



Orsted



Moor Vannin

Offshore Wind Farm
Information Events
Summary Report

March
2024

Project Introduction

Ørsted is proposing to develop the Isle of Man's first wind farm offshore – the Mooir Vannin project. The name Mooir Vannin comes from the Manx language term for the Irish Sea – and literally translates as the 'sea of the Isle of Man'. This is fitting as we bring forward these plans for the first large scale development in the Isle of Man's territorial waters, off the coast of Maughold Head. The project will help support the Isle of Man's ambitious renewable energy, net zero and economic growth targets.

Name:

Mooir Vannin

Location:

The wind farm will be located in the Irish Sea, within the Isle of Man's territorial seas, approximately 6-12 nautical miles off the east coast of the Island.

Capacity:

In the region of 1.4 GW

Number of turbines:

up to 100

Target to submit planning application:

Spring 2025

Anticipated operational start date:

2030-2032



Community Engagement

We have been working closely with a range of stakeholders during this pre-application period to help inform our plans. These include Government, businesses and the wider community. Community engagement is a vital part of our development process. We want to hear your views and work together as we develop our plans responsibly and in a manner that will support local interests. This is the way we will secure all the benefits the green global energy transition could bring to the Isle of Man. Feedback on the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project are critical in helping to shape the project.

We shared our plans to develop the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm in Q3 of last year by sending an introductory leaflet to properties across the Island. This leaflet set out early information about us and the project and explained how anyone interested in the proposals could find out more. This included visiting our dedicated website (orsted.im/mooirvannin) and meeting members of the team through a series of public information events during November.

The following pages provide a summary of the events we held and the feedback we received from attendees.



Events Summary

During the period 20th November 2023 to 25th November 2023, we held five Community Information Events on the Isle of Man. These events were the first events held on the Island as part of Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm’s application for both a Marine Infrastructure Consent under the Marine Infrastructure Management Act 2016 and planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1999. These events took place prior to our statutory ‘Pre-Application’ consultation with stakeholders later in 2024. The events followed the submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Department of Infrastructure (DoI) in October 2023.

The purpose of the events was to introduce the Project to residents on the Island, establish lines of communication and gather initial project feedback which would be used to inform the project design prior to the statutory consultation in Summer 2024. The events were publicised via an introductory booklet that was posted to every household on the Island as well as via a half page advert in the Isle of Man Examiner.

In total we had 197 members of public attend the 5 events with the following split:

Date	Location	Number of Attendees
Monday 20th November	The Laxey Glen Pavilion	40
Tuesday 21st November	Ramsey - Milntown House	50
Wednesday 22nd November	Peel - Kelvin Dawson Community Hub	32
Thursday 23rd November	Port Erin - Erin Arts Centre	52
Saturday 25th November	Douglas - Promenade Suite, Villa Marina	23

We would like to thank everyone who attended and provided their feedback. Overall the level of engagement from attendees was very high, with many staying for long discussions, typically in the range of 40 minutes to an hour. There were a significant number of people who had turned up to the event prepared with questions - many of a technical nature.

Summary of feedback

There was significant support for the project across all five venues. The main reasons voiced were:

- to mitigate impacts from climate change
- the need to be part of the green energy transition
- to support economic growth on the Island
- the financial benefits to the Island
- the opportunity for cheaper energy bills, and
- as an alternative to onshore renewables.

Key concerns were expressed from residents around the following themes:

Your Comments	How we are considering this
<h3>Visual Impact</h3> <p>The majority of the concern about visual impact was received at the Laxey and Ramsey events on the East Coast, with attendees asking why that site had been chosen and who by, as well as the impact in comparison to Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm which they can currently see. There was an assumption that the impacts will be significant.</p>	<p>It is correct that you will be able to see the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm from the east coast. Our recently published Scoping Report here sets out our plan to undertake Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (SLVIA) and Landscape Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA) as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It details the 10 representative viewpoints agreed with the Isle of Man Government upon which the significance of visual impact will be assessed. As there are a number of wind farms in the Irish Sea already in operation that can be seen from the Manx coastline, the EIA will also carry out a cumulative and in combination assessment which considers the impact of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm in combination with the existing and planned wind farms in the Irish Sea.</p> <p>The area for lease was identified by the Isle of Man Government in 2014. We have yet to finalise the design details, size and shape of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm, but we will continue to share our designs with the local community as our plans progress in the coming months.</p>

Shipping and Navigation Impact

A number of people raised concerns about potential impacts on shipping, particularly the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's vital ferry services to the UK. Many individuals were reassured when shown shipping data confirming the Project does not overlap the Steam Packet routes, though some concerns about Stenline were expressed.

