WFD Compliance Assessment

OGN 72 Appendix 2 WFD Compliance Assessment template

- **In completing this template for a WFD compliance assessment, refer to OGN72 (link) for definitions, processes and further links to useful websites.**

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Version History			
Document Version	**Date Published**	**Summary of Changes**	**Authorised by**
1	September 2020	Document created and ready for trialling	
Review Date: [Month & Year]			

Figure 1: Stage 1 Screening

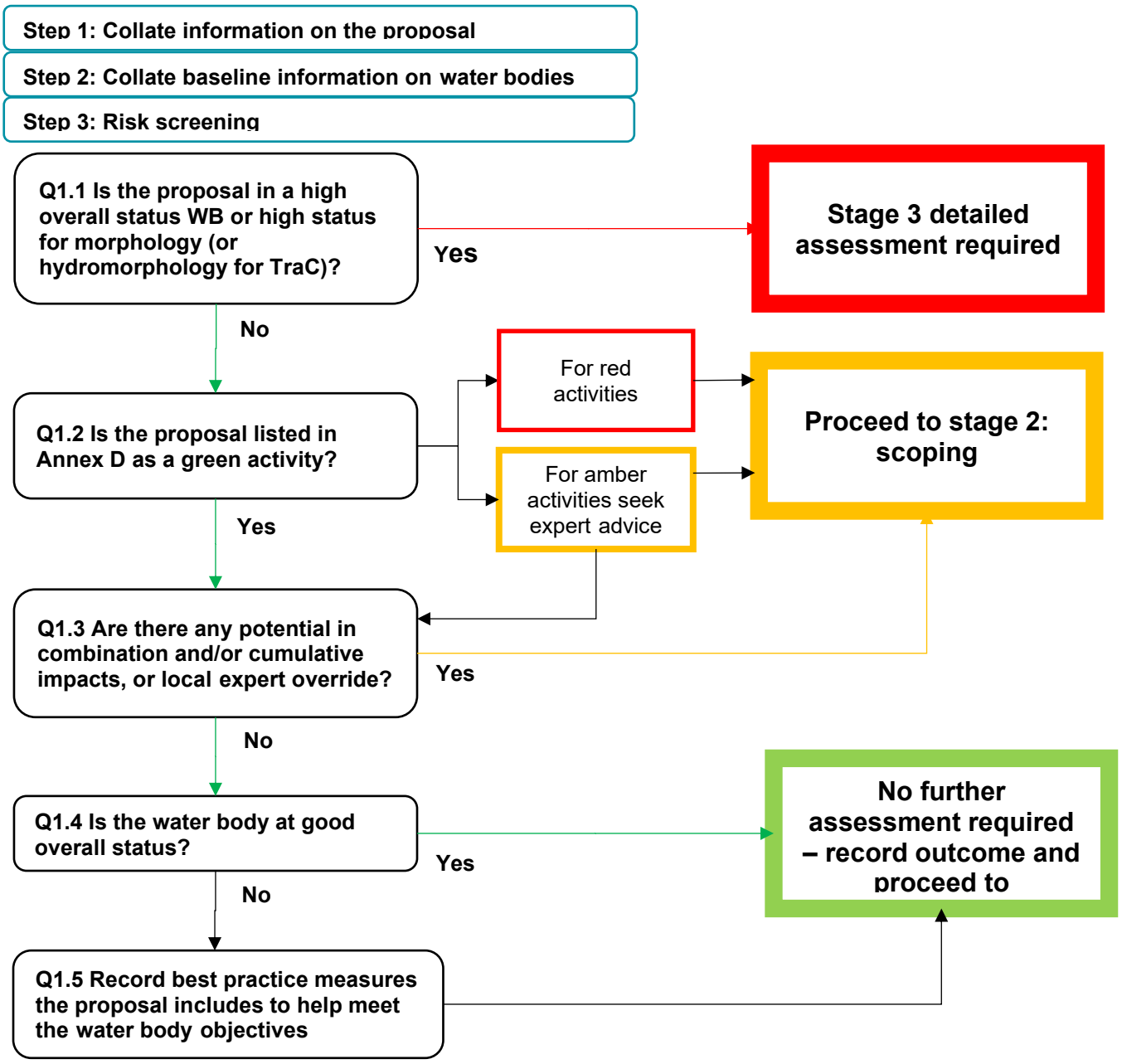
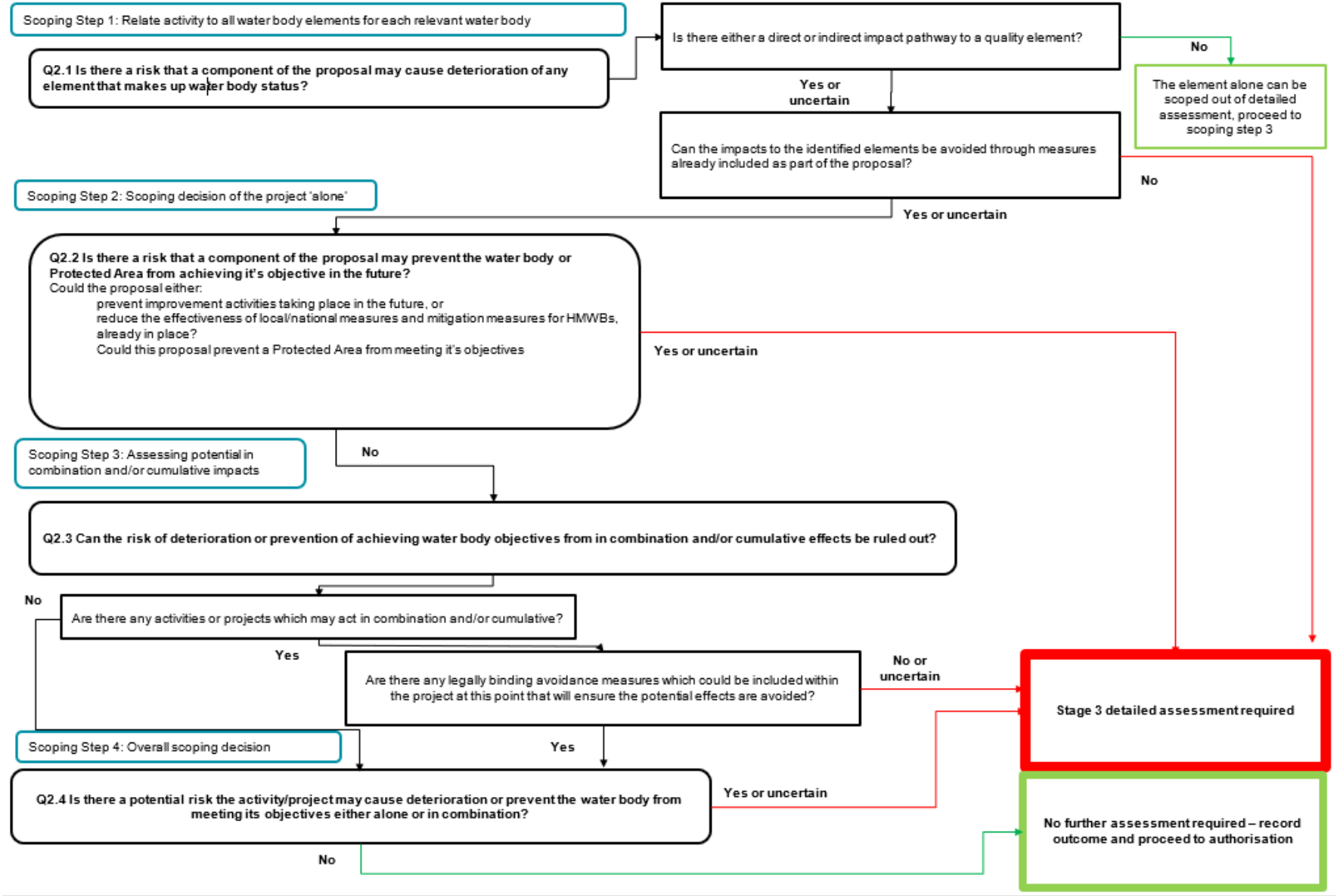


Figure 2: Stage 2 Scoping



WFD Compliance Assessment of Mona Offshore Wind Project – Transmission Assets

Stage 1, step 1: Proposal details.

Project details where an external party has applied to NRW for any form of authorisation		
Project details	**Application reference number (if applicable)**	ORML2429T
	Date application received	21/05/2024
	Applicant details	Mona Offshore Wind Limited
	Activity proposed	Mona Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant), a joint venture of bp Alternative Energy investments (hereafter referred to as bp) and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (hereafter referred to as EnBW) is developing the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The Mona Offshore Wind Project is a proposed offshore wind farm located in the east Irish Sea. The Mona Array Area (i.e. the area within which the offshore wind turbines (up to 96) will be located) is 300 km² in area and is located 28.8 km (15.6 nm) from the north coast of Wales, 46.9 km (25.3 nm) from the northwest coast of England and 46.6 km (25.2 nm) from the Isle of Man (when measured from Mean High Water (MHW)). The Mona Offshore Cable Corridor is the corridor between the Mona Array Area and the landfall on the North Wales coastline up to MHWS, in which most of the length of the offshore export cables will be located (the export cables are linked to the Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) located in the Mona Array Area). As set out within the Marine Licence Principles Document (PDA-005), two Marine Licences are sought for the Mona Offshore Wind Project: • A Licence in respect of the Generation Assets, to be deemed as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) • A separate Licence in respect of the Transmission Assets to be determined by NRW MLT. In addition as detailed within the Marine Licence Application Form the current application is not seeking to include licensable decommissioning activities, but rather a separate marine licence will be sought for decommissioning activities nearer the time. **This WFD Compliance Assessment considers the licensable activities associated with the Transmission Assets as detailed below. It does not consider the works falling outside the Transmission Asset application, namely the Generation Assets and onshore works. Neither is detailed consideration of decommissioning activities considered as part of this WFD Compliance Assessment as an assessment will be conducted at the time consent for this activity is sought. Accordingly, the Transmission Assets elements of the proposal are the focus of consideration under this WFD Compliance Assessment.**

The licensable activities for the Mona Offshore Wind Transmission Asset are listed below.

