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MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

National Policy Statement Tracker

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Image of an offshore wind farm

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Climate change	A change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.
Climate emergency	A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.
Climate resilience	The capacity of social, economic and ecosystems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance.
International commitments	Commitments made publicly on the international level.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Emissions	An amount of a substance that is produced and sent out into the air that is harmful to the environment, especially carbon dioxide.
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Fossil fuel	A hydrocarbon-containing material formed naturally in the earth's crust from the remains of dead plants and animals.
Geophysical surveys	Surveys of the seabed which collect data on seabed form and boulder mapping.
Geotechnical surveys	Surveys of the seabed which collect data on underlying seabed geology and rock layers.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	A gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect. Examples include carbon dioxide and methane.
Greenhouse effect	The trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere, due to the greater transparency of the atmosphere to visible radiation from the sun than to infrared radiation emitted from the planet's surface.
Hydrodynamics	Physical processes of water movement e.g., ocean currents.
Local impact report	A report in writing giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area.
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 'deemed marine licences' as part of the DCO process. In addition, licensable activities tthat are not wholly outside 12 nm of the Welsh coast require a separate marine licence from Natural Resource Wales (NRW).
Maximum design scenario	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.
Micrositing	The final selection of the position of infrastructure which may move in the order of a few metres to avoid an obstruction.
Mona Array Area	The area within which the offshore wind turbines (up to 96) will be located.

Term	Meaning
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.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	Large scale development including power generating stations which requires development consent under the Planning Act 2008. An offshore wind farm project with a capacity of more than 350MW in Wales, constitutes an NSIP.
Net zero	A target of completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity either worldwide or by a country or organisation, to be achieved by reducing emissions and implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
National Policy Statement	A document setting out national policy against which proposals for NSIPs will be assessed and decided upon. See also NPSs.
Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design	Suite of documents that together set out a coordinated approach for connecting 23GW of offshore wind following an integrated design that supports the large-scale delivery of electricity generated from offshore wind, taking power to where it's needed across Great Britain.
Policy	A set of decisions by governments and other political actors to influence, change, or frame a problem or issue that has been recognized as in the political realm by policy makers and/or the wider public.
Project Design Envelope (PDE)	The PDE sets out the design assumptions and parameters from which the realistic MDSs are drawn for the Mona Offshore Wind Project EIA.
Protected species	A species of animal or plant which it is forbidden by law to harm or destroy.
Ramsar sites	Wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the Ramsar Convention. In combination with SPAs and SACs, these sites contribute to the national site network.
Relevant Local Planning Authority	The Relevant Local Planning Authority is the local planning authority in respect of an area within which a project is situated, as set out in section 173 of the Planning Act 2008 (sometimes known as the district planning authority, albeit it may be a borough, district or unitary authority). Relevant Local Planning Authorities may have responsibility for discharging requirements and some functions pursuant to the Development Consent Order, once made.
Renewable energy	Energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power.
Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)	Sites which, in the biogeographical region or regions to which they belong, contribute significantly to the maintenance or restoration at a favourable conservation status of a natural habitat type.
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	A site designation specified in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Each site is designated for one or more of the habitats and species listed in the Regulations. The legislation requires a management plan to be prepared and implemented for each SAC to ensure the favourable conservation status of the habitats or species for which it was designated. In combination with SPAs and Ramsar sites, these sites contribute to the national site network.
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	A site designation specified in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, classified for rare and vulnerable birds, and for regularly occurring migratory species. SPAs contribute to the national site network.
The Planning Inspectorate	The executive agency of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs.

Term	Meaning
The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero	The decision maker with regards to the application for development consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Unexploded Ordnance	Remains of explosive devices that did not detonate when they were deployed.
Water quality	The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water based on the standards of its usage.
Welsh inshore waters	Welsh waters within 12 nm of the Welsh coast.
Welsh offshore waters	Welsh waters seaward of 12 nm from the Welsh coast.

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AEZ	Archaeological Exclusion Zone
CEA	Cumulative Effect Assessment
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
CNP	Critical National Priority
CoP	Conference of Parties
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electromotive Force
EWG	Expert Working Group
FMfP	Flood Map for Planning
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HND	Holistic Network Design
HDD	*Horizontal Directional Drilling*
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
ICCI	In-Combination Climate Impact
IEF	Important Ecological Features
ISAA	Information to Support the Appropriate Assessment
LDP	Local Development Plan
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMO	Marine Management Organisation

Acronym	Description
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NGESO	National Grid Electricity System Operator
NPS	National Policy Statement
NRP	Natural Resources Policy
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
PDE	Project Design Envelope
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PTS	Permanent Threshold Shift
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SNCBs	Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TANs	Technical Advice Notes
TTS	Temporary Threshold Shift
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WNMP	Welsh National Marine Plan

1 National Policy Statement tracker

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 Section 5 of the Planning Act (PA) 2008 outlines that National Policy Statements (NPS) may be designated by the Secretary of State (SoS) that sets out national policy in relation to one or more specified descriptions of development.

1.1.1.2 The policy set out in a NPS may in particular:

- Set out, in relation to a specified description of development, the amount, type or size of development of that description which is appropriate nationally or for a specified area
- Set out criteria to be applied in deciding whether a location is suitable (or potentially suitable) for a specified description of development
- Set out the relative weight to be given to specified criteria
- Identify one or more locations as suitable (or potentially suitable) or unsuitable for a specified description of development
- Identify one or more statutory undertakers as appropriate persons to carry out a specified description of development
- Set out circumstances in which it is appropriate for a specified type of action to be taken to mitigate the impact of a specified description of development.

1.1.1.3 Section 104 of the PA 2008 states that in making a decision regarding a Development Consent Order, the Secretary of State must have regard to any NPS which has effect in relation to development of the description to which the application relates (a “relevant national policy statement”).

1.1.1.4 NPSs 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.

1.1.1.5 The key test is to assess, on balance, whether the application is in accordance with the relevant NPSs and whether any specified exceptions apply. This may include considering whether the policies set out in the NPSs for delivery of renewable energy are outweighed by any adverse impacts that have been identified, noting the presumption is in favour of applications which accord with any relevant NPSs.

1.1.1.6 Revisions to the original suite of energy NPSs designated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in 2011 took place following consultation in November 2021 and March 2023. The revised NPSs were published in November 2023 and were formally designated on 17 January 2024. Therefore, the Planning Statement and this NPS Tracker is based on the NPSs as designated in January 2024.

1.1.1.7 The following NPSs are relevant to the Mona Offshore Wind Project and will be considered in the application for Development Consent:

- NPS for Overarching Energy (EN-1)
- NPS for Renewable Energy (EN-3)
- NPS for Electricity Networks (EN-5)

1.1.1.8 Information on the accordance of the Mona Offshore Wind Project with the three relevant NPSs is outlined within the Planning statement and Environmental Statement. In addition, this NPS tracker outlines the Mona Offshore Wind Project's accordance with the three NPSs in order to assist the Examining Authority (ExA) in making its recommendation, and the SoS in making its determination on the application.

1.1.2 The Planning Statement

1.1.2.1 The Applicant has provided a Planning statement as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project application to provide an overview of the scheme's compliance with relevant policy and to assist the ExA and SoS in their reviews of the application in the context of relevant planning policy.

1.1.2.2 The Planning statement sets out the need for the scheme in the context of the NPS, as well as a planning assessment considering the relationship between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and the relevant NPS policies. It concludes that:

- The need for the Mona Offshore Wind Project is clearly supported by NPS EN-1, in addition to the wider governmental and international obligations and objectives relating to low carbon electricity generation, climate change and the economy.
- The Secretary of State will start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs (see para 4.1.3 of EN1). There are no more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPSs which clearly indicate that consent should be refused. Therefore, the presumption applies.
- The starting point for its determination is support and a strong presumption in favour set out in NPS EN-1 for critical national priority infrastructure.
- The Project offers substantial benefits in terms of displacement of fossil fuels and avoided emissions and also economic benefits in respect of job creation and Gross Valued Added and in terms of wider social beneficial effects such as increased opportunities for local residents, local businesses, accommodation, and tourism,
- The Project will, in relation to the majority of onshore and offshore topics assessed, result in no significant effects, or where potential effects have been identified, it has been confirmed that these can be appropriately mitigated such that they are not significant. There are no residual impacts which present an unacceptable risk to, or interference with, human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats, navigation, flooding or coastal erosion or to the achievement of net zero.
- Accordingly, there are is a very strong presumption in favour of consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.1.3 The Environmental Statement

1.1.3.1 The Applicant has provided a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), reported in the Environmental Statement that accompanies the application, which includes Information on the relationship between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and the topic-specific planning policies outlined in the NPS.

1.1.3.2 As part of the EIA process, the scope of assessment work was undertaken in line with the NPS to ensure compliance. As set out in the Policy and Legislation chapter of the Environmental Statement, relevant issues in NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 were identified

and assessed in detail within the policy sections of the topic-specific Environmental Statement chapters.

1.1.4 Environmental Statement chapters

1.1.4.1 The following table outlines the sections included within the Mona Offshore Wind Project Environmental Statement and how they are referenced in this document.

Table 1.1: Environmental Statement chapters.

Chapter	Chapter name
Volume 1 – Introductory Chapters	
1	Introduction and overarching glossary
2	Policy and Legislative Context
3	Project Description
4	Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives
5	Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology
Volume 2 – Offshore Chapters	
1	Physical Processes
2	Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology
3	Fish and Shellfish Ecology
4	Marine Mammals
5	Offshore Ornithology
6	Commercial Fisheries
7	Shipping and Navigation
8	Seascape and Visual Resources
9	Marine Archaeology
10	Other Sea Users
11	Inter-related Effects - Offshore
Volume 3 – Onshore Chapters	
1	Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions
2	Hydrology and Flood Risk
3	Onshore Ecology
4	Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology
5	Historic Environment
6	Landscape and Visual Resources
7	Land Use and Recreation
8	Traffic and Transport
9	Noise and Vibration
10	Air Quality

Chapter	Chapter name
11	Inter-related Effects - Onshore
Volume 4 - Offshore and Onshore Combined Chapters	
1	Aviation and Radar
2	Climate Change
3	Socio-economics
4	Human Health Assessment

1.2 National policy statement accordance

1.2.1.1 The following section outlines relevant sections of the NPS EN-1, EN-3, and EN-5, specifically those that relate to energy generation, offshore wind elements and onshore electricity networks.

1.2.1.2 The tables illustrate the accordance of the Mona Offshore Wind Project with the following sections of the NPSs.

1.2.2 EN-1 NPS Accordance

Table 1.2: NPS EN-1 Accordance.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
The need for new nationally significant electricity infrastructure projects			
Secretary of State decision making	3.2.1 – 3.2.4	The government's objectives for the energy system are to ensure our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and consistent with net zero emissions in 2050 for a wide range of future scenarios, including through delivery of our carbon budgets Nationally Determined Contributions. We need a range of different types of energy infrastructure to deliver these objectives. This includes the infrastructure described within this NPS but also more nascent technologies, data, and innovative infrastructure projects consistent with these objectives. It is not the role of the planning system to deliver specific amounts or limit any form of infrastructure covered by this NPS. It is for industry to propose new energy infrastructure projects that they assess to be viable within the strategic framework set by government. This is the nature of a market-based energy system. With the exception of new coal or large-scale oil-fired electricity generation, the government does not consider it appropriate for planning policy to set limits on different technologies but planning policy can be used to support the government's ambitions in energy policy and other policy areas. It is not the government's intention in presenting any of the figures or targets in this NPS to propose limits on any new infrastructure that can be consented inaccordance with the energy NPSs. A large number of consented projects can help deliver an affordable electricity system, by driving	This application accords with these requirements as a key mechanism for meeting emissions targets is the use of renewables, including offshore wind. Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), sets out the need and adherence of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to policy and legislation and Volume 4, Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on climate change.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		competition and reducing costs within and amongst different technology and infrastructure types. Consenting new projects also enables projects utilising more advanced technology and greater efficiency to come forward.The delivery of an affordable energy system does not always mean picking the least cost technologies. A diversity of supply can aid in ensuring affordability for the system overall and relative costs can change over time, particularly for new and emerging technologies. It is not the role of the planning system to compare the costs of individual developments or technology types.	
	3.2.6 – 3.2.7	The Secretary of State should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis that the government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure which is urgent, as described for each of them in this Part. In addition, the Secretary of State has determined that substantial weight should be given to this need when considering applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.	This application accords with these requirements as it seeks to provide a development which has been identified as Critical National Priority (CNP) under Paragraphs 3.3.62 and Section 4.2 of EN-1.
The need for new nationally significant electricity infrastructure	3.3.1	Electricity meets a significant proportion of our overall energy needs and our reliance on it will increase as we transition our energy system to deliver our net zero target. We need to ensure that there is sufficient electricity to always meet demand; with a margin to accommodate unexpectedly high demand and to mitigate risks such as unexpected plant closures and extreme weather events.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it will make a significant contribution to new renewable generation. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will have an installed capacity of at least 350 MW. Further information regarding meeting demand is set out in Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description (Document Reference F1.3). Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), sets out the need and adherence of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to policy and legislation and Volume 4, Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on climate change.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
	3.3.2	The larger the margin, the more resilient the system will be in dealing with unexpected events, and consequently the lower the risk of a supply interruption. This helps to protect businesses and consumers, including vulnerable households, from volatile prices and, eventually, from physical interruptions to supply that might impact on essential services. But a balance must be struck between a margin which ensures a reliable supply of electricity and building unnecessary additional capacity which increases the overall costs of the system.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it will make a significant contribution to new renewable generation. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will have an installed capacity of at least 350 MW. Further information regarding meeting demand is set out in Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description (Document Reference F1.3). In addition, the Planning Statement (Document Reference J2) at Section 1.4 confirms that the Mona Offshore Wind Project will not create unnecessary additional capacity given the Government's targets.
	3.3.3	To ensure that there is sufficient electricity to meet demand, new electricity infrastructure will have to be built to replace output from retiring plants and to ensure we can meet increased demand. Our analysis suggests that even with major improvements in overall energy efficiency, and increased flexibility in the energy system, demand for electricity is likely to increase significantly over the coming years and could more than double by 2050 as large parts of transport, heating and industry decarbonise by switching from fossil fuels to low carbon electricity. The Impact Assessment for CB6 shows an illustrative range of 465-515TWh in 2035 and 610-800TWh in 2050.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it will make a significant contribution to new renewable generation. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will have an installed capacity of at least 350MW. Further information regarding meeting demand is set out in Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description (Document Reference F1.3). Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), sets out the need and adherence of the Project to policy and legislation, and Volume 4, Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of the Project on climate change.
Delivering affordable decarbonisation	3.3.19	Given the changing nature of the energy landscape, we need a diverse mix of electricity infrastructure to come forward, so that we can deliver a secure, reliable, affordable, and net zero consistent system during the transition to 2050 for a wide range of demand, decarbonisation, and technology scenarios.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it will make a significant contribution to new renewable generation. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will have an installed capacity over 350MW and will contribute to the mix of new energy generation required in order to deliver a secure, reliable, affordable, and net zero consistent system. This application accords with these requirements as a key mechanism for meeting emissions targets is the use of renewables, including offshore wind. Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), sets out the need and adherence of the project to policy and legislation, and Volume 4,

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
			Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of the project on climate change.
The role of wind and solar	3.3.20	Wind and solar are the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, helping reduce costs and providing a clean and secure source of electricity supply (as they are not reliant on fuel for generation). Our analysis shows that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar.	The recognition set on Paragraph 3.3.20 further identifies the important role wind has and will have in achieving net zero by 2050. Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2) as well as the Planning Statement (Document Reference J2), set out the need and adherence of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to policy and legislation.
	3.3.23 – 3.3.24	Applications for onshore wind of all sizes should be consented outside of the Planning Act 2008 process, unless the Secretary of State directs otherwise under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008. Applications for offshore wind above 100MW or solar above 50MW in England, or 350MW for either in Wales, will continue to be defined as NSIPs, requiring consent from the Secretary of State (see EN-3).	As the Mona Offshore Wind Project is an offshore generating project with a capacity greater than 350 MW located in Wales, it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). As such, there is a requirement to submit an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate to be decided by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. This application complies with this requirement.
The need for electricity generating capacity	3.3.57-3.3.59	Government has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 under carbon budget 6. According to the Net Zero Strategy this means that by 2035, all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60 per cent increase in demand. Given the urgent need for new electricity infrastructure and the time it takes for electricity NSIPs to move from design conception to operation, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) electricity NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, given the crucial role of electricity as	This application accords with these requirements as a key mechanism for meeting emissions targets is the use of renewables, including offshore wind. Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), sets out the need and adherence of the project to policy and legislation, and Volume 4, Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of the Mona Offshore Wind project on climate change. The Planning Statement (Document Reference J2) sets out in detail in Sections 1.4 and 1.6 the urgent need for projects such as the Mona Offshore Windfarm Project and how it will contribute to that need in accordance with the NPSs.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		the UK decarbonises its economy. All the generating technologies mentioned above are urgently needed to meet the government's energy objectives by: • providing security of supply (by reducing reliance on imported oil and gas, avoiding concentration risk and not relying on one fuel or generation type) • providing an affordable, reliable system (through the deployment of • ensuring the system is net zero consistent (by remaining in line with our carbon budgets and maintaining the options required to deliver for a wide range of demand, decarbonisation and technology scenarios, including where there are difficulties with delivering any technology).	
	3.3.60 - 3.3.63	Known generation technologies that are included within the scope of this NPS (and would be classed as an NSIP if above the relevant capacity thresholds set out under the Planning Act 2008) include: • Offshore Wind (including floating wind) The need for all these types of infrastructure is established by this NPS and a combination of many or all of them is urgently required for both energy security and Net Zero, as set out above. Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure. Section 4.2 states which energy generating technologies are low carbon and are therefore CNP infrastructure. Subject to any legal requirements, the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy	This application complies with this requirement as it proposes to generate electricity from offshore wind, identified in Section 4.2 of EN-1 as CNP infrastructure. It also assists in achieving the national energy and net zero objectives by providing a source a renewable energy. Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), sets out the need and adherence of the Mona Offshore Wind project to policy and legislation; Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the details of the project and its energy generating capacities and Volume 4, Chapter 2: Climate change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of Mona Offshore Wind project on climate change.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy. Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure and it should be progressed as quickly as possible.	
The need for new electricity networks	3.3.71	The historical approach to connecting offshore wind resulted in individual radial connections developed project-by-project. While this may continue to be the most appropriate approach for some areas with single offshore wind projects that are not located in the vicinity of other offshore wind and/or offshore infrastructure, that is planned or foreseen in the near future. For regions with multiple windfarms or offshore transmission projects it is expected that a more coordinated approach will be delivered. For these areas, this approach is likely to reduce the network infrastructure costs as well as the cumulative environmental impacts and impacts on coastal communities by installing a smaller number of larger connections, each taking power from multiple windfarms instead of individual point-to-point connections for each windfarm.	Mona Offshore Wind Project was scoped into the Holistic Network Design (HND) process as a Pathway to 2030 Project. National Grid's (as the Electrical System Operator – NGESO) recommended design for the Northwest Region (of which the Irish Sea is part) is a combination of collaborative developer-led solutions and single radial connections. A number of potential grid connection locations and options were considered by NGESO through the HND process based on an understanding of the grid infrastructure capacity in relation to the location of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (and considering other Round 4 offshore wind projects coming forward in the Irish Sea). Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with NGESO, the Mona Offshore Wind Project engaged with NGESO throughout the HND to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid and to provide input on environmental and consenting constraints for the POI under consideration. Ultimately, NGESO concluded, through the HND process, that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales (NGESO, 2022) and therefore this is the only option the Applicant considered as part of the site selection process.
	3.3.77	Offshore wind and multi-purpose interconnector projects may have several consenting links: offshore wind and multi-purpose interconnector	The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it covers both offshore and onshore elements, as evidenced in the submitted Environmental Statement. The application includes details on

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		projects may be consented separately, and it is likely that development consent applications for offshore wind or multi-purpose interconnector projects may not include an application for consent for the full chain of consents (including connection to the grid). However, development consent applications should include details of how connected infrastructure will be consented, how cumulative impacts will be assessed and whether any necessary consents, permits and licences have been obtained.	how connected infrastructure will be consented in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description (Document Reference F1.3). Cumulative impacts are assessed within each chapter and Licences are contained within the Draft Development Consent Order including Draft Deemed Marine Licences (Document Reference C1) and Other Consents or Licences Required (Doucment Reference J1).
The need for new electricity networks	3.3.82 – 3.3.83	Government has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 under carbon budget 6. According to the Net Zero Strategy this means that by 2035, all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60 per cent increase in demand. Given the urgent need for new electricity infrastructure and the time it takes for electricity NSIPs to move from design conception to operation, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) electricity NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its economy.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it will make a significant contribution to new renewable generation. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will have an installed capacity over 350 MW.The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it will make a significant contribution to new renewable generation. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will have an installed capacity of at least 350 MW. Volume 4, Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of the Project on climate change. This includes the associated avoided emissions that would be achieved through the operations and maintenance phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
General Policies and Considerations	4.1.2 – 4.1.3	The Energy White Paper and British Energy Security Strategy emphasises the importance of the government's net zero commitment and efforts to fight climate change, as well as the need to maintain a secure and reliable energy system. The Levelling Up White Paper calls on the Government to ensure investment in the transition to Net Zero benefits less well-performing parts of the UK,	This is an offshore wind power-generating project which, by its nature, falls within the categories set in EN-1 as a CNP, where an urgent need has been identified. Paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 further substantiate the presumption in favour of this project as an energy NSIP. Evidence to demonstrate that the project also complies with other more specific and relevant policies are addressed within Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Rerefence F1.2) and each of the topic chapters of the Environmental Statement. Compliance with policy is further demonstrated within the

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		reducing emissions, facilitating economic development and the creation of jobs. Given the level and urgency of need for infrastructure of the types covered by the energy NPSs set out in Part 3 of this NPS, the Secretary of State will start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs. That presumption applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused.	submitted Planning Statement (Document Reference J2) which confirms the strong presumption in favour of granting consent.
Weighing impacts and benefits	4.1.5	In considering any proposed development, in particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the Secretary of State should take into account: • its potential benefits including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation, reduction of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits. • its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy.	The Environmental Statement catalogues the wide and thorough assessment undertaken across environmental, social and economic receptors, which can be used to allow weighing of impacts and benefits in the decision-making process. In addition, the Environmental Statement provides an assessment of ecosystem based impacts in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Inter-related effects - offshore of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.11) and Volume 3, Chapter 11: Inter Inter-related effects- onshore of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.11)) and underpins an Information Report for the Appropriate Assessment (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3). Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind project to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse effects are set out in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10).
	4.1.6	In this context, the Secretary of State should take into account environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts, at national, regional and local levels. These may be identified in this NPS, the relevant technology specific NPS, in the application or elsewhere (including in local impact	The Environmental Statement catalogues the wide and thorough assessment undertaken across environmental, social and economic receptors, which can be used to allow weighing of impacts and benefits in the decision-making process. In addition, the Environmental Statement also provides an assessment of ecosystem based impacts in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Inter-related Effects - Offshore of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.11) and Volume 3, Chapter 22: Inter Inter-related Effects - Onshore of the Environmental Statement

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		reports, marine plans, and other material considerations as outlined in Section 1.1).	(Document Reference F3.11)) and underpins an Information Report for the Appropriate Assessment (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3). Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context (Document Reference F1.2), provides the national, regional and local context relevant to the Mona Offshore Wind Project, whilst topic specific policies and legislation are assessed in each topic chapter.
Other documents	4.1.11	The energy NPSs have taken account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Planning Practice Guidance for England, and Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Notes (TANs) for Wales, where appropriate.	Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2) provides the national, regional and local context of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, whilst topic specific policies and legislation are assessed in each topic chapter.
	4.1.12	Other matters that the Secretary of State may consider both important and relevant to their decision-making may include Development Plan documents or other documents in the Local Development Framework.	Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context (Document Reference F1.2) provides the national, regional and local context of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, whilst topic specific policies and legislation are assessed in each topic chapter.
	4.1.14	The closer the Development Plan document in England or Local Development Plan in Wales is to being adopted by the LPA, the greater weight which can be attached to it.	Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2) provides the national, regional and local context of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, whilst topic specific policies and legislation are assessed in each topic chapter. The Planning Statement (Document Reference J2) at Section 1.3.6 confirms the status of the relevant Local Development Plans and the weight to be afforded to them.
Development Consent	4.1.16, footnote 94	In Wales, the Welsh National Marine Plan sets out Welsh Ministers' expectations that nationally significant infrastructure projects contribute to the well-being of Welsh communities and the sustainable management of natural resources and should seek to deliver lasting legacy benefits for the local community, the economy and the environment.	The policy provisions within the Welsh National Marine Plan and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 relevant to each physical, biological and human environmental topic of the EIA are presented and addressed in the individual technical topic chapters of the Environmental Statement. The Planning Statement (Document Reference J2) also addresses the Welsh National Marine Plan and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
Early engagement	4.1.19	Early engagement both before and at the formal pre-application stage between the applicant and key stakeholders, including public regulators,	Early engagement has taken place before and at the statutory pre-application stage with all relevant (statutory and non-statutory)

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		Statutory Consultees (including Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs)), and those likely to have an interest in a proposed energy infrastructure application, is strongly encouraged in line with the Government's pre-application guidance. This means that only applications which are fully prepared and comprehensive can be accepted for examination, enabling them to be properly assessed by the Examining Authority and leading to a clear recommendation report to the Secretary of State.	stakeholders and members of the public who have an interest in the project. Non-statutory consultation started in spring/summer 2021, with a written communication to stakeholders in July 2021. 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 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3). Following the initial engagement with stakeholders, a first phase of non-statutory consultation ran for 58 days between 07 June and 03 August 2022. Following the first phase of non-statutory consultation, the Applicant launched a second phase of non-statutory consultation later the same year. The Applicant held its section 42 and section 47 consultations in parallel, running from 19 April to 04 June 2023. The Applicant also ran separate 28-day consultations for additional section 44 consultees identified after the main consultation period (Dec – Jan 2024). The project issued its section 46 notification and the required documentation in accordance with section 46 of the 2008 Act, on 19 April 2023. Following the close of statutory consultation, the Applicant continued to engage with the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Steering Group, Expert Working Groups (bs3.48 s), engagement forums and technical consultees. 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 and in September 2023, the Applicant announced that the Mona Offshore Wind Project array boundary would be reduced. Full details of all statutory and non-statutory consultation undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project are outlined in the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3).

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
Critical National Priority for low carbon infrastructure			
Critical National Priority	4.2.6	The overarching need case for each type of energy infrastructure and the substantial weight which should be given to this need in assessing applications, as set out in paragraphs 3.2.6 to 3.2.8 of EN-1, is the starting point for all assessments of energy infrastructure applications.	This application assists in achieving the national energy and net zero objectives by providing a source of renewable energy. Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and legislative context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2), sets out the need and adherence of the Morgan Generation Assets to policy and legislation; Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the details of the project and its energy generating capacities and Volume 4, Chapter 2: Climate change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on climate change.
Environmental principles			
Applicant assessment	4.2.10 – 4.2.12	Applicants for CNP infrastructure must continue to show how their application meets the requirements in this NPS and the relevant technology specific NPS, applying the mitigation hierarchy, as well as any other legal and regulatory requirements. Applicants must apply the mitigation hierarchy and demonstrate that it has been applied. They should also seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB or other relevant statutory body when undertaking this process. Applicants should demonstrate that all residual impacts are those that cannot be avoided, reduced or mitigated. Applicants should set out how residual impacts will be compensated for as far as possible. Applicants should also set out how any mitigation or compensation measures will be monitored and reporting agreed to ensure success and that action is taken. Changes to measures may be needed e.g. adaptive management. The cumulative impacts of multiple developments with residual impacts should also be considered.	This application demonstrates how the project meets the requirements of the NPS in its application of the mitigation hierarchy, as established in Volume 1, Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology (Document Reference F1.5) as well as within the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10). Cumulative impacts and inter-related effects are addresed under Volume 2, Chapter 11: Inter-related Effects - Offshore (Document F2.11) and Volume 3, Chapter 11: Inter-related Effects - Onshore (Document F3.11).
Environmental effects/considerations			

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Environmental effects/considerations	4.3.1	All proposals for projects that are subject to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project.	An Environmental Statement has been submitted for this application which undertakes a thorough assessment including environmental, social and economic receptors. The assessment allows the weighing of impacts both adverse and beneficial to assist in the decision-making process. In addition, the Environmental Statement provides an assessment ecosystem based impacts Volume 2, Chapter 11: Inter-related effects - offshore of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.11) and Volume 3, Chapter 11: Inter Inter-related effects- onshore of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.11)) underpins an Information to Support the Appropriate Assessment (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3).
	4.3.2	The Regulations specifically refer to effects on population, human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage, and the interaction between them.	These assessments are contained within the Environmental Statement which can be used in the weighing of impacts and benefits in the decision-making process. All likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been assessed within the topic specific chapters of the Environmental Statement. These include • Volume 2 Offshore, Chapter 1 Physical Processes (Document Reference F2.1) • Chapter 2 Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Chapter 3 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Chapter 4 Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Chapter 5 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Chapter 6 Commercial Fisheries (Document Reference F2.6) • Chapter 7 Shipping and Navigation (Document Reference F2.7) • Chapter 8 Seascape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F2.8) • Chapter 9 Marine Archaeology (Document Reference F2.9) • Chapter 10 Other Sea Users (Document Reference F2.10)

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
			• Chapter 11 Inter-related Effects – Offshore (Document Reference F2.11) • Volume 3 Onshore Chapter 1 Geology,Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions (Document Reference F3.1) • Chapter 2 Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference F3.2) • Chapter 3 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) • Chapter 4 Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4) • Chapter 5 Historic Environment (Document Reference F3.5) • Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F3.6) • Chapter 7 Land Use and Recreation (Document Reference F3.7) • Chapter 8 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference F3.8) • Chapter 9 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference F3.9) • Chapter 10 Air Quality (Document Reference F3.10) • Chapter 11 Inter-related Effects – Onshore (Document Reference F3.11) • Volume 4 Onshore and Offshore Combined Chapter 1 Aviation and Radar (Document Reference F4.1) • Chapter 2 Climate Change (Document Reference F4.2) • Chapter 3 Socio-economics (Document Reference F4.3) • Chapter 4 Human Health Assessment (Document Reference F4.4).
	4.3.3	The Regulations require an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative,	Volume 1, Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology (Document Reference F1.5) explains the methodology of the environmental assessment. This confirms that assessment of the likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project covers direct

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		transboundary, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects.	effects, indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the Project (construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning). Measures adopted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects are considered in each topic chapter and those measures are set out in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10).
	4.3.4	To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the applicant must set out information on the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy. This information could include matters such as employment, equality, biodiversity net gain, community cohesion, health and well-being.	An Environmental Statement has been submitted for this application which undertakes a thorough assessment including environmental, social and economic receptors. The assessment allows the weighing of impacts both adverse and beneficial to assist in the decision-making process. • Where necessary, the Environmental Statement shows how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy and in order to demonstrate how this will be achieved a number of outline management plans are submitted with the application. These are set out in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10).
	4.3.5	For the purposes of this NPS and the technology specific NPSs the ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.	An Environmental Statement has been submitted for this application which undertakes a thorough assessment including environmental, social and economic receptors throughout the Mona Offshore Wind Project lifetime. The assessment allows the weighing of impacts both adverse and beneficial to assist in the decision-making process.
Applicant assessment	4.3.10	The applicant must provide information proportionate to the scale of the project, ensuring the information is sufficient to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations.	An Environmental Statement has been submitted for this application which undertakes a thorough assessment including environmental, social and economic receptors throughout the Mona Offshore Wind Project lifetime. The assessment allows the weighing of impacts both adverse and beneficial to assist in the decision-making process. Volume 1, Chapter 2, Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2) sets the legislative context, and Volume 1, Chapter 5, Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.5) sets out the proportionate approach taken to the assessment.

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	4.3.11	In some instances, it may not be possible at the time of the application for development consent for all aspects of the proposal to have been settled in precise detail. Where this is the case, the applicant should explain in its application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised, and the reasons why this is the case.	Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the project design envelope including the elements yet to be finalised, and each topic chapter assessment has taken a MDS approach, which considers the likely worst cast environmental, social and economic effects to ensure that a worst case scenario has been assessed. The Mona Offshore Wind Project EIA process has employed a Rochdale Envelope approach. This approach is consistent with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (Planning Inspectorate, 2018). This provides flexibility, while ensuring all potentially significant effects (positive or adverse) are assessed within the EIA process and reported in the Environmental Statement. This approach is generally accepted for offshore wind projects because it is a constantly evolving industry with a focus on being cost-effective.
	4.3.12	Where some details are still to be finalised, the ES should, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, assess the likely worst-case environmental, social and economic effects of the proposed development to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed.	Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the project design envelope including the elements yet to be finalised, and each topic chapter assessment has taken a maximum design scenario (MDS) approach which considers the likely worst cast environmental , social and economic effects to ensure that a worst case scenario has been assessed.
	4.3.14	References to an ES in this NPS and the technology specific NPSs should be taken as including a statement which provides this information, even if the EIA Regulations do not apply. Where the NPSs require specific information to be provided in the ES, such information should still be provided in this statement.	An Environmental Statement has been submitted with this application. Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the project design envelope including the elements yet to be finalised, and each topic chapter assessment has taken a MDS approach which considers the likely worst cast environmental, social and economic effects to ensure that a worst case scenario has been assessed.
	4.3.15	Applicants are obliged to include in their ES, information about the reasonable alternatives they have studied. This should include an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental, social and	Volume 1, Chapter 4, Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4), details the assessments of the reasonable alternatives including the environmental, social, technical, commercial and economic reasons for the preferred choices

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		economic effects and including, where relevant, technical and commercial feasibility.	
Secretary of State decision making	4.3.18	The Secretary of State should consider the worst-case impacts in its consideration of the application and consent, providing some flexibility in the consent to account for uncertainties in specific project details.	Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the project design envelope including the elements yet to be finalised, and each topic chapter assessment has taken a MDS approach which considers the likely worst case environmental, social and economic effects to ensure that a worst case scenario has been assessed. The Mona Offshore Wind Project EIA process has employed a Rochdale Envelope approach. This approach is consistent with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (Planning Inspectorate, 2018). This provides flexibility, while ensuring all potentially significant effects (positive or adverse) are assessed within the EIA process and reported in the Environmental Statement.
	4.3.19	The Secretary of State should consider how the accumulation of, and interrelationship between, effects might affect the environment, economy, or community as a whole, even though they may be acceptable when considered on an individual basis with mitigation measures in place.	An Environmental Statement has been submitted for this application which undertakes a thorough assessment including environmental, social and economic receptors. The assessment allows the weighing of impacts both adverse and beneficial to assist in the decision-making process. Each topic chapter of the Environmental Statement includes a cumulative effects assessment. The Environmental Statement also includes an Inter-related Effects – Offshore chapter (Document Reference F2.11) and an Inter-related Effects – Onshore chapter (Document Reference F3.11),
	4.3.20	The Government has set 13 legally binding targets for England under the Environment Act 2021, covering the areas of: biodiversity; air quality; water; resource efficiency and waste reduction; tree and woodland cover; and Marine Protected Areas. Meeting the legally binding targets will be a shared endeavour that will require a whole of government approach to delivery. The Secretary of State have regard to the ambitions, goals and targets set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 for improving the natural environment and heritage. This includes having	An Environmental Statement has been submitted for this application which undertakes a thorough assessment including environmental, social and economic receptors. The assessment allows the weighing of impacts both adverse and beneficial to assist in the decision-making process. In terms of the Environment Act targets, Table 1.5 provides a summary of the likely effects that the Mona Offshore Wind Project may have. As set out, overall the Mona Offshore Wind Project is likely to contribute positively to meeting these targets.

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		regard to the achievement of statutory targets set under the Environment Act.	
	4.3.22	Given the level and urgency of need for new energy infrastructure, the Secretary of State should, subject to any relevant legal requirements (e.g. under the Habitats Regulations) which indicate otherwise, be guided by the following principles when deciding what weight should be given to alternatives: • the consideration of alternatives in order to comply with policy requirements should be carried out in a proportionate manner; and • only alternatives that can meet the objectives of the proposed development need to be considered.	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4), details the assessments of the reasonable alternatives including the environmental, social, technical, commercial and economic reasons for the preferred choices.
	4.3.24	The Secretary of State should not refuse an application for development on one site simply because fewer adverse impacts would result from developing similar infrastructure on another suitable site, and it should have regard as appropriate to the possibility that all suitable sites for energy infrastructure of the type proposed may be needed for future proposals.	The Applicant has undertaken a site selection and consideration of alternatives process to identify the location of the Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore and onshore infrastructure through early engagement with a range of stakeholders. The aim was to identify locations and routes (for the offshore export cable route, landfall location, onshore cable route and onshore substation) that were environmentally acceptable, deliverable and consentable, whilst also enabling the benefits in the long term of the lowest energy cost to be passed to the consumer. The process has taken account of environmental, physical, technical, commercial, and social considerations and opportunities as well as engineering requirements. Each stage of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process formed part of an iterative design process undertaken to identify the most suitable locations and configuration for the Mona Offshore Wind Project infrastructure. A full description of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (Document Reference F1.4).

