

# Eden – Carnmoney Project

## Part 2a Engagement Report

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# 1. Executive Summary

SONI, the electricity transmission system operator (TSO) for Northern Ireland, has carried out Part 2a engagement for the ‘Eden – Carnmoney’ project between November 2023 and May 2024 in line with SONI’s 3 Part Process for Grid Development. The Eden–Carmmoney project is a high-capacity transmission system upgrade between the Eden (near Carrickfergus) and Carnmoney Main Substations (just North of Belfast). It will help to improve the electricity system along an important route corridor between the population hubs of Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey, ensuring a more efficient and secure electricity supply on a more sustainable basis.

Previous engagement during Part 1 of this project took place under what was then known as the Belfast Metropolitan Redevelopment project, before it was split into two projects known as ‘Energising Belfast’ and ‘Eden–Carmmoney’ respectively from Part 2 onward. This engagement involved various meetings with key stakeholder groups, such as local councils and elected representatives, to gain a better understanding of what matters to communities, landowners, and businesses in the project area.

Following Part 1, the project moved to Part 2a engagement which encompassed a variety of consultation methods to ensure that all key stakeholders and residents had access to project information and the opportunity to submit feedback on the proposals:

- Two separate drop-in public consultation events were held in Mossley Mill in Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus Town Hall. Each event had an open invitation and was promoted through local and regional news outlets, targeted social media advertising and posters in local civic spaces and high-footfall areas.
- Direct invitations were issued to elected representatives across the project study area to engage in the consultation process by receiving a briefing on the proposals and having the chance to provide feedback ahead of public consultation events.
- SONI’s Consultation Portal ensured residents and key stakeholders could view project materials online and submit feedback on the proposals.
- A campaign of social media activity on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter also shared information on the project, directing people to SONI’s Consultation Portal. Paid advertising was conducted on SONI’s Facebook page to target residents in the South and East Antrim areas with information on the project and details of the public events.
- Other methods such as a dedicated project webpage and SONI email address were utilised to provide stakeholders with information on the project and the opportunity to provide feedback.

Across the two drop-in public consultation events, a total of 15 feedback forms were completed and provided to SONI by attendees, while a Record of Engagement form was completed for 17 participants.

The key topics discussed with members of the public and key stakeholders were cabling / undergrounding, the removal of overhead lines, the refurbishment of overhead lines, construction, project methodology, planning, project timelines, ecology and visual impact.

Chapter 5 of this report provides more detail on the feedback submitted by members of the public, key stakeholders, and elected representatives during private briefings and during the drop-in public consultation events. This chapter includes the feedback received broken down into key themes and includes a summary of the main issues and comments raised by stakeholders.

Moving forward with this project, SONI will continue to engage with key stakeholders, elected representatives, landowners and residents to provide updates and receive their feedback on the proposals. SONI will continue to provide opportunities for the local community to participate in this process before the project is finalised and any future planning applications are submitted.

At the next stage of its 3 Part Process, SONI will move to Part 2c where extensive and statutory compliant Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) for the project will be undertaken before the submission of any planning applications to the relevant authorities. During this phase of consultation, detailed plans for the project will be presented to stakeholders including plans for the underground cable route corridors.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Part 2a Engagement Summary Report

SONI is planning to bring forward the ‘Eden–Carnmoney’ project, a high-capacity transmission system upgrade between the Eden and Carnmoney Main Substations.

It will help to improve the electricity system along an important route corridor between the population hubs of Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey, ensuring a more efficient and secure electricity supply on a more sustainable basis.

This report represents a concise, yet thorough assessment of the quality and extent of consultation activities that have taken place in relation to the proposed Eden – Carnmoney project during Part 2a of SONI’s [3 Part Process](#) for developing the grid.

## **3. Background**

### **3.1 SONI Background**

SONI is the electricity transmission system operator (TSO) for Northern Ireland. It is responsible for the consistent and reliable transmission of electricity on the high-voltage grid, matching supply and demand across Northern Ireland.

SONI also operates the all-island wholesale electricity market with EirGrid through the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO) which has been in operation since November 2007.

In April 2014, SONI was given the responsibility to plan and develop the transmission network. The transmission network is owned and maintained by the Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIEN), the transmission owner (TO).

### **3.2 Project Background**

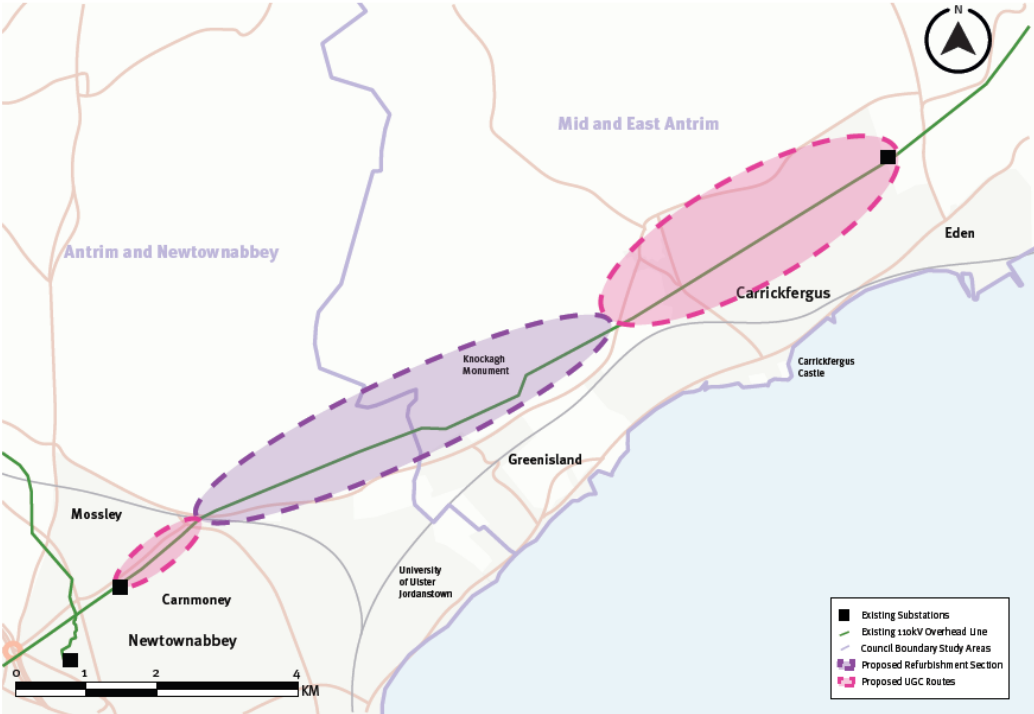
The electricity infrastructure which supplies Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey is now around 80 years old. To meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in the local area, a significant upgrade of electricity infrastructure is necessary. This is the purpose of the Eden – Carnmoney project.

SONI carried out an examination of the study area which includes the existing grid between Eden and Carnmoney Main Substations. The examination looked at several different options for delivering the project in this area including environmental, technical, and economic factors.

The Preliminary Preferred Option selected will deliver:

- New sections of underground cable from Eden Substation to west of Carrickfergus.
- Refurbishment of existing 110 kV overhead line from west of Carrickfergus to Mossley.
- New high-capacity underground cable from Mossley to Carnmoney Substation.
- The future de-energisation and removal of sections of the existing over headline (OHL) circuit, as it currently runs between Mossley and Carnmoney, and from Eden to west of Carrickfergus.
- A new transformer at Glengormley Main 110 kV Substation.

# Eden-Carnmoney Project



Map of Proposed Eden – Carnmoney Study Areas and Council Boundaries

The proposed development falls within two council areas; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. The proposal area also falls within the East Antrim, South Antrim and North Belfast Assembly / Parliamentary Constituencies.

SONI's proposed strategy is to submit two separate planning applications for the project to the relevant council planning authorities in Q2 2025.

A Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUD) for the new transformer at Glengormley Main was granted by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council in April 2024.

### 3.3 Previous Engagement

SONI's [3 Part Process](#) puts stakeholder and public consultation at the heart of how the transmission grid is developed.

This project has already completed Part 1 of SONI's 3 Part Process for Grid Development. During Part 1, SONI looked at the area surrounding Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey and considered all environmental, technical, and economic factors to identify the best technological solution and preferred option. This was done as part of the 'Belfast Metropolitan Redevelopment Project' (now Energising Belfast and Eden-Carnmoney).

Through previous engagement with several local councils and elected representatives, SONI has gained a better understanding of what matters to communities, landowners, and businesses in the project area. The feedback received through previous consultation has helped to inform the development of this project including the study areas for the underground cable route corridors in Carrickfergus and Carnmoney respectively.

## SONI's Grid Development Process





## **4. Engagement Strategy**

### **4.1 Purpose of Part 2a**

SONI takes a structured and professional approach to public engagement which was guided by a detailed Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (SECP), drafted at the outset of the project and updated throughout the consultation period.