The lifeline shipping routes between the Island and the UK/RoI were an important part of the original assessment by the Isle of Man Government when granting the areas for lease. The process was informed by [The Manx Marine Environmental Assessment \(MMEA\)](#), which forms part of a wider holistic approach towards the management and sustainable development of Manx territorial waters concluded by the Isle of Man Government. Shipping and Navigation was part of the Infrastructure section of MMEA, with further consideration given to Physical Environment, Ecology, Fisheries, Tourism and Recreation. The MMEA is available at Isle of Man Government - Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. As part of our application for consent, potential impacts on shipping and navigation have been further assessed (please see chapter 14 of our [Scoping Report](#) for further details). Following the Scoping Report we will carry out a detailed navigational risk assessment, with input from a range of specialists including The Steam Packet Company and other shipping and ferry companies operating in the Irish Sea as well as Isle of Man Harbours Division. The risk assessment will detail any potential mitigation that may be required to ensure safe navigation in the area.

Impact on local ecology

Frequent comments were raised about the risk to local ecology, in particular birdlife and marine mammals.

Throughout the planning and development of all our offshore wind farms we follow a rigorous process to closely assess the potential impacts on the environment, including marine life. As part of the application process for this project we will be completing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Mooir Vannin have completed two years of Digital Aerial Survey (DAS) of bird and marine mammal species at the offshore site from 2021 to 2023. We have also monitored intertidal birdlife at Douglas and are planning a survey of the benthic ecology in March 2024. We have also completed shipping and navigation surveys (summer 2023) and geophysical surveys of seabed (in 2017, being repeated again in March 2024) to inform the EIA. The EIA process requires us to assess and mitigate the Likely Significant Effects arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of a development, including impacts on local ecology. Plans for mitigation of these effects will develop as the EIA process continues and the most appropriate form of mitigation will be selected through consultation with the Isle of Man Government and specialist organisations (for example Manx Bird Life and the Manx Wildlife Trust).

Isle of Man receiving energy

There was significant interest in making sure that some of the energy would be brought to the Island to support it meeting its green energy targets. This included interest in discussions with Manx Utilities and the negotiations for selling power to them. Of the two locations for landfall, more support was expressed for the Douglas site as opposed to Groudle Glen.

We are working closely with Manx Utilities on their energy transition programme and continue to promote and develop the concept of a connection from the wind farm to the Manx Grid post-2030. We have recently extended our offshore survey area to include the offshore cable routes to the landfall locations at Douglas, Groudle and a potential landfall option at Keristal. Our proposal is that the wind farm will provide power to the Island and that power will be distributed and managed by Manx Utilities.

Planning and Delivery

Concerns were expressed over whether the consenting timeline would be achievable and the practicalities of grid connection.

We have been working very closely with the Isle of Man Government throughout the consenting process, including engagement on their recent consultations for the new Marine Infrastructure Regulations and Climate Change Regulations. We continue to promote and develop the concept of a connection from the wind farm to the Manx Grid post-2030 and while we acknowledge there are many challenges, we are confident that we can work through these with relevant stakeholders and interested parties to find a solution for both the Mooir Vannin Project and the people of the Isle of Man. We currently have a grid connection agreement at Penwortham substation to connect to the UK grid and are also exploring the opportunities for connecting to Ireland.