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	4.3.25	Alternatives not among the main alternatives studied by the applicant (as reflected in the ES) should only be considered to the extent that the Secretary of State thinks they are both important and relevant to the decision.	The Applicant has undertaken a site selection and consideration of alternatives process to identify the location of the Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore and onshore infrastructure through early engagement with a range of stakeholders. Also, engineering and environmental investigations and assessments have been undertaken. The aim was to identify locations and routes (for the offshore export cable route, landfall location, onshore cable route and onshore substation) that were environmentally acceptable, deliverable and consentable, whilst also enabling the benefits in the long term of the lowest energy cost to be passed to the consumer. The process has taken account of environmental, physical, technical, commercial, and social considerations and opportunities as well as engineering requirements. Each stage of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process formed part of an iterative design process undertaken to identify the most suitable locations and configuration for the Mona Offshore Wind Project infrastructure. A full description of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (Document Reference F1.4).
Health			
Health	4.4.1	Energy infrastructure has the potential to impact on the health and well-being (“health”) of the population. Access to energy is clearly beneficial to society and to our health as a whole. However, the construction of energy infrastructure and the production, distribution and use of energy may have negative impacts on some people’s health.	The potential human health effects, including inter-related and cumulative effects, of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are presented in Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4), including indirect effects related to healthy lifestyles and potential impacts on vulnerable population groups. The health effects of societal infrastructure and resources in relation to renewable energy are assessed in Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) and conclude that significant public health benefits in relation to energy security are expected for population health in the operational phase. The cumulative effects with regard to energy security are assessed in Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) and conclude a moderate beneficial effect for population health, which is significant in EIA terms.

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	4.4.3	New energy infrastructure may also affect the composition and size the local population, and in doing so have indirect health impacts, for example if it in some way affect access to key public services, transport or the use of open space for recreation and physical activity.	These matters are considered within Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4), informed by Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.7) and Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3). Effects on offshore transport modes, access and connections are presented in Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4); effects on onshore transport modes, access and connections are presented in Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4); effects on community identity, culture, resilience and influence are presented in section 30.8.4; and effects on open space, leisure and play are presented in section 30.8.5. Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) concludes that there will be no significant effects arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Applicant assessment	4.4.4 – 4.4.6	As described in the relevant sections of this NPS and in the technology specific NPSs, where the proposed project has an effect on humans, the ES should assess these effects for each element of the project, identifying any potential adverse health impacts, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these impacts as appropriate. The impacts of more than one development may affect people simultaneously, so the applicant should consider the cumulative impact on health in the ES where appropriate. Opportunities should be taken to mitigate indirect impacts, by promoting local improvements to encourage health and wellbeing, this includes potential impacts on vulnerable groups within society – and impacts on those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, i.e. those groups which may be differentially impacted	The potential human health effects, including inter-related and cumulative effects, of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are presented in section 30.8 (assessment of significant effects) and section 30.10 (cumulative effects assessment) in Volume 4, Chapter 4 Human Health of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4), including indirect effects related to healthy lifestyles and potential impacts on vulnerable population groups. Overall, it is concluded that there will be no significant adverse effects on human health arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project during the construction, operations and maintenance or decommissioning phases. Significant public health benefits in relation to energy security are expected for population health in the operational phase. With regards to cumulative effects, in relation to collision and allision risk when including the effects of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm within the assessment, there is the potential for a moderate cumulative effect for human health, which is significant in EIA terms. given the early stage of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm any further mitigation

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		by a development compared to wider society as a whole.	measures are expected to be identified and adopted by Mooir Vannin as the scheme details develop Wider societal infrastructure and resources in relation to renewable energy generation will have a moderate beneficial effect for population health.
Secretary of State decision making	4.4.7-4.4.8	Generally, those aspects of energy infrastructure which are most likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on health are subject to separate regulation (for example air pollution) which will constitute effective mitigation of them, so that it is unlikely that health concerns will either by themselves constitute a reason to refuse consents or require specific mitigation under the Planning Act 2008. However, not all potential sources of health impacts will be mitigated in this way and the Secretary of State may want to take account of health concerns when setting requirements relating to a range of impacts such as noise.	Impacts that are governed by separate regulation (for example air pollution) have been considered. Where appropriate issues have been scoped out of the assessment, see Table 30.9 in Volume 4, Chapter 4 Human Health of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4). Taking into account the measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Project, Volume 4, Chapter 4 Human Health of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) confirms that no significant adverse effects are likely to occur during construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. However, significant beneficial effects are likely to occur with respect to human health as a result of improved energy security during operation of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Similarly, Volume 3 Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.9) concludes that there will be no significant effects relating to noise arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project during the construction, operation and maintenance, or decommissioning phases.
Marine Considerations			
Applicant assessment	4.5.8	Applicants for a Development Consent Order must take account of any relevant Marine Plans and are expected to complete a Marine Plan assessment as part of their project development, using this information to support an application for development consent.	Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement, sets out how the Welsh National Marine Plan relates to the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
	4.5.9	Applicants are encouraged to refer to Marine Plans at an early stage, such as in preapplication, to inform project planning, for example to avoid less	The Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) has been considered throughout the evolution of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and in particular when preparing the DCO application. The Welsh National

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		favourable locations as a result of other uses or environmental constraints.	Marine Plan Signposting document (Document Reference A5) sets out how the application documents have considered the WNMP and how the Projects accords with its policies.
Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain			
	4.6.4 – 4.6.5	In Wales, Net Benefit for Biodiversity is based on the concept that development should leave biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in a better state than before, through securing long-term, measurable and demonstrable benefit, primarily on or immediately adjacent to the site. The Welsh National Marine Plan includes policy to ensure that biological and geological components of ecosystems are maintained, restored where needed and enhanced where possible, to increase the resilience of marine ecosystems and the benefits they provide. It encourages consideration of the inclusion of restoration and enhancement in a development project at sea and at the coast. However, there is currently no obligation upon proposers of projects in the marine environment to provide enhancement within their proposals.	The conservation of biodiversity interests has been considered directly in the impacts assessment with measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project proposed to reduce impacts where possible. The Applicant's approach to biodiversity net gain is presented in the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7) confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Applicant assessment	4.6.6 & 4.6.9 – 4.6.13	Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity, and the wider environment where possible. In Wales, applicants should consider the guidance set out in Section 6.4 of Planning Policy Wales and the relevant policies in the Wales National Marine Plan. Biodiversity net gain should be applied after compliance with the mitigation hierarchy and does not change or replace existing environmental obligations, although compliance with those obligations will be relevant to the question of the	The conservation of biodiversity interests has been considered directly in the impacts assessment with measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project proposed to reduce impacts where possible. The Applicant's approach to biodiversity net gain is presented in the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7) confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures include:

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		baseline for assessing net gain and if they deliver an additional enhancement beyond meeting the existing obligation, that enhancement will count towards net gain. Biodiversity net gain can be delivered onsite or wholly or partially off-site. We encourage details of any off-site delivery of biodiversity net gain to be set out within the application for development consent. When delivering biodiversity net gain off-site, developments should do this in a manner that best contributes to the achievement of relevant wider strategic outcomes, for example by increasing habitat connectivity, enhancing other ecosystem service outcomes, or considering use of green infrastructure strategies. Reference should be made to relevant national or local plans and strategies, to inform off-site biodiversity net gain delivery. If published, the relevant strategy is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). If an LNRS has not been published, the relevant consenting body or planning authority may specify alternative plans, policies or strategies to use. In addition to delivering biodiversity net gain, developments may also deliver wider environmental gains and benefits to communities relevant to the local area, and to national policy priorities, such as: • reductions in GHG emissions • reduced flood risk • improvements to air or water quality, • climate adaptation, • landscape enhancement • increased access to natural greenspace, or	• re-instatement of hedgerows to provide habitat connectivity for bats and dormice • ponds and terrestrial habitat (such as hedgerows and species rich grassland) for displaced Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptiles • hedgerow re-instatement and tree planting to provide mitigation for habitat loss for breeding birds. In addition to the mitigation set out above onshore enhancement is proposed via: • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation • Woodland planting • Pond and attenuation basin creation • Wildflower planting • Scrub habitat creation • Species rich grassland creation • Ditch realignment. Section 3.5 of the document confirms that a range of ecological mitigation measures will be put in place within the array area and offshore export cable corridor to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. In addition to that mitigation the Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefit to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project. These are being explored for feasibility and appropriateness and include: • Opportunities to increase the productivity of breeding seabirds • Biodiversity enhancing cable crossing mattresses for cable protection as part of the detailed project design • Biodiversity enhancing artificial reef blocks or cubes which could be introduced as part of foundation design • Opportunities to restore fish and shellfish habitats • Contributions to MARINE Fund Cymru.

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		• the enhancement, expansion or provision of trees and woodlands The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of specific projects. Applicants should look for a holistic approach to delivering wider environmental gains and benefits through the use of nature-based solutions and Green Infrastructure.	The Environmental Statement chapters on Physical Processes (Document Reference F2.1), Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2), Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3), Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4), Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5), Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) and Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4), in particular assess potential effects on natural environment and biodiversity and the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7) has been produced to ensure that the potential for enhancement is capitalised upon. The relevant parts of Section 6.4 of Planning Policy Wales and the relevant policies in the Wales National Marine Plan have been considered in those Environmental Statement chapters as well as relevant local plan policies, as set out in the Planning Statement (Document Reference J2). In addition to delivering biodiversity net gain, the Mona Offshore Wind Project will deliver other environmental gains and benefits to communities relevant to the local area, and to national policy priorities. The Mona Offshore Project will accord with the NPS as it will contribute towards reductions in GHG emissions as set out in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) and will provide landscape enhancement as set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) Furthermore the Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3) considers the benefits the project will offer to the local communitity with such benefits being delivered via the Outline Skills and Employment Plan (Document Reference J24). Similarly, the Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) sets out the human health benefits of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
	4.6.15	Applications for development consent should be accompanied by a statement demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where	The Applicant's approach to environmental net gain and how proposal to incorporate these into good design is presented in the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7).

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		appropriate, incorporated into proposals as part of good design (including any relevant operational aspects) of the project.	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives Chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) and the Design Principles document (Document Reference J3) also set out how the Mona Offshore Wind Project has complied with this paragraph of the NPS.
	4.6.16	Applicants should make use of available guidance and tools for measuring natural capital assets and ecosystem services, such as the Natural Capital Committee's 'How to Do it: natural capital workbook', the governments guidance on Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (ENCA), and other tools that aim to enable wider benefits for people and nature.	Having regard to available guidance and tools for measuring natural capital assets and ecosystem services, opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity interests have been considered as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These are reported in Section 3.8 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3), the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26), the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22). Proposals for habitat creation and enhancement such as hedgerow and woodland planting and enhancement of pasture/ improved grassland, which will benefit wider biodiversity by improving habitat connectivity and carbon sequestration within the Mona Onshore Development Area are set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). The Biodiversity Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement identifies a number of offshore opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefits, including increases to the productivity of breeding seabirds, biodiversity enhancing cable protection, artificial reef blocks and restoration of fish and shellfish habitats outside of protected sites, The Applicant will continue to explore these opportunities as the Project's design develops, in collaboration with stakeholders post-consent.
	4.6.17	Where environmental net gain considerations have featured as part of the strategic options appraisal process to select a project, applicants should reference that information to supplement the site-specific details.	Nature based principles have been applied to the design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project from the outset. Throughout the pre-application and site selection process the Applicant has engaged with NRW, DCC and CCBC and other relevant stakeholders through the Evidence Plan

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			Process. The Applicant has presented and sought feedback on the approach to biodiversity mitigation and net biodiversity benefit. The Applicant has identified a number of opportunities to deliver additional biodiversity benefit along the onshore cable corridor and at the Onshore Substation. The measures identified have been designed to balance the provision of biodiversity benefit with the principle of reducing the impacts to landowners ability to manage their land. Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan provides details of enhancements (Document Reference J22). In addition a Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement has also been submitted with the application (Document Reference J7)
Criteria for "Good Design" for Energy Infrastructure			
Applicant assessment	4.7.5 – 4.7.9	To ensure good design is embedded within the project development, a project board level design champion could be appointed, and a representative design panel used to maximise the value provided by the infrastructure. Design principles should be established from the outset of the project to guide the development from conception to operation. Applicants should consider how their design principle can be applied post-consent. Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, land form and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area. Applicants should also, so far as is possible, seek to embed opportunities for nature inclusive design within the design process.	Details of how good design has been considered throughout the development of the Mona Offshore Wind Farm are presented in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) and the Design Principles document (Document Reference J3). Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) details the process of selecting the most appropriate locations for the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project infrastructure. This includes details of the comparative assessments undertaken by environmental and engineering experts to assess the different options, leading to the selection of the final design for application. Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) also includes details of the consultation undertaken to support the site selection process. The Applicant consulted with both Statutory Consultees including Design Commission for Wales, Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council and Natural Resources Wales and the public through statutory and non-statutory consultations. The Design Principles Document (Document Reference J3) sets out the engineering / building design and landscape mitigation principles that the Applicant proposes to apply post-consent to the Mona Onshore Substation when undertaking detailed design to ensure good design. In

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		Applicants must demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected. Applicants should consider taking independent professional advice on the design aspects of a proposal. In particular, the Design Council can be asked to provide design review for nationally significant infrastructure projects and applicants are encouraged to use this service. Applicants should also consider any design guidance developed by the local planning authority. Further advice on what applicants should demonstrate by way of good design is provided in the technology specific NPSs where relevant.	addition, the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Document Reference J22) provides details of how a nature inclusive design has been incorporated (e.g. woodland planting, hedgerow enhancement and habitat creation). A Design Champion has been appointed, further details can be found in the Design Principles document (Document Reference J3).
Climate change adaptation			
Applicant assessment	4.10.5 – 4.10.12	In certain circumstances, measures implemented to ensure a scheme can adapt to climate change may give rise to additional impacts, for example as a result of protecting against flood risk, there may be consequential impacts on coastal change. In preparing measures to support climate change adaptation applicants should take reasonable steps to maximise the use of nature-based solutions alongside other conventional techniques. Integrated approaches, such as looking across the water cycle, considering coordinated management of water storage, supply, demand, wastewater, and flood risk can provide further benefits to address multiple infrastructure needs, as well as carbon sequestration benefits. In addition to avoiding further GHG emissions when compared with more traditional adaptation	As above, the potential impact on climate change is considered in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) (section 2.10.7) and Volume 8, Annex 2.2: Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.2.2). A risk assessment has been undertaken, considering the hazard, potential severity of impact on the Mona Offshore Wind Project and its users (including their sensitivity and vulnerability), probability of that impact, and level of influence the project design can have on the risk. This assessment has been informed by worst-case potential climatic conditions in the 2040-2069 time period, based on the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) probabilistic projections for a high-emissions scenario (RCP8.5), in line with relevant IEMA guidance (IEMA, 2020). The assessment of climate risk has accounted for measures included within the Mona Offshore Wind Project in determining a combined risk score. These have been considered across the lifetime of the Project.

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		approaches, nature-based solutions can also result in biodiversity benefits and net gain, as well as increasing absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. New energy infrastructure will typically need to remain operational over many decades, in the face of a changing climate. Consequently, applicants must consider the direct (e.g. site flooding, limited water availability, storms, heatwave and wildfire threats to infrastructure and operations) and indirect (e.g. access roads or other critical dependencies impacted by flooding, storms, heatwaves or wildfires) impacts of climate change when planning the location, design, build, operation and, where appropriate, decommissioning of new energy infrastructure. The ES should set out how the proposal will take account of the projected impacts of climate change, using government guidance and industry standard benchmarks such as the Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments, Climate Impacts Tool, and British Standards for climate change adaptation, in accordance with the EIA Regulations. Applicants should assess the impacts on and from their proposed energy project across a range of climate change scenarios, in line with appropriate expert advice and guidance available at the time. Applicants should demonstrate that proposals have a high level of climate resilience built-in from the outset and should also demonstrate how proposals can be adapted over their predicted lifetimes to remain resilient to a credible maximum climate change scenario. These results should be considered alongside relevant research which is based on the climate change projections	The climate change assessment work undertaken has considered how/if changes to climatic parameters might exacerbate or alter assessments of effects in a future baseline scenario. No risks to the Mona Offshore Wind Project due to climate change have been identified as significant before mitigation. As such, the effect on the Mona Offshore Wind Project has been determined to be negligible.

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		Where energy infrastructure has safety critical elements, the applicant should apply a credible maximum climate change scenario. It is appropriate to take a risk-averse approach with elements of infrastructure which are critical to the safety of its operation.	
Secretary of State decision making	4.10.13 – 4.10.15	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that applicants for new energy infrastructure have taken into account the potential impacts of climate change using the latest UK Climate Projections and associated research and expert guidance (such as the EA's Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments or the Welsh Government's Climate change allowances and flood consequence assessments) available at the time the ES was prepared to ensure they have identified appropriate mitigation or adaptation measures. This should cover the estimated lifetime of the new infrastructure, including any decommissioning period. Should a new set of UK Climate Projections or associated research become available after the preparation of the ES, the Secretary of State (or the Examining Authority during the examination stage) should consider whether they need to request further information from the applicant. The Secretary of State should be satisfied that there are not features of the design of new energy infrastructure critical to its operation which may be seriously affected by more radical changes to the climate beyond that projected in the latest set of UK climate projections, taking account of the latest credible scientific evidence on, for example, sea level rise (for example by referring to additional	The potential impact on climate change is considered in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) and Volume 8, Annex 2.2: Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.2.2). A risk assessment has been undertaken, considering the hazard, potential severity of impact on the Mona Offshore Wind Project and its users (including their sensitivity and vulnerability), probability of that impact, and level of influence the project design can have on the risk. This assessment has been informed by worst-case potential climatic conditions in the 2040-2069 time period, based on the most recent at the time of writing UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) probabilistic projections for a high-emissions scenario (RCP8.5), in line with relevant IEMA guidance (IEMA, 2020). The assessment of climate risk has accounted for design measures included within the Mona Offshore Wind Project in determining a combined risk score. These have been considered across the lifetime of the Project. The climate change assessment work undertaken has considered how/if changes to climatic parameters might exacerbate or alter assessments of effects in a future baseline scenario. No risks to the Mona Offshore Wind Project due to climate change have been identified as significant before mitigation. As such, the effect on the Mona Offshore Wind Project has been determined to be negligible. In addition, other Environmental Statement chapters such as Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2), Volume 3, Chapter : Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3) and Volume 4,

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		maximum credible scenarios – i.e. from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or EA) and that necessary action can be taken to ensure the operation of the infrastructure over its estimated lifetime.	Chapter 4: Human Health of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) consider climate resilience as part of their assessments.
Network connection			
Applicant assessment	4.11.5 - 4.11.9	The applicant must liaise with National Grid who own and manage the transmission network in England and Wales or the relevant regional DNO or TSO to secure a grid connection. Applicants may wish to take a commercial risk where they have not received or accepted a formal offer of a grid connection from the relevant network operator at the time of the application. In this situation applicants should provide information as part of their application confirming that there is no obvious reason why a network connection would not be possible. The Planning Act 2008 aims to create a holistic planning regime so that the cumulative effect of different elements of the same project can be considered together. Co-ordinated applications typically bring economic efficiencies and reduced environmental impact. The government therefore envisages that wherever reasonably possible, applications for new generating stations and related infrastructure should be contained in a single application to the Secretary of State or in separate applications submitted in tandem which have been prepared in an integrated way, as outlined in EN-5. This is particularly encouraged to ensure development of more co-ordinated transmission overall. On some occasions it may not be possible to coordinate applications. For example, different elements of a project may have different lead-in	Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), the Mona Offshore Wind Project has engaged with NGESO throughout the Holistic Network Design process to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid and to provide input on environmental and consenting constraints of the Points Of Interconnection (POI) under consideration. The Applicant undertook constraints analysis for six POI in the Irish Sea; Wylfa, Pentir, Bodelwyddan, Connah's Quay, Kirkby and Penwortham. NGESO concluded that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales. Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) provides further information on the how grid connection location was considered. A Grid Connection and Cable Detail Statement (Document Reference J4) is also included with the application.

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		times and be undertaken by different legal entities subject to different commercial and regulatory frameworks (for example grid companies operate within OFGEM controls) making it inefficient from a delivery perspective to submit one application. Applicants may therefore decide to submit separate applications for each element. Where this is the case, the applicant should include information on the other elements and explain the reasons for the separate application confirming that there are no obvious reasons for why other elements are likely to be refused. If this option is pursued, the applicant accepts the implicit risks involved in doing so and must ensure they provide sufficient information to comply with the EIA Regulations including the indirect, secondary, and cumulative effects, which will encompass information on grid connections.	
Pollution Control and Other Regulatory Regimes			
Applicant assessment	4.12.5 - 4.12.8	Applicants should consult the MMO (or NRW in Wales) on energy NSIP projects which would affect, or would be likely to affect, any relevant marine areas as defined in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by section 23 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009). Applicants are encouraged to consider the relevant marine plans in advance of consulting the MMO for England or the relevant policy teams at the Welsh government. Many projects covered by this NPS will be subject to the Environmental Permitting Regulations, which also incorporates operational waste management requirements for certain activities. When an applicant applies for an Environmental Permit, the relevant regulator (usually EA or NRW but sometimes the local authority) requires that the application demonstrates that processes are in	The Applicant has consulted with the relevant regulators, including the MMO and NRW throughout the pre-application phase. The Consultation Report (Document Reference E3) describes the consultation process that the Applicant has followed both in terms of the non-statutory consultation and the statutory consultation, and publicity stages as required under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Where possible, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has included consent for all relevant activities within the application for development consent. Other consents and licences required are set out in the Other Consents or Licences Required document (Document Reference J1).

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		place to meet all relevant Environmental Planning requirements. Applicants should make early contact with relevant regulators, including EA or NRW and the MMO, to discuss their requirements for EPs and other consents such as marine licenses. Wherever possible, applicants should submit applications for EPs and other necessary consents at the same time as applying to the Secretary of State for development consent.	
Safety			
Secretary of State Decision Making	4.13.8	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a safety assessment has been prepared, where required, and that the Competent Authority has raised no safety objections.	The Applicant intends to apply for temporary 500 m safety zones around the major construction vessels and any future major operations and maintenance vessel activities. Safety Zones are included within the PDE and have been considered within Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.7) and Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1). Further information can be found in the Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference J6).
Applicant assessment	4.13.5 – 4.13.7	Applicants should consult with the HSE on matters relating to safety. Applicants seeking to develop infrastructure subject to the COMAH regulations should make early contact with the Competent Authority. If a safety report is required it is important to discuss with the Competent Authority the type of information that should be provided at the design and development stage, and what form this should take. This will enable the Competent Authority to review as much information as possible before construction begins, in order to assess whether the inherent features of the design are sufficient to prevent, control and mitigate major accidents.	The Applicant has consulted with the HSE on matters relating to safety. The Mona Offshore Wind Project is not anticipated to be considered a COMAH site because no hazardous substances used on site will exceed relevant COMAH thresholds.

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Hazardous Substances			
Secretary of state decision making	4.14.7	Where hazardous substances consent is applied for, the Secretary of State will consider whether to make an order directing that hazardous substances consent shall be deemed to be granted alongside making an order granting development consent. The Secretary of State should consult HSE about this.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project is not anticipated to be considered a COMAH site because no hazardous substances used on site will exceed relevant COMAH thresholds.
Security Considerations			
Applicant assessment	4.16.6 – 4.16.7	Where national security implications have been identified, the applicant should consult with relevant security experts from NPSA, ONR (for civil nuclear) and/or DESNZ to ensure security measures have been adequately considered in the design process and that adequate consideration has been given to the management of security risks. The applicant should only include sufficient information in the application as is necessary to enable the Secretary of State to examine the development consent issues and make a properly informed decision on the application.	At this stage no national security implications have been identified for Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Applicant has prepared and submitted a thorough application in accordance with the Applicant's scoping report and the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference J8) and had due regard to consultation responses from statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (see the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3) and appendicies.
Air Quality and Emissions			
Applicant assessment	5.2.8 – 5.2.12	Where the project is likely to have adverse effects on air quality the applicant should undertake an assessment of the impacts of the proposed project as part of the ES. The ES should describe: existing air quality concentrations and the relative change in air quality from existing levels; any significant air quality effects, mitigation action taken and any residual effects distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of	The potential for effects on air quality has been assessed in Volume 3, Chapter 10, Air Quality of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.10). As required by NPS EN-1, the assessment describes: • Existing air quality concentrations; • Any significant air emissions, their quality effects, mitigation taken and any residual effects distinguishing between the project stages and takes account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the Mona Offshore Wind Project;

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		any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project; the predicted absolute emissions, concentration change and absolute concentrations as a result of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied; and any potential eutrophication impacts. Defra publishes future national projections of air quality based on estimates of future levels of emissions, traffic, and vehicle fleet. Projections are updated as the evidence base changes and the applicant should ensure these are current at the point of an application. The applicant's assessment should be consistent with this but may include more detailed modelling to demonstrate local impacts and national impacts. If an applicant believes they have robust additional supporting evidence, to the extent they could affect the conclusions of the assessment, they should include this in their representations to the Examining Authority along with the source. Where a proposed development is likely to lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives or targets or affect the ability of a non-compliant area to achieve compliance within the timescales set out in the most recent relevant air quality plan/strategy at the time of the decision, the applicant should work with the relevant authorities to secure appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that those statutory limits, objectives or targets are not breached.	• The predicted concentration change and absolute concentrations as a result of traffic generated during the construction phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, after mitigation methods have been applied. The assessment has used current Defra projections of air quality and is consistent with them but also includes more detailed modelling as necessary. The assessment concludes that no breaches of national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives are predicted and that any changes in air quality are predicted to be only during the construction phase and are therefore temporary.
Secretary of State decision making	5.2.16 – 5.2.19	The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project would lead to a deterioration in air quality.This could for example include where an area breaches any national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives.	The potential impacts on air quality have been assessed in Volume 3, Chapter 10, Air Quality of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.10). As above, the assessment concludes that no breaches of national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives are predicted and that any

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		However, air quality considerations will also be important where substantial changes in air quality levels are expected, even if this does not lead to any breaches of statutory limits, objectives or targets. The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project is proposed near a sensitive receptor site, such as an education or healthcare facility, residential use or a sensitive or protected habitat. Where a project is proposed near to a sensitive receptor site for air quality, if the applicant cannot provide justification for this location, and a suitable mitigation plan, the Secretary of State should refuse consent. In all cases, the Secretary of State must take account of any relevant statutory air quality limits objectives and targets. If a project will lead to non compliance with a statutory limit, objective or target the Secretary of State should refuse consent.	changes in air quality are predicted to be only during the construction phase and are therefore temporary
Greenhouse gas emissions			
Applicant assessment	5.3.4	All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES (See Section 4.3). This should include: A whole life GHG assessment showing construction, operational and decommissioning GHG impacts, including impacts from change of land use An explanation of the steps that have been taken to drive down the climate change impacts at each of those stages. Measurement of embodied GHG impact from the construction stage.	Volume 4, Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of CO^2 emissions and other relevant greenhouse gases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This has assessed the project emissions across the whole life of the project including construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases (section 2.10). Such emissions have been contextualised against the UK's carbon budgets (section 2.10.8). The chapter has included measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project which have concentrated on reducing GHG emissions to acceptable levels for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The whole life GHG assessment concluded the Mona Offshore Wind Project would result in 162,480 tCO2e of avoided emissions over its

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		How reduction in energy demand and consumption during operation has been prioritised in comparison with other measures. How operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through the application of best available techniques for that type of technology. Calculation of operational energy consumption and associated carbon emissions. Whether and how any residual GHG emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework. Where there are residual emissions, the level of emissions and the impact of those on national and international efforts to limit climate change, both alone and where relevant in combination with other developments at a regional or national level, or sector level, if sectoral targets are developed.	lifetime, resulting in a likely payback period of 11 years. This is a beneficial effect that is significant in EIA terms.
Mitigation	5.3.5 – 5.3.7	A GHG assessment should be used to drive down GHG emissions at every stage of the proposed development and ensure that emissions are minimised as far as possible for the type of technology, taking into account the overall objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero. Applicants should look for opportunities within the proposed development to embed nature-based or technological solutions to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning. Steps taken to minimise and offset emissions should be set out in a GHG Reduction Strategy, secured under the development consent order. The GHG Reduction Strategy should consider the creation and preservation of carbon stores and sinks including through woodland creation,	Volume 4, Chapter 2, Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) provides an assessment of CO^2 emissions and other relevant greenhouse gases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This has assessed the project emissions across the whole life of the project including construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. The chapter has included measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project which have concentrated on reducing net GHG emissions (whole project emissions) to acceptable levels for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The whole life GHG assessment concluded the Mona Offshore Wind Project would result in 162,480 tCO2e of avoided emissions over its lifetime, resulting in a likely payback period of 11 years. This is a beneficial effect that is significant in EIA terms.

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		hedgerow creation and restoration, peatland restoration and through other natural habitats.	
Biodiversity and Geological Conservation			
Applicant assessment	5.4.17	Where the development is subject to EIA the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance (including those outside England), on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats.	An Environmental Statement has been prepared for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to help the Secretary of State consider the potential effects of the Project. All internationally, nationally and local designated sites which have the potential to be impacted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project as well as protected habitats and species (including irreplaceable habitats where relevant) within the topic specific study areas have been identified and considered in the Environmental Statement assessments where relevant. The potential effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated benthic, fish and shellfish, marine mammals or offshore ornithology features are assessed within Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2), Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish (Document Reference F2.3), Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) and Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) of the Environmental Statement. The potential effects on designated sites and relevant sites of interest to physical processes have been assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1). The effects on designated onshore ecological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) and Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.3) of the Environmental Statement. The HRA Stage 1 Screening (Document Reference E1.4) identifies direct or indirect effects on internationally designated sites which could be affected, and those sites have been assessed in the Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2 and E1.3).

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			The effects on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable corridor and through the use of trenchless cable installation techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable corridor and through the use of trenchless cable installation techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Mona Offshore Wind Project has sought to minimise impacts on the geological SSSI (Llanddulas Limestone and Gwrych Castle Woodland SSSI) by committing to use trenchless techniques to cross this feature. Non-designated drumlins would be affected by the construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor, however measures are included in the Soil Management Strategy (Document Reference J26.8) to restore the drumlins at the end of the construction process.
	5.4.19 – 5.4.21	The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests. Applicants should consider wider ecosystem services and benefits of natural capital when designing enhancement measures. As set out in Section 4.7, the design process should embed opportunities for nature inclusive design. Energy infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and	The Mona Offshore Wind Project will aim to conserve habitats through a number of measures adopted to reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project including measure to preserve ecologically important features as well as broader measures such as the development of an environmental management plan. These measures have been put in place to take advantage of opportunities to conserve ecological features of conservation interest. The Applicant's approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). The Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore

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		enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains (see Section 4.6 on Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain). The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of each project.	biodiversity benefits, including increases to the productivity of breeding seabirds, biodiversity enhancing cable protection, artificial reef blocks and restoration of fish and shellfish habitats outside of protected sites. The Applicant has also identified several opportunities to improve onshore biodiversity, including hedgerow enhancements and the creation of woodland belts to improve habitat connectivity, in addition to tree planting and the creation of species rich hedgerows and areas of grassland, scrub, ponds and wildflowers to provide habitats of conservation interest. The Applicant will continue to explore these opportunities as the Project's design develops, in collaboration with stakeholders post-consent. In conjunction with the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7), opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity interests have been set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22).
	5.4.22	The design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure. As energy infrastructure could occur anywhere within England and Wales, both inland and onshore and offshore, the potential to affect mobile and migratory species across the UK and more widely across Europe (transboundary effects) requires consideration, depending on the location of development.	The potential for mobile and migratory species to interact with the Mona Offshore Wind Project is considered in Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish (Document Reference F2.3), Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4), Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5), Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) and Volume 3 Chapter 4: Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4) of the Environmental Statement.
	5.4.23	Energy projects will need to ensure vessels used by the project follow existing regulations and guidelines to manage ballast water.	The Applicant has committed to the development of, and adherence to, an offshore Environmental Management Plan to be secured through the dML and NRW ML. The plan will outline measures to ensure vessels comply with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) ballast water management guidelines, it will consider the origin of vessels and contain standard housekeeping measures for such vessels as well as specific measures to be adopted in the event that a high alert species is recorded (e.g. carpet sea squirt Didemnum vexillum).
	5.4.24	In Wales, applicants should consider the guidance set out in Section 6.4 of Planning Policy Wales and	As the Mona Offshore Wind Project is in Wales all offshore chapters of the Environmental Statement (Volume 2) have considered relevant

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		the relevant policies in the Wales National Marine Plan.	policies with the Wales National Marine Plan (WNMP) and all onshore chapters of the Environmental Statement (Volume 3) have considered relevant policies of Planning Policy Wales (PPW). Volume 1, Chapter 2 Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2) sets out the overall policy context, including that within the WNMP and PPW. In addition, the WNMP Signposting document (Document Reference J2.2) sets out how the application documents have considered the WNMP and how the Project accords with its policies and the Planning Statement (Document Reference J2) addresses both the WNMP and PPW.
Applicant assessment – Habitats Regulations	5.4.25 – 5.4.31	The applicant should seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB and provide the Secretary of State with such information as the Secretary of State may reasonably require, to determine whether an HRA Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. Applicants can request and agree 'Evidence Plans' with SNCBs, which is a way to record upfront the information the applicant needs to supply with its application, so that the HRA can be efficiently carried out. If an AA is required, the applicant must provide the Secretary of State with such information as may reasonably be required to enable the Secretary of State to conduct the AA. This should include information on any mitigation measures that are proposed to minimise or avoid likely significant effects. If, during the pre-application stage, the SNCB indicate that the proposed development is likely to adversely impact the integrity of habitat sites, the applicant must include with their application such information as may reasonably be required to assess a potential derogation under the Habitats Regulations. If the SNCB gives such an indication at a later stage in the development consent process, the applicant must provide this information as soon as is reasonably possible and before the close of the	The Applicant has undertaken an Evidence Plan with the relevant SNCBs and stakeholders for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, details are provided in the Technical Engagement Plan (Document Reference E4). The HRA Stage 1 Screening (Document Reference E1.4) identifies direct or indirect effects on sites which could be affected, and those sites have been assessed in the Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3). The ISAA provides the information required for the Secretary of State to undertake an appropriate assessment. It includes measures adopted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project that minimise potential effects on designated features of European sites. For example, the Applicant has committed to the development and adherence to an Offshore CMS which includes a CSIP secured as a requirement to the marine licences that does not permit sandwave clearance within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC and does not permit cable protection higher than 70 cm to be installed within in the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. Measures have also been adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce the potential impacts on the ornithological features of the Liverpool Bay SPA. These include a timing restriction to ensure no offshore export cable installation occurs during the period 1st November to 31st March within the Liverpool Bay SPA. Measures have also been adopted to minimise disturbance to rafting birds including the development and adherence to an Offshore EMP including a commitment that the site induction process will incorporate the principles of the WiSe Scheme to ensure that key personnel are aware of the need to follow the WiSe Code of Conduct. The WiSe Scheme is a UK national training scheme for minimising disturbance to marine life. Key measures from the scheme

