

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Safety Zone Statement

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Image of an offshore wind farm

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
2007 Regulations	Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Applications Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007
APFP Regulations	Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009
Applicant	Mona Offshore Wind Limited
Major maintenance works	Defined by Regulation 2 of the 2007 Regulations as works relating to any renewable energy installation which has become operational, requiring the attachment to, or anchoring next to, such an installation of a self-elevating platform, jack-up barge, crane barge or other maintenance vessel.
Secretary of State for DESNZ	Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
DCO	Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OSPs	Offshore Substation Platforms

Units

Unit	Description
km	kilometres
MW	megawatts
km	nautical miles

1 Safety zone statement

1.1 Summary

- 1.1.1.1 The Mona Offshore Wind Project is located within Welsh waters approximately 28 km from the north coast of Wales. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will consist of up to 96 wind turbines with an overall capacity of greater than 350 Megawatts (MW) and, therefore, it constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 15(3B) of the Planning Act 2008. Such projects require a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be granted by the relevant UK Secretary of State, in this case the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).
- 1.1.1.2 As agreed with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the marine licence for all licensable activities relating to the offshore wind farm generation infrastructure (wind turbines, Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) including foundations, inter-array cables and interconnector cables) located within the Mona Array Area will be deemed under the DCO. However, licensable activities that are not wholly outside 12 nm of the Welsh coast require a separate marine licence. A separate application will therefore be made to NRW for a marine licence for the transmission infrastructure (offshore export cables, OSPs, interconnector cables and related works) located within the Mona Array Area and the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas.
- 1.1.1.3 Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004 allows for the creation of safety zones where there is a renewable energy installation proposed to be constructed in waters adjacent to Great Britain.
- 1.1.1.4 Regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) requires an applicant seeking consent for an offshore generating station to submit a statement accompanying its application for a DCO confirming whether applications will be made for safety zones. This Safety Zone Statement has been prepared in accordance with the APFP Regulations.
- 1.1.1.5 This statement outlines the legislative requirements relating to applications for safety zones for offshore wind turbines under section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, the approach that will be taken by Mona Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant) to the safety zone application and the scope of the works for which the DCO is being sought.
- 1.1.1.6 The safety zone application provides the information required by paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004 and Regulation 3 of the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Applications Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (the 2007 Regulations).
- 1.1.1.7 In accordance with Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, following the award of the DCO the safety zone application will be made to the Secretary of State for DESNZ.
- 1.1.1.8 The safety zone application would be made once the final number of wind turbines and precise location of the offshore infrastructure has been determined. The earliest date an application for safety zones would be made is 2025.
- 1.1.1.9 The application would be for:
1. safety zones of 500 m around all infrastructure that is actively under construction;
 2. safety zones of 50 m around incomplete structures not undergoing active construction activities;

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3. rolling advisory exclusion zones of 500 m around vessels installing inter-array cables, interconnector cables, and export cables; temporary restrictions to fishing activity and/or anchoring in areas where full cable burial to target depth has not yet been achieved and/or surface-laid cable exists; and
4. safety zones of 500 m for infrastructure undergoing major maintenance works.

1.1.1.10 The Applicant does not intend to apply for safety zones during the operational phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (except for major maintenance activities as stated above).

1.1.1.11 These zones will be necessary to ensure the safety of the wind turbines and other infrastructure, individuals working thereon, construction vessels and other vessels navigating in the area whilst works take place.

1.2 Introduction

1.2.1.1 This statement accompanies an application for development consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.2.1.2 The Mona Offshore Wind Project is located within Welsh waters approximately 28 km from the north coast of Wales. The Mona Offshore Wind Project will consist of up to 96 wind turbines with an overall capacity of greater than 350 Megawatts (MW) and therefore constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 15(3B) of the Planning Act 2008. Such projects require a DCO to be granted by the relevant Secretary of State, in this case the Secretary of State for DESNZ.

1.2.1.3 Section 149A of the Planning Act 2008 allows an applicant for a DCO to apply for a deemed marine licence as part of the DCO process. The Wales Act 2017 amended section 149A of the Planning Act 2008 to allow a DCO to include a deemed marine licence where activities are wholly within Welsh offshore waters. NRW is the responsible authority for deemed marine licences in Welsh offshore waters and is a statutory consultee in the DCO process. NRW remains the monitoring and enforcement body in respect of the conditions and restrictions contained within the deemed marine licence. Licensable marine activities which are not wholly outside Welsh inshore waters require a separate marine licence from NRW.