- Activity 1 – Construction, and Maintenance of export cables, interconnector cables and substation platforms
- Activity 2 – Ground Investigation Works
- Activity 3 – Removal of accidentally dropped objects
- Activity 4 – UXO clearance
- Activity 5 – Disposal to designated site

The Mona Offshore Cable Corridor is provided in the NRW Marine Licence Application Plan (Document Reference A4), but the exact route of the offshore export cables within the licensed area will be determined during the post-consent detailed design phase.

There will be up to four offshore export cables, with a voltage of up to 275 kV. Each offshore export cable will also house fibre optic cable for communication. Where possible, the cables will be buried below the seabed. Where cable burial is not possible, cables will be protected.

The offshore export cable installation methodology, as well as the burial depth and any requirement for protection measures, will be informed by a detailed Cable Burial Risk Assessment. The offshore export cables will be buried to a target depth of 1 m with a maximum burial depth of 3 m and a minimum burial depth of 0.5 m.

The Maximum Design Scenario is that up to 20% of the total offshore export cables will require protection where the cable crosses obstacles such as exposed bedrock, pre-existing cables or pipelines that mean the cable cannot be buried. Cable protection methods being considered include rock protection, concrete mattresses, fronded mattresses and rock bags.

Where the offshore export cable crosses existing assets, these will be confirmed in agreement with the asset owners and may, for example, require rock berms or mattresses for cables to be placed on for separation and protection.

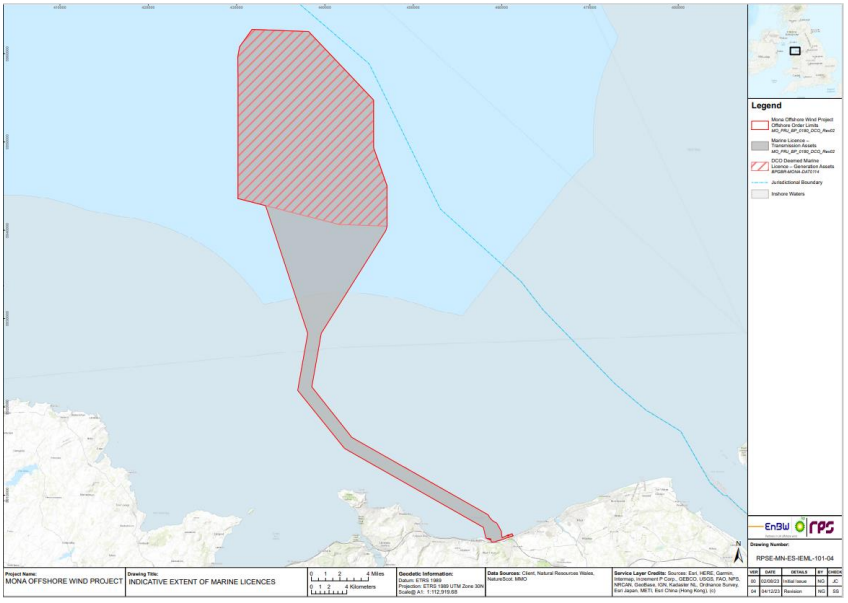
The offshore export cables will make landfall in Llanddulas, North Wales. The offshore export cables will be brought through the intertidal area to a location where they can be connected to the onshore export cables, landward of MHWS. The export cable will be installed through the intertidal area via trenchless techniques.

Up to four separate OSPs will be required, and they will all be located within the Mona Array Area. The exact locations will be determined during the post-consent detailed design phase. The OSPs could be fixed to the seabed by gravity base foundations, three or six-legged jacket foundations secured by suction buckets or three or six-legged jacket foundation secured by pin-piles. The Applicant requires flexibility in foundation choice to ensure that anticipated changes in available technology can be accommodated.

These OSPs will be connected to each other by interconnector cables in order to provide redundancy in the case of cable failure. There will be up to three interconnector cables, with a voltage of up to 275 kV. The maximum total length of the interconnector cables will be 50 km.

Onshore and offshore construction is currently planned to commence in 2026.

		The overall operations and maintenance strategy will be finalised once the technical specifications of the Mona Offshore Wind Project are known. Routine inspections of offshore export cables will be undertaken to ensure that the cables are buried to an adequate depth and not exposed. The onshore export cables will be continuously monitored remotely. Decommissioning will be undertaken under a Marine Licence applied for at the appropriate time, during the project's operational phase. Schedule 14 article 6 of the draft deemed Marine Licence proposes that the deemed marine licence remains in force until the scheme has been decommissioned. The current application is not seeking to include licensable decommissioning activities, but rather a separate marine licence will be sought for decommissioning activities nearer the time. An additional sheet with a table outlining the key Transmission Assets design parameters are appended to the Marine Licence Application Form (ORML2429T A1_Mona_Application_Form F02.pdf). Further details are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3; EN010137-000496-F1.3_Mona_ES_Project Description.pdf).
	Relevant legislation	*Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy* *The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017*
	List other permissions that may be required where known	A marine licence is required before carrying out any licensable marine activity under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations – In line with Regulation 10 (1)(b) of the Marine Works Regulations, NRW intend to defer the EIA consent decision, on the basis that an assessment of any effects on the environment of the project in question is being / is to be carried out by the Secretary of State as part of the determination process for a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act and that this is, or will be, sufficient to meet the requirements of the EIA Directive. An application has also been made to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008. In accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 the Secretary of State must not make an Order granting development consent for EIA development unless an EIA has been carried out in respect of that application.
	Location (include map where appropriate)	Coordinates have been provided with the Marine Licence application as Latitude and Longitude in decimal degrees to six decimal places. Please see the NRW Marine Licence Application Plan (Document Reference A4) and separate sheet attached. The coordinates are provided in the WGS 84 system. A shapefile for the Marine Licence Area has also been provided with the Marine Licence application. A map of the Project is shown below and provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference F1.3; EN010137-000496-F1.3_Mona_ES_Project Description.pdf).



Document Reference B8 Indicative Extent of Marine Licences

Application documents *Include: Project purpose and background, site map, scaled plan, site photographs and working method statement.*	The application documents that have informed this WFD Assessment are as follows: • Application for a Marine Licence for Marine Works (ORML2429T A1_Mona_Application_Form F02.pdf); • MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Guide to the NRW Marine Licence Application Document Reference Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10005 Document Reference: A2 May 2024 F02 (ORML2429T A2_Mona_Guide to the NRW Marine Licence Application F02.pdf); • MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10037 Document Reference: F1.3 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000496-F1.3_Mona_ES_Project Description.pdf); • MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Marine Licence Principles Document Document number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10147 Document Reference: J9 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(o) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000335-J9_Mona_Marine Licence Principles Document.pdf); • MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Environmental Statement Volume 6, Annex 2.2: Water Framework Directive Coastal Waters Assessment Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10070 Document Reference: F6.2.2 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000397-F6.2.2_Mona_ES_Water Framework Directive Coastal Waters Assessment.pdf); and • MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10040 Document Reference: F2.2 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (ORML2429T - F2.2_Mona_ES_Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology.pdf); • MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapter 3:Fish and shellfish ecology Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10041 Document Reference: F2.3 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (ORML2429T - F2.3_Mona_ES_Fish and Shellfish Ecology.pdf);

- MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10043 Document Reference: F2.5 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (ORML2429T - F2.5_Mona_ES_Offshore Ornithology.pdf);
- MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Environmental Statement Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10053 Document Reference: F3.4 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (ORML2429T - F3.4_Mona_ES_Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology.pdf);
- MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT HRA Stage 2 Information to Support an Appropriate Assessment Part 1: Introduction and Background Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10021 Document Reference: E1.1 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(g) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000110-E1.1_Mona_HRA Stage 2 ISSA Part 1 – Introduction and background.pdf);
- MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT HRA Stage 2 Information to Support an Appropriate Assessment Part Two: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) Assessments Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10023 Document Reference: E1.2 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(g) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000139-E1.2_Mona_HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 2 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).pdf); and
- MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT HRA Stage 2 Information to Support an Appropriate Assessment Part Three: Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites Assessments Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10024 Document Reference: E1.3 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(g) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000109-E1.3_Mona_HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 3 - SPA and Ramsar site assessment.pdf).

