



## WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARM



## OUR MINI CONSULTATION REPORT SECOND ROUND EVENTS

We would like to welcome you to our mini report on the second round of consultation events for the proposed Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm. This mini consultation report will provide you with a summary of the consultation events which took place during September and October 2012, including an overview of what was discussed, the preferences of those who came to visit us and our commitments to you and your community based on what you told us.

### NEXT STEPS

The consultation has now come to an end and we are hoping to submit our application for development consent in May 2013 to The Planning Inspectorate, who then have 28 days to decide whether they will accept it for examination. If they do you are then able to register with them and tell them what you think of our proposal. They will then carefully assess our plans and the consultation that has been undertaken, taking into account everyone's views, and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who decides whether to grant planning consent. This can take some time and we will do our best to keep you up to date throughout this process, however please do feel free to contact us if you'd like any further information.

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### THE EVENTS

Our team of experts visited your area between the 3rd and the 13th of September 2012 at venues in Middleton, Douglas, Barrow-in-Furness, Millom, Egremont, Walney Island and Blackpool, and Seascale on the 30th of October. We met with nearly 370 people from across the consultation area to discuss how our plans had evolved and to ask for their views on various development options.

To raise awareness of the events taking place we advertised in eight different local and regional newspapers, a specialist journal and through a campaign on 'The Bay' radio station. Local media also ran features and editorials leading up to the events. A number of posters were sent out to event venues, local shops,

schools and community organisations and hand delivered to households in Middleton and e-mails were sent out to a variety of local stakeholders including Parish Council Clerks.

Information available at the events included all our previous consultation documents as well as copies of our newly released Preliminary Environmental Information and its accompanying Non-Technical Summary. Photomontages were also used at the main events showing visual mock ups of what the proposed extension might look like from various viewpoints and with differing wind turbine scenarios, along with a computer generated fly through of the site.

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## WHAT YOU TOLD US

We welcomed 367 local people to our events, 237 of which chose to complete a Feedback Form to record their thoughts and opinions. This enabled us to gather information about their key concerns and feelings towards our proposed wind farm project and so shape its development. The headline results of the Feedback Forms are laid out below. The table shows attendees views towards a series of statements made.

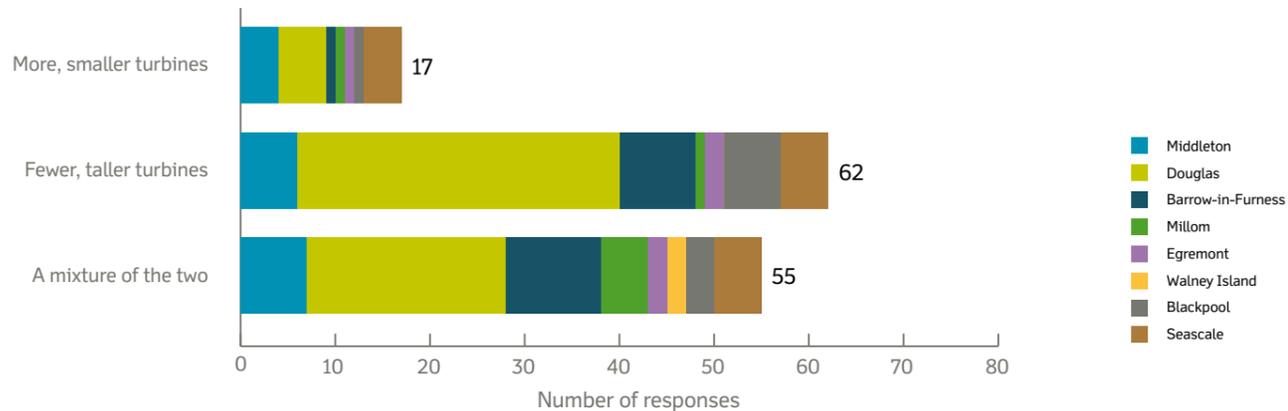
Statement	Agreed or strongly agreed	Didn't know	Disagreed or strongly disagreed
I support renewable energy	94%	4%	2%
Offshore wind should be a significant source of renewable energy	60%	18%	22%
I support offshore wind power in the east Irish Sea	55%	21%	24%
Walney Offshore wind farms have created jobs and supported local businesses in the area	31%	38%	31%
Today's event helped me understand the proposed plans for the wind farm	93%	6%	1%
All my questions were answered properly	85%	9%	6%
My views will be taken into account as the proposed wind farm project develops	30%	51%	19%
I support the Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm	43%	28%	29%

We also asked attendees to tell us what they thought was the most important overall issue we should consider whilst developing and finalising our project. They told us the impact on sea users, particularly safeguarding the ferry routes to the Isle of Man, and the potential environmental impacts were most important. To the right is a list of those issues raised and the proportion of people who felt they were the most important.

The potential impact on different sea users	30%
The potential environmental impacts in the area	25%
The efficiency of offshore wind turbines	17%
The visual impact on the local area	16%
The potential economic benefits to the area	12%

We asked people to study the different wind turbine options and tell us which scenario they preferred. Forty six percent felt they would prefer fewer, taller turbines, 13% preferred more, smaller turbines and 41% a mixture of the two. These results are broken down by location in the graph below:

### Having seen our proposed wind turbine scenarios which of the following options would you prefer?



We also wanted to get feedback on a variety of alternatives for developing the habitat around the onshore substation and provided tick boxes asking people to tell us why they chose that option. At 55%, most people selected tree planting of native woodland species, many feeling "More trees bring more wildlife and enhance the area". A further 26% chose the development of migration corridors with 16% feeling habitat improvement was their most favoured option and only 3% selecting the introduction of water features.



### OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU

During the events the attendees gave us lots of useful comments and advice, and expressed preferences for particular elements of our proposals. We have used all these comments to help us understand your common concerns and have committed to working towards resolving these in the following ways:

- 1. Consider your preferred habitat enhancement options around the onshore substation within our designs.** Tree planting of native woodland species and the development of migration corridors around the onshore substation site were selected by most of you so, where possible, we will ensure these elements are included within our landscaping designs.
- 2. At the events many of you talked to us about opportunities for your local community to capture the economic benefits brought about by our developments.** To support you to do this we are in the process of determining the best way to implement a community benefit policy including the opportunity to work with existing training providers to encourage more local people to train in the skills we need. We will try to use local businesses and labour wherever possible. We may ask you for your views on this when we have developed our policy further.

