

Cam Cluster Project

Part 2a Engagement Report

August 2024

Prepared By:

Gravis Planning
1 Pavilions Office Park
Kinnegar Drive
Holywood
BT18 9JQ

028 9042 5222

info@gravisplanning.com

www.gravisplanning.com



Contents

1.	Executive Summary.....	4
2.	Introduction	6
3.	Background	7
	3.1 SONI Background	7
	3.2 Cluster Methodology.....	7
	3.3 Project Background	7
	3.4 Part 2a Engagement	10
4.	Engagement Strategy.....	12
	4.1 Purpose of Part 2a.....	12
	4.2 Stakeholder Mapping.....	12
	4.3 Methods of Engagement	13
	4.4 Drop-In Consultation Event	13
	4.5 Social Media	15
5.	Part 2a Engagement.....	17
	5.1 Pre-Consultation Engagement	17
	5.2 Drop-In Consultation Event	18
	5.3 Feedback Received by SONI.....	19
	5.4 Overview of Information Provided in Feedback Forms	20
	5.5 Overview of SONI Record of Engagement Forms	21
	5.6 Summary of Feedback and Discussions Held During Public Consultation Events	23
	5.7 Overview of Feedback Received from Key Stakeholder Groups.....	26
	5.8 Summary of Part 2a Consultation	28
	5.9 Part 2c	29
6.	Ongoing Engagement.....	30
	6.1 Existing Liaison Arrangements	30
	6.2 Future Engagement.....	30
7.	Conclusion.....	31
	Appendices	32
	Appendix 1: Examples of Public Consultation Advertisements.....	33
	Appendix 2: Cam Cluster Project Brochure	35
	Appendix 3: Cam Cluster Press Release	44
	Appendix 4: Photographs from Public Drop-In Consultation Event	46
	Appendix 5: Examples of SONI Social Media Activity.....	52
	Appendix 6: Cam Cluster Project Webpage	57
	Appendix 7: Cam Cluster Consultation Portal.....	60

1. Executive Summary

SONI, the electricity transmission system operator for Northern Ireland, has carried out Part 2a engagement with respect to the 'Cam Cluster' project between 14 May 2024 and 14 June 2024 in line with SONI's 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid. The Cam Cluster project involves a new cluster substation between Limavady and Coleraine to be connected to both the Coolkeeragh – Limavady and the Coleraine – Limavady 110 kV circuits. The project is necessary to facilitate grid connections in the area.

NIE Networks' cluster methodology aims to improve access to the network for renewable generation by grouping generators to create a more efficient connection with reduced environmental impact. There are a number of approved renewable generation projects which have created the need for a new cluster substation in the Cam area.

This is the first stage of engagement on this project 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 any feedback on the proposals. The various methods utilised throughout this phase of engagement included:

- A drop-in public consultation event was held in the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre on Wednesday 22nd May between 2pm – 8pm. This event was open to all members of the public and was advertised through local and regional news outlets, targeted social media advertising and posters in local centres.
- Direct invitations were issued to local elected representatives to provide a summary of the project and details of how to submit feedback on the proposals. SONI also engaged with MPs and MLA's who represent the study area to offer a briefing on the project.
- 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 took place on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn throughout the consultation process which shared information on the project and directed people to SONI's Consultation Portal. Paid advertising was conducted on SONI's Facebook page to target residents in vicinity of the study area with key information on the project and details of the public event.

- A dedicated project webpage was set up to provide stakeholders with information on the project and the SONI email address was utilised to ensure those interested had the opportunity to provide feedback.

The drop-in consultation event was hugely successful with a number of local residents, landowners and renewable developers in attendance throughout the day. A total of 13 record of engagements (an engagement can involve more than one attendee) were completed by SONI for participants and 12 feedback forms were completed and submitted by attendees.

The key topics discussed with attendees were planning, landscape & visual, project methodology, communication / consultation, soils & geology and construction. Most attendees heard about the event through family / friends or social media. Chapter 5 provides further detail on the feedback received during the consultation process including an overview of the feedback received from elected representatives, council officials and other stakeholders during briefings.

Moving forward, SONI will continue to engage with landowners, key stakeholders and local residents to provide updates and receive feedback on the proposals. SONI will provide further opportunities for interested stakeholders to participate in the process before the finalisation of the project and the submission of any future planning submission.

In the next stage of SONI's 3-Part Process, SONI will move to Part 2c where extensive Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) for the project will be undertaken before the submission of a planning application to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council. During this future phase of consultation, detailed plans for the project will be presented to stakeholders including the location of the new substation in the Cam area and the plans for how this will be connected to the existing circuits.

2. Introduction

SONI, the electricity transmission system operator for Northern Ireland, is planning to bring forward the Cam Cluster project, which involves a new cluster substation between Limavady and Coleraine to be connected to both the Coolkeeragh – Limavady and the Coleraine - Limavady 110 kV circuits.

The Cam Cluster project will facilitate a number of grid connections in the area and will also strengthen the local transmission network. The realisation of the Cam Cluster project will help deliver climate change targets and decarbonise the power system for future generations.

This report represents a concise, yet thorough assessment of the quality and the extent of consultation activities that have taken place in relation to the proposed Cam Cluster 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 for Northern Ireland which means it plans for the future of the electricity grid and operates it every minute of every day, including interconnecting to neighbouring grids and running the wholesale electricity market. 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 the supply of electricity more reliable and cost effective.

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

When it comes to connecting sources of renewable power to the transmission grid, SONI is responsible for elements such as technical design, site selection and achieving planning consent for the new connection. These elements happen before the project moves into the construction phase where NIE Networks is then responsible for building and maintaining the infrastructure.

The transmission network is owned and maintained by the Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIEN), the transmission owner (TO).

3.2 Cluster Methodology

A cluster substation is a Utility Regulator approved method of connecting renewable generation projects to the electricity grid by grouping them together and sharing network infrastructure. It creates a more efficient connection with reduced environmental impacts.

There are a number of approved renewable generation projects that have created the need for a new cluster substation in the Cam area.

As the electricity transmission system operator, SONI is obliged to connect parties who request a connection to the electricity network, subject to the applicant meeting certain conditions.

3.3 Project Background

The Cam Cluster project involves a new cluster substation in the Cam area between Limavady and

Coleraine. This will be connected to the 110 kV circuit between Coolkeeragh and Limavady. To enable future transmission network development in this area, SONI is progressing this project which will additionally turn in the Coleraine – Limavady 110 kV circuit. The proposed works will include:

- A new 110/33kV single transformer 90MVA substation with additional capacity for a future second transformer
- Nine 110 kV bays sufficient for five lines, two transformers, two bus-couplers and additional space for future section switches
- Turn in of the existing Coolkeeragh – Coleraine 110kV circuit
- Turn in of the existing Limavady – Coleraine 110kV circuit

SONI have commenced various investigations of the study area which looks at several different options for delivering the project in this area including environmental, technical and economic factors.