The following documents provided as part of a further information submission by the applicant in response to consultation comments have also informed this WFD Assessment:

- S_NRWML_3 Responses to NRW (A) Submission F01;
- S_NRWML_5 Errata Sheet F01;
- A2 Guide to the NRW Marine Licence Application F05;
- E1.3 HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 3 – SPA and Ramsar SA (Clean) F03;
- E1.3 HRA Stage 2 ISAA Part 3 – SPA and Ramsar SA (Tracked) F02_F03;
- E1.3.2 Assessment of proposed Ramsar Sites within the Isle of Man F02 (clean) F02;
- E1.4 HRA Stage 1 Screening Report F03;
- E1.5 HRA Integrity Matrices (Clean) F02;
- E1.5 HRA Integrity Matrices (Tracked) F01_F02;
- J9 Marine Licence Principles Document (Clean) F06;
- J9 Marine Licence Principles Document (Tracked) F05_F06 ;
- J10 Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Clean) F07;
- J10 Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (Tracked) F05_F07;
- J15 Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan (Clean) F03;
- J15 Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan (Tracked) F02_F03;
- J16 Outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy (Clean) F02;

		• J16 Outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy (Tracked) F01_F02; and • S_D3_13 WFD Coastal Waters Assessment supporting information F01. Information submitted on the 22 April 2025 • S_NRWML_11 Responses to Further Consultation • J16 Outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy F03 • J21 Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol F03
	Environmental Statement	An ES has been prepared for the Mona Offshore Wind Project and is structured as follows: • Non-Technical Summary (NTS); • Volume 1 – Introductory Chapters; • Volume 2 – Offshore Chapters; • Volume 3 – Onshore Chapters; • Volume 4 – Offshore and Onshore Combined Chapters; • Volume 5 – Introductory Annexes; • Volume 6 – Offshore Annexes; • Volume 7 – Onshore Annexes; and • Volume 8 – Offshore and Onshore Combined Annexes.
	List ongoing maintenance requirements. All structures will require maintenance	*N/A*
	Timing of works	A high-level indicative construction programme is provided in Table 3.37 of the MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10037 Document Reference: F1.3 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000496-F1.3_Mona_ES_Project Description.pdf). The programme illustrates the likely window in which the construction of the major project elements will occur. It covers installation of the major components but does not include elements such as preliminary site preparation, and commissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project post-construction. Offshore construction is currently planned to commence in 2026 and is anticipated to take just over 3 years to complete.
	Pre-application correspondence	Extensive consultation has been undertaken with NRW as set out in the Consultation Report (Document Reference E3).
	Are the works located within a WFD waterbody? Or do they have the potential to impact upon a WFD water body? Waterbodies	Yes

	include surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters out to 1 nautical mile) and groundwaters	
	NRW team responsible for drafting this WFD Compliance Assessment **report, and name of lead officer**	Marine Licensing Team: Peter Morrison (supported by Elena San Martin – ABPmer).
	Date of assessment	19/06/2025

Stage 1, step 2: Collate baseline information on all water bodies at risk from the proposal.

Date of classification information: **2021 (Cycle 3)**

WB ID	Water body name	WB type	Management catchment	HMWB	Overall water body status	Ecological status	Chemical status	Hydro-morphology status*	Relevance to the proposal
GB641011650000	North Wales	Coastal	Western Wales River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)	Yes	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Not assessed	Proposal is in the water body
GB541006608000	Clwyd	Transitional	Clwyd Management Catchment	Yes	Moderate	Moderate	High	Not high	Proposal is in the water body

**where there is no information, or a null value then assume it is at good status for morphology (or hydromorphology for TraC water bodies)

The potential for the proposal to affect the following water bodies was also initially considered, but can be ruled out without further consideration:

> The Mersey Mouth WFD waterbody (GB641211630001) was previously recommended to be scoped in for assessment, however this water body is outside of the 2 km buffer. It is therefore considered that there is no route to impact (or receptor pathway). Similarly based on the Dee (North Wales) Numerical modelling presented in Volume 6, Annex 1.1: Physical processes technical report (F6.1.1) it is not anticipated that impacts would overlap with the Dee (North Wales) transitional waterbody.

As noted in S_D3_13 WFD Coastal Waters Assessment supporting information (F01), NRW (A) in their written representation (REP1-056) agreed that adequate clarification has been provided for the screening decision to not include any other waterbodies in consideration of impacts (REP1-056, paragraph 63).

Stage 1, step 3: Risk Screening

Question number	Risk screening questions	Name of activity	Screening decision – delete as appropriate
Q1.1	**Is the proposal in a water body at high status or high status for morphology** or hydromorphology?	N/A	**No** – go to Q1.2
Q1.2	**Is the activity listed in Annex D as a green activity?** Complete new row for each activity	N/A	**No – complete scoping assessment for each water body**
Q1.3	Are there any potential cumulative/in combination impacts? Or is there Local Expert Override*?	N/A	**Yes – complete scoping assessment for each water body**

**Expert judgement may be required i.e. for complex or cumulative interactions; or a particularly sensitive site/activity (including target water bodies).*

Stage 2: Scoping Assessment for: North Wales GB641011650000

Each component of the works should be included, for example: a hydropower scheme may include in-channel impoundment, creation of depleted reach, and bank reinforcement for turbine house. Include vegetation removal/management as a scheme component. Where there is a lack of confidence on whether there is potential risk to an element then these should be scoped in for further assessment.

Stage 2, step 1: Relate activity to all water body elements for each relevant water body

North Wales Coastal Water Body

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
Transitional and Coastal water bodies	Choose one of the following: **Direct** – risk of direct impact **Indirect** – risk of indirect impact **N/A – no impact pathway** **N/A – other** – include additional text to explain	Further detail on potential impacts. Where N/A is included then provide detail to explain.	**Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment**
Hydromorphology – hydromorphology constitutes both 'hydrology' and 'geomorphology' and describes the physical characteristics and processes of a water body. ***Could the proposal lead to changes in:***			
• morphological conditions, for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure	Direct	Physical structures associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project that have the potential to influence the hydromorphology of the North	**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
• tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents	Direct	Wales coastal waterbody include rock berms and concrete mattresses. These structures may be deployed to provide additional protection to the export cable beyond that afforded by its burial alone. Numerical modelling presented within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical process of the Environmental Statement indicates that hydromorphology would not be significantly impacted by the proposed activity. Effects of all cable installation activities will be temporary and reversible and any effects to hydromorphology during the operations and maintenance phase (e.g. from cable protection) would be highly localised, if they occur at all.	As detailed within the Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule (J10) proposes a Construction Method Statement and a Cable Specification and Installation Plan that will be secured which will include commitment that no more than a 5% reduction in water depth will occur at anypoint along the offshore cable corridor without prior written approval from the Licensing Authority. **No – Impact assessment not required**
• freshwater flow	N/A – no impact pathway	The project activities associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project will not result in any potential changes to freshwater flow.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• wave exposure	Direct	Physical structures associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project that have the potential to influence the hydromorphology of the North Wales coastal waterbody include rock berms and concrete mattresses. These structures may be deployed to provide additional protection to the export cable beyond that afforded by its burial alone. Numerical modelling presented within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical process of the Environmental Statement indicates that	**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		hydromorphology would not be significantly impacted by the proposed activity. Effects of all cable installation activities will be temporary and reversible and any effects to hydromorphology during the operations and maintenance phase (e.g. from cable protection) would be highly localised, if they occur at all.	
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	Yes	The North Wales water body has been designated as a heavily modified water body for the purpose of coastal protection. This designation is not for the same use as the proposed activity.	**Taken to detailed assessment**
Water quality An activity can modify the flow of water, introduce artificial materials or remove sediment and/or vegetation. These can all affect the water quality – particularly physico-chemical aspects of water quality - such as levels of dissolved oxygen, nutrients and ammonia. Include water quality in the detailed assessment if the activity could affect:			
• water clarity (turbidity or suspended particulate matter concentration)	Direct	On the advice of NRW a potential temperature increase from the offshore export cable during the operations and maintenance phase will be considered further. The resuspension of sediments into the water column would result in a short-term increase in suspended sediment concentrations (SSC) and reduction of clarity as a result of construction activities, such as sandwave clearance and cable installation. The methods used for installation would affect the amount of sediment displaced, but the impacts are anticipated to be localised and short lived.	**Taken to detailed assessment**
• thermal conditions (including shading)	Direct		**Taken to detailed assessment**
• oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	Indirect		**Taken to detailed assessment**
• nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen	Indirect		**Taken to detailed assessment**
• microbial patterns	Indirect		**Taken to detailed assessment**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		SSC would not disperse to a significant level outside the footprint of the activities. A full assessment of sediment displacement is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes of the Environmental Statement, and an assessment of the potential effects of increased SSC upon benthic ecology receptors is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement.	
• salinity/conductivity	N/A – no impact pathway		**No – Impact assessment not required**
• is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	Yes	This waterbody was assigned a phytoplankton status of moderate in the most recent Classification Cycle (Cycle 3: 2021).	**Taken to detailed assessment**
• is in a water body with a history of harmful algae (where there is an existing designation for the area, information should be available; however, local water quality officers will be able to help).	No	This water body does not have a history of harmful algae.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
Chemicals - A detailed assessment will also be required if the activity uses or releases chemicals, for example, through sediment disturbance or building works. This is necessary when either the:			
• chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Direct	This activity does not involve the release of chemicals and the only substance expected to be used is bentonite, during trenchless installation of offshore export cables below the intertidal area. Bentonite is an inert, non-toxic, natural clay mineral (<63 µm particle diameter) which is not on the EQSD list.	**Any potential risk of accidental release of contaminants will be minimised through the implementation of EMP during the construction, and operations and maintenance phases.**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		Bentonite is included in the Cefas List of Notified Chemicals approved for use and discharge into the marine environment and is classified as a group E substance under the Offshore Chemical Notification Scheme (OCNS) (Cefas, 2022). Group E substances are the group least likely to cause environmental harm and are readily biodegradable and do not bioaccumulate. Bentonite is also included on the OSPAR List of Substances Used and Discharged Offshore which are Considered to Pose Little or No Risk to the Environment (PLONOR) (OSPAR, 2019). No deterioration of the status of any sites designated under the WFD is therefore anticipated from the use of bentonite.	
• activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	Direct	Sediment contamination analysis has been conducted within the water body, and no contaminants were observed to exceed Cefas Action Level 1. Sediment contamination analysis conducted across the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas out to 12 nm indicated that two sampling locations just beyond the 1 nm limit exceeded Cefas Action Level 1 for arsenic. Additionally, a third sampling location beyond	**Taken to detailed assessment**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		12 nm also exceeded Cefas Action Level 1 for arsenic.	
• or, if the activity releases chemicals on the EQSD list and has a mixing zone, like a discharge pipeline or outfall, follow the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance. This is part of the Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.	N/A – no impact pathway	The activity does not include a discharge pipe or outfall, and therefore no chemicals will be released into the marine environment.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
Biology Identify if the activity or project could impact on the abundance or composition of the biological elements listed below: Biological elements for transitional (T) and coastal (C) waters under the directive are: • Benthic invertebrates (T, C) • Fish (T) • Phytoplankton (T, C) • Macroalgae (T, C) • Angiosperms (T, C) ***Could the proposal lead to:***			
• changes to the composition and abundance of aquatic flora	Direct	Most of the intertidal area is comprised of intertidal sandy sediments (noting there are also areas of polychaete reef and mussel bed, as set out below). In the subtidal environment, the habitats are expected to comprise subtidal soft sediments, including sand, although site specific sampling is not available for this Environmental Statement (these data will be presented in the final application; see Volume 2, Chapter 2; Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement).	**Taken to detailed assessment**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		Impacts on aquatic flora (namely phytoplankton) has been screened in on a precautionary basis.	
• changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	Direct	Most of the intertidal area is comprised of intertidal sandy sediments (noting there are also areas of polychaete reef and mussel bed, as set out below). In the subtidal environment, the habitats are expected to comprise subtidal soft sediments, including sand, although site specific sampling is not available for this Environmental Statement (these data will be presented in the final application; see Volume 2, Chapter 2; Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement). Impacts on benthic invertebrate fauna has been screened in on a precautionary basis.	**Taken to detailed assessment**
For TraC water bodies - scope in if the footprint (where footprint can be direct or a plume i.e. chemical or thermal; for dredging multiply the area by 1.5x) of your activity is:			
• 0.5km^2 or larger	Direct	Maximum width of seabed affected by installation and sandwave clearance is 40 m per cable. Maximum area of disturbance in intertidal is 0 m^2 since installation is to be undertaken via trenchless techniques. For subtidal the maximum area of disturbance is 54,792 m^2 creating a total disturbance of up to 0.055 km^2 across intertidal and subtidal.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• 1% or more of the water body's area	Direct	The total area of this water body is 409.91 km^2, so the disturbance of 0.055 km^2 constitutes 0.013% of the water body's total area, which does not exceed the 1% threshold.	**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: North Wales Coastal Water body ID: GB641011650000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	Direct	Areas of polychaete reef (specifically *Sabellaria* reef) and mussel beds (specifically blue mussel) are located within the intertidal area of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas.	**Taken to detailed assessment**
• 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	Direct	Most of the intertidal area is comprised of intertidal sandy sediments (noting there are also areas of polychaete reef and mussel bed, as set out above). In the subtidal environment, the habitats are expected to comprise subtidal soft sediments, including sand, although site specific sampling is not available for this Environmental Statement (these data will be presented in the final application; see Volume 2, Chapter 2; Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement). It has not been possible to calculate the proportion of lower sensitivity habitats affected within this water body. As such this has been screened in on a precautionary basis.	**Taken to detailed assessment**

