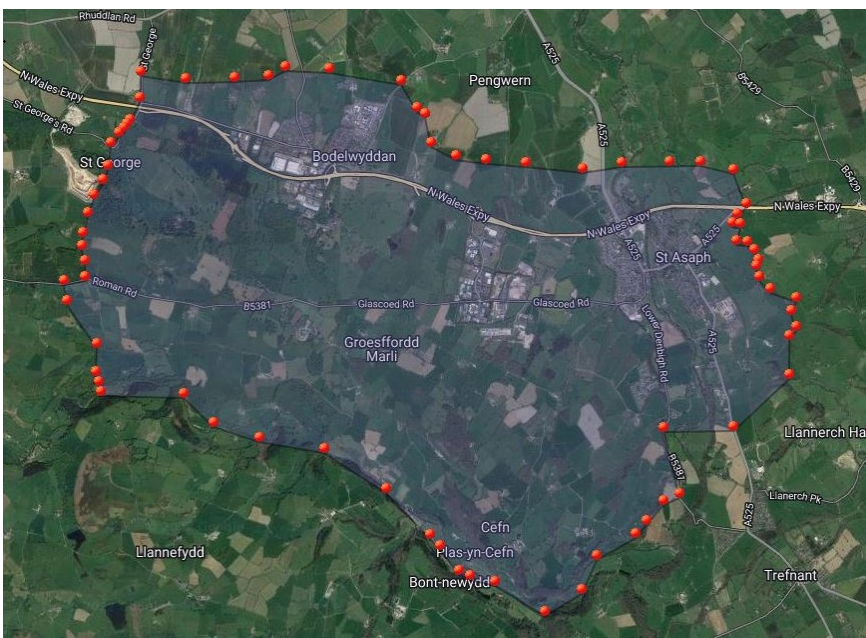


Figure 5.2: Second consultation zone – used for targeted sub-station consultation.

5.1.5.3 For the statutory consultation, a third consultation zone – known as the primary zone - was created to reflect the area that would most likely be impacted directly by the onshore elements of the project, again this was based on the search area boundaries that were included in the PEIR (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023). This area extended

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from Llanddulas in the west to the eastern edge of Rhyl in the east, and Trefnant in the south, as shown in Figure 5.3. The total number of addresses within this zone is 30,810. This includes both homes and businesses.

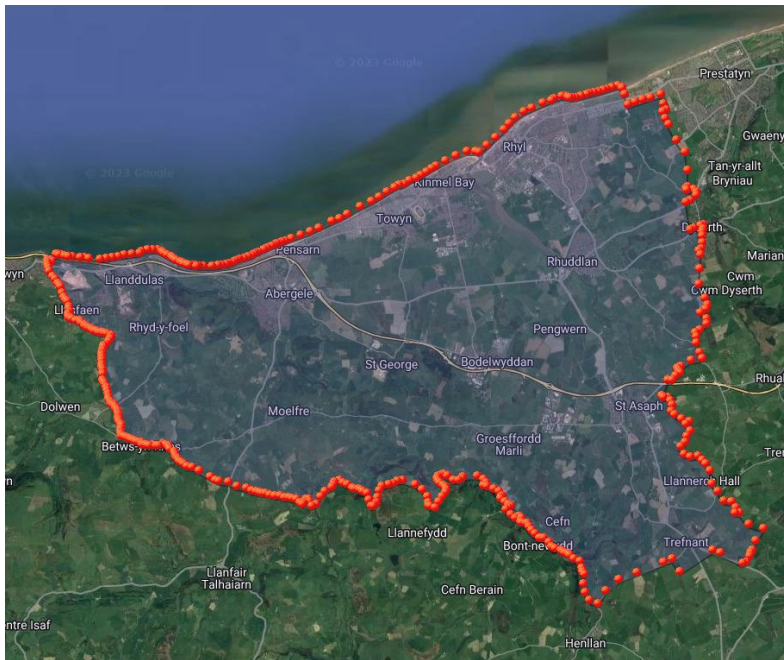


Figure 5.3: Primary consultation zone - used for statutory consultation.

5.1.5.4 The above primary consultation zone is as defined at section 5.5 of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

5.1.6 Identification of section 47 consultees

5.1.6.1 The section 47 consultee list was produced by the Applicant through identifying interested individuals, organisations and community groups that were active in – or represented communities or groups within - the areas likely to be impacted by the project. It considered both community-based groups and political representatives/bodies. It also identified organisations likely to have a professional interest in the project but had not specified as section 42 consultees.

5.1.6.2 The Applicant contacted this list of section 47 consultees to make them aware of the consultation and encourage them to provide feedback (see Appendix D.4). These consultees are listed at Appendix 2 of the SoCC and all were consulted.

5.1.6.3 In addition to those identified at Appendix 2, the Applicant identified a further 638 section 47 stakeholders and community groups, which were also consulted. These stakeholders were identified following the publication of the SoCC and added as additional section 47 consultees to ensure an even more widespread and comprehensive group of section 47 consultees were given the opportunity to consider the proposals and provide their feedback. These stakeholders and community groups - representing other relevant and interested bodies - were identified as section 47 consultees as they did not fall into the section 42, section 43 or section 44 categories.

5.1.6.4 The database was therefore compiled by the Applicant based on the groups and individuals already being engaged through other workstreams as well as groups and

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individuals who had not yet engaged with the project – but it was considered should be encouraged to do so. It was also compiled through a consideration of the stakeholders/community groups operating in the vicinity of land covered by the project.

5.1.6.5 Consultees within the section 47 database were sent the same range of communications as the groups and individuals being consulted under section 42, with the exception of the ‘last chance’ communication sent on 02 June 2023. Please see the section 5.1.19 for more details.

5.1.7 Statutory consultation 19 April to 04 June 2023

5.1.7.1 The purpose of statutory consultation was to allow those within the local community who may be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project – or who may have an interest - to consider the proposal and give feedback, as well as to gather information about the local community to help refine the proposals.

5.1.7.2 The statutory section 47 consultation coincided with the section 42 consultation, commencing on 19 April 2023 and ending on 04 June 2023.

5.1.7.3 Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act states that applicants must carry out consultation on their proposals in accordance with the SoCC.

5.1.7.4 The SoCC stated that, throughout the statutory consultation, the Applicant was seeking feedback on its proposals, including on:

- The location and array for the offshore wind turbines and associated infrastructure
- The project’s proposed onshore cable route
- The proposed onshore substation site
- How construction impacts could be minimised
- All aspects covered in the PEIR.

5.1.7.5 The following sections set out how the section 47 consultation was carried out, in terms of the information that was sent to consultees, the mechanisms employed for making communities aware of the consultation and the virtual and in-person consultation events that were held.

5.1.8 Materials published to aid engagement with statutory consultation

5.1.8.1 The Applicant consulted using a variety of methods to help explain the proposals and encourage people to provide their comments. Community focused materials included:

- A consultation postcard (see section 5.1.13)
- A consultation website (see section 5.1.11)
- A consultation brochure (see section 5.1.14)
- A feedback form (see section 5.1.21)
- A non-technical summary of the PEIR (PEIR NTS) (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023).

5.1.8.2 All documents were created to help people understand the proposed development and provide their comments to the consultation. The Applicant aimed to make these documents and resources easy to understand and navigate and, where appropriate, the resources made strong use of images and graphics. The consultation postcard, brochure, feedback forms and website were available in Welsh as well as English, to encourage consultees to engage in the consultation using the language of their choice.

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5.1.8.3 A range of technical documents were also published on the website and made available at consultation exhibitions as part of the consultation, including:

- The PEIR, its non-technical summary and annexes
- Works plans
- Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)
- Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report Matrices and Integrity Matrices
- Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP).

5.1.9 Deposit locations

5.1.9.1 The Applicant organised deposits of consultation materials, including the brochure, SoCC, PEIR NTS and feedback forms in hard copy at locations listed in Table 5.3 below, which were available for the duration of the consultation. The hard copy materials were available in both Welsh and English. These locations were chosen by mapping an even spread across the consultation zone and then narrowing down those with the highest footfall. These venues were invited to contact the Applicant if they required any additional materials to be sent to them.

Table 5.3: Deposit Locations.

Location	Opening times
Amlwch Library, Parys Road, Amlwch, Anglesey LL68 9EA	Tues: 9.30-12.30pm and 2-5pm Weds, Fri, Sat: 9.30-12.30pm Thurs: 2-7pm
Bangor Public Library, Gwynedd Road, Bangor LL57 1DT	Mon-Tues: 9:30-6:30pm Weds-Fri: 9:30-5pm Sat: 9:30-1pm
Henry Bloom Noble Library, 8 Duke Street, Douglas, IoM IM1 2AY	Mon-Weds and Fri: 8.30-5pm Thurs: 10-7pm Sat: 9-4pm
Llandudno Library, Mostyn Street, Llandudno LL30 2RP	Mon-Weds and Fri: 9-5:30pm Thurs: 10-7pm Sat: 9:30-3pm
Ramsey Town Library, Parliament Square, Ramsey, IoM, IM8 1RT	Mon-Thurs and Sat: 9-4:30pm Fri: 9-4pm
Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre Church Street, Rhyl, LL18 3AA	Mon: 9:30-6pm Tues-Fri: 9:30-5pm Sat: 9:30-12.30pm

5.1.10 Advertising the statutory consultation

5.1.10.1 In accordance with section 47 and section 48 of the 2008 Act, a series of formal notices (the statutory notices) were placed in local, national and sector-specific media. The titles used and publication dates are set out in Table 5.4.

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Table 5.4: Statutory Notice publications.

Title		Publication date(s)	Reference
Section 47			
	Isle of Man Courier	21 April 2023	Appendix D.3
	Golwg	20 April 2023	
	The Daily Post	19 April 2023	
Section 48			
	Lloyds List	12 April 2023	Appendix D.22.2
	The London Gazette	12 April 2023	
	Isle of Man Courier	14 April 2023	
	Golwg	13 April 2023	
	Golwg	20 April 2023	
	The Guardian	12 April 2023	
	The Daily Post	12 April 2023	
	The Daily Post	19 April 2023	

5.1.10.2 A variety of different communications channels and tactics were used in order to promote the consultation and encourage the submission of feedback, a summary is within Table 5.5 below, with full details are within the sections which follow.

Table 5.5: Summary of promotion methods.

Method	Detail	Reference
Consultation website	A dedicated Mona consultation website, which was also available to access through the Morgan and Mona website on bp's corporate site ⁵ .	See section 5.1.11 and Appendix D.6
Local authority briefing	A specific briefing for local authorities was held via Teams on 09 May 2023.	See section 5.1.12 and Appendix D.7
Consultation postcard	Mona sent a postcard to 30,810 residential and business addresses in the primary zone.	See section 5.1.13 and Appendix D.8
Consultation brochure	A brochure was created that provided a summary of the latest proposals and details of the consultation. It was held at deposit locations, distributed at consultation events and available for download via the consultation website	See section 5.1.14 and Appendix D.9
Posters	Posters were produced promoting participation in the consultation and copies were supplied to all deposit locations listed in the SoCC and found in local locations listed below.	See section 5.1.15 and Appendix D.10

⁵ <https://www.enbw-bp.com/morgan-and-mona>

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Method	Detail	Reference
Press releases	News releases were issued to local media during the consultation.	See section 5.1.10 and Appendix D.5
Newspaper Advertising	The project ran two rounds of advertising in local media – one at project launch and one two weeks before the close of consultation, encouraging people to take part.	See section 5.1.16 and Appendices D.11.1, D.11.2 and D.11.3
Online Advertising	Google Ads and Spotify were used to publicise widely. A series of banner advertisements also appeared at www.walesonline.co.uk .	See section 5.1.17 and Appendix D.12
Social Media	The Mona project consultation was promoted on bp UK social media channels (X: @bp_UK and Facebook: bp)	See section 5.1.18
Direct Email communication	Emails from the project were sent directly to identified consultees.	See section 5.1.19 and Appendices D.13.1 – D.13.4
Section 48 notices	Placed in a series of location along the route of the proposed cable corridor	See section 5.5.3 and Appendix D.22.1

5.1.11 Consultation website

- 5.1.11.1 A dedicated, bilingual, Mona Offshore Wind Project website was created and went live in 2021. This website is accessible free of charge. This was updated for the non-statutory consultation and again for the targeted substation locations consultation. It was then updated again for the statutory consultation and remains an online repository where people can continue to access all the Applicant's consultation materials and project updates. This dedicated consultation website was also accessible via bp and EnBW's corporate offshore wind website.
- 5.1.11.2 During the consultation period, there were 2,564 individual users who visited the dedicated Mona consultation website. The most visited page was the Home Page and the Consultation Hub was the second most visited page.
- 5.1.11.3 All consultation materials were available to view and download and respond to throughout the consultation (including the PEIR, the SoCC and the online feedback form). The website made clear to users how to take part in the consultation and the deadline for feedback. An interactive online map enabled consultees to place pins at specific geographic locations and attach their comments to that pin/location. They were also able to attach documents – such as images – to their pin and comment.
- 5.1.11.4 Outside of statutory consultation periods, the website remained live and people were still able to make contact and view all documents associated with the project.
- 5.1.11.5 Screen grabs of the website can be seen in Appendix D.6.

5.1.12 Local Authority briefing

- 5.1.12.1 A specific briefing for local authorities was held via Teams on 09 May 2023. Invitations were issued to the following local authorities:
- Conwy County Borough Council
 - Denbighshire County Council
 - Flintshire County Council

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- Cyngor Gwynedd (Gwynedd Council)
- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Douglas Borough Council
- Eryri National Park Authority.

5.1.12.2 Representatives from Cyngor Gwynedd (Gwynedd Council) and Conwy County Borough Council attended. A presentation (available at Appendix D.7) was delivered by five members of the Applicant team who, between them were able to provide detail on the onshore, offshore and stakeholder engagement elements of the proposals being consulted on.

5.1.13 Consultation postcard

5.1.13.1 All residential and businesses within the primary zone (as defined at section 5.1.5 of this Consultation Report and in section 5.5 of the Statement of Community Consultation) were sent an A5 postcard by mail. This totalled 30,810 addresses – with both residential and commercial addresses included. It was issued on 19 April 2023 (the start of the consultation period) and included the following information:

- Details of the project being consulted on
- A map displaying the offshore array area for Mona Offshore Wind Project, its offshore cable corridor, landfall point and onshore cable corridor
- A request for recipients to provide feedback to the consultation
- The dates of the consultation
- The locations of the planned public consultation events
- Contact details for (website, telephone, email, freepost address) so that people could find out more information, provide feedback and/or ask questions.

5.1.13.2 The postcards were produced bilingually, in both Welsh and English. See Appendix D.8.

5.1.13.3 In addition, the postcard also included details of the three other consultations that would be taking place simultaneously on separate but inter-related projects. These details were provided so that recipients could consider their views in relation to these other projects – in addition to the Mona Offshore Wind Project – and provide feedback in respect of those other consultations if they wished to do so. The other consultations highlighted by the A5 postcard were:

- Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets (statutory consultation)
- Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets (statutory consultation)
- Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (non-statutory consultation).

5.1.14 Consultation brochure

5.1.14.1 A brochure was created that provided a summary of the latest proposals and details of the consultation. It also highlighted how people could take part in the consultation and what the deadline for submitting feedback was. The brochure was available at consultation events, deposit locations and online on the consultation website, where it could be viewed and downloaded. It was also available in hard copy upon request from the project team. The brochure was produced bilingually in both Welsh and English. See Appendix D.9.

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5.1.15 Posters

5.1.15.1 The Applicant sent posters for display to locations across North Wales. A poster was also created and sent to venues on the Isle of Man (Appendix D.10).

5.1.15.2 The locations were chosen by mapping a range of local locations where high footfall was likely, using desktop research, as well as including the lists of project reference and event locations. The posters were mailed to 18 locations across North Wales and four locations on the Isle of Man, with covering letters, asking the recipients to display in a convenient location. The posters were also included in the packs for the deposit locations (four in Wales and two in the Isle of Man). The total number of locations where posters were sent is therefore 28. These are listed below:

- Abergele Town Hall
- Amlwch Library
- Bangor Public Library
- Bodelwyddan Village Hall
- Co-op Food – Amlwch
- Co-op Food – Bodelwyddan
- Co-op Food – Ramsey
- Co-op Food – St Asaph
- Douglas Borough Council Town Hall
- Douglas IoM Ferry Terminal
- Henry Bloom Noble Library – Douglas
- Llanddulas Post Office
- Llanddulas Village Hall
- Llanddulas Youth and Community Centre
- Llandudno Library
- Llandudno Town Hall
- M&S Simply Food – Bangor
- Neuadd Owen Village Hall
- Ramsey Town Hall and Library
- Rhyl Harbour
- Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre
- Rhyl Post Office
- Rhyl Tourist Information Centre
- St Asaph Library
- St Asaph Parish Church
- Tesco Superstore – Abergele
- Tesco Superstore – Douglas
- Trefnant Post Office and Village Shop

5.1.15.3 The posters were issued in time to appear on 16 April 2023 for the duration of the consultation period, until 04 June 2023, and appeared bilingually in Welsh and English in Wales, and in English only for the Isle of Man.

5.1.16 Newspaper advertising

5.1.16.1 In addition to the publication of the statutory section 47 and section 48 notices, the Applicant published a combination of print and digital advertising to promote the consultation. A summary of newspaper advertising is set out in Table 5.6.

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Table 5.6: Summary of newspaper advertising.

Title	Publication date(s)	Reference
Golwg	20 April and 11 May 2023	Appendix D.11.1
Isle of Man Courier	21 April and 12 May 2023	Appendix D.11.2
The Daily Post	19 April and 17 May 2023	Appendix D.11.3

5.1.16.2 These publications were chosen as they provided good geographical coverage of the consultation area. In Golwg the advertisement appeared in Welsh only. In The Daily Post, the advertisement appeared bilingually in Welsh and English. In the Isle of Man Courier, it appeared in English only.

5.1.16.3 The print advertisement appeared twice, once at the start of the consultation in the week commencing 17 April 2023 and another two weeks before the close of consultation, in May 2023. The first of these adverts advertised the launch of consultation, while the second notified of the consultation closing soon, encouraging people to take part.

5.1.16.4 The digital adverts on the newspaper sites appeared continuously from consultation launch on 19 April 2023 to consultation close on 04 June 2023. However, halfway through the consultation period, the messaging of these digital ads changed from a 'consultation open' message to a 'consultation closing soon' message.

5.1.17 Online advertising

5.1.17.1 A Google Ads campaign was used to publicise the Mona Offshore Wind Project's statutory consultation throughout the entirety of the consultation period. This medium was chosen in acknowledgement of people's tendency to use Google to search for information.

5.1.17.2 The Applicant geotargeted the advertisements to specific locations close to the export cables', proposed landfall, the projects onshore substation area of search close to National Grid's Bodelwyddan substation and the exhibition venues being used for the statutory consultation's events.

5.1.17.3 The Google advertisement also targeted specific search terms, therefore capturing people in close proximity to the project area who searching for terms relevant to the project. These terms included:

- Mona Offshore Wind Farm
- Mona Wind Farm
- Wind Farms North Wales
- North Wales Offshore Wind Farm
- Morgan and Mona Offshore Wind.

5.1.17.4 Advertisements, including Google advertisements, were co-placed with Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets. This decision was taken because Mona Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm are two very similar projects in similar areas and, had the two projects not combined their advertising efforts, they would have been advertising at the same time via the same channels. This could have caused confusion and, possibly, consultation fatigue. For the Isle of Man, a digital advert was designed which alternated between four images on a rotational basis, one of which featured the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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- 5.1.17.5 The Google advertisement was visible throughout the entirety of the consultation period. To increase the effectiveness of the advertisement, the project used two versions: one for consultation launch and one to inform people that consultation would soon be closing (both available at Appendix D.12). The advertising artwork was changed from the first artwork to the second on 17 May 2023, three weeks before the close of statutory consultation. In total, this advertising campaign generated 1,836 impressions and 98 clicks through to a generic landing page, morecambeandmorgan.com, which included links to all projects mentioned on the digital adverts. From this landing page, consultees could navigate to the project they were interested in, namely the Mona Offshore Wind Project website or Morecambe Offshore Windfarm website.
- 5.1.17.6 The Mona Offshore Wind Project conducted a joint advertising campaign on Spotify with Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets, as summarised in Table 5.7. This advertising campaign was targeted at the areas in which in-person exhibition events were being held and was designed to:
- Increase awareness of consultation as much as possible, and in as broad a demographic as possible
 - Demonstrate collaboration between the two projects
 - Minimise the chance of ‘consultation fatigue’ among local communities
 - Encouraging listeners to access more information online and take part in the consultation.

Table 5.7: Spotify advertising.

	‘Consultation Open’ Advertisement (19 April to 17 May 2023)	‘Consultation Closing’ Advertisement (17 May to 4 June 2023)	Total	
Impressions	65,103	Impressions	43,893	108,996
Clicks to the consultation website ⁶	126	Clicks to the consultation website	82	208
Advertisement completion rate	94.64 per cent	Advertisement completion rate	95.74 per cent	95.19 per cent (average)

- 5.1.17.7 A series of banner advertisements also appeared at www.walesonline.co.uk.

5.1.18 Social media

- 5.1.18.1 The statutory consultation was also promoted with a post on the X (formerly Twitter) of bp UK on 19 April 2023, as shown at Figure 5.4. The post attracted 1,173 views. The same post was also posted on bp UKs Facebook account.

⁶ www.morecambeandmorgan.com

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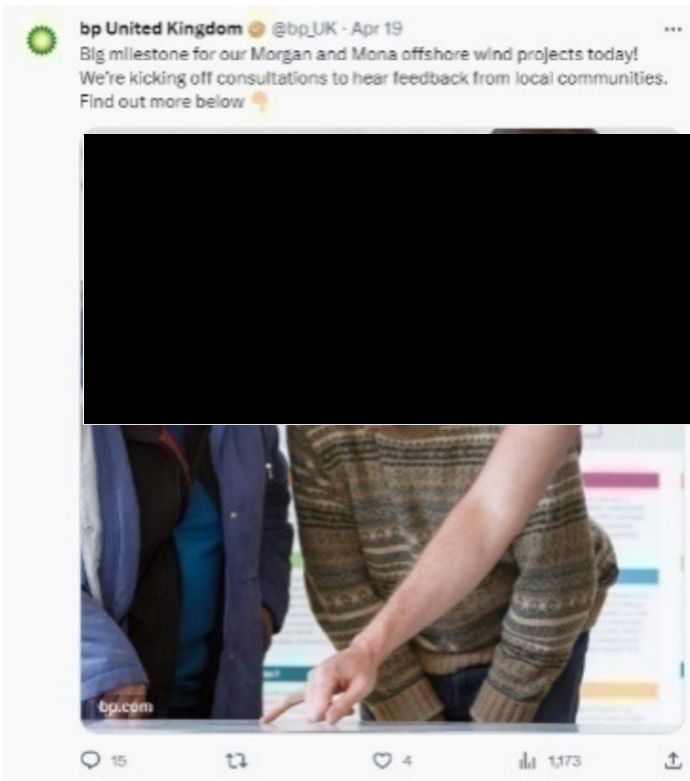


Figure 5.4: Screenshot of post on X (also posted on Facebook).

5.1.19 Direct email communications

5.1.19.1 A series of email communications were issued to promote the statutory consultation, signpost recipients to sources of information and encourage them to give feedback. Emails were sent to all identified consultees under both section 42 and section 47. Emails were sent on 14 April 2023 to give advance notice the consultation would be starting and then on 19 April 2023 to formally announce the start of consultation (see Appendices D.13.1 - D.13.4). A summary of this communication is set out in Table 5.8 below.

Table 5.8: Direct email communications to section 42 & 47 consultees.

Date	Subject	Consultee groups issued to	Reference
14 April 2023	Advanced notice of a statutory consultation launching for the Mona Offshore Wind Project	S42/S47	Appendix D.13.1
19 April 2023	Announcing the launch of statutory consultation	S42/S47	Appendix D.13.2
22 May 2023	A reminder that consultation would be closing soon	S42/S47	Appendix D.13.3
02 June 2023	Last chance to provide feedback	S42	Appendix D13.4

5.1.19.2 Emails were also sent to the land agents of section 44 consultees to confirm the launch of the consultation.

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5.1.20 In person consultation events

5.1.20.1 The Applicant ensured that representatives of the project team were accessible to members of the public so they could find out more about the project, ask any questions and/or meet the team in a variety of ways. These public facing opportunities are detailed below.

5.1.20.2 A series of nine consultation events were held (six village hall style exhibitions and three 'pop up' events). The events were located at accessible public locations. All project materials, including a full hard copy of the PEIR (at the exhibitions) and feedback forms, were available at the events and people were able to submit feedback. In total, 191 people attended or were engaged through the events.

Exhibitions

5.1.20.3 Five of the exhibitions were held on a weekday, running from 3-6pm or 7pm, and the sixth was held on a Saturday, running from 10-1pm.

5.1.20.4 Table 5.9 sets out the consultation events held and the number of attendees at each.

Table 5.9: Summary of event details.

Location	Date	Duration	Number of attendees
Llanddulas Village Hall, Beulah Avenue, Llanddulas, Abergele LL22 8FH	04 May 2023	3-7pm	15
St Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph LL17 0RG	05 May 2023	3-6pm	37
Ramsey Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, IoM IM8 1RT	18 May 2023	3-7pm	14
Bodelwyddan Village Hall, Ronaldsway, Bodelwyddan, Rhyl LL18 5TE	19 May 2023	3-7pm	28
Douglas Town Hall, Ridgeway Street, Douglas, IoM IM99 1AD	19 May 2023	3-7pm	32
Neuadd Owen Village Hall, Cefn Meiriadog, St Asaph LL17 0EY	20 May 2023	10-1pm	56

Pop-up events

5.1.20.5 Members of the team held smaller events in areas of expected high footfall in communities likely to be impacted most by onshore and/or visual impacts, to provide information on the project and answer any questions people might have.

5.1.20.6 These events were located in areas where people would usually be going about their daily activities and where the Applicant team could be available to engage with anyone who had an interest in the project.

5.1.20.7 Two of the pop-up events were held on weekdays, one from 10-1pm and the other from 2-5pm. The last pop-up event was held on a Saturday, from 10- noon. Project materials, including the consultation brochure, feedback form and PEIR NTS were available and people were able to submit feedback.

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5.1.20.8 A summary of the pop up events is set out in Table 5.10 below.

Table 5.10: Pop-Up Event details.

Location	Date	Duration	Number of people engaged
Llandudno Library, Mostyn Street, Llandudno LL30 2RP	03 May 2023	2-5pm	3
Rhyl Tourist Information Centre, The Village, West Parade, Rhyl LL18 1HZ	04 May 2023	10-1pm	5
Amlwch Library, Parys Road, Amlwch LL68 9AB	06 May 2023	10– noon	1

Webinar

5.1.20.9 The Applicant hosted a webinar on 09 May 2023 at 6pm. The webinar consisted of an overview presentation about the proposals and a live Question and Answer session. Eight project team members were available to answer questions on EIA and sustainability, offshore/onshore environment and consenting, land and property transactions and stakeholder engagement.

5.1.20.10 This was publicised in consultation materials (including the Consultation Brochure, the website and the SoCC) and people were able to register online. While 16 people initially registered to attend the webinar, six people attended.

5.1.20.11 A recording of the webinar remains available to view on the consultation website.

5.1.21 How could people have their say?

5.1.21.1 Respondents were able to submit feedback in a variety of ways during the consultation period:

- Feedback map – an interactive map (screenshot at Figure 5.5 below) of the proposals presented during the statutory consultation, allowing people to drop a pin and leave comments online and/or attach files (such as document or images) to their feedback. This image shows a screenshot of the interactive map as it appeared on the consultation website during the consultation
- Feedback form (see Appendix D.14) – available on the consultation website⁷ and could be completed online or downloaded, completed and returned by freepost. Printed copies of the form were also available at consultation events or by request from the consultation team. People could submit feedback by filling in the printed form and submitting it at a consultation event or using the freepost address. It was also available to complete online in text form. It was available in both Welsh and English, to enable people to respond in the language of their choice
- By email – to the project’s dedicated email inbox⁸

⁷ www.morganandmona.com/assets/files/MONA-Feedback-Form.pdf

⁸ info@monaoffshorwind.com

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- In writing – to the project’s freepost address, Freepost MONA.

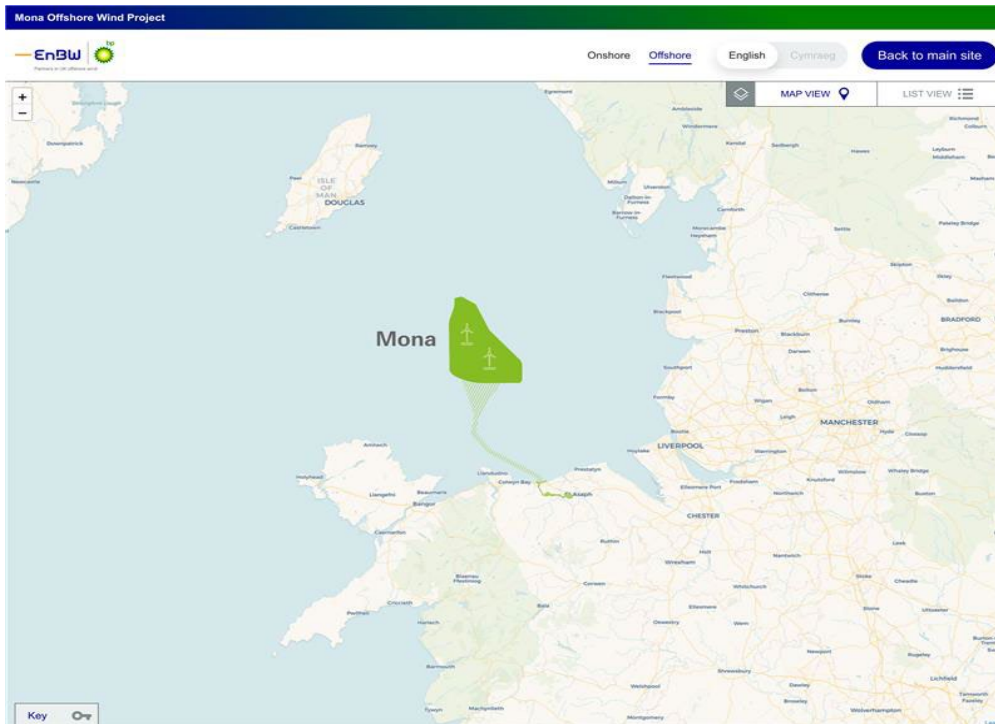


Figure 5.5: Interactive feedback map screenshot.

5.1.21.2 Everyone submitting their comments (and providing their contact details) received an acknowledgement that their feedback had been received. Feedback successfully submitted via the consultation website or by email received an automatic confirmation. Those submitting feedback in writing received an acknowledgement by post. The SoCC stipulated that, while the Applicant would not be able to respond individually to every question, the themes and issues raised during the consultation would be summarised in the Consultation Report.