Misconceptions

The following were common misconceptions of the project to be addressed in future engagement activity:

Misconception	Reality
Isle of Man Energy Link Many individuals held the belief that there were no plans to send energy from the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm to the Isle of Man.	We are committed to exploring the opportunities to build a link for offshore wind energy to come to the Island and we are continuing to engage closely with Manx Utilities on their transition programme – promoting and developing the concept of a connection from the wind farm. It would only be possible to connect to the Manx Grid when the offshore wind farm is operational post-2030. There are technical issues connecting any wind power to the grid network and synchronising the flow of power, however we are confident from our experience in other countries, and with the knowledge of the system at Manx Utilities, that we can resolve these issues. We will present more information at our public consultation events in 2024, as well as continuing work with Manx Utilities on the ways offshore wind power could support the future energy scenarios for the Isle of Man.

Funding A substantial number of people were under the misconception that the Isle of Man Government would be paying for the development rather than Ørsted.	The Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm will require no direct investment or subsidy from the Isle of Man Government. We will explore the renewable energy support mechanisms that are available for power exported to the grid in the United Kingdom or Ireland. The final decision to invest over £4 billion in capital to build the project will be made and privately financed by Ørsted once consent is granted. During its lifetime the project will be a source of revenue for the Isle of Man Government as we will make rental payments, and contribute to the economy by direct and indirect taxation and royalties.
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Misconception

Reality

Location Selection

A number of people expressed that they thought Ørsted had selected the location of the area for lease.

The Isle of Man Government chose the location of this site for offshore wind as part of its first Marine Plan in 2014. Ørsted was selected as a preferred bidder given our experience of offshore wind farm development and our existing operations in the Irish Sea. An Agreement for Lease was granted to Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm Limited in November 2015 and this permits us to survey and explore the area for lease to assess suitability and to submit our planning application. We will continue our positive engagement with all other users of the marine space – such as the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and the fishing community.

Benefits to the Isle of Man

Many individuals did not expect that the project would provide a revenue stream for the Isle of Man Government. A number of people wanted more information on the economic benefits of the offshore wind farm to the Isle of Man.

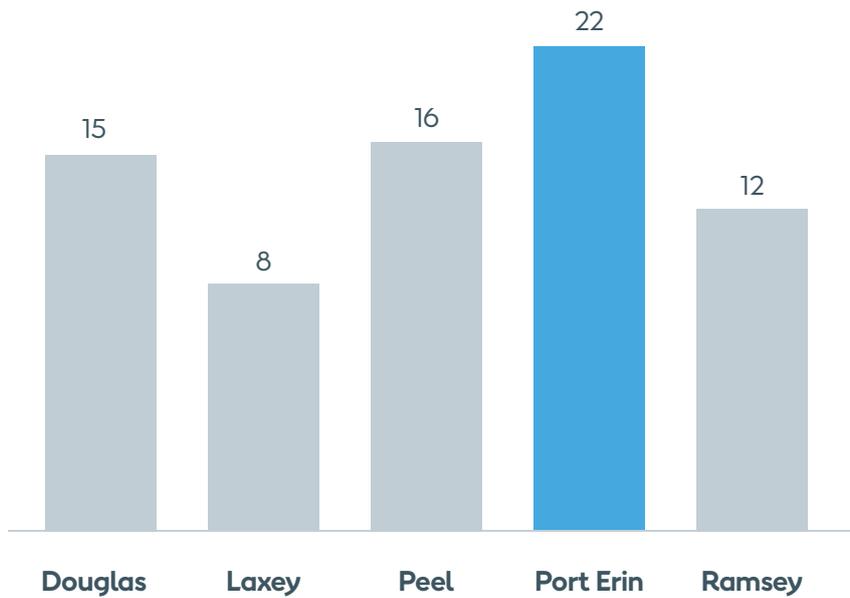
The Isle of Man Government will receive an annual rent during the 35-year operational lifetime of the wind farm. This amount will be calculated under the lease as a percentage of revenue generated each year from the sale of exported power. In addition, Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm Limited will be expected to pay tax and other duties as imposed by the Isle of Man Government. We will launch and operate a community investment fund during the lifetime of the wind farm and are exploring options for an Ørsted operational base in Douglas. We understand the positive impact that offshore wind farm development can have – for example our investments in Grimsby and the Humber region over the past 10 years have contributed more than £45 million to local community, education and skills development.