Undertaking extensive consultation ensured that interested stakeholders had access to up-to-date and accurate information about the proposal and were provided with sufficient opportunities to provide feedback that can be considered prior to a planning application being submitted.

Part 2a engagement precedes any formal statutory consultation process associated with a planning application which will be undertaken in Part 2c.

### **4.2 Stakeholder Mapping**

Before any public consultation began, SONI carried out a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise to identify relevant individuals and groups in relation to the proposal. Broadly, these included:

#### **Political / Governmental**

- East Antrim MP / MLAs
- South Antrim MP MLAs
- North Belfast MP / MLAs
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – Councillors from Carrick Castle DEA / Knockagh DEA
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Officers (Head of Planning and Senior Planning Officers)
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council – Councillors from Threemilewater DEA / Glengormley Urban DEA
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Officers (Head of Planning and Senior Planning Officers)

#### **Residents / Community**

- Residents
- Community Groups / Associations

#### **Businesses / Special Interest Groups**

- Regional Lobby Groups
- Local Traders Groups / Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)
- Individual Businesses

Stakeholders identified by SONI were reviewed and updated based on relevant feedback as the consultation period progressed.

### **4.3 Methods of Engagement**

A key aspect of SONI's approach was giving careful consideration as to how they could reach those people most likely to be affected by the proposal and who may wish to be involved in the consultation process. Identifying these stakeholders informed which methods of consultation were appropriate to use in engaging with them. In keeping with best practice, SONI employed a variety of consultation methods to ensure that engagement was undertaken with all identified stakeholders appropriately.

SONI hosted two separate drop-in public consultation events and held several individual engagements with other key stakeholders.

In line with best practice, each consultation event hosted by SONI had an open invitation and was advertised through the local press and a campaign of social media activity on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter which directed people to SONI's Consultation Portal.

The Consultation Portal ensured residents and key stakeholders could view project materials online and submit feedback on the proposals.

Paid advertising was conducted on SONI's Facebook page to target residents in South and East Antrim with information on the project and details of the public events.

SONI also established a dedicated webpage containing information about the Eden – Carnmoney project, placed copies of advertisements containing details of each event in local civic spaces and high footfall areas and provided contact details to allow people to get in touch with the project team or simply submit feedback.

By utilising several engagement methods, SONI ensured that as many people as possible in the local area were aware of the consultation events, meaning that stakeholders were informed of the proposal and how to provide feedback.

SONI delivered briefings to local elected representatives ahead of the public consultation process by providing a summary of the project and asking for their feedback on the proposals. This engagement included details of the subsequent public drop-in consultation events as well as details of the online consultation portal.

### **4.4 Drop-in Consultation Events**

SONI is mindful of the fact that not everyone has the same level of understanding and knowledge of the energy sector and the planning system, and therefore hosted drop-in public consultation events across the project study area to allow people to learn more about these matters and the Eden – Carnmoney project.

To ensure the events were accessible to residents and stakeholders across the project study area and to ensure participation was as inclusive and as meaningful as possible, SONI hosted two separate consultation events in separate locations (Carrickfergus Town Hall and Mossley Mill in

Newtownabbey). This ensured a geographical spread of locations throughout the project area.

The chosen venues are accessible and catered for all audiences in the local area. The staffed exhibition, drop-in format of the events allowed attendees to view information on the project and discuss their concerns with members of the SONI project team.

Each drop-in event was held from 2pm-7pm to offer an opportunity for participants to attend at a time that suited them best. These steps were taken by SONI to encourage greater attendance by different groups of people.

Each of the events took the form of a staffed exhibition where the plans for the project were clearly displayed, with detailed maps available for more specific discussions with stakeholders as required.

Representatives from SONI, as well as environmental and stakeholder engagement consultants, were available to answer queries, provide clarification and facilitate feedback at each event.

For the events, SONI also:

- Produced a project-specific brochure (Appendix 2).
- Established a dedicated project section on the SONI Consultation Portal to facilitate online feedback.
- Provided contact information including a SONI telephone number and email address.
- Supplied feedback forms at each consultation event for members of the public to provide feedback on the efficacy of the engagement process undertaken.
- Recorded a summary of project-specific feedback held with members of the public at each consultation event.

SONI provided a broad range of information materials to enable local communities and stakeholders to understand and respond to the proposal. All information produced by SONI was written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language and was made available at each drop-in consultation event. SONI also provided access to information relating to the proposal online, via the SONI Consultation Portal and a dedicated project webpage on its website.

This enabled the local community to provide feedback to SONI before plans are finalised at Part 2c.

During the consultation events, SONI engineers highlighted the study areas for the proposed removal and refurbishment of the existing overhead line between the Eden and Carnmoney Main Substations. This included an area from Eden Main Substation to the west of Carrickfergus where the existing overhead line is proposed to be replaced by new underground cabling, an area from the west of Carrickfergus to the edge of Carnmoney where the existing overhead line is proposed to be refurbished, and an area from the edge of Carnmoney to Carnmoney Main Substation where the existing overhead line is proposed to be replaced by new underground cabling. The project team outlined the specific constraints relating to the selection of the routes and specific sites.

At each event, SONI representatives explained the importance of this phase of consultation in engaging with the public to gain feedback on the proposals and help to inform the design of the

project moving forward.

More information on the feedback received from this phase of consultation is set out within this report.

#### 4.5 Social Media

SONI carried out a campaign of social media activity on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to share information on the project and to encourage stakeholders to get involved in the consultation process. The social media posts included a link to SONI’s consultation portal where participants were encouraged to submit feedback on the proposals.

SONI also carried out paid advertising on its Facebook page. This campaign of paid advertising was successful in targeting residents and stakeholders in the South and East Antrim area to raise awareness of the project and to ensure local stakeholders were aware of how to view and provide feedback on the proposals. Examples of the social media activity undertaken as part of this consultation process is set out in Appendix 5 of this report.

A summary of the results obtained from the Facebook paid advertising campaign, as well as the LinkedIn and Twitter posts, are set out in the tables below. This includes two sample Facebook posts and three sample LinkedIn / Twitter posts respectively.

| Facebook              | 15/03/24 | 02/02/24 (Monetised)       |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Impressions           | 205      | 46,652                     |
| Reach                 | 193      | 12,102                     |
| Engagement            | 1        | 2,188                      |
| Post Reactions        | N/A      | 80 reactions / 10 comments |
| Audience Gender Split | N/A      | 74.6% M / 25.4% F          |
| Money Spent           | N/A      | €150.00 over 36 days       |

| LinkedIn        | 18/03/24 | 11/03/24 | 22/02/24 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Impressions     | 779      | 988      | 1,291    |
| Engagement      | 25       | 40       | 70       |
| Engagement Rate | 3.21%    | 4.05%    | 5.42%    |
| Link Clicks     | 14       | 16       | 34       |
| Post Reactions  | 10       | 23       | 32       |

| Twitter     | 15/03/24 | 11/03/24 | 22/02/24 |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Impressions | 181      | 363      | 383      |
| Engagement  | 5        | 15       | 28       |
| Link Clicks | 3        | 4        | 15       |

## 5. Part 2a Engagement

### 5.1 Pre-Consultation Engagement

Prior to the formal commencement of the Part 2a consultation phase, SONI started to engage with key stakeholders across the areas affected by the project.

Early engagement with elected representatives ensured they were made aware of new project information available for consultation during Part 2a. This meant that these stakeholders had access to up-to-date and accurate information. This was particularly important to SONI as it ensured that local elected representatives were well equipped to respond to any queries from their constituents about the project and to actively promote the consultation events. This early engagement also gave SONI the opportunity to collate valuable feedback from them as key stakeholders.

SONI sought meetings with all parties which had representation in the Northern Ireland Assembly in the constituencies where new cable routes were to be located (South Antrim, East Antrim). Where parties had more than one MP / MLA for the area, representatives were grouped together or the most appropriate representative to engage with was identified.

Local Councillors in the relevant DEAs were sent written updates (Glengormley Urban, Threemilewater, Carrick Castle). North Belfast representatives were sent written information regarding the new proposed transformer at Glengormley Main and the offer to meet if required.