Contact via telephone

5.1.21.3 The project had a dedicated phone line, open 9-5pm Monday to Friday, and members of the public could leave a message if nobody was able to answer. Calls were returned on the same day, where possible or on a Monday if a message had been left over the weekend.

5.1.21.4 A total of 13 calls were received during the consultation period and information was provided to callers and/or materials (USBs, consultation brochures, feedback forms) sent by post where requested. No feedback was formally submitted by phone.

5.1.22 Compliance with the Statement of Community Consultation

5.1.22.1 As set out in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen, the Consultation Report should provide evidence of how applicants have complied with the published SoCC.

5.1.22.2 In accordance with section 47(7) of the 2008 Act, consultation was carried out in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC, save for two variances which were

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identified between the SoCC and the ways in which community consultation was undertaken. These are reported below, in section 0 including how these were resolved.

5.1.22.3 The following statutory requirements have been fulfilled during the statutory section 47 consultation:

- A draft SoCC (Appendix D.2.2) was prepared which sets out how the Applicant proposed to deal with the relevant local authorities in whose area the proposed development lies (section 47(2))
- The Applicant conducted two statutory consultations on its draft SoCC with the relevant local authorities (see section 5.1.3). The first consultation ran from 07 October to 04 November 2022. Changes to the programme required a change to the dates being proposed for consultation and the Applicant ran a second consultation from 09 March to 06 April 2023. In each case the Applicant allowed a period of 28 days for responses (section 47(3))
- The draft SoCC consultation comprised sending the document (section 47(4)) with a covering email which set out information regarding the formal consultation process and the date by which feedback was required
- The Applicant considered all relevant responses received on the draft SoCC (section 47(5)) (see Table 5.1 and Table 5.2)
- Notice of the final SoCC was published in local newspapers (The Daily Post, Golwg and the Isle of Man Courier), and copies of the final SoCC were made available on the consultation website and at local deposit locations (section 47(6))
- The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the SoCC (section 47(7)), save for two variances which were identified between the SoCC and the ways in which community consultation was undertaken. A SoCC compliance table is set out below and a Consultation Compliance Checklist, including how the SoCC commitments have been complied with, is contained in Appendix B.1 of this document
- The SoCC stated that the application comprised EIA development and described how the Applicant intended to publicise and consult on the PEIR (Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations).

5.1.22.4 Compliance with each commitment set out in the SoCC is established in Table 5.11 below. Please see section 0 0 for details of variances identified and how these were resolved.

Table 5.11: Compliance with Statement of Community Consultation.

Section/page number	SoCC statement (as appears in SoCC)	How the Applicant complied	Reference for evidence/more information
1.1/p3	[The SoCC] has been prepared in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act;. section 47 (1) requires applicants to “prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land”.	A SoCC was prepared and published. It set out how the Applicant intended to consult on the proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land affected by the project.	Section 5.1.3

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Section/page number	SoCC statement (as appears in SoCC)	How the Applicant complied	Reference for evidence/more information
1.1/p3	We have publicised this SoCC through a public notice in the Daily Post, a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the project, as required by section 47 of the 2008 Act.	The section 47 notice appeared bilingually in the Daily Post – a newspaper circulating across North Wales – on 19 April 2023. Also appeared in Golwg (Welsh language publication) on 20 April 2023 and the Isle of Man Courier on 21 April 2023.	Section 5.1.4 and Appendix D.3
1.1/p3	This SoCC has been developed in consultation with the relevant local authorities – including Denbighshire County Council and Conwy County Borough Council.	Both authorities were contacted and consulted on the draft SoCC. Feedback was received from Denbighshire County Council.	Section 5.1.3
1.1/p3	...All the feedback we receive will be logged and responded to as part of our Consultation Report.	All feedback received has been logged and responded to as part of this Consultation Report.	Section 5.5 and Appendix D.25
2.2/p6	We used feedback from this [non-statutory] consultation – as well as the findings of our detailed, ongoing technical studies and assessments – to reduce the number of potential substation locations to two. These two [substation] alternatives are now the subject of further consultation as part of this statutory stage [of consultation].	Having regard to feedback and findings, two potential substation locations (Options 2 and 7) were included within the PEIR and were therefore the subject of the Statutory Consultation (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023).	Section 4.7 and Section 5.1
2.2/p6	A landscape, ecology and hydrology management plan will be prepared for the onshore substation site that will set out the mitigation measures for screening, ecological habitats and the management of surface water runoff.	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Plan (Document Reference J22) and an Outline Construction Surface Water and Drainage Management Plan (Document Reference J26.6) have been produced and details can be found within the Environmental Statement.	See the Environmental Statement chapters for details on these documents: See Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.6) See Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3)

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Section/page number	SoCC statement (as appears in SoCC)	How the Applicant complied	Reference for evidence/more information
			<p>See Volume 3 Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2)</p> <p>An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and an Outline Construction Surface Water and Drainage Management Plan (Document Reference J26.6) also form part of the DCO application.</p>
2.2/p6	<p>Construction will be undertaken in accordance with a Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) ... The CoCP will be agreed in advance with relevant local authorities.</p>	<p>The Applicant's approach to construction can be read in the Outline CoCP which was presented as part of the statutory consultation materials. It was available, and remains available, on the consultation website. The final outline CoCP, incorporating any feedback received during the statutory consultation, has been submitted as part of the DCO application.</p>	<p>Review the Outline CoCP (Document Reference J26) and supporting chapters.</p> <p>As set out as a requirement in the Development Consent Order, the Applicant confirms it will secure approval of the CoCP from the host local authorities ahead of its finalisation and publication.</p>
S5.1/p11	<p>The statutory consultation is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. We expect this will be the final development-wide consultation before EnBW and bp make an application for development consent.</p>	<p>The Mona statutory consultation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act – this Consultation Report (this document) sets out how this was undertaken.</p>	Section 5
S5.1/p11	<p>We'll look carefully at all of the feedback we receive, and this will be considered to help finalise our proposals ahead of our application. All the</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to the feedback received. The Consultation Report (this document) and supporting appendices details the feedback received, the Applicant's</p>	Section 5.7 and Appendix D.25

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Section/page number	SoCC statement (as appears in SoCC)	How the Applicant complied	Reference for evidence/more information
	feedback we receive will be summarised in our Consultation Report, which will be an important part our application.	response and any changes made to the project as a result.	
S5.2/p12	<p>We will actively seek to engage with the following people and groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities – people with homes and businesses in the consultation zone and those outside who have previously commented on the proposals 	All residential and business addresses within the primary zone (as defined in section 5.5 of the SoCC) were sent a postcard by mail, issued 19 April 2023. This totalled 30,810 addresses. Everybody who had provided feedback during previous, non-statutory consultations were also contacted to ensure they were aware of the statutory consultation having launched.	Section 5.1.13
S5.2/p12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected representatives – community councils; county councillors; MPs; and MSs 	These groups were written to as part of the communications sent to consultees. This included section 42, section 43 (local authority engagement) and section 47 consultees, on 14 April and 19 April 2023.	Sections 5.1 and 5.2
S5.2/p12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seldom heard groups – individuals and groups that may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We will monitor opportunities and engage as appropriate. If required, we will carry out non-statutory targeted consultation in order to better reach these audiences 	<p>A list of 28 Seldom Heard Groups was included at Appendix 1 of the SoCC, with a commitment all groups would be contacted at launch. 11 of these groups were emailed ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation 14 April 2023 and again at the launch - 19 April 2023.</p> <p>Following the close of consultation the project identified that 17 of the 28 groups / organisations had not been contacted at launch. These groups were subsequently contacted by both email and post on 20 October 2023, offering a further period of 28 days to consider the consultation materials and to provide any feedback. Groups were also offered meetings and any requiring longer than 28 days to provide feedback were invited to request an extension. Attempts were also made to contact each organisation by phone.</p>	<p>Section 5.1</p> <p>Section 5.1.23</p> <p>Appendix D.15 for email and post communications.</p>
S5.2/p12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified special interest groups – such as local wildlife, heritage and leisure groups 	These groups - including those identified in Appendix 2 of the SoCC - were written to as part of the communications sent to consultees (section 42, section 43, section 47 etc) on 14 April and 19 April 2023.	Section 5.1.6 and Section 5.1.19
S5.2/p12	Additional consultees In addition to the statutory requirements that have informed the preparation and publication of this SoCC, the	These consultees were written to as part of the communications sent to all consultees identified under section 42 on 14 April, 19 April, 22 May 2023 and 02 June 2023.	Section 5.2.3 and Section 5.1.19

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Section/page number	SoCC statement (as appears in SoCC)	How the Applicant complied	Reference for evidence/more information
	<p>2008 Act requires that a number of additional groups are consulted....</p> <p>s42: Prescribed bodies and statutory consultees</p> <p>Prescribed bodies as listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). Among others, the prescribed bodies to be consulted include all community councils in whose area the proposals are sited.</p>		
S5.2/p12	<p>S43: Local authorities</p> <p>Local authorities, as defined under section 43, including those in whose area the proposals are sited, and adjoining local authorities.</p>	<p>This group was written to as part of the communications sent to section 43 consultees on 14 April and 19 April 2023.</p>	<p>Section 5.2.4 and Section 5.1.19</p>
S5.2/p12	<p>S44: Land owners/those with an interest in the land</p> <p>Those with an interest in, or a relevant claim to, the land to which the proposed application relates (such as ownership, tenancy and/or other interests). All persons identified as having an interest in the land to which the proposals relate, within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.</p> <p>EnBW and bp have been, and will continue to, contact landowners and occupiers to discuss and seek to agree rights to construct, operate and maintain the new onshore equipment, voluntarily.</p>	<p>A total of 440 section 48 notices were issued to landowners, occupiers, tenants, leaseholders and those with an interest in the land on 17 April 2023. 102 additional land interests were identified and provided a consultation period from 22 May to 19 June 2023 (28 days), 5 interests were provided a consultation period between 10 December 2023 and 7 January 2024 (28 days). 4 additional interests were provided with a consultation period of the 2 January to 30 January 2024 (28 days).</p> <p>A total of 43 site notices were also erected on 18 April 2023 along the project's boundary. These notices were then checked weekly during the consultation period.</p> <p>The Applicant has continued to meet and offer meetings to landowners, occupiers and organisations and persons with an interest in the land (PWILs) who have been identified as having an interest in the corridor. The purpose of this being to collect their feedback on the project proposals and seek voluntary agreements for the rights required to deliver the project. Details on the progress of these negotiations is set out within the Statement of Reasons.</p>	<p>See Section 5.2.5</p> <p>Statement of Reasons – Document Reference D3.</p>
S5.4/p13	<p>The minimum consultation period is 28 days starting</p>	<p>The statutory consultation ran from 19 April 2023 to 04 June 2023. (47 days inclusive)</p>	<p>Section 5</p>

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	<p>from the day after the publishing of consultation documents, such as the PEIR.</p> <p>We are extending this period to give people as much opportunity as possible to provide their feedback.</p>	<p>All limited extension consultations which have taken place were also undertaken for a minimum of 28 days, starting from the day after the publication of documents.</p>	
S5.5/p13	<p>For this consultation, we have identified a primary zone which reflects the likely direct impacts of the project. Community consultation activities will continue to be focused within this zone and we are engaging with those living and working in the area.</p>	<p>A primary zone was refined to reflect an area that would most likely be impacted directly by the onshore elements of the project, based on search area boundaries included in the PEIR (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023). The consultation was promoted beyond this zone through advertising, press releases, posters and political / local authority stakeholder engagement</p>	Section 5.1.4 and Figure 5.3
S5.5/p13	<p>A consultation postcard will be mailed to all residential and business addresses within the primary zone and exhibition events will take place in locations most appropriate and convenient to those in the area. We will also write to anyone that took part in the first consultation.</p>	<p>An A5 consultation postcard was mailed to 30,810 residential and business addresses within the primary zone.</p> <p>All venues used for the events were assessed for suitability. This ensured they were safe to use for the purposes of a public exhibition, easily accessible and had sufficient parking. It was noted that Neuadd Owen Village Hall in Cefn Meiriadog was not easily accessible using public transport but the venue had been proposed to the Applicant for use by the local ward councillor, who confirmed it as being a popular venue for community events. This event attracted the largest attendance (56 people).</p> <p>Where contact details were available, people who had provided feedback as part of previous, non-statutory consultations, were notified of the statutory consultation via email on 05 May 2023.</p>	Section 5.1.13 and Section 5.1.20
S5.5/p14	<p>We understand that there may be interest in the proposed development beyond the primary zone, particularly with regard to potential visual impacts from offshore infrastructure.</p> <p>The project will therefore be promoted beyond the primary zone through advertising and press releases in local newspapers with a wider circulation than the consultation zone, for example, the Daily Post,</p>	<p>Two news releases were issued, one at the launch of consultation (issued 19 April 2023) and a second two weeks before consultation close (issued 23 May 2023).</p> <p>The releases were issued to 39 local/regional print and broadcast media titles and the following trade media titles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New World Energy • Business Green • Recharge • Renews 	Section 5.1.10 and Appendix D.5

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	<p>which circulates across North Wales. Alongside this publicity campaign, we will continue to engage with community councils and local authorities, whose administrative boundaries extend beyond the primary zone.</p> <p>Their support will ensure that awareness is raised beyond the edges of our primary zone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Voice • Windpower Monthly • Offshore Wind Journal • Offshore Wind Biz <p>The project ran two rounds of advertising in local media – one at project launch and one two weeks before the close of consultation, encouraging people to take part. This consisted of print advertising in local newspapers such as the Daily Post and the use of online advertising, such as local media platforms, Spotify and Google.</p> <p>In addition, a wide range of community councils, town and county councils were notified by email under section 42 and section 47 to ensure they were aware of the consultation and had the opportunity to take part.</p>	<p>Section 5.1.17 and Section 5.1.18</p> <p>Section 5.2.4</p>
S5.5/p14	<p>All information will also be available on the consultation website www.morganandmona.com</p>	<p>The consultation website was made live in early 2021. It has been and continues to be updated as the project progresses. All statutory consultation material went live on 19 April 2023. All material remains available on the website's 'Information Hub'.</p>	Section 5.1.11
S5.6/p14	<p>We will consult using a variety of methods to help explain our proposals and encourage people to provide their comments.</p>	<p>A variety of online and offline consultation/promotional methods were used to help publicise the information being consulted on. This included in-person events, a webinar, email communications, media releases and newspaper/online advertising. Welsh-speaking members of staff were available at each in-person event and the webinar was hosted bilingually. Other consultation materials, including the consultation brochure PIER NTS and newspaper/online advertisements were also provided in both Welsh and English.</p>	Section 5.1
	<p>Consultation postcard – this A5 dual sided postcard will be sent to all residential and business addresses in the publicity mailing zone. It will highlight the consultation dates and clearly explain where further information can be found, with a focus on encouraging people to visit the website or contact us via the project information channels. Details of the</p>	<p>An A5 consultation postcard was mailed to 30,810 residential and business addresses within the primary zone.</p> <p>The bilingual postcard included the consultation dates and how to find more information including details on the consultation website and details on how to contact the Applicant. The locations of the consultation exhibition events were also included on a map.</p>	Section 5.1.13

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	consultation exhibition events will also be included.		
	<p>Website – the website (www.morganandmona.com) will be the main public source of information and will be updated to explain the latest proposals. The website will make clear how people can take part in the consultation and what the deadline for feedback is. It will include an interactive feedback map of the proposals and a feedback form. All project materials will also be available on the website.</p>	<p>The consultation website was made live in early 2021. It has been and continues to be updated as the project progresses. All statutory consultation material went live on 19 April 2023. All material remains available on the website’s ‘Information Hub’</p>	Section 5.1.11
	<p>Newsletter – a newsletter will be delivered directly to all homes in the consultation area, explaining our plans for consultation and setting out how to get involved.</p>	<p>Given the detailed level of information included on the consultation postcard – and its mass distribution by post to 30,810 addresses, issued on 19 April 2023 across the primary zone (defined in the SoCC as the area “which reflects the likely direct impacts of the project”) it was considered that a newsletter would be repeating the same information. The postcard had already explained plans for consultation and how to get involved and would not add anything to the recipients’ abilities to engage with the consultation.</p> <p>It was also considered that sending out two very similar pieces of promotional material, both by post, would duplicate the information being shared, could frustrate recipients and have a negative effect on both the views of the project and consultation response rates.</p> <p>It was therefore concluded by the Applicant that the postcard and the other communication channels being utilised (posters, media releases, newspaper advertising, online search and Spotify advertising, posters, direct emails to community representatives etc) would provide those within the consultation area with the relevant information and ensure the consultation was given a sufficiently high profile.</p>	Sections 5.1.13, 5.1.24 and 7.4
	<p>Consultation brochure – this brochure will provide a summary of the latest proposals and details of the</p>	<p>The 28-page consultation brochure, published in both Welsh and English, summarised the proposals and detailed the consultation.</p>	Section 5.1.14 and Appendix D.9

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	<p>consultation. It will make clear how people can take part in the consultation and what the deadline for feedback is. The brochure will be available at consultation events, on request from the project team and made available on the website.</p>	<p>It summarised the information being consulted on in a simple format and highlighted the ways in which people could find out more and provide their feedback.</p> <p>Copies of the consultation brochure were available at the six deposit locations as well as at public exhibitions and pop up events. It was made available and remains available as a download from the consultation website.</p>	
	<p>Feedback form – this questionnaire will provide an easy way for people to record and submit their feedback. People will be able to submit feedback by filling in the printed form or visiting our project website and completing the form online. The feedback form will be designed to encourage people to provide feedback specific to our proposals but also to provide wider feedback in relation to the entirety of the proposed development.</p>	<p>A feedback form was produced in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>The form included 31 questions where feedback was sought on the full range of the proposals.</p> <p>It was available for online completion and printed copies were available at all events and at the deposit locations. The venues used as deposit locations were all invited to contact the Applicant and ask to be sent more feedback forms if required.</p> <p>People were able to complete and submit a printed feedback form at a consultation event or visit the project website to complete the form online. Copies of the form could be printed from the consultation website, collected from a deposit location or consultation event and returned via freepost.</p> <p>On 16 August 2023 the Applicant became aware that a technical website error meant respondents' feedback to Question 1.14 (Inter-Related Effects, Offshore), submitted via the online feedback form on the consultation website, had not been captured..</p>	<p>Section 5.3 and Appendix D.14</p>
	<p>A range of other materials, including the PEIR, will also be made available to help people better understand our proposals and provide us with their feedback.</p>	<p>A range of materials were uploaded to the consultation website at launch and remain available to date. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PEIR, its non-technical summary and annexes • Works plans and drawings • Draft DCO • HRA Screening Report Matrices and Integrity Matrices • Outline CoCP • Section 48 notice 	<p>Section 5.1.8</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation poster <p>Full printed copies of the PEIR, its non-technical summary and annexes were also available for review at the consultation events. Copies of the consultation brochure and feedback form were also available. In addition, the Applicant displayed large scale maps to help visitors to the event identify existing energy infrastructure in the Irish Sea.</p>	
S5.6/p15	<p>Community events</p> <p>To give local people the opportunity to meet the project team, better understand the proposals and ask any questions they may have, consultation events will be held in the local area. These events will be organised in communities close to the onshore infrastructure.</p>	<p>A series of nine events were held (six village hall style exhibitions and three 'pop up' events) so that people could meet the project team, find out about the project and ask any questions they might have. The events were located at accessible public locations.</p> <p>All project materials, including a full hard copy of the PEIR and feedback forms, were available at the events and people were able to submit feedback.</p> <p>In total, 191 people attended or were engaged through the events.</p>	Section 5.1.20
S5.6/p15	<p>Consultation events – a series of public events for people to visit and meet the project team, find out about the project and ask any questions they might have. The events will be located at accessible public locations. Project materials will be available at the event and people will be able to submit feedback.</p>	<p>Events were held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llanddulas Village Hall • St Asaph Parish Church • Ramsey Town Hall • Bodelwyddan Village Hall • Douglas Town Hall (IoM) • Neuadd Owen Village Hall <p>All project materials, including a full hard copy of the PEIR and feedback forms, were available at the events and people were able to submit feedback.</p>	Section 5.1.20
S5.6/p15	<p>Pop-up events – members of the team will be out and about in the communities, to provide information on the project and answer any questions people might have. These events will be located in areas where people are going about their daily activities such as supermarkets, shopping centres, leisure venues and transport hubs.</p>	<p>Events were held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llandudno Library • Rhyl Tourist Information Centre • Amlwch Library 	Section 5.1.20

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S5.6/p15	The events, which will be publicised in the postcard, via print advertising and on the project website, will be held at the locations and times listed opposite.	All events proceeded as outlined in the SoCC. They were promoted using print and online advertising.	Section 5.1
S5.6/p15	We will also carry out an online webinar. This will be publicised in consultation materials and people will be able to register online. The webinar will consist of a overview presentation about the project and a Question and Answer session, with a range of project team members available to answer questions.	A webinar was held on 09 May 2023 at 6pm. The webinar consisted of an overview presentation about the proposals and a live Question and Answer session.	Section 5.1.20
S5.6/p15	It is our preference to hold a range of in-person and online events. But in the event that we are unable to hold in-person events, we will make alternative arrangements to deliver a larger, broader range of online consultation events.	All events proceeded as outlined in the SoCC.	Section 5.1.20
S5.6/p15	Printed copies of our SoCC and our consultation materials will be available to view at the locations shown in the table. Please call your nearest venue to check the most up to date opening times.	<p>Printed copies of the SoCC were available to view from 19 April to 04 June 2023 in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amlwch Library, Lôn Parys, Amlwch, Anglesey LL68 9EA • Bangor Public Library, Gwynedd Road, Bangor LL57 1DT • Henry Bloom Noble Library, Douglas Borough Council, Douglas, IoM IM1 2AY • Llandudno Library, Mostyn Street, Llandudno LL30 2RP • Ramsey Library, Parliament Square, Ramsey, IoM IM8 1RT • Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre, Church Street, Rhyl LL18 3AA 	Section 5.1.9
S5.6/p16	The project will operate a freephone enquiry line answer phone service during the consultation. People will be able to leave a message and a member of the project team will respond swiftly. People are able to engage	<p>All contact channels were available ahead of and throughout the consultation. All contact channels remain live.</p> <p>People are able to communicate with the Applicant in both Welsh and English.</p>	Section 5.1.21

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	<p>with all of these channels in Welsh.</p> <p>A dedicated email address and freepost is also available.</p> <p>Freephone – 0800 860 6263</p> <p>Email – info@monaoffshorewind.com</p> <p>Freepost – Freepost MONA</p>		
	<p>Deposit Locations</p> <p>These are publicly accessible venues where printed copies of the SoCC, consultation brochure, PEIR NTS and feedback form can be viewed.</p>	<p>These materials were all available at the following locations throughout the consultation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amlwch Library, Lôn Parys, Amlwch, Anglesey LL68 9EA • Bangor Public Library, Gwynedd Road, Bangor LL57 1DT • Henry Bloom Noble Library, Douglas Borough Council, Douglas, IoM IM1 2AY • Llandudno Library, Mostyn Street, Llandudno LL30 2RP • Ramsey Library, Parliament Square, Ramsey, IoM IM8 1RT • Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre, Church Street, Rhyl LL18 3AA 	Section 5.1.9
S5.7/p16	<p>We recognise the importance of the Welsh language and are committed to ensuring the consultation is accessible for those that wish to take part in Welsh. All community materials will be available in Welsh and Welsh speakers will be available at all consultation events and webinars.</p> <p>People will be able to provide feedback in Welsh and will receive an acknowledgement in Welsh.</p>	<p>The consultation brochure, feedback form and consultation website were published in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Consultees were invited to provide feedback in the language of their choice.</p> <p>Welsh speaking members of the Applicant team were available at all consultation events held in Wales and conducted a number of conversations in Welsh with event attendees.</p>	Section 2.7
	<p>For the purposes of analysing and reporting Welsh feedback alongside other responses, Welsh feedback will be translated by the project's appointed translation agency (which is based in North Wales).</p>	<p>The Applicant uses Caernarfon-based agency Cymen for all translations⁹.</p> <p>While no call or messages were received in Welsh, the Applicant team includes Welsh speakers who were ready and able to respond in Welsh, should it have been required.</p>	Section 2.7

⁹ www.cymen.cymru

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	Should an enquiry be submitted via phone, a Welsh speaking member of the team will respond to that individual.		
S5.8/p17	Advertising – the project will run two rounds of advertising in local media – at project launch and two weeks before the close of consultation, encouraging people to take part. These will consist of print advertising in local newspapers such as the Daily Post. We will also advertise online, using local media platforms and Google.	The project ran two rounds of advertising in local media – one at project launch and one two weeks before the close of consultation, encouraging people to take part. This consisted of print advertising in local newspapers such as the Daily Post and the use of online advertising, such as local media platforms, Spotify and Google.	Section 5.1.10
	Press releases – news releases will be issued to local media during the consultation. A press release will be issued at the start of consultation and another two weeks before the close of consultation, encouraging people to take part.	<p>Two news releases were issued, one at the launch of consultation (issued 19 April 2023) and a second 13 days before consultation close (issued 23 May 2023).</p> <p>The releases were issued to 39 local/regional print and broadcast media titles and the following trade media titles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New World Energy • Business Green • Recharge • Renew's • Energy Voice • Windpower Monthly • Offshore Wind Journal • Offshore Wind Biz 	<p>Section 5.1.10</p> <p>Appendices D.11.1, D.11.2 and D.11.3</p>
	Social media – promoting the consultation on social media channels that are owned and managed by EnBW and bp.	A tweet was issued by @bp_uk on 19 April 2023, announcing the start of consultation and linking to the consultation website. As of 07 October 2023, the tweet had attracted 1,168 views. The same post was also posted on Facebook.	Section 5.1.18 and Figure 5.4
	Public notices – the project will also take out public notices in local and national newspapers, as required by the 2008 Act.	<p>Section 47 notices appeared in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Man Courier • Golwg • The Daily Post <p>Section 48 notices appeared in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lloyds List • The London Gazette • Isle of Man Courier 	Section 5.1.10

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golwg • The Guardian • The Daily Post 	
	<p>Posters – these will be printed and issued for display via local councils, venues hosting events and to other local venues such as supermarkets, shops and libraries.</p>	<p>The Applicant sent posters for display to locations across North Wales and the IoM.</p>	<p>Section 5.1.15 and Appendix D.10</p>
	<p>Letters – these will be sent to key stakeholders including local councillors, inviting them to take part and to encourage others to do so. Letters will also be sent to other local community groups and organisations.</p>	<p>Four emails informing stakeholders and community groups about the consultation were sent on 14 April, 19 April, 22 May and 02 June 2023.</p> <p>Following the close of consultation analysis of the email database was conducted to identify any section 42 consultees who had received but not opened any of the four emails they were sent at the start of, or during, the consultation period.</p> <p>It was identified that a total of 58 section 42 consultees had received, but not opened, any of the emails they had been sent during the consultation.</p> <p>To ensure these consultees were not disadvantaged by not having opened the emails they were sent a set of consultation materials in the post, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation brochure • A USB containing the full PEIR • PEIR NTS • SoCC • Paper copy feedback form <p>All these identified consultees were given a further 28 days to consider the consultation material and provide their feedback. The letters were issued on 16 June 2023 and the deadline provided for the receipt of feedback was 13 July 2023.</p> <p>As a result of this communication and extension, an additional two section 42 consultees provided their feedback. This feedback was treated in the same way as that received during the initial consultation.</p>	<p>Sections 5.1 and 5.2</p>

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S5.9/p17	<p>For those who are less comfortable engaging digitally, we have developed the consultation to be accessible and this has played an important role in planning consultation activities.</p> <p>Community events are being held in accessible public locations and over a number of days to encourage attendance. Ensuring that venues are accessible via public transport, have sufficient parking and are easy to navigate is key.</p> <p>We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing seldom heard groups in the area (Appendix 1). These organisations will be written to at the start of the consultation. Requests for specific consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the requesting organisation so that our activities best meet the needs of those it represents.</p>	<p>Significant attention was paid to ensuring consultation materials were written in Plain English/Plain Welsh and that the project website was visually engaging and easy to navigate. Hard copies of materials were available at deposit locations.</p> <p>In addition to the digital elements of the consultation (project website, webinar) nine public events were held (six village hall style exhibitions and three ‘pop up’ events). This offered those less comfortable with engaging digitally to meet the project team in person, find out more about the proposals and submit their feedback.</p> <p>All venues used for the events were assessed for suitability. This ensured they were safe to use for the purposes of a public exhibition, easily accessible and had sufficient parking. It was noted that Neuadd Owen Village Hall in Cefn Meriadog was not easily accessible using public transport but the venue had been proposed to the Applicant for use by the local ward councillor, who confirmed it as being a popular venue for community events. This event attracted the largest attendance (56 people).</p> <p>A list of 28 Seldom Heard Groups was included at Appendix 1 of the SoCC, with a commitment all groups would be contacted at launch. 10 of these groups were emailed ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation 14 April 2023 and again at the launch - 19 April 2023.</p> <p>Following the close of consultation the project identified that 18 of the 28 groups/organisations had not been contacted at launch. These groups were subsequently contacted by both email and post on 20 October 2023, offering a further period of 28 days to consider the consultation materials and to provide any feedback. Groups were also offered meetings and any requiring longer than 28 days to provide feedback were invited to request an extension. Attempts were also made to contact each organisation by phone.</p>	<p>Sections 5.1.9 and 5.1.20</p> <p>Appendix D.15 for email and postal communications</p>

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Section/page number	SoCC statement (as appears in SoCC)	How the Applicant complied	Reference for evidence/more information
S5.10/p17	We will respond to reasonable requests for further copies of documents. Requests for hard copies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid by the recipient in advance.	All requests for materials were completed. No charges were made to recipients.	
S6/p18	There are several ways to submit feedback: Feedback map – this interactive map of the proposals allows people to drop a pin and leave comments online and/or attach files (such as document or images) to their feedback.	An interactive feedback map was available on the consultation website throughout the statutory consultation period.	Section 5.1.21
	Feedback form – available on the project website www.morganandmona.com , at community events or by request from the consultation team.	A feedback form was available on the consultation website throughout the statutory consultation period. It was also available at all exhibitions, pop ups and at the deposit locations.	Appendix D.14
	By email – to info@monaoffshorewind.com .	The consultation email address was live ahead of and during the statutory consultation. It remains live and in use.	Section 5.1.21
	In writing – to Freepost MONA	The project freepost address was live ahead of and during the statutory consultation. It remains live and in use.	Section 5.1.21
	Everyone submitting their comments to us (and providing their contact details) will receive an acknowledgement that their feedback has been received.	All feedback was acknowledged. Responses were sent according to the channel used. Online/email feedback was acknowledged digitally, while consultees submitting hard copy feedback received acknowledgement by mail.	Section 5.1.23
	We will reply to queries received about the logistics of the consultation itself, details of the events being held, availability of consultation materials or advice on how to submit a response. The project takes data privacy seriously and all data will be held in line with General Data Protection	All enquiries received via the consultation telephone line received responses. All project communications/contact channels remain live. All personal data and feedback collected by the project was collected and stored according to the Applicant's GDPR-compliant Privacy Policy.	Section 5.1.21, section 5.1.24 and section 3.3

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Section/page number	SoCC statement (as appears in SoCC)	How the Applicant complied	Reference for evidence/more information
	Regulation (GDPR) best practice.		
S6.2/p18	A Consultation Report will be produced that sets out how feedback from both statutory and non-statutory consultations has shaped the design of the proposed development.	A Consultation Report (this document) has been submitted as part of the Applicant's DCO application.	Document Reference E3

5.1.23 Statement of Community Consultation variances and how these were resolved

5.1.23.1 As detailed above, the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC save for two variances which were identified between the SoCC and the ways in which community consultation was undertaken. Further details on the circumstances surrounding these variances, including how these were resolved, are provided below.