1.2.1.4 As agreed with NRW, the marine licence for all licensable activities related to the offshore wind farm generation infrastructure (wind turbines, OSPs, inter-array cables and interconnector cables) located within the Mona Array Area will be deemed under the DCO. A separate application will therefore be made to NRW for a marine licence for the offshore export cables, OSPs, interconnector cables and related works located within the Mona Array Area and the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas. The deemed marine licence incorporated into the DCO extends as far as the Mona Array Area, whereas the separate marine licence from NRW will cover the Mona Array Area and the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas.

1.2.1.5 The Mona Offshore Wind Project will consist of the following key offshore components:

1. Mona Array Area: This is where the wind turbines, Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), foundations (for both wind turbines and OSPs), inter-array cables, interconnector cables and offshore export cables will be located;
2. Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas: The corridor located between the Mona Array Area and the landfall up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS), in which the offshore export cables will be located and in which the intertidal access areas are located;

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3. Intertidal access areas: The area from MHWS to Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) which will be used for access to the beach and construction related activities; and
4. Landfall: This is where the offshore export cables make contact with land and the transitional area where the offshore cabling connects to the onshore cabling.

1.2.1.6 Further details of the key components of offshore and onshore infrastructure can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3) with further information as to the Proposed Development contained within the Draft DCO (document reference C1) and Works Plans - Offshore and Intertidal (Document reference B4).

1.2.1.7 Regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the APFP Regulations requires an applicant seeking consent for an offshore generating station to submit a statement accompanying its application for a DCO confirming whether applications will be made for safety zones. This Safety Zone Statement has been prepared in accordance with the APFP Regulations.

1.3 Safety Zone Statement

1.3.1.1 The Applicant intends to apply for a standard 500 m safety zone, as per the definition in Regulation 2 of the 2007 Regulations, around all infrastructure that is actively under construction.

1.3.1.2 The Applicant will apply for safety zones of 50 m around incomplete structures not undergoing active construction activities such as installed foundations without wind turbines or where construction works are completed but the Mona Offshore Wind Project has not yet been commissioned.

1.3.1.3 The Applicant will also apply for rolling advisory exclusion zones of 500 m to be present around vessels installing inter-array cables, interconnector cables and offshore export cables. Temporary restrictions to fishing activity and/or anchoring, which will also be required in areas where full cable burial to target depth has not yet been achieved and/or surface-laid cable exists (prior to cover by external cable protection).

1.3.1.4 Whilst no formal application for a safety zone around cable laying operations is possible under Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, it is the Applicant's intention to propose rolling advisory safety zones of up to 500 m around vessels installing export cables, platform link cables and inter-array cables in the interests of the safety of all users of the sea, and to provide clearance of 500 m from laid cables until burial is confirmed in case of interaction with anchors or fishing gear.

1.3.1.5 The Applicant may apply for a 500 m safety zone for infrastructure undergoing major maintenance works (for example a blade replacement) during the operations and maintenance phase. This is in order to ensure the safety of the wind turbines, OSPs, the individuals working thereon, the wind farm related vessels and other vessels navigating in the area whilst works take place.

1.3.1.6 "Major maintenance works" are defined by Regulation 2 of the 2007 Regulations as works relating to any renewable energy installation which has become operational, requiring the attachment to, or anchoring next to, such an installation of a self-elevating platform, jack-up barge, crane barge or other maintenance vessel.

1.3.1.7 Guard vessels will be used during the construction and the operations and maintenance phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project as necessary.

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1.3.1.8 The measures described in this Safety Zone Statement also provide mitigation for impacts identified in the Environmental Statement. Please see the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (document reference J10).

1.4 Scope of Mona Offshore Wind Project DCO Application

1.4.1.1 The Mona Offshore Wind Project DCO (Document Reference C1) seeks consent for the following offshore works, as set out in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the DCO and repeated below:

Work No. 1:

- a. up to 96 wind turbine generators each fixed to the seabed by a foundation and further comprising (b) to (d) below;
- b. a network of subsea inter-array cables between the wind turbine generators and the offshore substation platforms including cable crossings and cable protection;
- c. up to four offshore substation platforms each fixed to the seabed by a foundation; and
- d. a network of subsea interconnector cables between the offshore substation platforms including cable crossings and cable protection; and

associated development within the meaning of section 115(2) (development for which development consent may be granted) of the 2008 Act comprising-

Work No. 2: installation of up to four subsea export cable circuits between Work No. 1 and Work No. 3 including cable crossings and cable protection.

1.5 Safety Zone Application

1.5.1.1 In accordance with Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, the safety zone application will be made to the Secretary of State for DESNZ. In making their decision on the application, the Secretary of State must consult with the Welsh Ministers as the Mona Offshore Wind Project is located within Welsh Waters.