#### Engagement with Elected Representatives

| Name   | Method of Engagement | Date                                    |
|--|----------------------|---|
| East Antrim DUP (Sammy Wilson MP, Gordon Lyons MLA, Cheryl Brownlee MLA) | Briefing (In-person) | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023    |
| John Stewart (East Antrim UUP MLA)                                       | Briefing (Teams)     | Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023   |
| Stewart Dickson (East Antrim Alliance MLA)                               | Briefing (Teams)     | Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024 |
| Danny Donnelly (East Antrim Alliance MLA)                                | Email / Letter       | Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023 |
| Paul Girvan (South Antrim DUP MP)  | Briefing (In-person) | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024   |
| Steve Aiken (South Antrim UUP MLA)                                       | Briefing (In-person) | Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024       |
| John Blair (South Antrim Alliance MLA)                                   | Briefing (Teams)     | Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023  |
| Pam Cameron (South Antrim DUP MLA)                                       | Email / Letter       | Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024    |

|  |                |   |
|--|----------------|---|
| Declan Kearney (South Antrim Sinn Féin MLA)    | Email / Letter | Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 |
| Carrick Castle DEA Councillors (MEABC)         | Email / Letter | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Knockagh DEA Councillors (MEABC)               | Email / Letter | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Threemilewater DEA Councillors (ANBC)          | Email / Letter | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Glengormley Urban DEA Councillors (ANBC)       | Email / Letter | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| John Finucane (North Belfast MP Sinn Féin)     | Email / Letter | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Phillip Brett (North Belfast MLA DUP)          | Email/Letter   | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Brian Kingston (North Belfast MLA DUP)         | Email/Letter   | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Nuala McAllister (North Belfast MLA Alliance)  | Email/Letter   | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Gerry Kelly (North Belfast MLA Sinn Féin)      | Email/Letter   | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |
| Carál Ní Chuilín (North Belfast MLA Sinn Féin) | Email/Letter   | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024  |

### Key Stakeholder Group Engagement

| Name           | Method of Engagement | Date                                  |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| MEABC Planners | Briefing (Teams)     | Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023 |
| ANBC Planners  | Briefing (Teams)     | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023  |

SONI continued to engage with elected representatives and key stakeholder groups throughout the engagement process, ensuring they were made aware in advance of all public events hosted by SONI.

### 5.2 Drop-in Consultation Events

SONI hosted two separate drop-in consultation events in March 2024. These included:

| Venue  | Date                        | Time      |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Mossley Mill Theatre, Newtownabbey / Carnmoney | 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 | 2pm – 7pm |
| Carrickfergus Town Hall                        | 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 | 2pm – 7pm |

Each of the events took the form of a staffed exhibition where the plans for the project were clearly

displayed, with detailed maps available for more specific discussions with stakeholders as required.

To generate awareness of the events in the local area, advertisements for the events were placed in the following local papers (see Appendix 1):

- Larne Times (29<sup>th</sup> February 2024)
- Carrick Times (29<sup>th</sup> February 2024)
- Newtownabbey Times (29<sup>th</sup> February 2024)
- News Letter (7<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

SONI also issued posters noting the public events to the following local centres:

- Eden Community Centre
- Carrickfergus Golf Club
- Carrickfergus Cricket Club
- Carrickfergus Train Station
- Carrickfergus Town Hall
- Mossley Pavilion
- Mossley West Train Station
- Mossley Mill

Invitations to the events were also emailed directly to the elected representatives listed above.

The public consultation events provided attendees with the opportunity to view accurate information about the project and discuss the proposal with members of the project team.

Attendance at the events is outlined below:

- Mossley Mill (13<sup>th</sup> March 2024) – approximately 10 attendees
- Carrickfergus Town Hall (14<sup>th</sup> March 2024) – approximately 15 attendees

A key aim of the consultation events was to gather feedback from members of the public which SONI could then take into consideration. SONI staff completed a Record of Engagement form to provide a project-specific summary of the discussions that were held at each public event. Each attendee was also encouraged to complete a feedback form to detail their views on the engagement carried out.

### **5.3 Feedback Received by SONI**

A total of 15 feedback forms were completed and provided to SONI by attendees at the events, while a Record of Engagement form was completed for 17 participants.

The feedback provided by attendees was recorded and analysed by SONI, so that it could feed into the project design and engagement processes moving forward. This is documented below

#### 5.4 Overview of Feedback Forms Completed at Drop-In Consultation Events

Included below is a summary of the feedback received by SONI via the Feedback Forms completed and returned by attendees at the events.

| <u>Overview of Feedback Forms</u>   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Based on the information in the 15 individual submissions provided:</b>  |                                       |
| 15 respondents indicated they <b>live within the project study area</b>   |                                       |
| 0 indicated they <b>did not</b> live in the project study area  |                                       |
| 15 felt like they now <b>understood what the Eden – Carnmoney project involves</b>  |                                       |
| 15 respondents were <b>satisfied with the level of engagement</b> provided at the event   |                                       |
| <b>People were made aware of the events through:</b>  |                                       |
| Social media (Facebook / Twitter) (9 no.)   | Landowners contacted via post (2 no.) |
| Newspaper advertisement (1 no.)   | Family / friends (2 no.)              |
| Local elected representative (1 no.)  |                                       |
| <b>The following feedback and suggestions were made in submissions:</b>   |                                       |
| <i>Very pleased with the information given. Glad to see transmission towers will eventually be taken away from the rear of my property.</i> |                                       |
| <i>Good luck with all your plans.</i>   |                                       |

This information received at the events will feed into SONI’s approach to further communications and consultation for the project. SONI will continue to review its own approach as to how people are made aware of the event, and to ensure relevant information is made publicly available. The information in the Record of Engagement forms, documented below, also played an important role



in this.

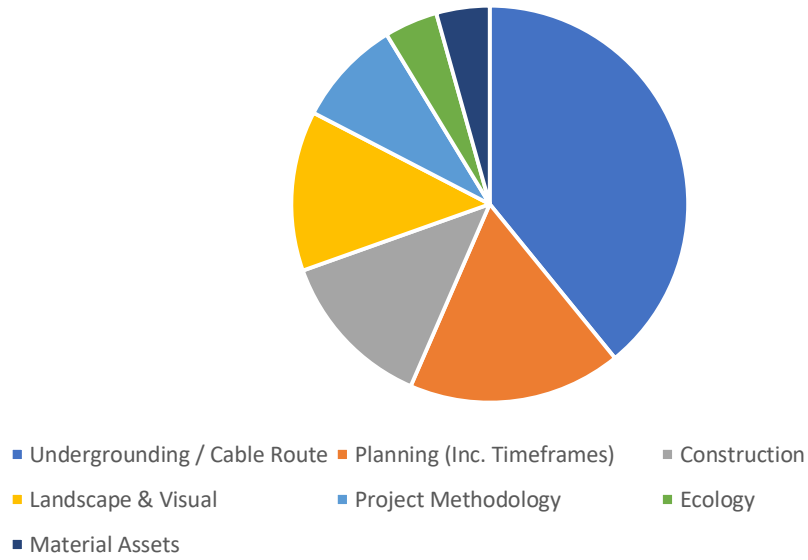
## 5.5 Overview of SONI Record of Engagement Forms Completed at Drop-In Consultation Events

Included below is an overview of the information provided in the SONI Record of Engagement forms completed during discussions with stakeholders throughout Part 2a of the drop-in consultation events. These sheets were completed by SONI staff to reflect conversations with attendees.

The Record of Engagement forms provided SONI with the opportunity to identify specific issues which could then be considered by the project team going forward. Please note that the frequencies provided are approximate.

| <b><u>Overview of SONI Record of Engagement Forms</u></b>        |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Topics discussed (as highlighted by SONI representatives)</b> | <b>Frequency</b> |
| Undergrounding / Cable Route                                     | 9                |
| Planning (Inc. Timeframes)                                       | 4                |
| Construction   | 3                |
| Landscape & Visual   | 3                |
| Project Methodology  | 2                |
| Ecology  | 1                |
| Material Assets  | 1                |

## Project-Related Feedback: Main Themes



The issues recorded in the SONI Record of Engagement forms provide an important insight into the main areas of interest for members of the public who discussed the proposal with members of the project team at the consultation events.

All feedback provided will be considered by SONI ahead of the next phase of consultation on the project.

## 5.6 Summary of Feedback and Discussions Held During Drop-In Consultation Events

Included below is a summary of the main issues and comments raised by stakeholders at the public consultation events during part 2a of SONI's Grid Development Process for the Eden – Carnmoney project.

| Theme                               | Summary of Feedback  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Engagement</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Discussions around where SONI are in the engagement process and what further engagement is planned for this project.</i></li> <li>- <i>Positive feedback regarding community engagement on the project.</i></li> <li>- <i>Positive feedback regarding targeted advertising on social media.</i></li> <li>- <i>Questions regarding further opportunities to respond during the statutory process.</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Undergrounding / Cable Route</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Engage with utilities companies to minimise the digging up of roads going forward as this is a concern.</i></li> <li>- <i>What is the size of the underground cables?</i></li> <li>- <i>Will there be undergrounding at Kilroot?</i></li> <li>- <i>Where will the underground cable route be in Carrickfergus?</i></li> <li>- <i>How much land would be needed for underground cabling (in Carrickfergus, if it went off road)?</i></li> <li>- <i>There are old mines close to Marshallstown Road which have caused subsidence in recent years.</i></li> <li>- <i>The Middle / Marshallstown Road is used as an unofficial bypass by HGVs travelling to Kilroot.</i></li> <li>- <i>There is congestion in terms of the utilities infrastructure currently underground along Manse Road (Carnmoney).</i></li> <li>- <i>There is Housing Executive land along Manse Road which could be used for part of the final cable route.</i></li> </ul> |
| <b>Changes to Overhead Lines</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I am happy that overhead lines are coming down as a result of this project.</i></li> <li>- <i>I understand why the overhead tower near me isn't coming down as a result of this project.</i></li> <li>- <i>Is there a transmission tower coming down near 72 Broadlands (Carrickfergus)?</i></li> <li>- <i>I am a landowner associated with the Catholic Church and am interested in what is happening with the erection of a new terminal tower next to St Macnissi's Primary School (Carnmoney).</i></li> </ul>  |

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
|                                   | - <i>What works are required at Glengormley Main Substation?</i>  |
| <b>Planning (Inc. Timeframes)</b> | - <i>I am concerned about the energisation date for this proposed new infrastructure being in 2030.</i> |

### 5.7 Information Received via Consultation Portal and Email

As well as providing feedback via consultation events it was also possible to submit feedback to the SONI Consultation Portal, via post or email. However, whilst the consultation portal for the Eden-Carnmoney project was open for 12 weeks (between Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024), no online submissions were made.