Newsletter

5.1.23.2 The consultation attracted a high level of engagement (nearly 200 people attending consultation events in person), as well as more than 130 comments, questions, pieces of feedback and phone calls.

5.1.23.3 As previously noted, there were a variety of consultation materials created to help publicise the consultation and encourage people to provide feedback. This included:

- Consultation Postcard – A5 postcard, produced to promote the consultation and detail how recipients could find out more/provide their feedback
- Website – the main public source of information, explaining how to take part in the consultation and hosting downloadable copies of all consultation materials for those who preferred to access information and provide feedback online. Feedback could be submitted using an online form and/or an interactive map
- Consultation brochure – 28 page document summarising the proposals and details of the consultation. Summarised the information being consulted on in a simple format and highlighting the ways in which people could find out more/provide their feedback. Copies of the consultation brochure were available at the six deposit locations as well as at public exhibitions and pop up events
- Feedback form – provided an easy way for people to record and submit feedback. Copies of the feedback form were available at the six deposit locations as well as at public exhibitions and pop up events
- A Non-technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR – 104 page document summarising each chapter of the PEIR. While similar in some ways to the consultation brochure, its greater level of detail meant the NTS could act as a bridge between the consultation brochure and PEIR in terms of its level of

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detail. Copies of the PEIR NTS were available at the six deposit locations as well as at public exhibitions and pop up events.

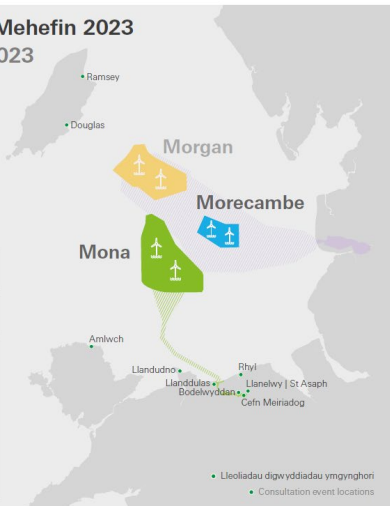
- 5.1.23.4 All these materials, including the website, were available bilingually and designed to ensure an inclusive approach that meant the range of audiences being targeted through the consultation could choose the level of detail they required before submitting their comments.
- 5.1.23.5 In addition, the SoCC (at section 5.6) states that a newsletter would be:
- Delivered directly to all homes in the consultation area (in this context the ‘consultation area’ is defined as the ‘primary zone’ detailed in section 5.5 of the SoCC)
 - Explaining the Applicant’s plans for consultation
 - Setting out how to get involved
- 5.1.23.6 It was therefore concluded by the Applicant that the postcard and the other communication channels being utilised (posters, media releases, newspaper advertising, online search and Spotify advertising, posters, direct emails to community representatives etc) would provide those within the consultation area with the relevant information and ensure the consultation was given a sufficiently high profile.
- 5.1.23.7 All of the information noted at section 5.6 of the SoCC (listed above) was subsequently included within the A5 postcard – which was distributed by post (as the newsletter would have been) to all residential and business addresses in the primary consultation zone - a total of 30,810 addresses. This meant the postcard and newsletter would have been delivered to the same addresses and contained much of the same information.
- 5.1.23.8 The postcard contained the information that the SoCC noted the newsletter would include:
- Details of the project(s) being consulted on
 - A map displaying the offshore array area for Mona Offshore Wind Project, its offshore cable corridor, landfall point and onshore cable corridor.
 - A request for recipients to provide feedback to the consultation
 - The dates of the consultation
 - The locations of the planned public consultation events
 - Contact details for (website, telephone, email, freepost address) so that people could find out more information, provide feedback and/or ask questions.
- 5.1.23.9 In addition, the postcard also included details of the three other consultations that would be taking place simultaneously on separate but related projects. These details were provided so that recipients could consider their views in relation to these other projects – in parallel with the Mona Offshore Wind Project – and provide feedback in respect of those other consultations if they wished to do so. The other consultations highlighted by the A5 postcard were:
- Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets (statutory consultation)
 - Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets (statutory consultation)
 - Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (non-statutory consultation).
- 5.1.23.10 In each case, project-specific contact details and/or web addresses were included on the postcard, signposting recipients to sources of further information on those projects.
- 5.1.23.11 The consultation postcard can be seen at Figure 5.6 below and at Appendix D.8.



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Ymgynghoriadau ar agor rhwng 19 Ebrill a 4 Mehefin 2023
Consultations open from 19 April to 4 June 2023



Mae ymgynghoriadau statudol nawr ar agor ar gyfer **Prosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Mona ac Asedau Cynhyrchu Fferm Wynt Alltraeth Morecambe**, sef dwy fferm wynt newydd ar y môr sy'n cael eu datblygu ym Môr Iwerddon.
Rydyn ni eisiau clywed eich barn. Rhwch adborth a dweud eich dweud am y ddau ymgynghoriad erbyn 4 Mehefin 2023.
 Statutory consultations are now open for **Mona Offshore Wind Project** and **Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets**, two new offshore wind farms being developed in the Irish Sea.
We want to hear your views. Please provide feedback and have your say on both consultations by 4 June 2023.



	Prosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Mona Mona Offshore Wind Project
	Asedau Cynhyrchu Fferm Wynt Alltraeth Morecambe Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets

Dewch i'n gweld ni:
 Mae'r holl wybodaeth am yr ymgynghoriadau ar gael ar wefannau'r prosiectau (gweler drosodd). Neu, ewch i un o'n digwvddiadau cyhoeddus ar y cyd, sydd wedi'u nodi ar y map. Mae'r rhain yn ffordd wych o gael rhagor o wybodaeth am bob prosiect a gofyn unrhyw gwestiynau sydd gennych chi.
Come and see us:
 All information regarding the consultations can be found on the project websites (see overleaf). Alternatively, visit one of our joint public events, which are highlighted on the map. These are a great way to find out more about each project and ask any questions you may have.

Cofiwch:
 Gan fod dau ymgynghoriad yn cael eu cynnal ar yr un pryd ar gyfer dau brosiect ar wahân, mae'n bwysig eich bod yn rhoi gwybod i ni pa brosiect y mae eich adborth yn cyfeirio ato (gweler drosodd). Bydd hyn yn ein helpu i sicrhau bod yr holl adborth yn cael ei ystyried yn effeithiol.
Please remember:
 As two consultations are taking place at the same time for two separate projects, it's important for you to let us know which of the projects (see overleaf) your feedback refers to. This will help us to ensure that all feedback is considered effectively.

	Ewch i Visit www.morganandmona.com Ffoniwch Call 0800 860 6263 Ysgrifennwch at Write to FREEPOST MONA E-bostiwch Email info@monaoffshorewind.com
	Ewch i Visit www.morecambeandmorgan.com/morecambe Ffoniwch Call 0800 915 2493 (opsiwn option 2) Ysgrifennwch at Write to FREEPOST MORECAMBE GENERATION E-bostiwch Email hello@morecambeoffshorewind.com

Mae **Prosiect Gwynt Alltraeth Morgan** yn fferm wynt arall ar y môr sy'n cael ei datblygu gan bp ac EnBW ym Môr Iwerddon. I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am y prosiect hwn a'i ymgynghoriad statudol, ewch i www.morecambeandmorgan.com/morgan.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project is another offshore wind farm being developed by bp and EnBW in the Irish Sea. For more information on this project and its statutory consultation, please visit www.morecambeandmorgan.com/morgan.

Mae ymgynghoriad anstatudol ar agor hefyd ar gyfer **Ffermydd Gwynt Alltraeth Morgan a Morecambe: Asedau Trosglwyddo**. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael yn www.morecambeandmorgan.com/transmission.
 A non-statutory consultation is also open for **Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets**. More information can be found at www.morecambeandmorgan.com/transmission.

Figure 5.6: The consultation postcard.

- 5.1.23.12 Given the detailed level of information included on the postcard – and its mass distribution by post across the primary zone (defined in the SoCC as the area “which reflects the likely direct impacts of the project” – see also section 5.1.5) it was considered that a newsletter would be repeating the same information and would not add anything to the recipients’ abilities to engage with the project(s).
- 5.1.23.13 It was also considered that sending out two very similar pieces of promotional material in the post could frustrate recipients and have a negative effect on both the views of the project and response rates.
- 5.1.23.14 It was therefore concluded by the Applicant that the postcard and the other communication channels being utilised (posters, media releases, newspaper advertising, online search and Spotify advertising, posters, direct emails to community

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representatives etc) would ensure the consultation was given a sufficiently high profile and that sending a newsletter in addition, was not required.

- 5.1.23.15 The Applicant has notified the host authorities of this in writing on 20 November 2023 (Appendices F.1.1 and F.1.2). See section 7.4 for further information.

Seldom heard groups

- 5.1.23.16 A list of 28 Seldom Heard Groups was included at Appendix 1 of the SoCC with a commitment that all groups would be contacted at launch of statutory consultation. 10 of these groups were emailed ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation 14 April 2023 and again at the launch on the 19 April 2023.

- 5.1.23.17 Following the close of consultation the project identified that 18 of the 28 groups/organisations had not been contacted at launch. These groups were subsequently contacted by both email and post on 20 October 2023, offering a further period of 28 days to consider the consultation materials and to provide any feedback (see Appendix D.15 for communication details). Groups were also offered meetings and any requiring longer than 28 days to provide feedback were invited to request an extension. Attempts were also made to contact each organisation by phone. No feedback was received from any of these groups as a result of the consultation.

5.1.24 Acknowledgement letters

- 5.1.24.1 Every consultee who submitted their feedback to the statutory consultation via email and/or online feedback form received an instant automated response thanking them for their feedback.
- 5.1.24.2 To fully fulfil this particular SoCC commitment, the Applicant also sent hard copy acknowledgement letters to people who provided feedback in writing – either via letter or hard copy feedback form. These letters were sent on 14 July 2023 to all respondents who had provided their contact details.

5.2 Consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (19 April to 04 June 2023)

5.2.1 Introduction

- 5.2.1.1 The activities undertaken by the Applicant to comply with its duty to consult under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) is provided in the following section. The information provided is relevant to section 42 consultation as required under section 37(7)(a) of the 2008 Act and associated guidance (summarised in section 3).
- 5.2.1.2 Statutory consultation was carried out by the Applicant to ensure the prescribed consultees were engaged and provided the opportunity to comment on the proposals.
- 5.2.1.3 The Applicant held its section 42 and section 47 consultations at the same time, running from 19 April to 04 June 2023.
- 5.2.1.4 The Applicant also ran separate 28-day consultations for additional section 44 consultees identified after the main consultation period. See section 0 for more details.
- 5.2.1.5 Additional targeted statutory consultation was also undertaken with some section 42 and 47 consultees. See section 5.3 for details.

5.2.2 Legislative context

5.2.2.1 Section 42(1) of the 2008 Act states Applicants must consult the following about a proposed application:

‘a) Such persons as may be prescribed,

aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),

b) Each local authority that is within section 43,

c) The Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and

d) Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44’

5.2.2.2 For the purposes of section 42(a) of the 2008 Act, the persons prescribed are those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations).

5.2.2.3 With regards to aa) (2) of section 42(1), the areas include waters in or adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea. At the time of section 42 consultation, the Mona Offshore Wind Project fell within English waters and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) were duly included as a section 42 consultee. Subsequently, due to changes in the proposed project, the Mona Offshore Wind Project is now wholly located within Welsh waters.

5.2.2.4 For the Mona Offshore Wind Project, the relevant local authorities are county and borough councils in Wales. Section 43 defines local authorities in terms of whether they fall within the categories of an ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ or ‘D’ local authority:

‘A’ – is a neighbouring local authority (s43(3)) that shares a boundary with a ‘B’ host authority;

‘B’ – is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the Proposed Development and any associated development is situated (a host authority);

‘C’ – is an upper-tier county council in which the Proposed Development is situated (a host authority); and

‘D’ – is a neighbouring local authority (s43(3)) which is not a lower-tier district council and shares a boundary with a ‘C’ authority.’

5.2.2.5 A full list of consultees identified in accordance with section 42(1)(a) and (b) is included in Appendix D.16.

5.2.2.6 Due to the location of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, the Greater London Authority (42(1)(c)) has not been consulted as the development falls outside the jurisdiction of this authority.

5.2.2.7 For the purposes of section 42(1)(d), a person is within a category set out in section 44 of the 2008 Act if the Applicant knows (after making diligent inquiry) that the person falls within 3 Categories:

- an owner, lessee tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land (Category 1, section 44(1))
- interested in the land or has the power to sell and convey the land or, to release the land (Category 2, section 44(2))

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- the person would or might be entitled (a) as a result of the implementing of the order, (b) as a result of the order having been implemented, or (c) as a result of the use of the land once the order has been implemented, to make a relevant claim (Category 3, section 44(4)).

5.2.2.8 A duty on the Applicant exists when consulting a person or organisation under section 42, to notify them of the deadline for receipt of comments to the consultation (section 45(1)). As per section 45(2), this must be a minimum of 28 days, commencing on the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents and the consultation documents must be supplied to the person by the Applicant for the purposes of the consultation (section 45(3)). All statutory consultation undertaken ensured consultees were given a minimum of 28 days.

5.2.2.9 Alongside the statutory consultation as prescribed under section 42, section 46 also requires the Applicant to notify the Secretary of State of the proposed application. Under section 46, the Applicant must supply the Secretary of State with the same information provided for the purpose of complying with section 42, if the Applicant was required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application (section 46(1)), and this must be complied with on or before commencing a section 42 consultation (section 46(2)). A section 46 notification was sent to the Secretary of State for Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Planning Inspectorate, containing the relevant consultation information on 19 April 2023. See section 5.4 for further information.

5.2.3 Identification of section 42 consultees

5.2.3.1 The following section provides details on how the Applicant identified section 42 consultees for the statutory consultation under the following three categories:

- Prescribed bodies
- Local authorities and
- Landowners and persons with an interest in land (PWILs) (in line with the three categories of landowner identified in section 5.2).

5.2.3.2 For the purposes of the Consultation Report, unless specifically identified, the consultees identified under these three categories are collectively referred to as 'section 42 consultees;' a full list of prescribed bodies and local authorities is provided in Appendix D.16.

5.2.3.3 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three (August 2017, version 7) explains the approach taken by the Planning Inspectorate when identifying consultation bodies to be notified, and where relevant, consulted on the scope of the Environmental Statement in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations).

5.2.3.4 The Advice Note goes on to say that, whilst the responsibility is on the Applicant to ensure pre-application consultation fully accords with requirements of the 2008 Act, Applicants may find it helpful to understand the approach taken by the Planning Inspectorate, when meeting its relevant statutory notifications and consultation obligations under the EIA Regulations.

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5.2.4 Prescribed Bodies

- 5.2.4.1 These cover the main statutory bodies that are to be consulted under section 42 and comprise of those with specific expertise and/or statutory responsibility for the given discipline(s).
- 5.2.4.2 The list of consultees detailed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations provides a starting point for identifying the prescribed bodies relevant to the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Additional bodies who were notified of the proposed application by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the 2017 EIA Regulations were then also added (Appendix D.17). The Regulation 11 list is produced in response to the Applicant notifying the Planning Inspectorate that an Environmental Statement was proposed to be provided for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the 2017 EIA Regulations (Appendix D.23).
- 5.2.4.3 Energy Assets Pipelines Ltd (a Relevant Public Gas Transporter) and Energy Assets Networks Ltd (a Relevant Electricity Distributor with CPO Powers) were both identified on the Regulation 11 list provided to the Applicant by the Planning Inspectorate. Neither company has assets within the DCO boundary or in proximity to it, as such there are no assets that could be impacted by the DCO, therefore neither company was consulted by the Applicant as part of the statutory consultation for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
- 5.2.4.4 As part of the ongoing consultation with technical consultees via the Evidence Plan Steering Group, Expert Working Groups (EWGs) and Engagement Forums, the Mona Offshore Wind Project was in contact with a number of individuals within the organisations identified within the prescribed consultee list. As such, statutory consultation materials were shared with both the main contact of the organisations and other identified contacts. This is included in Appendix D.16.

5.2.5 Local Authorities

- 5.2.5.1 In accordance with section 43(1), the land for the proposed development was defined as the area within which the onshore infrastructure would be located including the onshore cable corridor, onshore substation, temporary construction compounds, landfall area, potential offsite highway improvement works, temporary (construction) and permanent (operational) accesses to land within this area.
- 5.2.5.2 All onshore infrastructure will be situated on land within the jurisdiction of Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council, which are jointly the 'host authority' for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The boundaries for the two host authorities in association with the onshore infrastructure is demonstrated in Figure 5.7 below.

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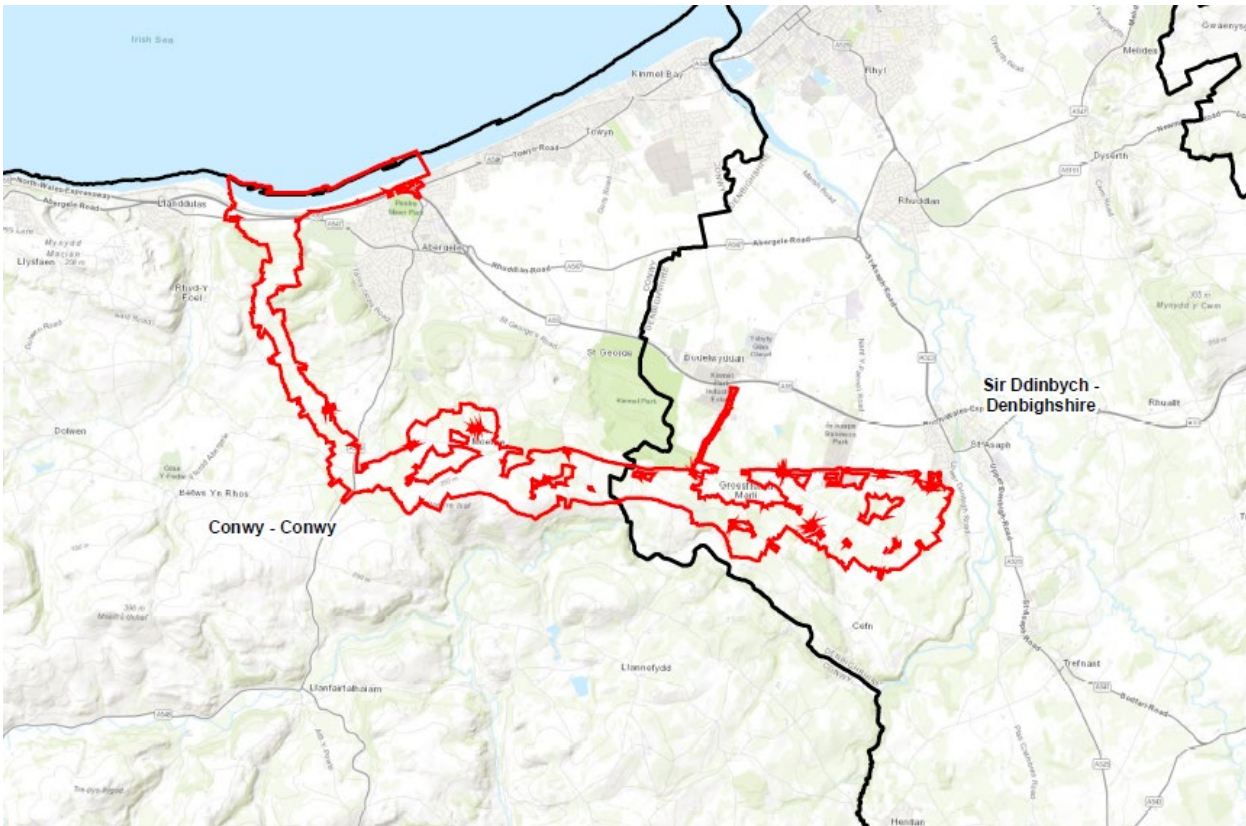


Figure 5.7: Onshore Development Area with LPA Boundaries (accurate at time of section 42 notice publication).

5.2.5.3 Section 43 also includes local authorities who share a boundary with the host authority. Additionally, the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three highlights at Paragraph 7.1 that some developments, including those with an offshore element, may have a potential visual impact to areas in local authorities which are not identified as ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ or ‘D’ authorities under section 43. Advice Note Three advises that the Planning Inspectorate will exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to consult with these local authorities on a non-statutory basis, having regard to the likely Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).

5.2.5.4 Therefore, despite not falling within the definitions prescribed under section 43, the Applicant also identified and consulted with local authorities on the basis of potential visual impact of the array area. A list of all local authorities identified as being given the status of a section 43 authority has been included below in Table 5.12.

Table 5.12: Local authorities identified under section 43

Local Authority	Reason for consulting
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy (Conwy County Borough Council)	Host authority (B)
Cyngor Sir Ddinbych (Denbighshire County Council)	Host authority (B)
Cyngor Sir y Fflint (Flintshire County Council)	Adjacent authority (A)
Cyngor Gwynedd	Adjacent authority (A)
Cyngor Sir Powys (Powys County Council)	Adjacent authority (A)
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam (Wrexham County Borough Council)	Adjacent authority (A)

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Local Authority	Reason for consulting
Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri (Eryri National Park Authority)	Potential visual impact
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn (Isle of Anglesey County Council)	Potential visual impact
Fylde Borough Council	Potential visual impact
Isle of Man Government	Potential visual impact
Lancashire County Council	Potential visual impact
Liverpool City Council	Potential visual impact
Sefton Council	Potential visual impact
West Lancashire Borough Council	Potential visual impact
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	Potential visual impact

5.2.5.5 Note, despite being identified in the Regulation 11 list, the Applicant did not consult Cheshire West and Chester Council as a section 42 consultee as they do not fall within any of the section 43 definitions outlined above, nor the potential for visual impact from the array area.

5.2.5.6 The Applicant also identified and consulted with Parish and Community Councils under section 42(1) and, in addition, included those which fell within the extent of the ZTV of the array area (at the time of consultation). See Appendix D.16 for details of all section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees.

5.2.5.7 Bodelwyddan Town Council, as a relevant Council, was consulted at statutory consultation. The email informing the Town Council was sent on 19 April 2023 at the same time as all section 42 and section 47 consultees. However, the email did not specifically reference the section 48 notice or provide a direct link to the notice, as required by the 2008 Act and 2017 EIA Regulations. However, the Council was provided with access to all of the consultation materials sent as part of the statutory consultation including a link to the consultation website, where the section 48 notice was available to view and download. It is considered that the Town Council was not prejudiced as it was given the same information as other statutory consultees, for the same consultation duration and therefore offered the same opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals.

5.2.6 Landowners and Persons with an Interest in the Land

5.2.6.1 As identified under Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant must consult with the relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act, hereafter referred to as section 44 consultees. Section 44 consultees are defined as a person that is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land; is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land; or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented.

5.2.6.2 Landowners and PWILs have been consulted under section 42 and negotiations are ongoing for voluntary agreements for the land rights required to deliver the project. Dalcour Maclaren on behalf of the Applicant have been corresponding with land interests in accordance with section 4.8 of this document. To identify those landowners and PWILs, Dalcour Maclaren began confirming those who were to be consulted with

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under section 42 in December 2022, by issuing land interests with a questionnaire (Appendix D.18.1) requesting information on:

- Contact details
- Details of the landowner and or/lessees
- The nature of the interest in land
- Details of the use of the land and
- Information that the landowner would want the Applicant to be made aware of.

5.2.6.3 The purpose of the questionnaire was to ensure that all land interests were identified ahead of consultation notices being issued.

5.2.6.4 Reminder letters and follow up calls and emails were made throughout 2023 to ensure that these forms were completed and returned. A summary is set out in Table 5.13 below.

Table 5.13: Summary of questionnaire issued and returned.

Land Interest Questionnaires	Number sent
Total number of questionnaires sent	804
1st Chaser	560
2nd Chaser	345
3rd Chaser	300
Total questionnaires returned	301

5.2.6.5 Under Part One of the Land Compensation Act 1973, landowners and occupiers may be entitled to compensation for the Compulsory Acquisition of land. Landowners may be identified by the Applicant within Category 3 of section 44 of the 2008 Act after making diligent inquiry if their land might suffer a depreciation in value as a result of physical factors caused by the works.

5.2.6.6 Dalcour Maclaren, on behalf of the Applicant, has undertaken diligent inquiry to identify the relevant land interests under section 44 via searches of the land registry, questionnaires, and identification of potential Category 3 claimants. Potential Category 3 interests were identified and are listed in the Book of Reference (Document Reference D4). The identification of potential Category 3 interests was an iterative process which began in March 2023, ahead of statutory consultation beginning in April 2023 to ensure all those affected by the project were consulted with.

5.2.6.7 Ahead of statutory consultation, Dalcour Maclaren offered meetings to 89 landowners and occupiers and met with 52 landowners and occupiers during March and April 2023. These landowners and occupiers were a number of those identified as owning or occupying land within the proposed onshore development area to be consulted on. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss and obtain feedback on the proposals.

5.2.6.8 Following the identification of landowners and PWILs through meetings and the Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs), Dalcour Maclaren issued section 44 letters and section 48 notices to 440 landowners and PWILs on the 17 April 2023 (example section 44 letter Appendix D.18.2). Further referencing identified 102 interests which were provided with a 28 consultation period from 22 May 2023. Location specific site notices which included a copy of the section 48 notice were erected at 43 locations along the project boundary. These locations were checked and replaced where required on a

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weekly basis (Example site notice and location details can be found in Appendix D.18.3 and section 48 notice in Appendix D.22.1). The purpose of this being to ensure that all landowners and PWILs were aware of the proposals and had the opportunity to provide feedback and engage on the project proposals, including those who own or had an interest in unregistered land.

5.2.6.9 Formal feedback submitted to the project by landowners during statutory consultation has been responded to and summarised in section 5.7.37 and included in Appendix D.25. Throughout the autumn and winter of 2023, discussions were ongoing with landowners and PWILs regarding the comments received and how their feedback has been taking into consideration to finalise the order limits. More information on Dalcour Maclaren’s engagement with landowners post-consultation can be found in section 6.1.3.

Targeted consultation

5.2.6.10 Following conclusion of the statutory consultation in June 2023, through further landowner liaison and updated utility searches, 9 new section 44 interests were identified and consulted with as detailed in Table 5.14 below through targeted consultation.

Table 5.14: Targeted Landowner consultation

Interest	Target Consultation Period	Consultation comments
Landowner 1	09 December 2023 – 07 January 2024	No feedback received
Landowner 2	09 December 2023 – 07 January 2024	No feedback received
Landowner 3	09 December 2023 – 07 January 2024	No feedback received
Landowner 4	09 December 2023 – 07 January 2024	No feedback received
Landowner 5	09 December 2023 – 07 January 2024	No feedback received
Landowner 6	02 – 30 January 2024	No feedback received
Landowner 7	02 – 30 January 2024	No feedback received
Landowner 8	02 – 30 January 2024	The nearest weather radar is approximately 108 km distant at Hameldon Hill. The proposed turbines may be detectable by the radar but will be below the main beam at its lowest elevation, therefore the impact will be limited. We have no objections to the proposal but wish to be kept informed of progress, in particular please notify us when the windfarm becomes operational.
Landowner 9	02 – 30 January 2024	No feedback received

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5.2.7 Key non-statutory consultees

- 5.2.7.1 The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three provides guidance on non-prescribed consultation bodies (NPCs), which are not defined as consultation bodies under the 2017 EIA Regulations but have relevant functions and responsibilities which are akin to other consultation bodies.
- 5.2.7.2 As detailed at Paragraph c1.4 of Advice Note Three, whilst an applicant is not required to consult with NPCs in order to meet the statutory pre-application consultation obligations, the Applicant is encouraged to consult with as wide a range of bodies as appropriate during the pre-application stage, including whilst preparing the Environmental Statement.
- 5.2.7.3 With regards to NPCs in Wales, the Planning Inspectorate has identified bodies who operate in Wales and/or Welsh territorial waters. These bodies largely have relevant functions and responsibilities which are akin to prescribed consultation bodies listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations who operate in England. As set out in Advice Note Three Paragraph C2.1, these are:
- Cadw – the Welsh Government’s historic environment service, which has a similar function to Historic England
 - Welsh Language Commissioner – an independent body established by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, principally to promote and facilitate use of the Welsh Language in Wales
 - Joint Transport Authorities (JTAs) – akin to Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs) or Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) who operate in England; and
 - Secretary of State for Defence – identified as a prescribed consultee in Schedule 1 of the APFP for projects in England only; the Planning Inspectorate has interpreted this to be ‘the Ministry of Defence’ (MOD).
- 5.2.7.4 The Applicant included these NPCs - and others identified - within the section 42 consultees list and duly consulted with them. There was no distinction made in materials shared as part of consultation between prescribed and non-prescribed consultees. All NPCs are identified in Appendix D.16.
- 5.2.7.5 The Isle of Man is also identified as a Relevant British Crown Dependency, which is not listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, but the Isle of Man Government have planning functions akin to a local authority. As set out above, they were included as a section 43 consultee.
- 5.2.7.6 The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three also provides guidance on consulting where a proposed development includes an offshore element, such as the case with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Some of the NPCs relating to offshore proposals also appear as prescribed consultees in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. Some have functions and responsibilities that extend to the offshore area that are not reflected in the relevance or circumstances tests in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. In this regard the Applicant consulted with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and MOD Safeguarding.
- 5.2.7.7 All of the identified non-prescribed section 42 consultees (Appendix D.16) received the same information and were included in the same way in the section 42 consultation as the prescribed section 42 consultees.