1.5.1.2 The 2007 Regulations also require an application to be publicised by notice in a prescribed manner and copies of the notice must be sent to the harbour masters of ports whose users are, in the opinion of the applicant, likely to be affected by the application; to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency plus the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre responsible for operations in the waters in which the safety zone is proposed or located; and to the local office of NRW which is responsible for operations in the waters in which the safety zone is proposed or located.

1.5.1.3 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004 requires that the following information should be included within a written application for safety zones in respect of an offshore generating station:

1. A map showing:
 - a. the place where the relevant renewable energy installation is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned; and
 - b. the waters in relation to which any declaration applied for will establish a safety zone;

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2. A description supported by drawings of the installation and its proposed or existing location and dimensions (including an explanation of how much of it is (or is expected to be) visible above the water line and how much below it);
 3. A description of how the installation operates (or is to operate);
 4. A description of the location (or proposed location) of:
 - a. any electric line used (or proposed to be used) for the conveyance of electricity to or from the installation;
 - b. any connection to such an electric line;
 - c. a description of the location (or proposed location) of any offshore sub-station housing connection equipment;
 - d. where the zone is sought in respect of more than one relevant renewable energy installation, the proposed or existing distances between such installations; and
 - e. details of any navigational marking that has been specified for use with an installation of the description in question by a general lighthouse authority;
 5. Whether the zone relates to the construction, extension, operation or decommissioning of the relevant renewable energy installation;
 6. Whether the applicant seeks the declaration of a standard safety zone, or if not, what dimensions are sought for the zone;
 7. A description of those works or operations in respect of which the zone is being applied for and their estimated date and duration;
 8. Whether the applicant proposes that the area of the zone will vary and any factors or determinations by reference to which the applicant proposes that such variation may take place;
 9. Whether the zone relates to major maintenance works in respect of a relevant renewable energy installation which has become operational;
 10. A statement setting out what steps, if any, the applicant proposes to take to monitor vessels and activities within the zone;
 11. Except where the Secretary of State has notified the applicant that it is not required, an up to date shipping traffic survey for the waters comprising the zone; and
 12. An assessment of the extent to which navigation might be possible or should be restricted, and whether restrictions would cause navigational problems, within or near waters where the relevant renewable energy installation is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned, as the case may be.
- 1.5.1.4 The Applicant's safety zone application will contain the information required by Paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004.
- 1.5.1.5 In addition to the above information, Regulation 3 of the 2007 Regulations requires the following to be provided as part of the application:
1. For any proposed renewable energy installation:
 - a. A description of the installation and its proposed location and dimensions supported by drawings;

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- b. A description of how the installation will operate;
 - c. A description of the location of:
 - i. Any electric line; and
 - ii. Any connection to such an electric line;
 - d. The location of any offshore sub-station housing connection equipment;
 - e. Details of any navigational markers.
2. In relation to the proposed safety zone:
- a. Whether the zone relates to the construction, operation or decommissioning or the proposed installation;
 - b. Whether the applicant seeks a declaration of a standard safety zone, or if not, what dimensions are sought for that zone;
 - c. A description of those works or operations in respect of which the zone is being applied for;
 - d. Whether the applicant proposes the zone will vary and the details of that variance;
 - e. Whether the zone relates to major maintenance works once the installation has become operational;
 - f. What steps the applicant will take to monitor vessels and activities within the zone; and
 - g. Unless it is not required, an up to date shipping traffic survey for the waters comprising the zone.
3. An assessment of the extent to which navigation might be possible or should be restricted and whether restrictions would cause navigational problems near where the proposed installation is to be constructed.

1.5.1.6 Pursuant to section 95(2) of the Energy Act 2004, the purposes for which the Secretary of State may consider it appropriate to issue a safety zone notice are for the purposes of securing the safety of:

- the renewable energy installation or its construction, extension or decommissioning;
- other installations in the vicinity of the installation or the place where it is to be constructed or extended;
- individuals in or on the installation or other installations in that vicinity; or
- vessels in that vicinity or individuals on such vessels.

1.5.1.7 At this time, the Applicant considers that a robust case can be made in the application for the issue of a notice securing safety zones for the purposes set out. During construction, zones will be sought for protection of the project as a renewable energy installation. During both construction and major maintenance, safety zones will be sought for the protection of individuals working on the installation and vessels both related to the works and operating within the vicinity of works.

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1.6 Conclusion

- 1.6.1.1 The application for the necessary safety zones for the Mona Offshore Wind Project will be made to the Secretary of State once the final layout of offshore infrastructure is decided. If it is considered appropriate to do so, the Secretary of State may issue a notice declaring that such areas as are specified or described in the notice are to be safety zones.