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		examination. This information must include assessment of alternative solutions, a case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate environmental compensation. Provision of such information will not be taken as an acceptance of adverse impacts and if an applicant disputes the likelihood of adverse impacts, it can provide this information as part of its application 'without prejudice' to the Secretary of State's final decision on the impacts of the potential development. If, in these circumstances, an applicant does not supply information required for the assessment of a potential derogation, there will be no expectation that the Secretary of State will allow the applicant the opportunity to provide such information following the examination. It is vital that applicants consider the need for compensation as early as possible in the design process as 'retrofitting' compensatory measures will introduce delays and uncertainty to the consenting process. Applicants should work closely at an early stage in the pre-application process with SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government to develop a compensation plan for all protected sites adversely affected by the development.Applicants should engage with the relevant Local Planning Authority at an early stage regarding theproposed location of compensatory measures. Applicants should also take account of any strategic plan level compensation plans in developing project level compensation plans. Before submitting an application, applicants should seek the views of the SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government as to the suitability, securability and effectiveness of the compensation plan to ensure	will reduce the disturbance of vessel transits on marine mammals and rafting birds visible at the water surface, or as otherwise agreed with the SNCBs. For the marine mammal features of European sites, measures have also been adopted to reduce the potential for injury as a result of underwater sound. These include the development of and adherence to a marine mammal mitigation plan (MMMP) and the development of and adherence to an Underwater sound management strategy that incudes for consideration of noise abatement systems (NAS) as part of mitigation options, which will be developed in accordance with the Outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy (Document Reference J16), and which will be made as part of a stepped strategy post consent and following the mitigation hierarchy - avoid, reduce, mitigate. With the implementation of the measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, the ISAA concludes that there will be no adverse effect on integrity of any European site as a result of the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone or in-combination with other plans/projects. During the Evidence Plan process, no SNCB has indicated that the Mona Offshore Wind Project is likely to adversely impact the integrity of any HRA sites or that a derogation case is required. The ISAA concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no risk of an adverse effect on the integrity of any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, therefore there is no potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to hinder the conservation objectives for any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites either alone or in-combination. Therefore, there is no requirement for a 'without prejudice' derogation case and one has not been submitted with the application for consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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		the development will not hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives for the protected site. In cases where such views are provided, the applicant should include a copy of this information with the compensation plan in their application for further consideration by the Examining Authority.	
Applicant assessment – Ancient woodland, ancient trees, veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats	5.4.32	Applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both construction and operational phases.	Measures required to mititgate direct and indirect effects on irreplaceable habitats, including areas of designated ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees during construction and operation of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are described in Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3), the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26) and in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Direct effects to designated ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees during the construction phase have been avoided via the commitment of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to avoid such areas at the design stage. This includes the utlisation of trenchless techniques (e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling) where the onshore export cable is required to cross areas of woodland. The mechansims through which overall net benefit to biodiviersty would be delivered as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are descibred in the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructre Statement (Document Reference J7) and these include woodland planting.
Applicant assessment – Protection and enhancement of habitats and species	5.4.33 – 5.4.34	Applicants should consider any reasonable opportunities to maximise the restoration, creation, and enhancement of wider biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of the ability of habitats to store or sequester carbon as set out under Section 4.6. Consideration should be given to improvements to, and impacts on, habitats and species in, around and beyond developments, for wider ecosystem services and natural capital benefits, beyond those under protection and identified as being of principal	Proposals for habitat creation and enhancement such as hedgerow and woodland planting and enhancement of pasture/ improved grassland, which will benefit wider biodiversity by improving habitat connectivity and carbon sequestration within the Mona Onshore Development Area are set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of that Document J7 confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		importance. This may include considerations and opportunities identified through Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and national goals and targets set through the Environment Act 2021 and the environmental Improvement Plan 2023	impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures include: • re-instatement of hedgerows to provide habitat connectivity for bats and dormice • ponds and terrestrial habitat (such as hedgerows and species rich grassland) for displaced Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptiles • hedgerow re-instatement and tree planting to provide mitigation for habitat loss for breeding birds. In addition to the mitigation set out above onshore enhancement is proposed via: • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation • Woodland planting • Pond and attenuation basin creation • Wildflower planting • Scrub habitat creation • Species rich grassland creation • Ditch realignment. Section 3.5 of the document confirms that a range of ecological mitigation measures will be put in place within the array area and offshore export cable corridor to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. In addition to that mitigation the Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefit to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project. These are being explored for feasibility and appropriateness and include: • Opportunities to increase the productivity of breeding seabirds • Biodiversity enhancing cable crossing mattresses for cable protection as part of the detailed project design • Biodiversity enhancing artificial reef blocks or cubes which could be introduced as part of foundation design

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			• Opportunities to restore fish and shellfish habitats • Contributions to MARINE Fund Cymru.
Mitigation	5.4.35 – 5.4.36	Applicants should include appropriate avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures as an integral part of the proposed development. In particular, the applicant should demonstrate that: • during construction, they will seek to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works • the timing of construction has been planned to avoid or limit disturbance • during construction and operation best practice will be followed to ensure that risk of disturbance or damage to species or habitats is minimised, including as a consequence of transport access arrangements • habitats will, where practicable, be restored after construction works have finished • opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats rather than replace them, and where practicable, create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals. Where habitat creation is required as mitigation, compensation, or enhancement the location and quality will be of key importance. In this regard habitat creation should be focused on areas where the most ecological and ecosystems benefits can be realised. • mitigations required as a result of legal protection of habitats or species will be complied with.	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project throughout all the phases are summarised in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10), This includes the development of, and adherence to, an offshore Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which will include measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels. These measures will include a timing restriction of no offshore export cable installation during the period 1 November to 31 March within the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA). Topic specific chapters have assessed the effect of any measures relevant to the topic. The following chapters in particular consider potential effects relating to biodiversity: • Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) • Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4). Proposals for habitat creation and enhancement such as hedgerow and woodland planting and enhancement of pasture/ improved grassland, which will benefit wider biodiversity by improving habitat connectivity and carbon sequestration within the Mona Onshore Development Area are set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of Document J7 confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the impacts of the

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		Applicants should produce and implement a Biodiversity Management Strategy as part of their development proposals. This could include provision for biodiversity awareness training to employees and contractors so as to avoid unnecessary adverse impacts on biodiversity during the construction and operation stages.	construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures include: • re-instatement of hedgerows to provide habitat connectivity for bats and dormice • ponds and terrestrial habitat (such as hedgerows and species rich grassland) for displaced Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptiles • hedgerow re-instatement and tree planting to provide mitigation for habitat loss for breeding birds. In addition to the mitigation set out above onshore enhancement is proposed via: • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation • Woodland planting • Pond and attenuation basin creation • Wildflower planting • Scrub habitat creation • Species rich grassland creation • Ditch realignment. Section 3.5 of the document confirms that a range of ecological mitigation measures will be put in place within the array area and offshore export cable corridor to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. In addition to that mitigation the Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefit to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project. These are being explored for feasibility and appropriateness and include: • Opportunities to increase the productivity of breeding seabirds • Biodiversity enhancing cable crossing mattresses for cable protection as part of the detailed project design • Biodiversity enhancing artificial reef blocks or cubes which could be introduced as part of foundation design

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			• Opportunities to restore fish and shellfish habitats • Contributions to MARINE Fund Cymru.
	5.4.38	To further minimise any adverse impacts on geodiversity, where appropriate applicants are encouraged to produce and implement a Geodiversity Management Strategy to preserve and enhance access to geological interest features, as part of relevant development proposals.	The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable route corridor and through the use of trenchless construction techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project, therefore a Geodiversity Management Strategy is not considered to be necessary.
Secretary of state decision making	5.4.45	The Secretary of State will need to take account of what mitigation measures may have been agreed between the applicant and the SNCB and the MMO/NRW (where appropriate). The Secretary of State will also need to consider whether SNCB or the MMO/NRW have granted or refused or intends to grant or refuse, any relevant licences, including protected species mitigation licences.	With respect to onshore ecology, measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including requirements for relevant NRW European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses are described in Section 3.8 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3). Other Consents or Licenses Required (Document Reference J1). Applications for the relevant NRW European Protected Species Mitigation Licences and other mitigation licences have not yet been submitted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. However, measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including the key requirements of these licenses have been discussed and agreed in principle with NRW as part of the regular Expert Working Group (EWG) meetings. The Mona Offshore Wind Project intend to submit 'ghost' licenses post-application. These 'in-principle licenses would be used to inform detailed European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses to be agreed with NRW if the DCO application is granted consent.The Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10) sets out all measures adopted as part of the Project. Additionally, the draft DCO (Document Reference C1) seeks to secure ecological mitigation via

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			Requirement 12 - Hydrological, ecological and landscape and ecology management plan and Requirement 13 – European Protected Species. Further detail regarding consultation undertaken to date between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and NRW is provided in Section 3.3 of the Onshore Ecology chapter (Document Reference F3.3) and the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3). With respect to onshore and intertidal, measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are described in Section 4.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.4). Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been discussed and agreed in principle with NRW as part of the regular Expert Working Group (EWG) meetings. No requirements for NRW European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses or other licenses were identified. No requirements for NRW European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses were identified. Further detail regarding consultation undertaken to date between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and NRW is provided in Section 4.2 of the Onshore and Intertidal chapter and the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3).
	5.4.46	Development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity or geological features as part of good design. The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to environmental and biodiversity enhancements, although any weight given to gains provided to meet a legal requirement (e.g. under the Environment Act 2021) is likely to be limited.	The Applicant's approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Benefits and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of that document confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures include: • re-instatement of hedgerows to provide habitat connectivity for bats and dormice • ponds and terrestrial habitat (such as hedgerows and species rich grassland) for displaced Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptiles • hedgerow re-instatement and tree planting to provide mitigation for habitat loss for breeding birds.

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			In addition to the mitigation set out above onshore enhancement is proposed via: • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation • Woodland planting • Pond and attenuation basin creation • Wildflower planting • Scrub habitat creation • Species rich grassland creation • Ditch realignment. Section 3.5 of the document confirms that a range of ecological mitigation measures will be put in place within the array area and offshore export cable corridor to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. In addition to that mitigation the Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefit to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project. These are being explored for feasibility and appropriateness and include: • Opportunities to increase the productivity of breeding seabirds • Biodiversity enhancing cable crossing mattresses for cable protection as part of the detailed project design • Biodiversity enhancing artificial reef blocks or cubes which could be introduced as part of foundation design • Opportunities to restore fish and shellfish habitats • Contributions to MARINE Fund Cymru. The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1).

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			Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable route corridor and through the use of trenchless construction techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
	5.4.48	In taking decisions, the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national, and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.	The following chapters in particular consider potential effects relating to biodiversity, including consideration of international, national, regional and local designations where relevant: • Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) • Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4). The Applicant's approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Benefits and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable route corridor and through the use of trenchless construction techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project, therefore a Geodiversity Management Strategy is not considered to be necessary.
Secretary of State decision making – *Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)*	5.4.50	The Secretary of State should use requirements and/or planning obligations to mitigate the harmful aspects of the development and, where possible, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the site's biodiversity or geological interest.	The Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10) sets out all measures adopted as part of the Project and sets out where they are secured within the application documents. Schedule 2 of the draft DCO (Document Reference C1) includes a number of Requirements that will secure mitigation measures and

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			Schedule 14 of the draft Marine Licence (Document Reference C1)also includes conditions that will secure mitigation measures. The following chapters in particular consider potential effects relating to biodiversity: • Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) • Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4). The Applicant's approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). The Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefits, including increases to the productivity of breeding seabirds, biodiversity enhancing cable protection, artificial reef blocks and restoration of fish and shellfish habitats outside of protected sites. The Applicant has also identified several opportunities to improve onshore biodiversity, including hedgerow enhancements and the creation of woodland belts to improve habitat connectivity, in addition to tree planting and the creation of species rich hedgerows and areas of grassland, scrub, ponds and wildflowers to provide habitats of conservation interest. The Applicant will continue to explore these opportunities as the Project's design develops, in collaboration with stakeholders post-consent. The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable route corridor and through the use of trenchless construction techniques.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
			No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project, therefore a Geodiversity Management Strategy is not considered to be necessary.
Secretary of State decision making – *Regional and Local Sites*	5.4.52	The Secretary of State should give due consideration to such regional or local designations. However, given the need for new nationally significant infrastructure, these designations should not be used in themselves to refuse development consent.	The following chapters in particular consider potential effects relating to biodiversity, including consideration of regional and local designations where relevant: • Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Seascape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F3.4) • Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) • Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4) • Landscape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F3.6). The Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3) also includes consideration of designations. The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable route corridor and through the use of trenchless construction techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Secretary of State decision making – *Protection and enhancement of habitats and species*	5.4.55	The Secretary of State should refuse consent where harm to a habitats protected species and relevant habitat would result, unless the benefits of the development there is an overriding public interest and the other relevant legal tests are met. In this context, the Secretary of State should give	The Applicant has employed the mitigation hierarchy to reduce or avoid adverse effects from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on ecological features. There are no designated sites affected requiring a derogation case. Measures adopted as part of the project are presented in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10).

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		substantial weight to any such harm to the detriment of biodiversity features of national or regional importance or the climate resilience and the capacity of habitats to store carbon, which it considers may result from a proposed development.	The SNCBs have been consulted on the HRA throughout the pre-application phase. The SNCBs have not indicated that the Mona Offshore Wind Project is likely to adversely impact a protected site. The Applicant's HRA concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no risk of an adverse effect on the integrity of any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, therefore there is no potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to hinder the conservation objectives for any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites either alone or in-combination. Most of the effects resulting from the Mona Offshore Wind Project in relation to matters such benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology, fish and shellfish ecology, marine mammals, offshore ornithology, onshore ecology and onshore and intertidal ornithology are of minor adverse or lower significance, which is not significant in EIA terms. However, the following impacts are potentially of moderate or higher significance, which is significant in EIA terms: For marine mammals, the effects of UXO on harbour porpoise for the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance – once the number and type of UXOs are identified during pre construction site investigation surveys, further measures can be adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce these effects For marine mammals, behavioural disturbance as a result of underwater sound due to piling to bottlenose dolphin when considered for the Mona Offshore Wind Project cumulatively with projects, plans and activities were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance – an underwater sound management strategy will investigate a range of mitigation options and will be agreed with stakeholders when the final project design is known For fish and shellfish ecology, sound impacts from piling both for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and cumulatively with other projects, plans and activities, with potential to disrupt spawning of herring were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance – an underwater sound management strategy will investigate the implementation of noise abatement technology, amongst other further mitigation options For fish and shellfish ecology, sound impacts from piling for the Mona Offshore Wind Project cumulatively with projects, plans and activities with potential to disrupt spawning of cod were assessed as being of

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
			moderate adverse significance – the aforementioned piling strategy will include the implementation of noise abatement technology, amongst further mitigation.Any potential transboundary fish and shellfish ecology effects are proposed to be managed through an Underwater Sound Management Strategy and any potential cumulative effect on bottlenose dolphins by the implementation of a Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP). An Outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy (Document Reference J16) and an Outline MMMP (Document Reference J21) are included within the application. Designated sites and relevant sites of interest to physical processes have been identified and assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1). section 1.5 and section 1.9 respectively. The physical processes assessment concluded that there will be no significant effects arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project. With respect to onshore ecology, the likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of ecological importance, protected species and habitats and other species of principal importance, including irreplaceable habitats has been considered in Section 3.9 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3). Taking into account mitigation measures adopted, the assessment determined that there would be no likely significant effects during construction, as a result of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on these ecological features, with the exception of some sections of hedgerows, which are to be temporarily or permanently lost during construction. However, these would be compensated for via planting proposals included in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and the Biodiversity Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity interests have been considered as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, as reported in Section 3.8 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore ecology of the Environmental Statement, the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26), Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7).

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
Secretary of state decision making	5.4.45	The Secretary of State will need to take account of what mitigation measures may have been agreed between the applicant and the SNCB and the MMO/NRW (where appropriate). The Secretary of State will also need to consider whether SNCB or the MMO/NRW have granted or refused or intends to grant or refuse, any relevant licences, including protected species mitigation licences.	With respect to onshore ecology, measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including requirements for relevant NRW European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses are described in Section 3.8 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3). Full details of the proposed mitigation is contained within the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10). Further detail regarding consultation undertaken to date between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and NRW is provided in Section 3.3 of the Onshore Ecology chapter (Document Reference F3.3) and the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3.9). The Applicant has consulted with the relevant regulators, including the MMO and NRW throughout the pre-application phase. Where possible, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has included consent for all relevant activities within the application for development consent. Other consents and licences required are set out in the Other Consents or Licences Required document (Document Reference J1) and details of the Marine Licence is contained within the Marine Licence principles document (Document Reference J9). With respect to onshore and intertidal, measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are described in Section 4.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.4). No requirements for NRW European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses were identified. Further detail regarding consultation undertaken to date between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and NRW is provided in Section 4.2 of the Onshore and Intertidal chapter and the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3). Details of other consents required are contained within Other Consents or Licences Required (Document Reference J1).

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	5.4.46	Development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity or geological features as part of good design. The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to environmental and biodiversity enhancements, although any weight given to gains provided to meet a legal requirement (e.g. under the Environment Act 2021) is likely to be limited.	The Applicant's approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Benefits and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of that document confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures include: • re-instatement of hedgerows to provide habitat connectivity for bats and dormice • ponds and terrestrial habitat (such as hedgerows and species rich grassland) for displaced Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptiles • hedgerow re-instatement and tree planting to provide mitigation for habitat loss for breeding birds. In addition to the mitigation set out above onshore enhancement is proposed via: • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation • Woodland planting • Pond and attenuation basin creation • Wildflower planting • Scrub habitat creation • Species rich grassland creation • Ditch realignment. Section 3.5 of the document confirms that a range of ecological mitigation measures will be put in place within the array area and offshore export cable corridor to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. In addition to that mitigation the Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefit to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
			Project. These are being explored for feasibility and appropriateness and include: • Opportunities to increase the productivity of breeding seabirds • Biodiversity enhancing cable crossing mattresses for cable protection as part of the detailed project design • Biodiversity enhancing artificial reef blocks or cubes which could be introduced as part of foundation design • Opportunities to restore fish and shellfish habitats • Contributions to MARINE Fund Cymru. The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable route corridor and through the use of trenchless construction techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
	5.4.48	In taking decisions, the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national, and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.	The following chapters in particular consider potential effects relating to biodiversity, including consideration of international, national, regional and local designations where relevant: • Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Seascape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F3.4) • Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) • Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4) • Landscape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F3.6),

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			The Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3) also includes consideration of designations. The Applicant's approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Benefits and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated geological sites are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). Sites of geological interest have largely been avoided by the refinement of the onshore cable route corridor and through the use of trenchless construction techniques. No nationally or regionally designated geological sites will be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project, therefore a Geodiversity Management Strategy is not considered to be necessary.
Civil and Military Aviation and Defence Interests			
Safeguarding	5.5.11	Aerodromes that are officially safeguarded will have officially produced plans that show the OLS. Care must be taken to ensure that new developments do not infringe these protected OLS, except where an aerodrome operator has considered the development and either determined there to be no adverse impact or agreed an acceptable mitigation can be put in place as these encompass the critical airspace within which key air traffic associated with the aerodrome operates.	Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1) has carried out an Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP) assessment which considered all applicable safeguarded surfaces of those airfields potentially impacted. The IFP assessment is included within the technical appendix to the chapter (Aviation and Radar Technical Report – Document Reference F8.1.1) found that no aerodrome Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) would be affected, due to distance offshore, by the Mona Array Area.
	5.5.19	New energy infrastructure may cause obstructions in Ministry of Defence (MOD) low flying areas. A balance must be struck between defence and energy needs in these areas.	Volume 4, Chapter 1 Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1) considers low flying activity within the establishment of the baseline. Military low flying takes place in the oversea Class G (uncontrolled) airspace in Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) where 'see and avoid' Rules of the Air pertain. Embedded, and Project specific, aviation warning, marking and lighting will mitigate the effects of the Mona Array

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
			Area in relation to vertical obstruction. The Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10) sets out all measures adopted as part of the Project.
Other defence interests	5.5.36	The Joint industry and government Air Defence and Offshore Wind Mitigation Task Force was set up to enable the co-existence of UK Air Defence and offshore wind. The Strategy and Implementation Plan sets the direction for that collaboration. The recommendations generated from this Task Force should be referred to by both defence and energy stakeholders.	Volume 4, Chapter 1 Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1) considers low flying activity within the establishment of the baseline. The recommendations generated from the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) Joint Task Force (JTF) have been referred to by the Applicant.
Applicant assessment	5.5.37 – 5.5.40	Where the proposed development may affect the performance of civil or military aviation CNS, meteorological radars and/or other defence assets an assessment of potential effects should be set out in the ES (see Section 4.3). The requirement for ATC and non-cooperative surveillance – i.e. radar/tracking technologies - forms part of the environmental baseline for proposed developments. The applicant should consult the MOD, Met Office, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), NATS and any aerodrome – licensed or otherwise – likely to be affected by the proposed development in preparing an assessment of the proposal on aviation, meteorological or other defence interests. Any assessment of effects on aviation, meteorological or other defence interests should include potential impacts of the project upon the operation of CNS infrastructure, flight patterns (both civil and military), generation of weather warnings and forecasts, other defence assets (including radar) and aerodrome operational procedures. It should also assess the demonstratable cumulative effects of the project	Volume 4, Chapter 1 Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1) has assessed the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Projects within the impact assessments. The chapter provides the results of consultation activity with the relevant stakeholders and a full record of consultation is also provided in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10). Assessment of potential effects on aviation, meteorological or other defence interests within the Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1) includes potential impacts upon the operation of CNS infrastructure, flight patterns (both civil and military), generation of weather warnings and forecasts, other defence assets (including radar) and aerodrome operational procedures. The potential for demonstratable cumulative effects is also assessed. An assessment of aviation flight patterns is provided in the Volume 8 Annex 1.1: Aviation and Radar Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.1.1). In respect of wind turbine interference on civil and military PSR, the turbines in the Mona Array Area would be theoretically detectable by the NATS Lowther Hill, St Anne's and Great Dun Fell PSR, the Ronaldsway Airport, the Liverpool Airport and BAE Warton PSR systems. Wind turbines detectable by a PSR system might degrade the system by creating false targets, reduce system sensitivity, create radar shadowing

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		with other relevant projects in relation to aviation, meteorological and defence.	behind the wind turbines and saturate the radar receiver, leading to clutter potentially concealing real aircraft targets. This effect is not considered to be significant when technical mitigation, such as radar blanking and radar infill, or an application for an airspace change to implement a Transponder Mandatory Zone (TMZ) is agreed with affected airports. All of these parties are actively engaged with the Applicant to provide an agreed route to mitigation of the effect. In addition, once agreed with the relevant aviation stakeholders, appropriate mitigation is expected to be secured through a requirement of the DCO.
Applicant assessment	5.5.41	In addition, consideration of developments near aerodromes should take into account the following factors: Bird Strike Risk - Aircraft are vulnerable to wildlife strike, in particular bird strike. Birds and other wildlife may be attracted to the vicinity of an aerodrome by various types of development, for example, large buildings with perching/roosting opportunities for birds. It is therefore important that infrastructure, buildings and other elements from energy installations, as well as environmental mitigation are designed in such a way so as not to increase the bird strike risk to the airport for developments within 13km (this can vary) Building Induced Turbulence - If a significant building or structure is proposed close to the airport/runways, there is potential for building induced turbulence/wind shear to be created which has the potential to impact on aircraft on take-off and landing. Studies may be required to identify the extent of any turbulence resulting from the energy infrastructure. Thermal Plume Turbulence - This is caused under certain conditions by the release of hot air from a power plant equipped with a dry cooling system.	Bird Strike Risk, Building Induced and Thermal Plume Turbulence was scoped out of the assessment in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1).due to the distance offshore of the Mona Array Area and its remoteness from aerodromes.

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		The plumes generated by these facilities have the potential to create invisible turbulence that can affect the manoeuvrability of aircraft.	
	5.5.42	If any relevant changes are made to proposals during the pre-application and determination period, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the relevant aviation, meteorological and defence consultees are informed as soon as reasonably possible.	All relevant changes made during the pre-application period have been communicated to the relevant consultees and captured in the summary of key consultation issues table (Table 1.9) provided in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1).
Mitigation	5.5.43	The applicant should include appropriate mitigation measures as an integral part of the proposed development.	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been discussed during engagement with stakeholders and are included in Volume 4, Chapter 1 (of the Aviation and Radar chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1). Measures adopted as part of the project are summarised in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1). These include – the Mona Offshore Wind Project considered MCA MGN 654 Safety of Navigation Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREI) - Guidance on UK Navigational Practice, Safety and Emergency Response, in addition to CAP 393 Air Navigation Order 2022, CAP 764 CAA Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines and CAP 437 Standards for Offshore Helicopter Landing Areas, where applicable. The final Mona Array Array layout will include two lines of orientation for SAR purposes – this is secured within the draft DCO and the deemed marine license. Further measures relating to lighting, marking and notification will be designed and constructed in accordance with relevant guidance from: • Trinity House Provision and Maintenance of Local Aids to Navigation Marking Offshore Renewable Energy Installations • MCA Offshore Renewable Energy Installations: Requirements, Guidance and Operational Considerations for Search and Rescue and Emergency Response.

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			Appropriate marking, lighting and aids to navigation will be employed during the construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning phases as appropriate to ensure the safety of all parties. Appropriate lighting, in line with MCA guidance will ensure the offshore structures are visible for search and rescue and emergency response procedures. Notification is dealt with in with standard industry practice. Further details regarding mitigation are available in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1).
Secretary of State decision making	5.5.49	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that the effects on meteorological radars, civil and military aerodromes, aviation technical sites and other defence assets or operations have been addressed by the applicant and that any necessary assessment of the proposal on aviation, NSWWS or defence interests has been carried out.	The assessment of civil and military aviation radar is provided in Volume 8, Annex 1.1 Aviation and Radar Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.1.1). Other aviation and defence interests are discussed in the establishment of the baseline section in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1) Assessment of the Met Office radar was scoped out as the Mona Array Area is outwith any meteorological radar safeguarded areas. Accordingly, during scoping the Planning Inspectorate agreed that given the distance of the Mona Offshore Wind Project from meteorological radar stations, this matter could be scoped out.
	5.5.50	In particular, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the proposal has been designed, where possible, to minimise adverse impacts on the operation and safety of aerodromes and that realistically achievable mitigation is carried out on existing surveillance systems such as radar / tracking technologies. It is incumbent on Operators of aerodromes to regularly review the possibility of agreeing to make reasonable changes to operational procedures.	An assessment has been completed and is included in the IFP within Volume 8, Annex 1.1 Aviation and Radar Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.1.1). Mitigation of aviation radar systems was the subject of engagement with the mitigation principles for each affected radar included in the assessment of effects. The affected aerodrome and radar operators continue to be engaged with to ensure that proposed, and developing mitigation is acceptable and is agreed by operators.

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	5.5.51	When assessing the necessity, acceptability, and reasonableness of operational changes to aerodromes, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that they have the necessary information regarding the operational procedures along with any demonstrable risks or harm of such changes, taking into account the cases put forward by all parties. When making such a judgement in the case of military aerodromes, the Secretary of State should have regard to interests of defence and national security.	The assessment of aviation flight patterns is provided in the IFP within Volume 8, Annex 1.1 Aviation and Radar Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.1.1). The affected aerodrome and radar operators (civil and military) continue to be engaged with to ensure that proposed, and developing mitigation is, acceptable and is agreed by operators. Agreed, regulatory, contractual, and technical (where interested) information will be available in regard to mitigation in respect of civil and military operations (including military consideration on mitigation with regard to national security).
	5.5.52	In the case of meteorological radars, the Secretary of State should consider the extent to which the provision of weather and flood warnings is compromised.	Meteorological radar is considered within Volume 8, Chapter 1.1 Aviation and Radar Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.1.1). The assessment of effects to Met Office radar was scoped out as the Mona Array Area is outwith any meteorological radar safeguarded areas. Accordingly, during scoping the Planning Inspectorate agreed that given the distance of the Mona Offshore Wind Project from meteorological radar stations, this matter could be scoped out.
	5.5.53	If there are conflicts between the government's energy and transport policies and military interests in relation to the application, the Secretary of State should expect the relevant parties to have made appropriate efforts to work together to identify realistic and pragmatic solutions to the conflicts. In so doing, the parties should seek to protect the aims and interests of the other parties as far as possible, recognising simultaneously the evolving landscape in terms of the UK's energy security and the need to tackle climate change, which necessitates the installation of wind turbines and the need to maintain air safety and national defence and the national weather warning service.	Details of the consultation undertaken with the military authority is provided in the consultation table (Table 1.9) within Volume 4, Chapter 1: Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1).
	5.5.54 – 5.5.55	There are statutory requirements concerning lighting to tall structures. Where lighting is	The consideration of the fitment of aeronautical lighting is considered as measures adopted as part of the Project and is provided in Volume 4,

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		requested on structures that goes beyond statutory requirements by any of the relevant aviation and defence consultees, the Secretary of State should be satisfied of the necessity of such lighting taking into account the case put forward by the consultees. The effect of such lighting on the landscape and ecology may be a relevant consideration. Lighting must also be designed in such a way as to ensure that there is no glare or dazzle to pilots and/or ATC, aerodrome ground lighting is not obscured and that any lighting does not diminish the effectiveness of aeronautical ground lighting and cannot be confused with aeronautical lighting Lighting may also need to be compatible with night vision devices for military low flying purposes.	Chapter 1 Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Referfence F4.1). The consideration of the fitment of aviation lighting is provided in Table 1.19 of the Aviation and Radar chapter; in line with the requirements of the Civil Aviation Publication (CAP 3930), the Air Navigation Order 2022, CAP 764 CAA Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requirements. The draft DCO also contains a requirement securing aviation lighting in Schedule 2, Part 3.
Coastal Change			
Applicant Assessment	5.6.10	Where relevant, applicants should undertake coastal geomorphological and sediment transfer modelling to predict and understand impacts and help identify relevant mitigating or compensatory measures.	An assessment on coastal processes has been undertaken in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1) and an assessment on geomorphology has been undertaken in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). It is concluded that there will be no significant effects arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on shoreline features and beach morphology.
	5.6.11	The ES (see Section 4.3) should include an assessment of the effects on the coast, tidal rivers and estuaries. In particular, applicants should assess: • the impact of the proposed project on coastal processes and geomorphology, including by taking account of potential impacts from climate change. If the development will have an impact on coastal processes the applicant must	An assessment on coastal processes has been undertaken in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1) and an assessment on geomorphology has been undertaken in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). The project design detailed in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the Environmental Statement (F.1.3) commits to the installation of export cables via trenchless techniques under the intertidal area from

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		demonstrate how the impacts will be managed to minimise adverse impacts on other parts of the coast • the implications of the proposed project on strategies for managing the coast as set out in Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) (which are designed to identify the most sustainable approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risks from short to long term and are long term non-statutory plans which set out the agreed high-level objective for coastal flooding and erosion management for each SMP area), any relevant Marine Plans, River Basin Management Plans, and capital programmes for maintaining flood and coastal defences and Coastal Change Management Areas • the effects of the proposed project on marine ecology, biodiversity, protected sites and heritage assets • how coastal change could affect flood risk management infrastructure, drainage and flood risk • the effects of the proposed project on maintaining coastal recreation sites and features • the vulnerability of the proposed development to coastal change, taking account of climate change, during the project's operational life and any decommissioning period.	below MLWS, where the exit pits will be located, to onshore. Thus preventing impacts to intertidal and surrounding habitats and negating the requirement for cable protection in the intertidal region. Potential impacts of dredging activities have been assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1) section 1.9. The assessment is supported by numerical modelling studies provided in the Volume 6, Annex 1.1: Physical Processes Technical Report (Document Reference F6.1.1). The modelling studies and assessment were undertaken in consultation with JNCC, Natural England, NRW, MMO and Cefas as detailed within the Consultation Report (Document Reference E.3). It is concluded that there will be no significant effects arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on shoreline features and beach morphology. The effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on marine ecology, biodiversity and protected sites in relation to the coast are considered in Volume 2 Chapter 2 Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2), Chapter 3 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3), Chapter 4 Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) and Volume 3 Onshore Chapter 3 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) and the ISAA (Document Reference E1.2 and E1.3). In the context of the coast, heritage assets are considered in the Onshore Chapter 5 Historic Environment (Document Reference F3.5). Again, the assessment concludes that no significant effects are likely. Similarly, flood risk is considered in Volume 3, Chapter 2 Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference F3.2) and it is concluded that coastal change associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project would not adversely affect flood risk management infrastructure, drainage or flood risk. The potential effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on maintaining coastal recreation sites and features is considered in Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land Use and Recreation (Document Reference F3.7). The assessment concludes that there will be no significant effects as a result of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on the use of recreational resources, including the coastal area during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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	5.6.12	For any projects involving dredging or deposit of any substance or object into the sea, the applicant should consult the MMO and Historic England, or the NRW in Wales. Where a project has the potential to have a major impact in this respect, this is covered in the technology specific NPSs. For example, EN-4 looks further at the environmental impacts of dredging in connection with Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) tanker deliveries to LNG import facilities.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project has consulted on the required dredging and deposition with the MMO and NRW through the evidence plan process and with Historic England through the Archaeology Heritage Forum- offshore (See the Technical Engagement Plan (Document Reference E4)). Offshore dredging and deposits from the Mona Offshore Wind Project are considered in the offshore technical chapters of the Environmental Statement (Volume 2) and no major impacts are predicted.
	5.6.13	The applicant should be particularly careful to identify any effects of physical changes on the integrity and special features of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). These could include MCZs, habitat sites including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas with marine features, Ramsar Sites, Sites of Community Importance, and SSSIs with marine features. Applicants should also identify any effects on the special character of Heritage Coasts.	Impacts on MPAs and other habitats sites are considered in the ISAA (Document Reference E1.2 and E1.3) and the Marine Conservation Zone Screening Report (Document Reference E2). Potential impacts on European sites are considered in the ISAA (Document References E1.2 and E1.3). The ISAA concludes that there will be no adverse effect on integrity of any European site as a result of the Mona Offshore Wind Project acting alone or in-combination with other plans/projects. Potential impacts on MCZs are considreed in the Marine Conservation Zone Screening Report (Document Reference E2). The assessments conclude that there is no significant risk of the Mona Offshore Wind Project hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for any MCZ and a Stage 1 MCZ assessment is not required for any MCZ for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Mona Offshore Wind Project does not affect any Heritage Coasts.
Mitigation	5.6.15	Applicants should propose appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse physical changes to the coast, in consultation with the MMO, the EA or NRW, LPAs, other statutory consultees, Coastal Partnerships and other coastal groups, as it considers appropriate. Where this is not the case, the Secretary of State should consider what	The Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10) sets out all measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These measures have been discussed during consultation and adopted as part of the relevant assessments of Physical Processes within the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1). Such measures include scour protection, cable burial where possible, and cable protection.

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		appropriate mitigation requirements might be attached to any grant of development consent.	Consultation was undertaken using the Evidence Plan process with Expert Working Group (EWG) meetings held at various stages through the EIA process. Consultees included Natural England, MMO, JNCC, Environment Agency, NRW and Cefas. It is concluded that there will be no significant effects arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on physical processes due to the measures adopted therefore further measures are not required.
Dust, Odour, Artificial Light, Smoke, Steam and Insect Infestation			
Applicant assessment	5.7.5 – 5.7.7	The applicant should assess the potential for insect infestation and emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke, and artificial light to have a detrimental impact on amenity, as part of the ES. In particular, the assessment provided by the applicant should describe: • the type, quantity and timing of emissions • aspects of the development which may give rise to emissions • premises or locations that may be affected by the emissions • effects of the emission on identified premises or locations • measures to be employed in preventing or mitigating the emissions. The applicant is advised to consult the relevant local planning authority and, where appropriate, the EA about the scope and methodology of the assessment.	Impacts from dust during construction are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 10: Air Quality of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.10). Artificial light emissions are considered in Volume 3: Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3) and Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.6). Given the nature of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, there is limited potential for impacts to arise from insect infestation, odour, steam and smoke. The Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26) sets out measures to manage impacts during construction including dust and artificial light.
Mitigation	5.7.9	Construction should be undertaken in a way that reduces emissions, for example the use of low emission mobile plant during the construction, and demolition phases as appropriate, and consideration should be given to making these	The Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26) is secured through Requirement 9 of the draft DCO (Document Reference C1) and will include measures to reduce emissions from mobile plant during the construction phase. It also includes an Outline Dust Management Plan (Document Reference J26.2).

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		mandatory in Development Consent Order requirements.	
Flood Risk			
Applicant assessment	5.8.13 – 5.8.21	A site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Zones B and C in Wales. In Flood Zone 1 in England or Zone A in Wales, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving: • sites of 1 hectare or more • land which has been identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems • land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future • land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water) • where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems. This assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account. The minimum requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) are outlined. Development (including construction works) will need to account for any existing watercourses and flood and coastal erosion risk management structures or features, or any land likely to be needed for future structures or features so as to ensure:	A site-specific flood risk assessment has been undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project Project including the Mona Onshore Development Area, including for the permanent infrastructure at the Onshore Substation. The Flood Consequence Assessment (FCA) is reported in Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood Consequences Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1) and has been undertaken in line with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 11, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15. The characterisation of the flood risk baseline has been informed by NRW Flood Risk Mapping and takes into account climate change allowance based on UKCP09 and emerging UKCP18 research data (noting that the current Welsh guidance have not updated their climate change projections to incorporate UKCP18 data yet). The Mona Landfall area is located within Zones C1/C2 and as such was subject to the Justification Test which is considered to be passed. The remainder of the Mona Onshore Development Area is located within Zones A and B and as such, the Justification Test was not required for the remainder of the Mona Onshore Development Area (including the Mona Onshore Substation). The Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) was used to inform an appropriate Flood Management Plan (Document Reference J.26.7), which forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J.26). The likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project with respect to hydrology and flood risk are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and flood risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2). which is supported by the following documentation: • Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood consequences assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). • Volume 7, Annex 2.2: Surface watercourses and NRW flood zones of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.2).

