A photograph of a small, red and white lighthouse situated on a pebbly beach. The lighthouse has a white base and a red upper section with a black lantern room. The background shows a blue sea and distant mountains under a clear blue sky.

Moor Vannin Offshore Wind Farm Community Consultation Summary Report January 2025

Introduction

Welcome to Ørsted's Community Consultation Summary Report for the Isle of Man's first offshore wind farm, Mooir Vannin.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Community Consultation from 15 July 2024 to 11 September 2024. The report provides a summary of the consultation, the feedback we received, and how this has been reflected in refinements to our proposals. It also provides an update on the next steps for our planning application to the Isle of Man Government in Spring 2025.



Our Community Consultation

The Community Consultation for the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm ran over eight weeks from 15 July 2024 to 11 September 2024, with high levels of engagement across the Isle of Man community. The consultation allowed us to build on the feedback we had already received at our Community Information events in 2023 and throughout the pre-application period via the emails and letters sent to us.

A number of stakeholder organisations were also invited to give feedback through a series of regular meetings during 2023 and 2024 to support the Environmental Impact Assessment. This feedback was taken into account alongside wider community feedback.

Public consultation at a glance

- A Community Consultation booklet was sent to over **43,000** residential addresses the week beginning 8 July 2024
- There were **1,767** visits to the orsted.im website during the consultation period
- **323** online feedback forms and **242** paper feedback forms were returned
- **54** direct questions were received and responded to about the project
- **73%** of respondents were happy with the quality of information presented.

The consultation was publicised widely across local media including radio, newspaper, and social media. Notices were issued in local press and on site at the two potential locations for bringing power to the Island (Port Skillion and Groudle Bay).

Our consultation materials

A range of materials were developed specifically for the public consultation. These materials were available at all events, and online in our document library at orsted.im and our Virtual Town Hall:

- **Community Consultation booklet:** This booklet, sent to all residential addresses, summarised the consultation and how to get involved
- **Written Preliminary Environmental Information materials:** Technical summaries produced as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment
- **Virtual reality experience:** Six headsets were installed with four 30-second videos showing an indicative design simulation of what the wind farm could look like from Douglas, Laxey, Ramsey, and Maughold Head at different times of day and night (at the maximum number, size and spread)
- **Event banners and boards:** Banners and boards were developed containing information about our proposals.

Community Consultation events

Consultation events

Five public consultation events were held during the consultation period at Laxey (18 July), Ramsey (19 July), Douglas (6 August), Peel (7 August), and Port Erin (8 August). All consultation materials were available at the events for members of the public to view and inspect including a table and seating area for the virtual reality experience. The Mooir Vannin team was there to take questions, and feedback was encouraged via forms that could be posted into a box at the entrance/exit of the venues. In addition to these five events, Ørsted attended and hosted a stand at the Royal Manx Agricultural Show on 9 and 10 August.