There are a number of approved renewable generation projects that have created the need for a new cluster substation in the Cam area. This new substation will provide generation projects with a connection to the grid. Plans for the new substation will also include additional capacity to prepare for future growth in renewable generation as we decarbonise the electricity network.

It is projected that Northern Ireland will require at least another 1,300MW of electricity from clean sources to meet the legally binding target of generating 80% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030. This power will have to be generated, connected to the grid, and delivered throughout Northern Ireland. The proposed Cam Cluster substation will facilitate more renewable energy to be connected to the grid and will help deliver climate change targets and decarbonise the power system for future generations.

The Cam Cluster project will strengthen the transmission network in the local area and ensure it is fit for future use. This will facilitate economic growth and investment in the coming years.

The indicative timeline for the project is as follows:

Planning Submission	July 2025
Planning Approval	June 2026
Construction Works	June 2027
Target Energisation	May 2029

The map below represents the study area for this project and includes the existing circuits between Coleraine and Limavady 110kV substations.



Map of Study Area for the Cam Cluster Project

The study area is located within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and also falls within the East Londonderry Assembly / Parliamentary Constituency.

3.4 Part 2a Engagement

SONI's 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid puts stakeholder and public consultation at the heart of how the transmission grid is developed and fulfilled.

SONI's Grid Development Process



Part 2 of the Grid Development Process is divided into three subcategories, 2a, 2b and 2c. Based on the scale and complexity of the project and an assessment of the external affairs programme, it has been determined that both Part 2a and 2c will be delivered for this project prior to submitting a planning application to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

SONI have now completed Part 2a which provided the opportunity to introduce the project to the public and wider stakeholders by providing information on the proposals and the general area of study. Throughout this stage, SONI have engaged directly with several key stakeholder groups such as council officials and elected representatives to gain a better understanding of what matters to communities, landowners, and businesses in the proposed area.

This phase of consultation also provided the opportunity to introduce the project to local residents, businesses and landowners through a public drop-in consultation event and online consultation portal. This consultation period was officially opened on the 14 May 2024 and closed on the 14 June 2024.

The feedback received throughout this consultation process has been included in this report, has been duly considered and will help to inform the development of this project moving forward. Feedback from key stakeholders and local residents will help the project team in determining the preferred location for the new substation in the Cam area.

The next stage of engagement will be Part 2c where extensive Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) for the project will be undertaken before the submission of any planning application to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council. During this future phase of consultation, detailed plans for the project will be presented to stakeholders including the location of the new substation in the Cam area and the plans for how this will be connected to the existing circuits.

4. Engagement Strategy

4.1 Purpose of Part 2a

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

In undertaking extensive consultation, this ensures interested stakeholders have access to up-to-date and accurate information about the project and were provided with a sufficient opportunity to provide feedback that could be considered as the plans are developed and before a planning application is 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 consultation began, as part of the Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, SONI carried out a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise to identify relevant individuals and groups in relation to the proposal. These stakeholder groups are outlined below.

Governmental

- East Londonderry MP and MLAs
- Causeway Coast and Glens Councillors (Bann DEA and Limavady DEA)
- Causeway Coast and Glens Council Officials

Local Community

- Causeway Chamber & Roe Valley Chamber
- Cam Quarry
- Cam Forest

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 process. Identifying potential stakeholders subsequently informed SONI's methods of appropriate consultation, which are outlined within this report.

In keeping with best practice, SONI employed a variety of community consultation techniques to ensure they accessed all appropriate stakeholders. As mentioned above, SONI hosted a public drop-in consultation event and hosted several individual briefings with key stakeholders and elected representatives.

Each consultation event hosted by SONI had an open invitation and was advertised through local and regional news outlets, social media and posters in local centres. Social media advertising included a campaign of activity on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn which shared information on the project and directed people to SONI's Consultation Portal, where feedback could be submitted. Paid advertising was carried out on SONI's Facebook page to target residents in the Coleraine and Limavady area with information on the project and details of the public event.

SONI established a dedicated project webpage on their website containing key details and information on the proposals. A consultation portal was used to ensure residents and key stakeholders could view project materials online and submit feedback on the proposals.

SONI engaged with local elected representatives ahead of the public consultation to provide a summary of the project, details of the public drop-in event and details on how to provide feedback on the proposals. Where a party had more than one MLA/MP for the constituency, individual briefings were sought with the most senior representative, which was also open to other party colleagues.

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

4.4 Drop-In Consultation Event

During this stage of consultation, SONI hosted a public drop-in event as they were mindful of the fact that not everyone in the local community was aware of the project or has the same level of understanding and knowledge of the planning system and energy issues.

As the project study area is located in a very rural area with no suitable event locations in the immediate vicinity, SONI decided to host the consultation event in Limavady which is the nearest town and was accessible to residents and stakeholders across the study area.

The event was held in the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre which was 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 what's required as part of the project and discuss the proposals with members of the SONI project team.

The event was held between 2pm-8pm to offer the opportunity for attendees to drop-in at a time that suited them best. These steps were taken by SONI to encourage greater attendance by all those who have an interest in the project and provided the opportunity for SONI to engage in meaningful conversations with those who are most affected by the project

The event 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. Members of the project team available at the event included SONI staff, as well as environmental and stakeholder engagement consultants, who were available to answer specific queries, provide clarification and facilitate feedback.

For the event, SONI also:

- Produced a project-specific brochure
- 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 for members of the public to provide feedback on the engagement carried out as part of this consultation process
- Endeavoured to record a summary of discussions held with attendees and an overview of the topics discussed during these conversations

As outlined above, SONI provided a broad range of information materials to enable key stakeholders, local residents and businesses 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 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 meaningful feedback to SONI before any location for the substation site is chosen and plans for the project are finalised, providing an opportunity for the public to help shape the project.

During the consultation event the SONI Project Manager and engineers highlighted the study area for the new substation and provided detailed maps highlighting the specific environmental constraints affecting the location of the substation site. Example imagery was also provided of what the new cluster substation will look like.

At the event, SONI representatives explained the importance of this phase of consultation in engaging with the public to help inform the design of the project moving forward. More information on the feedback received during 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. This included a link to the SONI Consultation Portal to encourage stakeholders to get involved in the consultation process.