Clwyd Transitional Water Body

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Clwyd Transitional Water body ID: GB541006608000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
Transitional and Coastal water bodies	Choose one of the following: **Direct** – risk of direct impact **Indirect** – risk of indirect impact **N/A – no impact pathway** **N/A – other** – include additional text to explain	Further detail on potential impacts. Where N/A is included then provide detail to explain.	**Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment**
Hydromorphology – hydromorphology constitutes both 'hydrology' and 'geomorphology' and describes the physical characteristics and processes of a water body. ***Could the proposal lead to changes in:***			
• morphological conditions, for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure	Direct	The hydromorphology status of the Clwyd water body has been classified as 'not high'. The assessment of physical processes numerical modelling presented within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes of the Environmental Statement indicates that hydromorphology would not be significantly impacted by the proposed activity, particularly given the large distance between the offshore export cable and this WFD waterbody.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents	Direct		**No – Impact assessment not required**
• freshwater flow	N/A – no impact pathway	The project activities associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project will not result in any potential changes to freshwater flow.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• wave exposure	Direct	The assessment of physical processes numerical modelling presented within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes of the Environmental Statement indicates that	**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Clwyd Transitional Water body ID: GB541006608000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		hydromorphology would not be significantly impacted by the proposed activity, particularly given the large distance between the offshore export cable and this WFD waterbody.	
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	Yes	The Clwyd water body has been designated as a heavily modified water body for the purposes of coastal protection. This designation is not for the same use as the proposed activity, and the activity does not overlap with this water body.	**Taken to detailed assessment**
Water quality An activity can modify the flow of water, introduce artificial materials or remove sediment and/or vegetation. These can all affect the water quality – particularly physico-chemical aspects of water quality - such as levels of dissolved oxygen, nutrients and ammonia. Include water quality in the detailed assessment if the activity could affect:			
• water clarity (turbidity or suspended particulate matter concentration)	Direct	Given the distance of the Clwyd water body from the proposed activity it is not anticipated that the temperature or salinity would be affected as a result of offshore export cable installation activities. The resuspension of sediments into the water column would result in a short-term increase in SSC and reduction of clarity as a result of construction activities, such as sandwave clearance and cable installation. The methods used for installation would affect the amount of sediment displaced, but the impacts are anticipated to be localised and short lived. SSC would not disperse to a significant level outside the footprint of the activities and is therefore unlikely to affect water quality in the	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• thermal conditions (including shading)	Direct		**No – Impact assessment not required**
• oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	Indirect		**No – Impact assessment not required**
• nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen	Indirect		**No – Impact assessment not required**
• microbial patterns	Indirect		**No – Impact assessment not required**
• salinity/conductivity	Indirect		**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Clwyd Transitional Water body ID: GB541006608000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		Clwyd water body. A full assessment of sediment displacement is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Physical processes of the Environmental Statement, and an assessment of the potential effects of increased SSC upon benthic ecology receptors is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement.	
• is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	Yes	The proposed activity does not lie within the Clwyd water body, therefore the phytoplankton status of the water body in this context is not relevant to this assessment.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• is in a water body with a history of harmful algae (where there is an existing designation for the area, information should be available; however, local water quality officers will be able to help).	No	The Clwyd water body does not have a history of harmful algae.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
Chemicals - A detailed assessment will also be required if the activity uses or releases chemicals, for example, through sediment disturbance or building works. This is necessary when either the:			
• chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Direct	This activity does not involve the release of chemicals and the only substance expected to be used is bentonite, during trenchless installation of offshore export cables below the intertidal area. Bentonite is an inert, non-toxic, natural clay mineral (<63 µm particle diameter) which is not on the EQSD list. Bentonite is included in the Cefas List of Notified Chemicals approved for use and discharge into the marine environment and is	**Any potential risk of accidental release of contaminants will be minimised through the implementation of EMP during the construction, and operations and maintenance phases.**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Clwyd Transitional Water body ID: GB541006608000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
		classified as a group E substance under the Offshore Chemical Notification Scheme (OCNS) (Cefas, 2022). Group E substances are the group least likely to cause environmental harm and are readily biodegradable and do not bioaccumulate. Bentonite is also included on the OSPAR List of Substances Used and Discharged Offshore which are Considered to PLONOR (OSPAR, 2019). No deterioration of the status of any sites designated under the WFD is therefore anticipated from the use of bentonite.	
• activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	Direct	Sediment contamination analysis has not been conducted within the water body as the footprint of the activity lies entirely outside the Clwyd water body.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• or, if the activity releases chemicals on the EQSD list and has a mixing zone, like a discharge pipeline or outfall, follow the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance. This is part of the Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.	N/A – no impact pathway	The activity does not include a discharge pipe or outfall, and therefore no chemicals will be released into the marine environment.	**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Clwyd Transitional
Water body ID: GB541006608000

Elements	Applicable	Potential Impact (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	Avoidance measures (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
Biology Identify if the activity or project could impact on the abundance or composition of the biological elements listed below: Biological elements for transitional (T) and coastal (C) waters under the directive are: • Benthic invertebrates (T, C) • Fish (T) • Phytoplankton (T, C) • Macroalgae (T, C) • Angiosperms (T, C) ***Could the proposal lead to:***			
• changes to the composition and abundance of aquatic flora	N/A – no impact pathway	No potential impact as the footprint of the activity lies entirely outside the Clwyd water body.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	N/A – no impact pathway	No potential impact as the footprint of the activity lies entirely outside the Clwyd water body.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
For TraC water bodies - scope in if the footprint (where footprint can be direct or a plume i.e. chemical or thermal; for dredging multiply the area by 1.5x) of your activity is:			
• 0.5km^2 or larger	Direct	The proposed activity does not lie within the Clwyd water body, therefore its size in this context is not relevant to this assessment.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• 1% or more of the water body's area	Direct	The proposed activity does not lie within the Clwyd water body, therefore its size as a percentage of the water body in this context is not relevant to this assessment.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	Direct	The proposed activity does not lie within 500 m of the Clwyd waterbody, and therefore does not lie within 500 m of higher sensitivity habitat contained with this water body.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	Direct	The proposed activity does not lie within the Clwyd water body, therefore its size as a percentage of lower sensitivity habitat in this context is not relevant to this assessment.	**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Clwyd Transitional Water body ID: GB541006608000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
• changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	N/A – no impact pathway		**No – Impact assessment not required**
• an impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)	N/A - other	The presence of the offshore export cable beneath the seabed will not cause a change in depth or flow and will not create a physical barrier to the Clwyd water body. The activity does not include a discharge pipe or outfall, and therefore no chemicals will be released into the marine environment that could cause a chemical change. Some noise is expected to be generated as a result of trenchless intertidal cable installation, but given the distance to this water body, the magnitude is not likely to constitute an impact upon normal fish behaviour. Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology of the Environmental Statement predicted that installation or operation of the export cables would not significantly affect fish and shellfish movement, migration or spawning within this WFD waterbody.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• entrainment or impingement of fish	N/A – no impact pathway	The activity will not cause entrainment or impingement of fish.	**No – Impact assessment not required**
• refuge/predation areas	N/A – no impact pathway		**No – Impact assessment not required**
Or: is the proposal in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary; is outside	No	The activity is not located within an estuary, but the Clwyd water body is an estuary.	**No – Impact assessment not required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Clwyd Transitional Water body ID: GB541006608000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it; or, could affect fish migrating through the estuary		The activity will not delay or prevent fish from entering or migrating through the Clwyd water body. Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology of the Environmental Statement predicted that installation or operation of the export cables would not significantly affect fish and shellfish movement, migration or spawning within this WFD waterbody.	

