

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Response to Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council on Landscape Effects

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Image of an offshore wind farm

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Applicant	Mona Offshore Wind Limited.
Appropriate Assessment	A step-wise procedure undertaken in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, to determine the implications of a plan or project on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives, where the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects.
Bodelwyddan National Grid Substation	This is the Point of Interconnection (POI) selected by the National Grid for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Mona Offshore Wind Project.
Local Authority	A body empowered by law to exercise various statutory functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom. This includes County Councils, District Councils and County Borough Councils.
Maximum Design Scenario (MDS)	The scenario within the design envelope with the potential to result in the greatest impact on a particular topic receptor, and therefore the one that should be assessed for that topic receptor.
Mona 400kV Grid Connection Cable Corridor	The corridor from the Mona onshore substation to the National Grid substation at Bodelwyddan.
Mona Offshore Wind Project	The Mona Offshore Wind Project is comprised of both the generation assets, offshore and onshore transmission assets, and associated activities.
Mona Onshore Cable Corridor	The corridor between MHWS at the landfall and the Mona onshore substation, in which the onshore export cables will be located.
Mona Onshore Development Area	The area in which the landfall, onshore cable corridor, onshore substation, mitigation areas, temporary construction facilities (such as access roads and construction compounds), and the connection to National Grid substation will be located
Relevant Local Planning Authority	The Relevant Local Planning Authority is the Local Authority in respect of an area within which a project is situated, as set out in Section 173 of the Planning Act 2008. Relevant Local Planning Authorities may have responsibility for discharging requirements and some functions pursuant to the DCO, once made.
Statutory consultee	Organisations that are required to be consulted by an applicant pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 in relation to an application for development consent. Not all consultees will be statutory consultees (see non-statutory consultee definition).

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
CCBC	Conwy County Borough Council
DCC	Denbighshire County Council

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Acronym	Description
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GN	Guidance Note
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LIR	Local Impact Report
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
RPaG	Registered Parks and Garden
SLA	Special Landscape Areas
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground

Units

Unit	Description
km	Kilometres

1 Response to Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council on Landscape Effects

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This note provides additional context to the assessment of landscape and visual effects contained within Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069).
- 1.1.1.2 The note consolidates existing information presented in the Environmental Statement and clarifies the methodology in respect of the assessment of effects contained within APP-069.
- 1.1.1.3 This note is prepared in response to matters raised by the landscape consultant for Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council during the Examination process of the Mona Offshore Wind Farm as set out below.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1.1 Conwy Borough County Council (CCBC) and Denbighshire County Council (DCC) (hereafter described as the 'Councils') submitted a joint Local Impact Report (LIR) to the Examination of the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Project at Deadline 1 (REP1-049). The LIR sets out comments in respect of the methodology adopted for the assessment of landscape and visual effects contained within APP-069, specifically relating to the threshold of significance and the use of split significance categories, focussing on moderate and major effects. The Councils requested that this should be clarified and any effect on the outcome/conclusions of the assessment through that clarification process should be reported (i.e. if there is a change to the number or nature of effects).
- 1.2.1.2 The Applicant has since sought to agree matters through the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) process. An initial draft SoCG between the Councils and the Applicant was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 3 (REP3-060) which outlines the current position in respect of the assessment of the effects from the project alone which remains an ongoing point of discussion.
- 1.2.1.3 Subsequent email correspondence between the Applicant and the Councils' landscape consultant has confirmed those effects set out in Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069) which remain under discussion. Section 1.3 of this note seeks to provide the additional context requested, specifically in respect of those effects identified.

1.3 Landscape and Visual Effects – Additional Context

1.3.1 Landscape and visual construction effects

- 1.3.1.1 Table 1.1 to 1.6 below confirm the landscape and visual effects during the construction phase for which the Councils have requested additional context regarding how the conclusions of the assessment of effects have been reached. The 'Applicant's response' seeks to provide this additional context in respect of each effect identified.
- 1.3.1.2 This note does not provide context to every effect identified in Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069). Only those effects identified by the Councils and raised throughout the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) process have been considered in the note. This note has

been prepared in-line with the commitment stated at paragraph (38) of the Hearing Summary (ISH3) Environmental Matters (REP4-032).