Paid advertising was carried out on the SONI Facebook page which was successful in targeting residents in the Coleraine and Limavady area in the vicinity of the project study area. The aim of this paid advertising was to raise awareness of the project and ensure local residents and businesses were aware of how to view and provide feedback on the proposals. Examples of the social media activity as part of this consultation process is set out in Appendix 5 of this report.

During this consultation process, SONI gathered social media analytics from the paid Facebook campaign as well as their Twitter and LinkedIn posts. A summary of these analytics is provided below.

Facebook	02/05/2024
Reach	7,446
Engagement	249
Link Clicks	224
Post Reactions	16
Audience Gender Split	40.9% Women – 59.1% Men
Money Spent	€0.48

LinkedIn	20/05/2024	06/05/2024
Impressions	1,786	1,241
Engagements	102	67
Engagement Rate	5.71%	5.4%
Clicks	67	38
Reactions	32	27

X (formerly Twitter)	20/05/2024	02/05/2024
Impressions	256	298
Engagement	1	10
Profile Visits	1	0
Detail Expands	0	7

5. Part 2a Engagement

5.1 Pre-Consultation Engagement

Prior to the official commencement of the Part 2a consultation phase, SONI began engagement with key stakeholders within the study area affected by the project.

Early engagement ensured elected representatives and key stakeholders in the area were introduced to the project and were provided with details on the need for the project and the key benefits. This meant that these stakeholders were briefed on the project, which ensured that local elected representatives were well equipped to respond to any queries from their constituents about the project when the public consultation was formally launched. This early engagement provided SONI with the opportunity to collate valuable feedback and local knowledge which was helpful throughout the consultation period.

Below is a summary of how engagement was carried out with local elected representatives. Prior to this engagement, SONI completed an extensive stakeholder mapping exercise which included a 'Priority Rating' column to highlight the most important stakeholders to engage with. SONI continued to engage with these key stakeholders throughout the consultation process, ensuing they were kept up-to-date in advance of the public event.

Elected Representative Engagement

Name	Method of Engagement	Date
Gregory Campbell (East Londonderry MP- DUP)	Email / Letter	Wednesday 3 rd April 2024
Caoimhe Archibald (East Londonderry MLA - Sinn Féin)	Email / Letter	Wednesday 3 rd April 2024
Maurice Bradley (East Londonderry MLA - DUP)	Email / Letter	Wednesday 3 rd April 2024
Cara Hunter (East Londonderry MLA - SDLP)	Briefing (Teams)	Friday 3 rd May 2024
Alan Robinson (East Londonderry MLA- DUP)	Email / Letter	Wednesday 3 rd April 2024
Claire Sugden (East Londonderry MLA – Independent)	Briefing with Constituency Office Staff (Teams)	Monday 13 th May 2024
Bann DEA Councillors	Email / Letter	Wednesday 3 rd April 2024
Limavady DEA Councillors	Email / Letter	Wednesday 3 rd April 2024

Key Stakeholder Engagement

Name	Method of Engagement	Date
Shane Mathers, (Principal Planning Officer, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council)	Briefing (Teams)	Monday 15 th April 2024
Kenny Acheson (DAERA – Cam Forest Representative)	Briefing (Teams)	Friday 17 th May 2024
Causeway Chamber	Email / Letter	Wednesday 3 rd April 2024
Roe Valley Chamber	Email / Letter	Monday 13 th May 2024

5.2 Drop-In Consultation Event

The details of the public drop-in event that SONI hosted during this stage of engagement is as follows:

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre (Keenaught Suite, 24 Main Street, Limavady BT49 0FJ)

14:00 – 20:00

The event 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 attendees as required.

To generate awareness of the consultation process and to ensure local residents and key stakeholders were notified of the public drop-in event, adverts were placed in the following news outlets:

- Belfast Telegraph
- Coleraine Times

The advert provided a high-level explanation of the project as well as highlighting the benefits this will provide for the local area and in helping to deliver our climate change targets. The newspaper advert can be found in Appendix 1.

SONI also issued project specific posters noting the details of the public events in the following local centres:

- Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre
- Limavady Health Centre

- Macosquin Primary School
- Macosquin shop
- Bushtown Hotel
- Coleraine Health Centre

As discussed above, invitations to the consultation events were also emailed directly to all elected representatives, i.e. East Londonderry MP / MLAs and Bann DEA and Limavady DEA Councillors.

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

Approximately 14 people attended the drop-in consultation event. Attendees at the event consisted of local residents, landowners and developers who have an interest in the area.

A key aim of the event was to gather feedback from members of the public which SONI could then take into consideration when moving forward with site selection and the design of the project. SONI staff completed a Record of Engagement form to provide a summary of the discussions that were held with attendees at the event. Each attendee was also encouraged to complete a feedback form to detail their views on the level of engagement carried out.

5.3 Feedback Received by SONI

A total of 12 feedback forms were completed and submitted to SONI by attendees and 13 Record of Engagement forms were completed by SONI representatives which provided an overview of topics discussed with attendees at the event.

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.

The information received at the event will feed into the design of the project as well as SONI's approach to further 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 both the feedback forms and Records of Engagement will play an important role in how SONI move forward with the project.

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

5.4 Overview of Information Provided in Feedback Forms

The table below includes a summary of the feedback received by SONI via the Feedback forms completed and returned by attendees at the drop-in event.

<u>Overview of Feedback Forms</u>	
Based on the information in the 12 individual submissions provided:	
8 respondents indicated they live within the local area	
4 indicated they did not live in the local area	
1 respondent was in the age category 18-29	
5 respondents were in the age category 30-44	
6 respondents were in the age category 45-64	
People were made aware of the events through:	
Family / friend / work colleague (6no.)	Social media (Facebook / Twitter / LinkedIn) (3no.)
Developer (1no.)	Walk-in (1no.)
Other (1no.)	
A number of statements were presented to attendees. The following responses were generated:	
100% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they understand what the Cam Cluster Project involves	
100% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they understand why the project is needed	
92% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they have a better understanding of SONI's role.	
92% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the engagement with SONI.	

100% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the information was accessible and easy to understand
83% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the Cam Cluster Project will benefit the local community. 2 respondents felt neutral regarding this statement
83% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the Project is crucial to help Northern Ireland meet its energy targets. 2 respondents felt neutral on this statement

5.5 Overview of SONI Record of Engagement Forms

The table below includes an overview of the information obtained in the SONI Record of Engagement forms completed during discussions with stakeholders throughout the consultation process. These forms were completed by SONI staff to reflect conversations with attendees at the consultation event and provided the opportunity for SONI to identify specific issues which can be considered by the project team going forward. Please note that the frequencies provided are approximate.