### 5.8 Overview of Feedback Received During Engagement with Key Stakeholders

The table below outlines a summary of the main issues and comments raised by key stakeholders, including elected representatives and council officials, during part 2a of SONI's Grid Development Process.

| <b>Theme</b>      | <b>Summary of Feedback</b>  |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Engagement</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What level of public consultation is planned for the project?</i></li> <li>- <i>SONI should give local communities and elected representatives as much possible notice of public consultation events as possible.</i></li> <li>- <i>Engaging with council planners would be important for the project.</i></li> <li>- <i>What engagement has been ongoing with local landowners (especially those affected by the refurbishment aspect of the project)?</i></li> <li>- <i>SONI in its stakeholder engagement should target 'areas of objection' to grid infrastructure development in Carnmoney / Glengormley – and host engagement close to where there will be new infrastructure.</i></li> </ul> |

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Undergrounding / Cable Route</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Will the proposed underground cabling go through housing?</i></li> <li>- <i>Can underground cabling turn at right angles?</i></li> <li>- <i>There may be traffic management issues when the installation of underground cabling is taking place.</i></li> <li>- <i>In Carrickfergus, other utility companies have made a mess of underground cabling in recent times – in terms of travel disruption, the effect on residential amenity and reinstatement – and this must be avoided in future. People are still feeling raw from this previous experience.</i></li> <li>- <i>Summertime may be a better time for the installation of underground cabling as it would avoid disrupting school traffic at least.</i></li> <li>- <i>In the context of traffic management, the level crossing at Trooperslane Road (Knockmore Park) is currently problematic as when the barriers are down it is common to see traffic piled back along the B90 Upper Road en route to B90 Marshallstown Road, potentially affecting SONI project works.</i></li> <li>- <i>There are lands formerly occupied by a Victorian-era salt mine to the north of the Woodburn Bridge which have suffered from subsidence and had to be fenced off and alarmed in the past two decades. This may affect the cable route on the Carrickfergus side of the project.</i></li> <li>- <i>There is a local desire for traffic lights to be in place at the top of North Road (toward Marshallstown Road) and it is hoped that these would be in place for project works commencing.</i></li> <li>- <i>Is it possible to lay cabling along the farmland on the boundary of Marshallstown Road, rather than along the actual road itself?</i></li> </ul> |
| <b>Changes to Overhead Lines</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Where will the new terminal towers be constructed?</i></li> <li>- <i>Is there a clearance area for the new terminal towers?</i></li> <li>- <i>Will new towers be required (along the refurbishment section of the project)?</i></li> <li>- <i>Will there be transmission towers removed on the other side of the Sandyknowes Roundabout (Energising Belfast works)?</i></li> <li>- <i>Will connecting the underground cabling which is proposed to run from Manse Road into Carnmoney Main Substation cause any disruption to business owners in Ferguson Business Park?</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Grid Capacity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>How much additional grid capacity will the project create for the local / surrounding area?</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Renewables</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>In a wider context (beyond this project), I believe that there are challenges in renewable energy developers receiving planning permission for proposed assets close to existing substation sites due to the potential need for expansion at said substation sites.</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Ecology</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What are the timelines for the environmental studies and investigatory pre-construction works which have been commissioned to inform the decisions which will be taken at later stages of the project?</i></li> </ul>   |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Planning</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Which parts of the project require planning permission?</li> <li>- Does the underground cabling aspect of the project require planning permission?</li> <li>- There is a new housing development located between Ulidia College and Marshallstown Road which has planning permission. SONI should be aware of this as there may be a through road constructed as part of the scheme, which would provide a useful diversion to alleviate traffic congestion once the time comes to lay cabling along Marshallstown Road.</li> <li>- There is 'blighted' (devalued) Housing Executive land along Manse Road, between Mossley Primary School and Hill Croft School, which could be used for part of the underground cabling rather than digging up the road along this stretch toward Carnmoney Main Substation next to Ferguson Business Centre.</li> <li>- Will the refurbished transmission towers exceed 15 metres in height? MEABC has a new Telecommunications and Electricity Infrastructure policy (TEI 1) within its recently adopted Local Development Plan Strategy, which places conditions on tall structures built on this locality. The existing CS3 Tall Structures policy would be applicable here also.</li> <li>- ANBC is currently in the process of drafting its Building Control regulations, which will push for electrification in businesses and complement the aims of this project.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Land Ownership</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What happens to land which is freed up after landlocked transmission towers are removed? Who then owns that land?</li> <li>- I don't want to see land that has been freed up become derelict.</li> <li>- SONI should engage with the developer next to St Macnissi's Primary School as I understand that they have planning permission to build housing on land owned by the Catholic Church which would be very close to the proposed underground cabling coming off Manse Road, and the proposed new terminal tower (Tower 102).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Project Cost</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has the Utility Regulator approved the option chosen for delivering this project, given the cost associated with it?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Timeframes</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the construction timeframes for the project?</li> <li>- What are the timelines surrounding the de-energisation and removal of the OHL infrastructure which is to be replaced by underground cabling.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Project Benefits</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I understand this project's importance in providing the grid infrastructure needed for security of supply and to facilitate more renewable electricity, meeting rising levels of demand and promoting economic growth on a sustainable basis.</li> <li>- Short-term disruption to upgrade the electricity network is well worth the long-term gain.</li> <li>- Global Point Business Park in Newtownabbey will benefit from the additional grid capacity this project will create.</li> <li>- This project will align with the aims of the Belfast Regional City Deal.</li> </ul>   |

## **5.9 Summary of Part 2a Consultation**

The information provided throughout this chapter provides an overview of the activities carried out during Part 2a of SONI's 3 Part process for developing the grid for the Eden – Carnmoney project. It also outlines how the feedback received, and the issues raised by members of the public, key stakeholders, and elected representatives at consultation events and through individual briefings.

Feedback was received via ongoing engagement with elected representatives and the public through individual meetings and two drop-in consultation events (Mossley Mill and Carrickfergus Town Hall). Hosting these separate events on different dates provided as many people as possible from across the area of the project with the opportunity to access information on the proposals.

In summary, the information gathered from SONI's round of community consultation shows the following key findings:

- 100% of those who completed feedback forms at the public events felt they had been provided with all relevant information regarding the proposal and were satisfied with the level of expertise provided at the consultation event.
- Undergrounding and cable routes, changes to overhead lines, planning, project timeframes and engagement were key themes that developed from discussions during drop-in consultation events and through individual briefings with elected representatives.

## **5.10 Finalised Proposals**

Following Part 2a engagement, all feedback received from the public, landowners, key stakeholders and elected representatives has been collated and reviewed by the project team. This feedback has been beneficial in helping SONI determine the location of final route corridors for the underground cabling which is part of this project.

SONI will provide more detail on the new cable routes in the next stage of SONI's 3 Part process. SONI will move to Part 2c where statutory compliant Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) for the project will be undertaken before the submission of the planning application to the relevant authorities. This phase of consultation will include further public drop-in consultation events and further briefings with landowners, key stakeholders, and elected representatives.

## **6 Ongoing Engagement**

### **6.1 Existing and Future Liaison Arrangements**

SONI has taken several steps to ensure lines of communication remain open with stakeholders throughout the duration of the project, as it progresses through the 3 Part Process for Grid Development.

SONI will continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure accurate and up-to-date information is accessible, and any concerns are acknowledged and addressed where appropriate or possible. As has been done to date, all information materials and correspondence will include SONI contact details.

This engagement will likely take the form of providing stakeholders with written information materials as required and either face-to-face or virtual meetings to engage with these stakeholders.



## **7 Conclusion**

This report presents a concise, yet thorough assessment of the quality and extent of consultation activities that have taken place in relation to the Eden – Carnmoney project during Part 2a of SONI's 3 Part Process for Grid Development. A lengthy period of consultation has taken place to gain feedback on the proposals from those who live in or represent the local area.