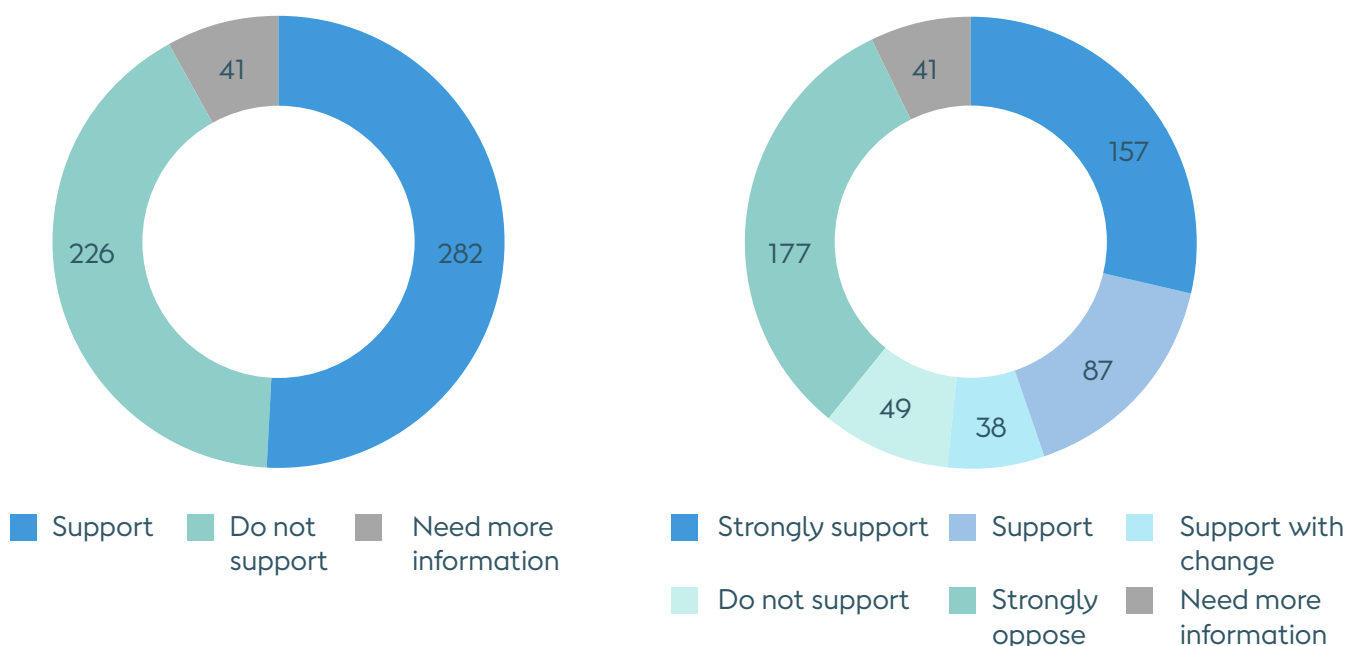
Digital engagement

A Virtual Town Hall was developed for anyone unable to attend the in-person events and to assist the public in further inspection of the consultation materials. It contained a link to the virtual reality simulation videos, allowing members of the public to better understand what the wind farm could look like without attending an event. A digital feedback form was available on a consultation digital portal, in addition to the hard copy forms. The Virtual Town Hall received 390 visitors during the consultation period. While the consultation has now closed and we are no longer accepting feedback via the digital portal, the Virtual Town Hall can still be accessed at orsted.im/mooirvannin/virtual-town-hall for those wishing to continue to view the information and resources.

Community feedback

598 pieces of feedback were received in total including 323 via the digital portal, 242 via hard copy forms at the events, and 33 pieces of written feedback by email and letter. We received feedback from both those supportive of our proposals and those opposed to them.

Based on our proposals, what is your opinion of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm?



What is important to you?

Of the respondents who expressed their support for our proposals, the most common reasons for support included:

- **the enhanced energy security the Island would benefit from**
- **the financial benefit to the Island**
- **the contribution the offshore wind farm would make to global and Isle of Man climate change targets.**

Of the respondents who expressed opposition to the development, the most common reasons for opposition included:

- **visual impact**
- **impact to wildlife such as birds and marine mammals**
- **impact to shipping and navigation (especially to the ferry routes connecting the Isle of Man to the United Kingdom).**

These concerns and other key feedback themes are set out below alongside the action we have taken as a result.

In addition to direct feedback on our proposals, we also received more general feedback on topics such as:

- **consumer energy prices**
- **the location of our area for lease**
- **other forms of renewable energy.**

This feedback will be shared with the Isle of Man Government when we submit our planning application in Spring 2025. We also received feedback on areas where points of clarification are required. We have set these out in a 'key facts' section at the end of this document.

Full details of all feedback received will be available in a Consultation Summary Report which will accompany our planning application and will be available in our online document library at: **orsted.im/mooirvannin/document-library**

How we are responding to feedback

We have made a number of changes to our proposals to address the concerns you have raised. These include:



Reducing the Offshore Array Area



Reducing the maximum size and specifications of offshore infrastructure such as turbines and offshore platforms



Identifying actions (or commitments) to help address concerns raised.