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		• Access, clearances and sufficient land are retained to enable their maintenance, repair, operation, and replacement, as necessary • Their standard of protection is not reduced • Their condition or structural integrity is not reduced. Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions before the official pre-application stage of the NSIP process with the EA or NRW, and, where relevant, other bodies such as Lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, sewerage undertakers, navigation authorities, highways authorities and reservoir owners and operators. Such discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the information that will be required by the Secretary of State to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. The Secretary of State should advise applicants to undertake these steps where they appear necessary but have not yet been addressed. If the EA, NRW or another flood risk management authority has reasonable concerns about the proposal on flood risk grounds, the applicant should discuss these concerns with the EA or NRW and take all reasonable steps to agree ways in which the proposal might be amended, or additional information provided, which would satisfy the authority's concerns. The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account. Where it is not possible to	• Volume 7, Annex 2.3: Surface water abstraction licences, discharge consents and pollution incidents of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.3). • Volume 7, Annex 2.4: Water Framework Directive surface water and groundwater assessment, of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.4). Consultation undertaken pre-application is detailed within the Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement and includes how concerns raised by flood management authorities were addressed. This is presented within Table 2.6 of the document.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		locate development in low-risk areas, the Sequential Test should go on to compare reasonably available sites with medium risk areas and then, only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and medium risk areas, within high-risk areas.	
Secretary of State decision making	5.8.38 – 5.8.39	In addition, the development consent order, or any associated planning obligations, will need to make provision for appropriate operation and maintenance of any SuDS throughout the project's lifetime. Where this is secured through the adoption of any SuDS features, any necessary access rights to property will need to be granted Where relevant, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the most appropriate body is being given the responsibility for maintaining any SuDS, taking into account the nature and security of the infrastructure on the proposed site. Responsible bodies could include, for example the landowner, the relevant lead local flood authority or water and sewerage company (through the Ofwat-approved Sewerage Sector Guidance), or another body, such as an Internal Drainage Board.	The drainage strategy for the Mona Onshore Substation layout has been included as part of the DCO application (Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy – Document Reference J27). Proposed attenuation basin search areas have been identified (see Volume 7, Annex 17.1: Flood Consequences Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1)) that will provide sufficient attenuation storage for 1 in 100 year plus a climate change worst case storm event. Drainage provisions will be set out in an agreement with the relevant SuDS/SAB authority. The Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy (Document Reference J27) includes details of the body responsible for the maintenance of SuDS within the Mona Onshore Substation.
	5.8.41 – 5.8.42	Energy projects should not normally be consented within Flood Zone 3b, or Zone C2 in Wales, or on land expected to fall within these zones within its predicted lifetime. This may also apply where land is subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water). However, where essential energy infrastructure has to be located in such areas, for operational reasons, they should only be consented if the development will not result in a net loss of floodplain storage, and will not impede water flows. Exceptionally, where an increase in flood risk elsewhere cannot be avoided or wholly mitigated,	The Mona Onshore Substation and the majority of the Mona Proposed Onshore Development Area is located entirely within Zone A (Volume 7, Annex 17.1: Flood Consequences Assessment of the Environmental Statement – Document Reference F7.2.1) and has been summarised in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk (section 17.8 - Document Reference F3.2). The approach to flood risk and the assessment are described in the Flood Consequences Assessment (Document Reference F7.2.1) and has been summarised in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk (section 17.8 - Document Reference F3.2).

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		the Secretary of State may grant consent if they are satisfied that the increase in present and future flood risk can be mitigated to an acceptable and safe level and taking account of the benefits of, including the need for, nationally significant energy infrastructure as set out in Part 3 above. In any such case the Secretary of State should make clear how, in reaching their decision, they have weighed up the increased flood risk against the benefits of the project, taking account of the nature and degree of the risk, the future impacts on climate change, and advice provided by the EA or NRW and other relevant bodies.	A localised area of the Mona Onshore Substation is shown to be at low risk from surface water flooding and appropriate mitigation measures are outlined within Flood Consequences Assessment.
Historic Environment			
Applicant Assessment	5.9.9 – 5.9.10	The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA and describe these along with how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in the ES (see Section 4.3). This should include consideration of heritage assets above, at, and below the surface of the ground. Consideration will also need to be given to the possible impacts, including cumulative, on the wider historic environment. The assessment should include reference to any historic landscape or seascape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing impacts relevant to the proposed project. As part of the ES the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage assets and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a	All potential impacts to marine archaeology receptors have been described and assessed within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Marine Archaeology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9). Volume 2, Chapter 9 Marine Archaeology Chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9) includes an Cumulative Effects Assessment and considers the potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to have effects on the Historic Seascape Character of the development area. All potential impacts to terrestrial heritage receptors have been described and assessed within Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic Environment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.5). This includes a Cumulative Effects Assessment. A separate settings assessment of terrestrial heritage receptors is presented in Volume 7, Annex 5.6: Historic Environment Settings Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.5.6) and summarised in Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic Environment (Document Reference F3.5). The Historic Environment chapter has used data held by HE and Cadw in its assessment.

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		minimum, the applicant should have consulted the relevant Historic Environment Record (or, where the development is in English or Welsh waters, Historic England or Cadw) and assessed the heritage assets themselves using expertise where necessary according to the proposed development's impact.	Consultation and engagement has continued throughout the EIA process, allowing for discussion of survey methodologies and responses to matters raised by interested parties. A summary of key consultation issues raised in relation to the historic environment is provided within Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic Environment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.5).
	5.9.12 – 5.9.13	The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents. Studies will be required on those heritage assets affected by noise, vibration, light and indirect impacts, the extent and detail of these studies will be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected. The applicant is encouraged, where opportunities exist, to prepare proposals which can make a positive contribution to the historic environment, and to consider how their scheme takes account of the significance of heritage assets affected. This can include, where possible: • enhancing, through a range of measures such a sensitive design, the significance of heritage assets or setting affected • considering where required the development of archive capacity which could deliver significant public benefits • considering how visual or noise impacts can affect heritage assets, and whether there may be opportunities to enhance access to, or interpretation, understanding and appreciation of, the heritage assets affected by the scheme	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Marine Archaeology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9) includes an assessment of indirect impacts, including sediment disturbance and distribution and alteration of sediment transport regimes on marine heritage assets. The potential effects have been assessed as not significant in EIA terms following the implementation of measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. For direct impacts measures includes establishing AEZs and TAEZs around all known archaeology receptors of significance and any receptor identified as having potential archaeological significance. Indirect effects have been assessed as having a low magnitude of impact based on the results of physical processes modelling and adopted as part of the Project such as the development and implementation of a PAD, which will ensure any archaeological material uncovered by indirect impacts is appropriately protected and recorded. The measures adopted as part of the project include the ongoing monitoring of AEZs, where required, in order to ensure the appropriateness of the AEZs and also provide data to contribute to the understanding of the marine archaeology of the development area. Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic Environment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.5) also includes assessment of direct and indirect impacts. The design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project has been adjusted to reduce impacts on heritage assets wherever possible. Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic Environment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.5) concludes that there could likely be significant effects arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project in relation to the historic environment. These effects (loss of, or harm to,

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			buried archaeological remains and deposits of geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental interest, and loss of, or harm to, above ground historic assets) will only occur during the construction phase. These effects will be mitigated by avoidance wherever possible but where direct impacts on buried archaeological they cannot be avoided through scheme design, programmes of further investigation will be undertaken ahead of and during construction. This will serve to offset the effects. The only significant effect arising from the construction and operations and maintenance of the Onshore Substation relates to the setting of the Grade II listed Pentre Meredydd. This will be mitigated via the proposed landscape planting scheme around the substation site which is set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22).
Landscape and Visual			
Applicant assessment	5.10.16	The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.	The landscape and visual assessment, including an assessment of cumulative effects, is presented in Volume 3, Chapter 7: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.7). Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.8) includes as seascape and visual assessment. Guidance documents used in the assessments are set out in in these chapters and explained in detail within Volume 7, Annex 6.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources Impact Assessment Methodology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.6.4).
	5.10.17	The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development	The existing seascape and landscape character and assessments are described in Volume 6, Annex 8.2: Seascape and Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.6.2). Relevant planning policy used to inform the assessment is outlined in Volume 6, Annex 8.1: Seascape and Visual Resources Legislation and

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		documents in England and local development plans in Wales.	Planning Policy Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.8.1). National policy considered is summarised in Tables 8.2 and 8.3 of the Seascape and Visual Resources chapter (Document Reference F2.8) and Tables 6.2 and 6.3 of the Volume 3, Chapter 7: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.
	5.10.18	For seascapes, applicants should consult the Seascape Character Assessment and the Marine Plan Seascape Character Assessments, and any successors to them.	Volume 7, Annex 6.2: Seascape and Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.6.2) also refers to the Seascape Character Assessment for the Northwest Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas (Marine Management Organisation, 2018) in addition to the National Seascape Assessment for Wales (NRW, 2015).
	5.10.19	The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.	Specific consideration has been given to the siting and design of the onshore substation at early stages within the design process to mitigate adverse effects and to enhance the landscape. Commitments on the height and footprint of the onshore substation have been included in project design to minimise negative effects. This is detailed in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Document Reference J22) has been submitted with the application and outlines the applicant's approach to creating opportunities for landscape enhanacements
	5.10.20 – 5.10.22	The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas. The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including	Assessment of effects on landscape components, character, views and visual amenity (including light pollution) during construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning are assessed in section 6.10 of Volume 3, Chapter 7: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement. The onshore substation will be visible from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape. The indirect landscape impacts and direct visual impacts are documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: International and Nationally Designated Landscapes Study of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.8.5).

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		on dark skies, local amenity, and nature conservation. The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects of noise and light pollution, and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, how these will be minimised.	The landscape and visual impacts (including light pollution) are summarised in sections 6.10 and 6.11 of the Volume 3, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement. Potential effects from noise pollution are assessed in Volume 3, Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration of the Environmetnal Statement. Overall, it is concluded that there may be the following effects arising from the onshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project: • Temporary effects on those LANDMAP Aspect Areas directly affected by the construction works at the landfall and along the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor • Temporary and permanent effects on the LANDMAP Aspect Areas as a result of the Onshore Substation during the construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The effects during the operations and maintenance phase will lessen as the landscape mitigation establishes. These effects would be local in extent (arising due to the change in character of agricultural fields to energy infrastructure). The effects on adjacent and more distant Aspect Areas would not be significant • Temporary effects on views gained by people using the beach and PRoW as a result of the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor and landfall construction activities • Temporary and short-term effects on views gained by people using the PRoW network near the Mona onshore substation site during construction and at completion, but reducing in significance during the operations and maintenance phase, as the landscape mitigation proposals mature. No significant permanent visual effects are predicted by Year 15, once the landscape proposals have become established. No significant landscape effects are predicted on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape special qualities or on the two SLAs as a result of the landfall works, the Mona onshore cable corridor or the Mona onshore substation
Applicant assessment	5.10.24	Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets	Specific consideration has been given to the siting and design of the onshore substation at early stages within the design process to mitigate adverse effects and to enhance the landscape. This is detailed in

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
		where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality.	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Document Reference J22) has been submitted with the application and outlines the applicants approach to creating opportunities for landscape enhanacements.
	5.10.25	In considering visual effects it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on sensitive receptors. This may assist the Secretary of State in judging the weight they should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development.	The Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm onshore cable corridor and onshore substation (approximately 1 km to the north of the Mona onshore substation) have been permitted, as part of the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Development Consent Order. Existing infrastructure (such as National Grid, Gwynt Y Môr and Bodelwyddan Substations and related infrastructure) has been considered in the visual effect baseline contained within Volume 7, Annex 6.2: Seascape and landscape character baseline technical report (Document Reference F7.6.2) and Volume 7 Annex 6.3: Visual baseline technical report - onshore development (Document Reference F7.6.3).
Land Use, Including Open Space, Green Infrastructure, and Green Belt			
Applicant assessment	5.11.8	The ES (see Section 4.3) should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan. The assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the preferred scheme and its likely impacts on such receptors. For developments on previously developed land, the applicant should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination and how it is proposed to address this.	Existing and proposed land uses are identified and assessed in Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land Use and Recreation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.7) Existing and proposed land uses located within the Mona Onshore Development Area are identified in section 7.4 of the chapter which is supported by the Published Soil and Agricultural Land Classification Data Technical Report (Document Reference F7.7.1) and the Published Recreational Resources Plan Technical Report (Document Reference F7.7.3). Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to mitigate impacts on existing and proposed land uses within the land use and recreation study area are considered in Section 7.7 of the chapter and the likely significant effects are considered in Section 7.8 of the chapter. The assessment of land use and recreation determined that there would be no significant effects on existing or proposed land uses during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Project.

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			Measures included as part of the Project to mitigate potential effects on recreational resources, including Public Rights of Way, National Trails, and other rights of access are set out in the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Strategy (Document Reference J27). Potential effects of the Project with respect to land contamination are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). That assessment determined that there would be no significant effects as a result of contaminated land during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
	5.11.9 – 5.11.11	Applicants will need to consult the local community on their proposals to build on existing open space, sports or recreational buildings and land. Taking account of the consultations, applicants should consider providing new or additional open space including green and blue infrastructure, sport or recreation facilities, to substitute for any losses as a result of their proposal. When considering proposals for green infrastructure, Applicant's should refer to the Green Infrastructure Framework. Applicants should use any up-to-date local authority assessment or, if there is none, provide an independent assessment to show whether the existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land is surplus to requirements. During any pre-application discussions with the applicant the LPA should identify any concerns it has about the impacts of the application on land use, having regard to the development plan and relevant applications and including, where relevant, whether it agrees with any independent assessment that the land is surplus to requirements.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project does not include any proposals to build on or occupy existing open space, sports or recreational buildings and land. Notwithstanding, tatutory and non-statutory consultation has taken place with relevant Local Authorities, including the local community at several intervals during the pre-application stage of the DCO application process. Further detail regarding consultation undertaken to date is provided in the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3).

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	5.11.12	Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5).	The Published Soil and Agricultural Land Classification Data Technical Report (Document Reference F7.7.1) includes information on the best and most versatile agricultural land. The potential impacts on best and most versatile agricultural land during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are considered in in Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land Use and Recreation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.7). The Applicant has sought to minimise impacts on best and most versatile agricultural land and, as such, the assessment concludes that there would be no significant effects on best and most versatile agricultural land during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Project. In addition, measures to avoid and minimise impacts to soils and maintain the quality of agricultural land during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are provided in the Outline Soil Management Plan (Document Reference J26.8).
	5.11.13 – 5.11.14	Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil health and protect and improve soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed. Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination.	The Published Soil and Agricultural Land Classification Data Technical Report (Document Reference F7.7.1) includes information on the best and most versatile agricultural land. The potential impacts on best and most versatile agricultural land during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are considered in in Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land Use and Recreation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.7). The Applicant has sought to minimise impacts on best and most versatile agricultural land and, as such, the assessment determined concludes that there would be no significant effects on best and most versatile agricultural land during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Project. In addition, measures to avoid and minimise impacts to soils and maintain the quality of agricultural land during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are provided in the Outline Soil Management Plan (Document Reference J26.8).

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	5.11.15 – 5.11.16	Developments should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing developments from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.	The potential effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project with respect to soil, air, water and noise and land stability have been considered within Volume 3, Chapter 7: Land Use and Recreation (Document Reference F3.7), Chapter 10: Air Quality (Document Reference F3.10), Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference F3.2) and Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration (Document Reference F3.9) of the Environmental Statement respectively. Each chapter sets out suitable mitigation measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to avoid or reduce potential effects on soil, air, water and noise or land stability during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase. Taking measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project into account, no significant adverse effects are anticipated with respect to soil, air, water, noise and land stability during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity interests have been considered as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, as reported in Section 3.8 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3), with enhancements proposed as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) and Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7).
	5.11.17	Applicants should ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination.	Ground conditions are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.1). The assessment determined that there would be no significant effects on ground conditions, land stability and contamination during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Mitigation	5.11.27	Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible. In the EIP, the Government committed to increase the tree canopy and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area of	Tree retention and mitigion is discussed in the arboricultual assessment set out within the Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference F7.6.6) and an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Document Reference J22) has been submitted with

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		England by 2050. The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity, and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long-term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured.	the application.Overall net benefit to biodiviersty will be delivered as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project as descibred in the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of that document confirms that the onshore ecological mitigation measures include: • Re-instatement of hedgerows; • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation; and • Woodland planting. In terms of the Government target to increase total tree and woodland cover to 16.5% of land area by 2050, the Applicant has committed to avoiding areas of woodland as part of the design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. In addition, buffer areas and tree protection plans are proposed to ensure areas of ancient woodland and retained trees are protected during the construction phase. Where existing trees are lost during construction, these would be compensated for via planting proposals set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22), which include the creation of woodland belts and tree planting. It is considered that, following the implementation of the the Mona Offshore Wind Project would contribute to this target. Current calculations as referenced in Table J2.1.1 at the end of this NPS Tracker show that in terms of percentage, the Mona Offshore Wind Project provides an 18.8% increase in tree canopy cover within the onshore part of the DCO application boundary.
Noise and Vibration			
Applicant assessment	5.12.6 – 5.12.9	Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment: • a description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts, including the identification of any distinctive tonal characteristics, if the noise is	Onshore, the impacts of noise for onshore receptors have been assessed in Volume 3, Chapter 9 Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.9). This chapter has assessed the Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) and any measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. A baseline sound survey has been undertaken to characterise the existing acoustic environment and obtain representative background

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		impulsive, whether the noise contains particular high or low frequency or temporal characteristics of the noise • identification of noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive areas that may be affected • the characteristics of the existing noise environment • a prediction of how the noise environment will change with the proposed development - in the shorter term, such as during the construction period - in the longer term, during the operating life of the infrastructure - at particular times of the day, evening and night (and weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of year • an assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise-sensitive receptors, including an assessment of any likely impact on health and quality of life well-being where appropriate, and noise-sensitive areas • if likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of underwater or subterranean noise • all reasonable steps taken to mitigate and minimise potential adverse effects on health and quality of life The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact. Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation.	sound levels at these receptors and inform an assessment of the operational noise sources in line with the British Standard guidance. Full details of this survey are provided in Volume 7, Annex 9.1: Baseline Sound Survey of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.9.1), with the representative levels derived presented in Table 9.15 of Volume 3, Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference 3.9). The noise generating aspects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases have been identified along with any potential noise and vibration impacts. Assessments have been undertaken in line with following guidance: • 'Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites' – Part 1: Noise' • 'Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites' – Part 2: Vibration • 'Methods for rating and assessing commercial and industrial sound' Full details of the construction activities and associated sources can be found in section 9.9 of Volume 3 Chapte 9: Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.9) and Volume 7, Annex 9.2: Construction Noise and Vibrationof the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.9.2). Noise and vibration control measures are outlined in the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Document J26.3) forming part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26) which will be secured via Requirement 9 of the DCO to ensure the construction noise and vibration thresholds are not exceeded. A list of the proposed operational noise sources associated with the Mona Onshore Substation can be found in Volume 7, Annex 9.3: Operational Noise of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.9.3). An assessment of the potential impacts at receptors during the most affected operational period (night-time) is provided in section 9.9 of Volume 3, Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement (Document F3.9), with full details of the methodology and results presented in Volume 7, Annex 9.3: Operational Noise of the

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		Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance. Further information on assessment of particular noise sources may be contained in the technology specific NPSs. In particular, for renewables (EN-3) and electricity networks (EN-5) there is assessment guidance for specific features of those technologies. For the prediction, assessment and management of construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies.	Environmental Statement(Document Reference F7.9.3). Operational noise criteria will be agreed with the relevant stakeholders and secured via Requirement 17 of the DCO. Details of indicative mitigation measures which may be adopted as part of the design to ensure compliance are also outlined in Volume 7, Annex 9.3: Operational Noise of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.9.3). Mitigation measures are presented in Table 9.24 of the Noise and Vibration Chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.9). These include: • The orientation and layout of the Mona Onshore Substation will be designed to minimise noise levels at nearby receptors • Quieter equipment will be selected, where available and practicable (e.g. the inclusion of harmonic filters in the plant strategy) and mitigation measures such as acoustic barriers and enclosures will be specified where necessary • The main equipment will either be housed within a single or multiple buildings, in an open space or a combination of buildings and open space. There may also be some smaller buildings required to house components such as smaller equipment and control rooms.
	5.12.11 – 5.12.12	In the marine environment, applicants should consider noise impacts on protected species, as well as other noise sensitive receptors both at the individual project level and in-combination with other marine activities. Applicants should submit a detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan as part of any development plan, including the use of noise mitigation and noise abatement technologies during construction and operation.	Offshore, the underwater sound impacts have been assessed within Volume 5, Annex 3.1: Underwater sound technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F5.3.1) and within Volume 2, Chapter 3 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) and Volume 2, Chapter 4 Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) of the Environmental Statement. All relevant protected receptors which could be impacted by sound have been identified, and assessed alone, and cumulatively. For marine mammals, behavioural disturbance as a result of underwater sound due to piling to bottlenose dolphin when considered for the Mona Offshore Wind Project cumulatively with projects, plans and activities were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance – an underwater sound management strategy will investigate a range of mitigation options and will be agreed with stakeholders when the final project design is known.

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			For fish and shellfish ecology, sound impacts from piling both for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and cumulatively with other projects, plans and activities, with potential to disrupt spawning of herring were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance – an underwater sound management strategy will secure appropriate mitigation to minimise any cumulative impacts.
Socio-economic impacts			
Applicant assessment	5.13.2 – 5.13.7	Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES (see Section 4.3). The applicant is strongly encouraged to engage with relevant local authorities during early stages of project development so that the applicant can gain a better understanding of local or regional issues and opportunities. The applicant's assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include: • the creation of jobs and training opportunities. Applicants may wish to provide information on the sustainability of the jobs created, including where they will help to develop the skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero • the contribution to the development of low-carbon industries at the local and regional level as well as nationally • the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities • any indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure, in particular in relation	Potential impacts at local and regional levels have been assessed within Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3). Potential socio-economic impacts are assessed within sections 3.9 and 3.10 at both national (Wales, UK) and sub-national (North Wales, North West England) levels (where relevant). Statutory consultation has been carried out with all relevant local authorities, and invites to non-statutory consultation sessions have been issued to seven local authorities with potential interest in the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Consultation responses from local authorities are set out within Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3). The assessment considers potential economic impacts (employment, GVA, and labour market) impacts, potential social impacts (housing, accommodation and local services), potential tourism impacts, and potential impacts associated with disruption to lifeline ferry services to the Isle of Man. Beneficial offshore economic impacts on employment and GVA are assessed as potentially significant in EIA terms in North Wales during the operations and maintenance phase. All other potential economic, social, and tourism impacts are assessed as not significant in EIA terms. The baseline conditions set out in section 3.5 of Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3) cover the relevant geographies potentially impacted by the project within the relevant planning jurisdiction. The policy review set out in section 3.2 considers how the project's socio-economic impacts correlate with local, regional, and national planning policies.

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		to use of local support services and supply chains • effects (positive and negative) on tourism and other users of the area impacted • the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure. This could change the local population dynamics and could alter the demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work (including community facilities and physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change as a result of the development • cumulative effects - if development consent were to be granted for a number of projects within a region and these were developed in a similar timeframe, there could be some short-term negative effects, for example a potential shortage of construction workers to meet the needs of other industries and major projects within the region Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies. Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example visual impacts considered in Section 5.10 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses. Applicants are encouraged, where possible, to demonstrate that local suppliers have been considered in any supply chain.	Potential linkages with other impacts have been fully considered. Potential effects on tourism are assessed within section 3.9 and section 3.10 of Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3)., which includes consideration of how visual impacts, overnight accommodation demand, and recreation impacts may have an indirect impact on tourism. Potential socio-economic impacts associated with disruption to lifeline ferry services to the Isle of Man (identified within Shipping and Navigation) are assessed within section 3.9 of Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3). As accounted for by paragraphs 4.2.11–4.2.12 of NPS EN-1, there is currently insufficient information at this stage of the application to demonstrate consideration of local suppliers within the supply chain. Potential social impacts are estimated within the Volume 8, Annex 3.1: Socio-economics Technical Impact Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.3.1), which cover potential workforce effects on housing, accommodation. The Applicant has considered the development of an accommodation strategy. With reference to the assessment of potential workforce migration impacts assessed within sub-section 3.9.4 of Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.3). (Document Reference F4.3), negligible impacts are identified during the construction and operations and maintenance phases. As a result, an accommodation strategy is not considered necessary.

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		Applicants should consider developing accommodation strategies where appropriate, especially during construction and decommissioning phases, that would include the need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers if required.	
Traffic and transport			
Applicant assessment	5.14.5 – 5.14.10	If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the applicant's ES (see Section 4.3) should include a transport appraisal. The DfT's Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) and Welsh Governments WelTAG provides guidance on modelling and assessing the impacts of transport schemes. National Highways and Highways Authorities are statutory consultees on NSIP applications including energy infrastructure where it is expected to affect the strategic road network and / or have an impact on the local road network. Applicants should consult with National Highways and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment and mitigation to inform the application to be submitted. The applicant should prepare a travel plan including demand management and monitoring measures to mitigate transport impacts. The applicant should also provide details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public and shared transport to: • reduce the need for parking associated with the proposal; • contribute to decarbonisation of the transport network; • Improve user travel options by offering genuine modal choice.	Volume 3, Chapter 8: Traffic and Transport of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.8) provides an analysis of the impacts on traffic and transport during construction. The chapter considers all relevant potential transport effects during the construction, operations, and decommissioning phases of development. The traffic and transport study area was been established to include all relevant routes along the connecting transport network. The chapter identifies potential transport effects and ways to mitigate them. The mitigation of these impacts forms incorporated mitigation. The Transport Assessment (TA) that has been incorporated into the chapter accords with guidance and best practice and its scope was agreed with the relevant Highway Authorities. In addition, Welsh Government,Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) have been consulted on the potential effects and mitigation relevant to the strategic and local road network. Where appropriate it is expected that movement by sustainable means will be facilitated and encouraged. However, it is recognised that the linear nature of the works, the absence of a fixed permanent work site along the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor and the rural nature of much of the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor may make it difficult to implement a standard travel plan for Mona Onshore Cable Corridor working. Additional transport infrastructure is limited to the provision of a number of mostly temporary construction accesses along the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor. Accesses will be removed where appropriate and where agreed with landowners and the land reinstated when construction is finished. Where accesses are not removed, they will remain in-situ.

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		The assessment should also consider any possible disruption to services and infrastructure (such as road, rail and airports). If additional transport infrastructure is needed or proposed, it should always include good quality walking, wheeling and cycle routes, and associated facilities (changing/storage etc) needed to enhance active transport provision. Applicants should discuss with network providers the possibility of co-funding by government for any third-party benefits. Guidance has been issued which explains the circumstances where this may be possible, although the government cannot guarantee in advance that funding will be available for any given uncommitted scheme at any specified time.	The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference J26.13) sets out public transport and car sharing to consolidate and reduce trips. It also sets out objective routeing for construction HGVs and construction staff to avoid sensitive links and receptors. The measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project relate to the routeing and timing of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements and management of construction staff movement are not expected to require the provision of any new transport infrastructure apart from temporary improvements to Mona Onshore Cable Corridor access points. HGV routes have been identified and restrictions on HGV timing will be proposed if necessary to avoid adverse impact on sensitive receptors, particularly schools.
Water Quality and Resources			
Water Quality and Resources	5.16.2	During the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases, development can lead to increased demand for water, involve discharges to water, and cause adverse ecological effects resulting from physical modifications to the water environment. There may also be an increased risk of spills and leaks of pollutants to the water environment. These effects could lead to adverse impacts on health or on protected species and habitats (see Section 4.3) and could result in surface waters, groundwaters or protected areas failing to meet environmental objectives established under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010.	Potential health effects relating to water are considered in Volume 4, Chapter 4 Human Health of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.4) and informed by Volume 2, Chapter 2 Benthic subtidal ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2) (relating to offshore conditions) and Volume 3, Chapter 2: hydrology and flood risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2) (relating to onshore conditions). Any potential risks to the water environment will be managed through development of, and adherence to, an Environmental Management Plan including a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) which will include planning for accidental spills for the offshore water environment. For onshore and nearshore the Mona Offshore Wind Project would adopt standard best practice spill avoidance and response measures included in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (Document Reference J26). This issue is therefore scoped out on the basis of the anticipated effectiveness of such measures.
Applicant assessment	5.16.3	Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake	The likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on the water environment are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology

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		an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent (see Section 4.3 and 4.10).	and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2), which is supported by the following documentation: • Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood Consequences Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). • Volume 7, Annex 2.2: Surface Watercourses and NRW flood zones of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.2). • Volume 7, Annex 2.3: Surface water abstraction licences, discharge consents and pollution incidents of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.3). • Volume 7, Annex 2.4: Water Framework Directive surface water and groundwater assessment, of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.4). The characterisation of the flood risk baseline and future baseline has been established using the NRW Flood Mapping and Flood Consequence Assessments (FCA), which take into account climate change (see section 2.7.11). An FCA has been undertaken for Mona Onshore Development Area, including for the permanent infrastructure at the Onshore Substation in line with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 11, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 and includes a climate change allowance based on UKCP09 and emerging UKCP18 research data (noting that the current Welsh guidance have not updated their climate change projections to incorporate UKCP18 data yet). Baseline water quality and resources for the hydrology and flood risk study area are described in section 2.4.8. Watercourses in the hydrology and flood risk study area have been identified and information on abstractions, discharges, pollution incidents and water quality has been provided (see Volume 7, Annex 2.3: Surface water abstraction licences, discharge consents and pollution incidents of the Environmental Statement). The impacts on surface watercourses are described in section 2.8 of Volume 7, Annex 2.3: Surface water abstraction licences, discharge consents and pollution incidents of the Environmental Statement. SPZs are referred to in Chapter 1: Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions of the Environmental Statement. However, there are no SPZs within the geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions study area.

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			A review of the WFD classifications for watercourses within the hydrology and flood risk study area has been undertaken. A WFD assessment is presented in Volume 7, Annex 2.4: Water Framework Directive surface water and groundwater assessment, of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.4). A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 18: The assessment within Volume 7, Annex 2.4: Water Framework Directive surface water and groundwater assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.4) considers the potential impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project landward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) during the construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases and is included as a technical Appendix to the Environmental Statement: The overall conclusion of this WFD compliance assessment is that there will be no risk of deterioration in status or the prevention of the achievement of the objectives for the relevant water bodies nor will the objectives of the water dependent protected areas associated with these water bodies be compromised. The Water Framework Directive assessment on coastal waters is presented in Volume 6, Annex 2.2: Water Framework Directive Coastal Waters Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.2.2). A cumulative impact assessment has also been undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement. no sig effects are expected as the outcome of the cumulative assessment. Appropriate mitigation measures are also set out in Table 2.20 and an Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (Document Reference J 26) has been prepared as part of the DCO application.
	5.16.4	The applicant should make early contact with the relevant regulators, including the local authority, the Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation, where appropriate, for relevant licensing and environmental permitting requirements.	Consultations with relevant regulators are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2), which is supported by the following documentation:

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			• Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood consequences assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). • Volume 7, Annex 2.2: Surface watercourses and NRW flood zones of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.2). • Volume 7, Annex 2.3: Surface water abstraction licences, discharge consents and pollution incidents of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.3). • Volume 7, Annex 2.4: Water Framework Directive surface water and groundwater assessment, of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.4). The Other Consents and Licences document (Document Reference J1) sets out any additional anticipated requirements for licensing and environmental permitting.
	5.16.5	Where possible, applicants are encouraged to manage surface water during construction by treating surface water runoff from exposed topsoil prior to discharging and to limit the discharge of suspended solids e.g. from car parks or other areas of hard standing, during operation.	Management of surface water during construction is considered in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2) and Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood consequences assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). Appropriate mitigation measures are also set out in an Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (Document Reference J 26) has been prepared as part of the DCO application.
	5.16.6	Applicants are encouraged to consider protective measures to control the risk of pollution to groundwater beyond those outlined in River Basin Management Plans and Groundwater Protection Zones – this could include, for example, the use of protective barriers.	Protective measures to control risk of pollution to ground waters is considered within in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2) and Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood consequences assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). Appropriate mitigation measures are also set out in Table 2.20 and an Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (Document Reference J26) has been prepared as part of the DCO application.
	5.16.7	The ES should in particular describe:	Points regarding cumulative effects, impacts of climate change, water quality and resources and how these will be impacted by the Mona

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		• the existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges • existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance • existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics • any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas) under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions • how climate change could impact any of the above in the future • any cumulative effects.	Offshore Wind Project are considered in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2), which is supported by the following documentation. • Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood consequences assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). • Volume 7, Annex 2.2: Surface watercourses and NRW flood zones of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.2). • Volume 7, Annex 2.3: Surface water abstraction licences, discharge consents and pollution incidents of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.3). • Volume 7, Annex 2.4: Water Framework Directive surface water and groundwater assessment, of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.4). Appropriate mitigation measures are set out in Table 2.20 of Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and flood risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2) and an Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (Document Reference J 26) has been prepared as part of the DCO application.
Mitigation	5.16.8 – 5.16.10	The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage.	Appropriate mitigation measures are set out in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference F3.2) and an Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) has been prepared as part of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference J26).

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		The risk of impacts on the water environment can be reduced through careful design to facilitate adherence to good pollution control practice. For example, designated areas for storage and unloading, with appropriate drainage facilities, should be clearly marked. The impact on local water resources can be minimised through planning and design for the efficient use of water, including water recycling. If a development needs new water infrastructure, significant supplies or impacts other water supplies, the applicant should consult with the local water company and the EA or NRW.	The Mona Onshore Cable Corridor, Mona 400kV Grid Connection Cable Corridor and the construction site accesses will be designed to minimise land take and to avoid, where possible, impacts on existing drainage networks and features. All major crossings (such as major roads and rail crossings) will be undertaken using trenchless techniques The haul road will be constructed from an engineered fill, with geotextile layers, the material will be granular and semi-permeable of an appropriate standard. The diversion of the ordinary watercourse at the Onshore Substation will be appropriately designed to ensure the existing watercourse capacity is maintained (i.e. conveyance of existing flows without increasing fluvial flood risk upstream). A construction drainage scheme will be designed for both the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor and Onshore Substation work sites. Interceptor drains will be installed prior to the start of the construction so that all existing drainage flows are maintained (i.e. conveyance of existing flows without increasing fluvial flood risk upstream). The drains will also prevent water from the working easement from migrating onto the adjacent land. Interceptor drains will be installed where the haul road crosses water courses or public highways. Preparation of a detailed Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) in accordance with Requirement 9 of the draft DCO will ensure the effective management of environmental impacts during the construction phase of onshore and intertidal elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The detailed CoCP will be in general accordance with the Outline CoCP within the DCO application (Document Reference J26) and include regulatory guidance and industry best practice guidance. Preparation of a detailed Operational Drainage Management Plan for the Onshore Substation will be in general accordance with the Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy (Document Reference J27). It will set out how existing runoff rates to the surrounding water environment will be maintained at pre-development rates.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
			In accordance with Operational Drainage Management Strategy (Document Reference J27) the rate of surface water runoff discharging into local watercourses will be no greater than existing rates for all events up to the 1% AEP (1 in 100 annual chance) plus 40% allowance for climate change. Where practicable the volume of runoff will not increase following development. The detailed Operational Drainage Management Plan will provide the detailed design of the realigned watercourse and will ensure that an 8m buffer is maintained between the banks of the ordinary watercourse and the Onshore Substation. The final proposed levels of the Mona Onshore Substation will be engineered to ensure the flow pathway regime is maintained to convey surface water towards SuDs and existing watercourses. A detailed Construction Method Statement in general accordance with the Outline Construction Method Statement (Document Reference J26.15) will be prepared post-consent. The detailed Construction Method Statement will also include a detailed method statement for watercourse crossings (e.g. for temporary culvert crossings, appropriately sized flume pipes, equal to or greater than the diameter of the flume upstream and to an agreed length, will be placed on or below the hard bed of the watercourse). The watercourse crossing method statement will provide design details for each watercourse crossing location and would be agreed with the relevant authority prior to construction. The provisions of the FRAPs and/or Ordinary Watercourse Consents will be disapplied and incorporated as protected provisions of the DCO. The design of the watercourse crossings will be agreed with the relevant authority. A Decommissioning Plan to ensure the effective management of environmental risk during the decommissioning of the Mona Onshore Substation and removal of the Onshore Cable and 400kV Grid Connection Cable will also be prepared. Decommisioning activities will be controlled via Requirement 20 of the DCO.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-1	Accordance with the NPS
Secretary of State decision making	5.16.16	The Secretary of State should consider proposals to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment and any enhancement measures put forward by the applicant and whether appropriate requirements should be attached to any development consent and/or planning obligations are necessary.	Mitigation measures for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in relation to the water environment are set out above (see paragraph references 5.16.8 – 5.16.10)
	5.16.14 – 5.16.15	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a proposal has regard to the current River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (including regulation 19). The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin Management Plans. The Secretary of State must refuse development consent where a project is likely to cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met. A project may be approved in the absence of a qualifying Overriding Public Interest test only if there is sufficient certainty that it will not cause deterioration or compromise the achievement of good status or good potential. The Secretary of State should also consider the interactions of the proposed project with other plans such as Water Resources Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans.	The requirements of relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017, including regulation 19 have been considered (where relevant) in Volume 3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.2), which is supported by the following documentation: • Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood Consequences Assessment (Document Reference F7.2.1) and • Volume 7, Annex 2.2: Surface Watercourse and NRW flood zones (Document Reference F7.2.2) of the Environmental Statement. Volume 7, Annex 2.4: Water Framework Directive surface water and groundwater assessment (Document Reference F7.2.2) has considered the Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027 and the WFD assessment has been undertaken to demonstrate that the Mona Onshore Development Area is compliant with the requirements of the WFD and the implementing legislation in England and Wales, i.e. Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. The assessment and the proposed mitigation measures have taken into account the requirements of the RBMP, and in particular the environmental objectives of the water bodies affected to ensure all potential impacts on the water environment are mitigated to within acceptable levels. Therefore the achievement of the environmental objectives of the water bodies within the WFD study area will not be compromised as a result of the project activities within the Mona Onshore Development Area.