The report outlines details on the Eden – Carnmoney project as well as providing details of the engagement strategy that was used for this stage of consultation. The report goes into detail on the feedback received from stakeholders during the consultation events and through individual briefings with elected representatives and key stakeholder groups.

SONI has made extensive efforts to inform members of the local community about the proposal, provided stakeholders with up-to-date and accurate information and enabled them to submit feedback on the proposals. SONI has endeavoured to ensure that all feedback provided by stakeholders and the local community will be considered by the project team.

SONI will continue to engage directly with all stakeholders as the project progresses and until all the necessary consents relating to the project have been achieved.

# APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX 1: Examples of Public Consultation Event Advertisements**

# Eden-Carnmoney project

**We are strengthening the electricity grid in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area, and we want to hear from you.**

Join our project team at one of our **Public Consultation Days:**

**Wednesday 13th March: 2-7pm.**  
**Mossley Mill,**  
Yarn Suite, Carnmoney Road North,  
Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA.

**Thursday 14th March: 2-7pm.**  
**Carrickfergus Town Hall,**  
2b Joymount, Carrickfergus,  
BT38 7DG.



*The A4 poster which was distributed across various local civic spaces in advance of the Part 2a public consultation events held in March 2024.*



**We are strengthening the electricity grid in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area, and we want to hear from you.**

The Eden – Carnmoney project is an upgrade to the electricity transmission system between Eden 110 kV Substation, near Carrickfergus, and Carnmoney 110 kV Substation in Newtownabbey.

To meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in the local area, a significant upgrade of electricity infrastructure is necessary which will involve the refurbishment of parts of the existing overhead line and the placement of new high-capacity underground cable. At this stage we want to meet and consult with the local community as we further develop our plans.

**To find out more, join our project team at one of our Public Consultation Days:**

**Wednesday 13th March - 2pm to 7pm.**  
**Mossley Mill,**  
Yarn Suite,  
Carnmoney Road North,  
Newtownabbey,  
BT36 5QA.

**Thursday 14th March - 2pm to 7pm.**  
**Carrickfergus Town Hall,**  
2b Joymount,  
Carrickfergus,  
BT38 7DG.

*The quarter-page version of the advertisement placed in local and regional newspapers in advance of the Part 2a public consultation events which took place in March 2024.*





## We are strengthening the electricity grid in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area, and we want to hear from you.

The Eden – Carnmoney project is an upgrade to the electricity transmission system between Eden 110 kV Substation, near Carrickfergus, and Carnmoney 110 kV Substation in Newtownabbey. The electricity infrastructure in Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey is now over 80 years old.

To meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in the local area, a significant upgrade of electricity infrastructure is necessary which will involve the refurbishment of parts of the existing overhead line and the placement of new high-capacity underground cable. At this stage we want to meet and consult with the local community as we further develop our plans.

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.....  
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**Carrickfergus Town Hall,**  
2b Joymount,  
Carrickfergus,  
BT38 7DG.

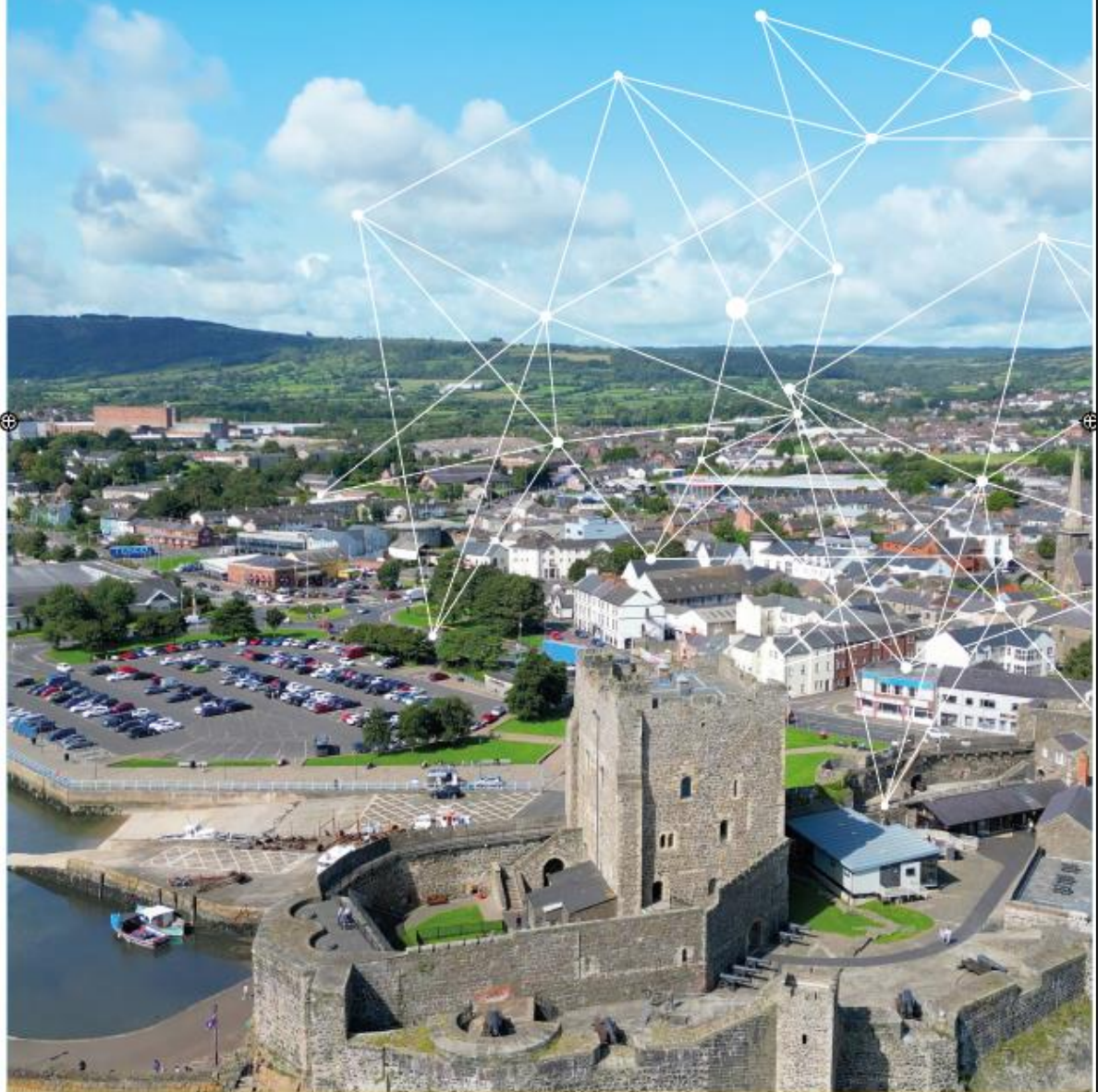
*The full-page version of the advertisement placed in local and regional newspapers in advance of the Part 2a public consultation events which took place in March 2024.*

## **APPENDIX 2: Eden – Carnmoney Project Brochure**



# Eden – Carnmoney Project Update

Spring / Summer 2024





# Who is SONI – and what do we do?

SONI is the electricity transmission system operator for Northern Ireland. This means we plan for the future of the electricity grid and operate it every minute of every day. This includes interconnecting to neighbouring grids and running the wholesale electricity market. We make sure that everyone has power when they need it, at the most economical price possible. The grid safely brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed and also powers NIE Networks' distribution system, which in turn, supplies electricity to homes, farms and businesses.

As Northern Ireland continues its move toward cleaner energy, the electricity system must also evolve. Investing in and improving the grid is essential to make your supply of electricity more reliable and cost effective. It also supports economic growth, enables competition, and helps to deliver a clean energy future.



2 | ESBIE: Carnmoney Project Update

101106\_SONI ESBIE Carnmoney Brochure\_04112022

041052624\_11/22



## What is the Eden – Carnmoney project?

The Eden – Carnmoney project is an upgrade to the electricity transmission system between Eden 110 kV Substation, near Carrickfergus, and Carnmoney 110 kV Substation in Newtownabbey. The electricity infrastructure in Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey is now over 80 years old. To meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in the local area, a significant upgrade of electricity infrastructure is necessary.

## Why are we doing this?



**This project will bolster security of supply for the Carrickfergus and greater Newtownabbey area.**

This project will provide a significant increase to grid capacity in this area, which will allow greater amounts of electricity onto the network to service rising levels of demand and the increasing electrification of heating and transportation.



**This project will help deliver climate change targets and decarbonise the power system for future generations.**

To meet the legally binding target of generating 80% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030, it is projected that Northern Ireland will require at least another 1300 MW of clean electricity. This power will have to be generated, connected to the grid, and delivered throughout Northern Ireland. The Eden – Carnmoney project will enable the use of more clean energy to be used on the network.