Guidance

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.3.1.3 This note makes reference to National Resources Wales (NRW) Guidance Note GN 017: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment guidance for Wales (NRW, 2023). GN 017 sets out the definitions of sensitivity from very high to very low in Section 5.5. It should be noted that the very high and high sensitivity categories are reserved for nationally designated landscapes. It does not specifically mention Special Landscape Areas (SLA) within the definitions, but it is presumed that such areas fall into the medium and below categories of sensitivity, dependent on the value of key characteristics and the susceptibility of the area to the change proposed. This is similar to the approach used in the Mona LVIA at Volume 7, Annex 6.4: Landscape, seascape and visual impact assessment methodology (APP-156) where locally designated landscapes, such as SLA are considered to be a medium value (Table 1.8 of APP-156). Those areas outside the SLAs are valued as medium to very low in GN 017 (NRW 2023) and low to medium to negligible in Table 1.8 of APP-156.
- 1.3.1.4 As well as value, sensitivity depends on the susceptibility of the landscape to the proposed development and is graded from very high to very low in GN 017 (NRW 2023) and from very high to negligible in Table 1.8 of APP-156.
- 1.3.1.5 It is not unusual to find that landscape areas of a certain value category do not have a corresponding susceptibility value, as special qualities (if a national landscape) or key characteristics may not be affected by the development proposed. The opposite can also be true - a lower value landscape, with a higher susceptibility to the development proposed. GN 017 (NRW 2023). The overall sensitivity is a combination of both susceptibility and value.

Magnitude of Impact

- 1.3.1.6 The LVIA's approach to assessing the magnitude of impact is set out in section 1.9.3 of APP-156, which follows the guidance in GLVIA3 – each impact being assessed in terms of its size/scale, geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility.

Significance of Effect

- 1.3.1.7 The assessment of significance has been determined by applying the significance of effect matrix at Table 6.17 of APP-069. Effects with a significance level of moderate can be either significant or not significant, however, it is more likely that they will not be significant.
- 1.3.1.8 This principle is supported by the DTI 2005 guidance (Guidance on the Assessment of the Impact of Offshore Wind Farms: Seascape and Visual Impact Report) at page 80, which explains that *'Where seascape or visual effects is [sic] classified as moderate, it is most likely that the effect will not be significant, but it is feasible that it could be judged as significant, depending on the particular circumstances arising*

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Table 1.1: Landscape construction effects.

Effect identified	Applicant's response
<p>Moderate effects on 1 x SLA - Rhyd Y Foel to Abergele.</p>	<p><u>Rhyd y Foel to Abergele SLA</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.3.2 <i>et seq</i>) notes that the sensitivity of the SLA is medium and the magnitude of effect is also medium. The significance of effect is moderate adverse and not significant in respect of the Rhyd y Foel to Abergele SLA during the construction phase.</p> <p>The LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas that are directly affected by the construction of the Mona Offshore Wind Project within the SLA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs • CNWVS023 Dulas Lowlands • CNWVS020 Kinmel Manor Environs <p>The sensitivity of the SLA varies across the SLA, with different LANDMAP Visual and Sensory overall evaluations. The SLA as a whole falls into a medium landscape sensitivity definition as set out in GN 017 (NRW 2023) and which definitions are similar to the LVIA Methodology within Table 1.8 of Volume 7, Annex 6.4: Landscape, seascape and visual impact assessment methodology (APP-156).</p> <p>There will be direct impacts to the SLA as a result of the construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor and the presence of temporary construction compounds. However, the design of the Mona Offshore Wind Project has sought to minimise the impacts to the fabric (i.e. the physical elements and combinations of these elements) of the SLA by avoiding areas of woodland and hedgerows by using trenchless techniques to cross environmental features along the Onshore Cable Corridor (see the Onshore Crossing Schedule (REP1-007). Where hedgerows are affected, replanting will be undertaken in accordance with the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (REP3-034). The impact will temporary and short-term (defined as 0-5 years as per GLVIA3) in its duration. Following the criteria within Table 6.15 of Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069), the magnitude of impact is deemed to be medium.</p> <p>The effect will be moderate adverse but is not considered significant due to the temporary and short-term nature of the effect on the SLA.</p>
<p>Moderate effects on 1x RPaG - Gwyrch Castle.</p>	<p><u>Gwyrch Castle Registered Park and Garden (RPaG):</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.4.1 <i>et seq</i>) considers the sensitivity of the RPaG to the proposed change to be medium and the impact of the temporary change to also be medium. The significance of effect is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant during the construction phase of the Mona Onshore Cable Corridor.</p> <p>The extent of the designated heritage asset is shown on Figure 5.2 of Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic environment (APP-068).</p> <p>The element of the RPaG landscape that will be affected is a direct impact on pasture (previously used as a nursery). The project has committed to completing the construction work within the RPaG in under a year. This</p>