Info for TraC water bodies

Extract from EA Clearing the water for All

Higher and lower sensitivity habitats for TraC water bodies

Higher sensitivity habitats [2]	Lower sensitivity habitats [3]
chalk reef	cobbles, gravel and shingle
clam, cockle and oyster beds	intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud
intertidal seagrass	rocky shore
maerl	subtidal boulder fields
mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel	subtidal rocky reef
polychaete reef	subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud
saltmarsh	
subtidal kelp beds	
subtidal seagrass	

[2] *Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures.*

[3] *Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.*

Invasive Non-Native Species

Refer to the Check Clean Dry campaign to help prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals in British waters. You can find out more about INNS on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website			
Risks of introducing or spreading INNS include: • materials or equipment that have come from, had use in or travelled through other water bodies • activities that help spread existing INNS, either within the immediate water body or to other water bodies **Does the activity or project have the potential to introduce or spread INNS to a water body?**			
Add in each relevant WB ID Use a separate row for each WB ID	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure **included within the project** at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
	Choose one of the following: **Direct** – risk of direct impact **Indirect** – risk of indirect impact **N/A – no impact pathway** **N/A – other** – include additional text to explain	Further detail on potential impacts. Where N/A is included then provide detail to explain.	**Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment**
North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	Direct	The risk of introduction and spread of INNS to benthic ecology receptors has been assessed as minor (Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement).	**Adoption of an Environmental Management (EMP), including actions to minimise INNS, aims to manage and reduce the risk of potential introduction and spread of INNS so far as reasonably practicable.**
Clwyd transitional water body GB541006608000	Direct	The risk of introduction and spread of INNS to benthic ecology receptors has been assessed as minor (Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement). Furthermore, the distance between the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas and the Clwyd water body will also naturally reduce the likelihood of the introduction or spread of INNS.	**Adoption of an EMP, including actions to minimise INNS, aims to manage and reduce the risk of potential introduction and spread of INNS so far as reasonably practicable.**

WFD Protected Areas

If the proposed activity is within, or hydrologically connected to, a WFD Protected Area. If the activity is hydrologically linked, then as a general rule those Protected Areas within 2 km of the proposed activity will be most at risk.

Protected Areas and Critical sensitive habitats/species Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:	Applicable	How have you considered the potential impacts?
Protected Areas:		
• SACs/SPAs/RAMSAR	Yes	Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpŵl and Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and Conwy Bay occur within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed activity. This ZoI aligns with the spatial extent of the numerical modelling presented in Volume 6, Annex 1.1 Physical process technical report (APP-086). Consideration of European/Ramsar sites have been assessed as part of the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the project which concluded that the project would not have an adverse effect on the integrity (AEOI) of a European/Ramsar site.
• Bathing Waters	Yes	The following Bathing Waters occur within the ZoI and have been considered in the detailed assessment section of this WFD Assessment: • Abergele (Pensarn); • Llandudno North Shore; • Colwyn Bay; • Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias; • Kinmel Bay; • Rhyl; and • Rhyl East.
• Shellfish Waters	No	There are no Shellfish Water Protected Areas within the ZoI of the proposed activity.
Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.		
• Nationally or locally protected areas e.g. SSSI, NNR etc	N/A	
Section 6 Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Environment (Wales) Act 2016) here - other Protected and Priority habitats and species. The S6 duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.		

Protected Areas and Critical sensitive habitats/species Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:	Applicable	How have you considered the potential impacts?
Identify if there is a risk that the activity/project could impact on a water dependant priority habitat and or species which are either critical to the ecological health of the water body or sensitive to changes proposed on the water body.		
• Section 7 list of priority habitats e.g. wetlands	Yes	As detailed above impact on polychaete reef (specifically *Sabellaria* reef) and mussel beds (specifically blue mussel) have been scoped in for detailed assessment. A number of section 7 species and habitats have also been considered within the project HRA for example Common Scoter are a section 7 species but are also a features of the Liverpool Bay SPA so have been considered within the HRA accordingly.
• Section 7 list of priority species e.g. water voles		
Ecosystem Resilience The Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 3 states that the objective of the sustainable management of natural resources is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide now and for future generations		
Consideration of ecosystem resilience – diversity, extent, condition, connectivity.	Yes	Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology, Chapter 3:Fish and shellfish ecology, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology of Volume 2 of the ES, and Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of Volume 3 of the ES consider the potential interaction of the project with ecosystem resilience.

Stage 2, step 2: Scoping decision of the project 'alone'

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
Q2.1 Is there a risk that a component of the proposal may cause deterioration of any element that makes up water body status?	Yes
Q2.2 Is there a risk that a component of the proposal may prevent the water body or Protected Area from achieving its objectives in the future?	Yes

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions

Stage 2, step 3: Assessing potential in combination and/or cumulative impacts

It is important to consider the in combination and/or cumulative effects of pressures in a water body and the combined impacts of the proposed activity.
Do not include activities which have not yet been applied for, unless the activity is well defined and there are solid reasons for believing that it will be taken forward. Consult with technical advisors as required.

Avoidance measures - Describe any conditions, restrictions or other measures, if any, applicable to the activity/project, and/or to the other activities giving rise to the in combination / cumulative effect, which could remove the risk of deterioration or prevent of achieving water body objectives. Include details of how such measures would be applied, and who would be responsible for applying them.
If required, further details can be provided in separate clearly referenced documents.

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? *If none, put* 'N/A'	**Nature of the in-combination/cumulative effect (if any)**	**Avoidance measures** Are there any legally binding avoidance measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?	Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination/ cumulative effects be ruled out? **'YES' *or* 'NO' *or* 'DON'T KNOW'**
• Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm. • Rhyl Flats offshore wind farm. • Gwynt y Môr offshore wind farm. • North Hoyle offshore wind farm. • Conwy River dredge disposal. • Hilbre Swash aggregate licence area. • Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets.	The scale of potential change to **hydromorphology** within the North Wales coastal waterbody as a result of Mona Offshore Wind Project is small and localised to areas where cable protection is required. The potential for significant cumulative effects with other projects, plans and activities is considered	N/A	**Yes**

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? *If none, put* 'N/A'	**Nature of the in-combination/cumulative effect (if any)**	**Avoidance measures** Are there any legally binding avoidance measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?	Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination/ cumulative effects be ruled out? **'YES' *or* 'NO' *or* 'DON'T KNOW'**
• Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets. • Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarms Transmission Assets. • Eni Hynet CCS project. • Liverpool Bay Area 457 Aggregate Extraction Licence Area. • MaresConnect - Wales-Ireland Interconnector Cable.	unlikely to result in a deterioration in status of any WFD waterbody.		
	Project activities which introduce the potential for a reduction in **water quality** are typically those which involve seabed disturbance and/ or an increase in SSC. Any in-combination effects associated with increased SSC and associated sediment deposition will be limited spatial extent, short term duration, intermittent in nature. There is also the potential for accidents to occur, releasing chemicals/ substances into the marine environment. The risk of any in-combination effects associated with accidental pollution is very low however, should an event occur, any effects will be temporary, reversible, limited in spatial extent. All other projects/plans considered will also likely implement similar standard	An Offshore EMP will be implemented which will include a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) to provide protocols to cover accidental spills and potential contaminant release, and will include key emergency contact details (e.g. NRW, Maritime Coastguard Agency and the project site co-ordinator).	**Yes**

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? *If none, put* 'N/A'	**Nature of the in-combination/cumulative effect (if any)**	**Avoidance measures** Are there any legally binding avoidance measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?	Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination/ cumulative effects be ruled out? **'YES' *or* 'NO' *or* 'DON'T KNOW'**
	measures to the measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, such as an Offshore EMP and MPCP. These measures will further reduce the likelihood of an accidental pollution event occurring.		
	There is a potential for the introduction and/ or spread of marine **INNS** as a result of activities associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This includes the placement of cable protection, providing new habitat for marine INNS to colonise, and the movement of vessel transporting INNS via ballast water and attached to hulls/equipment.	An Offshore EMP will be implemented, which will include a Biosecurity Risk Assessment as well as an INNS Management Plan. With these measures in place, the risk of potential introduction and spread of INNS will be minimised. It is also likely that the other projects would also be required to implement similar measures to reduce the risk from INNS.	**Yes**
	Impacts to **benthic habitats** as a result of the offshore export cable installation for the Mona Offshore Wind Project will be localised and temporary, except for areas of cable protection. The potential for significant cumulative effects from the proposed development with other	Trenchless techniques will be included as a project commitment to cross the intertidal area, to reduce disturbance to intertidal habitats and species. This can be secured within the marine licence. *Sabellaria alveolata* reef and blue mussel *Mytilus edulis* bed identified during site specific intertidal habitat surveys are located outside the boundary of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas. The Applicant commits to a 50 m exclusion buffer	**Yes**