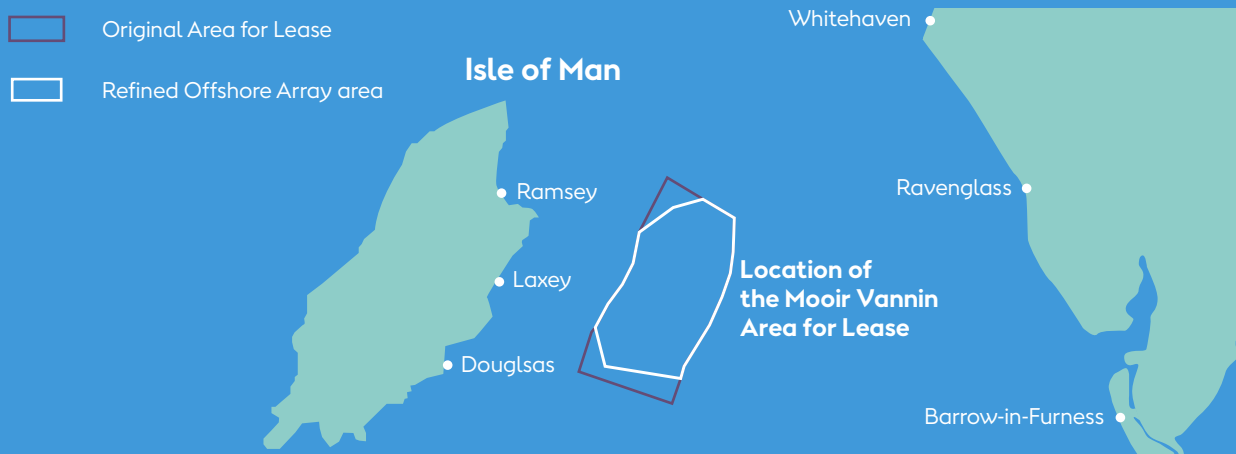


Reducing the Offshore Array Area

As a direct result of feedback, we have reduced the maximum size of the Offshore Array Area by approximately 17% as shown in the map below. This reduction will help to:

- Reduce the visual impact in locations on the east coast by cutting away the northwest corner and southern boundary of the area
- Reduce the potential impact on the Steam Packet's shipping routes at the southern boundary
- Ensure the safest passage of the Mezeron service to the northwest by increasing the gap between the wind farm site and the Bahama Bank buoy from approximately 1.4 nautical miles (2.5 km) to 2.1 nautical miles (4 km)
- Avoid high intensity Queen Scallop fishing grounds in the southwest of the site.

The map below shows how the wind farm area has been reduced following public consultation. The purple line shows the original area presented at consultation, and the white line illustrates the new size of the development.





Reduction in the size and specification of offshore infrastructure

Table 1 shows how the offshore infrastructure has been changed as a result of consultation feedback. The changes all help to reduce visual impact. Increasing the minimum blade tip height will also help to reduce risk to birds in flight.

Table 1: Changes to the maximum offshore infrastructure specification after consultation.

Infrastructure Change	Original value	New Value
1: Maximum turbine height	389 m	350 m
2: Maximum Number of turbines	100	87
3: Maximum Number of offshore platforms	5	3
4: Minimum blade tip height	30 m above LAT ¹	34 m above LAT ¹

¹Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)



Commitments

Some of the key feedback themes have been addressed by actions (or commitments) we will take to minimise the wind farm's impact on the environment. Examples of some of these actions are set out in the table 2 overleaf.



Table 2: Summary of some of the key feedback themes and how we are responding

What you told us	How we are responding	Type of change
Visual Impact Respondents expressed concern about a negative visual impact from the wind farm, with many requesting a reduction in both the size and number of turbines from the design presented during the consultation.	We have reduced the maximum Offshore Array area to mitigate visual impact in populated areas- including Ramsey, Douglas, and Laxey. The area has reduced from 253 km ² to 211 km ² (a reduction of around 17%). We have reduced the maximum height of the turbines from 389 m to 350 m. We have reduced the maximum number of turbines from 100 to 87. We have reduced the maximum number of offshore platforms from 5 to 3.	Boundary Infrastructure Infrastructure Infrastructure
Shipping and Navigation Respondents were concerned that the wind farm could impact existing shipping routes. Respondents were concerned that these impacts would be increased when combined with other developments in the Irish Sea. Some respondents expressed concern about the additional carbon dioxide emissions from diverted shipping routes.	The boundary of the Offshore Array Area has been reduced at the northwest and the south to mitigate impact to shipping routes including Mezeron and Steam Packet.	Boundary
Fishing Respondents were concerned about impact on access to commercial fishing grounds, particularly to Queen Scallops.	The boundary of the Offshore Array Area has been reduced at the southwest tip to avoid high density Queen Scallop fishing ground. We will ensure ongoing communication with the Isle of Man fishing industry through development of, and adherence to, a Fisheries Co-existence and Liaison Plan and through our appointment of a Fisheries Liaison Officer.	Boundary Commitment
Birds Respondents expressed concern around impact to birds including collision with turbines and disturbance to migration routes.	The boundary of the Offshore Array Area has been reduced in the northwest to avoid high densities of auk species. We have been working closely with the Department for Environment, Food & Agriculture and Manx BirdLife to understand the potential impacts, and opportunities, of the offshore wind farm on birds. Based on our findings, we have increased the blade tip height from 30 m to 34 m above sea level to reduce impacts to birds in flight.	Boundary Infrastructure
Marine Mammals Respondents expressed concern about the potential impact on marine mammals. Specific concerns included the risk that species would be deterred from entering Isle of Man waters because of infrastructure or increased noise.	Impacts on marine mammals will be addressed through the development of an Underwater Noise Mitigation Strategy, to be agreed with relevant stakeholders including the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture and environmental groups on the Island including Manx Wildlife Trust and Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch.	Commitment
Decommissioning Respondents expressed concern that we may not clean up fully at the end of the wind farm's life and that the turbines cannot be adequately recycled.	Ørsted takes responsibility of our assets at all stages of the life cycle, including decommissioning. As such, we have committed to produce an Outline Decommissioning Plan which will be submitted alongside our application to the Isle of Man Government. When wind turbines eventually reach the end of their lifespan, we recycle between 85% and 95% of materials, which is mostly steel. We've made a commitment to find the right recycling solutions for the remainder in the coming years and are actively working with a number of companies to achieve this.	Commitment