Effect identified	Applicant's response
	<p>part of the RPaG lies adjacent to the A547 and to the south of the A55 and North Wales mainline railway, with the developed coastal strip to the east and Llanddulas caravan site to the west. The boundary wall at this location is not on the original alignment, due to the implementation of the transport links. It does not lie within the main views/aspect of the castle, which are to the northeast.</p> <p>The second compound of the trenchless crossing is to the south of Gwrych Castle Wood, outside the RPaG. NRW leases 165 acres of woodland within the estate and there is no Access Land, public rights of way or permissive paths on the NRW leased land. The part of the parkland in which the cable corridor would be located is screened from view from the A457 by the estate walls and for a short section at an entrance into the areas of pasture, tree belts along the boundary with the A547 and woodland within the estate.</p> <p>There is no impact on the historic setting of the RPaG. Section 5.10.3, Volume 3, Chapter 5: Historic environment (APP-068) assesses the direct impact: "Scheme design here has minimised direct physical impacts on any part of the designated asset, in particular the design avoids loss of any parts of the designed landscape which cannot be easily reinstated, such as historic tree belts which will be crossed using trenchless techniques" (paragraph 5.10.3.1). "The impact is predicted to be of up to local spatial extent, short term duration, and reversible. The magnitude is therefore considered to be low" (paragraph 5.10.3.2). The sensitivity of the receptor is high, the significance of effect on the historic asset is moderate adverse and significant.</p> <p>The effect will be moderate adverse but is not considered significant due to the temporary, short-term nature and reversible nature and the local spatial extent.</p>
<p>Major effects on the landscape of the Substation Site.</p>	<p><u>Mona Onshore Substation Site:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.13) notes that the sensitivity of the area of the substation has a medium sensitivity and that the magnitude of impact is large, the temporary effect on landscape character is judged to be major adverse on the landscape character of the Onshore Substation area during the construction phase, which is significant. This is due to the large, direct effects of the Mona Onshore Substation site over a small area.</p>
<p>Major on 2 LANDMAP V&SAAs - CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs, DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate Mosaic Rolling Lowland.</p>	<p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.12) notes the sensitivity of the aspect area as high and the magnitude of impact that it would experience as large. It is judged that there would be major adverse effects on CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs LANDMAP visual and sensory aspect area during the construction phase.</p> <p>Gwrych Castle RPaG lies within this Aspect Area. See details above for the effect on Gwrych Castle RPaG. The Aspect Area covers a wider area than the RPaG and includes other sensitive resources and receptors, as well as additional construction compounds and sections of trenched cable corridor. These factors increase the temporary effects of the Mona construction works on the RPaG on its own, into a temporary major adverse (significant) impact for the wider Aspect Area.</p> <p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate Mosaic Rolling Lowland:</u></p>