**This project will enable the future removal of existing overhead line (OHL) circuit in some areas.**

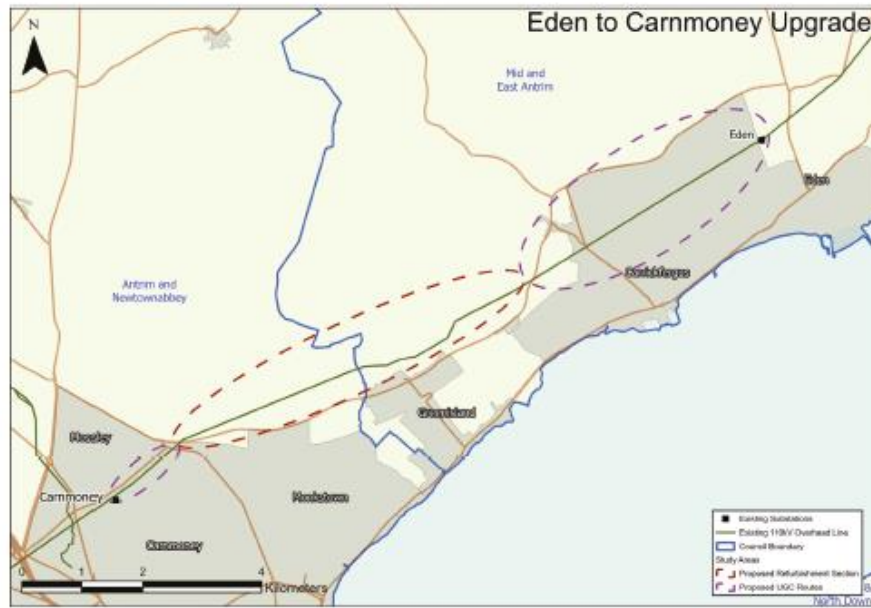
By opting to underground elements of the project in and around urban hubs such as Carrickfergus and Carnmoney, this will allow NIE Networks to de-energise and at a later stage remove the overground infrastructure in these areas. Due to significant housing development in the years since the original construction of the overhead line, some towers have become effectively landlocked, making them difficult to maintain and refurbish.





## What is the study area?

The map below represents the 'study area' for this project, which includes the existing grid between Eden Main Substation and Cammonee Main Substation.





## Our 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid

We are committed to gaining your input on any decisions we make on our projects. Our 3-part process puts stakeholder and public consultation at the heart of how we develop the transmission grid. By working together, we can create a stronger electricity system for Northern Ireland – with the least possible inconvenience to you.

### SONI's Grid Development Process



#### PART 1

**Identifying the optimum solution and what area may be affected.** When we have thoroughly researched the potential solutions, we will have what we call '**a best performing technology solution**'. At this point, we provide opportunities for you to have your say, before we finalise the solution and the location for the project.



#### PART 2

**Identifying where the project will be built.** Once we have examined all locations within the general area for the project, we narrow our choice to what we call '**a best performing location**'. Again, we provide opportunities for you to participate in the process and tell us what you think before we finalise the location.



#### PART 3

**Planning application to project handover to NIE Networks.** Should we receive a favourable decision from the planning authority, we will hand the project over for NIE Networks to construct and energise. We will continue to engage with local communities and landowners in the vicinity of the project, and make sure everyone is kept informed.







## What's happened so far

Initial engagement has taken place with council officials and elected representatives at Part 1 of SONI's 3-part process for developing the grid. This enabled feedback to be provided at the earliest stage to help shape SONI's preliminary preferred option and our engagement plans moving forward.

At the end of this part, we decide what technology we are going to use; i.e. overhead line or underground cable, and the general area where we may locate the project.

## What's happening now?

The Eden – Carrmonee project has moved into Part 2a of SONI's 3-part process for developing the grid. At Part 2a, we are now moving forward with a preliminary preferred option which includes:

- New sections of underground cable from Eden Substation to west of Carrickfergus
- Refurbishment of existing 110 kV overhead line from west of Carrickfergus to Mossley
- New high-capacity underground cable from Mossley to Carrmonee Substation

- The de-energising and future removal of the section of existing overhead line (OHL) circuit, as it currently runs between Mossley and Carrmonee, and from Eden to west of Carrickfergus
- A new transformer at Glengormley Main 110 kV Substation

At this stage of the consultation, we are seeking feedback from the public to help shape the final proposal i.e. the location of the new underground cable. We know that no one knows an area better than those who live and work in it, which is why this feedback is so valuable.

## What happens next?

At the end of this part of the consultation process, we will publish a report outlining all the feedback received from stakeholders. This will help shape the final route of the underground cable, in tandem with environmental and technical studies. A further phase of consultation will take place which will include statutory Pre-Application Community Consultation, prior to the submission of a planning application.

## How can I provide feedback?

There are many ways to get involved and provide feedback. These include:

1. Visiting the SONI Consultation Portal: <https://consult.soni.ltd.uk/>
2. Attending one of our consultation days for Part 2a of the Eden – Carrmonee project, where members of the project team will be able to discuss it with you:

2pm – 7pm, Wednesday 13th March  
Mossley Mill, Yarn Suite, Carrmonee Road  
North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA

2pm – 7pm, Thursday 14th March  
Carrickfergus Town Hall, 2b Joymount,  
Carrickfergus, BT38 7DG

3. Email your submission to us at [info@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:info@soni.ltd.uk)
4. Write your own submission and post it back to us at:  
Eden – Carrmonee Project, SONI Ltd, Castlereagh House, 12 Manse Road, Belfast BT6 9RT.

We welcome your feedback until Friday 10th May 2024.

You can follow us on  Linked In at SONI Ltd  Twitter at @Soni\_Ltd

You can also visit our project webpage at  
<https://www.soni.ltd.uk/the-grid/projects/eden-carrmonee-project/the-project/>





 Printed on recycled paper



**APPENDIX 3: Eden – Carnmoney Press Release**



[About](#)[The Grid](#)[How the Grid Works](#)[Customer & Industry](#)[Library](#)[Newsroom](#)[Contact](#)

[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > SONI set to bolster power supply in Carrickfergus and greater Newtownabbey areas

# SONI set to bolster power supply in Carrickfergus and greater Newtownabbey areas

1 March 2024

SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland) is the Electricity Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland. From our control centre in Belfast, we manage the electricity grid to ensure that power can flow safely, securely and reliably from where it is generated to where it is needed.

In addition to managing the Grid in real time, our expert engineers are responsible for planning ahead to ensure our energy infrastructure meets the needs of the future. We are working to upgrade our power system to support the delivery of the NI Energy Strategy, all while ensuring the security of supply for homes, businesses, and farms across Northern Ireland in the present.

The overhead power line from Eden (near Carrickfergus) to Carnmoney is now over 80 years' old. Substantial housing development has taken place in the years since the overhead line was originally built, meaning it is no longer feasible to refurbish the entirety of the overhead line. SONI plans to refurbish parts of this overhead line and underground cabling will enable other parts of the overhead line to be de-energised and in time be removed altogether. This project is known as Eden-Carmmoney; the delivery of this project will bolster security of supply in the Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey areas for years to come.

Before we develop or add to the grid, we work with those who may be affected by our plans. We want to engage with local communities at every step of the process. To date we have met with elected representatives and local planning officials, and we look forward to facilitating public engagement events in Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey in March. These events provide us with an opportunity to talk to the local community about the project and listen to their views which help us to further refine our plans.

Eimear Watson, Head of Networks NI (SONI), commented:

*"At SONI we are focused on investing in and improving the transmission grid, so that everyone has access to the power they need, when they need it. The Eden-Carmmoney reinforcement project is a major part of our improvement and investment works and we are pleased to be bringing forward our proposals for the local community, businesses, and key stakeholders to have their say.*

*"Collaboration is key to the process and through this stage of consultation we want to provide the local community with as much information as possible for them to submit feedback on these proposals before the consultation closes on Friday 10th May at 17:00."*

For more information, email [pressoffice@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:pressoffice@soni.ltd.uk) or call 028 9070 7561

Our consultation portal website at [consult.soni.ltd.uk/](http://consult.soni.ltd.uk/) opens on Wednesday 28 February 2024 and will close on **Friday 10 May 2024, 17:00**. The details of the public consultation events are as follows:

- 13th March, Mossley Mill, Yarn Suite, 19 Carnmoney Road North, Newtownabbey BT36 5NL, 14:00 – 19:00
- 14th March, Carrick Town Hall, 2B Joymount, Carrickfergus BT38 7DN, 14:00 – 19:00

## **APPENDIX 4: Photographs from Public Consultation Events**



*The public consultation event held in Carrickfergus Town Hall.*



*The public consultation event held in Mossley Mill.*

## **APPENDIX 5: Examples of Social Media Activity**





SONI Ltd

7 February · 🌐

...

We're bolstering security of supply in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area.