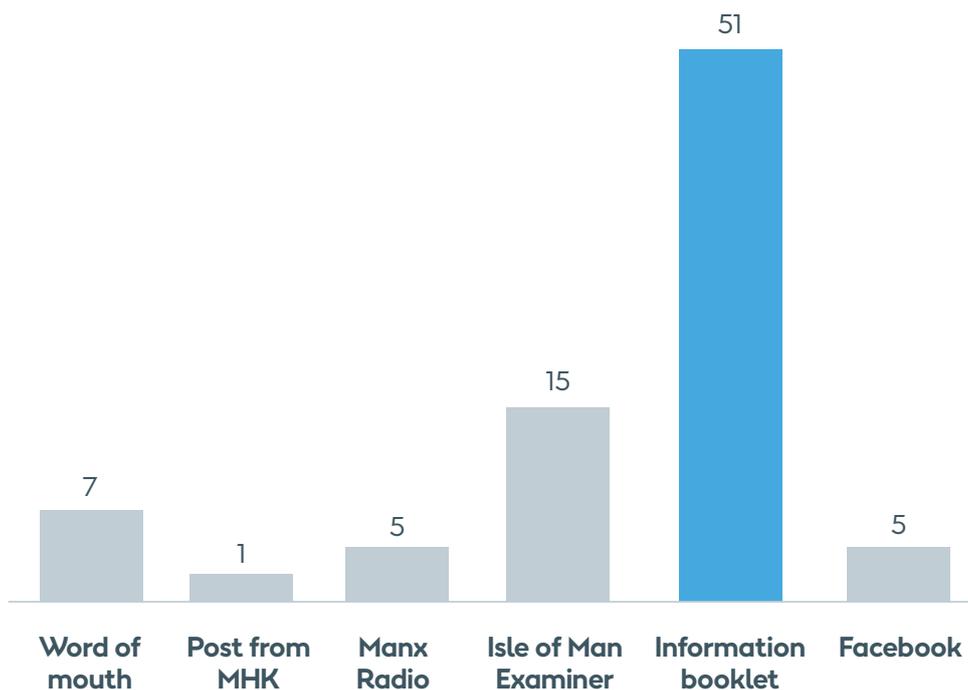
Feedback forms

The following graphs show the information shared with us via 73 feedback forms submitted at the events:

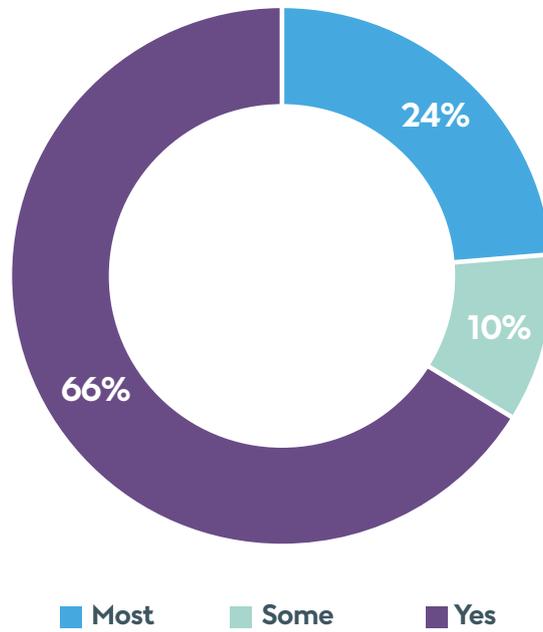
Number of feedback forms per venue



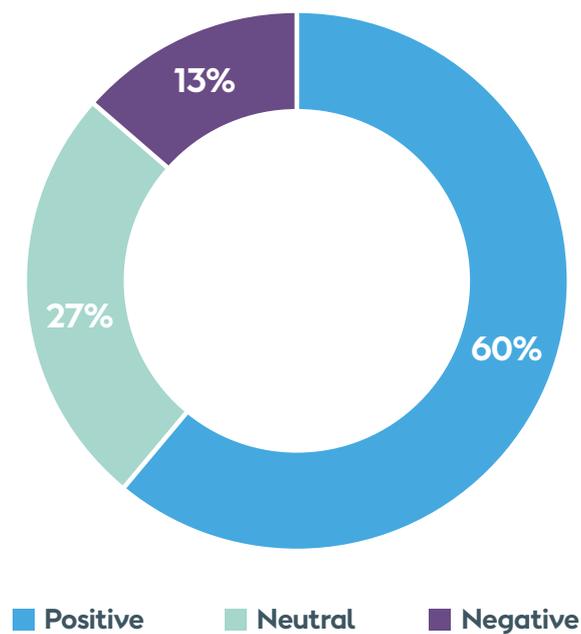
How did you hear about today's event?