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Effect identified	Applicant's response
	<p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.13) note the sensitivity of the DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate Mosaic Rolling Lowland LANDMAP visual and sensory aspect area as medium. The magnitude of the impact would be large and direct. The significance of effect on the landscape is judged to be major adverse and significant during the construction phase.</p>
<p>Moderate on 5 x LANDMAP V&SAAs - DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants, CNWVS023 Dulas Lowlands, CNWVS070 Abergele Coastal Plain (western section), CNWVS052 Llandudno to Kinmel Bay intertidal, DNBGHVS037 Limestone Valley-Cefn.</p>	<p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.15) identifies moderate adverse (not significant) landscape effect during construction on the DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants. The sensitivity of this aspect area is high, however it would only experience a small magnitude of impact.</p> <p>This Aspect Area comprises Bodelwyddan Park RPaG - see comments on DNBGHHL005, below.</p> <p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area CNWVS023 Dulas Lowlands:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.15) identifies a moderate adverse (not significant) effect on aspect area CNWVS023 Dulas Lowlands. The aspect area has a medium sensitivity to the proposed change and the magnitude of impact will also be medium.</p> <p>The works will be low-level and areas of woodland and mature hedgerows with trees will be crossed using trenchless crossing techniques or will be routed around such features. Where hedgerows cannot be avoided or crossed using trenchless techniques, they will be replanted with shallow rooted species and where trees are removed and replacements cannot be planted in their original position (above the cables) the replacements (three for one, or another agreed standard) will be planted as close as possible to the original tree position.</p> <p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area CNWVS070 Abergele Coastal Plain (western section):</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.12) identifies a moderate adverse (not significant) effect on aspect area CNWVS070 Abergele Coastal Plain (western section). The aspect area has a low sensitivity to the proposed change. The magnitude of impact would be large.</p> <p>This Aspect Area includes part of the Gwrych Castle RPaG – see Gwrych Castle RPaG above.</p> <p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area CNWVS052 Llandudno to Kinmel Bay intertidal:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.12) identifies a moderate adverse effect (not significant) on aspect area CNWVS052. The sensitivity of the aspect area to the proposed change is medium and the magnitude of impact would be medium, due to short-term temporary effects during construction. There will be no effects on fabric of the intertidal area once construction has ceased.</p> <p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHVS037 Limestone Valley-Cefn:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.12) identifies a moderate adverse effect (not significant) on aspect area DNBGHVS037 Limestone Valley-Cefn visual and sensory aspect area. The aspect area has a medium sensitivity to the proposed change and the impact magnitude will also be medium. due to short-term temporary effects during construction. The works will be low-level and areas of woodland and mature hedgerows will be crossed using trenchless crossing techniques or will be routed around such features.</p>

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Effect identified	Applicant's response
<p>Moderate on 1 x LANDMAP GLAA - DNBGHGL031 Cefn Meiriadog Other (Geological Landscape).</p>	<p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHGL031 Cefn Meiriadog:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.8) explains that the sensitivity of this aspect area is medium. The impact magnitude is negligible to small for the reasons given in APP-069, paragraph 6.10.5.4. The aspect area will experience a moderate adverse (not significant) effect (APP-069, paragraph 6.10.5.13) during the construction phase.</p> <p>The Geological SSSIs are considered within Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology, hydrogeology and ground conditions (APP-064). Only those that experience direct effects are assessed, that is the Llandulas Limestone and Gwrych Castle Wood SSSI which “includes caves, which represent features of geological and geomorphological interest” (paragraph 1.4.2.1 of APP-064). The Clwyd Limestone Group (of which the limestone at Gwrych Castle and Cefn Meiriadog are formed) falls within LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHGL031 is referred to within APP-064 in relation to mineral safe-guarding, aquifers, groundwater, historical mines and landfill. The effects on these receptors and resources are considered to be negligible or minor adverse and not significant, across the Clwyd Limestone Group, including within DNBGH GL031 Cefn Meiriadog.</p> <p>The assessment in APP-064 of the effect on the Clwyd Limestone Group is lower than the landscape assessment of DNBGHGL031.</p> <p>Using the matrix within Table 6.17 of Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069), the effects will be moderate adverse which is not significant. This aligns with the assessment of effects in APP-064 determining a negligible or minor adverse effect which is not significant, across the Clwyd Limestone Group, including within DNBGHGL031 Cefn Meiriadog.</p>
<p>Moderate on 1x LANDMAP HLAA - DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park.</p>	<p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.16) identifies a moderate adverse (not significant) landscape effect on the LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park during the construction phase. The sensitivity of this aspect area to the proposed change is high (APP-069, paragraph 6.10.5.11). The magnitude of impact is small (APP-069, paragraph 6.10.5.6).</p> <p>The Onshore Cable Corridor does not directly impact Bodelwyddan Park RPaG.</p> <p>The setting of Bodelwyddan Park is assessed in Volume 7, Annex 5.6: Settings assessment (onshore infrastructure) (APP-150). Within the settings assessment it is Site 7. The settings assessment reports “<i>It is possible that the taller elements of the Onshore Substation construction equipment, such as cranes, could potentially be visible from some areas of the park, resulting to a degree of visual intrusion which would be seen in context with the other modern power infrastructure in this direction. On this basis, the magnitude of impact is considered to be negligible adverse, resulting in a temporary reversible minor adverse effect prior to mitigation</i>” (paragraph 1.7.1.24) and “<i>No mitigation is proposed therefore the residual significance of effect would be minor adverse</i>” (paragraph 1.7.1.25).</p>