Overview of SONI Record of Engagement Forms	
Topics discussed (as highlighted by SONI representatives)	Frequency
Planning	9
Landscape & Visual	8
Project Methodology	8
Communication / Consultation	6
Soils & Geology	6
Construction	5
Ecology	2
Legal	2
Alternatives	1
Cultural Heritage	1

Material Assets	1
Statutory Process	1
Undergrounding	1
Water	1



5.6 Summary of Feedback and Discussions Held During Public 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 Cam Cluster Project.

Theme	Comments/questions
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>'What does the cluster facilitate?'</i> - <i>'What developers are involved?'</i> - <i>It will support connection of generation in the area</i> - <i>A develop noted he was happy to help support the project</i> - <i>'Who would be paying for the new substation?'</i> - <i>Concerns around the construction of the substation</i>
Site Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>An overview was provided of what's in the area and the various constraints in the study area</i> - <i>Project team confirmed around 12 acres are required for the substation – this includes screening and access roads</i> - <i>'Where will the site be?'</i> - <i>Attendee noted there is a lot of wasteland in the study area</i> - <i>Discussions around what kind of land is needed for the substation</i> - <i>'How close will the substation be in terms of distance to existing lines?'</i> - <i>Questions on technical constraints affecting SONI</i> - <i>'How do SONI select sites?'</i> - <i>Discussions around the forestry access lane</i> - <i>'When will the exact location will be selected and how will people find out?'</i> - <i>Concerns about forest land</i> - <i>Issues raised regarding local terrain</i>
Landowner issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>'How will the project affect landowners?'</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>'What are the options for those landowners who are affected?'</i> - <i>Local landowner noted their land was up for auction and was concerned about money</i> - <i>Landowner asked about the existing circuit as their land would fall in a prime location to connect to lines</i> - <i>Landowner keen to see project progress but not keen for their land to be used</i>
Planning / Project Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>'What is the timeline for the project?'</i> - <i>Members of the project team noted that SONI are working towards meeting 2030 targets and it is planned this project will be energised in 2029</i> - <i>Landowner asked questions around the planning process</i>
Engagement / Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Clarification on when further statutory consultation will take place regarding this project</i> - <i>Wind developer asked if there would be the opportunity for future engagement with SONI</i> - <i>Landowner keen to engage further with SONI</i> - <i>Potential landowner in the study area keen for engagement with SONI</i>
Design / Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Questions around what the new substation will look like – members of the project team confirmed the new substation will be similar to what is installed at Rasharkin</i> - <i>Query on how substation would be connected to the existing circuits (overhead line or underground cable)</i> - <i>Discussion around the need to stay close to current overhead lines while maintaining road access</i> - <i>Concerns about size of the substation</i> - <i>Question on what the structure is</i> - <i>'Is there any screening involved with the plans?'</i>
Capacity / Future-Proofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>'Is the project future-proofed for additional connections?'</i> - <i>Discussions around how the project will help in achieving energy targets</i> - <i>Developer noted they could not export excess renewables because the transformers at Coleraine are full</i> - <i>Discussion on whether solar or wind development is more likely</i> - <i>Discussions around the possibility of other renewable projects in the area</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>'Is there any capacity for solar generation in the area?'</i> - <i>'Will the cluster substation have capacity for future projects?'</i> - <i>'Will the grid be strengthened in the area as a result of this project?'</i> - <i>'What will the capacity be at the substation?'</i>
Other Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Discussions around the Mid Antrim Upgrade project and an overview of the new line between Terrygowan and Rasharkin</i> - <i>Query from resident on where else SONI are looking at upgrading the grid – members of the project team highlighted a number of key projects that are making their way through SONI's 3-Part Process (Mid Antrim & Mid Tyrone are key projects)</i> - <i>Discussions around issues with the North South Interconnector</i> - <i>Query around battery storage approved in Magherafelt</i> - <i>Discussion around similar project in Kells (Kells Cluster)</i> - <i>Questions around the planned work between Coleraine and Rasharkin, particularly around the Cam area</i>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Queries around the potential for the new renewable energy support scheme coming into effect</i> - <i>Discussions around environmental investigations that will need to be completed</i>

5.7 Overview of Feedback Received from Key Stakeholder Groups

The table below outlines a summary of the main issues and comments raised by key stakeholders during individual briefings held as part of this consultation process. These key stakeholders included elected representatives, Council planning team and a DAERA representative who oversees Cam Forest.

Theme	Summary of Feedback
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“How have SONI found the planning system, have there been any issues with the Council planning department?”</i> - <i>“The Council have recently approved projects at Dunbeg South and Benbradagh.”</i> - <i>“A major application will require a PAN and the Council would offer a PAD (Pre-Application Discussion) service free of charge to discuss any planning implications”</i> - <i>There are a range of policies (PSU2 – Major Projects & PSU8 – New Infrastructure) to be followed and assessments to be carried out. An environmental statement hasn’t been asked for on previous applications, however this application will have to be assessed on its own merit.</i> - <i>“EIA screening would likely speed up the planning process”</i> - <i>“There are wind farms in the area however these weren’t approved by the council, they were approved by the Planning Appeals Commission”</i> - <i>“The Council aim for 50 weeks for these applications, but there is work SONI could do to reduce this time”</i> - <i>“This is a major application which means the Council will make a recommendation, however it will be determined by the Planning Committee”</i> - <i>Discussions around the Council’s view on new infrastructure in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – “the infrastructure would have to be visually discreet and not impact on the AONB”</i>
Substation Site / Study Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Queries around the size of site required for the substation – “is 12 acres what SONI need for the project?”</i> - <i>“There is a large forest area within the study area that would be unsuitable as a location for a substation”</i> - <i>“A lot of the identified land is elevated, therefore SONI may want to go for something more discreet.”</i> - <i>“Some of the study area is within the Binevenagh AONB”</i> - <i>“The majority of the forest land is privately owned, and the council only owns a small area below Craigmore Road. If SONI wanted to use this land it would require sign off from DAERA”</i> - <i>“From observing the presentation, the best location for the project would likely be on privately owned land”</i>

Existing Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“What is the current make up of the circuit in the area?”</i> - <i>“Where do the existing circuits connect to?”</i> - <i>“Local people are aggrieved as they are dealing with a lot in the area and these residents may be the biggest objectors” (RiverRidge run a waste management and recycling centre at Ringsend).</i> - <i>“There are commercial people in the area who can’t get connected” – local elected representative has previously written to NIEN about this and in their response they noted the Cam Cluster Substation will allow new connections in the area</i>
Wildlife / Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“Will there be any impact on wildlife / biodiversity?”</i> - <i>“There are a few issues around the forest land and DAERA would have to examine the area and take various factors into account such as biodiversity and habitats”</i>
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“Is this engagement separate to any statutory PACC process”</i>
General Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“Despite the objectors in the area, I am supportive of the project and will communicate the benefits of the project as much as possible”</i>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Queries on the 80% by 2030 target</i> - <i>Queries around why electricity bills have not reduced for consumers – people in the area feel they are being ‘saturated with infrastructure’, and they aren’t seeing reduced bills</i>

5.8 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 Cam Cluster project. It also outlines the feedback received and the issues raised by members of the public, key stakeholders and elected representatives at the drop-in consultation event and through individual briefings.