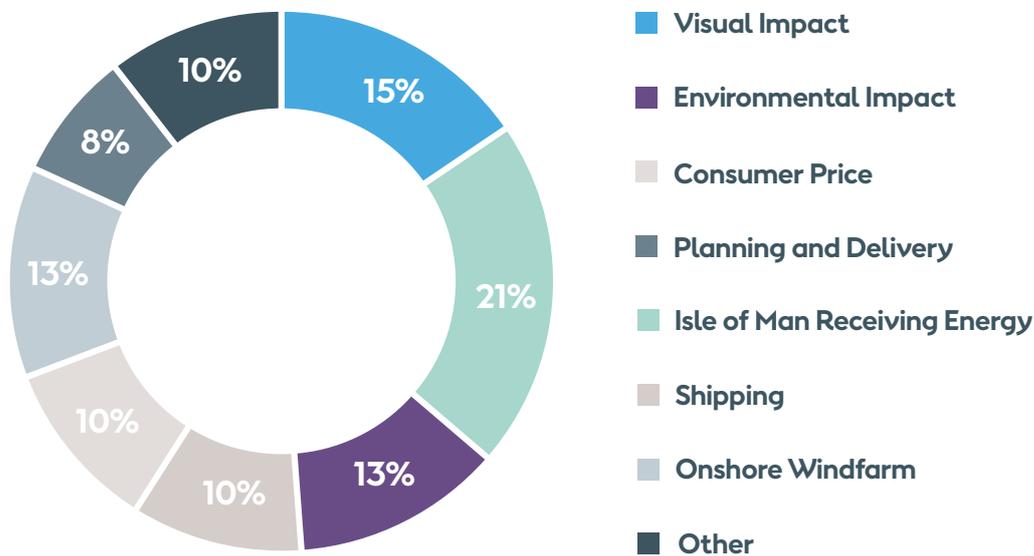
Were all your questions answered?



Tone of freetext comments



Theme of free text comments



Selection of positive comments

"A very positive exposé by a professional team. Wishing them a not too bumpy ride towards construction and a positive impact for our Island."

"We need your power as soon as possible to combat climate change problems. Good luck with your project."

"Keep going!"

Selection of negative comments

"We are not convinced that this is the solution to secure the future security of Manx energy. Extremely concerned regarding the close proximity of the development to the east coast of IOM, particularly Laxey/Lonan area."

"I am very concerned about the visual impact of the proposed wind farm. It will spoil the view from the coast."

"Not happy with site, will disrupt sailing and marine life. Enough turbines in the area already-don't need another 100. No cheaper electricity for the IOM people."

Next Steps

We would like to thank all those who have provided feedback so far to help us shape the design of the Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm. We plan to run our statutory consultation in Summer 2024, during which we look forward to meeting you at our next phase of public events. We will contact residents on the Island once dates have been confirmed. During the consultation we will be presenting more detailed plans for the project, including an Environmental Impact Assessment progress report.