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Effect identified	Applicant's response
	<p>The LVIA also found that there would be no significant effects on Bodelwyddan Park for the same reasons – no physical effects and limited indirect effects, as while the ZTV might indicate coverage, the ZTV does not take into account individual or smaller groups of trees/tree belts, hedgerows, or park/estate walls. Onshore representative viewpoints 8 of Volume 7, Annex 6.5: Landscape visualisations part 1 (APP-157) and 9 of Volume 7, Annex 6.5: Landscape visualisations, part 2 (APP-157) illustrate the lack of visibility due from this direction, due to intervening vegetation and therefore the limitation to any indirect effects on the RPaG and LANDMAP DNBGHHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park.</p>
<p>Moderate effects on Wales Coast Path.</p>	<p><u>Wales Coast Path:</u></p> <p><u>The Wales Coast Path is not a landscape or a special quality (as Offa's Dyke Path National Trail is) in its own right, rather a route.</u> Nevertheless, the impact on the fabric of the route has been considered. As the sensitivity of the Wales Coast Path varies, depending on context moderate adverse landscape effects on the Wales Coast Path during the construction phase, are identified at the Landfall. The location of the Landfall is adjacent to an area of the coast that is developed and will have temporary, short-term, reversible effects. The coast path will remain open, as the cables will pass under the coast path, railway, A55 and A547 through use of trenchless installation techniques. Therefore, the impact on the fabric of the Wales Coast Path at this point is negligible to small, the sensitivity of the path at this point is moderate, as it is a paved path at the back of the beach.</p> <p>The Mona Onshore Substation is only potentially visible from within a small section of the Wales Coast Path where it passes through the developed coast at Kinmel Bay. The Wales Coast Path is not a National Trail and does not have the same sensitivity along its length (White Consultants, 2020, paragraph 4.47) either due to its overall LANDMAP value, or due to its context. The magnitude of impact also changes along its length, for example, due to distance (scale in view) orientation, or screening, either by topography or vegetation. The Mona Array Area, the construction works at the Landfall and the Mona Onshore Substation will not change the fabric of the Wales Coast Path, however perceptual characteristics, have the potential to be affected, as noted above.</p> <p><u>The change in views that people using the route will experience are considered in Table 1.2, below.</u></p>

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Table 1.2: Visual construction effects.

Effect identified	Applicant's response
<p>Moderate effects on Wales Coast Path.</p>	<p><u>Users of the Wales Coast Path:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.11.1.1) identifies moderate adverse (not significant) visual effects on users of the Wales Coast Path during the construction phase. Those people using the path have a high sensitivity. The magnitude of the impact would be small.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path is not a National Trail and does not have the same sensitivity along its length (White Consultants, 2020, paragraph 4.47). People walking its length similarly have different sensitivities according to the landscape they are walking through and the context in which they are viewing the different aspects of the Mona Offshore Wind Energy Project, as described above.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path is not a special quality of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape, as Offa's Dyke Path is in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape. The effects of the Mona Array Area on the special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: International and nationally designated landscapes study (APP-105) considers the effects of the Mona Array Area on the perceptual special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape.</p>

1.3.2 Landscape and visual operational effects

- 1.3.2.1 Table 1.3 and Table 1.4 below confirm the landscape and visual effects during the operation phase for which the Councils have requested additional context regarding how the conclusions of the assessment of effects have been reached. The 'Applicant's response' seeks to provide this additional context in respect of each effect identified.
- 1.3.2.2 This note does not provide context to every effect identified in Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069). Only those effects identified by DCC have been considered.

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Table 1.3: Landscape operational effects.