1.2.3 EN-3 NPS Accordance

Table 1.3: NPS EN-3 Accordance.

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
Introduction			
Background	1.1.7	Applicants should ensure that their applications and any accompanying supporting documents and information are consistent with the instructions and guidance in this NPS, EN-1 and any other NPSs that are relevant to the application in question.	This NPS Tracker provides evidence and a summary of the project to demonstrate that the Mona Offshore Wind Project is consistent with the instructions and guidance in NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5.
Relationship with English and Welsh renewable policies			
Relationship with English and Welsh renewables policies	2.2.1-2.2.2	Policy set out in existing planning guidance in England and, for any proposed project located in Wales, in relevant planning policy and advice issued by the Welsh Government, will provide important information to applicants of nationally significant renewable energy projects. Applicants should take these policies and guidance (including any relevant targets) into account and explain how their proposals fit with guidance or, alternatively, why they depart from them.	Volume 1, Chapter 2 Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2) sets out detail on UK and Welsh renewable policies. Further details of the Mona Offshore Wind Project compliance with UK and Welsh renewable policies and guidance are set out in Sections 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6 of the Planning Statement (Document Reference J2) and Volume 1, Chapter 2 Policy and Legislative Context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2).
Factors influencing site selection and design			
National designations	2.3.6	When considering applications for CNP infrastructure in sites with nationally recognised designations (such as SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Registered Parks and Gardensand World Heritage Sites), the Secretary of State will take as the starting point that the relevant tests in Sections 5.4 and 5.10 of EN-1 have been met, and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the urgent need for this type of infrastructure.	The relevant tests in Sections 5.4 and 5.10 of EN-1 have been met. See relevant sections of Table 1.2 above. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will aim to conserve habitats through a number of measures adopted to reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project including measures to preserve ecologically important features as well as broader measures such as the development of an environmental management plan. These measures have been put in place to take advantage of opportunities to conserve ecological features of conservation interest. The potential effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites for ecological or geological features of conservation

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
			importance have been identified and assessed for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The HRA Stage 1 Screening (Document Reference E1.4) identifies direct or indirect effects on sites which could be affected, and those sites will be assessed in the Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3). With respect to onshore ecology, the likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of ecological importance has been considered in Section 3.9 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Dcoument Reference F3.3). Taking into account mitigation measures adopted as part of the project, the assessment of onshore ecology concluded that there would be no significant effects on nationally recognised designations, including SSSIs during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. With respect to onshore and intertidal ornithology, the likely significant effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of ecological importance has been considered in Section 4.8 of Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.4). Taking into account mitigation measures adopted as part of the Project, the assessment concluded that there would be no significant effects on nationally recognised designations, including the qualifying features of SSSIs during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Seabed Leasing	2.3.10 – 2.3.12	The Crown Estate owns and manages the seabed out to the 12 nm territorial limit in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The seabed around Scotland is managed by Crown Estate Scotland. As well as owning the rights to explore and utilise waters up to 12nm, the Energy Act 2004 gives The Crown Estate rights to issue leases for development beyond the territorial limit and within the REZ.	The Applicant entered into Agreement for Lease with The Crown Estate for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in early 2023.

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
		Applicants must obtain a lease from The Crown Estate or Crown Estate Scotland prior to placing any offshore structures on, or passing cables over, the seabed and its foreshore.	
Marine Licensing	2.3.16	Marine Licences are required for all the marine elements of a proposed offshore development (up to Mean High Water Springs), including associated development such as the cabling, offshore substations that are required, and any other aspects of a development that the appropriate licensing authority, such as the MMO, or NRW may consider licensable under s66 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.	A marine licence is required before carrying out any licensable marine activities under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The marine licence (ML) for activities located in Welsh offshore waters will be deemed under the Development Consent Order (DCO). The deemed ML (dML) will cover works related to the offshore wind farm generation infrastructure (wind turbines, Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), inter-array cables and interconnector cables). A separate, standalone ML will be required for activities which are not wholly outside 12 nautical miles (nm) of the Welsh coast. The standalone ML will cover works associated to the offshore export cables, interconnector cables, OSPs, Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas. The OSPs and interconnector cables are included in both marine licences as it has not yet been determined whether they would be generation or transmission infrastructure.
	2.3.20	It is not possible to deem a Marine Licence as part of the DCO in waters adjacent to Wales up to the 12nm seaward limits of the territorial sea. Welsh Ministers, through NRW, are responsible for issuing and enforcing marine licences for operations in Welsh waters.	
Climate change adaption and resilience			
Offshore Wind	2.4.8	Whilst offshore wind farms will not be affected by flooding, applicants should demonstrate that any necessary land-side infrastructure (such as cabling and onshore substations) will be appropriately resilient to climate-change induced weather phenomena. Similarly, applicants should particularly set out how the proposal would be resilient to storms.	As confirmed in the response to NPS EN-1 requirements in relation to Water Quality and Resources above, a site-specific flood risk assessment, including appropriate allowances for climate change has been undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and is reported in Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood Consequences Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). The Flood Consequences Assessment was used to inform an appropriate Flood Management Plan (Document Reference J26.7), which forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26) such that no significant effects are considered likely in relation to flooding. Baseline and post-construction physical processes were compared alongside extreme storm conditions to consider the wave climate detailed in Volume 6, Annex 1.1: Physical processes technical

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
			report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.1.1), the potential impact on climate change and resielience of the project is considered in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Climate Change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) (section 2.10.7) and Volume 8, Annex 2.2: Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.2.2). A risk assessment has been undertaken, considering the hazard, potential severity of impact on the Mona Offshore Wind Project and its users (including their sensitivity and vulnerability), probability of that impact, and level of influence the project design can have on the risk. This assessment has been informed by worst-case potential climatic conditions in the 2040-2069 time period, based on the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) probabilistic projections for a high-emissions scenario (RCP8.5), in line with relevant IEMA guidance (IEMA, 2020). The assessment of climate risk has accounted for measures included within the Mona Offshore Wind Project in determining a combined risk score. These have been considered across the lifetime of the Project. The climate change assessment work undertaken has considered how/if changes to climatic parameters might exacerbate or alter assessments of effects in a future baseline scenario. No risks to the Mona Offshore Wind Project due to climate change have been identified as significant before mitigation. As such, the effect on the Mona Offshore Wind Project has been determined to be negligible.
Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure			
	2.5.2	Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage.	Landscape and visual amenity has been a primary consideration in the site selection process for the Mona Offshore Wind Project as detailed in Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). A comprehensive landscaping scheme has been proposed to mitigate the impacts to landscape and visual amenity as detailed in Volume 3, Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Resources of the Environmental

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
			Statement (Document Reference F3.6), Design Principles Document (Document Reference J3) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22). Opportunities for co-existence/co-location have been limited by the outcome out the Holistic Network Design process which determined that to most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project is a single radial grid connection. Despite this, where opportunities have arisen the Applicant has explored opportunities for co-location (e.g. sharing operational access to the onshore substation with existing projects). Further details are available in Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). A number of measures have been embedded into the design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, these are detailed in the technical chapters of the Environmental Statement (Volumes 2 to 4) and in particular in Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.6), Design Principles Document (Document Reference J3) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22).
Flexibility in the project details			
	2.6.1 – 2.6.3	Where details are still to be finalised, applicants should explain in the application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised, and the reason why this is the case. Where flexibility is sought in the consent as a result, applicants should, to the best of their knowledge, assess the likely worst-case environmental, social and economic effects of the proposed development to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed. Full guidance on how applicants and the Secretary of State should manage flexibility is set out in Section 4.3 of EN-1.	Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the project design envelope including the elements yet to be finalised, and each topic chapter assessment has taken a MDS approach, which considers the likely worst cast environmental, social and economic effects to ensure that a worst case scenario has been assessed. The Mona Offshore Wind Project EIA process has employed a Rochdale Envelope approach. This approach is consistent with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (Planning Inspectorate, 2018). This provides flexibility, while ensuring all potentially significant effects (positive or adverse) are

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
			assessed within the EIA process and reported in the Environmental Statement.
Offshore Wind			
Applicant Assessment - Factors influencing site selection and design Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment	2.8.14 – 2.8.15	In proposing sites for offshore wind and and/or offshore transmission infrastructure, NSIP applicants should demonstrate that their choice of site takes into account the government's Offshore Energy SEA 4 and any successors to it. The government is undertaking a rolling Offshore Energy SEA programme, including a research programme and data collection to facilitate future strategic and project specific assessments to achieve the 50GW ambitions.	Details of how the site was chosen, including consideration of Energy SEA 431,are presented in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (Document Reference F1.4).
Marine Planning	2.8.16 – 2.8.18	Marine planning currently enables the increasing demands for use of the marine area to be balanced and managed in an integrated way that protects the marine environment whilst supporting sustainable development. Marine plans provide a transparent framework for consistent, evidence-based decision making and should be used by applicants to guide site selection. Marine plans will help applicants understand generic potential impacts of their proposal at an early stage e.g., in relation to other activities, or where there are marine protected areas. Further information is provided in Section 4.5 of EN-1.	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) sets out how the relevant National Policy Statements and marine plans (Welsh National Marine Plan and North West Offshore Marine Plan) have been considered within the site selection process. Whilst there is limited specific reference to consideration of alternatives within the Welsh National Marine Plan the plan outlines that the Welsh Government has considered alternatives to the need for large scale deployment of marine renewable technologies and concluded that there is a strategic need to support the development of marine renewable energy generation The Welsh National Marine Plan specifically recognises the need for offshore wind, in recognition that other technologies such as wave and tidal remain in relative infancy. In addition, the Welsh National Marine Plan Signposting report (Document Reference A5) sets how the Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with the WNMP.
Seabed leasing	2.8.20	The Crown Estate issues leases for offshore wind farms in tendering rounds. Applicants must obtain a lease prior to placing an offshore wind structure on, or passing transmission export cables over, the seabed and its	The Applicant entered into Agreement for Lease with The Crown Estate for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in early 2023.

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
		foreshore (see section 2.3.10 of this NPS for information in seabed leasing and capacity extensions).	
Seabed leasing	2.8.22 – 2.8.24	To date, each offshore wind leasing round has been supported by a plan level HRA, which assesses the impact of the leasing round on protected sites. It should also be noted that aspects of plan level HRAs that remain relevant at the project level mightbe able to be relied upon to inform the project level HRA, reducing the project level effort required and reducing duplication.The assessment serves to provide a better understanding of the potential effects and identify measures which can be put in place to avoid, mitigate, or reduce those significant effects at a plan level. Where an assessment concludes that there will still be an adverse impact, a case for derogation can be considered. This must meet strict legal tests, which includes identifying compensatory measures.	The Plan-Level HRA notes that TCE expects developers to undertake project-specific environmental assessments - including a detailed project-level HRA - as part of their application for development consent. The HRA has been undertaken in the HRA Stage 1 Screening report (Document Reference E1.4), HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 1 – Intro and background (Document Reference E1.1), HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 2 – SAC assessments (Document Reference E1.2), HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 3 – SPA assessments (Document Reference E1.3). TCE's Plan-Level HRA concluded that the possibility of an adverse effect on site integrity as a result of the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 could not be ruled out for two protected sites forming part of the National Site Network. The two protected sites, and relevant features, are: 1) Sandbank features of the Dogger Bank SAC alone and in-combination; and 2) kittiwake feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA for in-combination effects only. It should be noted, however, that the Mona Offshore Wind Project was not identified as a preferred project required to be considered in the Appropriate Assessment by TCE for either of these sites. Therefore, no adverse effect on site integrity was identified for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in the Round 4 Plan-Level HRA.
Wind resource	2.8.28 – 2.8.29	Available wind resource is critical to the economics of a proposed offshore wind farm. To inform their economic modelling applicants may collect wind speed data using an anemometry mast or similar.	Site wind speed data for the Mona Offshore Wind Project has been collected via floating Lidar since March 2022.
Water depth and foundation conditions	2.8.31 – 2.8.33	Water depth, bathymetry and geological conditions are all important considerations for the selection of sites and will affect the design of the foundations of the turbines, the layout of turbines within the site and the siting of the cables that will export the electricity.	Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the project design envelope including the elements yet to be finalised, and each topic specific assessment has assessed the worst case within the design envelope.

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
		The onus is on the applicant to ensure that the foundation design is technically suitable for the seabed conditions and that the application caters for any uncertainty regarding the geological conditions. Whilst the technical suitability of the foundation design is not in itself a matter for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State will need to be satisfied that the foundations will not have an unacceptable adverse effect on marine biodiversity, the physical environment or marine heritage assets.	Most of the effects resulting from the Mona Offshore Wind Project from installation and operation of foundations on marine biodiverstiy, physical environmental and marine heritage are of minor adverse or lower significance, which is not significant in EIA terms. However, measures have been adopted for all moderate significant impacts to reduce the effects to non-significant effects. Therefore the foundations will not have an unacceptable adverse effect on marine biodiversity, the physical environment or marine heritage assets. For completeness, the following impacts are potentially of moderate or higher significance, which is significant in EIA terms: • For marine mammals (Document Reference F2.4), the effects of UXO on harbour porpoise for the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance. Once the number and type of UXOs are identified during pre construction site investigation surveys, further measures will be adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce these effects to being not significant in EIA terms, if required. These measures are within the Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) (Document Reference J21) and Underwater Sound Management Strategy (UWSMS) (Document Reference J16) which are secured with the DCO and expected to be secured as part of the standalone NRW Marine Licence (Document Reference C1). • For marine mammals (Document Reference F2.4), behavioural disturbance as a result of underwater sound due to piling to bottlenose dolphin when considered for the Mona Offshore Wind Project cumulatively with other projects, plans and activities were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance. The underwater sound management strategy will investigate a range of mitigation options to reduce impacts to not significant in EIA terms if possible and will be agreed with stakeholders when the final project design is known. • For fish and shellfish ecology (Document Reference F2.3), sound impacts from piling both for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and cumulatively with other projects, plans and activities, with potential to disrupt spawning of herring were assessed as being of moderate adverse significance – the underwater sound

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
			management strategy will investigate the implementation of noise abatement technology, amongst other further mitigation options to reduce impacts to not significant in EIA terms if possible.
Offshore-onshore connection	2.8.34 - 2.8.36, and 2.8.38 and 2.8.39	As identified in paragraphs 3.3.65 – 3.3.83 and Section 4.11 of EN-1, and Section 2.12 of EN-5, a more co-ordinated approach to offshore-onshore transmission is required. The previous standard approach to offshore-onshore connection involved a radial connection between single wind farm projects and the shore. A coordinated approach will involve the connection of multiple, spatially close, offshore windfarms and other offshore infrastructure, wherever possible as relevant to onshore networks. This will include connections via multi-purpose interconnectors (MPIs), which combine the connection of offshore wind with the function of market to market interconnectors. As part of the transition to more co-ordinated transmission, it is anticipated that some proposals for transmission could be consented separately to those for the windfarm (array) application. For this to occur, an applicant will need to make a request to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State would then decide whether to give direction under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008.	Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), the Mona Offshore Wind Project has engaged with NGESO throughout the Holistic Network Design process to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid and to provide input on environmental and consenting constraints of the Points Of Interconnection (POI) under consideration. The Applicant undertook constraints analysis for six POI in the Irish Sea; Wylfa, Pentir, Bodelwyddan, Connah's Quay, Kirkby and Penwortham. NGESO concluded that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales. Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) provides further information on the how grid connection location was considered. A Grid Connection and Cable Detail Statement (Document Reference J4) is also included with the application. Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), the Mona Offshore Wind Project has engaged with NGESO throughout the Holistic Network Design process to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid and to provide input on environmental and consenting constraints of the Points Of Interconnection (POI) under consideration. The Applicant undertook constraints analysis for six POI in the Irish Sea; Wylfa, Pentir, Bodelwyddan, Connah's Quay, Kirkby and Penwortham. NGESO concluded that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
			was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales. Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) provides further information on the how grid connection location was considered. A Grid Connection and Cable Detail Statement (Document Reference J4) is also included with the application
Other offshore infrastructure and activities	2.8.46	Applicants should consult the Government's Marine Plans (further detailed in Section 4.5 of EN-1) which are a useful information source of existing and known or potential activities and infrastructure	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) presented how the relevant National Policy Statements and marine plans (Welsh National Marine Plan) have been considered within the site selection process. The marine plans have also been considered when identifying other plans and projects for consideration by the technical assessment and presented within Volume 5, Annex 5.1: Cumulative effects screening matrix of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F5.5.1). Further confirmation of the Mona Offshore Wind Project compliance with the Welsh National Marine Plan is provided in the Planning Statement (Document Reference J2).
	2.8.47	Prior to the submission of an application involving the development of the seabed, applicants should engage with key stakeholders such as, The Crown Estate and statutory bodies to ensure they are aware of any current or emerging interests on or underneath the seabed which might give rise to a conflict with a specific application. This will ensure adequate opportunity to reduce potential conflicts and increase time to find a resolution.	A full baseline and future baseline environment considering current and emerging interests is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Other Sea Users of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.10). Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders, including TCE and statutory bodies, throughout the EIA process, including on the decommissioning process for both Eni and Harbour Energy assets in the east Irish Sea and the subsequent development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects).
	2.8.48	Applicants are encouraged to work collaboratively with those other developers and sea users on co-existence/co-location opportunities, shared mitigation, compensation and monitoring where appropriate. Where applicable, the creation of statements of common ground between developers is recommended. Work is ongoing between	Measures related to commercial fisheries are provided in Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6), which include a commitment to develop a Fisheries Co-existence and Liaison Plan (refer to: Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (Document Reference J13) which has been submitted as part of the Development Consent

Section / Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-3	Accordance with the NPS
		government and industry to support effective collaboration and find solutions to facilitate to greater co-existence/co-location.	Order application). The Applicant has committed to a consultation programme with commercial fisheries stakeholders to ensure that the project design can, where possible, promote co-existence (see Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6), with further information in Volume 6, Annex 6.1: Commercial fisheries technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.6.1). The implications of temporary exclusion zones during construction are considered in Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6) and Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.7). Volume 2, Chapter 10: Other Sea Users of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.10) presents the impact assessment undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in relation to other sea users, and identifies measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to manage potential negative interactions.
	2.8.50	The applicant will also need to consider impacts on civil and military radar and other aviation and defence interests (Section 5.5 of EN-1).	The assessment of civil and military aviation radar is provided in Volume 4, Chapter 1 Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1). The affected radar operators continue to be engaged to ensure that proposed, and developing mitigations, are acceptable and agreed by operators. Other aviation and defence interests are discussed within the description of the aviation and radar study areas provided in Volume 4, Chapter 1 Aviation and Radar of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.1). Full details of how the aviation and radar assessment for the Mona Offshore Wind Project complies with NPS EN-1 (and thereby NPS EN-3 2.8.40) are included in the aviation and radar section of the NPS EN-1 table above.
Marine Protected Areas	2.8.52 - 2.8.53	Given the scale of offshore wind deployment required to meet 2030 and 2050 ambitions, applicants will need to give close consideration to impacts on MPAs, either alone or in combination, and employ the mitigation hierarchy, and if necessary, provide compensation (both individually and in	The potential effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites for ecological or geological features of conservation importance have been identified and assessed for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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		combination with other plans or projects) which may be needed to approve their projects. It is likely that mitigation may include proactive measures to reduce the impact of deployment e.g., micrositing of offshore transmission routes to avoid vulnerable habitats, alternatives piling or trenching techniques, noise abatement technology, collision avoidance methods, or if necessary compensation for habitat loss.	With regards to European sites, the HRA Stage 1 Screening report (Document Reference E1.4) identified potential direct or indirect effects on SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites for which a likely significant effect (LSE) could not be ruled out. Those sites and associated features have been taken through to full assessment in the Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3). The ISAA considers the measures which have adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce the potential for impacts to European sites. For the Annex I habitat features of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC these include a commitment to not permit any sandwave clearance within the SAC. In line with the mitigation hierarchy, the project design was also revised following the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to reduce the extent of cable protection within the SAC, thereby reducing the extent of potential habitat loss. Measures have also been adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce the potential impacts on the ornithological features of the Liverpool Bay SPA. These include a timing restriction to ensure no offshore export cable installation occurs during the period 1st November to 31st March within the Liverpool Bay SPA. Measures have also been adopted to minimise disturbance to rafting birds including the development and adherence to an Offshore Ecology Management Plan (EMP) including a commitment that the site induction process will incorporate the principles of the WiSe Scheme to ensure that key personnel are aware of the need to follow the WiSe Code of Conduct. The WiSe Scheme is a UK national training scheme for minimising disturbance to marine life. Key measures from the scheme will reduce the disturbance of vessel transits on marine mammals and rafting birds visible at the water surface, or as otherwise agreed with the SNCBs. For the marine mammal features of European sites, measures have also been adopted to reduce the potential for injury as a result of underwater sound. These include the development of and adherence to a marine mammal mitigation plan (MMMP) and the development of and adherence to an Underwater sound management strategy that incudes for consideration of noise abatement systems (NAS) as part of mitigation options, which will be developed in accordance with the Outline underwater sound

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			management strategy (Document Reference J21), and which will be made as part of a stepped strategy post consent and following the mitigation hierarchy - avoid, reduce, mitigate. With the implementation of the measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, the ISAA concludes that there will be no adverse effect on integrity of any European site as a result of the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone or in-combination with other plans/projects. Compensatory measures for European sites are therefore not required. The MCZ screening report (Document Reference E2) considers the potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to directly or indirectly affect the interest features of any MCZ. Given the distance between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and neighbouring MCZs, together with the outputs of the physical processes modelling, the assessments conclude that there is no significant risk of the Mona Offshore Wind Project hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for any MCZ. A Stage 1 MCZ assessment is therefore not required for any MCZ for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Marine Protected Areas	2.8.55	The British Energy Security Strategy included a commitment to introducing mechanisms to support strategic compensatory measures, including for projects already in the consenting process (where possible), to offset environmental impacts and reduce delays to individual projects. Only once all feasible alternatives and mitigation measures have been employed, should applicants explore possible compensatory measures to make good any remaining significant adverse effects to site integrity.	The Applicant has employed the mitigation hierarchy of avoid>mitigate>compensate to reduce or avoid adverse effects from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on designated sites. Potential adverse effects to designated sites has been considered within the HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 2 – SAC assessments (Document Reference F1.2), the HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 3 – SPA assessments (Document Reference F1.3) and the HRA Stage 1 Screening Report (Document Reference F1.4). The Applicant has used the mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimise and then mitigate impacts. The iterative approach to development of measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project within the EIA (and how the effects have been avoided, minimised and mitigated) is presented in Volume 1, Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment methodology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.5). Consideration of alternatives is presented in Volume 1, Chapter 4:

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			Site selection and consideration of alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). The conclusion of the ISAA is that there will be no adverse effect on integrity of any European site as a result of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and, as such, compensatory measures are not required.
Network connection	2.8.59 – 2.8.60	Applicants should consider important issues relating to network connection at Section 4.11 of EN-1 and in EN-5. In particular, applicants should proceed in a manner consistent with the regulatory regime for offshore transmission networks established by Ofgem. The co-ordination of transmission is supported by reforms and regulatory changes to enable this, including as part of the previous Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). As co-ordinated offshore transmission development may sometimes occur separate to that for wind farm development (under reforms including through strategic design exercises), it is expected that an initial agreement will be reached regarding connection with the offshore transmission network developer (or operator) and/or connection into the onshore transmission network.	Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), the Mona Offshore Wind Project has engaged with NGESO throughout the Holistic Network Design process to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid and to provide input on environmental and consenting constraints of the Points Of Interconnection (POI) under consideration. The Applicant undertook constraints analysis for six POI in the Irish Sea; Wylfa, Pentir, Bodelwyddan, Connah's Quay, Kirkby and Penwortham. NGESO concluded that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales. Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) provides further information on the how grid connection location was considered. A Grid Connection and Cable Detail Statement (Document Reference J4) is also included with the application.
	2.8.64 – 2.8.66	Where applicants seek consent for offshore transmission infrastructure separately from proposals for offshore wind development, for example Multi-Purpose Interconnectors or subsea 'onshore' transmission also referred to as bootstraps, (see Glossary and 2.12.3 in EN-5), consideration should be given at a strategic level to the overall environmental impacts of the offshore development and transmission infrastructure.	This is not applicable in respect of this application as it does not seek consent for offshore transmission infrastructure separately from proposals for offshore wind development.

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		Early planning can help avoid the location of either windfarm or transmission infrastructure pushing the other into areas where environmental impacts could be increased. The location of arrays and transmission infrastructure should be assessed strategically (especially where they are not covered by the same consent or marine licence), and the mitigation hierarchy should be used to address any environmental impact.	
	2.8.67 – 2.8.70	In addition, the applicant is expected to define the precise route for offshore transmission infrastructure, including the wind farm export cable to the offshore transmission network connection point or onshore connection point, the onshore and offshore locations of any associated infrastructure such as substations. or the location of bootstraps/ subsea 'onshore' transmission. The applicant should assess the effects of the offshore transmission and any associated infrastructure on the marine, coastal and onshore environment. Where the applicant does not know the precise location of the offshore transmission cables and any associated infrastructure, a corridor should be identified within which the specific infrastructure is proposed to be located. The ES for the proposed project should assess the effects of including this infrastructure within that corridor.	An offshore cable corridor within which the specific infrastructure is proposed to be located has been identified and it is provided in the Offshore Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plan (Document Reference B2). The onshore and offshore associated infrastructure are provided in Works Plans - Offshore and Intertidal (Document Reference B4) and Works Plan - Onshore (Document Reference B3). The maximum impacts of the cable during construction, operation, and decommissioning have been assesed in relation to the marine, coastal and onshore environment through the entire cable corridor and contained within Volume2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2); Volume 2, Chapter3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3); Volume 3, Chapter 4: Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) and Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) of the Environmental Statement.
	2.8.71 – 2.8.73	Applicants are expected to demonstrate compliance with mitigation measures identified by The Crown Estate in any plan-level HRA produced as part of its leasing rounds and with any future statutory requirements, guidance or mitigation measures developed to deliver the commitments in the British Energy Security Strategy, including on Offshore Wind Environmental Standards (see 2.8.90 – 2.8.92 below) and other measures under the Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package which covers offshore wind electricity infrastructure.	This is noted, the Applicant has provided a full HRA within the following documents which considers the Mona Offshore Wind Project both alone and in-combination with other plans/projects: • HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 1 – Intro and background (Doucment Reference F1.1) • HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 2 – SAC assessments (Document Reference F1.2) • HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 3 – SPA assessments (Document Reference F1.3)

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		Assessment of environmental effects of transmission infrastructure and any proposed offshore or onshore substations should assess effects both alone and cumulatively with other existing and proposed infrastructure. Applicants should include details on how avoidance has been achieved, good design principles have been followed and provide proposals for mitigation. If the development is in English and Welsh waters, they should also demonstrate that they have considered how their proposals can contribute towards environmental net gain. Further information is provided in Sections 4.3, and 4.5 to 4.7 of EN-1.	• HRA Stage 1 Screening Report (Document Reference F1.4) • HRA Integrity Matrices (Document Reference F1.5). These reports have considered the information provided with TCE Round 4 plan- level HRA. TCE's Plan-Level HRA concluded that the possibility of an adverse effect on site integrity as a result of the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 could not be ruled out for two protected sites forming part of the National Site Network. The two protected sites, and relevant features, are: 1) Sandbank features of the Dogger Bank SAC alone and in-combination; and 2) kittiwake feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA for in-combination effects only. It should be noted, however, that the Mona Offshore Wind Project was not identified as a preferred project required to be considered in the Appropriate Assessment by TCE for either of these sites. Therefore, no adverse effect on site integrity was identified for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in the Round 4 Plan-Level HRA. The Applicant is aware of the requirements in NPS EN3 to apply the guidance on Environmental Standards, once the final guidance is issued. The Applicant will review the guidance once available and determine how the project complies with the guidance, and where, if relevant, the project departs from them.
Flexibility in the project details	2.8.74 – 2.8.75	Owing to the complex nature of offshore wind farm development, many of the details of a proposed scheme may be unknown to the applicant at the time of the application to the Secretary of State. Such aspects may include: • the precise location and configuration of turbines and associated development; • the foundation type and size; • the installation technique or hammer energy; • the exact turbine blade tip height and rotor swept area; • the cable type and precise cable or offshore transmission route;	Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) sets out the project design envelope including the elements yet to be finalised, and each topic chapter assessment has taken a MDS approach, which considers the likely worst cast environmental, social and economic effects to ensure that a worst case scenario has been assessed. The Mona Offshore Wind Project EIA process has employed a Rochdale Envelope approach. This approach is consistent with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (Planning Inspectorate, 2018). This provides flexibility, while ensuring all potentially significant effects (positive or adverse) are assessed within the EIA process and reported in the Environmental Statement. This approach is generally accepted for offshore wind

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		• the exact locations of offshore and/or onshore substations. Guidance on how applicants should manage flexibility is set out at 2.6 of this NPS and 4.3 of EN-1.	projects because it is a constantly evolving industry with a focus on being cost-effective.
Micrositing and microrouting	2.8.77 – 2.8.79	To inform micrositing/microrouting applicants should undertake high-resolution survey work and make provision for investigative work, such as archaeological examination, to assess the impacts of any proposed cables or foundation placement on potential archaeological assets. Applicants should submit an outline archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as part of the DCO submission, with a commitment to complete a project-specific WSI post-consent in consultation with Historic England. Where the applicant requests micrositing or microrouting tolerance, and insofar as it is reasonably possible to do so, the applicant should factor this tolerance into the environmental impact assessment of the development's worst-case scenario.	Measures have been adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and are detailed in Volume 2, Chapter 9: Marine Archaeology, of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9). Archaeology Exclusion Zones (AEZs) have been developed for inclusion in siting and routing decisions. informed by the archaeological assessment of sites specific geophysical and geotechnical survey data. An Outline Offshore WSI and PAD (Document Reference J18) has been submitted with the application to provide a procedure for managing works that include seabed impact and for the possibility of encountering buried archaeological material.
Repowering	2.8.80 & 2.8.82	Where an operational wind farm reaches the end of its life, subject to obtaining the necessary lease from The Crown Estate or providing an existing lease is still valid, the owner of the wind farm may wish to "repower" the site. Applicants must submit a new consent application for any repowering of an existing site, this would be subject to EIA and HRA and MCZ assessment where applicable.	This is not applicable in respect of this application as it not seeking to repower an existing site.
Future monitoring	2.8.83 – 2.8 87	Where requested by the Secretary of State applicants are required to undertake environmental monitoring (e.g. ornithological surveys, geomorphological surveys, archaeological surveys) prior to and during construction and operation. Monitoring must measure and document the effects of the development and the efficacy of any associated mitigation or compensation.	The Applicant will comply with any such requests made by the Secretary of State with regards to future monitoring.

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		This will enable an assessment of the accuracy of the original predictions and improve the evidence base for future mitigation and compensation measures enabling better decision-making in future EIAs and HRAs. Monitoring should be presented in formal reports which must be made publicly available. Monitoring data should be provided to The Crown's Estate Marine Data Exchange. Where appropriate, applicants are also encouraged to consider monitoring collaboratively with other developers and sea users. Work is ongoing between government and industry to support effective collaboration and the development of monitoring at a strategic level.	
Decommissioning	2.8.88 – 2.8.89	Section 105 of the Energy Act 2004 enables the Secretary of State to require the submission of a decommissioning programme for a proposed offshore wind farm, provided at least one of the statutory consents required (including one under the 2008 Act) has been given or has been applied for and is likely to be given. Where requested by the Secretary of State applicants should submit a decommissioning programme, satisfying the requirements of s.105(8) of the Energy Act 2004 before any offshore construction works begin to demonstrate a commitment to ensure any long-term environmental impacts are removed following decommissioning.	The draft DCO (Document C1) includes details regarding offshore decommissioning and states that no offshore works may commence until a written decommissioning programme in compliance with any notice served upon the undertaker by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 105(2) (requirement to prepare decommissioning programmes) of the 2004 Act has been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.
Offshore wind environmental standards	2.8.90– 2.8.92	As part of the Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package set out in the British Energy Security Strategy, Government committed to establishing Offshore Wind Environmental Standards (OWES: previously referred to as Nature Based Design Standards) to accelerate deployment whilst offering greater protection of the marine environment. OWES aim to support developers to take a more consistent approach to avoiding, reducing, and mitigating the impacts of an offshore wind farms and/or offshore transmission infrastructure. The measures could apply to the design,	The Applicant is aware of the requirements in NPS EN3 to apply the guidance on Environmental Standards. The Applicant will review the guidance once available and determine how the Mona Offshore Wind Project complies and, if the Project departs from the guidance full justification will be provided.

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		construction, operation and decommissioning of offshore wind farms and offshore transmission (as defined in EN-5 at section 2.12). Defra will consult on a series of OWES before drafting clear OWES Guidance, which sets out where and how Defra expects each measure to be applied to a development. Once the OWES Guidanceis issued, the Secretary of State will expect applicants to have applied the relevant measures to their applications. Applicants should explain how their proposals comply with the guidance or support its targets or, alternatively, the grounds on which a departure from them is justified. Any reasons for departure from the OWES should be fully detailed within the application documents, with details of any agreements made with statutory consultees.	
Impacts	2.8.94	Applicants should provide information on relevant impacts as directed by this NPS and the Secretary of State.	The location of such information regarding relevant impacts as directed by EN-3 is signposted within this document (NPS Tracker – Document Reference J2.1).
Biodiversity and ecological conservation	2.8.98	Applicants should have regard to the specific ecological and biodiversity considerations that relate to proposed offshore renewable energy infrastructure developments, namely: • fish (see Section 2.8.250 of this NPS); • intertidal and subtidal seabed habitats and species (see Section 2.8.233 of this NPS); • marine mammals (see Section 2.8.237 of this NPS); • birds (see Section 2.8.240 of this NPS); and • wider ecosystem impacts and interactions and other relevant protected migratory species.	The specific ecological and biodiversity considerations that relate to proposed offshore renewable energy developments are addressed in their respective chapters as follows: • Fish: Impacts on fish, for example temporary habitat loss/disturbance (with associated measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce/avoid these impacts such as the development of, and adherence to, an Offshore Environmental Management Plan) are presented within Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement • Intertidal and subtidal seabed habitats and species: Impacts on benthic ecology, for example increased Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC) (with associated measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce/avoid these impacts such as depositing material arising from drilling and/or sandwave clearance within the licenced disposal area) are presented within

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			Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement • Marine mammals: Impacts on marine mammals, for example injury and disturbance from elevated underwater sound during piling (with associated measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce/avoid these impacts such as the implementation of soft start measures) are presented within Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine Mammals of the Environmental Statement • Birds: Impacts on offshore ornithology, for example collision risk (with associated measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce/avoid these impacts such as increasing minimum air draught to 34 m above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)) are presented within Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement • Wider ecosystem impacts and interactions and other relevant protected migratory species, within the aforementioned chapters and (for designated sites and the species for which they are designated) also within the Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) (Document Reference E1.1, E1.2, E1.3).
	2.8.102 – 2.8.103	Applicants need to consider environmental and biodiversity net gain as set out in Section 4.6 of EN-1 and the Environment Act 2021. Applicants should assess the potential of their proposed development to have net positive effects on marine ecology and biodiversity, as well as negative effects.	The following chapters in particular consider potential effects relating to biodiversity, including consideration of international, national, regional and local designations where relevant: • Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3)

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			• Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4). The Applicant's approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Benefits and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of the Biodiversity Benefits and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7)confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures include: • re-instatement of hedgerows to provide habitat connectivity for bats and dormice • ponds and terrestrial habitat (such as hedgerows and species rich grassland) for displaced Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptiles • hedgerow re-instatement and tree planting to provide mitigation for habitat loss for breeding birds. In addition to the mitigation set out above onshore enhancement is proposed via: • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation • Woodland planting • Pond and attenuation basin creation • Wildflower planting • Scrub habitat creation • Species rich grassland creation • Ditch realignment. Section 3.5 of the Biodiversity Benefits and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7) confirms that a range of ecological mitigation measures will be put in place within the Mona Array Area and Mona Offshore Cable Corridor to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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			In addition to that mitigation the Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefit to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project. These are being explored for feasibility and appropriateness and include: • Opportunities to increase the productivity of breeding seabirds • Biodiversity enhancing cable crossing mattresses for cable protection as part of the detailed project design • Biodiversity enhancing artificial reef blocks or cubes which could be introduced as part of foundation design • Opportunities to restore fish and shellfish habitats • Contributions to MARINE Fund Cymru.
	2.8.104 – 2.8.106	Applicants should consult at an early stage of pre-application with relevant statutory consultees, and energy not for profit organisations/NGO's as appropriate, on the assessment methodologies, baseline data collection, and potential avoidance, mitigation and compensation options should be undertaken. In developing proposals applicants must refer to the most recent advice originally provided by Natural England under the Offshore Wind Enabling Action Programme and/or their relevant SNCB Any relevant data that has been collected as part of post-construction ecological monitoring from existing, operational offshore wind farms should be referred to where appropriate.	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) and The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). These participants were invited as the key regulatory and Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs). The Evidence Plan Steering Group has met at key milestones throughout the EIA process. 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. Consultation on specific topics is presented in the relevant topic chapters and the Technical Engagement Plan (Document Reference E4, in particular Section 5.2).