5.2.8 Communications with section 42 consultees

- 5.2.8.1 Engagement with section 42 consultees (listed in Appendix D.16) started a week ahead of the statutory consultation, with a ‘consultation coming soon’ email sent to all consultees (Appendix D.13.1). This advanced notice email was sent on 14 April 2023 and covered the following key points:
- An outline of the Mona Offshore Wind Project – acting as an introduction to the project to those who may not previously have been aware of it
 - Signposting to the existing project consultation website for further information about the project and as the location for accessing consultation materials once they were available
 - Highlighting where and when in-person consultation events would be held and inviting consultees to attend
 - Listing the different ways in which feedback could be submitted and the channels that could be used to provide feedback
 - Acknowledging that a follow up communication would be sent at the point the consultation launched.
- 5.2.8.2 Any bounce backs or undelivered emails were used to update and improve the database with alternative emails being sourced.
- 5.2.8.3 Consultation launch communications were issued to all section 42 consultees on 19 April 2023 (Appendix D.13.2). Again, this information was sent via email and covered the following key points:
- Confirming the recipient has been identified as a section 42 consultee by the Mona Offshore Wind Project and linking to a copy of the section 47 and section 48 notices that had been uploaded to the consultation website
 - Outlining the key elements of Mona Offshore Wind Project
 - Highlighting the start and close dates of the consultation
 - Listing the different ways in which feedback can be submitted and the channels that could be used to provide feedback
 - Explaining what would happen after consultation closes i.e. next steps
 - Defining the project as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) that required an EIA
 - Stating that a PEIR had been published, as well as a non-technical summary of the PEIR, and providing links to where the information could be accessed
 - Explaining how to contact the Applicant with questions and/or requests for further documentation/information.
- 5.2.8.4 In the interest of encouraging as much feedback as possible before the close of statutory consultation, the Applicant sent a ‘Consultation Closing Soon’ email (Appendix D.13.3) on 22 May 2023, approximately halfway through the statutory consultation period, to all section 42 and section 47 consultees, and a ‘Last Chance to Provide Feedback’ email (Appendix D.13.4), again to all section 42 and section 47 consultees, on 02 June 2023, two days prior to the close of statutory consultation.
- 5.2.8.5 These emails reiterated how people could find out more information about the project and provide feedback. The ‘Consultation Closing Soon’ email also reminded people of the remaining in-person exhibition events and directed people to a recording of the online event webinar on the consultation website.
- 5.2.8.6 Following the close of consultation three consultees were identified as having bounce backs which had not been addressed. These consultees were emailed (using certified

email addresses) and written to by post, providing them with a further 28 day period during which they could provide feedback. See section 5.3.

5.3 Additional targeted statutory consultation

5.3.1 Additional targeted statutory consultation – number 01

5.3.1.1 Following the close of consultation analysis of the email database was conducted to identify any section 42 consultees who had received but not opened any of the four emails they were sent at the start of, or during, the consultation period.

5.3.1.2 It was identified that a total of 58 section 42 consultees had received, but not opened, any of the emails they had been sent during the consultation.

5.3.1.3 To ensure these consultees were not disadvantaged by not having opened the emails they were sent a set of consultation materials in the post, including:

- Consultation brochure
- A feedback form
- A non-technical summary of the PEIR
- A USB containing the full PEIR
- SoCC.

5.3.1.4 All these identified consultees were given a further 28 days to consider the consultation material and provide their feedback. The letters were issued on 16 June 2023 and the deadline provided for the receipt of feedback was 13 July 2023.

5.3.1.5 As a result of this communication and extension, an additional two section 42 consultees provided their feedback. This feedback was treated in the same way as that received during the initial consultation.

5.3.2 Additional targeted statutory consultation – number 02

5.3.2.1 On 16 August 2023 the Applicant became aware that a technical website error meant respondents' feedback to Question 1.14 (Inter-Related Effects, Offshore), submitted via the online feedback form on the consultation website, had not been captured.

5.3.2.2 The Applicant therefore re-engaged all those who had completed an online feedback form and give them the opportunity to resubmit their feedback for question 1.14. This included:

- Gathering respondents' contact details from the feedback that had been submitted
- Writing by email and/or post to respondents, asking them to resubmit their feedback and providing an additional 31 days from the day after the email and/or letter was received to do so.

5.3.2.3 The project therefore proactively contacted everybody who had submitted an online feedback form - and who had provided their contact details (a total of 48 consultees, including one section 42 consultee with the remainder being classified as section 47 consultees). In total, 40 consultees received both a letter and an email, four consultees received just a letter and four consultees only received an email. Everybody received at least one form of communication directly (see Appendix D.19 for example email and letter).

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5.3.2.4 The letters were issued on 25 August 2023 and responses – which could be submitted by either email or letter – were requested by 25 September 2023. The duration of this period was 31 days.

5.3.2.5 In response, the Applicant received four pieces of feedback: one email and three hard copy responses. All four pieces of feedback were logged and was treated in the same way as that received during the initial consultation.

5.3.2.6 One of these organisations was a section 42 consultee, Eryri National Park Authority. As a result of this additional contact, the National Park Authority did not provide any response further to that already previously provided.

5.3.3 Additional targeted statutory consultation – number 03

5.3.3.1 On 19 October 2023 the Applicant wrote to Marine Scotland, the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and DEFRA (see Appendices D.20.1 – D.20.3) which had been identified as a consultee under section 42 and section 47. The Applicant explained in writing that, while the consultees had been contacted as part of the statutory consultation launch on 10 April 2023 it had become apparent emails had not reached the correct recipients within those organisations. The three organisations were subsequently provided with copies of:

- A Consultation Brochure
- A feedback form
- A non-technical summary of the PEIR
- Our August 2023 community newsletter (announcing that the project had selected a single onshore substation location and a single onshore cable route)
- Our September 2023 community newsletter (announcing a number of refinements to the offshore element of the scheme, including a reduction to our array boundary).

5.3.3.2 All three organisations were provided with a further 30 days to provide any feedback it had. DEFRA and the CLA both acknowledged the request and confirmed they would not be providing feedback. No acknowledgement or feedback was received from Marine Scotland.

5.4 Notifying the Secretary of State under section 46

5.4.1.1 The project issued its section 46 notification and the required documentation in accordance with section 46 of the 2008 Act, on 19 April 2023 to the Planning Inspectorate, The Rt Hon Grant Shapps Member of Parliament (MP), in his capacity as then Secretary of State for DESNZ, and the Rt Hon David TC Davies MP, in his capacity as Secretary of State for Wales.

5.4.1.2 The project's email delivery report showed that the emails were delivered to and received by Mr Shapps and Mr Davies (Appendix D.21.1). The project's email delivery report however showed a 'soft bounce' for the email to the Planning Inspectorate. Following a conversation with the Planning Inspectorate, it was confirmed that it did not receive the Applicant's section 46 notification.

5.4.1.3 The Applicant re-sent the section 46 notification email on 26 April 2023, within the statutory minimum requirement of 28 days. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed receipt on the same day and the Planning Inspectorate subsequently published its confirmation of acceptance of the section 46 notification on its website (Appendix D.21.2).

5.5 Statutory publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008

5.5.1 Introduction

5.5.1.1 This section sets out how the Applicant has complied with the “Duty to Publicise” under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), a crucial step in the process of seeking a Development Consent Order (DCO) as it ensures that the public is informed about the project and has the opportunity to engage in the consultation and provide their views and raise any concerns or objections that could help influence the project’s development.

5.5.2 Legislative context

5.5.2.1 Section 48(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to publicise a proposed application at the pre-application stage, in the prescribed manner, to include a deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity.

5.5.2.2 The prescribed manner is set out in Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations). Regulation 4(2) sets out what the publicity must entail, specifically this requires the notice to be placed within:

- One or more local newspapers, for at least two consecutive weeks
- A national newspaper (once)
- The London Gazette (once) and if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette (once).

And, where the proposed application relates to offshore development, within:

- Lloyds List (once)
- An appropriate fishing trade journal (once).

5.5.2.3 Regulation 4(3)(a) – (i) goes on to provide the detail of the matters which must be included in that notice. This includes;

‘(a) the name and address of the applicant;

(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Commission;

(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;

(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;

(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development are available for inspection free of charge on a website maintained on or behalf of the applicant;

(ea) the address of the website where the documents, plans and maps can be inspected;

(eb) the place on the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected;

(ec) a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps; and

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(f) the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website (being a date not earlier than the deadline in subparagraph(i));

(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;

(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and

(i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published.'

5.5.2.4 In developing and publishing the section 48 notice, regard must be had to the 2017 EIA Regulations and relevant guidance about pre-application procedures. Regulation 13 of the 2017 EIA Regulations places a requirement on the Applicant, where a development is EIA development, they must at the same time as publicising the notice of the proposed application under section 48(1), send a copy of the notice to the relevant consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the 2017 EIA Regulations. The DCLG Guidance, relevant to section 48 publicity, details at Paragraph 58 that:

'Applicants are required to publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act and Regulations and set out the detail of what this publicity must entail. This publicity is an integral part of the public consultation process. Where possible, the first of the two required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities. However, given the detailed information required for the publicity in the Regulations, aligning publicity with consultation may not always be possible, especially where a multi-stage consultation is intended.'

5.5.3 The section 48 notice for the Mona Offshore Wind Project

Development of the notice

5.5.3.1 The section 48 notice, which is included as Appendix D.22.1, provided the Applicant's details, project description, an overview of what the application would cover, and consultation period dates. It specified where consultation materials were available to view and how people could respond to the notice or make representations in respect of the project. The notice was produced bilingually in Welsh and English.

Publicising the notice

5.5.3.2 The section 48 notice was first published in The Guardian on 12 April 2023. The remaining notices appeared in the press between 12-20 April, to coincide with the start of the section 42 and 47 consultation period on 19 April 2023, and copies of the notice were sent to all consultation bodies (listed in Appendix D.16) on 19 April 2023.

5.5.3.3 The email sent to consultees notifying them of the consultation (Appendix D.13.2) included reference to the section 48 notice and a direct link to where the notice could be read on the Applicant's website, along with a formal request for comment on the proposed application after its first publication. This is with the exception of Bodolwyddan Town Council, as set out in section 5.2.5.

5.5.3.4 The email also confirmed that, as previously advised, the deadline for responses to the consultation was 04 June 2023.

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5.5.3.5 The notice was available on the consultation website from 19 April 2023 and appeared in the following newspapers:

- The Daily Post (12 April and 19 April 2023) – Welsh and English versions (local newspaper)
- Golwg (13 April and 20 April 2023) – Welsh and English versions (local newspaper)
- Isle of Man Courier (14 April and 20 April 2023) – English only (local newspaper)
- The Guardian (12 April 2023) – English only (national newspaper)
- Lloyd's List (12 April 2023) – English only
- Fishing News (12 April 2023) – English only (fishing journal)
- London Gazette (12 April 2023) – English only

5.5.3.6 All these notices, as they appeared in situ, are shown at Appendix D.22.2.

5.5.3.7 The launch of consultation received media coverage, and local and regional newspapers and news websites, including BBC News and Isle of Man Today, ran articles during the statutory consultation period regarding the proposed project. These included details of consultation events, the webinar and links to the consultation website and can be viewed at Appendix D.22.3.

5.6 Consultation under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) 2017 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

5.6.1 Introduction

5.6.1.1 This section presents and summarises the consultation undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in accordance with the 2017 EIA Regulations and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (HRA Regulations). It sets out the legislative requirements, the approach adopted and details how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation. This section also includes the Mona Offshore Wind Project's approach to transboundary consultation.

5.6.1.2 The 2017 EIA Regulations contain provisions that are relevant to pre-application consultations and are summarised as:

- Regulation 8 provides the procedure for establishing whether an EIA is required. It requires Applicants, prior to carrying out consultation under section 42, to either ask the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion or notify them that the Applicant proposes to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of that development.
 - The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, in its letter dated 07 April 2022 (Appendix D.23)
- Regulation 10 provides details relating to the request for a Scoping Opinion, including what a Scoping Report should include, as detailed in section 5.6.2 below.
- Regulation 11 provides the procedure to facilitate the preparation of an Environmental Statement for EIA development. This includes provisions for the notification of the consultation bodies of their duties in providing information to facilitate the Environmental Statement, the provision of a list of those bodies so notified to the applicant and notifying the applicant of those persons considered

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likely to be affected or have an interest in the project or unlikely to become aware of the proposed development by other means set out in Part 5 of the 2008 Act.

- Regulation 11 list of consultation bodies and interested persons was received by the Planning Inspectorate alongside the Scoping Opinion (Appendix D.17).
- Regulation 12 requires that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), drafted under section 47(a), must set out whether the proposed development is EIA and if so, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
 - The SoCC (Appendix D.1) provides this relevant detail.
- Regulation 13 relates to pre-application publicity under section 48 and requires the Applicant, at the same time as publishing the notice under section 48 to provide a copy of the notice to be sent to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant, in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c).
 - The Applicant issued a copy of the section 48 notice (Appendix D.22.1) to the relevant consultation bodies on 19 April 2023 after the first publication of the section 48 notice (12 April 2023).
- The Planning Inspectorate provides further guidance on matters relating to the 2017 EIA Regulations, as detailed:
 - Advice Note Seven (June 2020, version 7) explains the EIA process as set out in the 2017 EIA Regulations and in particular addresses the procedures for EIA screening and scoping; notification and consultation; matters relating to the production of Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) and the preparation of an Environmental Statement
 - Advice Note Fourteen (February 2021, version 3) refers to the 2017 EIA Regulations consultation highlighting that consultation undertaken as part of the EIA process is separate to that required under the 2008 Act. It states that Applicants may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to that consultation should be addressed separately from the statutory consultation carried out under the provisions of the 2008 Act.

5.6.2 2017 EIA Regulation Consultation

5.6.2.1 The Applicant submitted the Mona Scoping Report (pursuant to Regulation 10 of the 2017 EIA Regulations), to the Secretary of State for DESNZ (formerly the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and NRW on 05 May 2022 (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2022). The Scoping Report contained details of the proposed approach to EIA for each topic and in accordance with Regulation 10(3) of the 2017 EIA Regulations, including:

- A plan sufficient to identify the area required for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project
- A description of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including its location and technical capacity
- An explanation of the likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on the environment including the aspects likely to be significantly affected and

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- Other information the Applicant wished to provide, which included a baseline description for each topic chapter now presented in the Environmental Statement.

5.6.2.2 The Planning Inspectorate consulted upon the Scoping Report with statutory consultees and a Scoping Opinion was received on 15 June 2022 (The Planning Inspectorate, 2022).

5.6.2.3 The Applicant met informally with stakeholders in Q3 of 2022 to discuss their feedback in more detail as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), Engagement Forums and wider technical consultation and to make any necessary amendments to the proposed approach, ahead of formal consultation on the PEIR. Please refer to section 4.5 above for participants and the Technical Engagement Plan (TEP) (Document Reference E4) for further information.

5.6.2.4 Consultation on the PEIR was undertaken with section 42 consultees in parallel with statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act. This provided the opportunity to review and comment upon the proposed Mona Offshore Wind Project development, including the Mona Proposed Onshore Development Area, Mona Onshore Cable Route options and Mona Onshore Substation options, the contents of the PEIR and the assessments undertaken to date (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023). See section 5.1 of this Consultation Report for further information.

5.6.2.5 Further information with regards to EIA Consultation can be found at Volume 1 Chapters 1 and 5 and the specific topic chapters of the Environmental Statement.

5.6.3 Transboundary Consultation

5.6.3.1 Transboundary effects arise when impacts from a project within one European Economic Area (EEA) state affect the environment of another state(s). The need to consider such transboundary effects has been embodied by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (commonly referred to as the 'Espoo Convention').

5.6.3.2 The Espoo Convention is aimed at preventing, mitigating and monitoring environmental damage by ensuring that explicit consideration is given to transboundary environmental factors before a final decision is made as to whether to approve a project. In regard to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) the Espoo Convention has been implemented in the UK via the 2017 EIA Regulations. Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations sets out a prescribed process for notifying and consulting EEA states that may be affected by a development that is likely to have significant transboundary effects.

5.6.3.3 Furthermore, the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Processes (December 2020, version 6) sets out the procedures for consultation in association with an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) where such development may have significant transboundary impacts. The note sets out the roles of the Planning Inspectorate, other states and developers.

5.6.3.4 The Planning Inspectorate were notified of the potential for transboundary impacts through the request for a Scoping Opinion, and the Mona Offshore Wind Project Scoping Report presented the identification and screening of transboundary impacts (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2022). A transboundary impacts screening report was also produced and consulted upon as part of the PEIR (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023).

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- 5.6.3.5 The Planning Inspectorate is required to comply with Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations regarding potential transboundary effects on non-UK states and duly published a Regulation 32 notice on 07 November 2022 (Appendix D.24.1). A notice was also published in the London Gazette on 09 November 2022 (Appendix D.24.2). A Regulation 32 response was received from the Republic of Ireland on 19 December 2022 (Appendix D.24.3) and from Belgium on 14 December 2022 (Appendix D.24.4).
- 5.6.3.6 Despite not being a Regulation 32 EEA State, the Isle of Man Government have been consulted throughout the pre-application stages, recognising them as a key consultee.
- 5.6.3.7 Volume 5, Annex 5.2: Transboundary impacts screening of the Environmental Statement provides an update to the transboundary screening and considers up to date information, the transboundary screening undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate, consultation responses from EEA States and the outcomes of the EIA.

5.6.4 Habitat Regulations Consultation

- 5.6.4.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 require the assessment of significant effects on internationally important nature conservation sites where these may arise as a result of a plan or project. On the basis of the potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to have a likely significant effect (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on one or more of a number of sites that form part of the UK National Site Network designated under the Habitats Regulations, an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the Mona Offshore Wind Project will need to be undertaken by the Secretary of State in respect of the conservation objectives applicable to the relevant sites and/or species.
- 5.6.4.2 The Habitats Regulations make it clear that the person applying for the consent of the plan or project must provide such information as the Competent Authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment. The HRA Screening Report (Document Reference E1.1) and Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1) provides this information.
- 5.6.4.3 The Mona Offshore Wind Project undertook consultation on the HRA as part of the EPP, within Expert Working Groups (EWGs) as well as during statutory consultation when a draft HRA Stage 1 Screening Report and draft ISAA was provided alongside the PEIR. Please refer to section 4.5 above for participants of the EPP and the TEP (Document Reference E4) for further information.
- 5.6.4.4 Responses received during the statutory and non-statutory consultation have been considered and fully reported in the final Screening Report and ISAA, as submitted as part of the DCO application. Consultation responses during statutory consultation on the draft ISAA and the Applicant's responses are included in Appendix D.25.

5.7 Summary of responses to statutory consultation and applicant regard

5.7.1 Introduction

- 5.7.1.1 This section of the Consultation Report provides a summary of the responses received during statutory consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant in the final Development Consent Order (DCO) application and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) marine licence application for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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- 5.7.1.2 All responses from the statutory consultation and the Applicant's response to such are detailed in the tables contained within Appendix D.25. The intention of this section is to draw out the key issues, the Applicants regard and any resultant changes. References are made throughout to relevant chapters in the Environmental Statement and other supporting documents submitted with the application for consent.
- 5.7.1.3 Section 42 consultees such as prescribed bodies and local authorities and section 44 landowners/ Person With an Interest in the Land (PWILs) have been considered alongside section 47 consultees such as members of the public and non-statutory organisations.
- 5.7.1.4 Regard has been had to consultation responses in a number of different ways. In most cases, comments have been addressed through provision of further information or clarification provided either in the Environmental Statement chapters submitted with the application or through post-Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) stakeholder engagement. In some cases, a design decision was made in direct response to consultation responses.

5.7.2 Legislation and Guidance

Planning Act 2008

- 5.7.2.1 Section 49 (2) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to have regard to relevant responses to the consultation and publicity that has been undertaken under section 42, 47 and 48. A relevant response defined in section 49 (3) means:
- a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case,
 - a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or
 - a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.
- 5.7.2.2 Additionally, section 37(7) requires the consultation report providing details of:
- what has been done in compliance with section 42, 47 and 48 in relation to a proposed application that has become the application
 - any relevant responses
 - the account taken of any relevant responses.

Guidance

- 5.7.2.3 DCLG Guidance on the pre-application process
- 5.7.2.4 In relation to the consultation report and responses to pre-application (statutory consultation), Paragraph 23 of the DCLG Guidance advises that during the pre-application stage, applicants are required to, *inter alia*, 'have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation' in accordance with the requirements of section 49.
- 5.7.2.5 Additionally, Paragraph 80 includes the requirement to:
- '...set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);

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- provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed;
- provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts.'

5.7.2.6 Paragraph 81 highlights that it is good practice that those who responded to the consultation are informed on the results, how the information received has been used by the applicants to shape and influence the project and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an application is submitted.

5.7.2.7 Further, Paragraph 115 states applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have acted reasonably in fulfilling the requirements of the Planning Act, including in taking account of responses to consultation and publicity. If the applicant has acted reasonably, it is unlikely the Secretary of State will conclude that the pre-application consultation was inadequate, on the basis that particular impacts had not been mitigated to an appropriate degree.

[The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen \(The Planning Inspectorate, 2021\)](#)

5.7.2.8 The Advice Note on compiling the Consultation Report states that the report should summarise the individual responses received and categorised in an appropriate way and identify those which are relevant (directly or indirectly) to change made to the project during the pre-application stage, as required by section 49 of the 2008 Act. The Advice Note also advises an explanation as to why responses may have led to no change, including if responses were late to be received.

5.7.3 Key Project Changes

5.7.3.1 Table 5.15 provides a summary of the key project changes following statutory consultation, the reasoning for the change and where further information can be found.

Table 5.15: Key project changes as a result of consultation.

Change	Description	Justification	Reference
Refinement of Array boundary & turbine number and size	<p>Refinement of the Mona Array Area and maximum number of turbines:</p> <p>Area: reduced from 450 km² at PEIR, to 300 km² at application.</p> <p>Number of turbines: reduced from 107 at PEIR, to 96 at application.</p> <p>The maximum rotor diameter of the rotor blades has increased from 280m to 320m and thus the maximum height increased from 324 m</p>	<p>In response to statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively, regarding concerns over commercial fisheries, shipping and navigation and other sea users from the Mona Offshore Wind Project the Mona Array Area has been reduced as well as the number of maximum turbines.</p> <p>The maximum wind turbine rotor diameter was increased in response to feedback from the supply chain.</p>	<p>Section 5.7.8, 5.7.11, 5.7.12, 5.7.16, 5.7.17, 5.7.18, and 5.7.30 of this report, all chapters within Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement and the following chapters of Volume 4 the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives • Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and radar • Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics • Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human health assessment.

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Change	Description	Justification	Reference
	<p>at PEIR to 364 m at application.</p>		
<p>Refinement of turbine separation distances & lines of orientation</p>	<p>The minimum separation distance between offshore surface structures (wind turbines and offshore substation platforms (OSPs)) has increased from 875 m between offshore surface structures within a row and 1000 m between rows at PEIR to 1,400 m between offshore surface structures within or between rows at application.</p> <p>There will also be a scallop mitigation zone within the Mona Array Area.</p> <p>Maintenance of two 'lines of orientation' through the Mona Array Area and orientation of the offshore surface structure rows to roughly north to south.</p>	<p>In response to statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively, regarding concerns over commercial fisheries and shipping and navigation minimum separation within and between offshore surface structure rows has increased providing additional space for marine users to pass between and around the Mona Offshore Wind Project.</p> <p>The scallop mitigation zone and the lines of orientation have been designed to provide additional space for marine users, facilitate search and rescue (SAR) and to promote co-existence and co-location with commercial fisheries stakeholders.</p>	<p>Sections 5.7.8, 5.7.14, 5.7.16, 5.7.33 and 5.7.34 of this report and the following sections of the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives • Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine Mammals • Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial fisheries • Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and navigation • Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics • Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human health assessment
<p>Reduction in foundation options</p>	<p>The PEIR included monopiles as a design option for wind turbines and OSP foundations. Monopiles have been removed from the design envelope.</p> <p>Owing to the removal of monopiles from the foundation options, the maximum hammer energy associated with impact piling of foundations has been reduced from 5,500 kJ presented in the PEIR to 4,400kJ in the Environmental Statement.</p>	<p>In response to statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively, regarding concerns over underwater sound as well as ongoing seabed condition engineering studies. Removal of monopiles and reduction in the maximum hammer energy will reduce the underwater sound emitted and reduce the impact on marine wildlife.</p>	<p>Section 5.7.11, 5.7.12, 5.7.13 and 5.7.14 of this report and the following sections of the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives • Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology • Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish • Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals • Volume 5, Annex 3.1: Underwater sound technical report

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Change	Description	Justification	Reference
<p>Refinement in parameters for the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor</p>	<p>The maximum sandwave clearance width along the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor has been reduced from the 104 m proposed at PEIR to 80 m for both the inter-array and interconnector cables, and from the 104 m proposed at PEIR to 40 m for the offshore export cables.</p> <p>In addition, the percentage of the export cable length requiring sandwave clearance has been reduced from 70% as presented in the PEIR to 20% in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>A number of commitments to refinements have been made relating to the installation and protection of export cables through the Constable Bank feature and Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and Conwy Bay Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).</p> <p>No cable protection will be installed within Constable Bank</p> <p>Any sandwave clearance on the Constable Bank will be within the swept path area (20 m) of the cable installation tool</p> <p>No sandwave clearance will occur within the Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC</p> <p>No cable protection higher than 70 cm will be installed within in the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.</p> <p>Additionally, the percentage of export cable requiring cable protection will not exceed 10% of the total length of the export cable within the Conwy Bay and Menai Straits SAC.</p>	<p>In response to pre-PEIR, statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively impacts to benthic ecology and designated sites with benthic features.</p>	<p>Sections 5.7.8, 5.7.9, 5.7.11, 5.7.12, 5.7.14 and 5.7.35 of this report, Habitat Regulation Assessments (Document Reference E1.1 – 1.5) and the following sections of the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives • Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes • Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology • Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology • Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals • Volume 2, Chapter 9: Marine archaeology

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Change	Description	Justification	Reference
Refinement of Mona Onshore Cable Corridor	<p>Removal of options along the Onshore Cable Corridor have been made, reducing its width to a maximum of 74 m from that proposed at PEIR.</p> <p>This reduction has also resulted in a refinement in location of temporary construction compounds.</p>	<p>In response to, statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively, regarding concerns over significance of effects, a single onshore cable route has been selected from the options that were included within the PEIR. This has been chosen to avoid harm to receptors where practicable and minimise significance of effect where avoidance is not practicable.</p>	<p>Section 5.7.8, 5.7.9, and 5.7.21 of this report, Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives and all chapters within Volume 3 of the Environmental Statement</p>
Single Onshore Substation option	<p>At non-statutory consultation in 2022 seven substation options were presented for feedback. This was shortlisted to two options which were consulted on at PEIR. For application the Applicant has selected substation location Option 2.</p> <p>Maximum footprint reduced from 125,000 at PEIR to 65,000. Maximum building height reduced from 20 m at PEIR to 15 m.</p>	<p>In response to, statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively regarding concerns over traffic, visual impact, loss of mature trees and hedgerows and diversion of an ordinary water course, onshore substation option 2 has been taken forward. The removal of option 7 was selected to avoid harm to receptors where practicable.</p>	<p>Section 5.7.8, 5.7.9, 5.7.21, 5.7.26 and 5.7.34 of this report, Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives and all chapters within Volume 3 of the Environmental Statement</p>
Selection of Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) for the onshore substation	<p>At PEIR two options for the switchgear for the onshore substation were presented – Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) and GIS. GIS has been selected for application.</p>	<p>In response to statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively, regarding to the land take of the Onshore Substation GIS has been selected. GIS substations have a smaller footprint than the alternative (AIS substations) and this has allowed the Mona Offshore Wind Project to refine its site selection and reduce the footprint of the onshore substation.</p>	<p>Section 5.7.9 of this report, Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives and all chapters within Volume 3 of the Environmental Statement</p>

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Change	Description	Justification	Reference
Removal of open cut trenching and cable protection	Open cut trenching has been removed from the design envelope at landfall. Offshore export cables will be installed via trenchless techniques.	<p>In response to, statutory consultation and post-statutory consultation engagement, particularly, but not exclusively, regarding concerns over impacts to the intertidal area and the SAC, no open cut trenching is proposed.</p> <p>There will also be no cable protection placed on the seabed in the intertidal zone with trenchless techniques undertaken between Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).</p> <p>No cable protection is required within Constable Bank whilst within Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.</p> <p>This approach will also avoid construction works on Pensarn Beach and interaction with the former Llanddulas Beach Landfill and the Wales Coast Path.</p>	<p>Section 5.7.11, 5.7.12, 5.7.20, 5.7.21 and 5.7.22 of this report and the following sections of the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes • Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology • Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions • Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and flood risk • Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology.

5.7.4 Overview of responses

- 5.7.4.1 Statutory consultation feedback was received from a total of 210 section 42 and section 47 consultees.
- 5.7.4.2 All responses have been categorised by topic, aligning with the chapters of the PEIR, as set out in Table 5.16. In addition, comments also related to the draft Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and draft DCO (dDCO) which were also available during the consultation for people to give their views on.
- 5.7.4.3 Overarching and non-topic related responses can be seen in section 5.7.5 and Appendix D.25.1.
- 5.7.4.4 Responses from both section 42 and section 47 consultees have been dealt with together. It is important to note that each issue raised is given equal importance, regardless of the frequency with which it was raised, or who raised it.

Table 5.16: PEIR chapter details and location of summary details.