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? *If none, put* 'N/A'	**Nature of the in-combination/cumulative effect (if any)**	**Avoidance measures** Are there any legally binding avoidance measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?	Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination/ cumulative effects be ruled out? **'YES' *or* 'NO' *or* 'DON'T KNOW'**
	projects, plans and activities is considered unlikely to result in a deterioration in status of biological quality elements, or significant impacts to other higher sensitivity habitats (Mussel beds, *Sabellaria alveolata*).	from the edge of the *S. alveolata* reef and blue mussel bed as per industry standard best practice. An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will supervise any planned construction works in the intertidal zone. This is to ensure that all planned works within the intertidal are undertaken in line with the primary measure adopted to avoid the *S. alveolata* reef and the blue mussel bed.	
Scoping decision of the project cumulatively or 'in combination'		**Potential cumulative/in combination impacts conclusion**	
Q2.3 Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination and or cumulative effects be ruled out?	**(a) If the right-hand column is 'YES' in all cases**	It **can** be concluded that potential deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination / cumulative effects can be ruled out	
	~~**(b) If any row is 'NO' or 'Don't know' in the right-hand column**~~	~~It **cannot** be concluded that potential deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination / cumulative effects can be ruled out~~	

Stage 2, step 4: Overall scoping decision

Scoping assessment	**Scoping decisions**
Overall scoping decision **Q2.4 Is there a potential risk that the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent a water body from meeting its objectives either alone or in combination?** *(choose one of the following options and delete the other)*	~~There is **no risk** of deterioration or prevention of the water body achieving its objectives as a result of the proposal, either alone or in combination, and no further consideration under the Water Framework Directive/Regulations is required in order to determine the application.~~ ~~If this section is selected, **delete Q2.5 and Stage 3.**~~

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
	There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives and therefore a detailed compliance assessment might be required if no mitigation measures that can be included at Q2.5. If this section is selected, complete Q2.5.
Q2.5 Mitigation measures **Are there any legally binding mitigation measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?** Describe any conditions, restrictions or other measures, if any, applicable to the activity/project, which could remove the risk of deterioration or prevent of achieving water body objectives. Include details of how such measures would be applied, and who would be responsible for applying them. *If required, further details can be provided in separate clearly referenced documents.*	~~There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives however the following **legally binding avoidance measures will be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided.**~~ ~~List the legally binding avoidance measures that will be included in the consent/permit/authorisation, and who will be responsible for applying them.~~ ~~If this section is selected, **delete Stage 3.**~~
	There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives and therefore a detailed compliance assessment is required. There are no mitigation measures that can be included at this stage. If this section is selected, **complete Stage 3.**

Stage 3: Detailed Assessment

The amount of information provided at this stage will vary depending on the scale and nature of the project and its potential environmental effects. The detail presented at this stage should be proportionate to the scale of the project and its potential risks. For complex cases then a separate report for detailed assessment would be appropriate. For example, if the only aspect of a project being scoped in to stage 3 is the risk of chemical spills during a construction activity and the mitigation being proposed is a Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure adequate management of the risks are in place then this may be best presented as a simple table. On the other end of the scale, for a complex project we would expect to see the evidence presented of the underpinning assessments for all aspects of the project that had been scoped in to Stage 3. This information is likely to be drawn from modelling studies and other assessments carried out as part of the wider EIA process where relevant and this should cover the following as a minimum:

Assessing for Deterioration

Deterioration in this context refers to deterioration from one status class to a lower one, unless the element is already at bad status and then this also includes within class deterioration.
Temporary effects to not count as deterioration if the water body/ies in question would recover within a short period of time.
Consider if the effects arising from the project are:

- Direct or indirect/secondary
- Alone or in combination; cumulative
- Ensure all stages of the project have been covered in the assessment where relevant, including construction, operation and maintenance, decommissioning

If stage 3 identifies a risk of deterioration, then avoidance of the impact must be considered. If this is not practicable, mitigation should be then considered to reduce the effects as far as is possible. In this context, mitigation can only apply to the water body/ies which are at risk of deterioration, it does not include compensation in other water bodies.

Protected Areas

This stage should also consider the impact of the activity on each of the protected areas identified at the scoping stage.

If it is identified that there is a potential to impact to a SAC/SPA/RAMSAR site, then an HRA must also be carried out; this should be clearly referenced within this section if so.

Assessment of Invasive and Non-native Species (INNS)

If there is a risk of the project introducing or spreading INNS, then a Biosecurity Risk Assessment must also be carried out in association with the project and clearly referenced within this section.

Jeopardising Good Status

If the water body being assessed is at less than good status, it will have the objective of achieving good status by a set date. If this is the case, it must be assessed whether the project will jeopardise the attainment of good status. This is done by assessing if the project may impact upon any improvement measures being currently carried out in the water body by conflicting with them or reducing their effectiveness. A list of water body improvement measures can be found in the RBMPs.

HMWBs – Jeopardising Mitigation Measures

If the water body in question is designated as a HMWB, then there will be a set of water body mitigation measures associated with it. This stage of the assessment must also consider if the project is in conflict with the water body mitigation measures either now or in future. The list of water body mitigation measures can be found on Water Watch Wales.

Stage 3: Decision table

Water body name & ID	WFD element/s scoped in	Description of impacts; include a list of all evidence documents to inform the detailed assessment	Mitigation measures	Is there risk of the activity preventing the water body/ PA from meeting its objectives?* 'YES' or 'NO'	Can the risk of deterioration be ruled out?* 'YES' or 'NO'
North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	**Hydromorphology:** • HMWB	The North Wales water body has been designated as a heavily modified water body for the purpose of coastal protection. This designation is not for the same use as the proposed activity. Mitigation measures identified for coast protection use are as follows: • Habitat creation - 48. Indirect mitigation • Operations and maintenance - 21. Avoid the need to dredge • Operations and maintenance - 22. Dredging disposal strategy • Operations and maintenance - 23. Reduce impact of dredging	Mitigation measures are "Not Applicable - Not Required in This Water Body". All mitigation measures have not been defined or assigned.	**No**	**Yes**

		• Operations and maintenance - 24. Reduce sediment resuspension • Operations and maintenance - 25. Retime dredging or disposal • Operations and maintenance - 26. Sediment management • Operations and maintenance - 27. Dredge disposal site selection • Operations and maintenance - 28. Manage disturbance • Operations and maintenance - 37. Retain habitats • Structural modification- 16. Fish passes • Structural modification - 19. Enhance ecology • Structural modification - 20. Changes to locks etc • Working with physical form and function - 13. Realign flood defence • Working with physical form and function - 2. Remove obsolete structure • Working with physical form and function - 4. Remove or soften hard bank • Working with physical form and function - 5. Preserve or restore habitats • Working with physical form and function - 6. In-channel morph diversity • Working with physical form and function - 7. Bank rehabilitation			
North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	**Water quality:** • Water clarity • Oxygen levels • Nutrients • Microbial • Phytoplankton	A detailed assessment of effects on water quality is included in Section 1.5.1 of the WFD Coastal Waters Assessment (Environmental Statement Volume 6, Annex 2.2: Water Framework Directive Coastal Waters Assessment Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10070 Document Reference: F6.2.2 APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a) February 2024 F01 (EN010137-000397-F6.2.2_Mona_ES_Water Framework Directive Coastal Waters Assessment.pdf).	N/A	**No**	**Yes**

		The Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas crosses the North Wales coastal waterbody and consideration of the potential for a deterioration in water quality within this waterbody is required. Specifically, this includes the potential for the effects of this activity to cause an increase in SSC, nutrients, dissolved oxygen (DO) or bacterial concentrations, over periods greater than a spring-neap tidal cycle (approximately 14 days) and to detrimentally affect the North Wales waterbody Classification Cycle 3 (2021) 'moderate' phytoplankton status. Phytoplankton is not considered to be vulnerable to cable installation or operation, however this has been scoped in due to the 'moderate' phytoplankton status of this waterbody. Seabed disturbance and an increase in SSC associated with the construction of the offshore export cable and landfall works may introduce the potential for a reduction in water quality. An increase in SSC may additionally lead to an increase in bacterial counts within the water column, the level of which is a determinant of water quality at designated bathing waters. The presence of live bacteria, including *E.coli* and intestinal enterococci, is strongly influenced by the amount of UV light penetrating the water column. Under lower UV scenarios, as occurs when SSC is high, survival of bacterium may increase. When nutrient loading or water turbidity (as a result of increased SSC, for instance) is high phytoplankton blooms may occur, after which phytoplankton will die. Bacteria and other decomposer organisms then break down this organic matter and dissolved oxygen (DO) levels may become reduced. The Abergele (Pensarn) bathing water is located approximately 1 km to the east of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and			

		Access Areas and does not have a history of phytoplankton blooms. No nutrients are anticipated to be released in significant concentrations from the seabed as a result of this activity, beyond those expected in typical storm conditions. There are no outfalls or discharges associated with the project so the proposed activities are not expected to cause a reduction in DO in the water column. Numerical modelling of SSC indicated that increases in SSC will be greatest close to the site of subtidal cable installation, reducing in magnitude at a range of a few hundred metres from the cable, and falling to background levels at a range of a few kilometres. The effects of increased SSC are expected to be temporary, short-term and intermittent over a 14-day spring/neap tidal cycle. The limited spatial range and short-term potential increase in SSC is therefore not expected to promote conditions that may induce the growth of phytoplankton. The construction, and operations and maintenance phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore export cable and landfall works is not predicted to cause a deterioration in the status of the North Wales waterbody with respect to water quality. Increased SSC is expected to disperse rapidly at distances of hundreds of metres from cable installation works, and phytoplankton is not expected to bloom in response to nutrient availability or increased SSC. The effects of the activity are therefore expected to be of negligible significance, which is not significant in EIA terms. The Mona Offshore Wind Project is therefore considered, in this respect, to be compliant with the requirements of the WFD.			