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	2.8.107 – 2.8.110	A range of research programmes are ongoing to investigate impacts of offshore wind farm development, including, but not limited to: BEIS SEA Research Programme, ORJIP, ScotMER, the ORE Catapult and OWEC. Applicants should explain why their decisions on siting, design, and impact mitigation are proportionate and well-targeted, referring to relevant scientific research and literature as appropriate. Applicants are expected to have regard to guidance issued in respect of Marine Licence requirements and consult at an early stage of pre-application with the MMO or NRW. Applicants should have regard to duties in relation to Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters under the UK Marine Strategy and MPA target (including any interim target) in England, set under the Environment Act 2021. The British Energy Security Strategy commits to reviewing the Habitats Regulation Assessment process for offshore wind farm developments and powers are included in Energy Act 2023 to implement this through secondary legislation. Further guidance will be published as a separate document setting out what information assessments must contain. Once final guidance is published applicants will be expected to comply.	The decisions behind the location of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are explained in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement. The Mona Offshore Wind Project has sought to avoid direct impacts on statutory and non-statutory designated ecological and geological sites where possible. Mitigation of impacts is proportionate. With regard to the duties in relation to Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters, all protected habitats and species that have the potential to be impacted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been identified and considered in the Environmental Statement. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will aim to conserve habitats and species through a number of measures adopted to reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project including measure to preserve ecologically important features as well as broader measures such as the development of an offshore environmental management plan. The Applicant has committed to the development and adherence to an offshore construction method statement which includes a cable specification and installation plan that does not permit the installation of cable protection within the Constable Bank sandbank. This will avoid any long term habitat loss on the sandbank and therefore avoid any associated species decline. Other examples of measures adopted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project to halt the decline in species abundances are included with the chapters of the Environmental Statement and Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10) The Applicant considers that net benefit for biodiversity and subsequently increase in species abundances will also be achieved through the provision of biodiversity benefit measures. The Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefits, including increases to the productivity of breeding seabirds, biodiversity enhancing cable protection, artificial reef blocks and restoration of fish and shellfish habitats. The Applicant will continue to explore these opportunities as the project design develops, in collaboration with stakeholders post-consent. The Applicants

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			approach to biodiversity enhancement is presented in the Biodiversity Benefits Statement (Document Reference J7).
Physical environment	2.8.111 – 2.8.113	The construction, operation and decommissioning of offshore energy infrastructure (including the preparation and installation of the cable route) and any electricity networks infrastructure can affect the following elements of the physical offshore environment, which can have knock on impacts on other biodiversity receptors: • water quality – disturbance of the seabed sediments or release of contaminants can result in direct or indirect effects on habitats and biodiversity, as well as on fish stocks thus affecting the fishing industry; • waves and tides – the presence of the turbines can cause indirect effects through change to wave climate and tidal currents on flood and coastal erosion risk management, marine ecology and biodiversity, marine archaeology and potentially coastal recreation activities; • scour effect – the presence of wind turbines and other infrastructure can result in a change in the water movements within the immediate vicinity of the infrastructure, resulting in scour (localised seabed erosion) around the structures. This can indirectly affect navigation channels for marine vessels, marine archaeology and impact biodiversity and seabed habitats; • sediment transport – the resultant movement of sediments, such as sand across the seabed or in the water column, can indirectly affect navigation channels for marine vessels, could affect sediment supply to sensitive coastal sites and impact biodiversity and seabed habitats; • suspended solids – the release of sediment during construction, operation and decommissioning can cause indirect effects on marine ecology and biodiversity; • sandwaves – the modification/clearance of sandwaves can cause direct physical (such as in affecting unknown	The physical processes assessment presented in Volume 2, Chapter 1 Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1) section 1.9 considered a range of impacts including increases in suspended sediment as a result of site preparation, foundation installation and cable installation and repair activities though all the Mona Offshore Wind Project phases. Impacts due to the presence of infrastructure on waves and tides including associated potential impacts along adjacent shorelines were included. Impacts on sediment transport and sediment transport pathways due to presence of infrastructure and associated potential impacts to physical features and bathymetry were also examined, including as a result of sandwave clearance. Additionally, impacts to temperature and salinity stratification due to the presence of infrastructure were considered. These assessments were supported by a comprehensive numerical modelling study presented in Volume 6, Annex 1.1: Physical processes technical report (Document Reference F6.1.1) of the Environmental Statement. Both baseline and post construction scenarios that characterise the wave, tide and sediment transport regimes have been modelled and presented along with sediment dispersion modelling relating to both site preparation and cable installation. Potential changes to physical processes were found to be localised within the immediate vicinity of the infrastructure and no significant effects were identified. Suspended sediment plumes arising due to site preparation and cable installation were generally limited to one tidal excursion as much of the mobilisation of sediment occurs near the seabed and settles during slack water. Scour protection was included in the modelling undertaken for the Environmental Statement and the associated assessment of effects. The scour protection measures will be subject to engineering design to ensure they minimise as much as practical the occurrence of

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		archaeological remains) and ecological effects both at the seabed and within the water column due to disturbance and suspension of sediment, and potentially indirect effects (e.g. changes to seabed morphology in water depths where waves can influence the seabed, which can in turn affect wave climate and sediment transport; and • water column – wind turbine structures can also affect water column features such as tidal mixing fronts or stratification due to a change in hydrodynamics and turbulence around structures. Applicant assessments are expected to include predictions of the physical effects arising from modifications to hydrodynamics (waves and tides), sediments and sediment transport, and sea bed morphology that will result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the required infrastructure. Assessments should also include effects such as the scouring that may result from the proposed development and how that might impact sensitive species and habitats.	scour therefore any impacts would relate only to residual/secondary scour which would be very localised and of negligible magnitude. Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2) provides a full assessment of the habitats within the Mona benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology study area including indirect effects from changes in physical processes such as waves, tides, and sediment transport. These assessments are completed using information provided in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1).
	2.8.114	Applicants should undertake geotechnical investigations as part of the assessment, enabling the design of appropriate construction techniques to minimise any adverse effects.	Geophysical surveys were undertaken, alongside other site-specific surveys, in order to support modelling and the technical assessment associated with Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1). Onshore geophysical surveys have been undertaken (particularly at the onshore substation). Onshore geophysical surveys are informative in design terms but are not incorporated into the assessments themselves. Detailed analysis of geophysical surveys enabled refinement of the design as detailed in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the Environmental Statement (F.1.3). Including development and adherence to an offshore construction method statement containing a cable specification and installation plan (CSIP) which will include cable burial where possible and that does not permit the installation of cable protection within Constable Bank. This also identified that commitments could be made to only permit sandwave clearance on the Constable Bank within the swept path width (20m) of the cable

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			burial tool and that no sandwave clearance is undertaken within the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay Special Area of Conservation. The Applicant has committed to developing a Landfall Method Statement which commits to the installation of Mona export cables via trenchless techniques under the intertidal area from below Mean Low Water Sprints (MLWS), where the exit pits will be located, to onshore. The Applicant's HRA concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no risk of an adverse effect on the integrity of any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, therefore there is no potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to hinder the conservation objectives for any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites either alone or in-combination.
Intertidal and coastal habitats and species	2.8.119	Applicant assessment of the effects of installing cable across the offshore transmission infrastructure across the intertidal/coastal zone should demonstrate compliance with mitigation measures in any relevant plan-level HRA including those prepared by The Crown Estate as part of its leasing round and include information, where relevant, about: • any alternative landfall sites that have been considered by the applicant during the design phase and an explanation for the final choice; • any alternative cable installation methods that have been considered by the applicant during the design phase and an explanation for the final choice; • potential loss of habitat; • disturbance during cable installation, maintenance/repairs and removal (decommissioning); • increased suspended sediment loads in the intertidal zone during installation and maintenance/repairs; • potential risk from invasive and non-native species • predicted rates at which the intertidal zone might recover from temporary effects, based on existing monitoring data; and	Alternative landfall routes have been considered in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). Measures adopted as part of the project have been discussed during consultation and adopted as part of the Environmental Statement, including measures such as scour protection, cable burial where possible, and cable protection. The assessment of potential construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning impacts was informed by technical modelling undertaken in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1). This considered the impact of suspended sediments and subsequent deposition related to cable installation activities. Changes to bathymetry associated with depressions left by jack-up vessels were considered to be very limited and as a result were scoped out of the assessment. Volume 2, Chapter 2 Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology in the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2) considers the MDS for export cable installation at the landfall throughout the assessment. This ensures that a reasonable assessment of the effects of the various impacts associated with this method are presented.

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		• protected sites.	
Subtidal habitats and species	2.8.126	Applicant assessment of the effects on the subtidal environment should include: • loss of habitat due to foundation type including associated seabed preparation, predicted scour, scour protection and altered sedimentary processes, e.g. sandwave/boulder/UXO clearance; • environmental appraisal of inter-array and other offshore transmission and installation/maintenance methods, including predicted loss of habitat due to predicted scour and scour/cable protection and sandwave/boulder/UXO clearance; • habitat disturbance from construction and maintenance/repair vessels' extendable legs and anchors; • increased suspended sediment loads during construction and from maintenance/repairs; • predicted rates at which the subtidal zone might recover from temporary effects • potential impacts from EMF on benthic fauna; • potential impacts upon natural ecosystem functioning; • protected sites; and • potential for invasive/non-native species introduction.	The procedures associated with the installation of infrastructure and seabed preparation is considered with respect to best practice techniques and relevant guidance, within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical Processes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.1). The assessment of potential construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning impacts was informed by technical modelling undertaken and presented in Volume 6, Annex 1.1: Physical processes technical report of the Environmental Statement. This considered the impact of suspended sediments and subsequent deposition particularly those related to cable installation activities. Suspended sediment plumes arising due to site preparation and cable installation were generally limited to one tidal excursion as much of the mobilisation of sediment occurs near the seabed and settles during slack water. Changes to bathymetry associated with depressions left by jack-up vessels were considered to be very limited and as a result were scoped out of the physical processes assessment. However, they are considered fully with respect to benthic habitats in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2). The impact of suspended sediments, long term habitat loss and temporary habitat disturbance from cable installation and maintenance as well as anchors and vessel legs (i.e. jack-up legs) has been quantified in the MDS. The effect of these impacts on the habitats within the Mona Array Area and Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas has then been assessed throughout Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2). The predicted rates of recovery in the intertidal zone from temporary effects has been considered in the sensitivity of the intertidal

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			biotopes and then used to determine the final significance of an impact.
Marine Mammals	2.8.129	If construction and associated noise levels are likely to lead to an offence under Part 3 of the Habitats Regulations (which would include deliberately disturbing, injuring or killing), applicants will need to apply for a wildlife licence to allow the activity to take place.	Underwater sound modelling is presented within Volume 5, Annex 3.1: Underwater sound technical report of the Environmental Statement (F5.3.1). The effects on marine mammals have been assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 4 Marine Mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4). Baseline noise levels, predicted noise levels in relation to mortality, Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS) and Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) and disturbance, soft-start noise levels according to proposed hammer and pile design, and operational sound are all considered within Volume 2, Chapter 4 Marine Mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4) and an Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (Document J21) provides details on potential impacts and proposed mitigation for Marine Mammals. If construction and associated noise levels are likely to lead to an offence under Part 3 of the Habitats Regulations the Applicant will apply for a European Protected Species licence as appropriate.
	2.8.131 – 2.8.132	Where necessary, assessment of the effects on marine mammals should include details of: • likely feeding areas and impacts on prey species and prey habitat; • known birthing areas/haul out sites for breeding and pupping; • migration routes; • protected sites; • baseline noise levels; • predicted construction and soft start noise levels in relation to mortality, permanent threshold shift (PTS), temporary threshold shift (TTS) and disturbance; • operational noise;	Likely feeding areas, known birthing areas/haul out sites; known migration or commuting routes are identified within Volume 6, Annex 4.1: Marine Mammal Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.4.1). Important protected areas for marine mammals , impact on prey species and habitats, baseline noise levels, disturbance of marine mammals, predicted construction and soft start noise levels, operational noise, duration and spatial extent of the impacting activities including cumulatively with other plans and projects are discussed in Volume 6, Annex 4.1: Marine Mammal Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.4.1). Collision risk and barrier risk is considered within Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine Mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4). Protected sites with marine mammal features and the in-combination have been assessed in the Information to

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		• duration and spatial extent of the impacting activities including cumulative/in-combination effects with other plans or projects; • collision risk; • entanglement risk; and • barrier risk. The scope, effort and methods required for marine mammal surveys and impact assessments should be discussed with the relevant SNCB.	Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA). There is no potential entanglement risk from the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The scope of the assessment on marine mammals has been discussed with SNCBs through the Evidence Plan process.
	2.8.133 – 2.8.135	The applicant should discuss any proposed noisy activities with the relevant statutory body and must reference the joint JNCC and SNCB underwater noise guidance and any successor of this guidance, in relation to noisy activities (alone and in-combination with other plans or projects) within SACs SPAs and RAMSAR sites, in addition to the JNCC mitigation guideline for piling, explosive use, and geophysical surveys. NRW has a position statement assessing noisy activities which should also be referenced where relevant. Where the assessment identifies that noise from construction and UXO clearance may reach noise levels likely to lead to noise thresholds being exceeded (as detailed in the JNCC guidance) or an offence as described in paragraph 2.8.127 – 2.8.129 above, the applicant must look at possible alternatives or appropriate mitigation. The applicant should develop a Site Integrity Plan (SIP) or alternative assessments for projects in English and Welsh waters to allow the cumulative impacts of underwater noise to be reviewed closer to the construction date, when there is more certainty in other plans and projects.	The Applicant has discussed the proposed noisy activities with SNCBs through the Evidence Plan process. The Mona Offshore Wind Project noisy activities are assessed both for the project alone and cumulatively with other plans and projects in Volume 2, Chapter 4 Marine Mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4), where appropriate underwater noise guidance (including the JNCC mitigation guideline and NRW position statement) have been referenced and an Outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy is provided as Document J16. Assessment of noisy activities on designated sites with marine mammals as features is undertaken in the ISAA, both for the project alone and in-combination. Appropriate measures have been adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to minimise the potential for noise levels exceeding thresholds and/or an offence. Measure include development and adherence to a marine mammal mitigation protocol that sets a maximum separation limit of 15 km and a minimum separation distance of 1.4 km for concurrent piling. The MMMP sets the limit on the maximum piling hammer energy as well as implementation of piling soft start and ramp-up measures. The Applicant is developing an underwater sound management plan as an alternative to a SIP which will investigate further mitigation if required.

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Birds	2.8.137 -2.8.140	Currently, cumulative impact assessments for ornithology are based on the consented Rochdale Envelope parameters of projects, rather than the 'as-built' parameters, which may pose a lower risk to birds. The applicant must ensure any draft consents include provisions to define the final 'as built' parameters (which may not then be exceeded). These parameters must be used in future cumulative impact assessments. In parallel the Government will look to explore opportunities to reassess ornithological impact assessment of historic consents to reflect their 'as built' parameters. Any ornithological 'headroom' assessed to exist between the effects defined in the 'as built' parameters and Rochdale Envelope parameters can then be released, with the SNCB agreement	Cumulative impact assessments are presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5 Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5) for all relevant species. (HOLD: bp/legal need to input on how provisions for as built parameters are being included in the draft consent.) The Marine Licences are expected to include obligations on the Applicant to provide a close out report confirming the final details of the as built scheme.
	2.8.141	Applicants are encouraged to make appropriate applications for amendments to development consent to secure reduced parameters and ornithological impacts.	This is not relevant to this application.
	2.8.143	Applicants should discuss the scope, effort and methods required for ornithological surveys with the relevant statutory advisor, taking into consideration baseline and monitoring data from operational windfarms.	Baseline survey methods have been discussed with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Natural England, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) through the Evidence Plan Process EWG. Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been discussed and agreed in principle with NRW as part of the regular Expert Working Group (EWG) meetings. No requirements for NRW European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses or other licenses were identified. Further detail regarding consultation undertaken to date between the Mona Offshore Wind Project and NRW is provided in Section 4.2 of the Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and Intertidal of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.4) and the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3.9).

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	2.8.144 – 2.8.145	Applicants must undertake collision risk modelling, as well as displacement and population viability assessments for certain species of birds. Applicants are expected to seek advice from SNCBs. Where necessary, applicants should assess collision risk using survey data collected from the site at the pre-application EIA stage.	An assessment of displacement and collision risk modelling has been undertaken for relevant species within Volume 6, Annex 5.3: Offshore Ornithology Displacement Technical Report and Volume 6, Annex 5.3: Offshore Ornithology CRM Technical Report of the Environmental Statement. The collision risk assessment as incorporated data from the site specific surveys. The Applicant has undertaken population viability analysis on species where the increase in baseline mortality, either for the project alone or cumulatively, was expected to exceed 1%. Displacement, collision risk and population viability assessments have been discussed with the SNCBs through the Evidence Plan process.
Fish	2.8.150	The applicant should identify fish species that are the most likely receptors of impacts with respect to: • spawning grounds; • nursery grounds; • feeding grounds; • over-wintering areas for crustaceans; • migration routes; and • protected sites.	The baseline characterisation presented in Volume 6, Annex 3.1. Fish and Shellfish Ecology technical report (Document Reference F4.3.1) of the Environmental Statement provides a detailed summary of the key fish and shellfish ecology receptors with spawning, nursery, feeding, and overwintering grounds and migration routes within the fish and shellfish ecology study area. The same document outlines all protected sites with fish and shellfish features within the fish and shellfish ecology study area. These are further summarised within section 3.5 of Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement. The characterisation presented is used to define the Important Ecological Features (IEFs) which are carried through into the assessment. The IEFs are defined in section 1.2.12 of Volume 6, Annex 3.1. Fish and shellfish ecology technical report of the Environmental Statement and in section 3.5.2 of Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement.
Fish	2.8.151	Applicant assessments should identify the potential implications of underwater noise from construction and unexploded ordnance including, where possible, implications of predicted construction and soft start noise levels in relation to mortality, permanent threshold shift (PTS), temporary threshold shift (TTS) and disturbance, and	Impacts from underwater sound from piling, UXO clearance and geophysical surveys are assessed for fish and shellfish receptors in section 3.9.3 of Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement for the project alone, and in section 3.11.3 of the same document for the project cumulatively with other projects and plans within the cumulative effects assessment fish and shellfish ecology study area. These assessments consider mortality, PTS, TTS and disturbance, and discuss both sound pressure and

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		addressing both sound pressure and particle motion) and EMF on sensitive fish species.	particle motion where appropriate. Full modelling results for underwater sound effects are presented in Volume 5, Annex 3.1: Underwater sound technical report of the Environmental Statement. Impacts from EMFs on fish and shellfish receptors are assessed in section 3.9.6 of Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement for the project alone, and in section 3.11.6 of the same document for the project cumulatively with other projects and plans within the cumulative effects assessment fish and shellfish ecology study area.
Commercial fisheries and fishing	2.8.154 - 2.8.155	Applicants should undertake early consultation with a cross-section of the fishing industry, as well as MMO, SNCBs, relevant inshore fisheries and conservation authorities (Ifcas). Defra and Welsh Government, to identify impacts, and actively encourage input from active fishers to provide evidence of their use of the area to support the impact assessments. Where any part of a proposal involves a grid connection or transmission to shore or in the inshore area, appropriate inshore fisheries groups should also be consulted.	Consultation with relevant stakeholders (local, regional, national and international) has been undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, with the Applicant having an established relationship with the fishing industry. This is summarised in section Volume 2, Chapter 6 Commercial Fisheries of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6).
	2.8.157	Applicant assessments should include robust baseline data and detailed surveys of the effects on fish stocks of commercial interest, and any potential reduction or increase in suchstocks, that will result from the presence of the wind farm development and of any safety zones (see paragraph 2.8.152 – 2.8.164 of this NPS). The assessments should also provide evidence regarding any likely benefits or constraints on fishing activity within the project's boundaries.	Volume 2, Chapter 3 Fish and shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.3) outlines the potential impacts on fish and shellfish ecology, including those of commercial interest. Robust baseline fisheries activity data has been collated from official sources and through consultation and is presented within Volume 6, Annex 6.1: Commercial fisheries technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.6.1) and drawn upon within Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.3). The robust baseline datasets that have been analysed include UK and non-UK landings statistics, spatial data and published reports, all of which have been supplemented by industry consultation, as described in Volume 6, Annex 6.1: Commercial fisheries technical report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.6.1).

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			Where data sources allow, a 10-year trend analysis has been undertaken, using the most recent annual datasets available at the time of writing. Potential impacts to fish stocks arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been assessed in volume 2, chapter 3: Fish and Shellfish Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.3). Potential impacts on the commercial fisheries that target the fish stocks are assessed in volume 2, chapter 6: Commercial fisheries of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6). Potentially significant impacts are concluded from the Mona Offshore Wind Project alone to herring during the herring spawning season as a result of impacts from underwater sound from piling during the construction phase. Potentially significant cumulative impacts are concluded from the Mona Offshore Wind Project cumulatively with other regional projects and plans to herring and cod spawning during their respective spawning seasons as a result of impacts from underwater sound from piling during the construction phase. It is proposed to manage and reduce the effect of this impact through establishment of an Underwater sound management strategy (outline provided with the application, Document Reference J.16). This strategy establishes a process of investigating options to manage underwater sound levels in consultation with the licensing authority and SNCBs and agreeing, prior to construction of those works which would lead to underwater sound impacts, which mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce impacts such that there will be no residual significant effect.
Commercial fisheries and fishing	2.8.161 -2.8.164	In some circumstances, applicants may seek declaration of safety zones around wind turbines and other infrastructure. Although these might not be applied until after consent to the wind farm has been granted. The declaration of a safety zone excludes or restricts activities within the defined sea areas including commercial fishing.	There will be temporary 500m safety zones around the major construction vessels and any future major operations and maintenance vessel activities. Safety Zones are included within the project design and have been considered within NRA (Volume 6, Annex 7.1 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1). A Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference FJ6) has been submitted with the application.

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		Where there is a possibility that safety zones will be sought applicant assessments should include potential effects on commercial fishing. Where the precise extents of potential safety zones are unknown, a realistic worst-case scenario should be assessed. Applicants should consult the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) as part of this process	
Marine historic environment	2.8.168 – 2.8.171	Applicants should consult with the relevant statutory consultees, such as Historic England or Cadw, on the potential impacts on the marine historic environment at an early stage of development during pre-application, taking into account any applicable guidance (e.g., offshore renewables protocol for archaeological discoveries). Assessment of potential impacts upon the historic environment should be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process undertaken to inform any application for consent. Desk based studies to characterise the features of the historic environment that may be affected by a proposed development and assess any likely significant effects should be undertaken by competent archaeological experts. These studies should consider any geotechnical or geophysical surveys that have been undertaken to aid the wind farm and/or offshore transmission design.	Relevant statutory consultees, including Historic England and Cadw have been engaged with throughout the pre -application phaserocess. A summary of key consultation issues raised during consultation activities undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project relevant to marine archaeology are detailed in Volume 2, chapter 9: Marine Archaeology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9). A marine archaeology desk-based assessment and technical report has been produced which informs the archaeological assessment (Document Reference F6.9.1). The archaeological review of geophysical data is also included Volume 6, Annex 9.1: Marine Archaeology Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.9.1). Volume 2, Chpater 9: Marine Archaeology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9).has considered the potential adverse and beneficial impacts on the marine archaeology during each phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures adopted as part of Mona Offshore Wind Project, including any future geophysical and geotechnical surveys undertaken, will produce new archaeological data and understanding of the historic marine environment of the area. This is a beneficial outcome of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Mona Offshore Wind Project hasbeen designed sensitively in this regard with mitigation being primarily by avoidance with the Mona Offshore Wind Project designed to avoid known sensitive receptors through provision of Archaeological Exclusion Zone's (AEZs) and Temporary Archaeological Exclusion Zones (TAEZs).

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			Any potential adverse effects have been assessed in the chapter (Document Reference F2.9). Appropriate mitigation, as necessary, including the AEZs, is set out in further detail the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD) (Document Reference J18).
Marine historic environment	2.8.173 - 2.8.177	Applicants are required to determine how any known heritage assets might best be avoided. The applicant will be expected to conduct all necessary examination and assessment exercises using a variety of survey techniques to plan the development so as to optimise opportunities for avoidance. Once a site has been chosen, it may be necessary to undertake further archaeological assessment, including field evaluation investigations prior to consultation, to understand a known site's significance and full extent, and, to identify as yet unknown heritage assets when considering the options for detailed site development, in accordance with an archaeological written scheme of investigation included with the application. Assessment may also include the identification of any beneficial effects on the marine historic environment, for example through improved access or the contribution to new knowledge that arises from investigation. Where elements of a proposed project (whether offshore or onshore) may interact with historic environment features that are located onshore, applicants should assess the effects in accordance with Section 5.9 in EN-1.	Heritage assets within the Mona Onshore Development Area are identified in Volume 7, Annex 5.1: Desk-based assessment of the Environmental Statement. Impacts on the settings of designated assets are considered in Volume 7, Annex 5.6: Settings Assessment of the Environmental Statement. Marine archaeology receptors have been identified through archaeological assessment of site specific geophysical and geotechnical survey data and are presented in in Volume 2, Chapter 9: Marine Archaeology, of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9). The measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project include the ongoing monitoring of AEZs, where required, this will ensure the appropriateness of the AEZs and also provide data to contribute to the understanding of the marine archaeology of the development area. An Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries is also provided as part of the ES (Document Reference J18).
Offshore wind impacts: navigation and shipping	2.8.179	To ensure safety of shipping applicants should reduce risks to navigational safety to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP), as described in Section 2.8.331 of this NPS.	An NRA has been undertaken and is provided in Volume 6, Annex 7.1 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1). The NRA brought together significant analysis, consultation, navigation simulations and the hazard workshop findings to determine the navigational risks associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The study has concluded that following the changes to the Mona Potential Array Area made post-PEIR, all hazards

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			associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been reduced to either Medium Risk – Tolerable if ALARP or Broadly Acceptable. Whilst it was recognised that the construction of an offshore wind farm in otherwise navigable waters would increase the risks of collision and allision for navigating vessels, a consensus was reached with stakeholders that these risks were Tolerable if ALARP or Broadly Acceptable. In particular, the increase in searoom around the Mona Array Area provides sufficient space for vessels to safely manoeuvre in complex realistic traffic situations and adverse weather in full compliance with the COLREGs and the practice of good seamanship
	2.8.183 - 2.8.185	There may be some situations where reorganisation of shipping traffic activity might be both possible and desirable when considered against the benefits of the wind farm and/or offshore transmission application, and such circumstances should be discussed with the government officials, including Secretary of State and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), and other stakeholders, including Trinity House, as The General Lighthouse Authority consultee, and the commercial shipping sector. It should be recognised that alterations might require national endorsement and international agreement and that the negotiations involved may take considerable time and do not have a guaranteed outcome. Applicants should engage with interested parties in the navigation sector early in the pre-application phase of the proposed offshore wind farm or offshore transmission to help identify mitigation measures to reduce navigational risk to ALARP, to facilitate proposed offshore wind development. This includes the MMO or NRW in Wales, MCA, the relevant General Lighthouse Authority, such as Trinity House, the relevant industry bodies (both national and local) and any representatives of recreational users of the sea, such as the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), who may be affected. This should continue throughout the life of the development	Consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders including NRW, MCA and Trinity House prior to and during the NRA to interface with various regulators and stakeholders at an early stage and as part of the assessment of risk. A Marine Navigation Engagement Forum (MNEF), was established in 2021 to facilitate engagement with shipping and navigation stakeholders on the Mona Offshore Wind Project including regular updates on plans and progress of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and for stakeholders to express views or concern on the potential impacts of the project for discussion and, where possible, resolution. Significant consultation has been undertaken through individual meetings of the MNEF, hazard workshops and written correspondence. These are summarised in Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigational risk assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1) and in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and navigation of the Environmental Statement. Through this engagement feedback has been received on the potential impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on different shipping and navigation receptors, and as a result, substantial alterations have been made to the Mona Offshore Wind Project design to minimise these potential impacts as far as possible.

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		including during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Engagement should seek solutions that allow offshore wind farms, offshore transmission, and navigation and shipping users of the sea to co-exist successfully.	
	2.8.187 - 2.8.188	Prior to undertaking assessments applicants should consider information on internationally recognised sea lanes, which is publicly available. Applicants should refer in assessments to any relevant, publicly available data available on the Maritime Database.	The NRA utilises a number of different datasets of shipping and navigation activities and features across the Shipping and Navigation Study Area (see Volume 6, Annex 7.1: navigational risk assessment of the Environmental Statement). The shipping and navigation chapter includes an assessment of the potential impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on recognised sealanes essential to international travel (see Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation of the |Environmental Statement). This assessment looks at the proximity of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the Traffic Separation Schemes in the Irish Sea. The assessment concludes that there are no significant effects on sealanes essential to international navigation.
	2.8.189 - 2.8.191	Applicants must undertake a Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) in accordance with relevant government guidance prepared in consultation with the MCA and the other navigation stakeholders listed above. The navigation risk assessment will for example necessitate: • a survey of vessel traffic in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm; • a full NRA of the likely impact of the wind farm on navigation in the immediate area of the wind farm in accordance with the relevant marine guidance; and • cumulative and in-combination risks associated with the development and other developments (including other wind farms) in the same area of sea. In some circumstances, applicants may seek declaration of a safety zone around wind turbines and other infrastructure.	An NRA has been undertaken and is provided in Volume 6, Annex 7.1 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1). The NRA follows MCA guidance MGN654 and the International Maritime Organizations (IMO) Formal Safety Assessment. The NRA includes detailed vessel traffic data collection and analysis for the Shipping and Navigation Study Area (and with data durations in excess of MGN654 requirements). The NRA for the Mona Offshore Wind Project concluded that there were no unacceptable risks and that all risks had been reduced to Broadly Acceptable or ALARP. A Cumulative Regional NRA (CRNRA) has also been undertaken to assess the impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project in combination with the Morgan and Morecambe Generation Assets and other Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects. The CRNRA is available in Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1). The CRNR, undertaken with the Mona Offshore Wind Project, Morgan

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		Although these might not be applied until after consent to the wind farm has been granted.	Offshore Wind Project and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm, concluded that there were no unacceptable risks and that all risks had been reduced to Broadly Acceptable or ALARP.
	2.8.192 - 2.8.194	The declaration of a safety zone excludes or restricts activities within the defined sea areas including navigation and shipping. Where there is a possibility that safety zones will be sought applicant assessments should include potential effects on navigation and shipping. Where the precise extents of potential safety zones are unknown, a realistic worst-case scenario should be assessed. Applicants should consult the MCA for advice on maritime safety and refer to the government guidance on safety zones as a part of this process.	The requirement for Safety Zones during construction and major maintenance activities have been considered within the NRA (Volume 6, Annex 7.1 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1)). A Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference FJ6) has been submitted with the application for consent.
	2.8.195	Applicants should undertake a detailed Navigational Risk Assessment, which includes Search and Rescue Response Assessment and emergency response assessment prior to applying for consent.[63] The specific Search and Rescue requirements will then be discussed and agreed post-consent	The impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on Search and Rescue are contained within the NRA (Volume 6, Annex 7.1: Navigational risk assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1)). Commitments to layout principles have been made including to two lines of orientation and minimum turbine spacing which safeguard Search and Rescue activities (Document Reference J10, Mitigation and monitoring schedule).
Other offshore infrastructure and activities	2.8.197 - 2.8.199	Where a potential offshore wind farm is proposed close to existing operational offshore infrastructure or has the potential to affect activities for which a licence has been issued by government, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development on such existing or permitted infrastructure or activities. The assessment should be undertaken for all stages of the lifespan of the proposed wind farm in accordance with the appropriate policy and guidance for offshore wind farm EIAs.	Impacts associated with construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases are described and assessed alongside designated receptors within the relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement, in particular Volume 2, Chapter 10: Other Sea Users chapter of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.10). These potential impacts include restriction of access to cables and pipelines, reduction or restriction of other offshore energy activities, and interference with the performance of Radar Early Warning Systems (REWS) located on oil and gas platforms. All of these impacts have been assessed to be of minor adverse significance or less, which is not significant in EIA terms.