PEIR Volume	PEIR Chapter Number	PEIR Chapter title	Reference within section 5.7 and Appendix
1 – Introduction			
	1	Introduction and overarching glossary	Section 5.7.6 Appendix D.25.2

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PEIR Volume	PEIR Chapter Number	PEIR Chapter title	Reference within section 5.7 and Appendix
	2	Policy and legislation	Section 5.7.7 Appendix D.25.3
	3	Project description	Section 5.7.8 Appendix D.25.4
	4	Site selection and consideration of alternatives	Section 5.7.9 Appendix D.25.5
	5	Environmental Impact Assessment methodology	Section 5.7.10 Appendix D.25.6
2 – Offshore chapters			
	6	Physical processes	Section 5.7.11 Appendix D.25.7
	7	Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology	Section 5.7.12 Appendix D.25.8
	8	Fish and shellfish ecology	Section 5.7.13 Appendix D.25.9 and Appendix D.25.9.1
	9	Marine mammals	Section 5.7.14 Appendix D.25.10 and Appendix D.25.9.1
	10	Offshore ornithology	Section 5.7.15 Appendix D.25.11
	11	Commercial fisheries	Section 5.7.16 Appendix D.25.12
	12	Shipping and navigation	Section 5.7.16.12 Appendix D.25.13
	13	Marine archaeology	Section 5.7.17 Appendix D.25.14
	14	Other sea users	Section 5.7.18 Appendix D.25.15
	15	Inter-related effects (offshore)	Section 5.7.19
3 – Onshore chapters			
	16	Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions	Section 5.7.20 Appendix D.25.16
	17	Hydrology and flood risk	Section 5.7.21 Appendix D.25.17
	18	Onshore Ecology	Section 5.7.22 Appendix D.25.18

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PEIR Volume	PEIR Chapter Number	PEIR Chapter title	Reference within section 5.7 and Appendix
	19	Historic environment	Section 5.7.23 Appendix D.25.19
	20	Land use and recreation	Section 5.7.24 Appendix D.25.20
	21	Traffic and transport	Section 5.7.25 Appendix D.25.21
	22	Noise and vibration	Section 5.7.26 Appendix D.25.22
	23	Air quality	Section 5.7.27 Appendix D.25.23
	24	Onshore and intertidal ornithology	Section 5.7.28 Appendix D.25.24
	25	Inter-related effects (onshore)	Section 5.7.29
4 – Onshore and offshore combined chapters			
	26	Seascape, landscape and visual resources	Section 5.7.30 Appendix D.25.25
	27	Aviation and radar	Section 5.7.31 Appendix D.25.26
	28	Climate change	Section 5.7.32 Appendix D.25.27
	29	Socio-economics	Section 5.7.33 Appendix D.25.28
	30	Human health assessment	Section 5.7.34 Appendix D.25.29

- 5.7.4.5 Comments received in regard to the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) and those from Landowners and PWILs are dealt with below at sections 5.7.35, 5.7.36 and 5.7.37.
- 5.7.4.6 All responses received can be viewed within the tables within Appendix D25, alongside the Applicant's response. The tables also set out whether the feedback resulted in a project change (whether directly or indirectly) following statutory consultation, ahead of submission of the DCO application.
- 5.7.4.7 Within these tables each responder is given a unique reference code as shown in Figure 5.8 below:

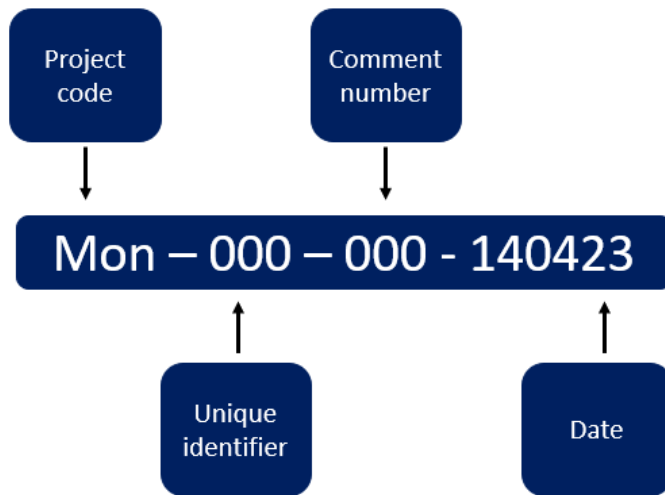


Figure 5.8: Unique reference coding in feedback tables

5.7.4.8 Many responses received contained comments relevant to more than one topic. Each response has been broken down and separated across the relevant topics as appropriate. Where consultees raised issues that were relevant to multiple topics, these are allocated to the most relevant topic areas and the responses can be seen within the associated tables for each topic area (Appendix D25.1 to D25.33).

5.7.4.9 Feedback responses were also received relating to formatting, typographic errors and incorrect references, rather than relating directly to a specific subject area. Any such issues raised have been amended in the relevant final application document(s). Comments were also received that requested clarifications on terminology and definitions, which have similarly been resolved in the relevant final application document(s).

5.7.4.10 All comments have had due regard paid to them by the Applicant. In cases where this has resulted in amendments to the project design and/ or changes or additions to the application documentation this is identified. In some cases, the responses led to further discussion and agreement with the relevant consultees. Responses via topic, and regard had to them, are also described within the consultation tables of the relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement.

5.7.5 Overarching consultation process and non-technical comments

5.7.5.1 The majority of feedback received related to specific topics or the areas of interest of the responding organisation or individual. However, some respondents also left general overarching comments, either on aspects of the consultation process itself or on subjects beyond the specific scope of the consultation.

5.7.5.2 These comments broadly fell into the categories below:

- Requests for materials, such as the PEIR or components thereof, the consultation brochure or the feedback form, in a variety of formats (USB stick, hard copies, website links)
- Queries relating to practical aspects such as the dates and location of information events, and the technical aspect of accessing the webinar and online feedback form

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- Offers of ongoing assistance with organising event venues (largely from local County or Community Councils)
- Requests for an extension of time to submit feedback
- Administrative information such as notification of a change of contact person within an organisation
- General comments on the design or content of consultation materials, including the fact that they were bilingual
- Comments on the amount of reference information available, particularly in the Cefn Meiriadog and St Asaph area, and on the balance of digital resources versus printed materials
- Opinions on the decision to include other projects (Morgan Offshore Generation Assets, Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets and Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets) on some consultation materials and at events
- Feedback relating to community benefits, local employment, skills enhancement and supply chain opportunities
- General comments sharing individual, ideological views on subjects such as renewable energy, offshore wind, climate change and Government policy
- Subjective views on consultation fatigue and assertions that public consultations are tokenistic and lack transparency.

5.7.5.3 Where these comments or queries asked for specific information or resources, the Applicant provided the requested information in a timely fashion. Where comments constituted an opinion or provided additional information, this feedback was noted and/or considered in the development of the project and the application for consent.

5.7.5.4 All feedback received which was deemed to be overarching and non-technical, can be found in Appendix D.25.1 alongside the Applicant's response.

5.7.6 Introduction and glossary (PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 1)

5.7.6.1 Feedback relating to Chapter 1 of the PEIR was provided by SP Energy Networks, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Douglas Council, Natural England, Isle of Man Government, Wildlife Trusts Wales (WTW), St Asaph City Council and a member of the public.

5.7.6.2 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.3.

Summary of Consultee and Applicant Responses

5.7.6.3 The feedback included outlining the benefits of offshore wind farms. Beyond this it was mainly to ensure that any impacts can be managed in an appropriate manner and that such measures are made clear to contractors. Where such works may interfere with existing land rights, it was also highlighted that these rights would need to be amended and agreed in full given there is already significant industrial sites within the area.

5.7.6.4 Broader feedback related to the potential transboundary impacts with the Isle of Man, specifically the habitats and species protected under Manx law or identified as threatened or declining by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention), as well as impacts on commercial fisheries and it was recommended that fishing organisations on the island be included as consultees via the appointed Fisheries Liaison Officer. It was also raised that due to the uncertainty surrounding potential Offshore Wind Farm impacts means that even

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robust baseline environmental information cannot comprehensively address all pre-construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase knowledge gaps and thus a life cycle Adaptive Management approach is recommended.

5.7.6.5 The Applicant recognises that as the Isle of Man is a Relevant British Crown Dependency of the UK it is not considered to be a transboundary consultee of the Mona Offshore Wind Project; however, it is recognised that they have functions akin to a local authority and have been fully involved in the consultation process. Potential impacts upon environmental receptors within the Isle of Man are fully considered within the Environmental Statement (see Volume 2, Chapters 1 to 10; Volume 3, Chapters 1 to 10; and Volume 4, Chapters 1 to 4 of the Environmental Statement).

5.7.6.6 The Applicant confirms that direct engagement has taken place with commercial fisheries' representatives via statutory consultation and the engagement held with technical stakeholders as presented in the TEP (Document Ref E4).

5.7.7 Policy and legislation (PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 2)

5.7.7.1 Feedback relating to policy and legislation was provided by the Isle of Man Government, NRW, WTW, Denbighshire County Council and two members of the public.

5.7.7.2 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.4.

Summary of Consultee and Applicant Responses

5.7.7.3 Feedback provided further clarity regarding the regulatory regimes as well as the Licensing and Enforcement Authorities. Clarification was sought regarding which elements of the project fell under which regulatory driver. The feedback from the Regulators highlighted that the applications being made should be specific to the application remit and should be comprehensive in the parameters and phases being assessed, as well as the timeframe. To address some of the potential impacts, relevant standard conditions have been recommended.

5.7.7.4 Broader, feedback relates to the potential transboundary impacts with the Isle of Man, specifically the habitats and species protected under Manx law or identified as threatened or declining by the OSPAR Convention and Marine Protected Areas. As such, it was recommended that the Isle of Man offshore windfarm (now known as Moor Vannin) should be included within the Cumulative Impact Assessment.

5.7.7.5 Members of the public made reference to the National Policy Statement (NPS) and that this proposal offered zero coordination across multiple projects in the area and that as the proposal is in Wales this should come under the Welsh Government remit.

5.7.7.6 The Applicant notes the clarifications regarding regulatory drivers. These comments have been taken into account in the drafting of the application DCO and draft Marine Licence (dML). The Applicant has made amendments to the Policy and Legislation chapter updating the chapter to state the Welsh Government as the licencing authority and have updated figures to more clearly denote the 12 nm boundary in relation to the Extent of Marine Licences Figure.

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5.7.8 Project description (PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 3)

- 5.7.8.1 Feedback regarding the project description was provided by the Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Ministry of Defence (MOD), Awel y Môr, National Grid, Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), MMO, NRW, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Scottish Power, Isle of Anglesey, Ørsted, WTW, Eryri National Park, Douglas Quay and nine members of the public.
- 5.7.8.2 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.4.

Summary of Consultee and Applicant Responses

- 5.7.8.3 Feedback provided further clarity regarding the regulatory regimes as well as the Licensing and Enforcement Authorities. Clarification was sought regarding which elements of the project fell under which regulatory driver. The feedback from the Regulators highlighted that the applications being made should be specific to the application remit and should be comprehensive in the parameters and phases being assessed, as well as the timeframe. To address some of the potential impacts, relevant standard conditions have been recommended. The Applicant notes the suggestions made by consultees, these comments have been taken into account in the drafting of the consent application and dML or have already been included as part of the Application. Conditions are set out in the dDCO (Document Reference C1) and Marine Licence Principles Document (Document Reference J9).
- 5.7.8.4 Additional clarification was sought for the onshore route and infrastructure, and which properties could potentially be affected. There were also requests to justify the onshore route given the length of cabling required to reach the substation. Following a review of feedback and ongoing surveys, assessments and technical studies, the Applicant implemented design changes, both on and offshore, as announced in August and September 2023. This included the reduction of the Mona Array Area and maximum number of wind turbines, the reduction of the onshore cable route to a single corridor and a single onshore substation location (Option 2) being taken forward to application. The location of the Temporary Construction Compounds have also been updated as part of the refinement to the Onshore Cable Corridor.
- 5.7.8.5 Consultees identified additional receptors and assessments that should be included within the Environmental Statement as well as additional mitigation measures. These included land uses, visual impacts, existing cables and rights of easement. Recommendations to the licence conditions have been proposed, including decommissioning activities.
- 5.7.8.6 The Applicant has considered the consultation responses and key changes made to the project description are set out in Table 5.15. All mitigation and monitoring commitments made by the Mona Offshore Wind Project are included in the Mitigation and monitoring schedule (Document Reference J10).
- 5.7.8.7 Overall, consultees welcomed further engagement including community engagement throughout construction. Denbighshire County Council highlighted that they have adopted a Community Benefit Contributions Strategy which provides developers with confirmation of the Councils aspirations in relation to securing community benefit from major energy developments. This is recognised by the Applicant and will be part of ongoing discussions.

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5.7.9 Site selection and consideration of alternatives (PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 4)

5.7.9.1 Feedback regarding site selection and alternatives was provided by Awel y Môr, Cefn Meiriadog Community Council, Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water, Broadleaf Wales (Abergele), Denbighshire County Council, Isle of Man Government, National Grid, Natural England, NRW, SP Energy Networks, Tan-y-Mynydd Trout Fishery Ltd, WTW, St Asaph City Council and over 30 members of the public.

5.7.9.2 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.5.

Summary of Consultee and Applicant Responses

5.7.9.3 Consultees identified additional receptors, constraints and assessments that should be included within the Environmental Statement as well as additional mitigation measures. Additional clarification was sought on some of the site selection decisions, including the landfall site.

5.7.9.4 Statutory consultation feedback received on the onshore substation options was limited and the majority of community consultation responses received were generally objecting to the size of the onshore infrastructure.

5.7.9.5 Denbighshire County Council's comments focussed predominantly on the alteration of the character of the area in relation to its economic, social and environmental well-being; cumulative impacts; and the general size and height in relation to landscape impacts and greenfield development.

5.7.9.6 NRW provided an indicative preference that Option 2 is further away from the AONB and therefore is likely to be preferable from a ZTV perspective. In addition, a realignment of the tributary of the River Elwy associated with Option 7 is generally not permitted.

5.7.9.7 The visual impacts and impacts on land use and communities from the offshore wind farm and onshore infrastructure were raised as concerns by multiple consultees. As a result, most consultees identified Option 2 as the preferred onshore substation location over Option 7. One consultee whose land currently overlaps with Option 2, did not object but did request additional mitigation be considered to reduce impacts. Generally, consultees did not support development at Cefn Meiriadog and there was opposition to the use of the National Grid substation at Bodelwyddan and cumulative impacts of activities in this location.

5.7.9.8 Overall, consultees welcomed further engagement including community engagement throughout, and provided additional information to support the impact assessment.

5.7.9.9 Statutory consultation feedback also included responses from Denbighshire County Council, NRW and members of the community where the feedback was that the proposed infrastructure of the Onshore Substation was too high and the footprint was too large.

5.7.9.10 As a result of these comments the Onshore Substation has also reduced in size. To achieve a height reduction, the project has committed to a GIS onshore substation. This also means that the maximum footprint of the onshore substation has reduced by 60,000m² (from 125,000m²). This results in a maximum footprint of 65,000m² (see Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference F1.4) for further detail). The height of the Onshore Substation has also

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reduced from 20m to 15m. The reduction in height and footprint size will reduce the overall impact on landscape and visual amenity and land use. Strategic landscaping areas have been identified to allow for additional tree planting and visual screening around the Onshore Substation, in addition to that provided by the existing woodland around the site to mitigate the visual impacts of the Onshore Substation on nearby receptors (see the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Document Reference J22)).

- 5.7.9.11 The Applicant confirms that that potential cumulative impacts from onshore infrastructure has been assessed within the Environmental Statement, Volume 3 (Document Reference F3.1 – 3.11).
- 5.7.9.12 Following a review of feedback and ongoing surveys, assessments and technical studies, the Applicant implemented design changes and the onshore cable corridor has been refined and reduced in width reducing the impact upon potentially sensitive land uses (e.g the Tan-y-Myndd Trout Fishery Ltd.)
- 5.7.9.13 The geographical extent of the array has been reduced since the extent consulted upon at PEIR, as set out in Table 5.15 above. This refinement reduces the impact upon potentially sensitive land uses (e.g. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs))

5.7.10 Environmental Impact Assessment methodology (PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 5)

- 5.7.10.1 Feedback relating to the methodology of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was provided by Denbighshire County Council, MMO, NRW, JNCC, Natural England, Isle of Man Government, Isle of Anglesey, other sea users and two members of the public.
- 5.7.10.2 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.3.6.

Summary of Consultee and Applicant Responses

- 5.7.10.3 The main comments received for the EIA Methodology was in relation to the Cumulative Impact Assessment. The first, being that the Isle of Man Offshore Wind Farm (now known as the Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm) and the HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project should be screened into the cumulative effects assessment for those sections of the project that are offshore and potentially for the cable landfall. Additionally, it was raised that there are circumstances in which built and operational projects should be included within the cumulative assessment. The Applicant notes the comments relating to HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project and the Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm which have been included in the cumulative assessment.
- 5.7.10.4 Multiple comments were also raised regarding the significance definitions and thresholds and that these should be clearly defined and used, ensuring impacts are not underestimated as a result. A member of the public wished to understand what assessment on potential impact on marine life was to be undertaken. Where ranges are presented, final significance is determined by expert professional judgement.
- 5.7.10.5 The Applicant confirms that the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) methodology includes a tiered approach to assessment of projects, plans and activities. This approach provides a framework for placing relative weight on the potential for each

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project/plan to be included in the CEA to ultimately be realised, based upon the project/plan's current stage of maturity and certainty in the project's parameters. Further information on the tiered approach is presented in Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA methodology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.5). The tiered approach is consistent with the Renewable UK Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines, specifically Guiding Principle 4 and Guiding Principle 7 (RenewableUK, 2013) and the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate, 2019).

5.7.10.6 It was recommended that the Isle of Man Offshore Wind Farm (now known as the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm) should be included within the Cumulative Impact Assessment as well as assessing the overlap of construction works with Awel y Môr, specifically onshore. The Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm and Awel y Môr are both considered in the cumulative effects assessment using the information provided in the Scoping Report.

5.7.10.7 The Applicant confirms that the EIA and a summary of the surveys undertaken to inform the assessments on marine life are presented in the following chapters of the Environmental Statement:

- - Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2)
- - Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.3)
- - Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4)
- - Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5).

5.7.11 Physical processes (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 6)

5.7.11.1 Feedback in relation to physical processes was received by the MMO, Natural England, NRW, Trinity House Lighthouse Services (THLS), WTW, Douglas Council, the Isle of Man Government and two members of the public. As part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) and wider technical engagement activities, the Benthic Ecology (BE), Fish and Shellfish (FSF) and Physical Processes EWG established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors (see Table 4.4 for participants).

5.7.11.2 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.7.

5.7.11.3 The key issues raised relevant to Physical Processes, which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:

- Potential impacts of sandwave clearance within the array site and cable corridor
- Potential impacts to the Constable Bank, the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, and the intertidal and nearshore zones from the use of cable protection
- Potential impacts of cable installation to landfall, including bentonite release and use of cable protection
- Potential impacts due to scour (the removal of sediment from around an object by water flow)

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Potential impacts of sandwave clearance within the Mona Array Area and Mona Offshore Cable Corridor.

- 5.7.11.4 In response to the PEIR, concerns were raised over the extent of sandwave clearance required to install the cables and infrastructure at the array site, and to install the export cable along the export cable corridor. There was concern that the seabed would be flattened, and that seabed morphology would not be able to recover and generate its migratory pattern of bedload sediment transport in future.
- 5.7.11.5 Refinement of project parameters has been undertaken since submission of the PEIR, to include the refinement of cable corridor widths which has significantly reduced the volumes of sandwave clearance across the export cable corridor and array site. It is noted within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1), that sandwaves will not be flattened, and will be reduced in height in order to allow passage of the burial tool to enable cable burial to a sufficient target depth. The Mona Offshore Wind Project has committed that material arising from sandwave clearance will be sidecast in the vicinity of the sandwave as the burial tool passes through, therefore making this material readily available for redistribution and sandwave recovery within the sediment cell.
- 5.7.11.6 The PEIR set out a commitment to minimise the volume of sandwave clearance on the Constable Bank and within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. Following the PEIR and consultation responses, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has made a commitment to minimise sandwave clearance on the Constable Bank and has committed that no sandwave clearance will be made within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.

Potential impacts to the Constable Bank, the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, and the intertidal and nearshore zones by the use of cable protection

- 5.7.11.7 Feedback was received regarding the location of cable protection along the cable corridor, particularly in the nearshore zone, on the Constable Bank, in the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, and across the intertidal zone. There was concern that if combination of open-cut trenching and trenchless techniques was the chosen option for cable landfall, this would require exit pits including cable protection, between MHWS and MLWS. NRW advised that cable protection measures should be minimised, and, in response to the information presented within the PEIR, could not agree that changes to the wave climate would not have an impact on the shoreline or nearshore banks, as a result of the placement of cable protection in these areas.
- 5.7.11.8 The PEIR set out a commitment to minimise the amount of cable protection placed on the Constable Bank and within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. Following the PEIR and consultation responses, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has determined that no cable protection is required within Constable Bank, whilst within Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC and nearshore areas cable protection height will be below 5% of the water depth without prior written approval from the Licensing Authority in consultation with the MCA Cable protection is restricted to 10% of the cabling within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. Cable protection will only be used where sufficient installation depths cannot be achieved. The Mona Offshore Wind Project has made a commitment that no cable protection will be placed on the seabed in the intertidal zone, with trenchless techniques undertaken from below MHWS to onshore.

Potential impacts of cable installation to landfall, including bentonite release and cable protection

- 5.7.11.9 Feedback raised concerns that no assessment had been carried out to determine the impacts caused by the trenchless technique option for cable connection to landfall presented in the PEIR. There were concerns of the potential for bentonite clay to be released, and that any exit pits located in the intertidal may also require cable protection, which could interrupt the longshore sediment transport processes and reduce the sediment supply down coast, potentially leading to coastal erosion. NRW also advised that the design and installation of the cable to landfall should take account of the natural envelope of beach profile change and the future erosion of the backshore and highlighted that the depth of installation across the intertidal should be sufficient to minimise any future risk of exposure over the life of the Mona Offshore Wind Project due to short-term beach draw-down during storms or long-term beach erosion.
- 5.7.11.10 Following the PEIR and consultation responses, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has committed that no cable protection will be placed on the seabed in the intertidal zone, with trenchless techniques being undertaken from below MHWS to onshore. The Applicant recognises that the best form of cable protection is achieved through cable burial to the required depths, according to the results of a Cable Burial Risk Assessment and Burial Assessment (CBRA) study. The Applicant is committed to developing and adhering to a Cable Specification and Installation Plan (to include a CBRA) which will include cable burial where possible.
- 5.7.11.11 An assessment of the potential impact of bentonite clay release during cable installation has been included in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), and Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement, Document Reference F2.2). This assessment utilises the modelling of intertidal trenching undertaken for the PEIR which included release of sediment with very fine silt fractions akin to bentonite, whilst noting the volumes of bentonite released would be much smaller than the volumes modelled, and that intertidal trenching is no longer being considered for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The assessment concluded that an increase in suspended sediment concentrations during construction is not significant in EIA terms.

Potential impacts due to secondary scour

- 5.7.11.12 Feedback raised concerns that no consideration has been given to the potential for secondary scour (the removal of sediment from around an object by water flow) to arise around the scour and cable protection during the 35 year operational phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
- 5.7.11.13 This impact was scoped out of the assessment, in agreement with the Planning Inspectorate, as detailed in the Mona Offshore Wind Project Scoping Report (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2022). However, following stakeholder feedback, secondary scour has been considered with Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2). The Mona Offshore Wind Project is committed to providing scour protection and the effectiveness in limiting residual or secondary scour is subject to site specific detailed design. The scour protection measures will be subject to engineering design to ensure they are fit for purpose and minimise the occurrence of scour such that it becomes negligible through detailed, site specific, design. The use of scour protection around offshore structures and foundations will be employed, as described in detail in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3).

5.7.12 Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 7)

- 5.7.12.1 Feedback on matters relating to benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology were received from the MMO, JNCC, Natural England, NRW, WTW, the Isle of Man Government and four members of the public. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities, the EWG was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors.
- 5.7.12.2 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.8.
- 5.7.12.3 The key issues raised relevant to benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology, which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:
- Potential impacts from open-cut trenching to intertidal habitats, including the clay with piddocks habitat
 - Potential impacts to the Constable Bank sandbank and the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, due to sandwave clearance and cable protection
 - Potential impacts of long term habitat loss and introduction of hard substrates to a predominantly soft sediment environment
 - Potential impacts to marine life, including Sabellaria alveolata at Llanddulas and coral reefs.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Potential impacts from open-cut trenching to intertidal habitats including the clay with piddocks habitat.

- 5.7.12.4 Concerns raised that the potential impacts from open-cut trenching to intertidal habitats had not been appropriately assessed in the PEIR and would not be temporary. NRW highlighted that the clay with piddocks habitat was characterised by specific abiotic and biotic features that would be adversely affected by open cut trenching, resulting in long-term habitat loss. NRW queried whether it would be possible to use trenchless techniques at the landfall in order to avoid long-term habitat loss to peat and clay exposures and/or whether it is possible to avoid the habitat by micro-siting.
- 5.7.12.5 Since the submission of the PEIR, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has committed to removing open cut trenching through the intertidal area from the project design (Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3)) and all export cables at the landfall will be installed beneath the intertidal area using trenchless techniques, and so will avoid the clay with piddocks habitat, *S. alveolata* reef and blue mussel beds. The assessments have been updated accordingly and the only direct impact in the intertidal will be temporary habitat disturbance associated with the movement of equipment, machinery and personnel. Furthermore, all construction and operation and maintenance activities at the Mona landfall will be located outside the clay with piddocks habitat. The Applicant has committed to an Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoW) to supervise any planned construction works in the intertidal zone to ensure there will therefore be no direct impacts to the clay with piddocks habitat, *S. alveolata* reef and blue mussel beds.

Potential impacts to the Constable Bank sandbank and the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, due to sandwave clearance and cable protection

- 5.7.12.6 In response to the PEIR, concerns were raised regarding the magnitude concluded for the impact assessment of long-term habitat loss in the Constable Bank sandbank.

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There were also concerns that the potential for the cable protection to become exposed in the intertidal area during the operation phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project had not been assessed. NRW considered there was a lack of assessment carried out on the potential impacts to physical processes from the placement of cable protection on Constable Bank and the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.

- 5.7.12.7 Since the submission of the PEIR, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has committed to place no cable protection within Constable Bank, therefore there will be no long term habitat loss within Constable Bank. The Mona Offshore Wind Project has committed to removing open cut trenching through the intertidal area from the project design (Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement. Document Reference F1.3) and all export cables at the landfall will be installed beneath the intertidal area using trenchless techniques. In addition, the Applicant has committed to not undertake sandwave clearance within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, cable protection will not be higher than 70 cm within in the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay and will only be used over up to 10% of the cables within the SAC.

Potential impacts of long term habitat loss and introduction of hard substrates to a predominantly soft sediment environment

- 5.7.12.8 The WTW raised concerns that the Mona Array Area represented a large area of potential benthic surface change and that the introduction of infrastructure at this scale into a predominantly soft sediment benthic environment would see a hard substrate created as a consequence of the cumulative impact. There was concern that this would result in a change in benthic community type from infauna to epifauna dominance, which would in-turn see a change in the dominant feeding type, representing a bottom-up-pressure which would ultimately impact predator-prey relationships.
- 5.7.12.9 Refinement of the Mona Offshore Wind Project parameters has been undertaken since submission of the PEIR, including a reduction in the Mona Array Area and reduction in the maximum number of wind turbines. Monopile foundations have also been removed from the project design as set out in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3). As a result of these changes, the total footprint of hard substrate within the Mona Array Area equates to 0.46% of the Mona Array Area. The magnitude of the long-term habitat loss impact was therefore concluded to be low and highly unlikely to result in widespread changes to the infaunal and epifaunal communities (Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement. Document Reference F2.2). The impact of a potential change in community has been considered primarily in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement, section 2.9.5, introduction of artificial structures, where consideration is given to the impact of these new communities on the existing soft sediment environment. The potential impact of long term habitat loss have been considered in Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.3) and the effects of changes to prey availability is assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4) and Volume 2 Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5). These assessments concluded that the effects would not be significant in EIA terms.

General comments on potential impacts to marine life, including the *S. alveolata* reef at Llandulas and coral reefs.

- 5.7.12.10 Volume 6, Annex 2.1: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.2.1) includes the full baseline

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characterisation for the Mona Offshore Wind Project based on site-specific surveys undertaken in 2021, 2022 and 2023. No corals were recorded during these surveys. Impacts to benthic ecology receptors have been fully assessed for all phases of the project and no significant effects are predicted. Designated sites within the Isle of Man territorial waters, and their associated habitats and species, have been considered and documented in the assessment process. However, all Isle of Man sites lie beyond the zone of influence of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and so have been screened out of further assessment as there would be no impacts.

5.7.12.11 The *S. alveolata* reef at the landfall has been fully surveyed and mapped by the Applicant. Since the submission of the PEIR, the boundary of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Area has been amended to exclude the reef and blue mussel bed (*Mytilus edulis*) at the landfall. Furthermore, the Applicant is committed to installing the export cables at the landfall via trenchless techniques, so there will be no open cut trenching in the intertidal area. These measures will ensure there are no direct impacts to the *S. alveolata* reef.

5.7.13 Fish and shellfish ecology (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 8)

5.7.13.1 The Applicant received feedback on matters relating to fish and shellfish ecology from the MMO, JNCC, Natural England, NRW, WTW, the Isle of Man Government, National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO) and Welsh Fishermen's Association (WFA), Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation (NIFPO), Douglas Council, commercial fisheries representatives and two members of the public. As part of the Evidence Plan Process and wider technical engagement activities, the BE, FSF and Physical Processes EWG was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors (Table 4.4 details the participants).

5.7.13.2 The key issues raised relevant to Fish and shellfish ecology, which have been identified during the statutory consultation:

- Potential impacts of underwater sound on herring spawning grounds
- Characterisation of the queen and king scallop fisheries in the Irish Sea
- Inclusion of heat maps in the assessment of herring and spawning suitability.

5.7.13.3 Feedback was also received regarding overarching concerns on the impact on marine life, the baseline characterisation for fish and shellfish ecology and the potential impact upon fish and shellfish ecology in general.

5.7.13.4 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.9. Feedback which was received which related specifically to underwater sound can be seen at Appendix D.25.9.1.

Summary of feedback and Applicant response

Potential impacts of underwater sound on herring spawning grounds

5.7.13.5 Feedback raised concerns regarding the potential impacts of underwater sound from piling activities on herring. There were concerns that the 135 decibel (dB) behavioural effect threshold noise contour for mono-piling overlaps much of the known Isle of Man herring spawning ground, and that piling activities could interfere with herring spawning activities including aggregating, spawning and laying eggs, which could result in avoidance of the spawning grounds or reduced spawning success. The MMO raised that they would recommend temporal mitigation in the form of a piling restriction during the Isle of Man herring spawning season (1 September to 31 October inclusive).

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However, the MMO requested more certainty in the underwater sound assessment before providing confirmation that the suggested mitigation is appropriate and recommended that additional noise reduction mitigation is used in the form of bubble curtains (see Würsig *et al.*, 1999), or other alternative measures.

- 5.7.13.6 Since the submission of the PEIR, the project parameters have been refined to reduce the potential sound impacts from the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Monopiles have been removed from the project design and the maximum hammer energy to be used for installing piled foundations has been reduced from 5,500 kJ to 4,400 kJ. Updated underwater sound modelling was undertaken for the Environmental Statement and presented in Volume 6, Annex 3.1: Underwater sound technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.3.1). Further information is presented within the assessment for underwater sound impacts from pile driving to provide more certainty in the data, including mapped contours for concurrent piling and contours presented with herring larval density data, to support visual interpretation of the data. The Applicant has committed to the development of, and adherence to, an underwater sound management strategy to investigate options to manage underwater sound levels (such as noise abatement systems, temporal and spatial piling restrictions, piling methods, soft start) in order to reduce the magnitude of the impact from the Mona Offshore Wind Project. An outline underwater sound management strategy (Document Reference J16) has been submitted with the application for consent.

Characterisation of the queen and king scallop fisheries in the Irish Sea

- 5.7.13.7 In response to consultation, the Isle of Man government and West Coast Sea Products Ltd raised concerns over the current characterisation of queen and king scallop fisheries, and recommended expansion of the characterisation in the assessments, with more up-to-date sources and local knowledge.
- 5.7.13.8 Since the submission of the PEIR, the baseline information for these species has been expanded to include more recent sources from Bangor university, and published literature, in Volume 6, Annex 3.1: Fish and shellfish ecology technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.3.1). This has also been included in the baseline in Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology, and throughout the assessment (Document Reference F2.3).