		The Abergele (Pensarn) Bathing Water received a status of 'sufficient' in 2021 (the most recent classification year). The status of this bathing water was also 'sufficient' in 2020 and 2019, which was a deterioration from its 'good' status in 2018. Open cut trenching for cable installation in the subtidal may disturb sediment but works within the 1 nm WFD assessment boundary would occur in shallow water (i.e. <6 m) where the potential for sediment resuspension would be minimal. Furthermore, deposition of suspended sediment would occur during and immediately after cable installation, and SSC would reduce rapidly with distance from the cable installation site (as discussed above). Any increase in SSC (and potential bacterial contaminants) associated with cable installation will be temporary, intermittent and highly reversible and deterioration of bathing water quality is unlikely. As for the Abergele (Pensarn) bathing water, installation of the offshore export cables would not cause an increase in the concentration of *E. coli* or intestinal enterococci at the additional six bathing waters (which are located at an increased distance). The project would therefore not contribute to a deterioration in the results of annual water quality assessments (and statuses) at any bathing waters. The construction, and operations and maintenance phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore export cables and landfall works is not predicted to cause a deterioration in the status of the North Wales waterbody with respect to any bathing waters. It is therefore considered, in this respect, to be compliant with the requirements of the WFD.			
North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	**Water quality:** • Thermal conditions	A full assessment of the potential effects of heat generated by offshore export cables on benthic communities is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic ecology of the ES, and the following is a summary of these assessments.	N/A	**No**	**Yes**

		The presence and operation of offshore export cables may lead to localised heating of the seabed, affecting benthic subtidal and intertidal receptors. Submarine power cables generate heat by energy loss as electrical currents flow and leads to the heating of the cable surface and the warming of the surrounding environment. High voltage cables are used to minimise the amount of energy lost as heat, which in turn minimises the environmental warming effect. Where submarine power cables are buried, the surrounding sediment may be heated. The cables, however, have negligible capability to heat the overlying water column because of the very high heat capacity of water. There is little research on the heat dissipation effect resulting from subsea cables in the field or its effect on benthic receptors. Meißner *et al.* (2007)[1] tested the difference in sediment temperature between a control site and a site 25 cm away from the cable for Nysted Offshore Windfarm in Denmark. Results showed a 2°C maximum difference between sites, with a mean difference of 1°C. Similar results were recorded for a High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) 33 kV cable and HVAC 132 kV cable (low- and high-voltage cables, respectively) (Meißner *et al*., 2007). The impact of seabed temperature rise as a result of buried cables has also been considered during a project to bury a submarine High Voltage Direct Current cable between New England and Long Island, New York. The project estimated that the rise in temperature at the seabed immediately above the buried cable to be just 0.19°C (BERR,			

[1] Meißner, K., Schabelon, H., Bellebaum, J. and Sordyl, H. (2007). Impacts of Submarine Cables on the Marine Environment — a Literature Review. Institute of Applied Ecology Ltd., https://tethys.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Meissner-et-al-2006.pdf, accessed November 2022.

		2008)[2]. The seasonal temperature range in the Irish Sea is 11°C – 15°C (Howarth, 2004)[3], therefore any change similar to those observed by the previously described studies would fall well within the natural seasonal variation of this region. Furthermore, the effects of climate change are likely to result in higher average temperatures being the norm. A number of environmental factors influence the way that heat from subsea cables dissipates, one of them being the nature of sediment in which the cable is buried. A lab-based study by Emeana *et al.* (2016)[4] investigated the thermal regime around high voltage submarine cables using a heat source in a large tank to simulate seafloor conditions. When the heat source was buried in fine clay/silt sediments it had a conductive heat transfer mode, only raising temperatures in the immediate radius of the cable. When the heat source was buried in fine permeable sands they observed convective heat transfer when the surface of the heat source reached 20°C above the ambient temperature. When the heat source was buried at 1 m this resulted in temperature change up to 1 m above the heat source. In coarse sands convection occurred at lower temperature (>9°C) and increases in fluid temp were detectable more than 1 m above the heat source. This study however was conducted in a laboratory without the influence of water flow which, in an offshore			

[2] BERR (2008). Review of cabling techniques and environmental effects applicable to the offshore wind farm industry: technical report. Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) in association with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 164 pp. https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/+/http:/www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43527.pdf, accessed November 2022.

[3] Howarth, M.J. (2004). Hydrography of the Irish Sea SEA6 Technical Report, Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/ 197294/SEA6_Hydrography_POL.pdf. Accessed September 2022

[4] Emeana, C.J., Hughes, T.J., Dix, J.K., Gernon, T.M., Henstock, T.J., Thompson, C.E.L., and Pilgrim, J.A. (2006). The thermal regime around buried submarine high-voltage cables. Geophysical Journal International, 206(2), pp. 1051-64, doi: 10.1093/gji/ggw195.

		environment, would quickly dissipate the effects of heat emissions (Worzyk, 2009)[5]. During the operations phase of the Mona Offshore Wind Project there will be up to 360 km of 275 kV HVAC export cable (<20 km of which would be installed within the North Wales water body), for which the minimum burial depth will be 0.5 m. The species that characterise the benthic communities within the footprint of the activity are adaptable to the small temperature increases expected to occur in the immediate vicinity of the installed, operational cable, and unlikely to be adversely affected to change of the magnitude described above. Based upon the assessment detailed in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the Environmental Statement, and taking a precautionary approach, the impact of heat generated by offshore export cables is predicted to be of local spatial extent, long term duration, continuous and high reversibility, and the magnitude is considered to be negligible. The sensitivity of benthic ecology receptors is low, and the significance of this impact is negligible adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms. The construction, and operations and maintenance phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore export cables and landfall works is not predicted to cause a deterioration in the status of the North Wales waterbody with respect to heat generated by offshore export cables. The Mona Offshore Wind Project therefore considered, in this respect, to be compliant with the requirements of the WFD.			

[5] Worzyk, T. (2009). Submarine Power Cables Design, Installation, Repair, Environmental Aspects. Berlin Springer Berlin, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-01270-9.

North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	**Water quality:** • Sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1)	Sediment sampling has been conducted throughout the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas and the Mona Array Area. This includes three sediment sampling stations located beyond 12 nm from MHWS, as requested by NRW A in their written representation (REP1-056) (S_D3_13 WFD Coastal Waters Assessment supporting information (F01)). No contaminants were observed to exceed Cefas Action Level 1 within the North Wales water body. At three sampling locations (one of which is located beyond 12 nm from MHWS), concentrations of arsenic were above Cefas Action Level 1 but well below Cefas Action Level 2. Sediment-bound contaminants at these three sampling sites, if disturbed during installation of offshore export cables, occur at discrete locations and low concentrations. Remobilisation of sediment-bound contaminants would therefore be restricted to a small area and would not be expected to jeopardise the ability of the North Wales WFD water body to achieve 'good' status. Full details of sediment contamination analyses are presented in Volume 6, Annex 2.1: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology technical report of the Environmental Statement. Cefas in their consultation response to the Marine Licence application (ref: ORM2429T) has advised that the sediment contamination data provided by the applicant is sufficient to characterise the area for disposal of sediments arising at the array area and offshore cable corridor for Mona offshore Wind Farm. Although there are fewer samples collected and analysed than are recommended in the OSPAR agreement 2014-06 updated 2024 (Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material at Sea), due to the coarse nature of the material over the site and likely low risk as contaminants (which generally are more likely to be observed in finer sediments) the number of samples is acceptable. Overall, Cefas consider that the levels of contaminants are such that the	N/A	**No**	**Yes**

		environmental risk from the release of contaminants from the sediments as a result of the construction or operation of Mona Offshore Wind Farm is likely to be low.			
North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	**Biology:** • changes to the composition and abundance of aquatic flora	The Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas crosses the North Wales coastal waterbody and consideration of the potential for a deterioration in composition and abundance of aquatic flora (namely phytoplankton) element within this waterbody is required. As noted above for water quality, seabed disturbance and an increase in SSC associated with the construction of the offshore export cable and landfall works may introduce the potential for an increase in nutrient loading or water turbidity, and in turn a phytoplankton bloom, after which phytoplankton will die. The construction, and operations and maintenance phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore export cable and landfall works is not predicted to cause a deterioration in the status of the North Wales waterbody with respect to phytoplankton. Increased SSC is expected to disperse rapidly at distances of hundreds of metres from cable installation works, and phytoplankton is not expected to bloom in response to nutrient availability or increased SSC. The Mona Offshore Wind Project is therefore considered, in this respect, to be compliant with the requirements of the WFD.	N/A	**No**	**Yes**
North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	**Biology:** • <500 from higher sensitive habitat	The habitats that lie within 500 m of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas are 'Polychaete reef' and 'Mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel'. The characteristic species present are *S. alveolata* and blue mussel, respectively. One area of blue mussel bed was recorded in the west of the intertidal area near the boundary of the	Measures will be adopted by the Mona Offshore Wind Project to reduce the direct impact on the intertidal *S. alveolata* reef, detailed in the	**No**	**Yes**

		Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas, and *S. alveolate* polychaete reef was observed in a continuous strip of approximately 700 m length to the south and west of the blue mussel bed. Three small patches of *S. alveolata* less than 1 m² in size were also observed in the middle of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas, with all areas of higher sensitivity habitat being located within the intertidal area. The locations of these areas of higher sensitivity habitat with respect to the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas are presented in section 7.4.5 of Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the ES. Blue mussel often occur in areas of high suspended sediment and as filter feeders they are adapted to temporary increases in suspended sediment concentration (SSC). Burial of blue mussel beds by large-scale movements of sand and resultant mortalities have been reported from Morecambe Bay, the Cumbrian coast and Solway Firth (Holt *et al*., 1998)[6]. Burial experiments by Last *et al.* (2011)[7] found that 16% of buried mussels died after 16 days, compared to almost 50% mortality at 32 days. The continual actions of the tide and waves removing sediment, as well as the ability of mussels to move to the surface, may prevent mortality in the short term following smothering events. Cable installation and operation, however, is likely to have a reduced impact on this habitat because the boundary of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas has been delineated to avoid the blue mussel bed. Moreover, due to the location of	benthic ecology chapter (Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the ES). As proposed within Document J10 Mona Mitigation and Monitoring Schedule, these measures can be incorporated into the Offshore Construction Method Statement and secured within the marine licence. Whilst the *S. alveolata* reef is located more than 250 m to the west of the intertidal part of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas, it is approximately 28 m, at the nearest point,		

[6] Holt, T.J., Rees, E.I., Hawkins, S.J. and Seed, R. (1998). Biogenic reefs (Volume IX). An overview of dynamic and sensitivity characteristics for conservation management of marine SACs. Scottish Association for Marine Science (UK Marine SACs Project), 174 pp. Available: http://ukmpa.marinebiodiversity.org/uk_sacs/pdfs/biogreef.pdf, Accessed August 2022.

[7] Last, K.S., Hendrick V. J, Beveridge C. M and Davies A. J. (2011). Measuring the effects of suspended particulate matter and smothering on the behaviour, growth and survival of key species found in areas associated with aggregate dredging. Report for the Marine Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund, Project MEPF 08/P76, 69 pp., https://pure.uhi.ac.uk/en/publications/measuringthe-effects-of-suspended-particulate-matter-and-burial-, accessed November 2022.

		the blue mussel bed to the south of the *S. alveolata* reef, this measure will ensure that direct impacts to this feature are also avoided. A full assessment of the impact of the project on *S. alveolata* and blue mussel is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the ES. Effects upon these higher sensitivity intertidal habitats were considered during the construction, and operations and maintenance phases. The effects of construction were predicted to be of local spatial extent, short term duration, intermittent and of high reversibility. It was predicted that the impact would affect the receptor directly, and the magnitude was considered to be low. *S. alveolata* reefs and blue mussel beds were deemed to be of low vulnerability, medium recoverability and national value. The sensitivity of the receptor was therefore, considered to be medium.	from the subtidal part of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas. Therefore, this measure has been included on a precautionary basis to ensure that direct impacts (e.g. habitat loss or disturbance) to the ecologically sensitive and nationally protected *S. alveolata* reef will be avoided. An ECoW would also be on site during planned construction to ensure that all planned works within the intertidal are undertaken in line with the primary measure adopted to avoid the *S. alveolata* reef and the blue mussel bed.		
North Wales coastal water body GB641011650000	**Biology:** • changes to the composition and abundance of benthic	There is potential for more than 1% of any lower sensitivity habitat within the North Wales water body to be affected by cable installation works, and this is predominantly expected to be 'intertidal and subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud'. However, since robust data on the spatial	N/A	**No**	**Yes**

	invertebrate fauna • 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat	distribution of low sensitivity habitats across the whole of the North Wales water body is not available, an accurate calculation of the percentage that may be affected by the activity is not possible. Qualitatively, given the widespread nature of 'intertidal and subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud' within the North Wales water body, and the size of the North Wales water body (409.91 km²), it is considered unlikely for the maximum footprint of the activity of 0.055 km² to exceed 1% of any lower sensitivity habitat. The effect of seabed disturbance in the intertidal and subtidal areas of the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor and Access Areas is fully assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology of the ES. Due to the fine-grained substrate, the habitat is expected to return to its previous state during the cable installation process with infilling of sediment, within a couple of tidal cycles, being driven by wave exposure and tidal currents. Benthic communities in these habitats have an overall low sensitivity to the disturbance associated with cable installation and are expected to recover within 2 to 10 years (or sooner) based on the life cycle traits of the characterising species. The impact of these activities was therefore assessed to be of negligible adverse significance and also does not represent a deterioration in the status of this WFD element of the North Wales water body. Moreover, installation of offshore export cables in the intertidal area will be undertaken via trenchless techniques, and there will subsequently be no direct impacts to habitats in the intertidal area.			
Clwyd transitional water body GB541006608000	**Hydromorphology:** • HMWB	The Clwyd water body has been designated as a heavily modified water body for the purpose of coastal protection. This designation is not for the same use as the proposed activity.	Mitigation measures are either "Not Applicable - Not Required in This	**No**	**Yes**

		Mitigation measures identified for coast protection use are as follows: • Habitat creation - 48. Indirect mitigation • Operations and maintenance - 21. Avoid the need to dredge • Operations and maintenance - 22. Dredging disposal strategy • Operations and maintenance - 23. Reduce impact of dredging • Operations and maintenance - 24. Reduce sediment resuspension • Operations and maintenance - 25. Retime dredging or disposal • Operations and maintenance - 26. Sediment management • Operations and maintenance - 27. Dredge disposal site selection • Operations and maintenance - 28. Manage disturbance • Operations and maintenance - 37. Retain habitats • Structural modification- 16. Fish passes • Structural modification - 19. Enhance ecology • Structural modification - 20. Changes to locks etc • Working with physical form and function - 13. Realign flood defence • Working with physical form and function - 2. Remove obsolete structure • Working with physical form and function - 4. Remove or soften hard bank • Working with physical form and function - 5. Preserve or restore habitats • Working with physical form and function - 6. In-channel morph diversity Working with physical form and function - 7. Bank rehabilitation	Water Body" or "Not in Place - Not Yet Identified". All mitigation measures have not been defined or assigned.		

* Where there is uncertainty if the proposed activity may prevent a water body or PA from meeting its objectives or may cause deterioration then we must follow a precautionary approach, contact the Integrated Water Planning team for further advice.

Conclusion of WFD Compliance Assessment & Authorisation

~~WFD stage 1 screening has been completed and the activity/project have been ruled out as not requiring any further WFD assessment. Or, further assessment is not required because there is no conceivable impact pathway to any water body or Protected Area.~~	
~~WFD stage 2 scoping has been completed and the activity/project is considered as having no risk of causing deterioration or preventing any water body or WFD Protected Area from reaching its objectives and taking account of the advice from technical officers - is considered compliant with the Water Framework Directive/Regulations.~~	
In light of the conclusions of a detailed compliance assessment (Stage 3), and taking account of the advice received from technical specialist advisors, it has been established that the activity/project has no potential to cause deterioration of any water body or prevent a water body or WFD Protected Area from meeting its objectives, taking into account any conditions or restrictions as applicable, either alone or in-combination with other activities.	
~~In light of the conclusions of the detailed compliance assessment, it has **not** been ascertained that the project has no potential to cause deterioration or prevent water bodies or WFD Protected Areas from meeting their objectives, as documented in stage 3 of this form. If the conclusion of stage 3 detailed compliance assessment identifies a risk of deterioration of one or more water bodies that cannot be mitigated or may prevent a water body or WFD Protected Area from meeting its objectives, then **approval for the project cannot be given unless either**:~~ ~~• the project specification, and/or the terms under which it might be approved, are modified so as to remove the risk of deterioration or prevention of achievement of objectives, and a revised compliance assessment report is prepared, or~~ ~~• the project satisfies the requirements of Article 4.7 (including 4.8 & 4.9) of the Water Framework Directive, and is approved by the NRW executive team.~~	
signed by	Peter Morrison

Job title	Lead Specialist Officer
Date	19 September 2025

Consultation with technical advisors/specialists

Relevant section of the WFD compliance assessment	Date(s) of correspondence* and any meeting(s) with technical advisor(s) and include the name of the technical advisor	Description of how the comments from technical advisors have been considered
North Wales Coastal Waterbody Scoping	4 March 2025	Following advice received from NRW A Fish element has been removed from the North Wales coastal water body.
	4 March 2025	Within representation dated 4 March NRW A NRW advised the removal of the term extended zone of influence as the ZoI recommended for use in the assessment is that identified through numerical modelling within the ES. The applicant provided a response in document reference S_NRWML_11 on the 22 April 2025 confirming that the ZoI information (S_D3_13) document, which considered a ZoI based on the physical processes' numerical modelling As a result the term extended zone of Influence has been removed from the WFD.
	4 March 2025	Although NRW A did not disagree with the conclusion of the WFD, NRW A advised additional justification should be included within the WFD for the screening out of the Dee Estuary Transitional Waterbody. Additional reasoning has been included in Stage 1.
North Wales Coastal Waterbody Scoping	4 March 2025	Stage 2 – Hydromorphology Following advice from NRW A reference is included to post-consent conditions relating to securing a Construction Method Statement and CSIP that includes including the commitment that no more than a 5% reduction in water depth (referenced to Chart Datum) will occur at any point along the Mona offshore cable corridor without prior written approach from the Licensing Authority.

All	4 March 2025	As detailed in para 7.2.1 of NRW representation dated 4 March 2025 NRW A agree with the conclusion of the WFD compliance assessment.

Appendix 1 –SNCB advice

NRW Advice received – 4 March 2025