Mooir Vannin - Key Facts



Area Selection

The Isle of Man Government identified this location as a suitable site for offshore wind as part of its first Marine Plan in 2014, after which Ørsted (under its previous company name DONG Energy) was identified as the preferred bidder and subsequently awarded the Agreement for Lease. The proposed site extends to 12 nm from the coast (up to the extent of the Isle of Man's territorial sea).



Bringing power to the Island

Our application to the Isle of Man Government includes consent for infrastructure to bring power to the Island including an "Offshore Electrical Connection Cable (OECC) Corridor" which connects Offshore Substation(s) to Landfall Zone(s) on the Island. Landfall Zones include infrastructure like Transition Joint Bays (underground structures to connect offshore and onshore infrastructure), a temporary landfall construction compound and associated access routes. We continue to work closely with Manx Utilities to explore bringing electricity generated by the offshore wind farm to the Island to help meet the Island's developing energy needs in the decades to come.



Financial benefits

Revenue from the wind farm will go directly to the Isle of Man Government in the form of rental payments and taxation. The monetary benefit to the Isle of Man will depend on the size of the wind farm that the Isle of Man Government grants consent for and is then constructed. We have also announced our commitment to launch and operate a Community Investment Fund for the Isle of Man. This fund will provide £1.5 million every year for the first 15 years of operation of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm.



Jobs and Skills

The offshore wind farm will lay the foundation for lasting economic investment by developing local skills and creating new jobs. More than 30 full-time, skilled jobs will be created in the Isle of Man once the project is operational. We will develop a Supply Chain Strategy to identify and follow-up on opportunities for companies based on, or operating in, the local supply chain.



Funding the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm

The development and operation of the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm is funded entirely by Ørsted including its decommissioning. This project will require no direct investment or subsidy from the Manx taxpayer. Revenue from the wind farm will go directly to the Isle of Man Government through rental payments and taxation.



UNESCO Biosphere Status

The function of a UNESCO Biosphere reserve is to balance both nature conservation and sustainable development. As such, the Isle of Man's transition to green energy is wholly compatible with the 'entire nation' Biosphere status. Ørsted is a Partner of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and will continue to engage with the Biosphere Team and the Isle of Man Government on the contribution that Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm could make to a more sustainable Isle of Man.



Greenhouse gas emissions

Manufacturing and constructing offshore wind turbines does produce some greenhouse gases, but these are very small in comparison to emissions from fossil fuels – and vastly outweighed by the emissions saved by using offshore wind instead of fossil fuels to generate power. The carbon emissions saved throughout a wind turbine's lifespan is up to 50 times greater than the emissions from its manufacture, construction, operation and decommissioning.



Recyclability

Ørsted has direct experience of decommissioning an offshore wind farm (Vindeby, Denmark in 2017), so it has gained significant learning from this process. When wind turbines eventually reach the end of their lifespan, between 85% and 95% of what they're made of, mostly steel, is recycled. We have made a commitment to find the right recycling solutions for the remainder in the coming years and are actively working with a number of companies to achieve this. In June 2021, Ørsted committed to never send turbine blades to landfill. Instead we will be reusing, recycling or otherwise recovering all blades from decommissioned onshore and offshore wind farms in the future.



Reliability

Offshore wind power is more reliable than many people think. The wind blows much more consistently out at sea, and the turbines are designed to generate power even from a very light breeze. A modern offshore wind turbine will produce electricity 70%-85% of the time and energy can be stored for the times when it isn't windy.

