

A photograph of two men standing in a grassy field. The man on the right, wearing a dark blue quilted jacket, is gesturing with his right arm towards the horizon. The man on the left, wearing a brown jacket, is looking in the same direction. In the background, a town is visible at the foot of rolling hills under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Agivey Cluster Project

Winter Update 2018 / 2019



The current. The future.



Who are SONI – and what do we do?

SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland) operates the electricity grid. We bring electricity to every part of Northern Ireland, and plan ahead for future growth. A better energy supply means greater prosperity in the years ahead.

At SONI, we want everyone to share in that brighter future. From our control centre in Belfast, we manage, operate and plan the development of the electricity transmission grid. The transmission grid brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Northern Ireland. We match supply and demand for power, every second of every day. We also power Northern Ireland Electricity Networks' distribution grid. This supplies electricity to homes, farms and businesses.

SONI works in cooperation with NIE Networks to develop the electricity grid infrastructure.

Investing in and improving the grid is essential to make your supply of electricity more reliable and cost effective. It also supports economic growth and enables competition.

Finally, we need to develop the grid so it can connect to new sources of energy including renewables.



What is the Agivey Cluster Project and why is it needed?

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 wind farms and other sources of 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 happen before a project moves into the construction phase. NIE Networks is then responsible for building and maintaining the infrastructure.

Wind farms in the Craiggore, Smulgedon and Evishagaran areas have planning permission. In order to connect these wind farms to the transmission system, we are applying for planning permission to develop what is known as a cluster substation and associated overhead line connections. This is known as the Agivey Cluster Project.

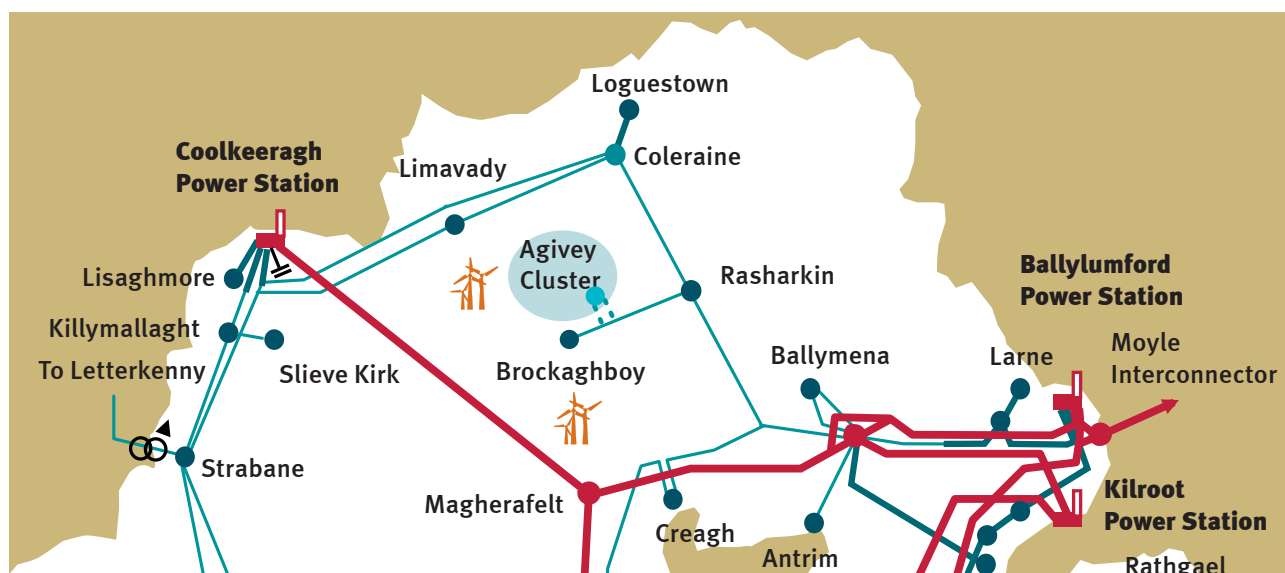
This will allow the energy generated by the wind farms to be carried on the network and transferred to where it is needed.

The cluster substation will then connect to the recently constructed Brockaghboy – Rasharkin 110kV overhead line.

To do this, SONI is seeking planning permission to construct the following:

- A new 110/33 kV cluster substation and associated access road located approximately 230 metres North West of 10a Drumbane Road, Brockaghboy; and
- Approximately 3.3 kilometres of 110 kV overhead transmission lines, including 13 twin wooden pole sets, 11 steel lattice towers and associated apparatus.

The cluster connection policy to connect wind farms located in close proximity was developed by NIE Networks and approved by the Utility Regulator.