Inclusion of heat maps in the assessment of herring and spawning suitability

- 5.7.13.9 In response to consultation, the MMO has requested that the herring and sandeel suitability assessments include heat maps of sandeel and herring density data, with 'prime' and 'sub-prime' habitat suitability also being changed to follow more relevant guidance.
- 5.7.13.10 Since the submission of the PEIR, the existing habitat suitability has been changed to 'preferred', 'marginal' and 'unsuitable' to align with the categories derived from EMODnet seabed substrates data (EMODnet, 2024). Heat mapping separately for each year was deemed to be unsuitable due to low data values and density. Instead, a 10-year aggregated dataset was mapped. as agreed with the BE, FSF and physical processes EWG after meeting four on 11 July 2023. This is presented in Volume 6, Annex 3.1: Fish and shellfish ecology technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.3.1).

Overarching response to comments

5.7.13.11 The fish and shellfish baseline characterisation, as presented in Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.3) uses a number of information sources, including long term repeated regional survey effort, data collected within the wider region at other offshore wind farm developments and published literature to ensure a current baseline is provided. Utilising this baseline a detailed assessment has been conducted to fully appraise the potential impacts to marine life, including fish and shellfish, and identify any mitigation measures or monitoring required to minimise any potential impacts.

5.7.14 Marine mammals (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 9)

5.7.14.1 Feedback on matters relating to marine mammals were received from the MMO, JNCC, Natural England, NRW, WTW, Douglas Council, the Isle of Man Government and two members of the public. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities, the Marine Mammals EWG was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors (see Table 4.4 for participants).

5.7.14.2 The key issues raised relevant to marine mammals which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:

- Potential impacts of underwater sound generated by piling activities
- Baseline characterisation
- Sound mitigation measures.

5.7.14.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.10. Feedback which was received which related to underwater sound can be seen at Appendix D.25.9.1.

Summary of feedback and Applicant response

Potential impacts of underwater sound generated by piling activities

5.7.14.4 Consultation responses from NRW and JNCC raised concerns regarding the potential impacts of underwater sound from piling activities on marine mammals, in particular harbour porpoise. There were concerns that only the Effective Deterrent Range (EDR) approach was used for the assessment of disturbance associated with piling to assess impacts on harbour porpoise in the North Anglesey Marine SAC. Based on the modelled contours provided in the PEIR, NRW noted that absence of an adverse effect on the North Anglesey Marine SAC for the Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) of two simultaneous monopile foundation installations could not be ruled out. NRW recommended that when assessing the area disturbed for harbour porpoise, an unweighted noise threshold of 143 dB re 1 μ Pa (or 103 dB re 1 μ Pa VHF-weighted) single strike sound exposure level (Brandt et al., 2018; Heinis et al., 2019) should be used, in parallel to EDRs, to represent the minimum fixed noise threshold at which significant disturbance would occur from impulsive sound sources.

5.7.14.5 NRW and JNCC disagreed with the assumption that the extent of behavioural disturbance from piling is likely to be an overestimate due to sound losing its impulsive characteristics with range. This argument is valid when estimating impact ranges for permanent threshold shift (PTS) / temporary threshold shift (TTS), though not when assessing behavioural disturbance based on dose response curves. This is because behavioural responses are obtained from field observations where animals may react to the sound they receive at their location.

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5.7.14.6 Since the submission of the PEIR, the project parameters have been refined to remove monopile foundations, and the assessment approach of disturbance resulting from piling sound has been reviewed and updated. An unweighted sound threshold of 143 dB re 1 μ Pa (or 103 dB re 1 μ Pa VHF-weighted) which is based on a collation of field studies of harbour porpoise response to elevated underwater sound from piling, has been presented in the Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4). This represents a fixed sound threshold at which significant disturbance could occur, any behavioural effects beyond this point are likely to be mild. This has been carried forward to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and presented alongside the EDR as an area-based threshold for the purposes of understanding potential overlap with SAC habitat as agreed with the marine mammal EWG after meeting five on 03 August 2023.

Baseline characterisation

5.7.14.7 Feedback from NRW and JNCC raised concerns regarding the baseline densities of marine mammals used in the assessments, in particular for grey seal, harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin.

5.7.14.8 JNCC raised concerns over the digital aerial survey methodology, and that they were not consulted in the design of the surveys prior to data collection commencing. NE raised concerns that only the first year of survey data was included in the PEIR and could therefore not make any conclusive judgements based on the PEIR.

5.7.14.9 The Isle of Man Government noted that Manx Marine Environmental Assessment (MMEA), which provides an overview of the Island's marine environment, should be taken into account as part of both the transboundary and possibly also the cumulative impacts assessment. The Isle of Man Government also requested clarity around the seasonality of marine mammal densities, whether densities were truly seasonal, or an artifact of survey effort.

5.7.14.10 Two years of site specific survey data has been included in Volume 6, Annex 4.1: Marine mammal technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.4.1), in addition to a comprehensive review of desk top sources. The densities of marine mammals found in the Irish Sea presented in Evans and Waggitt (2023) as provided by NRW have been taken forward to Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4). For some species, the densities of marine mammals provided in the PEIR have been replaced with a more precautionary estimate from the updated Welsh Marine Mammal Atlas. All densities have been presented to and agreed with the Marine Mammal EWG.

5.7.14.11 Further detail of survey methodology has been added to Volume 6, Annex 4.1: Marine mammal technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.4.1). The digital aerial survey approach has been widely applied to other windfarms in the UK and is accepted as a good standard. It is generally recommended to use data collected at finer spatial scales as this provides a truer reflection of marine mammal activity in the relevant area (as opposed to data that may have been collected over larger scales). Given the known limitations of surveying marine mammals, the baseline assessment was supported by a detailed literature review of other data sources. As a result, higher recorded densities of marine mammals have been used based on recently available data from Evans and Waggitt (2023) and as recommended by the Marine Mammal EWG.

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5.7.14.12 Information in the MMEA is referred to within Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4) and Volume 6, Annex 4.1: Marine mammals technical report of the Environmental Statement.

Sound mitigation measures

5.7.14.13 The MMO, NRW, NE, and JNCC raised concern that use of sound mitigation measures were not proposed beyond the use of acoustic deterrent devices. Consideration of such measures was strongly advised. The MMO noted that the most direct and comprehensive way to mitigate the risk of acoustic impact on marine species is to reduce the amount of sound pollution emitted at source. For pile driving, all stakeholders provided example measures of timing restrictions (i.e. winter piling), construction methods (such as pin piling or hammer dampeners), plus abatement such as bubble curtains and physical acoustic barriers. For other sources of sound JNCC suggested consideration of unexploded ordnance (UXO) deflagration and vessel speed limits.

5.7.14.14 The Applicant has committed to implementing a mitigation hierarchy with regard to UXO clearance as follows: avoiding the UXO, clearance with low order methods (i.e. not detonation) and lastly clearance through detonation. In addition, the Applicant has also committed to the development and adherence to a marine mammal mitigation protocol which requires implementation of an initiation stage of a piling soft start and ramp-up, a minimum separation limit of 1.4 km and maximum separation limit of 15 km for concurrent piling. These measures are set out in Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4).

5.7.14.15 The assessment of effects has determined that there are no significant impacts predicted on marine mammals for the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone with the exception of on harbour porpoise in the event of detonation of the absolute maximum size of potential UXO. In addition, a significant effect is predicted on bottlenose dolphin in the Irish Sea from injury and disturbance from elevated underwater sound generated during piling in combination with other plans and projects. The Applicant has developed a marine mammal mitigation protocol which presented the range of measures adopted as part of the project to reduce or eliminate the risk of auditory injury effects of underwater sound. The Applicant has prepared an Outline underwater sound management strategy (Document Reference J16) which establishes a process of investigating options to manage underwater sound levels, in consultation with the licensing authority and Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) and agreeing prior to construction, mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce the magnitude of impacts such that there will be no residual significant effect from the project. The options will continue to be explored for mitigating piling sound post consent, at a time when more detailed information is available (i.e. geotechnical data) and where further refinements to the Mona Offshore Wind Project design have been made on this basis. A commitment to Noise Abatement Systems will be considered as part of a stepped strategy post consent and following the mitigation hierarchy.

5.7.15 Offshore ornithology (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 10)

5.7.15.1 The Applicant received feedback from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to offshore ornithology including the MMO, JNCC, Natural England, NRW, WTW, the Isle of Man Government, Ørsted and four members of the public. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities, the offshore ornithology EWG was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors.

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5.7.15.2 The key issues raised relevant to offshore ornithology which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:

- Apportioning of unidentified species
- Cumulative and in-combination assessments of historic projects
- Vessel disturbance assessment and mitigation measures
- Impacts on mating seasons and migratory birds.

5.7.15.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.11.

Summary of feedback and Applicant response

Apportioning of unidentified species

5.7.15.4 In response to the PEIR, NRW and JNCC raised concerns over the number of birds recorded as 'guillemot/razorbill' where analysis of the site specific survey data could not distinguish between the two similar species, particularly as this was the second most frequently recorded species group. The stakeholders questioned whether apportioning guillemot/razorbill to the individual species based on proportions of identified guillemots and razorbills was appropriate, as it could introduce biases. Apportioning may overestimate numbers of the easily identified species and correspondingly underestimate numbers of the less easily identified species.

5.7.15.5 Similarly, Natural England raised concerns over the use of model-based abundance estimates and recommended that the Environmental Statement should include more detailed methodology, including corrections for the apportionment of unidentified birds and availability bias.

5.7.15.6 Auk (including guillemot and razorbill species) identification rates were revised upward by the specialist site specific survey contractor (APEM) following further quality assurance of images. As a result, the apportioning in the Environmental Statement is based on a smaller proportion of unidentified auk species than presented in the PEIR. This was presented and agreed with the offshore ornithology EWG. A breakdown of all unknown groups and the number of birds recorded is provided in Volume 6, Annex 5.1: Offshore ornithology baseline characterisation technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.5.1). The technical report provides further clarity on how unknown birds were apportioned, including unidentified gulls, skuas, petrels, terns, thrushes and wader species.

Cumulative and in-combination assessments of historic projects

5.7.15.7 NE and NRW raised a concern that the cumulative and in-combination assessments do not factor in impacts from a number of other projects due to a lack of data. It was highlighted that impacts specified as 'unknown' were treated as zero which would underestimate impacts. As a result NE considered it inappropriate to comment on the potential significance of cumulative or in-combination assessments presented in the PEIR submission. NRW advised that estimates need to be generated for the unknown projects in order to undertake meaningful assessments.

5.7.15.8 NE and NRW proposed working collaboratively with stakeholders, through the EWG, to generate suitable impact estimates for historic projects in the cumulative and in-combination assessments.

5.7.15.9 The Applicant considers that it is not appropriate to estimate impacts for other projects. Robust modelling relies on wind farm parameters and project specific abundances,

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something which is not available for historical projects if the information is not published. The Applicant would note that there is no precedent for this type of exercise in the offshore wind industry to ‘gap-fill’ information from existing projects. The Secretary of State has been able to conclude that other such developments would not have an Adverse Effect On Integrity (AEoI) on European sites without similar information being provided. The Applicant has added a more detailed qualitative assessment of offshore wind projects where data is not available to the assessment with other projects and plans. This approach has been developed to ensure that the assessments are robust and provide sufficient detail to conclude no significant effects within the Environmental Statements and no AEoI beyond reasonable scientific doubt for the purposes of the HRA.

Vessel disturbance assessment and mitigation measures

- 5.7.15.10 In response to consultation, JNCC advised that a quantitative assessment of the impact of vessel disturbance on red-throated diver and common scoter within and around the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) should be undertaken, based on the predicted quantity and duration of cable installation vessels. JNCC also highlighted that the assessments should be scaled to include total vessel presence given there will be up to 91 vessels present any one time.
- 5.7.15.11 JNCC and NE questioned the assessment methodology of vessel disturbance and displacement during the operations and maintenance phase with regard to transiting through Liverpool Bay SPA), and how many (if any) vessel movements would relate to the maintenance of the offshore export cable.
- 5.7.15.12 NRW, JNCC and NE advised that a restriction to vessel works during the wintering period should be considered to prevent disturbance to red-throated diver and common scoter. NE also advised that vessels transiting through the Liverpool Bay SPA should follow best practice protocols, such as adhering to existing routes where possible, to minimise disturbance to common scoter and red-throated diver.
- 5.7.15.13 Since the submission of the PEIR, the Applicant has made a commitment that no offshore export cable installation will occur within the Liverpool Bay SPA within the non-breeding season (01 November to 31 March) in order to reduce impacts on offshore ornithology features. The assessment for disturbance and displacement to red-throated diver and common scoter is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5). The impact of vessel movement associated with operation and maintenance for project alone and in-combination is also presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5).
- 5.7.15.14 An offshore Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be developed and adhered to, including measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels. The Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds document (Document Reference J17) will be appended to the offshore EMP. This plan includes timing restrictions of export cables installation works in the Liverpool SPA during the non-breeding season (01 November to 31 March) and a commitment that the Mona Offshore Wind Project site induction process will incorporate the principles of the WiSe training scheme (or other similar scheme) to minimise disturbance to marine life.

Impacts on mating seasons and migratory birds.

- 5.7.15.15 General reference was made with regard to mating seasons being impacted by construction activities and the impact of turbines on migratory birds. The Applicant

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confirms that the impacts on ornithology have been assessed and are presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5) and Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.4). These impacts, including the increased impact during mating seasons, have been discussed with key stakeholders via the EWGs throughout the application process. Migratory birds are considered in the collision risk modelling for seabirds provided in Volume 6, Annex 5.4: Offshore ornithology migratory bird collision risk modelling technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.5.4).

5.7.15.16 Specific reference was made to the potential for impacts on breeding colony of Little Terns at Gronant, near Prestatyn. The Applicant confirms that Little Tern have a very small foraging range, and the foraging range of birds breeding at Gronant do not overlap with the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

5.7.16 Commercial fisheries (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 11)

5.7.16.1 Feedback received on matters relating to Commercial Fisheries was received from the MMO, Isle of Man Government, National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO), Welsh Fishermen's Association (WFA), Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), relevant fish producers organisations and other fisheries representatives as well as individual fishers and other sea users who operate in the area. As part of the wider technical engagement activities, the project established a Fisheries Liaison Officer to help facilitate ongoing engagement with commercial fisheries stakeholders.

5.7.16.2 The key issues raised relevant to Commercial Fisheries which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:

- Potential impacts on the queen scallop fishery
- Data to inform the assessment
- Spatial squeeze on commercial fisheries associated with the cumulative effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project
- Importance of coexistence

5.7.16.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.12

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Potential impacts on the Queen Scallop fishery

5.7.16.4 In their response to the PEIR, West Coast Sea Products Ltd, along with the South Western Fish Producers Organisation (SWFPO) and the SFF, as well as comments received from members of the public, expressed concerns about the potential impacts of construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on queen scallop habitat as the site is one of the most prominent scallop grounds in Europe. There was concern that potential impacts of offshore wind farm development on shellfish ecology are not currently well understood. Commercial fisheries stakeholders have engaged with and provided advice to the Applicant on measures to help facilitate coexistence of the scallop fishery within the Mona Array Area.

5.7.16.5 Further data and literature sources have been included in Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.3) to support the evidence base defining the sensitivity of queen scallop. The assessment parameters have been reviewed, and appropriate mitigation measures recommended

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including a commitment to a scallop mitigation zone over an area of core scallop grounds within the Mona Array Area in order to increase the potential for co-existence and co-location. The Applicant has committed to the use of rolling construction zones to avoid the entire Mona Array Area being closed to fishing vessels during the construction phase.

Data to inform the assessment

5.7.16.6 In their response the Isle of Man Government commented on the data that had been used to inform the assessment and availability of Isle of Man Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) data. The Applicant has obtained relevant VMS data from the Isle of Man Government. This data has now been incorporated into the assessment and is presented within Volume 2, Annex 6.1: Commercial fisheries technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6).

Spatial squeeze on commercial fisheries associated with the cumulative effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project

5.7.16.7 The MMO, West Coast Sea Products Ltd, along with the SWFPO, SFF and NIFPO expressed concerns about displacement of fishing vessels from within the Mona Array Area during the operations and maintenance phase and the potential long term cumulative effects of loss of fishing access due to marine development and potential issues of cross industry conflict in areas outside of the Mona Array Area.

5.7.16.8 Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial fisheries of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6) has been updated to reflect the limited spatial adaptability for this receptor group. The cumulative effects section of this chapter considers the potential effects associated with spatial squeeze when assessing the Mona Offshore Wind Project cumulatively with other relevant plans and projects.

Importance of coexistence

5.7.16.9 Due to the potential impacts associated with displacement and spatial squeeze commercial fisheries stakeholders have highlighted in their responses to consultation the importance of facilitating coexistence as far as possible to allow for continued fishing within the Mona Array Area.

5.7.16.10 West Coast Sea Products Ltd along with the SWFPO and SFF have engaged with the Applicant from an early stage to highlight key areas where their fishing vessels operate within the Mona Array Area and to discuss potential design measures that will help facilitate coexistence.

5.7.16.11 In response to this, the Applicant has made a number of project changes and commitments including the commitment to operating a scallop mitigation zone, discussed above, which were discussed with commercial fishing stakeholders in September and October 2023. Additional project changes and commitments made to minimise disruption to commercial fishing stakeholders and promote co-existence and co-location include increasing the minimum spacing between offshore surface structures, alignment of offshore surface structure rows to roughly north – south, and a commitment to prioritising north – south alignment of inter-array cables over east – west to match predominant fishing gear towing orientations and reduce the potential for gear snagging risks.

5.7.16.12 The Applicant is working to facilitate co-existence with commercial fishing stakeholders and minimise disruption as far as is practicably possible. Early engagement was established with fisheries stakeholders in June 2021 and is anticipated to continue throughout the lifetime of the project. A Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan will be

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developed post-consent by the Applicant with input from with commercial fisheries stakeholders. An outline of this plan has been included with the Application (Document Reference J13). Shipping and navigation (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 12)

- 5.7.16.13 The Applicant received feedback from number of stakeholders on matters relating to Shipping and Navigation including MCA, THLS, UK Chamber of Shipping, commercial operators and recreational users, including residents from the Isle of Man who rely on the ferry services. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities, the Marine Navigation Engagement Forum (MNEF) was established with representatives from key regulatory bodies and shipping and navigation stakeholders.
- 5.7.16.14 The key issues raised relevant to Shipping and Navigation which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:
- Cumulative impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project with other existing and proposed offshore wind farms within the Irish Sea on safety of navigation
 - Potential impacts to commercial operators and ferry services including route deviations, delays and cancellations
 - Potential impact on lifeline services to/from the Isle of Man
- 5.7.16.15 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.13

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Cumulative impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project with other existing and proposed offshore wind farms within the Irish Sea

- 5.7.16.16 In response to consultation the MCA, UK Chamber of Shipping, Isle of Man Government and ferry operators (including Stena Line, Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and Sea Truck) raised concerns about the cumulative impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project together with the other proposed round 4 offshore wind farms within the Irish Sea (Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets, Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets and their joint Transmission Assets) on safety of navigation in the area, specifically on the reduction of safe navigable sea space and increased collision risk. There was concern that the Mona Potential Array Area (as it was referred to within the PEIR) would lead to unacceptable risks to navigational safety when considered cumulatively with the other offshore wind farm projects.
- 5.7.16.17 The PEIR set out that a number of commitments were being made to reduce the potential cumulative impacts on safety of navigation. Following the PEIR and consultation responses, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has committed to revisions to the Mona Array Area which has increased the searoom around the Mona Array Area to reduce the risk and impacts on navigational safety. The Applicant has worked together with the developers of the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm who have also made commitments to revising the boundary of the array areas for their respective projects to increase searoom and reduce the cumulative impacts on navigational safety. The ferry companies and other key stakeholders have inputted to this process through attendance at navigation simulations, navigation risk assessment (NRA) and cumulative regional NRA (CRNRA) hazard workshops. The array area revisions made are set out in Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigation Risk Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1) and Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and navigation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.7), submitted as part of the Application.

Potential impacts to commercial operators and ferry services including route deviations, delays and cancellations

- 5.7.16.18 The Isle of Man Government, UK Chamber of Shipping, commercial ferry operators, other stakeholders and members of the public, raised concerns about potential impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (alone and cumulatively) on ferry routing and additional delays and cancellations that may be experienced in both normal and adverse weather conditions. The NRA in the PEIR identified that in normal and adverse weather conditions, ferries would need to deviate around the Mona Offshore Wind Project and this would result in greater transit distance, fuel costs, schedule disruptions, and more frequent cancellations to lifeline ferry services.
- 5.7.16.19 As set out above, following the PEIR and consultation responses, array area revisions have been undertaken by the Applicant and the other proposed projects. This has increased the available searoom to minimise the impacts to lifeline ferries, reducing the number of potential deviations required and the number of potential cancellations. These changes are reflected in Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigation Risk Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1) and Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and navigation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.7), submitted as part of the Application.

Potential impact on lifeline services to/from the Isle of Man

- 5.7.16.20 Concerns were raised by the Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce, Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, other stakeholders and members of the public about the potential impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on the lifeline services that the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company sea routes provide to the Isle of Man. The Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce raised concerns regarding the potential economic impact that could result from disruption to the established sea routes between the Isle of Man and the UK. They expressed concern that longer journey times could affect port turnaround for urgent freight and that in adverse weather conditions delays and cancellations could become more frequent which would impact on deliveries to the island as well as local and visitor transport. The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, which operates the services between the UK and Isle of Man, raised concerns about disruption to their routes and the impact this would have on island supplies particularly during peak periods. They noted the potential impact of additional journey times presented within the PEIR and the potential impact this would have on turnaround times within port. Concerns were expressed by members of the public on the potential disruption to ferry services and impacts this would have on island supplies, travel and transport.
- 5.7.16.21 The array area revisions made by the Applicant, and other proposed projects discussed above, has increased available searoom between the projects which has reduced the number of potential deviations required and the number of potential cancellations. This has reduced the potential impacts on commercial operators and ferry services both alone and cumulatively. These changes are reflected in Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigation Risk Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1) and Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and navigation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.7), submitted as part of the Application.
- 5.7.16.22 Through the MNEF and in responses to the PEIR, a number of stakeholders requested that the Applicant (and other Round 4 projects in the Irish Sea) include the proposed Moir Vaninn offshore wind farm within their project-alone and cumulative impact assessments. In the absence of a publicly available scoping report Moir Vannin was included as a Tier 3 project in the PEIR. Following the statutory consultation on the

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PEIR, the Moor Vannin developer, Ørsted, made project information available to the Applicant in advance of their scoping report being issued on 18 October 2023. This allowed for the inclusion of Moor Vaninn project in the NRA and CRNRA workshops at the end of September 2023.

5.7.17 Marine archaeology (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 13)

- 5.7.17.1 Feedback on matters relating to marine archaeology were received from Cadw, the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW), MMO, Historic England (HE) and one member of the public. The Archaeology, Heritage and Engagement Forum (AHEF) – Offshore was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors.
- 5.7.17.2 The key issues raised relevant to marine archaeology, which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:
- Monitoring of Archaeological Exclusion Zones (AEZs) and the protection of identified marine archaeology receptors
 - Potential impacts to as yet unknown marine archaeology receptors within the Mona Offshore Wind Project
 - Effects on Historic Seascape Character (HSC)
- 5.7.17.3 The one member of the public provided comment on the wreck referenced as Mona_0113 as being ‘an old, wooden sailing ship, very broken up’. The Applicant can confirm that this wreck has been removed from the assessment following the updated boundary of the Mona Array Area as it is no longer located within the Marine archaeology study area.
- 5.7.17.4 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant’s response can be seen in Appendix D.25.14

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Monitoring of Archaeological Exclusion Zones (AEZs) and the protection of identified marine archaeology receptors

- 5.7.17.5 During PEIR consultation RCAHMW raised concerns about the long term effectiveness of the proposed AEZs and requested that this be monitored through the acquisition of spatial survey data and that the data be archived with NRW through RCAHMW at the outset of Mona Offshore Wind project and throughout its lifetime. Mona Offshore Wind Project has adopted measures inclusive of the production of an Outline Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (Outline WSI and PAD) (Document Reference J18) which sets out the process for the archival of survey data acquired as part of the project. The Outline WSI is a ‘living document’ and is intended to be updated with method statements appended for any future works proposed, these future works will include the ongoing acquisition of survey data for the purpose of continued monitoring and consultation on the AEZs where appropriate.

Potential impacts to as yet unknown marine archaeology receptors within the Mona Offshore Wind Project

- 5.7.17.6 In their response to consultation on the Scoping Report, HE raised concerns about the potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to impact maritime archaeology receptors that were not known in the public record or able to be identified through the geophysical

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survey data. HE recommended that the potential for as yet unknown marine archaeology receptors of significant importance be factored into the design process. Mona Offshore Wind Project have adopted measures such as the operational awareness of all identified low potential anomalies and the production of an WSI PAD in order to ensure the avoidance where possible, protection and preservation by record of any marine archaeology that may be encountered during all phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

Effects on Historic Seascape Character (HSC)

5.7.17.7 In their response to consultation on the Scoping Report, HE raised concerns about potential effects arising from Mona Offshore Wind Farm on HSC. Advice was sought through the AHEF, and a methodology developed in order to assess whether Mona Offshore Wind Project would alter the HSC of the area.

5.7.18 Other sea users (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 14)

5.7.18.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to other sea users including Harbour Energy, Spirit Energy, ENI, the Isle of Man Department of Infrastructure, Scottish Power, Ørsted, euNetworks and Awel y Môr.

5.7.18.2 The key issues raised relevant to other sea users, which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:

- Ongoing consultation with, and inclusion in assessments of, pre-existing and planned infrastructure in the vicinity of the Mona Offshore Wind Project
- Potential for wake effects on other offshore wind farms.

5.7.18.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.15

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Ongoing consultation with, and inclusion in assessments of, pre-existing and planned infrastructure in the vicinity of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and recreational users.

5.7.18.4 In response to the PEIR, various stakeholders including the Isle of Man Department of Infrastructure, Ørsted, euNetworks and Awel y Môr noted that projects such as Mooir Vannin, the Isle of Man interconnector cable (and planned second interconnector), the Crogga oil and gas licence, the Rockabill telecommunications cable, Awel y Môr and recreational sailing and chartered angling should all be considered within the baseline environment, impact assessments and cumulative effect assessments presented within the Mona Offshore Wind Project DCO application as applicable. These projects are all acknowledged within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Other sea users of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F10) and considered in assessments where relevant and consultation with these stakeholders is ongoing. It should also be noted that a number of project changes and commitments have been made that directly benefit other sea users, such as reducing the Mona Array Area and increasing spacing between turbines, reducing effect on leisure craft operating in the local area. These project changes and commitments are detailed in sections 4.11.2 and table 4.23 of Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives of the Environmental Statement.

Potential for wake effects on other operational offshore wind farms

5.7.18.5 In response to the PEIR, Ørsted, Morecambe Wind Limited and Scottish Power raised the potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project wind turbines to interfere with wind speed or wind direction of the existing Barrow, Burbo Bank, Burbo Extension, West of Duddon Sands, Walney 1 and 2, and Walney 3 and 4 offshore wind farms, causing a reduction in energy output. The Applicant has given appropriate consideration to potential wake effects in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Other sea users of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.10).

5.7.19 Inter-related effects (offshore) (PEIR Volume 2, Chapter 15)

5.7.19.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating offshore inter-related effects including Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) and one member of the public.

5.7.19.2 The key issue raised relevant to offshore inter-related effects, which has been identified during the statutory consultation was regarding using an ecosystem approach to the assessments.

5.7.19.3 As the inter-related effects chapter considers effects from multiple receptors groups rather than being a standalone topic, feedback on the inter-related effects has been reported under the relevant topics and tables within in Appendix D.25.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Ecosystem approach to the assessments

5.7.19.4 Comments were received regarding undertaking the assessment based on an ecosystem approach in order to consider the impacts across multiple receptors. Volume 2, Chapter 11: Inter-related effects (offshore) of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.11) considers the potential for effects on receptor groups across the three key project phases (construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning) as well as the potential for multiple effects on a receptor group, as presented within the topic-specific chapter, to interact to create inter-related effects. Therefore, this chapter presents consideration of effects on the wider ecosystem.

5.7.20 Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 16)

5.7.20.1 Feedback on geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions was received from NRW, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Tan-y-Mynydd Trout Fishery Ltd and Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water and five members of the public.

5.7.20.2 The key issue raised relevant to geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions, which has been identified during the statutory consultation include:

- Clarification of measures for groundwater protection during construction
- Pollution prevention measures
- Groundwater supplies

5.7.20.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.17.

Summary of Consultee and Applicant Responses

Clarification of measures for groundwater protection during construction

5.7.20.4 Clarification was requested regarding the measures that will be implemented to protect groundwater during the construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, in particular a comment that measures should align with NRW's guidance. Further information was requested on the design of the landfall including depth of the drilling, how it interacts with the water table and potential impacts to the temporary rock armour on the former Llanddulas Beach landfill. The design of the landfall as assessed in the PEIR included the option of open cut trenching across the intertidal area. This option has been de-selected for the Environmental Statement.

Pollution prevention measures

5.7.20.5 Comments were provided on pollution prevention measures including the storage requirements for fuels and chemicals and emergency contact procedures; it was requested that more detail be included the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP). The outline CoCP (Document Reference J26) has been updated since PEIR and specific details on construction control measures have been added.

Groundwater supplies

5.7.20.6 Feedback from landowners related to private groundwater supplies in the area and requested that a risk assessment is undertaken to understand how they may be affected. An initial assessment has been undertaken and included within Groundwater sources of supply – hydrogeological risk assessment, Volume 7 Annex 1.2 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.1.2) and will be updated in line with ongoing landowner engagement post consent.

5.7.21 Hydrology and flood risk (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 17)

5.7.21.1 Feedback was on hydrology and flood risk was received from NRW, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council and Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water.

5.7.21.2 The key issues raised that were of relevance to hydrology and flood risk which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Coastal protection
- Realignment of watercourses and potential damage to geomorphological form and processes
- Methods for crossing watercourses
- Flood risk
- Protection of utilities

5.7.21.3 Feedback was also received from five members of the public who raised concerns about the impact on drainage schemes and increased flood risk.

5.7.21.4 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.18.

Summary of feedback and applicant response

Coastal protection

- 5.7.21.5 Comments were raised about the potential damage to the vegetated shingle beach from the landfall construction and increased coastal erosion.
- 5.7.21.6 The design of the landfall as assessed in the PEIR included the option of open cut trenching across the intertidal area. This option has been de-selected for the Environmental Statement. Trenchless techniques will be used to install the cable under the intertidal area up to the transition joint bay, which is located above MHWS. This will avoid impacts to intertidal habitats, the former Llanddulas Beach landfill and Pensarn Beach. The designated feature of the Traeth Pensarn SSSI (vegetated shingle beach) has also been excluded from the Onshore Development Area.