Effect identified	Applicant's response
Major then Moderate to Major on the landscape of the Substation Site	<p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.23) identifies a major then moderate to major adverse landscape effect on the Wales Coast Path during the operational phase. The sensitivity of the landscape to the proposed change is high and the magnitude of change is also high.</p> <p>There are direct long-term effects at the Mona Onshore Substation and its immediate surroundings. At Year 1 this would have a major adverse effect. Significant adverse effects would remain at the footprint of the substation, however, in the land surrounding the substation the effects would reduce as the landscape and ecological proposals mature.</p>
Major then Moderate on 1x LANDMAP V&SAAs - DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate Mosaic Rolling Lowland	<p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate Mosaic Rolling Lowland:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.18 et seq.) identifies a major adverse (significant) then moderate adverse (not significant) landscape effect on the LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate Mosaic Rolling Lowland during the operational phase. The sensitivity of the receptor to the proposed change is medium. The magnitude of impact on the wider aspect areas is large, reducing to moderate as the landscape mitigation becomes established.</p> <p>There are direct long-term effects of the Mona Onshore Substation on this Aspect Area. However, the Mona Onshore substation influences a small part of the Aspect Area, while the wider areas is affected to a lesser extent. The landscape mitigation would enhance the existing characteristics of the wider LANDMAP Aspect Area, as described in the Design Principles document (APP-189).</p>
Moderate on 1x LANDMAP V&SAAs - DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants, and	<p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.24) identifies a moderate adverse (not significant) landscape effect on the LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants during the operational phase. The sensitivity of the receptor is high, but the magnitude of impact is small, once the construction phase has been completed.</p> <p>This Aspect Area comprises Bodelwyddan Park RPaG - see comments on DNBGHHL005, in Table 1.1, above.</p>
Moderate on 1x LANDMAP HLAA DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park	<p><u>LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.10.5.25) identifies a moderate adverse (not significant) landscape effect on the LANDMAP Aspect Area DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park during the operational phase. The sensitivity of the aspect area to the proposed change is high, however, the indirect impacts are small, once the construction phase has been completed.</p> <p>This Aspect Area comprises Bodelwyddan Park RPaG - see comments on DNBGHHL005, in Table 1.1, above.</p>

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Table 1.4: Visual operational effects.

Effect identified	Applicant's response
<p>A range of Moderate and Major on road and PROW users and walkers, equestrians and cyclists on local roads close to the Development (VPs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 30) and subject to provision of evidence to the contrary, users of the Crematorium and people on the Pilgrim's Way (VP 6)</p>	<p><u>Users of Local Roads:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (section 6.11) identifies a range of Moderate adverse (not significant to Major adverse (significant) visual effects on road and PROW users and walkers, equestrians and cyclists on local roads close to the Mona Onshore Substation (onshore VPs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 30). The sensitivity of users of these routes varies from low to high, generally depending on the method of transport, but also the context of the view. Similarly, the magnitude of impact varies according to the location, orientation, distance, intervening vegetation and direction of travel.</p> <p>As described above, the magnitude of the impact of the Mona substation varies with the context the visual receptor views the Mona Onshore Substation, as well as distance, scale in view, etc. The visualisations are in Volume 7, Annex 6.5: Landscape visualisations, Part 1 and Part 3 (APP-157 and APP-159). Winter Year 15 visualisations were submitted at the request of the ExA at Deadline 3 (REP3-071). The visualisations have not increased the height of the existing planting and have also assumed that the planting would be planted at Year 1, rather than any advance planting and/or change in management of hedgerows having been instigated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative viewpoint 1 – The context of this view is the sealing end compound and pylon/spur to National Grid's Bodelwyddan substation. The 400 kV lines pass overhead and is visible to the east in this view. The susceptibility of the viewers at this point in the minor road is lower than would be normal due to the context and their sensitivity is similarly reduced. Consequently, the effect is judged to be not significant. • Representative viewpoint 2 – the character of the view contains energy infrastructure – both National Grid and Gwynt y Môr. The 400 kV lines crosses the view, as does minor electrical infrastructure. The view is over a hedgerow from a minor road. A simple change in the management of this hedgerow would screen this view within a year. Consequently, the effect is judged to be not significant. • Representative viewpoint 3 – the character of the view contains energy infrastructure – both National Grid and Gwynt y Môr. The 400 kV lines cross the view, as does minor electrical infrastructure. This is an elevated more open view visible from people using the public rights of way network. There will be a major adverse effect in winter year 1, however, this to reduce to moderate adverse, but not significant, by year 15, as the screening effect of the landscape mitigation will then be screening the lower parts of the Mona Onshore Substation. Consequently, the effect is judged to be not significant by Year 15. • Representative viewpoint 4 – while the character of the view is less elevated than representative viewpoints 2 and 3, the 400 kV lines remain a feature of this view. Visual receptors are using a public footpath and have a high sensitivity, but the view towards the Mona Onshore Substation is partly screened by layers of intervening vegetation. Consequently, the effect is judged to be not significant. • Representative viewpoint 5 – while the character of the view is less elevated that representative viewpoints 2 and 3, it still contains the 400 kV lines in the view. The viewpoint is located on a busier road than the minor roads referred to above. As with representative viewpoint 4 the Mona Onshore substation is partly screened by the layers of intervening vegetation. Consequently, the effect is judged to be not significant.