The overhead power line from Eden (near Carrickfergus) to Carnmoney is now over 80 years old. We plan to refurbish parts of the existing overhead line and install new underground cabling to allow the eventual future removal of some of the pylons in areas where significant housing development has taken place over the years.

To learn more about the Eden-Carnmoney project and to help shape our plans, come along to one of our public consultation events:

Wednesday 13th March, Mossley Mill, Yarn Suite, Carnmoney Road, North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA, 2-7pm

Thursday 14th March, Carrick Town Hall, 28 Joymount, Carrickfergus BT38 7DN, 2-7pm



SONI Ltd

SONI is the electricity transmission system operator for Northern Ireland. We also operate the ...



SONI Ltd

15 March at 11:00 · 🌐

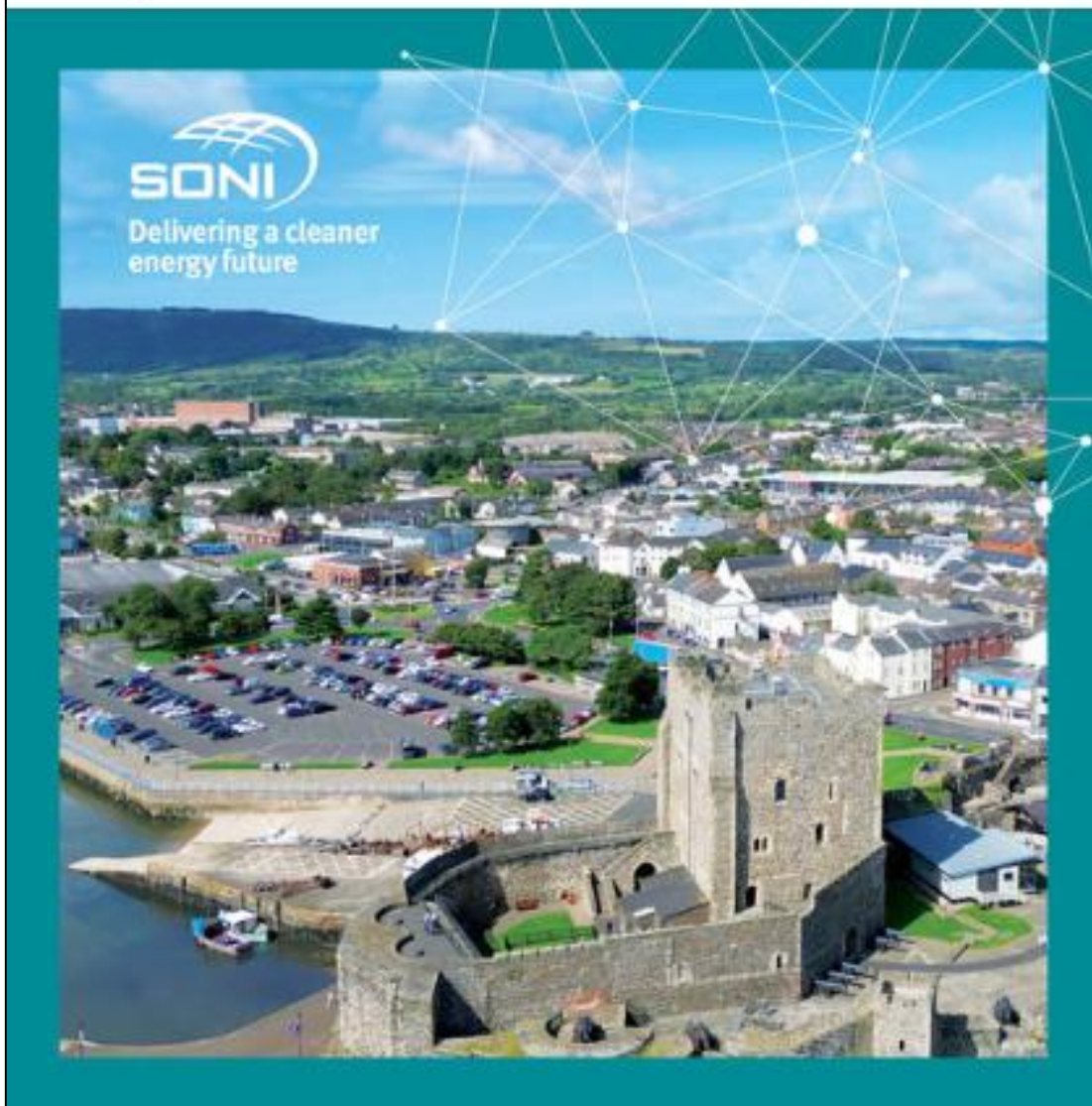


As with all our projects, SONI are committed to keeping communities at the heart of grid development. We understand that no-one knows an area better than those who live and work in it.

We would like to thank members of the local community and key stakeholders who have engaged with us as we develop our plans for the Eden-Carmmoney Project.

If you didn't make it to one of our public events, you can find out more about the project here: <https://www.soni.ltd.uk/.../eden-carmmoney.../the-project/>

We would also encourage you to provide us with any feedback by visiting the SONI Consultation Portal: <https://consult.soni.ltd.uk/>







## SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland



5K followers

1mo •

We're bolstering security of supply in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area.

The overhead power line from Eden (near Carrickfergus) to Carrmoney is now over 80 years old. We plan to refurbish parts of the existing overhead line and install new underground cabling to allow the eventual future removal of some of the pylons in areas where significant housing development has taken place over the years.

To learn more about the Eden-Carrmoney project and to help shape our plans, come along to one of our public consultation events:

⚡ Wednesday 13th March, Mossley Mill, Yarn Suite, Carrmoney Road, North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA, 2-7pm

⚡ Thursday 14th March, Carrick Town Hall, 2B Joymount, Carrickfergus BT38 7DN, 2-7pm





## SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland

...

4,657 followers

2w • Edited •

We're bolstering security of supply in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area.

The overhead power line from Eden (near Carrickfergus) to Cammonee is now over 80 years old. We plan to refurbish parts of the existing overhead line and install new underground cabling to allow the eventual future removal of some of the pylons in areas where significant housing development has taken place over the years.

To learn more about the Eden-Cammonee project and to help shape our plans, come along to one of our public consultation events this week:

⚡ Wednesday 13th March, Mossley Mill, Yarn Suite, Cammonee Road, North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA, 2-7pm

⚡ Thursday 14th March, Carrick Town Hall, 28 Joymount, Carrickfergus BT38 7DN, 2-7pm



  
SONI  
Delivering a cleaner  
energy future





## SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland

...

4,657 followers

1w •

As with all our projects, SONI are committed to keeping communities at the heart of grid development. We understand that no one knows an area better than those who live and work in it.

We would like to thank members of the local community and key stakeholders who have engaged with us as we develop our plans for the Eden-Carrmoney Project.

If you didn't make it to one of our public events, you can find out more about the project here: <https://lnkd.in/eJ9PZyJD>

We would also encourage you to provide us with any feedback by visiting the SONI Consultation Portal: <https://lnkd.in/eVY3bCX>



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1 repost



**SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland** @soni\_ltd · Feb 22



We're bolstering security of supply in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area. Our team is coming to Mossley and Carrickfergus next month to give the public an opportunity to learn about the project and help shape our plans. Find out more: [ow.ly/xl3L50QCFKp](https://ow.ly/xl3L50QCFKp)



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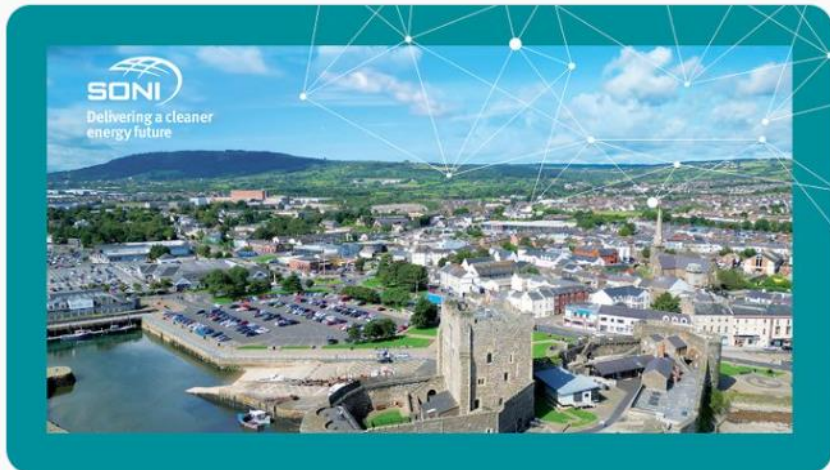
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**SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland** @soni\_ltd · Mar 11



We're bolstering security of supply in Carrickfergus and the greater Newtownabbey area. Our team is coming to Mossley and Carrickfergus next month to give the public an opportunity to learn about the project and help shape our plans. Find out more: [ow.ly/xl3L50QCFKp](https://ow.ly/xl3L50QCFKp)



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**SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland** @soni\_ltd · Mar 15



We would like to thank all those who have engaged with us to date as we develop our plans for the Eden-Carnmoney Project.