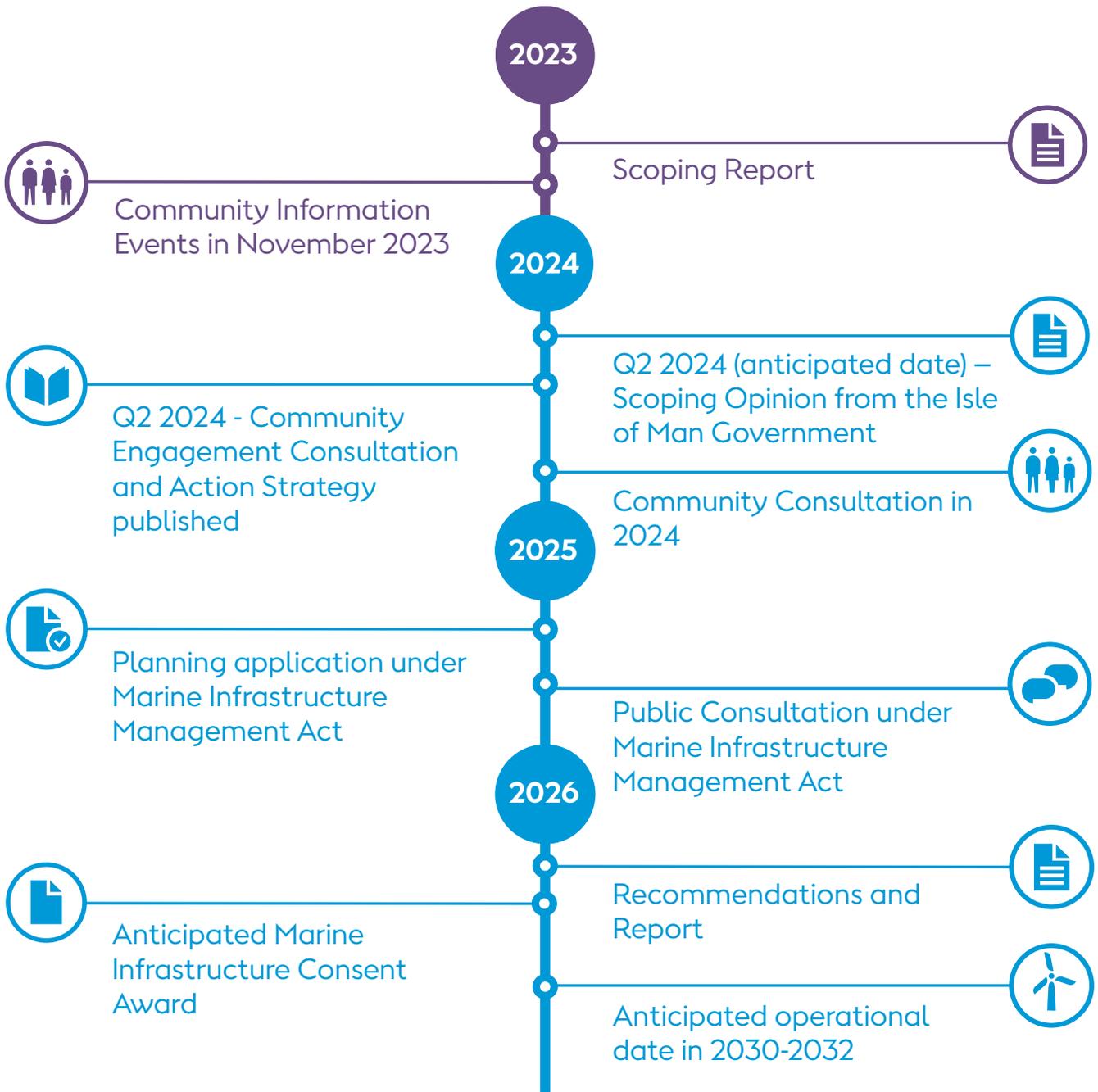
Once we have concluded an extensive assessment of impacts and consultation throughout 2024, we intend to submit our application for planning consent to the Isle of Man Government in early 2025.

We will be issuing regular project newsletters to keep you updated. If you have any further feedback or questions on the project please get in touch using the details at the end of this report.



Timeline

- Completed
- To be completed



Contact us

If you have any further feedback, questions or require any additional copies of this document (or any other Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm reports) in large print, audio or braille then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

You can contact us using the details below:



Post:

The Old Courthouse
Athol Street
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 1LD



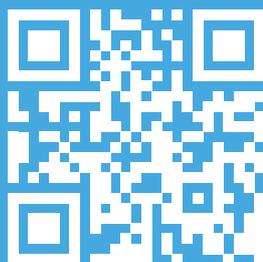
Email:

moirvannin@orsted.com



Website:

orsted.im



Scan here



Your personal data will be stored in compliance with GDPR by Ørsted and will not be shared with third parties. Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm Limited is a company registered in the Isle of Man with company number 013051V.