Effect identified	Applicant's response
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- Representative viewpoint 30 – Denbighshire County Council has confirmed this is a bridleway. However, the notice on the gate of the property Yr Esgob states that it is closed and prohibits public access and consequently the view is from a farm road (no public access) The view from the end of the Bridleway is more restricted, by the vegetation, including that of Coed Esgob. Consequently, the effect is judged to be not significant.

Denbighshire Memorial Park and Crematorium

In response to the Conwy Borough County Council (CCBC) and Denbighshire County Council (DCC) Local Impact Report (REP1-049), the Applicant undertook a photography survey in September 2024 from various viewpoints at Denbighshire Memorial Park and Crematorium to demonstrate its position (as presented in REP2-085). The photographs were presented to DCC's landscape consultant at a Statement of Common Ground meeting (11 October 2024). The Applicant discussed the amount of existing planting around and within the Memorial Park, as well as in the wider intervening landscape. DCC requested that the photographs be annotated with extent of Mona Onshore Substation. The Applicant provided these annotated photographs at Deadline 4 (REP4-044).

During the SoCG meeting on the 11 October 2024 it was considered by both the Applicant and DCC that onshore representative viewpoint 4: (View southeast from public footpath 105/7, to the south of Waen-Meredydd) was a more open view that would be experienced by a high sensitivity receptor. Therefore, the significance of effects at the Denbighshire Memorial Park and Crematorium would not be greater than at VP4: i.e. that whilst the sensitivity of the receptor was high, the impact during construction and operation would be small and therefore, the significance of effect would be minor to moderate adverse, which is not significant. At DCC's request the Applicant provided annotated photographs at Deadline 4 (REP4-044).

The North Wales Pilgrims Way

The Applicant discussed the effects on users of The Pilgrims Way with DCC's landscape consultant in the SoCG meeting on the 11 October, with reference to representative viewpoint 6. While it was agreed that the sensitivity of the people walking the route would be high, this would not increase the effects to the level of being significant, as the impact magnitude remains as stated and the raised sensitivity of the visual receptors would increase the significance of effects from minor to minor to moderate adverse (not significant).

1.3.3 Landscape and visual cumulative effects

- 1.3.3.1 Table 1.5 and Table 1.6 below confirm the cumulative landscape and visual effects for which the Councils have requested additional context regarding how the conclusions of the assessment of effects has been reached. The 'Applicant's response' seeks to provide this additional context in respect of each effect identified.
- 1.3.3.2 This note does not provide context to every effect identified in Environmental Statement - Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources (APP-069). Only those effects identified by the Councils have been considered.
- 1.3.3.3 Additional onshore cumulative photomontages were provided at Deadline 3 (REP3-047, REP3-048 and AS-027).

Table 1.5: Landscape cumulative effects.