Feedback was received via ongoing engagement with elected representatives and the public through individual briefings and a public drop-in consultation event.

In summary, the information collated from this consultation process shows the following key findings:

- 100% of respondents understood what the Cam Cluster Project involves and why it is needed.
- All respondents thought that the project information was accessible and easy to understand.
- Planning, landscape & visual and project methodology were the key topics discussed during conversations at the public event as highlighted in the Record of Engagement forms.
- Site selection / study area, landowner queries, existing infrastructure, engagement, the project and planning were the key themes that developed from discussions during the public events and through individual briefings with key stakeholders and elected representatives.

The key themes emerging from Part 2a engagement are summarised below to include key extracts from meetings with key stakeholders.

Key Theme 1: Site Selection / Study Area

- "The majority of the forest land is privately owned, and the council only owns a small area below Craigmore Road. If SONI wanted to use this land it would require sign off from DAERA"
- "From observing the presentation, the best location for the project would likely be on privately owned land"
- "When will the exact location of the substation site be selected and how will local people find out this location"
- "What are the constraints in the study area affecting SONI on this project"

Key Theme 2: Project / Planning

- "The infrastructure would have to be visually discreet and not impact on the AONB"
- "What developers are involved with the project and is there a need for the project?"
- "I support the connection of generation in the area"

Key Theme 3: Landowner Queries

- “How will the project affect landowners?”
- “What are the options for those landowners who are affected?”
- “My land is in a prime location to connect to the existing circuits”
- “I am keen to see the project progress, but not keen for my land to be used for the substation”

Key Theme 4: Existing Infrastructure

- “Local people are aggrieved as they are dealing with a lot in the area and these residents may be the biggest objectors”
- “What is the current make-up of the circuits in the area”
- “There are commercial developers in the area who can’t get connected to the grid”

Key Theme 5: Engagement

- “Will there be an opportunity for future engagement with SONI on this project?”
- “When will further statutory consultation take place regarding this project?”
- “I welcome the level of engagement taken forward as part of the project”
- “As a landowner in the study area, I am keen for further engagement with SONI”

5.9 Part 2c

Following this stage of consultation, all feedback received from landowners, local residents, key stakeholders and elected representatives will be collated and reviewed by the project team. This feedback will be essential in helping SONI to determine the location of the substation site and finalising how to connect this infrastructure to the existing circuits, alongside environmental and technical studies.

In Part 2c, statutory Pre-Application Community Consultation will take place where SONI will consult on the finalised proposals for the project ahead of the submission of a planning application to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council. This phase of consultation will include further public information events and briefings with landowners, key stakeholders, and elected representatives.

6. Ongoing Engagement

6.1 Existing Liaison Arrangements

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

The dedicated project webpage will remain live throughout the 3-Part Process. This webpage contains details on the project, an overview of the benefits, up-to-date information on where we are in the process, details of upcoming consultation events and details of how to submit feedback on the proposals. SONI's contact details have been included on all project materials including the dedicated project email address which is monitored on a regular basis.

6.2 Future Engagement

SONI will continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure accurate and up-to-date information is accessible as the project progresses and any concerns are acknowledged and addressed where appropriate or possible. All information materials and correspondence will include SONI contact details.

It is anticipated that engagement during further stages of SONI's 3-Part Process will take the form of public drop-in consultation events, providing stakeholders with written information materials as required, face-to-face meetings and engagement with relevant political representatives. The dedicated project webpage on SONI's website will also be updated as the project progresses and can therefore be viewed as an information source for stakeholders.

As we move to confirming a site for the new cluster substation and finalising the detail on how this will be connected to the existing circuits, SONI will be engaging with all relevant landowners to keep them up to date on the project and to ensure all relevant feedback is taken into account ahead of the submission of the planning application.

In the next stage of SONI's 3-Part Process, SONI will move to Part 2c where extensive Pre- Application Community Consultation (PACC) for the project will be undertaken before the submission of the planning application to the relevant authority. During this phase of consultation, detailed plans for the project will be presented to stakeholders including plans for the chosen substation site.

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 proposed Cam Cluster project during Part 2a of SONI's 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid. A lengthy period of consultation has taken place to gain feedback on the proposals from those who live, work in, or represent the local area.

The report outlines details on the Cam Cluster 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 drop-in consultation event 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 to SONI on the proposals. SONI has endeavoured to ensure that all feedback made by stakeholders and the local community will be considered by the project team. This report has displayed how SONI have taken stakeholder comments into account when determining the preferred substation site which will be presented to stakeholders in Part 2c of SONI's 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid.

SONI will continue to engage directly with all stakeholders as the project progresses and until all necessary consents relating to the project have been achieved, when the project can be passed to NIE Networks for construction.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Examples of Public Consultation Advertisements

Cam Cluster Project

**We are improving
access to the grid for
clean energy in the
North West region
and we want to hear
from you.**

Join our project team at our
upcoming public consultation event:

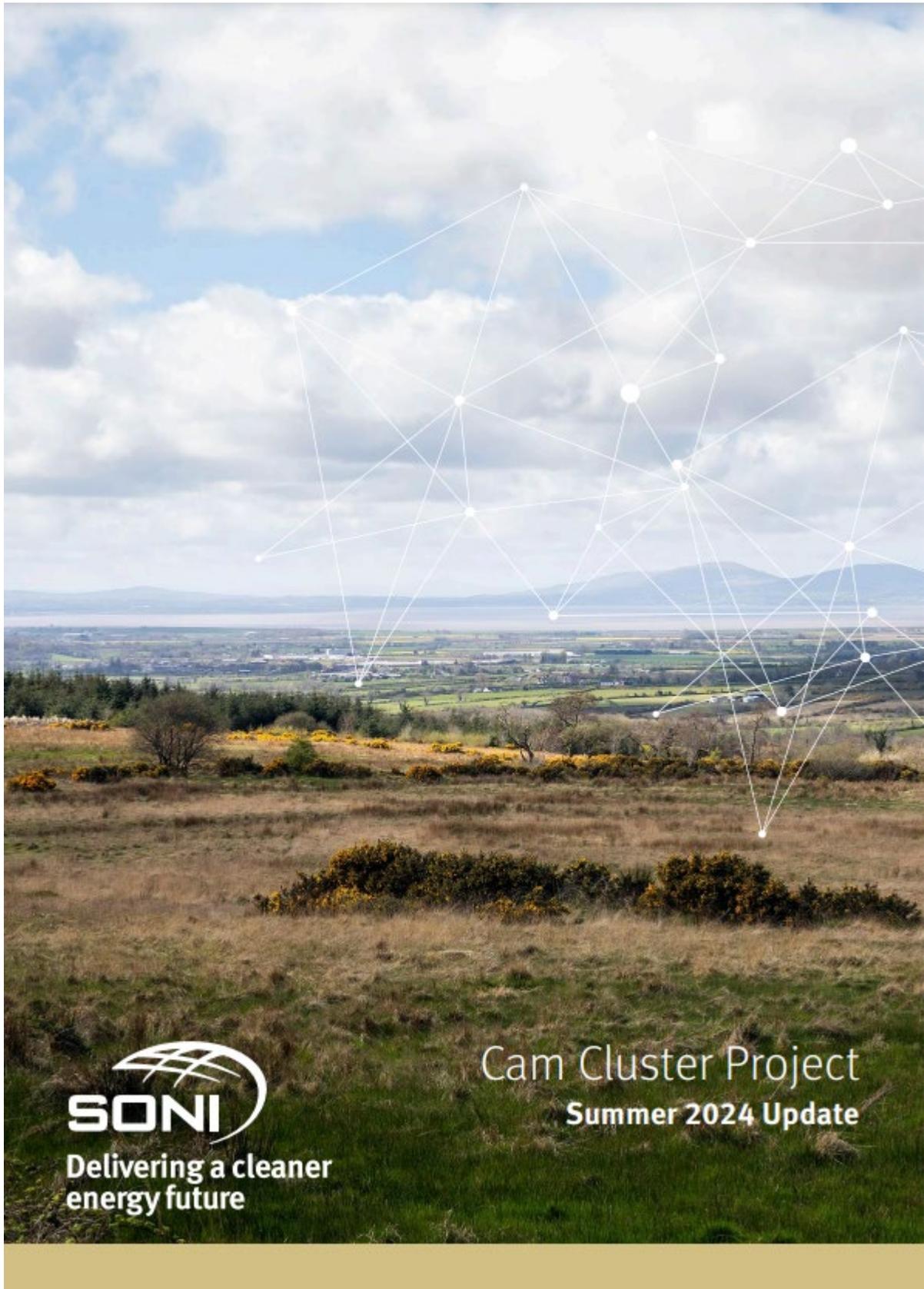
Wednesday 22nd May – 2pm – 8pm
Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre
24 Main Street
Limavady
County Londonderry
BT49 0FJ



1000_SONI_CAM_CLUSTER_POSTER_A4.indd 1

01/05/2024 22:25

Appendix 2: Cam Cluster Project Brochure



SONI
Delivering a cleaner
energy future

Cam Cluster Project
Summer 2024 Update

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 generators and sends it to NIE Networks who then supply electricity to every home, farm, community, and business in Northern Ireland via their distribution network.

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 | Cam Cluster Project - Summer 2024 Update

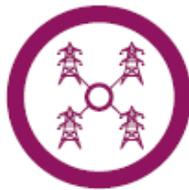
What is the Cam Cluster Project?

SONI is planning to bring forward the Cam Cluster Project - a new cluster substation between Limavady and Coleraine to be connected to both the Coolkeeragh – Limavady and the Coleraine – Limavady 110 kV circuit.

NIE Networks' cluster methodology aims to improve access to the network for renewable generation by grouping substations to create a more efficient connection with reduced environmental impact.

There are a number of approved renewable generation projects which have created the need for a new cluster substation in the Cam area. Plans for the new substation will also prepare for future growth in renewable generation as we decarbonise the electricity network.

As the electricity transmission system operator, SONI is obliged to connect parties who request a connection to the electricity network, subject to the applicant meeting certain conditions. When it comes to connecting sources of renewable power to the transmission grid, SONI is responsible for elements such as technical design, site selection and achieving planning consent for the new connection. These elements happen before the project moves into the construction phase where NIE Networks is then responsible for building and maintaining the infrastructure.



Why are we doing this?

To help facilitate grid connections in the area.

There are already a number of renewable power projects in the local area that have planning permission. This has resulted in the need for the Cam Cluster Project which will provide generation projects with a connection to the grid.



To help deliver climate change targets and decarbonise 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% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030. This power will have to be generated, connected to the grid, and delivered throughout Northern Ireland. The proposed Cam Cluster substation will facilitate more renewable energy to be connected to the grid.



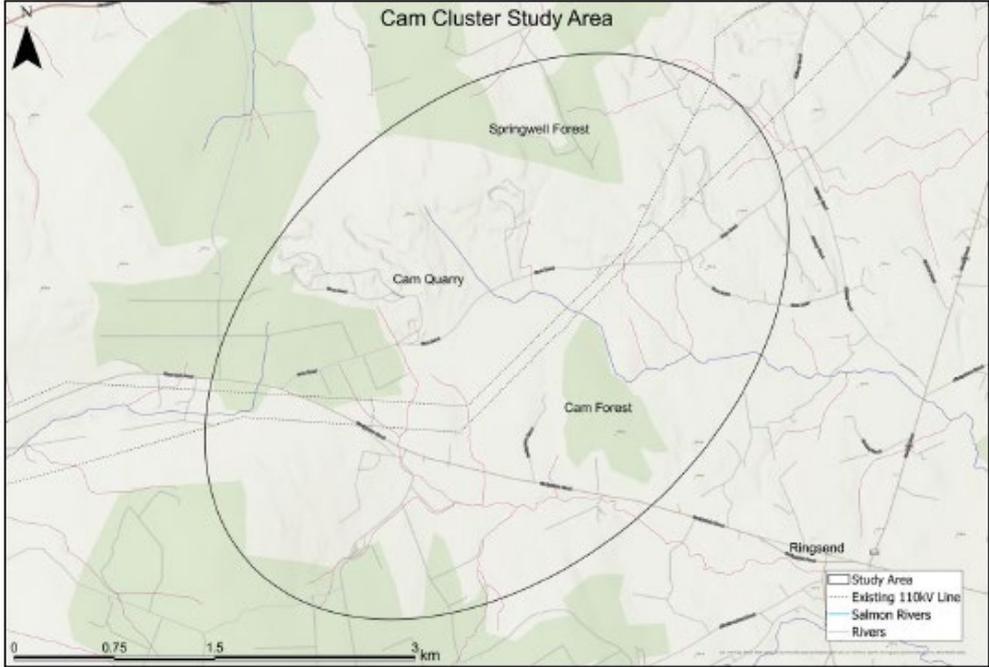
The project will strengthen the local transmission network

The Cam Cluster Project will strengthen the transmission network in the local area and ensure it is fit for future use. This will facilitate economic growth and investment in the coming years.