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		Applicants should use marine plans (paragraph 2.8.17 – 2.8.19 of this NPS and Section 4.5 of EN-1) in considering which activities may be most affected by their proposal and thus where to target their assessment.	Additionally, potential cumulative impacts with existing and future infrastructure have been included in a cumulative effects assessment that has also been undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement. Assessments have been undertaken with consideration to the appropriate policy and relevant guidance, including those of the NPS, which are presented in the Environmental Statement.
	2.8.200 - 2.8.203	Applicants should engage with interested parties in the potentially affected offshore sectors early in the pre-application phase of the proposed offshore wind farm, with an aim to resolve as many issues as possible prior to the submission of an application. (see paragraphs 2.8.56 and 2.8.273/4 and 2.8.267 of this NPS for further guidance). Such stakeholder engagement should continue throughout the life of the development including construction, operation and decommissioning phases where necessary. As many offshore industries are regulated by government, the relevant Secretary of State should also be a consultee where necessary. Such engagement should be taken to ensure that solutions are sought that allow offshore wind farms and other uses of the sea to co-exist successfully.	Consultation has been undertaken for each topic during the pre-application phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project in order to resolve as many issues prior to the submission of the application. The Technical Engagement Plan (Document Reference E4) summarises the technical consultation that has been undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project, to provide the information and evidence required for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Engagement has been undertaken with the general public, Expert Working Groups, SNCBs, third party asset owners, government representatives, NGOs and local planning authorities. Engagement on shipping and navigation through the Marine Navigation Engagement Forum has focused on co-existence with marine developers and shipping and navigation stakeholders. Engagement will continue throughout the lifetime of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Seascape and visual effects	2.8.204	Applicants should address impact on seascape in addition to the landscape and visual effects discussed in Section 5.10 of EN-1.	The seascape, landscape and visual assessment (SLVIA) is presented in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.6) and the Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.8)

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	2.8.205	Seascape is an additional issue for consideration given that it is an important environmental, cultural and economic asset. This is especially so where seascape provides the setting for a nationally designated landscape (National Park, The Broads or AONB) and as a defined special quality of the area supports the delivery of the designated area's statutory purpose. This is also an important consideration for stretches of coastline identified as Heritage Coasts, which are associated with a largely undeveloped coastal character.	The effect on the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape (not significant in EIA terms), the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (not significant in EIA terms) and Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park (potentially significant in EIA terms cumulatively with other projects) is documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: International and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.8.5). There are no effects on Heritage Coasts.
	2.8.206-2.8.207	Seascape is a discrete area, with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other. Applicants should follow relevant guidance including, but not limited to seascape and landscape character assessments, landscape sensitivity assessments, and marine plan seascape character assessments (e.g., NRW Marine Character Areas (with associated guidance) England's marine plans).	Reference has been made to the Seascape Character Assessment for the Northwest Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas (Marine Management Organisation, 2018) in addition to the National Seascape Assessment for Wales (NRW, 2015). Assessment of effects on landscape elements components, character, views and visual amenity (to include light pollution, noise, local amenity and nature conservation) during construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning are assessed in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.6). The policy context for the Mona Offshore Wind Project is set out in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and legislation of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.2). Specific policy relevant to seascape, landscape and visual resources is set out in Volume 6, Annex 8.1 Seascape and visual resources legislation and planning policy context of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference 6.8.1). The assessment of potential changes to seascape, landscape and visual resources has also been made with consideration to the specific policies set out in the Welsh National Marine Plan (Welsh Government, 2019) and Northwest Inshore and Northwest Offshore Marine Plans (MMO, 2021). The assessment of potential changes to seascape, landscape and visual resources has also been made with consideration to the

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			specific policies set out in Planning Policy Wales and Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.
	2.8.208	Where a proposed offshore wind farm will be visible from the shore and would be within the setting of a nationally designated landscape with potential effects on the area's statutory purpose, a seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant offshore wind farm EIA policy and the latest Offshore Energy SEA, including the White 2020 report. The SLVIA should be proportionate to the scale of the potential impacts. This will always be the case where a coastal National Park, the Broads or AONB, or a Heritage Coast or their setting is potentially affected.	The assessment in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and Visual Resources of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.8) (Document Reference F2.8) is in proportion to the scale of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. There is no impact on Heritage Coasts as a result of The Mona Offshore Wind Project. The assessment methodology used is based on the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) and the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) (2005) guidance. The assessment considers NRW's most recent guidance on offshore wind farms 'the White 2020 report'. A detailed discussion on methodology is set out in Volume 6, Annex 8.4: Seascape, landscape and visual resources impact assessment methodology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.8.4).
	2.8.209	Where necessary, assessment of the seascape should include an assessment of four principal considerations on the likely effect of offshore wind farms on the coast: • the limit of visual perception from the coast under poor, good and best lighting conditions; • the effects of navigation and hazard prevention lighting on dark night skies; • individual landscape and visual characteristics of the coast and the special qualities of designated landscapes, such as World Heritage Sites and National Parks, which limits the coast's capacity to absorb a development; and • how people perceive and interact with the coast and natural seascape.	The Mona Array Area will be visible from the shore on days with good visibility. Meteorological Office visibility data for the years 2012 to 2022 is set out in Volume 6, Annex 8.4: Seascape, landscape and visual impact methodology of the Environmental Statement. Night time impacts are assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement. The effects on the special qualities of designated landscapes are assessed in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: International and nationally designated landscapes study, of the Environmental Statement.
	2.8.210	As part of the SLVIA, photomontages will be required. Viewpoints to be used for the SLVIA should be selected in consultation with the statutory consultees at the EIA Scoping stage.	Photomontages and Wirelines have been produced for representative viewpoints in Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape and landscape figures - offshore development of the Environmental Statement

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	2.8.211	Applicants should assess the magnitude and significance of change to both the identified seascape receptors (such as seascape and landscape units, visual receptors, and the special qualities of designated landscapes) in accordance with the standard methodology for SLVIA.	The seascape assessment has been undertaken in accordance with GLVIA3. Additional guidance, specifically pertaining to offshore windfarms has also been used in the seascape assessment (see Table 8.7 of the Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and Visual Resources of the Envirnemntal Statement (Document Reference F2.8)
	2.8.212	Where appropriate, cumulative SLVIA should be undertaken in accordance with the policy on cumulative assessment outlined in Section 5.10.16 – 5.10.17 of EN-1.	A cumulative impact assessment has been undertaken and is presented in section 8.9 of Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and Visual Resources of the Envirnemntal Statement (Document Reference F2.8).
Mitigation	2.8.213 - 2.8.217	Applicants must always employ the mitigation hierarchy, in particular to avoid as far as is possible the need to find compensatory measures for coastal, inshore and offshore developments affecting SACs SPAs, and RAMSAR sites and/or MCZs. It is essential that applicants involve SNCBs other statutory environmental bodies (e.g. Historic England) and Defra, in conjunction with the relevant regulators as early as possible in the planning process to enable discussions of what is and isn't a significant and/or adverse effect, subsequent implications, and if required, mitigation and/or compensation. At the earliest possible stage alternative ways of working and use of technology should be employed to avoid environmental impacts. For example, construction vessels may be rerouted to avoid disturbing seabirds. Where impacts cannot be avoided, measures to reduce and mitigate impacts should be employed, for example using trenching techniques or noise abatement technology. Applicants should undertake a review of up-to-date research and all potential avoidance, reduction and mitigation options presented for all receptors. Only once all feasible avoidance reduction and mitigation measures have been employed, should applicants explore possible compensatory measures to compensate for any remaining significant adverse effects to site integrity.	The Applicant has employed the mitigation hierarchy to reduce or avoid adverse effects from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on evironmental features. Measures adopted as part of the project are presented in the Mitigation and monitoring schedule (Document Reference J10). The SNCBs and NRW have been consulted on the HRA throughout the pre-application phase. A number of measures have been employed to avoid environmental impacts, for example development and adherence to a Landfall Method Statement which commits to the installation of Mona export cables via trenchless techniques under the intertidal area from below Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS), where the exit pits will be located, to onshore. In addition, the Applicant has committed to the development of, and adherence to, an offshore Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels will be included within the Offshore EMP. They will include a timing restriction of no offshore export cable installation during the period 1 November to 31 March within the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA). The SNCBs have not indicated that the Mona Offshore Wind Project is likely to adversely impact a protected site. The Applicant's HRA concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no risk of an adverse effect on the integrity of any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, therefore there is no potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to hinder the conservation objectives for any SACs, SPAs or

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		Where several developers are likely to have cumulative impacts on the same species or feature it may be appropriate to collaborate on mitigation and compensation measures.	Ramsar sites either alone or in-combination. Therefore, there is no requirement for a 'without prejudice' derogation case and one has not been submitted with the application for consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Biodiversity and ecological conservation	2.8.221 - 2.8.223	Applicants must develop an ecological monitoring programme to monitor impacts during the pre-construction, construction and operational phases to identify the actual impacts caused by the project and compare them to what was predicted in the EIA/HRA. Should impacts be greater than those predicted, an adaptive management process may need to be implemented and additional mitigation required, to ensure that so far as possible the effects are brought back within the range of those predicted. Monitoring should be of sufficient standard to inform future decision-making. Increasing the understanding of the efficacy of alternatives and mitigation will deliver greater certainty on applicant requirements.	With respect to onshore ecology, measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, are described in Section 3.8 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Onshore Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.3), which includes measures contained within the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26) and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22). Measures required to mitigate impacts on identified ecological receptors during construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are set out in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26), which includes the deployment of a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works to supervise/monitor construction works. The requirements and procedures for future monitoring during operation and maintenance of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22). Full details of all mitigation and monitoring associated with all phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are presented in the Mitigation and monitoring schedule (Document Reference J10).
Physical environment	2.8.224 – 2.8.225	Applicants are expected to have considered the best ecological outcomes in terms of potential mitigation. These might include: • avoidance of areas sensitive to physical effects; • consideration of micro-siting of both the array and cables; • alignment and density of the array; • design of foundations; • ensuring that sediment moved is retained as locally as possible;	The Applicant has employed the mitigation hierarchy to reduce or avoid adverse effects from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on ecological features. Measures adopted as part of the project are presented in the Mitigation and monitoring schedule (Document Register J10) and include: A 50m exclusion buffer will be in place to avoid the Sabellaria alveolata reef and Mytilus edulis bed at the landfall. Development and adherence to an offshore construction method statement which includes a cable specification and installation plan which requires cables to be buried where possible.

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		• the burying of cables to a necessary depth; • using scour protection techniques around offshore structures to prevent scour effects or designing turbines to withstand scour, so scour protection is not required or is minimised. Applicants should consult the statutory consultees on appropriate mitigation and monitoring.	Proposed ecological mitigation and monitoring has been discussed with the SNCBs through the Evidence Plan process.
Intertidal and coastal habitats and species	2.8.227 - 2.8.231	Landfall and cable installation and decommissioning methods should be designed appropriately to minimise effects on intertidal/coastal habitats, taking into account other constraints. Where applicable, use of horizontal directional drilling techniques (HDD) should be considered as a method to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats and species. Where HDD is proposed, the applicant should provide an alternative plan for installing the infrastructure in the event that HDD fails. The applicant should explain their justification for the alternative plan and ensure this is the least impactful method possible. Where cumulative effects on intertidal habitats are predicted as a result of the cumulative impact of multiple cable routes, applicants of various schemes are encouraged to work together to ensure that the number of cables crossing the intertidal/coastal zone are minimised and installation and decommissioning phases are coordinated to ensure that disturbance is also reasonably minimised.	The procedures associated with the installation and decommissioning of landfall and cable installation are considered with respect to best practice techniques and relevant guidance, within the Environmental Statement, in particular within Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description (Document Reference F1.3). The methods of cable installation and decommissioning and a quantification of the associated impacts on benthic receptors is presented in the MDS in Table 2.18 of Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2). The Applicant is committed to the development of and adherence to a Landfall Method Statement which commits to the installation of Mona export cables via trenchless techniques under the intertidal area from below MLWS, where the exit pits will be located, to onshore. This will minimise the impacts to all benthic intertidal receptors. Additionally, specific measures have been adopted to avoid sensitive features at the landfall such as *Sabellaria alveolata* reef (see Table 2.19 of Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2)). The project alone assessment MDS includes the impact of cable crossings where relevant (see Table 2.18 in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2)). Cumulative effects have been quantified and their significance assessed in section 2.11 of Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2), including the impact of cables from other projects within the benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) study area. There are no other cable route (from other projects) which overlap

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			with the landfall and significant cumulative (or alone) effects are not predicted on intertidal receptors.
Subtidal habitats and species	2.8.233 - 2.8.234	Applicants should design construction, maintenance and decommissioning methods appropriately to minimise effects on subtidal habitats, taking into account other constraints. Mitigation measures which applicants are expected to have considered include: • surveying and micrositing of the turbines, designing array layout or re-routing of the export and inter-array cables to avoid adverse effects on sensitive/protected habitats, biogenic reefs or protected species; • reducing as much as possible the amount of infrastructure that will cause habitat loss in sensitive/protected habitats • burying cables at a sufficient depth, taking into account other constraints, to allow the seabed to recover to its natural state; and • the use of anti-fouling paint could be minimised on subtidal surfaces in certain environments, to encourage species colonisation on the structures, unless this is within a soft sediment MPA and thus would allow colonisation by species that would not normally be present. Where cumulative impacts on subtidal habitats are predicted as a result of multiple cable routes, applicants for various schemes are encouraged to work together to ensure that the number of cables crossing the subtidal zone is minimised and installation/ decommissioning phases are coordinated to ensure that disturbance is reasonably minimised.	The impacts of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on subtidal habitats are assessed within Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.2). The Mona Offshore Wind Project will aim to minimise effects on subtidal habitats and conserve habitats through a number of measures adopted to reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Measures adopted as part of the project are presented in the Mitigation and monitoring schedule (Document Reference J10). The final Mona Array Area layout will be determined post-consent. The Mona Offshore Cable Corridor was designed to avoid key constraints including environmental designations and the need to route around existing offshore wind farms, anchorage areas, pipelines and cable infrastructure. Therefore minimising the number of cable crossings. Considerations when determining the Mona Array Area and Mona Offshore Cable Corridor are set out in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). The Mona Offshore Cable Corridor minimises interaction with the Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC and Constable Bank sandbank feature. The Applicant has also made commitments to minimise the cable protection installed within with the Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC and no cable protection will be installed within the Constable Bank. The Applicant has committed to the development and adherence to an offshore construction method statement which includes a cable specification and installation plan which requires cable to be buried where possible.
Marine mammals	2.8.237 - 2.8.239	Monitoring of the surrounding area before and during the piling procedure can be undertaken by various methods including marine mammal observers and passive acoustic monitoring. Active displacement of marine mammals outside	The Applicant has undertaken a review of the latest research and JNCC guidelines when drafting the Environmental Statement.

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		potential injury zones can be undertaken using equipment such as acoustic deterrent devices. Soft start procedures during pile driving may be implemented. This enables marine mammals in the area disturbed by the sound levels to move away from the piling before physical or auditory injury is caused. Where noise impacts cannot be avoided, other mitigation should be considered, including alternative installation methods and noise abatement technology, spatial/temporal restrictions on noisy activities, alternative foundation types. Applicants should undertake a review of up-to-date research and all potential mitigation options presented as part of the application, having consulted the relevant JNCC mitigation guidelines.	The Applicant has committed to using acoustic deterrent devices and soft start procedures to reduce the potential impact on marine mammals (See Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine Mammals of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.4)). The Applicant has committed to the development of and adherence to an Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) which will be developed in accordance with the Outline MMMP (Document Reference J21) that requires implementation of an initiation stage of a piling soft start and ramp-up, sets minimum separation limit of 1.4 km for concurrent piling and sets a maximum separation limit of 15 km for concurrent piling to reduce the impact on marine mammals. The draft MMMP also includes for the use of marine mammal observers and passive acoustic monitoring as tertiary mitigation measures. The. Applicant has also committed to the development of and adherence to an Underwater Sound Management Strategy that includes consideration of Noise Abatement Systems (NAS) as part of mitigation options as part of a stepped strategy post consent and following the mitigation hierarchy, which will be developed in accordance with the Outline underwater sound management strategy (Document Reference J21). The Underwater Sound Management Strategy will be agreed and finalised post-consent once the final project design is known.
Birds	2.8.240	Aviation and navigation lighting should be minimised and/or on demand (as encouraged in EN-1 Section 5.5) to avoid attracting birds, taking into account impacts on safety. Subject to other constraints, wind turbines should be laid out within a site, in a way that minimises collision risk.	The impacts on offshore ornithology are considered within Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5). There is the potential that aviation and navigation lighting on wind turbines might attract seabirds and thus increase the risk of collision. Conversely, aviation and navigation lighting could repel birds moving through the Mona Array Area. Aviation and navigation lighting associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project is unlikely to result in increasing collision risk for most species of bird considered within the assessment (e.g. true seabirds such as gulls, auks and shearwaters), as there is little published evidence showing that true seabirds are less active at night compared to daytime. Furthermore, the results of the collision risk model presented in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of

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			the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5) accounted for nocturnal activity of birds.
	2.8.241 - 2.8.244	Turbine parameters should also be developed to reduce collision risk where the assessment shows there is a significant risk of collision (e.g., altering rotor height). Construction vessels and post-construction maintenance vessel traffic associated with offshore wind farms and offshore transmission should, where practicable and compatible with operational requirements and navigational safety, avoid rafting seabirds during sensitive periods and follow agreed navigation routes to and from the site and minimise the number of vessel movements overall. The exact timing of peak migration events is inherently uncertain, although research is ongoing into estimates for peak migration periods for a number of bird species and detection technologies (e.g. using radar and integrated sensors) are improving. Currently, shutting down turbines within migration routes during estimated peak migration periods is unlikely to offer suitable mitigation, but this might be a possibility in the future.	No significant effect on offshore ornithology features were identified within Volume 2, Chapter 5 Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.5). The Applicant has committed to a minimum lower blade tip height (air draught) of 34 m above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) with parameters set within Table 3, Schedule 2 of the draft DCO. In addition, the applicant has committed to the development of, and adherence to, an offshore Environmental Management Plan. The Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels will be included within the Offshore EMP. They will include a timing restriction of no offshore export cable installation during the period 1st November to 31st March within the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area to avoid impacts on offshore ornithology features.
Fish	2.8.249	Construction of specific elements can also be timed to reduce impacts on spawning or migration. Underwater noise mitigation can also be used to prevent injury and death of fish species.	The Applicant has committed to the development of and adherence to an Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) which will be developed in accordance with the Outline MMMP (Document Reference J21) that requires implementation of an initiation stage of a piling soft start and ramp-up, sets minimum separation limit of 1.4 km for concurrent piling and sets a maximum separation limit of 15 km for concurrent piling to reduce the impact on marine mammals. Although designed to reduce impacts on marine mammals, these measures will be effective in reducing the impact on fish species. The Applicant has also committed to the development of and adherence to an Underwater Sound Management Strategy that includes consideration of Noise Abatement Systems (NAS) as part of mitigation options as part of a stepped strategy post consent and

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			following the mitigation hierarchy, which will be developed in accordance with the Outline underwater sound management strategy (Document Reference J21). The Applicant has committed to using accoustic deterrent devices and soft start procedures to reduce the potential impact on marine mammals. Although not designed for fish, they will also reduce the potential impact to some fish species. The Outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy (Document Reference J16) includes measures that the Applicant may potentially employ to reduce the effects of underwater sound on fish. The Underwater Sound Management Strategy will be agreed and finalised post-consent once the final project design is known.
Commercial fisheries and fishing	2.8.250 - 2.8.251	Any mitigation proposals should result from the applicant having detailed consultation with relevant representatives of the fishing industry, IFCAs, the MMO and the relevant Defra policy team in England and NRW and the relevant Welsh Government policy team in Wales. Mitigation should be designed to enhance where reasonably possible any potential medium and long-term positive benefits to the fishing industry, commercial fish stocks and the marine environment.	Extensive consultation with UK and non-UK stakeholders has been undertaken, and consultation is on-going. This is summarised in Volume 2, Chapter 6 Commercial Fisheries of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.6), with further information in Volume 6, Annex 6.1 Commercial Fisheries Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.61). A range of commitments are presented within the Fisheries Liaison and Co-Existence Plan (Document Reference J16) which seeks to ensure fishing activities can continue.
Marine historic environment	2.8.252 - 2.8.254	The avoidance of important heritage assets to ensure their protection in situ, is the most effective form of protection. This can be achieved through the implementation of exclusion zones around known and potential heritage assets which preclude development activities within their boundaries. These boundaries can be drawn around either discrete sites or more extensive areas identified in the Environmental Statement produced to support an application for consent.	The use of archaeological exclusion zones are considered a primary mitigation measure on the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This is described in Volume 2, Chapter 9: Marine Archaeology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F2.9). Archaeology Exclusion Zones (AEZs) have been developed for inclusion in siting and routing decisions. informed by the archaeological assessment of sites specific geophysical and geotechnical survey data. An Outline Offshore WSI and PAD (Document Reference J18) has been submitted with the application to provide a procedure for managing works that include seabed impact and for the possibility of encountering buried archaeological material.

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	2.8.255 - 2.8.258	The ability of the applicants to microsite specific elements of the proposed development during the construction phase should be an important consideration by the Secretary of State when assessing the risk of damage to archaeology. Where requested by the applicant, the Secretary of State should consider granting consents which allow for micrositing/microrouting (see paragraphs 2.8.76 above) within a specified tolerance. To ensure a programme of archaeological works have been secured, an outline WSI, covering the entirety of the defined project area and full duration of the project, that complies with the policy in this NPS, should be submitted within the application. This allows changes to be made to the precise location of infrastructure during the construction phase so that account can be taken of unforeseen circumstances such as the discovery of marine archaeological remains.	A geophysical survey and a trial trenching campaign have been undertaken and the results are reported in Volume 7: Annex 5.3: Onshore geophysical survey report and Annex 5.5: Interim trial trenching report of the Environmental Statement. These surveys aim to reduce the risk to archaeology and have been taken into account during the refinement of the onshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The refinement approach and micro-siting is explained in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection and the consideration of alternatives of the Environmental Statement. An Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (Document Reference J18) and an Outline Onshore and Intertidal Written Scheme of Investigation (Document Reference J23) have been submitted with the application.
Offshore wind impacts: navigation and shipping	2.8.259 - 2.8.260	Mitigation measures will include site configuration, lighting and marking of projects to take account of any requirements of the General Lighthouse Authority. In some circumstances, the Secretary of State may wish to consider the potential to use requirements involving arbitration (between the applicant and third parties) as a means of resolving how adverse impacts on other commercial activities will be addressed.	A list of commitments and mitigation measures made by the Mona Offshore Wind Project and relevant to shipping and navigation are described within the NRA (Volume 6, Annex 7.1 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.7.1)). Collectively these were assessed to reduce all navigation risks to Broadly Acceptable or ALARP. This includes a layout plan and a lighting and marking plan.
Other offshore infrastructure and activities	2.8.261 -2.8.262	Detailed discussions between the applicant for the offshore wind farm and the relevant consultees should have progressed as far as reasonably possible prior to the submission of an application. As such, appropriate mitigation should be included in any application, and ideally agreed between relevant parties. In some circumstances, the Secretary of State may wish to consider the potential to use requirements involving	Consultation and any measures adopted as part of the project are presented in the relevant topic chapters of the Environmental Statement and the various mitigation management plans submitted with the application, in particular under the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10), as listed previously in this document

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		arbitration as a means of resolving how adverse impacts on other commercial activities will be addressed.	
Seascape and visual effects	2.8.263 - 2.8.264	Neither the design nor scale of individual wind turbines can be changed without significantly affecting the electricity generating output of the wind turbines. Therefore, the Secretary of State should expect it to be unlikely that mitigation in the form of reduction in scale will be feasible. However, the siting layout of the turbines should be designed appropriately to minimise harm, considering other constraints such as ecological effects, safety reasons or engineering and design parameters.	The main factors determining the siting of the components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, incuding the criteria for good design are described in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmenal Statement (Document Reference F1.4). The final layout of the wind turbines will be determined post consent however the Applicant has committed to a number of layout principles in order to minimise harm while considering constraints, they are detailed in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the Environmental Statement. Given the dynamic nature of the majority of the visual receptors and the location of the project offshore, no additional measures are proposed specifically in relation to the location, scale or layout of the wind turbines.
Compensatory measures	2.8.267 - 2.8.271	If, during the pre-application stage, SNCBs indicate that the proposed development is likely to adversely impact a protected site, the applicant should include with their application such information as may reasonably be required to assess potential derogations under the Habitats Regulations or the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Where such an indication is given later in the development consent process, the applicant should share this information as soon as reasonably practical. This information includes: • assessment of alternative solutions, showing the relevant tests on alternatives have been met; • a case showing that the relevant tests for IROPI or Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit have been met; and • appropriate securable environmental compensation which will ensure no net loss to the MPA network and help ensure that the MPA target (including any interim target) set under the Environment Act 2021 targets can be met.	The SNCBs have been consulted on the HRA throughout the pre-application phase as evidenced in Consultation Report (Document Reference E3). The SNCBs have not indicated that the Mona Offshore Wind Project is likely to adversely impact a protected site. The Applicant's HRA has concluded that there are no potential adverse effects on protected sites therefore the Applicant has not included a 'without prejudice' derogation case with the application for consent. Details of the process and outcomes of the HRA are included as Document References E1.1 – E1.5.

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		Provision of such information will not be taken as an acceptance of adverse impacts and if applicants dispute the likelihood of adverse effects, they can provide this information as part of their application, 'without prejudice' to the Secretary of State's final decision on the impacts of the potential development.	
	2.8.273 - 2.8.275	Applicants should work closely at an early stage in the pre-application process with SNCBs, and Defra, in conjunction with the relevant regulators, Local Planning Authorities, National Park Authorities, landowners and other relevant stakeholdersto develop a compensation plan for all protected sites adversely affected by the development. Before submitting an application, applicants should seek the views of the SNCB and Defra, as to the suitability, securability and effectiveness of the compensation plan to ensure that the overall coherence of the National Site Network for the impacted SAC/SPA/MCZ feature is protected. Consultation should also take place throughout the pre-application phase with key stakeholders (e.g. via the evidence plan process and use of expert topic groups). In cases where such views are provided, the applicant should include a copy of this information with the compensation plan in their application for further consideration by the Examining Authority and Secretary of State.	The SNCBs and Defra have been consulted on the HRA throughout the pre-application phase (Document References E1.1 – E1.5). The SNCBs and Defra have not indicated that the Mona Offshore Wind Project is likely to adversely impact a protected site. The Applicants HRA has concluded that there are no potential adverse effects on protected sites therefore the Applicant has not included a 'without prejudice' derogation case with the application for consent. As such, this specific point is not applicable. Impacts on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) are assessed in the MCZ Screening Report (Document Reference E2), a full MCZ assessment was not conisdred to be required by the Applicant and was not highlighted by the SNCBs or Defra. The Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment study area for both onshore and offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project include areas of internationally and/or nationally designated areas of land. The potential effect on the Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park is documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: International and nationally designated landscapes study (Document Reference F6.8.4).
Strategic compensation	2.8.279 - 2.8.280	Applicants will be able to access tools and mechanisms to support identification of suitable compensation and facilitate delivery of strategic compensation measures where appropriate. The government is still developing its policies on strategic compensation, through the COWSC programme and guidance will be published in due course.	No compensation measures are proposed to be required. The SNCBs and Defra have been consulted on the HRA throughout the pre-application phase. The SNCBs and Defra have not indicated that the Mona Offshore Wind Project is likely to adversely impact a protected site, as such no compensation measures are required for this project. The Applicant's HRA has concluded that there are no potential adverse effects on protected sites therefore the Applicant

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			has not included a 'without prejudice' derogation case with the application for consent. See Document Rererences E1.1 – E1.5.
	2.8.283	Applicants should also coordinate with other marine industry sectors, e.g., oil and gas, who might also need to find compensatory measures. This will ensure compensatory measures are complementary and/or take advantage of opportunities to join together to deliver strategic compensation. Applicant's should demonstrate that they have consulted with those industries/stakeholders who are affected by any proposed compensation measures.	The Applicant's HRA concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no risk of an adverse effect on the integrity of any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, therefore there is no potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to hinder the conservation objectives for any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites either alone or in-combination. Therefore, there is no requirement for a 'without prejudice' derogation case and one has not been submitted with the application for consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Applicant has employed the mitigation hierarchy to reduce or avoid adverse effects from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on ecological features. Measures adopted as part of the project are presented in the Mitigation and monitoring schedule (Document Register J10). The SNCBs and Defra have been consulted on the HRA throughout the pre-application phase (see the Technical engagement plan (Document Reference E4)). A number of measures have been employed to avoid environmental impacts, for example development and adherence to a Landfall Method Statement which commits to the installation of Mona export cables via trenchless techniques under the intertidal area from below Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS), where the exit pits will be located, to onshore. In addition, the Applicant has committed to the development of, and adherence to, an offshore Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels will be included within the Offshore EMP. They will include a timing restriction of no offshore export cable installation during the period 1 November to 31 March within the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA).

1.2.4 EN-5 NPS Accordance

Table 1.4: NPS EN-5 Accordance

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
Introduction			
Background	1.1.5	As identified in EN-1, government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure. This includes: for electricity grid infrastructure, all power lines in scope of EN-5 including network reinforcement and upgrade works, and associated infrastructure such as substations. This is not limited to those associated specifically with a particular generation technology, as all new grid projects will contribute towards greater efficiency in constructing, operating and connecting low carbon infrastructure to the National Electricity Transmission System. These are viewed by the government as being CNP infrastructure and should be progressed as quickly as possible.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project accords with this requirement as it is recognised with EN-1 Paragraph 1.1.4 as Critical National Priority (CNP) for low carbon infrastructure therefore the 'need' for this project has been established. The project will make a significant contribution to new renewable generation. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will have an installed capacity of at least 350MW and further information regarding meeting demand is set out in Volume 1, Chapter 3 Project Description (Document Reference F1.3).
	1.1.11	Applicants should ensure that their applications, and any accompanying supporting documents and information, are consistent with the instructions and guidance given to applicants in this NPS, EN-1 and any other NPSs that are relevant to the application in question.	The application has been prepared in strict compliance with The Planning Inspectorate, (2017), Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents.
Factors influencing site selection and design			
	2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.4 – 2.2.6	The Secretary of State should bear in mind that the initiating and terminating points – or development zone – of new electricity networks infrastructure is not substantially within the control of the applicant. Siting is determined by:	The main factors determining the siting the of the components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are described in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). Mona Offshore Wind Project was scoped into the Holistic Network Design (HND) process as a Pathway to 2030 Project. National Grid's (as the Electrical System Operator – NGESO) recommended design for

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		• the location of new generating stations or other infrastructure requiring connection to the network, and/or • system capacity and resilience requirements determined by the Electricity System Operator. A strategic and holistic approach to onshore and offshore network planning, will identify the most efficient way of meeting decarbonisation targets and should reduce the overall amount of network infrastructure required. Additionally, applicants retain control in managing the identification of routing and site selection between the identified initiating and terminating points or within the development zone. Moreover, the locational constraints identified above do not exempt applicants from their duty to consider and balance the site-selection considerations set out below, much less the policies on good design and impact mitigation detailed in Sections 2.4-2.9	the Northwest Region (of which the Irish Sea is part) is a combination of collaborative developer-led solutions and single radial connections. A number of potential grid connection locations and options were considered by NGESO through the HND process based on an understanding of the grid infrastructure capacity in relation to the location of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (and considering other Round 4 offshore wind projects coming forward in the Irish Sea). Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with NGESO, the Mona Offshore Wind Project engaged with NGESO throughout the HND to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid and to provide input on environmental and consenting constraints for the POI under consideration. Ultimately, NGESO concluded, through the HND process, that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales (NGESO, 2022) and therefore this is the only option the Applicant considered as part of the site selection process. The Applicant has undertaken a site selection and consideration of alternatives process to identify the location of the Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore and onshore infrastructure through early engagement with a range of stakeholders. The aim was to identify locations and routes (for the offshore export cable route, landfall location, onshore cable route and onshore substation) that were environmentally acceptable, deliverable and consentable, whilst also enabling the benefits in the long term of the lowest energy cost to be passed to the consumer. The process has taken account of environmental, physical, technical, commercial, and social considerations and opportunities as well as engineering requirements. Each stage of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process formed part of an iterative design process undertaken to identify the most suitable locations and configuration for the Mona Offshore Wind Project infrastructure.

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			A full description of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (Document Reference F1.4).
	2.2.7 - 2.2.9	The connection between the initiating and terminating points of a proposed new electricity line will often not be via the most direct route. Siting constraints, such as engineering, environmental or community considerations will be important in determining a feasible route. There will usually be a degree of flexibility in the location of the development's associated substations, and applicants should consider carefully their location, as well as their design. In particular, the applicant should consider such characteristics as the local topography, the possibilities for screening of the infrastructure and/or other options to mitigate any impacts. (See Section 2.10 below and Section 5.10 in EN-1.)	The main factors determining the siting the of the components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, incudnig engineering, environmental or community considerations are described in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmenal Statement (Document Reference F1.4).
	2.2.10	As well as having duties under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, (in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network), applicants must take into account Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, which places a duty on all transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to *"have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and …do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects."*	A full impact assessment for the Mona Offshore Wind Project is presented in the topic-specific chapters of the Environmental Statement. A BRAG methodology (Document Reference F5.4.2) was used to inform site selection and consideration of alternatives. Development considerations captured within the BRAG assessment included archaeology/cultural heritage, ecology, landscape, hydrology and hydrogeology, engineering, community, landscape and visual, property and planning. Landscape considerations for the BRAG assessment were based on criteria for judging landscape capacity and sensitivity, for example proximity to valued landscapes, landscape character susceptibility, visual sensitivity/presence of visual receptors and opportunities to utilise existing features (such as woodlands) for screening and mitigation. This approach took account of the siting principles in the Horlock Rules and considered Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989

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			The Environmental Statement has had regard to minimising effects in relation to to natural beauty, flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest. The relevant chapters include: • Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference F2.2) • Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference F2.3) • Marine Mammals (Document Reference F2.4) • Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference F2.5) • Seascape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F2.8) • Marine Archaeology (Document Reference F2.9) • Geology,Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions (Document Reference F3.1) • Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3 • Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document Reference F3.4) • Historic Environment (Document Reference F3.5), • Landscape and Visual Resources (Document Reference F3.6). The assessments in the above chapters have informed the design and siting of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and the main factors determining the siting the of the components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, incuding the criteria for good design are described in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmenal Statement (Document Reference F1.4) with further detail included in the Design Principles document (Document Reference J3) which details the approach to design.
	2.2.11 - 2.2.12	Depending on the location of the proposed development, statutory duties under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended by Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995), and Section 17A of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 may be relevant.	These provisions of the Acts relate to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of a nationally designated site, e.g. a national park or area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). The Mona Offshore Wind Project is discussed in the context of Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park, Isle of Anglesey AONB and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB within Volume 6, Annex 8.5:

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		Applicants should note amendments to each of these provisions contained in Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. Transmission and distribution licence holders are also required under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989 to produce and publish a statement setting out how they propose to perform this duty generally.	Internationally and Nationally Designated Landscapes of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F6.8.5). The report concludes that there would be no significant effects on the special qualities of these designated landscapes which means the proposal would conserve the characteristics of these natural landscapes and cultural heritage areas. Whenever possible, enhacements will be provided, as shown in the submitted Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22), and Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7).
Climate change adaptation and resilience			
	2.3.2	As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it has been designed to be resilient to: • flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change; • the effects of wind and storms on overhead lines; • higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; • earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and • coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively.	As confirmed in the response to NPS EN-1 requirements in relation to Water Quality and Resources above, a site-specific flood risk assessment, including appropriate allowances for climate change has been undertaken for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and is reported in Volume 7, Annex 2.1: Flood Consequences Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F7.2.1). The Flood Consequences Assessment was used to inform an appropriate Flood Management Plan (Document Reference J26.7), which forms part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26) such that no significant effects are considered likely in relation to flooding. As above, the potential impact on climate change is considered in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Climate change of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F4.2) (section 2.10.7) and Volume 8, Annex 2.2: Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F8.2.2). A risk assessment has been undertaken, considering the hazard, potential severity of impact on the Mona Offshore Wind Project and its users (including their sensitivity and vulnerability), probability of that impact, and level of influence the project design can have on the risk. This assessment has been informed by worst-case potential climatic conditions in the 2040-2069 time period, based on the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) probabilistic projections for a high-

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			emissions scenario (RCP8.5), in line with relevant IEMA guidance (IEMA, 2020). The assessment of climate risk has accounted for measures included within the Mona Offshore Wind Project in determining a combined risk score. These have been considered across the lifetime of the Project. The climate change assessment work undertaken has considered how/if changes to climatic parameters might exacerbate or alter assessments of effects in a future baseline scenario. No risks to the Mona Offshore Wind Project due to climate change have been identified as significant before mitigation. As such, the effect on the Mona Offshore Wind Project has been determined to be negligible.
Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure			
	2.4.1 - 2.4.4	The Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to have regard, in designating an NPS, and in determining applications for development consent to the desirability of good design. Applicants should consider the criteria for good design set out in EN-1 Section 4.7 at an early stage when developing projects. However, the Secretary of State should bear in mind that electricity networks infrastructure must in the first instance be safe and secure, and that the functional design constraints of safety and security may limit an applicant's ability to influence the aesthetic appearance of that infrastructure. While the above principles should govern the design of an electricity networks infrastructure application to the fullest possible extent – including in its avoidance and/or mitigation of potential adverse impacts (particularly those detailed in Sections 2.9 below) – the functional performance of the infrastructure in respect of security of supply and public and occupational safety must not thereby be threatened.	Details of how good design has been considered throughout the development of the Mona Offshore Wind Farm are presented in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) and the Design Principles document (Document Reference J3). The Design Principles document (Document Reference J3) outlines how the onshore substation will be designed to be safe and secure but also how design principles will be applied during detailed design to minimise adverse impacts (e.g. through planting of woodland or selecting coloured facades for buildings).