Realignment of watercourses and potential damage to geomorphological form and processes

- 5.7.21.7 NRW raised concerns that the proposed realignment of watercourses would cause geomorphological damage.
- 5.7.21.8 The design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project submitted at PEIR included two options (Option 2 and Option 7) for the location of the Onshore Substation. Option 7 required the realignment of an ordinary watercourse. NRW raised concerns regarding the loss of habitat, the risk of avulsion and the impact on hydromorphological condition. Option 7 has been deselected for the Environmental Statement.
- 5.7.21.9 The Onshore Substation (as assessed in the Environmental Statement) requires the realignment of a minor watercourse. The watercourse comprises a ditch, which was dry during site surveys (as reported in Volume 7, Annex 3.15: Fish and eel survey technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.3.15)). The ecological value of the channel is low as it is homogenous its form and channel substrate. The design of the realignment will be set out in the detailed Operational Drainage Strategy, secured as a requirement of the DCO.

Methods for crossing watercourses

- 5.7.21.10 Comments were raised about the techniques that would be used to cross watercourses and how this infrastructure would be decommissioned.
- 5.7.21.11 The watercourses traversed by the Mona Onshore Development Area are minor watercourses that are ephemeral streams or ditches (as shown in Volume 7, Annex 2.2: Surface watercourses and NRW flood zones of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.2)).
- 5.7.21.12 Since the PEIR, a crossing schedule has been prepared for the Environmental Statement. This sets out the methods that will be used to cross every obstacle along the Onshore Cable Corridor (Volume 5, Annex 4.3: Onshore Crossing Schedule of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F5.4.3)) including watercourses. The Onshore Crossing Schedule shows that watercourses will primarily be crossed using trenchless techniques. Watercourses may also be crossed by the haul road: the design of these crossings will be in line with the Construction Method Statement as part of the CoCP. An outline Construction Method Statement is included in the DCO application (Document Reference J26.15); a detailed method statement will be prepared as part of the detailed CoCP and will be agreed with the relevant stakeholders prior to construction.

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Flood risk

- 5.7.21.13 Feedback was provided on the Flood Consequences Assessment submitted at PEIR. Updates have been made to the mapping where required and further clarity has been provided as the design of the Onshore Substation has been refined. An Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy (Document Reference J28) is included in the DCO application. The detailed Drainage Management Strategy will be prepared post consent as secured via the DCO.
- 5.7.21.14 Responses were received from several members of the public who were concerned that the construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project would damage field drainage networks and lead to increased risk of flooding and damage farmland. Measures to control surface runoff will be set out in the Construction Surface Water and Drainage Management Plan as part of the CoCP. This will include a field drainage strategy whereby any field drainage intercepted during the cable installation will either be reinstated following the installation of the cable or diverted to a secondary channel. The Outline Construction Surface Water and Drainage Management Plan is included in the DCO application (Document Reference J26.6); the detailed Plan will be developed as part of the detailed CoCP and secured through the DCO.

Protection of utilities

- 5.7.21.15 Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water flagged that the Mona Onshore Development Area is crossed by many of its water infrastructure assets. The location of existing water management infrastructure has been taken into account in the site selection and refinement of the design (see Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives of the Environmental Statement). Construction works will be undertaken in accordance with Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water's asset protection requirements.

5.7.22 Onshore ecology (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 18)

- 5.7.22.1 With regard to onshore ecology, feedback was received from several stakeholders during statutory consultation for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These included: NRW, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, the Woodland Trust and several members of the public.
- 5.7.22.2 The key issues raised by stakeholders of relevance to onshore ecology, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:
- Field surveys
 - Potential impacts to sites designated for nature conservation
 - Legislation and policy requirements
 - Mitigation and monitoring
 - Assessment of cumulative effects.
- 5.7.22.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.18.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Field surveys

- 5.7.22.4 Stakeholders were generally satisfied with the scope and methodology for field surveys, including the requirement for further surveys to inform the Environmental Statement. However, NRW raised concerns that bat foraging dispersal surveys had

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not been considered and directed the Applicant toward the Hynet DCO application as an example and recommended several studies relating to bat dispersal distances. The Hynet DCO application methodologies for Habitat Suitability were reviewed and applied where relevant, as reported in Volume 7, Annex 3.10: Bat activity survey technical report (Document Reference F7.3.10). In addition, studies referenced by NRW have also been considered.

- 5.7.22.5 NRW also requested that extant baseline data associated with other existing or proposed developments, including St Asaph Business Park and Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm should be considered. NRW suggested existing Great Crested Newt (GCN) survey/monitoring data associated with these developments may be of relevance to the assessment. Extant baseline data, including GCN survey/monitoring data associated with Burbo Bank Extension Offshore Windfarm, Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm, St. Asaph Business Park and St. Asaph Solar Farm has been considered (where relevant) in Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3).

Potential impacts to sites designated for nature conservation

- 5.7.22.6 NRW noted that the Mona Proposed Onshore Development Area coincided with two statutory designated sites for nature conservation, including Llandulas Limestone and Gwrych Castle Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Traeth Pensarn SSSI. As reported in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3), the Applicant has committed to the use of trenchless techniques to avoid direct impacts to these statutory designated sites during the construction. The requirement for trenchless techniques will be secured as part of the Onshore Construction Method Statement, which will be developed in general accordance with the Outline Onshore Construction Method Statement (Document Reference J26.15) submitted with the DCO application.

Legislation and policy requirements

- 5.7.22.7 NRW noted that Volume 3, Chapter 8: Onshore ecology of the PEIR did not refer to European Commission Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive C/2021/7301, including consideration of Current Conservation Status (CCS) and Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). In addition, NRW also requested that the assessment refer to Habitats Directive Annex I Habitats and Annex II species. Reference to European Commission guidance document, including how and where it has been considered is provided in Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3). In addition, Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology of the Environmental Statement has been revised to demonstrate consideration of CCS/FCS and Annex I Habitats/Annex II species, where appropriate.

Mitigation and monitoring

- 5.7.22.8 Stakeholders were generally satisfied with the mitigation and monitoring proposed. However, NRW provided further advice with respect to temporary hedgerow surveillance, easements between watercourses and development and measures to be included Hydrological, Ecological and Landscape Management Plan (now titled Landscape and Ecology Management Plan), such as habitat compensation and monitoring requirements. Mitigation measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are reported in Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology of the Environmental Statement. This includes the preparation of a detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan in general accordance with the Outline Landscape and

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Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22), which includes an Outline GCN Mitigation Strategy and sets out areas for habitat creation and future monitoring requirements.

Assessment of cumulative effects

5.7.22.9 NRW requested consideration of other solar farm proposals and mitigation areas associated with Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm in the assessment of cumulative effects for onshore ecology. As reported in Section 3.11 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology of the Environmental Statement, other solar farm proposals, such as St. Asaph Solar Farm, which coincides with the Mona Onshore Development Area, have been considered in the assessment of cumulative effects. In addition, Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm, including mitigation areas have also been considered in assessment of cumulative effects in Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3).

5.7.23 Historic environment (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 19)

5.7.23.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to the historic environment including Cadw, Isle of Man Government, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), Conwy County Borough Council, and three members of the public.

5.7.23.2 The key issues raised of relevance to the historic environment, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Potential impact of the project on the settings of designated historic assets
- Potential impact of the project on archaeological sites
- Historic environment methodology, including proposed methodologies for the intrusive surveys (e.g. trial trenching locations).
- All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.20.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Potential impact of the project on the settings of designated historic assets

5.7.23.3 At the time of the PEIR, the impact of the proposed development, especially the substation, on the setting of the designated historic assets had not yet been assessed. It was highlighted by Cadw that the assessment will need to be carried out, whilst carefully considering the impact of the development on the settings of listed buildings Gwrych Castle; Gwrych Estate Boundary Wall; Plas Newydd and Pentre Meredydd. Furthermore, members of the public raised some concerns over the potential impacts on designated historic assets.

5.7.23.4 Following this, an assessment of the impact of the onshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including the Onshore Substation, on the settings of designated heritage assets has been undertaken. The results of this are summarised within Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic environment (Document Reference F3.5) and presented in detail within Volume 7, Annex 5.6: Settings assessment (onshore infrastructure) of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.5.6). The assessment was carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government document 'The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' (Cadw, 2017b).

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5.7.23.5 Furthermore, the Isle of Man Government highlighted that the offshore infrastructure visual impacts on the settings of designated assets should also be considered. As a result, this has been undertaken in accordance with the Welsh Government document 'The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' (Cadw, 2017b). The results are summarised within Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic environment (Document Reference F3.5) and presented in detail within Volume 7, Annex 5.7: Settings assessment (offshore infrastructure) of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.5.7).

Potential impact of the project on archaeological sites

5.7.23.6 Members of the public raised some concerns over the potential impacts on significant archaeological sites. The impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on archaeological sites have been assessed and are presented in Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic environment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.5).

Historic environment methodology, including proposed methodologies for the intrusive surveys

5.7.23.7 Consultation was utilised to discuss and agree methodologies for site-specific surveys, including onshore geophysical surveys, trial trenching and intertidal survey. Consultation with CPAT continued throughout the EIA process to discuss the findings from the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, strategy for trial trenching, and to discuss the impacts and mitigation identified at PEIR.

5.7.23.8 The onshore geophysical survey has been completed and the results of this work are presented in Volume 7, Annex 5.3: Onshore geophysical survey report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.5.3). A programme of further archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching has commenced and the results of the work completed thus far are presented in Volume 7, Annex 5.5: Trial trenching report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.5.5). The programme of trial trenching will resume in the spring of 2024 and the results will be shared with all relevant parties. This approach has been agreed with the appropriate stakeholders.

5.7.24 Land use and recreation (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 20)

5.7.24.1 With regard to land use and recreation, feedback was received from several stakeholders during statutory consultation, which included Denbighshire County Council and several members of the public.

5.7.24.2 The key issues raised by Denbighshire County Council and members of the public of relevance to land use and recreation, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- The potential impacts to Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) during construction
- The potential impacts to agricultural land
- The potential impacts to the operations of farm holdings.

5.7.24.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.21.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Potential impacts to PRowS during construction

5.7.24.4 Denbighshire County Council raised concerns regarding the potential impacts to Public Rights of Way during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including the requirements for temporary closures of footpaths and bridleways. In addition, Denbighshire County Council also requested that affected PRowS be reinstated as soon as possible post-construction. Proposed management measures for affected PRowS within the Mona Onshore Development Area will be provided in the detailed PRowS Management Strategy, which will be developed in general accordance with the Outline PRowS Management Strategy (Document Reference J27) submitted with the DCO application. The Outline PRowS Management Strategy (Document Reference J27) sets out the requirements for managed crossings and temporary diversions of PRowS during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This includes the commitment to monitor installed managed crossings and temporary diversions and reinstate affected PRowS to a suitable condition post construction.

Potential impacts to agricultural land

5.7.24.5 Members of the public raised concerns regarding the potential impact to agricultural land during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including best and most versatile soils. The Applicant intends to prepare a detailed Soil Management Plan as part of the wider CoCP. The detailed Soil Management Plan would be developed in general accordance with the Outline Soil Management Plan (Document Reference J26.8) submitted with the DCO application for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Outline Soil Management Plan (Document Reference: J26.8) contains measures to maintain the quality of agricultural land during construction and ensure land is returned to landowners in a suitable condition. As reported in Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land use and recreation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.7), following the implementation of measures set out in the Outline Soil Management Plan (Document Reference J26.8) and wider Outline CoCP (Document Reference J26), no significant effects because of the loss of agricultural land are anticipated during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

Potential impacts to farm holdings

5.7.24.6 Members of the public raised concerns regarding the potential impact to farm holdings during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Applicant intends to prepare a detailed CoCP to mitigate impacts on farm holdings during construction. The detailed CoCP would be developed in general accordance with the Outline CoCP (Document Reference J26) submitted with the DCO application. The Outline CoCP (Document Reference J26) includes the several plans, which contain measures to reduce disruption and enable continued operation of affected farm holdings during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. As reported in Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land use and recreation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.7), following the implementation of measures set out in the Outline CoCP (Document Reference J26), no significant effects to the operation of farm holdings are anticipated during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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5.7.25 Traffic and transport (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 21)

- 5.7.25.1 Feedback on traffic and transport was received from Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council.
- 5.7.25.2 The key issues raised that were of relevance to traffic and transport which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:
- Management of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs)
 - Traffic management measures
- 5.7.25.3 Feedback was also received from over ten members of the public who raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic on local roads.
- 5.7.25.4 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.22.

Summary of feedback and applicant response

Management of AILs

- 5.7.25.5 It is expected that a number of AILs comprising large components such as transformers will be transported to the Onshore Substation. The heavy haulage contractor appointed to undertake this work will be required to comply with statutory regulations in terms of consulting with the relevant highway and bridge authorities and the police. The timing of and routing of AIL deliveries will be discussed with the police and the relevant highway authorities to minimise delay for other road users and to minimise risk to highway users. No large Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) that exceed any weight restrictions on any bridges over the A55 or over the railway line will cross said bridges.

Traffic management measures

- 5.7.25.6 Traffic management measures will be implemented in accordance with the Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference J26.13) and Highways Access Management Plan (Document Reference J26.16), which form part of the CoCP. Outline versions of these management plans are included in the DCO application. No construction HGVs will route from the south to the A548 via the A470/A5, as set out in the Outline Highways Access Management Plan (Document Reference J26.16) and the Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference J26.13).
- 5.7.25.7 Access junction proposals have been prepared in accordance with highway design standards with traffic management measures to be adopted as set out in the Outline Highways Access Management Plan (Document Reference J26.16) and the Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference J26.13).

5.7.26 Noise and vibration (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 22)

- 5.7.26.1 With regard to noise and vibration, feedback was received from Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council and several members of the public. The key issues raised of relevance to noise and vibration which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:
- Mitigation of noise during construction

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- Baseline noise and vibration survey
- Assessment conclusions at a receptor
- Operational noise levels from the Onshore Substation

5.7.26.2 Feedback was also received from a member of the public who raised concerns about the baseline noise survey and the assessment conclusions.

5.7.26.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.23.

Summary of feedback and applicant response

Mitigation of noise during construction

5.7.26.4 Denbighshire County Council raised concerns regarding potential noise impacts to local residents during construction and the proposed working hours. The construction noise and vibration assessment has taken into account noise mitigation measures; examples of the mitigation measures are set out in the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan and is secured (as part of the CoCP) as a requirement of the DCO. The Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be agreed with the relevant planning authority prior to construction.

Baseline noise and vibration survey

5.7.26.5 Conwy County Borough Council noted that no baseline sound surveys had been undertaken along the Onshore Cable Corridor. Further baseline sound surveys have been undertaken in 2023 primarily at the proposed temporary construction compounds along the Onshore Cable Corridor. The proposed monitoring locations were discussed and agreed with Conwy County Borough Council. These results are reported in Volume 3, Annex 9.1: Baseline sound surveys of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.9.1).

5.7.26.6 A member of the public raised concerns that a location used in baseline sound survey (and reported in the PEIR) was not representative of sound levels at their property due to the distance to the monitoring location. The location of the monitoring locations had been agreed with Denbighshire County Council and the locations were considered to be representative. Nevertheless, a further baseline sound survey was undertaken in September 2023 to include a monitoring location at the property. The results are reported in Volume 7, Annex 9.1 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.9.1).

Assessment conclusions at a receptor

5.7.26.7 A member of the public did not agree with the conclusion of the noise assessment for their property. The assessment of noise and vibration impacts has been undertaken in accordance with industry guidance. The design of the Onshore Substation has been refined since the PEIR with more detailed engineering information available, as presented in Volume 2, Chapter 4: Site selection and consideration of alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4). The construction and operational noise and vibration assessment have been updated within this information and are reported in Volume 7: Annex 9.2: Construction Noise and Vibration (Document Reference F7.9.2) and Annex 9.3: Operation Noise of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.9.3).

Operational noise levels from the Onshore Substation

5.7.26.8 An operational noise model has been prepared for the Onshore Substation. The assumptions used in the noise model and the output of the model have been discussed with Denbighshire County Council in January 2024. The operational noise limits are secured as a requirement in the dDCO (Document Reference C1) and will be agreed with Denbighshire County Council prior to construction.

5.7.27 Air quality (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 23)

5.7.27.1 With regard to air quality, feedback was received from stakeholders during statutory consultation for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, which included NRW, Denbighshire County Council and three members of the public.

5.7.27.2 The key issues raised that were of relevance to air quality which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Screening out offshore air quality impacts from increased marine vessel traffic
- Potential effects of dust during construction.

5.7.27.3 Feedback was also sought regarding the methodology and scope of the air quality assessment, including mitigation requirements through consultation with Environmental Health Officers from Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council as the relevant local authorities.

5.7.27.4 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.24.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Screening out offshore air quality impacts from increased marine vessel traffic

5.7.27.5 In response to statutory consultation on the PEIR, NRW requested that a rationale should be presented along with evidence to screen out offshore air quality impacts from increased marine vessel traffic during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases.

5.7.27.6 Volume 3, Chapter 10: Air quality (Document Reference F3.10) provides a rationale and evidence to screen out these impacts, following the threshold criteria provided within Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22) (Defra, 2022).

Potential effects of dust during construction

5.7.27.7 Members of the public raised concerns regarding the potential impact of dust during the construction phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This also included concerns over the ability of mitigation to adequately shield against the potential effects. Mitigation measures have been recommended to reduce the risk of dust during the construction phase to ensure that the potential impact is negligible, which are presented within the Outline Dust Management Plan (Document Reference J26.2).

5.7.28 Onshore and intertidal ornithology (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 24)

5.7.28.1 With regard to onshore and intertidal ornithology, feedback was received from several stakeholders during statutory consultation for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These included: NRW and RSPB.

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5.7.28.2 The key issues raised by stakeholders of relevance to onshore and intertidal ornithology, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Field surveys
- Potential impacts to qualifying features
- Mitigation measures

5.7.28.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.25.

Summary of feedback and applicant response

Field surveys

5.7.28.4 Stakeholders were generally satisfied with the scope and methodology of field surveys to inform the assessment of onshore and intertidal ornithology. However, NRW requested clarification regarding the end dates of surveys. As reported in Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.4), field surveys undertaken to inform the assessment of onshore and intertidal ornithology include:

- Onshore wintering and migratory bird surveys, which were undertaken from November 2022 until March 2023
- Intertidal wintering and migratory bird surveys, which were undertaken from December 2021 until November 2023
- Onshore breeding bird surveys, which were undertaken from April to July 2022 and March to July 2023.

5.7.28.5 Further detail regarding the surveys listed above is provided in Volume 7, Annex 4.1: Onshore ornithology - wintering and migratory birds technical report, Volume 7 (Document Reference F7.4.1), Annex 4.2: Intertidal ornithology – wintering and migratory birds technical report (Document Reference F7.4.2) and Volume 7, Annex 4.3: Onshore ornithology - breeding birds technical report (Document Reference F7.4.3) of the Environmental Statement respectively.

Potential impacts to qualifying features

5.7.28.6 NRW advised on the qualifying features of Liverpool Bay SPA and Dee Estuary Ramsar Site, which required consideration in the assessment of onshore and intertidal ornithology. The list of qualifying features located within 20 km of the Mona Landfall was subsequently updated and considered (where relevant) in Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.4).

Mitigation measures

5.7.28.7 NRW recommended that a Bird Protection Plan should be submitted and agreed as part of the DCO application for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, and that vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside breeding season (or preceded by appropriate pre-commencement surveys for breeding birds). In addition, NRW also suggested that there was potential for enhancement measures for birds as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. A Bird Protection Plan will be submitted as part of the detailed CoCP, which will be developed in general accordance with the Outline CoCP (Document Reference J26) submitted with the DCO application. The Bird Protection Plan included in the Outline CoCP (Document Reference J26) provides various measures to avoid

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impacts to birds during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These include the deployment of an EcoW, appropriate timing of works (i.e. outside of breeding bird season), pre-commencement surveys for birds, bird protection zones and dissuasion techniques. A final Landscape and Ecology Management Plan will be developed in general accordance with the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) submitted in the DCO application. The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) includes several measures that would benefit birds, including the creation of new areas of woodland and hedgerows in addition to the enhancement of retained habitats within the Mona Onshore Development Area.

5.7.29 Inter-related effects (onshore) (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 25)

5.7.29.1 No responses were received during statutory consultation which related to this topic and chapter of the PEIR.

5.7.30 Seascape, landscape and visual resources (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 26)

5.7.30.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to seascape and visual resources including NRW, Isle of Man Government, MMO, Isle of Anglesey Council and members of the public. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities, consultation was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors.

5.7.30.2 The key issues raised of relevance to seascape and visual resources, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Potential impact of the project on the special qualities of nationally and internationally designated landscapes
- Potential Mitigation/ Enhancement measures
- Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) Methodology, including clarification of criteria for Assessment of Significance and further detail on the approach for assessment of sensitivity and magnitude of impact
- Potential Cumulative Impacts to seascape / landscape and visual receptors.

5.7.30.3 Members of the public raised general concerns on the basis of potential visual impact.

5.7.30.4 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.26.

Summary of feedback and applicant response

Potential impact of the project on the special qualities of nationally and internationally designated landscapes.

5.7.30.5 The assessment considered the special qualities of three nationally designated landscapes: Isle of Anglesey National Landscape (previously known as Anglesey AONB), Eryri National Park and the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (previously known as Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape AONB). The Lake District National Park and the English Lake District World Heritage Site were scoped out due to distance from the revised Mona Array Area. The assessment of Isle of Anglesey National Landscape, Eryri National Park and the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape took account of an extended 60

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km SLVIA study area. Special qualities were considered individually and those of relevance to the SLVIA were taken forward to assessment. The assessment of effects on the special qualities of these designated landscapes also reviewed the national landscape and seascape character areas within and adjacent to the nationally designated landscapes.

Potential mitigation / enhancement measures.

- 5.7.30.6 A concern was expressed by NRW that sufficient evidence had not been provided to demonstrate that seascape, landscape, and visual impacts have been minimised and that the SLVIA had under-estimated the effects of the Mona Offshore Wind project. Both NRW and Isle of Anglesey Council found no specific mitigation measures apart from turbines colours being painted grey, which they considered to be a standard measure. Additionally, the Isle of Anglesey Council requested that the mitigation response from SLVIA should refer to the policy set out within the Joint Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Development Plan and considered it important to also make the distinction between the possible mitigation measures and any measures included in the design.
- 5.7.30.7 The design changes to the array (since PEIR), in terms of the contraction of the array area and increased separation from the northwest coast of England (now 46.7 km), whilst not driven by the SLVIA, are a mitigating factor in terms of adverse landscape, seascape and visual effects and responds to concerns raised by some members of the public.
- 5.7.30.8 Mitigation measures have been developed for the onshore project components including the substation. In this regard, a Landscape Strategy and Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan has been developed (Document Reference J22). The Landscape Strategy was discussed with both the Design Commission for Wales and NRW.
- 5.7.30.9 SLVIA methodology, including clarification of criteria for assessment of significance and further detail on the approach for assessment of sensitivity and magnitude of impact.
- 5.7.30.10 Overall, the methodology for the SLVIA was considered by consultees to be in line with best practice. An area of concern was the assessment of significance and its reporting. Both NRW and Isle of Anglesey Council requested changes to the threshold of significant effects, limited to substantial or major effects, to indicate that a moderate effect can potentially be significant. This should reflect on the assessment of effects in the case of Eryri National Park. The SLVIA methodology has been updated to provide more detail regarding the process that led to judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact and significance.

Potential Cumulative Impacts to seascape / landscape and visual receptors.

- 5.7.30.11 The methodology used for the assessment of cumulative effects on seascape/landscape and visual receptors was considered to be broadly acceptable. Consideration of the Isle of Man offshore wind farm (known as the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm) and cumulative effects on landscape, seascape and visual receptors including national trails within designated landscapes were raised as areas of concern. These are now addressed in more detail in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.8).

5.7.31 Aviation and radar (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 27)

5.7.31.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to aviation and radar including NATS, Stena Line, Liverpool Airport, Isle of Man Ronaldsway Airport, Barrow Walney Airfield and Wharton Airfield, and Blackpool Airport.

5.7.31.2 The key issues raised relevant to aviation and radar, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to date include:

- Creation of physical obstacles to airport operations
- Wind turbines causing interference with aviation Primary Surveillance Radar (PSR) systems
- Aviation lighting causing confusion to the maritime community.

5.7.31.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.27.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Creation of physical obstacles to airport operations

5.7.31.4 In response to the PEIR the Isle of Man (Ronaldsway) Airport stressed the importance of appropriate mitigation measures being put in place to ensure that any potential impacts on aviation safety are identified and addressed. A thorough assessment was undertaken to establish the potential impacts on aviation safety, and based on the findings, appropriate mitigation options have been identified which are under discussion with key stakeholders, including Ronaldsway Airport to ensure that these mitigation measures are in place where necessary. A full assessment of Instrument Flight Procedures is presented in Appendix B of Volume 8, Annex 1.1: Aviation and radar technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.1.1), and the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to airport operations through the creation of physical obstacles is assessed fully in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1).

Wind turbines causing interference with aviation PSR systems

5.7.31.5 In response to the PEIR Liverpool Airport noted the Applicant's assessment indicated that the Mona Offshore Wind Project's wind turbines would have a detrimental effect on Liverpool Airport's radar systems, and that mitigation would be required before the erection of any wind turbines. Consultation with similarly effected stakeholders, including Ronaldsway Airport and NATS, has continued throughout the pre-application phase and is ongoing regarding implementation of appropriate mitigation to minimise risks/reduce adverse impacts to an acceptable level. Mitigation will be in place prior to the erection of the wind turbine towers of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. A full assessment of the Mona Offshore Wind Project's wind turbines interference with aviation PSR systems is presented in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1).

Aviation lighting causing confusion to the maritime community.

5.7.31.6 In response to the PEIR Stena Line raised concerns that aviation lighting fitted to offshore wind turbines has the potential to impact to the maritime community as the specification for the lighting to be displayed below the horizontal plane of the light filament itself could cause mariners some confusion. An Aids to Navigation Management Plan will be agreed with NRW in consultation with Trinity House and the

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MCA, and on the basis of stakeholder feedback, night simulations were included within the 2023 navigation simulation sessions conducted with ferry companies and reported within Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigation Risk Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1) and Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and navigation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.7), submitted as part of the Application.

5.7.32 Climate change (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 28)

5.7.32.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to climate change including the Isle of Man Government, Stena Line and one member of the public. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities, consultation was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors.

5.7.32.2 The key issues raised of relevance to climate change, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Overall beneficial effect in respect of climate change
- Assessment of cumulative or individual impact of the Mona, Morecambe and Morgan Offshore Wind Farms on direct/indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- The increased time it will take for Stena Line (and other ferry operators) to perform their routes (in normal and adverse weather conditions) as a result of the footprint of the wind farms.

5.7.32.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.28.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Assessment of cumulative or individual impacts

5.7.32.4 GHG emissions are not bound by geographical boundaries. Consequently, cumulative effects due to other specific local development projects are not individually considered but are taken into account when considering the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project by defining the atmospheric mass of GHGs as a high sensitivity receptor. This is in accordance with IEMA guidance on Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance (IEMA, 2022).

Third party route deviation

5.7.32.5 Consideration has been given to the indirect impact of route deviation within the Volume 8, Annex 2.1 Technical greenhouse gas assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.2.1) and has been considered in the operations and maintenance assessment. This draws on information presented within Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and navigation of the Environmental Statement and the navigation risk assessment (Document Reference F6.7.1).

5.7.33 Socio-economics (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 29)

5.7.33.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to socio-economics including the Isle of Anglesey Council, Isle of Man Government and several members of the public. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities,

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consultation was established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors.

5.7.33.2 The key issues raised of relevance to socio-economics, which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project include:

- Recommendation that a skills and employment strategy be prepared to identify opportunities for employment and training
- Maximise local socio-economic benefits and collaborate with other major projects within the North Wales region
- Social and economic risks associated with potential lifeline ferry disruption.

5.7.33.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.29.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Skills and employment strategy

5.7.33.4 The Applicant has committed to the provision of an Outline Skills and Employment Plan (Document Reference J24) which will be included as a requirement of the draft DCO.

5.7.33.5 The actions presented within the Outline Plan will form the basis of a post-consent Skills and Employment Strategy, which will be adopted by the Applicant to help develop and support the economic benefits associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project in relation to skills and employment within the offshore wind sector.

Maximise local socio-economic benefits and collaboration with other major projects in North Wales

5.7.33.6 As set out above, an Outline Skills and Employment Plan (Document Reference J24) and post-consent Skills and Employment Strategy include project commitments which will involve collaboration with other wind farm projects.

Social and economic risks associated with potential lifeline ferry disruption

5.7.33.7 Potential socio-economic impacts on the Isle of Man associated with potential adverse effects on lifeline ferry services is considered in Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3). The assessment concludes that effects are not significant (in EIA terms) on the Isle of Man.

5.7.34 Human health assessment (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 30)

5.7.34.1 Feedback was received from several stakeholders on matters relating to human health including Stena Line, Cefn Meiriadog Community Council and two members of the public.

5.7.34.2 The key issue raised of relevance to human health, which have been identified during the statutory consultation include:

- Health inequalities as a result of ongoing and more frequent disruption to goods and services
- The impacts on the community as a result of the visual impact of the Onshore Substation

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- Disruption to quality of life and ill health

5.7.34.3 Skills and employment opportunities. All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.30.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Health inequalities as a result of ongoing and increased disruption

5.7.34.4 Stena Line notes that the cumulative impact of the Mona, Morecambe and Morgan Offshore Wind Farms on human health as a result of navigational risk or otherwise were not assessed in the PEIR. Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) has had regard for cumulative effects, including of the Mona, Morecambe and Morgan Offshore Wind Farms. A cumulative assessment of the public health implications which takes into consideration the cumulative effects discussed in the other technical chapters of the Environmental Statement.

The impacts on the community as a result of the visual impact of the Onshore Substation

5.7.34.5 Cefn Meiriadog Community Council raised concerns that the scale of the Onshore Substation is not compatible to the rural landscape and it will have a deleterious effect on the rural community. The landscape impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are assessed in the Volume 3, Chapter 6 Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement. With regards to human health, Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human health of the Environmental Statement states that visual impacts of onshore infrastructure, including the onshore substations, are not expected to be of a scale that could affect population health outcomes.

Disruption to quality of life and wellbeing

5.7.34.6 A member of the public raised a concern that visual impacts of the Onshore Substation and noise and pollution during construction may disrupt the quality of life of nearby residents and their well-being. A human health assessment has been undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project (Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human health of the Environmental Statement). The assessment has regard to vulnerable groups, and in this case assigns them the highest level of sensitivity, but (in line with the assessment methodology set out in guidance) does not reach conclusions on individual level health outcomes. The Environmental Statement Human Health chapter has had regard to local sensitivities, including in relation to age, health status and income, across the scope of issues covered by the assessment.

Skills and employment opportunities

5.7.34.7 A member of the public provided a summary of the skills and employment opportunities that have been generated by existing offshore wind operations within southwest Cumbria. The feedback goes onto say that the area has become one of the fastest growing coastal regions of the UK, offering good wages and career prospects.