If you were unable to make it to our public events, you can still provide us with feedback by visiting the SONI Consultation Portal: [consult.soni.ltd.uk](https://consult.soni.ltd.uk)



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## **APPENDIX 6: Eden – Carnmoney Project Webpage**

[\(https://www.soni.ltd.uk/the-grid/projects/eden-carnmoney-project/the-project/\)](https://www.soni.ltd.uk/the-grid/projects/eden-carnmoney-project/the-project/)



# Eden-Carmoney Project

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## The Project

SONI is the electricity transmission system operator for Northern Ireland. This means we plan for the future of the electricity grid and operate it every minute of every day. We ensure that everyone has power when they need it at the most economical price possible.

To prepare for a clean energy future, SONI must make the electricity grid stronger and more flexible. The grid will need to carry more power, and most of this power will come from renewable generation that varies depending on the weather.

## What will the project involve?

The Eden – Carmoney project is a high-capacity transmission system upgrade between Eden 110 kV Substation, near Carrickfergus, and Carmoney 110 kV Substation in South Antrim, on the outskirts of North Belfast. The electricity infrastructure which supplies Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey is now around 80 years old. To meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in the local area, a significant upgrade of electricity infrastructure is necessary. This is the purpose of the Eden – Carmoney project.

- New sections of underground cable from Eden Substation to west of Carrickfergus
- Refurbishment of the existing 110 kV overhead line from west of Carrickfergus to Mossley
- New high-capacity underground cable from Mossley to Carmoney Substation
- The de-energising and future removal of sections existing OHL circuit, as it currently runs between urban areas between Mossley and Carmoney, and from Eden to west of Carrickfergus
- A new transformer at Glengormley Main 110 kV Substation

## What are the benefits of this project?

- **Security of supply** - This project will build a more resilient and reliable grid, making sure that everyone has power when and where they need it.
- **Supporting growth** - These improvements will support future investment and economic growth – aligning with the vision of the Belfast Region City Deal.
- **Helping to deliver climate change targets and decarbonising the power system for future generations.** It is projected that Northern Ireland will require at least another 1,300 MW of electricity from clean sources, to meet the legally binding target of generating 80 percent of our electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2030. This power will have to be generated, connected to the grid, and delivered throughout Northern Ireland. The Eden – Carmoney project allows more clean energy to be used on the network. This project also aligns with the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy's Path to Net Zero Energy\*, as it will allow greater use of electricity for heating and transport, one of the strategy's key ambitions.
- **Enabling removal of existing overhead line (OHL) circuit in some areas.** By opting to underground the aspect of the project in and around urban hubs such as Carrickfergus and Carmoney, this will allow NIE Networks to de-energise and at a later stage to remove the overground infrastructure in these areas. Due to development in the years since the original construction of the overhead line, some towers have become effectively landlocked, making them difficult to maintain and refurbish.

# Eden-Carmmoney Project

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?**

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## What's Happening Now?

### February 2024

Part 2a of our 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid is underway, with extensive engagement planned with the local community, elected representatives and other key stakeholders.

To help identify the exact location where works will take place, we are inviting key stakeholders and members of the local community to attend one of our public engagement events to learn more about the project and offer feedback to help shape our plans. The details of our two upcoming public events are:

- **Wednesday 13th March**, Mossley Mill, Yam Suite, Carmmoney Road, North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA, 2-7pm
- **Thursday 14th March**, Carrick Town Hall, 2B Joymount, Carrickfergus BT38 7DN, 2-7pm

### March 2023

Part 2 of our 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid will begin in 2024, with extensive consultation planned with communities, local businesses and other stakeholders.

During this part of the process, we will identify the exact locations where works will be happening, specific technology that will be used and will engage with stakeholders to enable them to have their say on the project.

### September 2021

This project has completed Part 1 of our 3 Part Process for Developing the Grid. Thank you to everyone who engaged with us during this stage of the consultation process.

At this stage we considered all potential technology solutions and identified a preliminary preferred option and affected area. During this phase we looked at the problem, the area, considered what technology could be used, how practical it is to deliver and how much it costs. We also engaged with a number of key stakeholder groups, like local councils and elected representatives so that we can better understand what matters to communities, landowners and businesses in the proposed area.

Our preliminary preferred option will form the basis of our submission to the Utility Regulator to secure funding.

### January 2021


SONI will only plan for a new grid infrastructure projects where we believe it to be absolutely necessary.

We are at Part 1 of our 3 Part Grid Development Process. During this part, we explore which technology will best resolve the specific need. In doing so, we will also learn more about the broad area where we are likely to locate new infrastructure

We then narrow down our list of potential solutions based on several fact-based, objective criteria. We assess the viability of the technology, how practical it is to deliver, and how much it costs.

Your opinions and feedback are important to us. We always consider how new projects may impact individuals and communities, and we work hard to minimise this, where possible.

We are currently at the early stages of project development, and we aim to engage with the public on our plans in mid-2021.

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# Eden Carrmoney Project


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**Contact**

To contact us about the Eden-Carrmoney project, please email [info@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:info@soni.ltd.uk).

By post, please address to: Eden-Carrmoney project, SONI Ltd, 12 Mansa Road, Belfast, BT6 9RT.

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# Eden Carrmoney Project

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**Related Documents**

- Eden-Carrmoney - Needs Report
- Eden-Carrmoney - Options Report
- Eden-Carrmoney - Environmental Report
- Eden-Carrmoney - Project Brochure

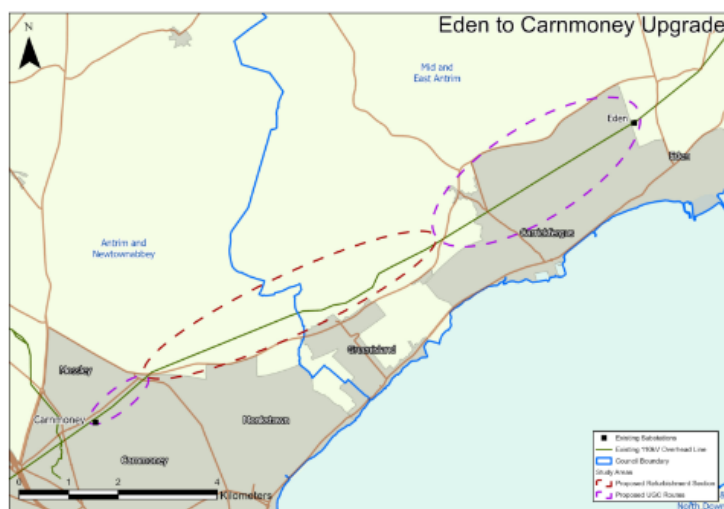
## **APPENDIX 7: Eden – Carnmoney Consultation Portal**



### What is the Eden – Carrnmoney project?

The Eden – Carrnmoney project is an upgrade to the electricity transmission system between Eden 110 kV Substation, near Carrickfergus, and Carrnmoney 110 kV Substation in Newtownabbey. The electricity infrastructure in Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey is now over 80 years old. To meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in the local area, a significant upgrade of electricity infrastructure is necessary.

The map below represents the 'study area' for this project, which includes the existing grid between Eden Main Substation and Carrnmoney Main Substation.

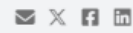


The Eden – Carrnmoney project has moved into Part 2a of SONI's 3-part process for developing the grid.

At Part 2a, we are now moving forward with a preliminary preferred option which includes:

- New sections of underground cable from Eden Substation to west of Carrickfergus
- Refurbishment of existing 110 kV overhead line from west of Carrickfergus to Mossley
- New high-capacity underground cable from Mossley to Carrnmoney Substation
- The de-energising and future removal of sections existing OHL circuit, as it currently runs between Mossley and Carrnmoney, and from Eden to west of Carrickfergus
- A new transformer at Glengormley Main 110 kV Substation

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At this stage of the consultation, we are seeking feedback from the public to help shape the final proposal i.e. the location of the new underground cable. We know that no one knows an area better than those who live and work in it, which is why this feedback is so valuable.

There are many ways to get involved and provide feedback. These include:

#### **Making an online submission**

Provide written feedback by registering for a free account on this platform and make a submission using the link opposite. All submissions will be published for sharing ideas and information on this consultation.

#### **Attending one of our consultation days**

Members of the project team will be able to discuss the proposed plans of the project with you:

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at the Mossley Mill Theatre, Mossley Mill, Carrmoney Road North, Newtownabbey BT36 5QA, 2-7pm
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at Carrick Town Hall, 2b Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DG, 2-7pm

#### **By email**

You can email your submission to us at [info@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:info@soni.ltd.uk)

#### **By Post**

Write your own submission and post it back to us at 'Eden – Carrmoney Project', SONI, Castlereagh House, 12 Manse Road, Belfast, BT6 9RT

**We welcome your feedback up until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