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Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain			
	2.5.1	When planning and evaluating the proposed development's contribution to environmental and biodiversity net gain, it will be important – for both the applicant and the Secretary of State – to supplement the generic guidance set out in EN-1 (Section 4.6) with recognition that the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure can allow for excellent opportunities to: i. reconnect important habitats via green corridors, biodiversity stepping zones, and reestablishment of appropriate hedgerows; and/or ii. connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with environmental enhancements.	The mechansims through which overall net benefit to biodiviersty would be delivered as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are descibred in the Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7). Section 3.4 of that document confirms that a range of onshore ecological mitigation measures will be put in place along the onshore export cable corridor and at the onshore substation to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The measures include: • re-instatement of hedgerows to provide habitat connectivity for bats and dormice • ponds and terrestrial habitat (such as hedgerows and species rich grassland) for displaced Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptiles • hedgerow re-instatement and tree planting to provide mitigation for habitat loss for breeding birds. In addition to the mitigation set out above onshore enhancement is proposed via: • Additional hedgerow restoration and creation • Woodland planting • Pond and attenuation basin creation • Wildflower planting • Scrub habitat creation • Species rich grassland creation • Ditch realignment. Section 3.5 of the document confirms that a range of ecological mitigation measures will be put in place within the array area and offshore export cable corridor to mitigate the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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			In addition to that mitigation the Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefit to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project. These are being explored for feasibility and appropriateness and include: • Opportunities to increase the productivity of breeding seabirds • Biodiversity enhancing cable crossing mattresses for cable protection as part of the detailed project design • Biodiversity enhancing artificial reef blocks or cubes which could be introduced as part of foundation design • Opportunities to restore fish and shellfish habitats • Contributions to MARINE Fund Cymru.
Land Rights and Land Interests			
	2.6.1 – 2.6.2	In order to be lawfully able to install, inspect, maintain, repair, adjust, alter, replace or remove an electricity line (above or below ground), its related equipment (such as monopoles, pylons/transmission towers, transformers and cables), and/or its associated mitigation or enhancement schemes, applicants must: i. own the land on, over, or under which the relevant activity is to take place; or ii. hold sufficient rights over or interests in that land (typically in the form of an easement); or iii. have permission for the activity from the present owner or occupier of that land (typically in the form of a wayleave). Where the applicant does not own or wish to own the land in question, it should try to reach a voluntary agreement giving it sufficient rights and/or permissions to undertake the relevant work.	The areas of land required as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project for mitigation and enhancement are set out in the Works Plan – Onshore (Document Reference B3) and Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference (J22). The Applicant, through its agents Dalcour Maclaren, has engaged relevant landowners and occupiers in negotiations to secure the necessary interests in land required for the Mona Offshore Wind Project by voluntary agreement. However, in order to give the Applicant and the Secretary of State certainty that all of the necessary land will be secured within a reasonable timeframe, powers of compulsory acquisition are also sought

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	2.6.3 - 2.6.6	As a last resort, where it does not succeed in reaching the agreement that it requires, the network company may, as part of its application to the Secretary of State, seek to acquire rights compulsorily over the land in question by means of a provision in the DCO. In such cases (i.e. where the compulsory acquisition of rights is sought) permanent arrangements are strongly preferred over voluntary wayleaves (which could, for example, be terminable on notice by the landowner) in virtue of their greater reliability and economic efficiency and reflecting the importance of the relevant infrastructure to the nation's net zero goals. The applicant may also seek the compulsory acquisition of land. This will not normally be necessary where lines and cables are installed but may be sought where other forms of electricity networks infrastructure (such as new substations) are required. As detailed in Section 4.1.8 of EN-1, where the use of land at a specific location is required to facilitate the development by providing for mitigation, landscape enhancement and biodiversity net gain, an applicant may, as part of its application to the Secretary of State, seek the compulsory acquisition of that land, or rights over that land. The Secretary of State will consider any such application under the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 and any associated guidance	The areas of land required as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project for mitigation and enhancement are set out in the Works Plan – Onshore (Document Reference B3) and Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference (J22). The Applicant, through its agents Dalcour Maclaren, has engaged relevant landowners and occupiers in negotiations to secure the necessary interests in land required for the Mona Offshore Wind Project by voluntary agreement. However, in order to give the Applicant and the Secretary of State certainty that all of the necessary land will be secured within a reasonable timeframe, powers of compulsory acquisition are also sought and a Book of Reference (Document Reference D6) is provided. The Applicant is applying for powers of compulsory acquisition to secure the necessary rights and interests in the land to deliver the Mona Offshore Wind Project in the event voluntary agreement cannot be reached this includes areas required for landscape and ecological mitigation, enhancement and biodiversity benefit/gain. The justification for the application for compulsory purchase powers is set out in relation to each interest in the Statement of Reasons (Document Reference D3)
Holistic Planning			
	2.7.2	The government envisages that, wherever reasonably possible, applications for new generating stations and their related infrastructure should be contained in a single application to the Secretary of State. However, a consolidated approach of this kind may not always be possible, nor represent the most efficient strategy for delivery of new infrastructure.	Where possible, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has included consent for all relevant activities within the application for development consent. A separate marine licence is required from NRW for the transmission assets required for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Any other consents or licences required are presented in the Other Consents and Licences Required (Document Reference J1) and further detail on the

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			NRW marine licence in the Marine Licence Principles Document (Document Reference J9).
Strategic Network Planning			
Strategic Network Planning	2.8.1 - 2.8.2	A more strategic approach to network planning will ensure that network development keeps pace with renewable generation and anticipates future system needs. Strategic network planning, such as through the Holistic Network Design and its follow up exercises or through forthcoming Centralised Strategic Network plans, helps reduce the overall impact of infrastructure by identifying opportunities for coordination, where appropriate, and taking a holistic view of both the onshore and offshore network. Network plans will take account of environmental and community impacts, alongside deliverability and economic cost, from the outset. A strategic approach to network planning proposed through the Centralised Strategic Network Planning (CSNP) process will identify strategic investments intended to facilitate achieving net zero and decarbonisation targets.	In accordance with the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design published in July 2022 which sets out the optimal transmission network to connect offshore wind farms to the transmission network and transport their power to where it is needed, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has an independent transmission network to the National Grid substation at Bodelwyddan. Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), the Mona Offshore Wind Project has engaged with NGESO throughout the HND to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid. NGESO concluded that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales.
Applicant Assessment			
Landscape and Visual Impact	2.9.7	While the government does not believe that the development of overhead lines is incompatible in principle with applicants' statutory duty under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, to have regard to visual and landscape amenity and to reasonably mitigate possible impacts thereon, in practice new overhead lines can give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.	There are no overhead lines associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. All electricity will be transmitted via underground cables.

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	2.9.18 – 2.9.19	The Horlock Rules – guidelines for the design and siting of substations – were established by National Grid in 2009 in pursuance of its duties under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989. These principles should be embodied in applicants' proposals for the infrastructure associated with new overhead lines. In brief, the Horlock Rules state that applicants should: • consider environmental issues from the earliest stage to balance the technical benefits and capital cost requirements for new developments against the consequential environmental effects in order to keep adverse effects to a reasonably practicable minimum. • seek to avoid altogether internationally and nationally designated areas of the highest amenity, cultural or scientific value by the overall planning of the system connections. • protect as far as reasonably practicable areas of local amenity value, important existing habitats and landscape features including ancient woodland, historic hedgerows, surface and ground water sources and nature conservation areas. • take advantage of the screening provided by land form and existing features and the potential use of site layout and levels to keep intrusion into surrounding areas to a reasonably practicable minimum. • keep the visual, noise and other environmental effects to a reasonably practicable minimum. • consider the land use effects of the proposal when planning the siting of substations or extensions. • consider the options available for terminal towers, equipment, buildings and ancillary development appropriate to individual locations, seeking to keep effects to a reasonably practicable minimum.	The main factors determining the siting the of the components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, incuding the criteria for good design are described in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) with further detail included in the Design Principles document (Document Reference J3) which details the approach to design. A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan has been developed (to minimise and mitigate potential effects of the proposed onshore infrastructure and provide enhancements (Document Reference J22). In addition a Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement has also been submitted with the application (Document Reference J7). The principles embedded in the Horlock Rules are key to the development of the site selection and consideration of alternatives of the Mona Offshore Wind Project – in particular in relation to the onshore infrastructure (Mona Onshore Development Area that encompasses the landfall, onshore cable route and onshore substation). Environmental issues have been condiered at the commencement of the site selection and consideration of alternatives process. This is covered by the site selection principles as defined in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). The site selection process has considered all designated sites including those designated for ecological, landscape and historic environment reasons. All internationally and nationally designated sites have been avoided as part of the onshore substation site selection. The onshore substation consideration of alternatives has sought to protect areas of local amenity value, important existing habitats and landscape features as far as reasonably possible. Where impacts cannot be avoided they are addressed through appropriate mitigation and design as described within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan and provide enhancements (Document Reference J22). In addition a Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure

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		• use space effectively to limit the area required for development consistent with appropriate mitigation measures and to minimise the adverse effects on existing land use and rights of way, whilst also having regard to future extension of the substation. • make the design of access roads, perimeter fencing, earth-shaping, planting and ancillary development an integral part of the site layout and design, so as to fit in with the surroundings. • in open landscape especially, high voltage line entries should be kept, as far as possible, visually separate from low voltage lines and other overhead lines so as to avoid a confusing appearance. • study the inter-relationship between towers and substation structures and background and foreground features so as to reduce the prominence of structures from main viewpoints. Where practicable the exposure of terminal towers on prominent ridges should be minimised by siting towers against a background of trees rather than open skylines.	Statement has also been submitted with the application (Document Reference J7). The onshore substation shortlisting and Black-Red-Amber-Green (BRAG assessment) process has considered opportunities to benefit from existing screening. Additional landscape screening has been identified within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22). Visual, noise and other environmental effects have been minimised through the selection of the final onshore substation location. The location, orientation and layout of the onshore substation has been purposefully sited and micro-sited to ensure visual, noise and environmental effects are minimised. For details of the site selection process for the siting and orientation please see Chapter 1, Volume 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternative of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). The design of the onshore substation is outlined in the Design Principles Document (Document Reference J3). An Illustrative Landscape and Ecology Strategy has been prepared and is included in the Outline LEMP (Document J22). Further mitigation for noise and vibration impacts is considered in Volume 3; Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F3.9). The use of existing land has been considered within the site selection process and BRAG assessment; further details on the consideration of land use are contained within Chapter 1, Volume 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). The effects associated with potential equipment within the onshore substation have been taken into account in the development of indicative layouts and 3D modelling of the onshore substation. This has been used to determine potential impacts associated with landscape and visual and noise. The design of the onshore substation is outlined in the Design Principles Document (Document Reference J3). The layout and 3D model of the onshore substation is illustrated in Chapter 1, Volume 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4).

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			The footprint of the onshore substation has been determined based on the Applicants current view of land required. The footprint of the onshore substation reduced from 125,000m2 to 65,000m2 following statutory consultation feedback regarding the size of the onshore substation infrastructure.The design of the onshore substation will be subject to ongoing refinement as the project progresses. The design of the onshore substation is outlined in the Design Principles Document (Document Reference J3). Note: the reference to the "future extension of the substation" is related to the future extension of the Bodelwyddan National Grid substation. This is not considered as part of the site selection process for the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The requirement for access roads, fencing, site levelling, planting and other works (including the need for attenuation ponds) has been taken into account throughout the site selection process. A BRAG assessment for the permanent access road to the onshore substation is detailed within Volume 5, Annex 4.2: Selection and Refinement of the Onshore Infrastructure of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F5.4.2). The Mona Offshore Wind Project has not included overhead lines within the project design envelope. A strategic-level project design commitment was made at the outset of the project that all cables will be buried underground. This strategic-level commitment is detailed in Chapter 1, Volume 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternative of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4).
Undergrounding and subsea cables	2.9.20 - 2.9.22	Although it is the government's position that overhead lines should be the strong starting presumption for electricity networks developments in general, this presumption is reversed when proposed developments will cross part of a nationally designated landscape (i.e. National Park, The Broads, or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). In these areas, and where harm to the landscape, visual amenity and natural beauty of these areas cannot feasibly be avoided by re-routing overhead lines, the	There are no overhead lines associated with the Mona offshore Wind Project. All electricity will be transmitted via underground cables and will not cross any part of a nationally designated landscape.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
		strong starting presumption will be that the applicant should underground the relevant section of the line. However, undergrounding will not be required where it is infeasible in engineering terms, or where the harm that it causes (see section 2.11.4) is not outweighed by its corresponding landscape, visual amenity and natural beauty benefits. Regardless of the option, the scheme through its design, delivery, and operation, should seek to further the statutory purposes of the designated landscape. These enhancements may go beyond the mitigation measures needed to minimise the adverse effects of the scheme.	
	2.9.23 - 2.9.24	Additionally, cases will arise where – though no part of the proposed development crosses a designated landscape – a high potential for widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts along certain sections of its route may result in recommendations to use undergrounding for relevant segments of the line or alternatively consideration of using a route including subsea cabling. In these cases, and taking account of the fact that the government has not laid down any further rule on the circumstances requiring use of underground or subsea cables, the Secretary of State must weigh the feasibility, cost, and any harm of the undergrounding or subsea option against: • the adverse implications of the overhead line proposal; • the cost and feasibility of re-routing overhead lines or mitigation proposals for the relevant line section; and • the cost and feasibility of the reconfiguration, rationalisation, and/or use of underground or subsea cabling of proximate existing or proposed electricity networks infrastructure.	There are no overhead lines associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. All electricity will be transmitted via underground cables.

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	2.9.25	In such cases the Secretary of State should only grant development consent for underground or subsea sections of a proposed line over an overhead alternative if they are satisfied that the benefits accruing from the former proposal clearly outweigh any extra economic, social, or environmental impacts that it presents, the mitigation hierarchy has ben followed and that any technical obstacles associated with it are surmountable. In this context it should consider: • the landscape and visual baseline characteristics of the setting of the proposed route, in particular, the impact on high sensitivity visual receptors (as defined in the current edition of the Landscape Institute's Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment), residential areas, designated landscapes, valued landscapes, designated heritage assets and Heritage Coasts (including, where relevant, impacts on the setting of designated features and areas); noting the policy in EN-1 section 5.4.53 on regional and local designations. • the additional cost of the proposed underground or sub-sea alternatives, including their significantly higher lifetime cost of repair and later uprating; • the potentially very disruptive effects of undergrounding on local communities, habitats, archaeological and heritage assets, marine environments, soil (including peat soils), hydrology, geology, and, for a substantial time after construction, landscape and visual amenity. (Undergrounding an overhead line will mean digging a trench along the length of the route, and so such works will often be disruptive – albeit temporarily – to the receptors listed above than would an overhead line of equivalent rating); • the potentially very disruptive effects of subsea cables on the seabed and the species that live in and	All Environmental Statement chapters associated with sub-surface intervention assess the effect of buried cables in particular: Onshore Ecology (Document Reference F3.3), Historic Environment (Document Reference F3.5) with further documents submitted with the application to set out proposed mitigation measures as necessary including Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22), Outline Onshore and Intertidal Written Scheme of Investigation (Document Reference J23), Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference J26), Outline Spillage and Emergency Response Plan (Document Reference J26.1), Outline Dust Management Plan (Document Reference J26.2), Outline Construction Surface Water and Drainage Management Plan (Document Reference J26.6), Outline Flood Management Plan (Document Reference J26.7), Outline Soil Management Plan (Document Reference J26.8), Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Document Reference J26.9), Discovery Strategy for Contaminated Land (Document Reference J26.12), Outline Landfall Construction Method Statement (Document Reference J26.14) and an Onshore Construction Method Statement (Document Reference J26.15)

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		on it, including physical damage to and full loss of seabed habitats. Cable protection can also be required where cables cross each other, or where they cannot be buried deep enough to protect them from becoming exposed. Such protection causes additional impacts that are often greater than those of the cable itself due to the large areas covered. There can also be issues where subsea cables make landfall, as much coastal land is protected habitat and landfall connections could cause additional disruption to coastal communities. • the applicant's commitment, as set out in their ES, to mitigate the potential detrimental effects of undergrounding works on any relevant agricultural land and soils (including peat soils), particularly regarding Best and Most Versatile land, including development and implementation of a Soil Resources and Management Plan. Such a commitment must guarantee appropriate handling of soil, backfilling, and return of the land to the baseline Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), thus ensuring no loss or degradation of agricultural land. Such a commitment should be based on soil and ALC surveys in line with the 1988 ALC criteria and due consideration of the Defra construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction sites.	
Noise and Vibration	2.9.39 - 2.9.43	For the assessment of noise from substations, standard methods of assessment and interpretation using the principles of the relevant British Standards are satisfactory. For the assessment of noise from overhead lines, the applicant must use an appropriate method to determine the sound level produced by the line in both dry and wet weather conditions, in addition to assessing the impact on noise-sensitive receptors.	The noise impacts during the operational phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been assessed with reference to BS 4142:2014+A1:2019'- Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound', with consideration given to the full noise emission spectrum of each noise source associated with the Mona onshore substation. Full details are provided in Volume 7, Annex 9.3: Operational noise technical report of the Environmental Statement. All export cabling will be routed underground and, as such, no overhead lines are proposed as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

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		For instance, the applicant may use an appropriate noise modelling tool or tools for the prediction of overhead line noise and its propagation over distance such as an ISO 9613-2 or Technical Report TR(T)94. When assessing the impact of noise generated by overhead lines in wet weather relative to existing background sound levels, the applicant should consider the effect of varying background sound levels due to rainfall. The Secretary of State is likely to regard it as acceptable for the applicant to use a methodology that demonstrably addresses these criteria.	Overall, it is concluded that there will be no significant effects arising from the Mona Offshore Wind Project during the construction, operation and maintenance, or decommissioning phases. Table 9.44 of the Noise and Vibration Environmental Statement chapter (Document Reference F3.9) presents a summary of the potential cumulative impacts, mitigation measures, and residual effects. and,again, overall it is concluded that there will be no significant cumulative effects from the Mona Offshore Wind Project alongside other projects/plans.
Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs)	2.9.53 - 2.9.55	The National Institute for Health Protection's (NIHP) Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) provides advice on standards of protection for exposure to non-ionizing radiation, including the ELF EMFs arising from the transmission and use of electricity. In March 2004, the National Radiological Protection Board (now part of NIHP CRCE), published advice on limiting public exposure to electromagnetic fields. The advice recommended the adoption in the UK of the EMF exposure guidelines published by ICNIRP in 2020. These guidelines also form the basis of the Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations 2016. Resulting from these recommendations, government policy is that exposure of the public should comply with the ICNIRP 1998 guidelines. The electricity industry has agreed to follow this policy. Applications should show evidence of this compliance as specified in 2.10.11.	
Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6)	2.9.61 - 2.9.64	Applicants should at the design phase of the process consider carefully whether the proposed development could be reconceived to avoid the use of SF6-reliant assets.	The current assumed worst case scenario is that SF6 will need to be used as part of the wind turbines, offshore substation platforms and onshore substation. This is because there are a number of challenges

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
		Where the development cannot be so conceived, the applicant must provide evidence of their reasoning on this point. Such evidence will include, for instance, an explanation of the alternatives considered, and a case why these alternatives are technically infeasible or require bespoke components that are grossly disproportionate in terms of cost. In particular, an accounting of the cost differential between the SF6-reliant asset and the appropriate SF6-free alternative should be provided. Where applicants, having followed the above procedure, do propose to put new SF6-reliant assets onto the electricity system, they should design a plan for the monitoring and control of fugitive SF6 emissions consistent with the Fluorinated gas (F-gas) Regulation and its successors.	associated with using SF6-free switchgear on the Mona Offshore Wind Project: • Limited commercial availability of SF6-free assets available for the higher voltage levels the Mona Offshore Wind Project will operate at. • The readiness of technology, with solutions unlikely to be available at the scale required for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in time to be deployed during construction. • Due to uncertainty around costs of SF6-free equipment, as a novel technology, there is the possibility that the increased cost could be prohibitive to the successful delivery of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Details of how SF6 will be controlled if used on the Mona Offshore Wind Project are included in Volume 1; Annex 3.2 Sulphur Hexafluoride Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F5.3.2).
Mitigation			
General	2.10.1	The applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/minimisation of environmental impacts both onshore and offshore at an early stage in the development process.	Routing and site seleciton are considered in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Seleciton and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). The aim was to identify sites and routes that will be minimise environmental impacts as far as practicable and can be delivered from a technical and consenting perspective, whilst also enabling the benefits in the long term of the lowest energy cost to be passed to the consumer.
Landscape and Visual	2.10.5	In addition to good design in accordance with the Holford and Horlock rules (please see paragraphs 2.9.16 - 2.9.19), and the consideration of undergrounding or rerouting the line where possible, the principal opportunities for mitigating adverse landscape and visual impacts of electricity networks infrastructure are: • consideration of network reinforcement options (where alternatives exist) which may allow	The Holford Rules are not relevant to the design and site selection process of the Mona Offshore Wind Project as all electricity will be transmitted via underground cables. A strategic-level project design commitment was made at the outset of the project that all cables will be buried underground. This strategic-level commitment is detailed in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4). In relation to the Horlock Rules the main factors determining the siting the of the components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (as detailed in 2.9.18 – 2.9.19), including the criteria for good design are described

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
		improvements and/or extensions to an existing line rather than the building of an entirely new line; • selection of the most suitable type and design of support structure in order to minimise the overall visual impact on the landscape. In particular, ensuring that towers are of the smallest possible footprint and internal volume; and • the rationalisation, reconfiguration, and/or undergrounding of existing electricity networks infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed development.	in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.4) with further detail included in the Design Principles document (Document Reference J3) which details the approach to design. An Outline Landscape and Ecological Strategy Management Plan has been developed together with a LEMP to minimise and mitigate the potential effects of the proposed onshore infrastructure and provide enhancements (Document Reference J22). In addition a Biodiversity Benefit and Green Infrastructure Statement has also been submitted with the application (Document Reference J7).
	2.10.6	Additionally, there are more specific measures that might be taken, and which the Secretary of State could mandate through DCO requirements if appropriate, as follows: • landscape schemes, comprising off-site tree and hedgerow planting, are sometimes used for larger new overhead line projects to mitigate potential landscape and visual impacts, softening the effect of a new above ground line whilst providing some screening from important visual receptors. These may be implemented with the agreement of the relevant landowner(s), or the developer may compulsorily acquire the land or land rights in question. Advice from the relevant statutory authority may also be needed; and • screening, comprising localised planting in the immediate vicinity of residential properties and principal viewpoints can also help to screen or soften the effect of the line, reducing the visual impact from a particular receptor.	Specific measures to mitigate adverse effects are set out within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Strategy Management Plan (Document Reference J22). As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which included extensive stakeholder engagement, a number of commitments and good practice measures to be undertaken during the design and construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project were adopted and additional mitigation measures have been committed to in line with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, restore, offset). The outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) sets out the in principle measures which will be implemented for the onshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for potential effects on landscape and biodiversity resources and also includes measures intended to provide biodiversity benefit. It forms the basis of for a detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan to be produced at the detailed design stage by the principal contractor and maintained throughout the operational period. The key objectives of the OLEMP are to: • Ensure protection and health of retained health of existing vegetation within the Mona Onshore Development Area • Ensure establishment and protection of new planting

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
			• Ensure the continued retention of natural habitat for species and support the natural environment where possible.
	2.10.7 – 2.10.8	Where landscape schemes and/or screening mitigation of the kind described above is required, rights over the land necessary for such measures may be compulsorily acquired as part of the DCO. Since long-term management of the selected mitigation schemes is essential to their mitigating function, a management plan, developed at least in outline at the conclusion of the examination, and which sets out proposals within a realistic timescale, should secure the integrity and benefit of these schemes. This should also uphold the landscape commitments made to achieve consent, alongside any pertinent commitments to environmental and biodiversity net gain	The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) (Document Reference J22) sets out the landscape and ecological mitigation for the onshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind project, which includes earth modelling, woodland planting and habitat creation. The OLEMP includes details of the proposed monitoring and management. The Applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition rights so that the landscape enhancement and screening mitigation schemes can be delivered.
Sulphur Hexafluoride	2.10.14 - 2.10.15	The climate-warming potential of SF6 is such that applicants should, as a rule, avoid the use of SF6 in new developments. Where no proven SF6-free alternative is commercially available, and where the cost of procuring a bespoke alternative is grossly disproportionate, the continued use of SF6 is acceptable, provided that emissions monitoring and control measures compliant with the F-gas Regulation and/or its successors are in place.	The current assumed worst case scenario is that SF6 will need to be used as part of the wind turbines, offshore substation platforms and onshore substation. This is because there are a number of challenges associated with using SF6-free switchgear on the Mona Offshore Wind Project: • Limited commercial availability of SF6-free assets available for the higher voltage levels the Mona Offshore Wind Project will operate at. • The readiness of technology, with solutions unlikely to be available at the scale required for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in time to be deployed during construction. • Due to uncertainty around costs of SF6-free equipment, as a novel technology, there is the possibility that the increased cost could be prohibitive to the successful delivery of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Details of how SF6 will be controlled if used on the Mona Offshore Wind Project are included in Volume 5; Annex 3.2 Sulphur Hexafluoride Report of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F5.3.2).

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
Special assessment principles for offshore-onshore transmission			
Consenting process	2.12.8 - 2.12.11	As part of the transition to a more coordinated approach, it is anticipated that some proposals for transmission may be consented separately to those for the windfarm (array) application. For this to occur, an applicant will need to make a request to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State would then decide whether to give a direction under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 (see paragraph 1.6.4 and EN-1, paragraphs 1.3.7 and 3.2.9 – 3.2.10). In some instances, applications comprising packages of co-ordinated offshore transmission infrastructure could be brought forward through the use of Section 35 powers. A Section 35 direction by the Secretary of State could also be given in respect of interconnector and 'bootstrap' projects where the NSIP consenting route is sought by the applicants of those projects.	This is not applicable to this application as the Applicant seeks to consent both the wind farm and the transmission under the same DCO.
Offshore-onshore transmission: Applicant assessment			
Consideration of strategic network design	2.13.1	The strategic network designs such as those led or enabled by National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) will usually form the basis for identifying proposals for co-ordinated transmission. This includes the Holistic Network Design (HND) for onshore-offshore transmission prepared by ESO for projects under the Pathway to 2030 workstream.	In accordance with the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design published in July 2022 which sets out the optimal transmission network to connect offshore wind farms to the transmission network and transport their power to where it is needed, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has an independent transmission network to the National Grid substation at Bodelwyddan. Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), the Mona Offshore Wind Project has engaged with NGESO throughout the HND to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid. NGESO concluded that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
			was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales.
Coordinated approach, including for 'Early Opportunities' projects	2.13.5 - 2.13.8	In addition, it is recognised that the HND and subsequent network design exercises, may on occasion, identify a radial solution, i.e. a direct route from an offshore wind farm to shore, not proposed to coordinate with another project at the time of network design. In the case of infrastructure identified through the HND, and subsequent network design exercises applicants should identify any variations to or developments from that work and justify these in accordance with the same objectives or criteria above, i.e. economic and efficient, deliverable and operable, minimise impact on the environment and minimise the impact on the local communities, giving these four criteria equal weight. On occasion, network designs may be amended as necessary as a result of new information or other changes (such as where a project within a coordinated design is no longer being progressed). Any such changes approved through an appropriate change control process are likely to result in information that is important and relevant consideration.	In accordance with the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design published in July 2022 which sets out the optimal transmission network to connect offshore wind farms to the transmission network and transport their power to where it is needed, the Mona Offshore Wind Project has an independent transmission network to the National Grid substation at Bodelwyddan. Whilst the decision for where projects connect to the grid ultimately sits with National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), the Mona Offshore Wind Project has engaged with NGESO throughout the HND to understand the proposed solutions for connecting the Mona Offshore Wind Project to the grid. NGESO concluded that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales.
Coordinated approach, including for Early Opportunities' projects with firm connections agreements prior to the Holistic Network Design	2.13.12 - 2.13.13	Applicants bringing forward offshore transmission projects are expected to consider future demand when considering the location and route of their proposals. This may involve consenting offshore platforms, converter stations or substations which facilitate future coordination. If, through the coordinated options assessment work, a radial route is deemed to be the only feasible solution, applicants should evidence each co-ordination option and the accompanying assessment. These assessments should detail the application of the criteria	NGESO determined that the preferred connection option representing the most optimal design (economic, efficient and co-ordinated) considering all criteria (i.e. technical, cost, environmental and deliverability) for the Mona Offshore Wind Project was a single radial grid connection into Bodelwyddan Substation in Denbighshire, North Wales. The offshore transmission for the Mona Offshore Wind Project is sufficient to accommodate the full capacity of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
		identified above versus the radial counterfactual. In these instances, the Secretary of State should have regard to the need case set out in Section 3.3 of EN-1.	
Impacts	2.13.14	Co-ordinated transmission proposals, including multi-purpose interconnectors and other types of offshore transmission, are expected to reduce the overall environmental and community impacts associated with bringing offshore transmission onshore compared to an uncoordinated, radial approach. These reduced impacts could, for example, relate to: fewer landing sites and reduced landfall impacts; reduced overall cable length and impacts; and fewer cable corridors and reduced impacts from these.	As part of the HNDR approach, the Mona Offshore Wind Project assists in minimising the number of landing sites and landfall impacts resulting from multiple and separate potential consents. See Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection of the Environmental Statement (Document F1.4) for details.
Coastal connections	2.13.22 - 2.13.23	Onshore connection points for offshore transmission bringing power from offshore wind farms must be considered as part of the overall offshore transmission network design and in conjunction with the onshore network by the body responsible for the design. Onshore connection locations for offshore transmission must seek to minimise environmental and other impacts, both onshore and in the marine environment and including to local communities.	The design has been considered in a holistic manner, including identification of cable landfall and the overall operation of the existing onshore network. This is evidenced in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description (Document Reference F1.3) and Grid Connection and Cable Detail Statement (Document Reference J3). Details on Site Selection and its relation to how environemental and other impacts were minimised are contained within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site selection of the Environmental Statement (Document F1.4).
Offshore-onshore transmission: mitigation			
General	2.14.2	In the assessments of their designs, applicants should demonstrate: • how environmental, community and other impacts have been considered and how adverse impacts have followed the mitigation hierarchy i.e. avoidance, reduction and mitigation of adverse impacts through good design; • how enhancements to the environment post construction will be achieved including demonstrating	Environmental Impact Assessments reported in the Environmental Statement for the Mona Offshore Wind Project provides a proportionate, risk-based approach to the assessment of risk for relevant receptors, based on the characterisation of risks and the adoption of measures to avoid or minimise these risks. The technical assessments are provided in Chapters 1-11 of Volume 2: Offshore chapters (Document References F2.1 – 11) and Chapters 1-11 of Volume 3: Onshore chapters (Document References F.3.1 – 11) of the Environmental Statement, supported by the technical reports in Volume 6, 7 and 8 of the Environmental Statement. The iterative approach to

Section/Topic	Paragraph Reference	NPS Requirement – NPS EN-5	Accordance with the NPS
		consideration of how proposals can contribute towards biodiversity net gain (as set out in Section 4.5 of EN-1 and the Environment Act 2021), as well as wider environmental improvements in line with the Environmental Improvement Plan and environmental targets (paragraph 4.2.29 of EN-1); • how the construction planning for the proposals has been co-ordinated with that for other similar projects in the area on a similar timeline; • how enhancements to the landscape and environmental assets may contribute to overall landscape and townscape quality as set out in EN-1 4.6.13 and 5.10.23; • how the mitigation hierarchy has been followed, in particular to avoid the need for compensatory measures for coastal, inshore and offshore developments affecting SACs SPAs, and Ramsar sites and MCZs as set out in EN-3 2.8; • For designated landscapes the principal mitigation measure, as established by the Holford Rules, should be to seek to avoid landfall in these areas.	development of measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project within the EIA (and how the effects have been avoided, minimised and mitigated) is presented in Volume 1, Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.5). The Mona Offshore Wind Project will consider opportunities to create positive contributions to the environment. These opportunities have been reported in the Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Statement (Document Reference J7) as well as in the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10).

1.3 Environment Act 2021 targets

Table 1.5: Summary of the likely effects that the Mona Offshore Wind Project may have on relevant Environment Act 2021 targets.

Environment Act 2021 Target	Summary of the likely effects that the Mona Offshore Wind Project may have on relevant Environment Act 2021 targets
To halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.	All protected habitats and species that have the potential to be impacted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been identified and considered in the Environmental Statement. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will aim to conserve habitats and species through a number of measures adopted to reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project including measure to preserve ecologically important features as well as broader measures such as the development of an offshore environmental management plan and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22). The Applicant has committed to the development and adherence to an offshore construction method statement which includes a cable specification and installation plan that does not permit the installation of cable protection within the Constable Bank sandbank. This will avoid any long term habitat loss on the sandbank and therefore avoid any associated species decline. With respect to onshore biodiversity, the Applicant has committed to avoiding ecological sensitive areas (e.g. designated sites, woodland, watercourses) where possible, and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan includes proposals for habitat creation and/or enhancement (Document Reference J22) to compensate for any habitat loss during construction and achieve an overall benefit to biodiversity. Other examples of measures adopted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project to halt the decline in species abundances are included with the chapters of the Environmental Statement and Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Document Reference J10).
To ensure that species abundance in 2042 is greater than in 2022, and at least 10% greater than 2030	All protected habitats and species that have the potential to be impacted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been identified and considered in the Environmental Statement. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will aim to conserve habitats and species through a number of measures adopted to reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project including measure to preserve ecologically important features as well as broader measures such as the development of an offshore environmental management plan. The Applicant considers that net benefit for biodiversity and subsequently increase in species abundances will also be achieved through the provision of biodiversity benefit measures. The Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefits, including increases to the productivity of breeding seabirds, biodiversity enhancing cable protection, artificial reef blocks and restoration of fish and shellfish habitats. The Applicant has also identified several opportunities to improve onshore biodiversity, including hedgerow enhancements and the creation of woodland belts to improve habitat connectivity, in addition to tree planting and the creation of species rich hedgerows and areas of grassland, scrub, ponds and wildflowers to provide habitats of conservation interest. The Applicant will continue to explore these opportunities as the project design develops, in collaboration with stakeholders post-consent. The mechanisms through which the Applicant intends to achieve overall biodiversity benefit are presented in the Biodiversity benefit and green infrastructure statement (Document Reference J7).
Improve the Red List Index for England for species extinction risk by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.	Red list species have been identified and assessed within each relevant chapter of the Environmental Statement, where there is the potential for these species to be impacted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will aim to conserve red list species through a number of measures adopted to reduce the impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. For example, the Applicant has committed to increasing the air draught between the wind turbine blades and sea level to 34 m above Lowest Astronomical Tide. Air draught is a known factor in calculating bird collision risks for offshore wind turbines and increasing the air draught will

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	decrease the proportion of birds flying at risk height and ultimately reduce the number of predicted collisions between red listed birds (e.g. black-legged kittiwake, common guillemot and common scoter) and wind turbines. The Applicant has also committed to avoiding ecological sensitive areas (e.g. designated sites, woodland, watercourses), which may support protected and/or notable species, including those on the Red List Index. In addition, the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22) includes proposals for habitat creation and/or enhancement to compensate for any habitat loss during construction and achieve an overall benefit to biodiversity.
To restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.	The Applicant has identified a number of opportunities within the Irish Sea which could deliver additional intertidal and offshore biodiversity benefits, including increases to the productivity of breeding seabirds, biodiversity enhancing cable protection, artificial reef blocks and restoration of fish and shellfish habitats outside of protected sites. The Applicant has also identified several opportunities to improve onshore biodiversity as part of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22), including hedgerow enhancements and the creation of woodland belts to improve habitat connectivity, in addition to tree planting and the creation of species rich hedgerows and areas of grassland, scrub, ponds and wildflowers to provide habitats of conservation interest. The Applicant will continue to explore these opportunities as the project design develops, in collaboration with stakeholders post-consent. It is considered that, following the implementation of measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, including those set out the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22), the Mona Offshore Wind Project would not prevent this target of the Environment Act 2021 from being achieved by 2042. The mechanisms through which the Applicant intends to achieve overall biodiversity benefit are presented in the Biodiversity benefit and green infrastructure statement (Document Reference J7).
70% of the designated features in the MPA network to be in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition.	The HRA Stage 1 Screening (Document Reference E1.4) identifies direct or indirect effects on features of sites that make up the UK MPA network which could be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Those sites and their features have been assessed in the Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA). The ISAA concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no risk of an adverse effect on the integrity of any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, therefore there is no potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to hinder the conservation objectives for any SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites. Consideration of marine conservation zones (MCZ) is included with the MCZ screening assessment (Document Reference E2). The Mona Offshore Wind Project is unlikely to have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the interest features of any MCZ therefore there is no risk of the Mona Offshore Wind Project hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for any MCZ. Therefore it can be concluded that the Mona Offshore Wind Project will not hinder the objective to have 70% of the designated features in the MPA network in favourable condition by 2024.
Agriculture target: Reduce nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at	Surface water within the Onshore Substations will be conveyed through the site's drainage scheme, detailed within Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy (Document Reference J27). Surface water is to discharge at the greenfield runoff rate to an ordinary watercourse. It is expected the development of the onshore substation and associated drainage will act to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loadings within the wider hydrological catchment.

Environment Act 2021 Target	Summary of the likely effects that the Mona Offshore Wind Project may have on relevant Environment Act 2021 targets
least 40% by 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline.	
Wastewater target: Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2038 against a 2020 baseline.	Surface water within the Onshore Substations will be conveyed through the site's drainage scheme, detailed within Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy (Document Reference J27). Surface water is to discharge at the greenfield runoff rate to an ordinary watercourse. It is expected the development of the onshore substation and associated drainage will act to reduce phosphorus loadings within the wider hydrological catchment.
Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050.	The Applicant has committed to avoiding areas of woodland as part of the design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. In addition, buffer areas and tree protection plans are proposed to ensure areas of ancient woodland and retained trees are protected during the construction phase. However, where existing trees would be lost during construction, these would be compensated for via planting proposals set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Reference J22), which include the creation of woodland belts and tree planting. It is considered that, following the implementation of the measures adopted as part of the Project, the Mona Offshore Wind Project would contribute to this target. Current calculations based on the documents outlined above show that in terms of percentage, the Mona Offshore Wind Project provides an 18.8% increase in tree canopy cover.
An Annual Mean Concentration Target for PM2.5 levels in England to be 10 µg m-3 or below by 2040.	Air quality impacts from the development are only expected during the construction phase (i.e. the impact of construction vehicles and dust generated during the construction phase could temporarily increase PM2.5). By the target date of 2040, the development will be operational and have no air quality impacts. The operation of the development will indirectly help to meet the targets as it will allow the transition from polluting modes of energy generation (e.g. gas-fired) to renewable and non-polluting modes of energy generation.
A Population Exposure Reduction Target for a reduction in PM2.5 population exposure of 35% compared to 2018 to be achieved by 2040.	Air quality impacts from the development are only expected during the construction phase (i.e. the impact of construction vehicles and dust generated during the construction phase could temporarily increase PM2.5). By the target date of 2040, the development will be operational and have no air quality impacts. The operation of the development will indirectly help to meet the targets as it will allow the transition from polluting modes of energy generation (e.g. gas-fired) to renewable and non-polluting modes of energy generation. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Mona Offshore Wind Project will not hinder the objective of reducing exposure to PM2.5.