What is the study area?

The maps below represent the 'study area' for this project and includes the existing circuits between Coleraine and Limavady 110 kV substations.



Our 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid

We are committed to gaining your input on any decisions we make on our investment projects. Our 3-part Process puts stakeholder and public engagement 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.

The Cam Cluster Project is currently in Part 2 of SONI's Grid Development Process.





What's happening now?

SONI are now moving forward with the preliminary preferred option for this project which includes:

- A new 110/33 kV single transformer 90 MVA substation with additional capacity for a future second transformer
- Nine 110 kV bays sufficient for five lines, two transformers, two bus-couplers and additional space for future section switches
- Turn in of the existing Coolkeeragh – Coleraine 110 kV circuit
- Turn in of the existing Limavady – Coleraine 110 kV circuit

During Part 2a, SONI will be engaging with a range of local stakeholders including local residents, elected representatives, landowners and local businesses, to discuss their views on the project. This engagement will include individual briefings and non-statutory public consultation events where the project team will present the preferred option for developing the project and the rationale behind it.

At this stage of consultation, we are seeking feedback from the public to help shape the final proposal i.e. the location of the new cluster substation. 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 phase of consultation, we will publish a report outlining all the feedback received from stakeholders. In tandem with other environmental and technical studies, this report will help shape the design of the proposals and the location of the new substation.

Following the completion of Part 2a, SONI will then move to Part 2c where extensive Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) for the project will be undertaken ahead of the submission of a planning application to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

How can I provide feedback?

Your feedback is important to us, 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 our consultation event** where members of the project team will be available to discuss various aspects of the project:

2pm – 8pm Wednesday 22 May 2024

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, Keenaught Suite

24 Main Street Limavady, BT49 0FJ

3. **Email your submission to us at** info@soni.ltd.uk
4. **Write your own submission and post it back to us at:**
Cam Cluster Project, SONI Ltd, Castlereagh House, 12 Manse Road, Belfast BT6 9RT.

We welcome your feedback until Friday 7th June 2024.

You can follow us on  Linked In at **SONI Ltd**  Twitter at **@Soni_Ltd**  **SONIElectricityNI**

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



 Printed on recycled paper



Appendix 3: Cam Cluster Press Release

SONI set to improve access to grid for clean energy in the North West

14 May 2024

SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland) has this week launched its public consultation for the Cam Cluster Project.

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.

In short, SONI are required to balance Northern Ireland's future energy ambition with today's needs. As we work to upgrade our power system to support the delivery of the NI Energy Strategy to bring about a cleaner energy future, we must ensure the security of supply for homes, farms, and businesses.

The Cam Cluster Project will provide locally generated clean energy with greater connection to the grid, therefore increasing the amount of renewable energy on the network by establishing a new substation to strengthen the local transmission network in the North West region.

SONI are committed to keeping communities at the heart of grid development, which is why in the time ahead, our team will begin to engage with the local community. We understand that no one knows an area better than those who live and work in it, which is why we are undertaking extensive public engagement with the local community affected by the development of this project.

A public consultation event will be held in Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre on Wednesday 22nd May, 2pm – 8pm. This will provide the public with the opportunity to provide feedback on the project and the proposed location of the new Cluster substation.

For those unable to attend the upcoming in-person event, further information about the project can also be accessed, and feedback provided, by visiting SONI's online Consultation Portal at <https://consult.soni.ltd.uk/browse>

Welcoming the launch of the consultation, **SONI Project Manager, Nathan McBride said:**

"At SONI, we are keen to gain feedback and insights from the local community and businesses on the Cam Cluster Project which will allow more clean energy to be connected to the transmission grid.

"We would ask that the local community participate in our public consultation over the coming weeks to ensure we are able to gain as much feedback as possible to help shape our plans for the project."

The Cam Cluster Project will construct a new substation in the townland of Cam (between Limavady and Coleraine), which will include:

- One 110/33 kV transformer with additional space and skeleton bays (foundations) for a potential future second transformer
- One 110/33 kV transformer 90 MVA with additional space and skeleton bays (with foundations) for a potential future second transformer
- Turn in of both the Coolkeeragh – Coleraine 110 kV circuit and the Limavady – Coleraine 110 kV circuit (allowing for two new cable sealing end towers and substation structures and associated 110 kV cable sections)

The public consultation event details are as follows:

Wednesday 22 May 2024, 2pm - 8pm

Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre

24 Main Street

Limavady

BT49 0FJ

Members of the public are invited to complete a formal submission through the SONI consultation portal: <https://consult.soni.ltd.uk/browse>

Appendix 4: Photographs from Public Drop-In Consultation Event











Appendix 5: Examples of SONI Social Media Activity



SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland @soni_ltd · May 2



The Cam Cluster Project involves plans to build a new substation between Coleraine and Limavady to help strengthen the local network and enable more clean energy onto the grid.

To learn more, come along to our public event:
Wed 22 May, Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, 2pm-8pm



🗨️ ↻️ ❤️ 2 📊 296 📌 ⬆️



SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland @soni_ltd · May 23



We would like to thank all those who have engaged with us as we develop our plans for the Cam Cluster Project.

If you didn't make it to our public engagement event, you can leave your feedback with us via our consultation portal: consult.soni.ltd.uk/browse



🗨️ ↻️ ❤️ 📊 147 📌 ⬆️



SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland



5,020 followers

3w •

As Northern Ireland's Transmission System Operator, we are responsible for transforming the power system for future generations. As part of this work, we have plans to develop a new cluster substation between Coleraine and Limavady known as the Cam Cluster Project.