Next steps

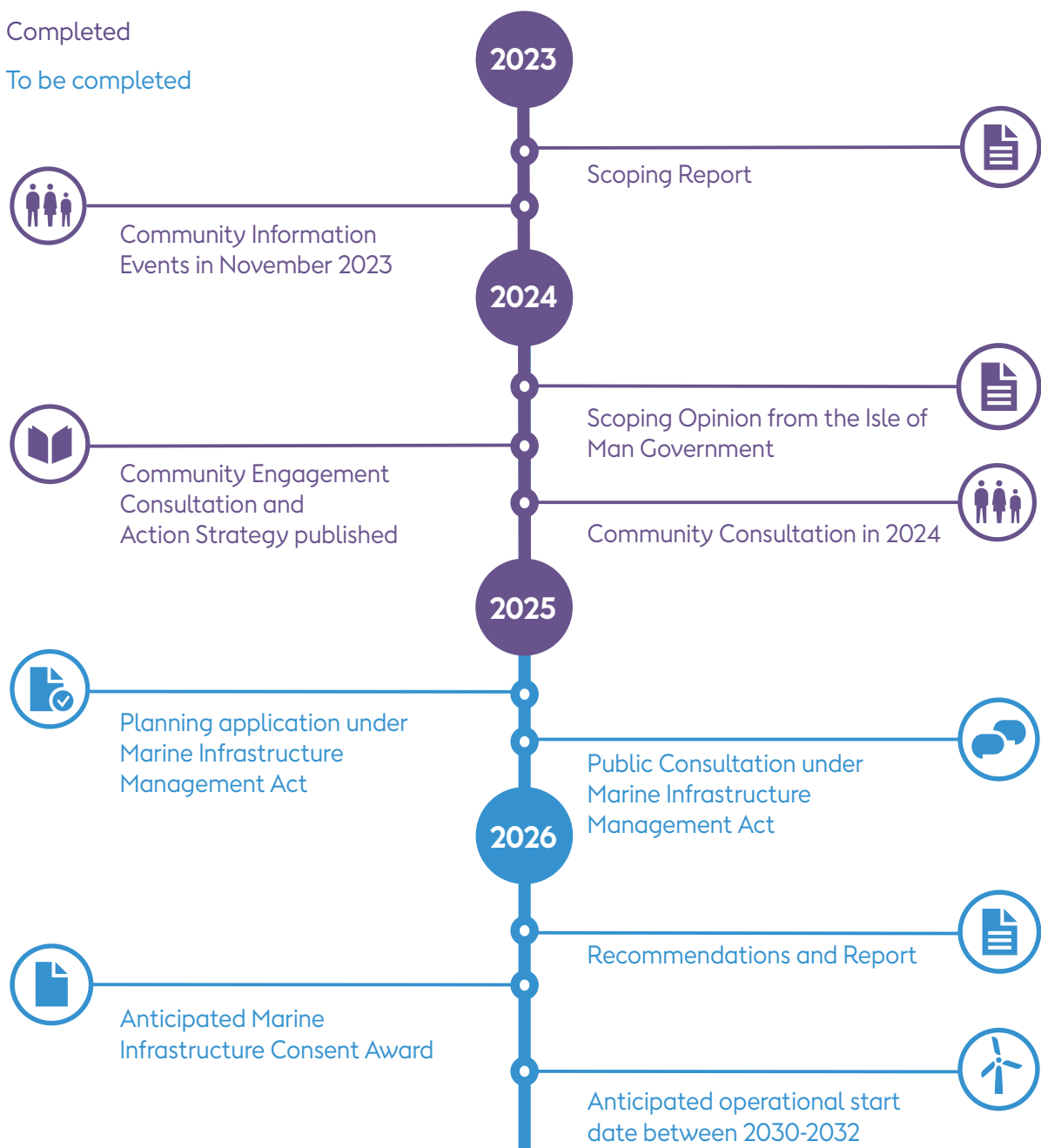
The updates to our proposals set out in this report will now be incorporated into our application to the Isle of Man Government in Spring 2025.

Full details of the public consultation and feedback received will be published in a Consultation Report which will accompany our planning application. The report will be made available on our website at orsted.im/mooirvannin/document-library

Following the submission of our Marine Infrastructure Consent (MIC) application, all individuals and organisations will have the opportunity to register as Interested Parties and provide their comments/responses as part of the Isle of Man Government's Examination process under the Marine Infrastructure Management Act 2016. The next stages in the process are set out here in the Consultation timeline.

■ Completed

■ To be completed



Contact Us

You can contact us using the details below. Please get in touch if you have any questions. Should you require any additional copies of this document or any other Mooir Vannin reports in large print, audio or braille then please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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