5.7.34.8 An Outline Skills and Employment Plan has been prepared for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and it is included in the DCO application (Document Reference J24). The development of the Outline Skills and Employment Plan is secured as a requirement of the DCO; the potential for tailoring opportunities to local and vulnerable groups will be considered as that plan is developed.

5.7.35 Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 5.7.35.1 Feedback was received from a number of stakeholders on matters relating to HRA and the draft HRA was available during the statutory consultation. Consultees included in particular JNCC, NE, NRW, WTW and Ørsted. As part of the EPP and wider technical engagement activities, the EWGs were established with representatives from the key regulatory bodies and their advisors to discuss the HRA.
- 5.7.35.2 The key issues raised relevant to the HRA which have been identified during the statutory consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to date include:
- Potential impacts of the offshore export cable installation on benthic ecology Annex I habitat features
 - Potential impacts of vessel disturbance on offshore ornithology Annex II species
 - Auk species identification rates
 - Potential impacts of underwater sound on marine mammal Annex II species
 - Approach to Likely Significant Effect (LSE) screening for offshore ornithology
- 5.7.35.3 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.31.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

Potential impacts of the offshore export cable installation on benthic ecology Annex I habitat features

- 5.7.35.4 NRW raised concerns that the Mona offshore cable corridor could interact with Annex I features of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC and highlighted that any potential long-term habitat loss to these features need to be assessed against the conservation objectives for the SAC. NRW were unable to agree with the conclusions presented for the potential long-term habitat loss of Annex I Reef and Annex I Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time within the HRA published with the PEIR. The conclusion within the HRA published with the PEIR was that adverse effects on the qualifying Annex I habitats which undermine the conservation objectives of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay/Y Fenai a Bae Conwy SAC would not occur as a result of long-term habitat loss. NRW welcomed the commitment to limit the extent of cable protection within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, and encouraged avoiding placement of any cable protection within the SAC and in particular within Annex I features.
- 5.7.35.5 NRW also sought further information on whether potential for increases in suspended sediment concentrations (SSC) and sediment deposition could extend to other features of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC in addition to the screened in Annex I Reef and Annex I Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time feature (i.e. Submerged or partially submerged sea caves). NRW noted no spatial figures had been presented to understand the extent of the sediment plume and potential interactions with Annex I features of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, and therefore were unable to agree with the conclusions at this point.
- 5.7.35.6 Since the submission of the PEIR, Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2) has been updated to include the results of the site-specific surveys undertaken in 2022 within the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor, including within the Constable Bank sandbank and

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the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC as well as the 2023 intertidal survey. The results of these surveys combined with an extensive literature review have demonstrated that there are no designated features of the SAC present in the small area of overlap with the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor. Therefore, there will be no direct impact to any of the features of the SAC. Furthermore, refinements to the project design since PEIR have resulted in a reduction of long term habitat loss within the SAC from 28,000 m² (at PEIR), to 8,000 m² (8,000 m² represents 0.003% of the total area of the SAC).

- 5.7.35.7 On the basis that there is no direct overlap with any designated features of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, all direct impacts, including long term habitat loss, have been screened out of the HRA Stage 2 Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.2) on the basis of no Likely Significant Effect (LSE).
- 5.7.35.8 Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2) and the HRA Stage 2 ISAA (Document Reference E1.2) has been updated regarding the predicted extent of plumes resulting from offshore export cable installation in the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. The Applicant has committed to no sandwave clearance within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.
- 5.7.35.9 The modelled output presented in Volume 6, Annex 1.1: Physical processes technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.1.1) includes the applicable designated areas to aid in the interpretation of findings. Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference E2.2) and the HRA Stage 2 ISAA (Document Reference E1.2) include an assessment of the modelled outputs. All increases in SSC and associated sediment deposition associated with offshore export cable installation within the SAC and associated activities (e.g. sandwave clearance and site preparation activities) out with the SAC during construction and decommissioning activities will be limited in spatial extent (plume envelope for the offshore export cable installation has a width of approximately 20 km which corresponds with the tidal excursion) and intermittent in nature. Therefore it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no risk of an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC.

Potential impacts of vessel disturbance on offshore ornithology Annex II species

- 5.7.35.10 In response to the PEIR, the JNCC advised that a quantitative assessment of the impact of vessel disturbance on red-throated diver and common scoter within and around the Liverpool Bay SPA should be undertaken. JNCC also highlighted that the assessments should be scaled to include total vessel presence given there will be up to 91 vessels present at any one time.
- 5.7.35.11 JNCC and NE questioned the assessment methodology of vessel disturbance and displacement during the operational phase with regard to transiting through Liverpool Bay SPA, and how many (if any) vessel movements would relate to the maintenance of the offshore export cable.
- 5.7.35.12 NRW, JNCC and NE advised that a restriction to vessel works during the wintering period should be considered to prevent disturbance to red-throated diver and common scoter. NE also advised that vessels transiting through the Liverpool Bay SPA should follow best practice protocols, such as adhering to existing routes where possible, to minimise disturbance to common scoter and red-throated diver.
- 5.7.35.13 Since the submission of the PEIR, the Applicant has made a commitment that no offshore export cable installation will occur within the Liverpool Bay SPA within the

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non-breeding season (01 November to 31 March) in order to reduce impacts on offshore ornithology features. The assessment for disturbance and displacement and red-throated diver and common scoter is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5). The impact of vessel movement associated with operation and maintenance for the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone and cumulatively is also presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5).

- 5.7.35.14 An offshore Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be developed and adhered to, including measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels. The Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds document (Document Reference J17) will be appended to the offshore EMP. This plan includes a commitment that the Mona Offshore Wind Project site induction process will incorporate the principles of the WiSe training scheme (or other similar scheme) to minimise disturbance to marine life.

Auk species identification rates

- 5.7.35.15 NRW and JNCC raised concerns over the number of birds recorded as 'guillemot/razorbill', particularly as this was the second most frequently recorded species group. The stakeholders questioned whether apportioning guillemot/razorbill to the individual species based on proportions of identified guillemots and razorbills was appropriate, as it could introduce biases. Apportioning may overestimate numbers of the easily identified species and correspondingly underestimate numbers of the less easily identified species.
- 5.7.35.16 Similarly, Natural England raised concerns over the use of model-based abundance estimates and recommended that the Environmental Statement should include more detailed methodology, including corrections for the apportionment of unidentified birds and availability bias.
- 5.7.35.17 Natural England raised a concern that the PEIR was based on incomplete data or referred to data not yet available for inclusion for several receptors. Natural England highlighted that they could not make conclusive judgements based on the PEIR. The need to base the Environmental Statement on robust datasets that meet (and where appropriate exceed) minimum standards, for example data from at least 24-monthly offshore ornithology surveys was emphasised.
- 5.7.35.18 The full 24 months of the site specific surveys were presented in the Mona Offshore Wind Project PEIR and have also been presented in the Environmental Statement within Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5). Auk (including guillemot and razorbill species) identification rates were revised upward by the specialist site specific survey contractor (APEM) following further quality assurance of images. As a result, the apportioning in the Environmental Statement chapter is based on a smaller proportion of unidentified auk species than presented in the PEIR. A breakdown of all unknown groups and the number of birds recorded is provided in Volume 6, Annex 5.1: Offshore ornithology baseline characterisation technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.5.1). Further clarity is also provided on how unknown birds were apportioned, including for unidentified gulls, skuas, petrels, terns, thrushes and wader species.

Potential impacts of underwater sound on marine mammal Annex II species

- 5.7.35.19 Consultation responses from NRW and JNCC raised concerns regarding the potential impacts of underwater sound from piling and UXO clearance activities on marine mammals, in particular harbour porpoise. There were concerns that only the EDR approach was used for the assessment of disturbance associated with piling to assess impacts on harbour porpoise in the North Anglesey Marine SAC. Based on the modelled contours provided in the PEIR, NRW noted that absence of an adverse effect on the North Anglesey Marine SAC for the MDS of two simultaneous monopile drives could not be ruled out. NRW recommended that when assessing the area disturbed for harbour porpoise, an unweighted noise threshold of 143 dB re 1 μ Pa (or 103 dB re 1 μ Pa VHF-weighted) single strike sound exposure level (Brandt et al., 2018; Heinis et al., 2019) should be used, in parallel to EDRs, to represent the minimum fixed noise threshold at which significant disturbance would occur from impulsive noise sources.
- 5.7.35.20 NRW and JNCC disagreed with the assumption that the extent of behavioural disturbance from piling is likely to be an overestimate due to noise losing its impulsive characteristics with range. This argument is valid when estimating impact ranges for PTS/TTS, though not when assessing behavioural disturbance based on dose response curves. This is because behavioural responses are obtained from field observations where animals may react to the sound they receive at their location.
- 5.7.35.21 Since the submission of the PEIR, the project parameters have been refined to remove monopile foundations, and the assessment approach of disturbance resulting from piling sound has been reviewed and updated. An unweighted sound threshold of 143 dB re 1 μ Pa (or 103 dB re 1 μ Pa VHF-weighted) which is based on a collation of field studies of harbour porpoise response to elevated subsea noise from piling, has been presented in Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4). This represents a fixed sound threshold at which significant disturbance could occur; any behavioural effects beyond this point are likely to be mild. This approach has been carried forward to the HRA Stage 2 ISAA and presented alongside the EDR as an area-based threshold for the purposes of understanding potential overlap with SAC habitat.

Approach to LSE screening for offshore ornithology

- 5.7.35.22 In response to the PEIR, NRW and JNCC did not agree with the approach to LSE screening for offshore ornithology as outlined in the PEIR. NRW and JNCC highlight that LSE is a coarse screening filter and that use of detailed screening criteria should be part of the appropriate assessment. Using LSE as a coarse filter provides a transparent approach that can be followed through the HRA Stage 2 ISAA. Where a qualifying feature has been recorded at the Mona Offshore Wind Project, with potential connectivity (e.g. within foraging range) and a potential impact pathway, there is the potential to undermine the conservation objectives of the feature. Under such circumstances NRW and JNCC outlined that they expect all sites to be carried through to the appropriate assessment phase, and do not agree with the SPAs and features screened out of LSE.
- 5.7.35.23 NRW expressed that, while the approaches undertaken in the PEIR may have been taken for the Round 4 Plan Level HRA, it did not consider these assessment principles to be relevant at the project level, as they did not comprise the level of granularity required at the individual project level.

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5.7.35.24 Since PEIR submission, the approach to the LSE screening and HRA Stage 2 ISAA has been revised and agreed with EWG to address concerns and all designated sites connected to Mona Offshore Wind Project have been listed in the HRA Stage 1 screening report (Document Reference E1.4).

5.7.36 Draft Development Consent Order (including deemed marine licences)

5.7.36.1 The Applicant prepared a dDCO for the statutory consultation. This included two draft dMLs for the generation assets, one relating to the area within NRW's jurisdiction and one relating to the MMO's area.

5.7.36.2 Feedback was received from several stakeholders on the draft DCO. In relation to the dML from NRW, THLS, the MCA, West Coast Sea Products Ltd, SFF, SWFPO and the Isle of Man Government. In additional feedback was received from Denbighshire County Council in relation to the onshore elements of the dDCO.

5.7.36.3 The key issues raised in relation to the dDCO were:

- The dML contains adequate Conditions concerning notifications, surveys and monitoring
- The dML is clear on which entities should be consulted, receive notifications of have enforcement responsibilities
- The dML is clear in terms of what elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are covered by it and
- The adequate Requirements concerning management of construction impacts.

5.7.36.4 All feedback received against this topic, alongside the Applicant's response can be seen in Appendix D.25.31.

Summary of Feedback and Applicant Response

5.7.36.5 The responses to the points raised by NRW, THLS, the MCA, West Coast Sea Products Ltd, SFF, SWFPO, and the Isle of Man Government note where updates have been made to the drafting of Conditions to address concerns regarding notifications and the surveys and monitoring which will be undertaken before, during and after construction. Details as to the changes made to the dMLs around the parameters of the relevant offshore elements and coordinates for the area covered by the dML. Details of how enforcement responsibilities will sit under the dML have also been set out noting where appropriate changes have been made.

5.7.36.6 The Applicant met with NRW to discuss its section 42 feedback and explained the changes it would be making to the dML in response to the points raised as set out above.

5.7.36.7 The responses to the points raised by Denbighshire County Council note where updates have been made to the drafting of Requirements and where no such updates are required as points noted by Denbighshire County Council are covered in the outline management plans submitted with the Application and secured through the dDCO.

5.7.36.8 The Applicant has had regard to all comments received during the statutory consultation on the dDCO. Where the Applicant agrees with the drafting proposed by consultees it has included this within the application dDCO (Document Reference C1). The Applicant expects there will be further discussion in relation to the dDCO including the dML during the examination of the Application, including issue specific hearing sessions where consultees will have the opportunity to make representations on the application dDCO and dML.

5.7.37 Section 44 landowners and PWILs

- 5.7.37.1 In response to feedback from PWILs during the consultation period and through the engagement meetings, the order limits have been amended to reflect the feedback received. Some examples of the feedback obtained and how the applicant has responded to it are set out below:
- Keep the order limits to the boundaries of fields to reduce severed land
 - Remove land from the order limits due to the impact on the farming enterprise
 - Concerns over the inclusions of residential curtilages within the boundary
 - Move the order limits away from residential properties and holiday cottages
 - Concerns over the effect on horses on the land
 - Water levels of fisheries and the potential for business losses.
- 5.7.37.2 Where possible the Applicant has addressed the points raised and has removed some land from the order limits through route refinement and keeping to field boundaries. This micro siting has also increased the distance from residential properties, removed any curtilage and reduced the amount of severed land, as well as mitigating the impact on farming enterprises where possible.
- 5.7.37.3 Section 44 responses received during the statutory consultation are included within the tables at Appendix D.25. There is no separate section 44 response table as the feedback related to multiple topics. These can therefore be found within the topic related tables, as appropriate, and identified by the consultee type column.
- 5.7.37.4 The Applicant is in continued discussions with Section 44 consultees regarding their land interests in order to secure the land use powers it needs by agreement with the parties that own and occupy the land. The Applicant has initiated and is engaged in negotiations with the affected parties, which remain ongoing, as detailed in Section 6.1.3 and 7.6 of this Consultation Report.

6 POST-STATUTORY CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Summary of post-statutory consultation engagement

6.1.1 Introduction

6.1.1.1 Following the statutory consultation period, which ended on 04 June 2023, the Applicant continues to engage with technical and community stakeholders.

6.1.1.2 Engagement took the form of:

- Technical meetings and workshops as outlined in section 6.1.2 below (Post Statutory Consultation Engagement - Technical Engagement)
- One-to-one meetings and telephone calls with elected representatives
- Landowners and other interested parties who requested direct engagement
- Reactive engagement through responding to queries received to the project mailbox and telephone line
- Proactive announcements to inform stakeholders of surveys or design refinements.

6.1.1.3 This post-statutory engagement formed an integral part of the Applicant's approach to making appropriate and necessary amendments to the project design (including relevant mitigation measures) as the application was finalised.

6.1.2 Technical engagement

6.1.2.1 Following the close of statutory consultation, the Applicant continued to engage with the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Steering Group, Expert Working Groups (EWGs), engagement forums and technical consultees. A series of meetings and workshops were held to discuss the statutory consultation responses and the results of ongoing assessment work.

6.1.2.2 This is discussed in more detail within the consultation section of the individual chapters of the Environmental Statement, as well as in the Technical Engagement Plan (TEP) (Document Reference E4).

6.1.3 Landowner engagement

6.1.3.1 Dalcour Maclaren on behalf of the Applicant has continued to engage with landowners following the conclusion of the statutory consultation period. This included engagement regarding intrusive and non-intrusive survey works which involved ground investigation works and archaeology trenching along the Onshore Development Area, conducted since the end of the consultation period. Engagement also included discussing the proposed route amendments to take into account comments made during statutory consultation.

6.1.3.2 Since conclusion of the consultation, affected landowners were contacted separately by Dalcour Maclaren on behalf of the applicant to secure voluntary intrusive survey licences where possible. There were a total of 28 intrusive licences issued for the ground investigation works and archaeology trenching for the works planned in the latter part of 2023. 17 licences were secured and notice was served utilising the powers under Section 172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 for one land holding where a voluntary agreement with the freeholder was unsuccessful.

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- 6.1.3.3 Where works were to take place, Dalcour Maclaren met with the owner, or occupier of the land where relevant or requested to by the landlord to discuss and agree access routes for the works, timings and to take a photographic schedule of condition to ensure any damage post works could be compensated for accordingly.
- 6.1.3.4 Due to the ground conditions and landowner concerns, some works were stopped for the winter 2023 and are to resume in spring 2024 when weather conditions allow.
- 6.1.3.5 Heads of terms for an option for easement to voluntarily negotiate the land rights required to deliver the project were issued to landowners and occupiers for the cable corridor in October 2023. Heads of terms for the rights required for the substation, access, mitigation and ecological works were issued in February 2024.
- 6.1.3.6 The heads of terms for the option agreement sets out the key principles to be agreed for the land rights before this forms the legally binding option agreement. Dalcour Maclaren will continue with the ongoing engagement with landowners and PWILs through examination and construction and will seek voluntary agreement for all land rights required for its delivery.
- 6.1.3.7 The National Farmers Union, on behalf of their members, have also been engaging with Dalcour Maclaren to discuss and agree survey licences and negotiate the heads of terms. A Land Agent Group has been formed by a number of the land agents acting for those with an interest in land along the corridor and there have been ongoing correspondence with them to negotiate the land rights required.
- 6.1.3.8 Prior to the submission of the development consent order, in 2023, Dalcour Maclaren issued confirmation schedules to the landowners, occupiers and those with an interest in land to confirm the details obtained through the Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) earlier in the year were still correct and updates were made where necessary. An example of this correspondence can be provided upon request.

6.1.4 Stakeholder notification of survey work

- 6.1.4.1 In order to refine its proposals, during the summer and autumn of 2023 the Applicant needed to conduct ground investigation surveys at locations in Conwy and Denbighshire. In each case, notifications were sent to stakeholders informing them of the works and what to expect, should they receive enquiries about the work. The exact contact list was refined depending on the location of the surveys, but included:
- Clwyd West and/or Vale of Clwyd constituency Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Senedd (MSs)
 - Regional Members of the Senedd
 - Conwy and/or Denbighshire (host authorities) County Councillors
 - Conwy and/or Denbighshire (host authorities) Chief Executives and Heads of Planning Services
 - Affected Community Councils

6.1.5 Engagement with the local community

- 6.1.5.1 The Applicant conducted both proactive and reactive engagement with the local community after the statutory consultation period officially ended on 04 June 2023. This involved:
- Ongoing handling of enquiries received to the project mailboxes and telephone line (these are included within section 5.7 of this report and Appendix D.25)

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- Notification to stakeholders of onshore survey works being undertaken
- Update newsletter on design refinements to the onshore aspect of the scheme (published/issued in August 2023)
- Update newsletter on design refinements to the offshore aspect of the scheme (published/issued in September 2023)
- Website updates.

6.1.6 Announcement on onshore design refinements

6.1.6.1 On 15 August 2023, the Applicant announced that, based on feedback received during the statutory and non-statutory phases of consultation, it had been able to refine some aspects of its proposals.

6.1.6.2 A bilingual, 4-page Community Update newsletter was issued as a hard copy mailing to 9951 addresses within a refined mailing zone as shown in Figure 6.1.



Figure 6.1: Refined mailing zone for Community update newsletter

6.1.6.3 The newsletter, included as Appendix E.1, explained that the Applicant had chosen a single onshore substation site and a single onshore cable route from the options that were included within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at statutory consultation (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023).

6.1.6.4 It explained that the decision followed the non-statutory consultation in 2022 (where seven onshore substation location options had been presented for feedback) and the subsequent two shortlisted location options, which were consulted on at the statutory consultation.

6.1.6.5 This post-consultation newsletter explained that the Applicant had chosen its single onshore cable route from the options that were included in the PEIR and would be holding further conversations with landowners in order to continue to refine the cable corridor to one that is approximately 75 m wide. The single onshore cable route and proposed final substation location were both illustrated within the newsletter.

6.1.6.6 The Applicant noted its commitment to continued dialogue with stakeholders, landowners and the wider community as it moved towards the submission of the application for development consent. The newsletter made clear that there would be

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further opportunities to engage with the project and for local people to have their say during the examination stage and that interested parties could register for updates on the Planning Inspectorate's website.¹⁰

- 6.1.6.7 Dalcour Maclaren issued covering letters and a copy of the newsletter by post to section 44 freeholders, leaseholders, tenants and occupiers identified within the PEIR boundary and those who may have a relevant claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 on 14 August 2023 (A copy of the letter can be provided upon request).
- 6.1.6.8 An email was sent by the Applicant to all section 42 and section 47 stakeholders on 15 August 2023, pointing to an electronic copy of the newsletter on the consultation website.

6.1.7 Announcement of offshore design refinements

- 6.1.7.1 In September 2023, the Applicant announced that, based on feedback received during the statutory and non-statutory phases of consultation, the Mona Offshore Wind Project array boundary would be reduced.
- 6.1.7.2 A bilingual, 4-page Project Update newsletter was created detailing this and other project refinements. This is included as Appendix E.2.
- 6.1.7.3 The offshore refinements post-consultation newsletter explained that the Applicant had been working closely with stakeholders to understand the potential impacts of the proposed offshore wind farm and these could be mitigated. In particular, it explained that the Applicant acknowledged that the Mona Offshore Wind Project's potential effects on ferry routes was a concern for people – both individually and when considered alongside other developments in the Irish Sea – and that feedback received through the statutory consultation on the PEIR, alongside further engineering, environmental and technical work, had informed the decision to reduce the array area from what was presented in the PEIR (Mona Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023).
- 6.1.7.4 The Applicant's position is that this will reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on ferry operators and other marine users, as well as reducing cumulative effects when considered alongside neighbouring developments.
- 6.1.7.5 The newsletter highlighted:
- The revised array area would now lie entirely in Welsh waters
 - To promote co-existence with fishing activities, the Applicant would be committing to maintaining an area free of wind turbines and offshore substation platforms within the array area
 - The Applicant had increased the minimum spacing between infrastructure within the array area, increasing the spacing from 1000 m between rows of wind turbines and 875 m between each wind turbine in a row to proposed minimum spaces of 1400 m both within and between rows in order to provide additional space for marine users to pass between and around the offshore windfarm
 - The Applicant has committed to maintaining two 'lines of orientation' through the array area and that the wind turbine rows would be orientated roughly north

¹⁰ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>.

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to south in order to further aid in the safety of marine navigation, fishing activities and search and rescue within the array area

- That the maximum number of turbines had been reduced from 107 to 96 and increased the rotor diameter of the largest wind turbine from 280 m to 320 m
- That due to ground conditions, the Applicant had removed the option of using monopile foundations, but the potential for using gravity base and/or jacket foundations remains.

6.1.7.6 The newsletter stated the Applicant's commitment to continue to undertake assessments and engage with stakeholders prior to the submission of the DCO and Marine Licence applications in 2024.

6.1.7.7 The newsletter was not distributed to properties in the onshore search area, as the offshore-focused content of the announcement was deemed to largely be of interest to technical and prescribed consultees. As such, the announcement was made by email to members of the project's Marine Navigation and Engagement Forum (MNEF) on 18 September 2023 and to relevant section 42 stakeholders on 19 September 2023.

6.1.7.8 The consultation website was updated with a large 'View update here' button linking to an online version of the newsletter ahead of the emails being sent to consultees.

6.1.7.9 A printed copy of the newsletter was sent by post to 58 consultees in the instances where the email communications 'bounced' back as being undeliverable.

7 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1.1 The Applicant remains committed to ongoing engagement beyond statutory consultation. It intends to maintain an open, transparent dialogue with statutory consultees, the local community and landowners throughout the next phases of the project.

7.2 Ongoing engagement with statutory consultees

7.2.1.1 The Mona Offshore Wind Project has been subject to extensive statutory and non-statutory stakeholder consultation, including with regulators, landowners, the local community and other interest groups. Consultation activity significantly influenced its evolution in readiness for the submission of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

7.2.1.2 All consultation responses received from statutory consultees have been given due regard by the Applicant and where appropriate and proportionate, have influenced the proposed project design. If amendments have not been possible in light of responses, justification has been provided within this Consultation Report as to why this has been the case.

7.2.1.3 Ongoing engagement will take place with those involved in the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), Engagement Forums, Expert Working Groups (EWGs) and other topic specific technical consultees, as reported within the Technical Engagement Plan (TEP) (Document Reference E4).

7.3 Ongoing engagement with stakeholders – grid connection meeting

7.3.1.1 The Applicant attended a meeting on 06 November 2023 to discuss the Mona Offshore Wind Project connection to the electricity transmission network. The meeting was organised by local residents in partnership with Dr James Davies MP (Con, Vale of Clwyd) and Andrew Bowie MP (Con, West Aberdeenshire and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero).

7.3.1.2 National Grid and other developers with energy generation interests in North Wales were also represented, as well as an elected representative from Denbighshire County Council.

7.3.1.3 Those present discussed how best to co-ordinate activity between projects, including local engagement activities.

7.4 Ongoing engagement with stakeholders – host local authorities

7.4.1.1 Direct engagement with the Applicant's host local authorities (Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council) continues, as the Applicant moves towards submission and into examination.

- Proposed collaboration between the Applicant and the local authorities on the development of the Applicant's Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)
- Proposed collaboration between the Applicant and the local authorities on the development of the Applicant's Skills and Employment Plan

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- An update on the Applicant's statutory consultation and SoCC compliance
- The progression of Planning Performance Agreements between the Applicant and the local authorities.

7.4.1.2 The Applicant followed up the submission of the letters to each local authority with telephone calls on 29 November 2023 and a second email on 06 December 2023.

7.4.1.3 A subsequent response received from Denbighshire County Council confirmed that the Applicant's request for collaboration in these key areas had been forwarded internally to relevant subject matter leads. As a result, the Applicant is liaising directly with Denbighshire's Principal Manager – Strategic Engagement in relation to the development of the Applicant's Skills and Employment Plan.

7.4.1.4 While Conwy County Borough Council has also confirmed an intention to respond to the points raised within the Applicant's letter, its response had not been received by the Applicant at the time of writing (January 2024).

7.5 Ongoing engagement with the local community

7.5.1.1 The Applicant is committed to ongoing engagement with the local community, both in the period leading up to the submission of the DCO application and during the pre-examination, examination, determination and post-determination phases. This is to ensure that the local community is aware of the progress of the application and how they can take part during the examination.

7.5.1.2 In addition, the Applicant will also undertake engagement activities to share any important project updates or information on decisions the Applicant makes. This may include the notification of any visible survey work that might be happening in the area.

7.5.1.3 This communications activity may include letters issued by email or post, community update newsletters, meetings with specific groups or stakeholders and the ongoing publication of updates on the consultation website, as deemed appropriate and based on the information and milestones to be shared. The Applicant, based on discussions with elected representatives and community leaders, will also conduct monthly community surgeries on a 'drop in' basis, so that local people can discuss the project face-to-face with project representatives.

7.5.1.4 In the event that the project is granted development consent, a full community engagement strategy will be created to include details of how the Applicant will disseminate information such as details of construction schedules, potential noise and disruption management plans, and contact information for addressing issues or enquiries. This is likely to include regular briefings, newsletters, and community forums to keep stakeholders informed of progress and address any concerns or unexpected challenges.

7.6 Ongoing landowner engagement

7.6.1.1 The Applicant's land agents, Dalcour Maclaren will continue to engage with landowners affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

7.6.1.2 The approach will continue to involve open and transparent communication and will include meetings where appropriate, site visits, and the provision of timely updates on project developments, potential impacts, and mitigation measures.

7.6.1.3 The agents will listen to landowners' feedback, address their questions, and continue to liaise closely with the Applicant. The focus will be on building trust and rapport with

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a view to fostering understanding and minimising issues, alongside negotiations on Head of Terms and intrusive survey requirements.

- 7.6.1.4 By facilitating an ongoing dialogue and demonstrating the Applicant's genuine commitment to engage with affected landowners, it can be ensured that those landowners are kept informed and, where relevant, are appropriately compensated for any impacts.

7.7 Statements of Common Ground

- 7.7.1.1 Following submission, the Applicant will seek Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with key consultees to assist the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State to aid understanding and clarification over which issues regarding the Mona Offshore Wind Project are resolved and agreed, or otherwise.

- 7.7.1.2 The SoCG will aim to set out a record of consultation undertaken to date with each relevant stakeholder and the key areas of agreement and any outstanding issues.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1.1 In this report, the Applicant has set out how it has demonstrated its commitment to a robust consultation dedicated to the principles of openness, transparency and collaboration.
- 8.1.1.2 Consulting with people living and working near to the project, and who may be affected by the development, is an integral part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process. This report explains that all consultation activity have been conducted accordingly, with an emphasis not merely on legal compliance but on a comprehensive engagement. This spans the project's earlier, pre-scoping phase in July 2021, to the published periods of non-statutory consultation in 2022 and statutory consultation in 2023. It also covers the ongoing community and stakeholder engagement activity that has continued beyond consultation and into 2024.
- 8.1.1.3 The report has set out how the Applicant has fulfilled its statutory obligations under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) regarding who should be consulted, how they should be consulted and how the consultation should be publicised. The report itself aligns with the recommended structure and content for a comprehensive consultation report and provides a detailed account of all pre-application stage consultation and stakeholder engagement activities related to the Mona Offshore Wind Project, in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's guidelines and the DCLG Guidance.
- 8.1.1.4 The Applicant has striven for the highest standards regarding compliance. To demonstrate that the Applicant has met the requirements of both legislation and guidance regarding pre-application consultation, a Consultation Compliance Checklist is provided within Appendix D.16.
- 8.1.1.5 In particular, and in compliance with section 47(7) of the 2008 Act, consultation was carried out in accordance with the proposals set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). As set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Fourteen, the Consultation Report has provided evidence of how the Applicant has complied with the published SoCC, including details of mitigation undertaken where two minor inconsistencies were identified.
- 8.1.1.6 Throughout all stages of consultation, the Applicant's main aim has been to allow interested parties the opportunity to provide their feedback on the proposals. The Applicant is grateful to all individuals and organisations who have taken part in the consultation and submitted their views. All these views have been considered as the proposals have been refined ahead of submitting the DCO application.
- 8.1.1.7 All feedback has been published, along with the Applicant's regard to the feedback, as part of this consultation report, and a summary has been given of where feedback has influenced the project design (as prescribed by section 49 of the 2008 Act).

8.2 Statements of Common Ground

- 8.2.1.1 Following submission, the Applicant will seek Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with key consultees to assist the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State. These will aid understanding and clarification over which issues regarding the Mona Offshore Wind Project are resolved and agreed between relevant stakeholders, or otherwise.

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- 8.2.1.2 SoCG can help streamline the planning process by identifying points of consensus and reducing the need for prolonged negotiations or disputes and facilitate smoother decision-making.

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