Effect identified	Applicant's response
<p>Moderate construction and operational cumulative effects on Aesthetic Aspects of CRDVNL</p>	<p><u>Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (CRDV NL) – cumulative effects:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (paragraph 6.14.2.15) identifies moderate adverse (not significant) cumulative effects during the construction and operation phase on Aesthetic Aspects of CRDV NL. The sensitivity of the CRDV NL is high. The magnitude of impact, at construction would be minor and once construction has been completed would be negligible.</p> <p>Cumulative photomontages were submitted at Deadline 3. The cumulative photomontages from the CRDV NL are representative viewpoint 11 (of REP3-048) and representative viewpoints 12, 18 and 19 of (AS-027).</p> <p>There will be a moderate adverse cumulative effect during the construction and operation phase which is not significant due to the distance of the Mona Onshore Substation, the National Grid extension to Bodelwyddan substation and the Awel y Môr onshore substation from the CRDV NL, together with the intervening vegetation and built development. The aesthetic aspects of the NL would not be significantly affected, as the change in view is barely perceivable and the character of the view remains the same.</p>
<p>Moderate construction and operational cumulative effects on Overall character of CRDVNL</p>	<p>The Applicant refers the Councils to the response above.</p>
<p>Moderate construction cumulative effects on fabric and aesthetic aspects of 1x LANDMAP V&SAA</p>	<p>The Applicant is unsure as to which LANDMAP Aspect Area this refers to but would point to the above responses if the Aspect Area is located within the CRDV NL.</p> <p>The Applicant presumes that the Councils refer to LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate mosaic rolling lowland, the two cumulative projects that lie within the Aspect Area, as well as the Mona Onshore Substation are National Grid's Bodelwyddan substation extension and the St. Asaph solar farm. The National Grid project is illustrated in the cumulative photomontages of representative viewpoint 2 (of REP3-047) and representative viewpoint 3 (of REP3-048). The National Grid project is shown without landscape mitigation, as none has been detailed to date. The St Asaph solar farm is not visible from these viewpoints and would only be visible (initially) from representative viewpoint 6 (APP-157) but would soon be screened from view by suitable management of the existing hedgerows and any landscape scheme (as yet unknown) that comes forward with an application. The National Grid extension and the St Asaph solar farm are not intervisible. The aesthetic aspects of the host LANDMAP Aspect Area would not be significantly affected.</p> <p>There is insufficient information available to allow the Applicant to undertake an informed assessment of the effects of the two schemes that have yet to come forward with their associated mitigation. However, the St. Asaph solar farm is unlikely to have significant effects on the fabric of the landscape, other than temporarily occupying some fields that would remain pastoral and the flora of which may improve through a period without livestock on it. The National Grid project may have some mitigation but the detail of this is not known. Without mitigation the National Grid substation removes some hedgerows and hedgerow trees, but these would have to be replaced at the required proportion and in appropriate locations. The landscape and ecological</p>

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Effect identified	Applicant's response
	<p>mitigation proposed at the Mona Onshore Substation site is outlined in the Design Principles document (see Table 1.3, above). This will enhance the characteristics of the wider LANDMAP Aspect Area.</p> <p>LANDMAP DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate mosaic rolling lowland, has a medium sensitivity to the proposed changes. The different cumulative impacts vary between negligible and small. There will be an additional moderate adverse cumulative effect during the construction phase which is not considered to be significant as a result, in part, of the anticipated screening benefit of the landscape mitigation measures associated with the respective projects. The additional adverse cumulative effect during the operational phase would be reduce to minor (APP-069, paragraph 6.14.2.30 et seq.).</p>

Table 1.6: Visual cumulative effects.

Effect identified	Applicant's response
<p>Moderate construction and operational cumulative effects on users of Offa's Dyke Path</p>	<p><u>People using Offas Dyke Path National Trail:</u></p> <p>APP-069 (section 8.11.6.16) considers the cumulative effects on users of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail. There would be a moderate adverse visual cumulative effect (not significant) during the construction and operation phase on users of Offa's Dyke Path. People walking the path have a very high sensitivity. There would be a negligible magnitude of additional, cumulative impact.</p> <p>The moderate adverse cumulative effect during the construction phase is not considered to be significant due to the distance of the Mona Onshore Substation, the National Grid extension to Bodelwyddan substation and the Awel y Môr onshore substation, together with the intervening vegetation and built development. The views from Offa's Dyke Path National Trail, within the CRDV NL would not be significantly affected, as the change in view is barely perceivable and the character of the view remains the same.</p> <p>Cumulative photomontages were submitted at Deadline 3. The cumulative photomontages from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National landscape (CRDV NL) are representative viewpoint 11 (of REP3-048) and representative viewpoints 12, 18 and 19 of (AS-027).</p>
<p>Moderate construction and operational cumulative effects on visitors to CRDVNL</p>	<p>The Applicant refers DCC to the response in the row above relating to Offa's Dyke Path.</p>