The benefits of the project include:

- ⚡ future-proofing the network in the North West
- ⚡ enhancing grid connectivity
- ⚡ facilitating greater amounts of renewable energy on to the grid
- ⚡ contributing to the delivery of our climate change targets of 80% renewable electricity generation by 2030

To learn more about the project and to help shape our plans, come along to our upcoming public engagement event:

Wednesday 22 May, Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, 24 Main Street, Limavady, BT49 0FJ, 14:00 – 20:00





SONI - System Operator for Northern Ireland



5,020 followers

2w •

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 continue to develop our plans for the Cam Cluster Project.

If you didn't make our public engagement event, you can leave your feedback with us via our consultation portal: <https://lnkd.in/eBHEeAHR>





SONI Ltd

2 May · 🌐



📍 Upcoming public engagement event

As part of the Cam Cluster Project, we have plans to develop a new substation between Coleraine and Limavady. This new cluster substation will future-proof the network in the North West and help to facilitate greater amounts of renewable energy onto the grid.

To learn more about the project and to help shape our plans, come along to our upcoming public engagement event:

Wednesday 22 May, 14:00 – 20:00
Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre
24 Main Street, Limavady, BT49 0FJ



SONI Ltd

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

👍❤️ 18

6 comments

Appendix 6: Cam Cluster Project Webpage

(<https://www.soni.ltd.uk/the-grid/projects/cam-cluster/the-project/>)

Cam Cluster

[Home](#) > [The Grid](#) > [Projects](#) > [Cam Cluster](#) > [The Project](#)

THE PROJECT

WHATS HAPPENING NOW?

CONTACT

RELATED DOCUMENTS

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.

SONI is planning to bring forward the Cam Cluster Project - a new cluster substation between Limavady and Coleraine to be connected to both the Coolkeeragh – Limavady and the Coleraine – Limavady 110kV circuit.

NIE Networks' cluster methodology aims to improve access to the network for renewable generation by grouping substations to create a more efficient connection with reduced environmental impact.

What will the project involve?

- A new 110/33 kV single transformer 90MVA substation with additional capacity for a future second transformer
- Nine 110 kV bays sufficient for five lines, two transformers, two bus-couplers and additional space for future section switches
- Turn in of the existing Coolkeeragh - Coleraine 110 kV circuit
- Turn in of the existing Limavady - Coleraine 110 kV circuit

What are the benefits of this project?

To help facilitate grid connections in the area

There are already a number of renewable power projects in the local area that have planning permission. This has resulted in the need for the Cam Cluster Project which will provide generation projects with a connection to the grid.

To help deliver climate change targets and decarbonise 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% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030. This power will have to be generated, connected to the grid, and delivered throughout Northern Ireland. The proposed Cam Cluster substation will facilitate more renewable energy to be connected to the grid.

The project will strengthen the local transmission network

The Cam Cluster project will strengthen the transmission network in the local area and ensure it is fit for future use. This will facilitate economic growth and investment in the coming years.

THE PROJECT

WHATS HAPPENING NOW?

CONTACT

RELATED DOCUMENTS

What's Happening Now?

Part 2 of SONI's 3-Part Process for Developing the Grid will begin in 2024, with extensive consultation planned local communities, elected representatives and key stakeholders.

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

April 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 the substation will be placed, we are inviting key stakeholders and members of the local community to attend our upcoming public engagement event to learn more about the project and offer feedback to help shape our plans. The details of the public engagement event are:

Wednesday 22nd May, Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre, 24 Main Street, Limavady, BT49 0FJ, 2pm – 8pm

THE PROJECT

WHATS HAPPENING NOW?

CONTACT

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Contact

To contact us about the Cam Cluster project, please email info@soni.ltd.uk.

By post, please address to: Cam Cluster, SONI Ltd, 12 Manse Road, Belfast, BT6 9RT.

THE PROJECT

WHATS HAPPENING NOW?

CONTACT

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendix 7: Cam Cluster Consultation Portal

Cam Cluster Project

OPEN 14 May, 2024, 10:00 - 14 Jun, 2024, 17:00

VIEW

SUBMISSIONS

SONI is planning to bring forward the Cam Cluster Project - a new cluster substation between Limavady and Coleraine to be connected to both the Coolkeeragh - Limavady and the Coleraine - Limavady 110kV circuits.

NIE Networks' cluster methodology aims to improve access to the network for renewable generation by grouping substations to create a more efficient connection with reduced environmental impact.

There are a number of approved renewable generation projects which have created the need for a new cluster substation in the Cam area. Plans for the new substation will also prepare for future growth in renewable generation as we decarbonise the electricity network.

The proposed project will include:

- A new 110/33 kV transformer (with additional space for a future second transformer)
- Nine 110 kV bays sufficient for five circuits, two transformers, two bus-couplers and additional space for future section switches
- Turn in of both the existing Coolkeeragh - Coleraine and Limavady - Coleraine 110 kV circuits to the new Cam Cluster substation

Share



Submissions

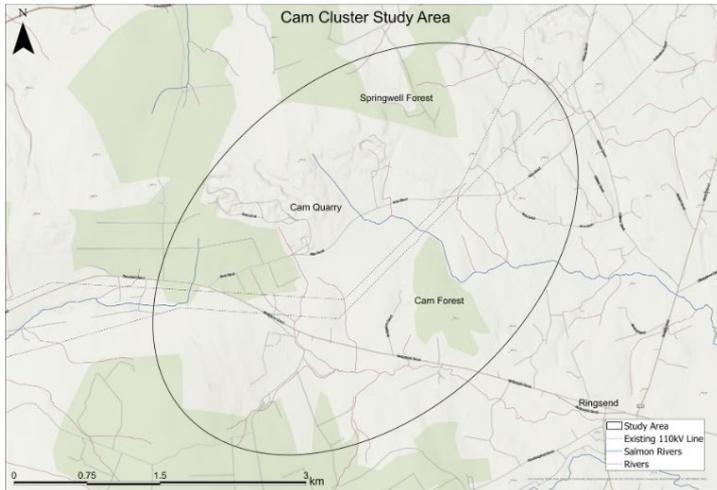
[+ MAKE A SUBMISSION](#)

Themes

Grid Development consultation

Subscribe

to alerts on submissions and notifications about this consultation



At this stage of consultation, we are seeking feedback from the public to help shape the final proposal i.e. the location of the new cluster substation. 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 our public engagement event

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

- Wednesday 22nd May, Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, Keenaught Suite 24 Main Street Limavady, BT49 0FJ

E-mail address *

Your name [optional]

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

By email

You can email your submission to us at info@soni.ltd.uk

By Post

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

We welcome your feedback up until Friday 14th June 2024.