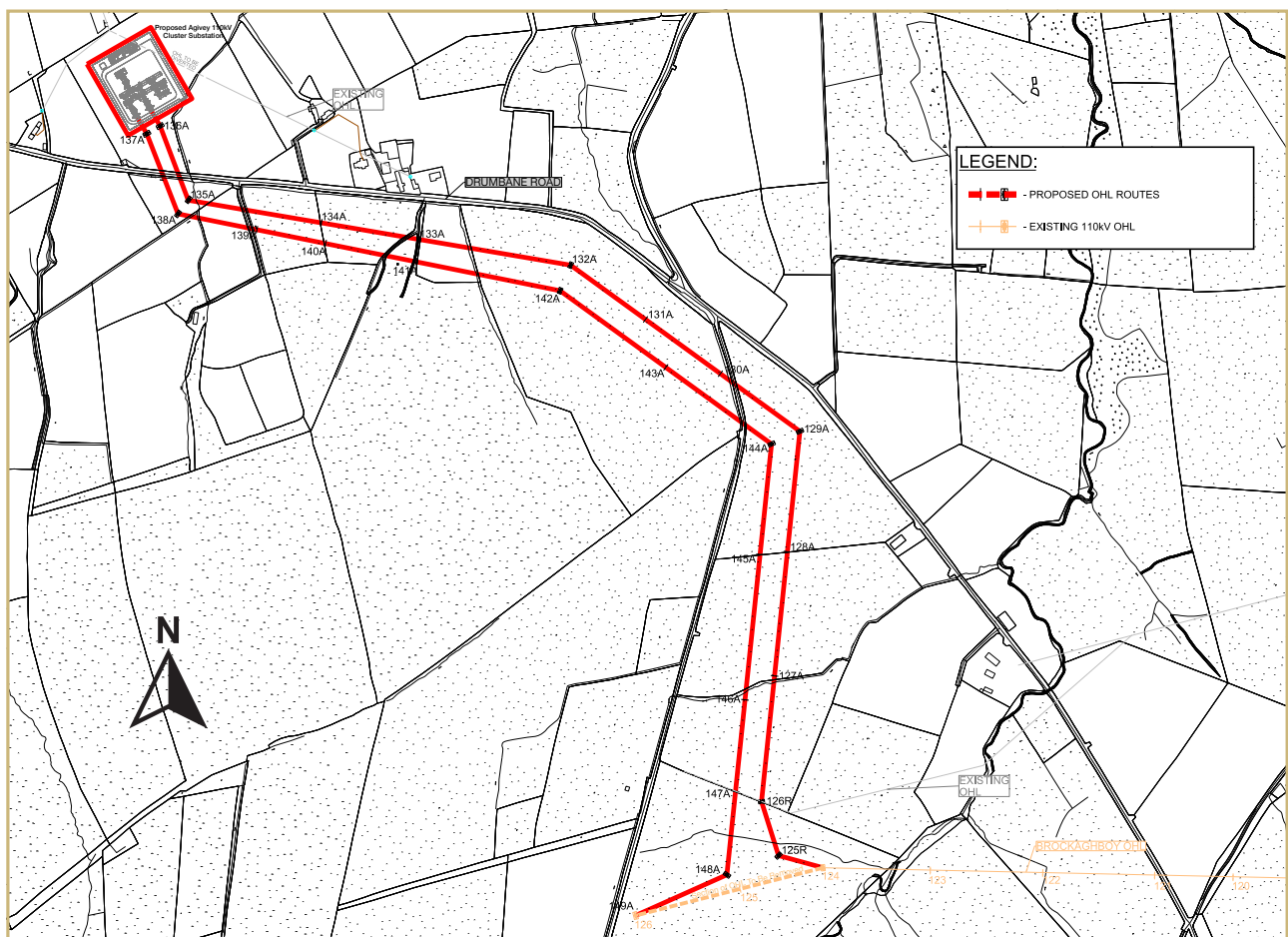
Proposed site and overhead line routes

During our initial community consultation events, we presented potential zones within the study area where we could locate the new substation. The zones in the Glenullin area were considered by SONI to be the least environmentally constrained zones within the wider study area.

Based on a number of factors, including public feedback, environmental and technical considerations, we proposed a specific site for the substation development, located at the Drumbane Road, which was presented during our second round of community consultation.

During the second round of consultation events we presented two overhead line route options to connect to the recently constructed Brockaghboy - Rasharkin 110kV overhead line.

The proposed overhead line route is shown below.



The proposed overhead line route has been chosen for a number of reasons, including:

- Public feedback received at the previous community consultations;
- Line length to the Brockaghboy- Rasharkin 110kV overhead line.

What will the Agivey Cluster Project look like?

The Agivey Cluster Substation will receive electricity from each of the newly approved wind farms at Craiggore, Smulgedon and Evishagaran. The substation will then be connected to the existing Brockaghboy - Rasharkin 110kV overhead line via the two proposed two 110kV overhead line connections.

The substation site will have a perimeter fence of approximately 102.5m x 91.75m (excluding earthworks, screening and access road). The tallest structure within the substation compound is expected to be approximately 10 metres.

Since the previous round of consultation, we have carried out additional ground investigations at the proposed substation site and where possible along the proposed overhead line route. Further environmental studies have also been undertaken, and an Environmental Report will be submitted with the planning application.

Below is an indicative image of the substation and additional screening 12 months after completion of construction work. Screening includes the planting of hedgerows and trees (mature and young) around the infrastructure to minimise any visual impact, and will be included as part of SONI's planning application.



The CGI (Computer Generated Image) included above provides an example of the proposed development. Please note this is for illustration purposes only.

Public safety is a key consideration for SONI on all our projects

Electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) occur anywhere that electricity is generated, transmitted or used. However people everywhere are exposed to EMFs not just from electricity lines. Natural sources of EMFs include the earth's geomagnetic field and electric fields from storm clouds.

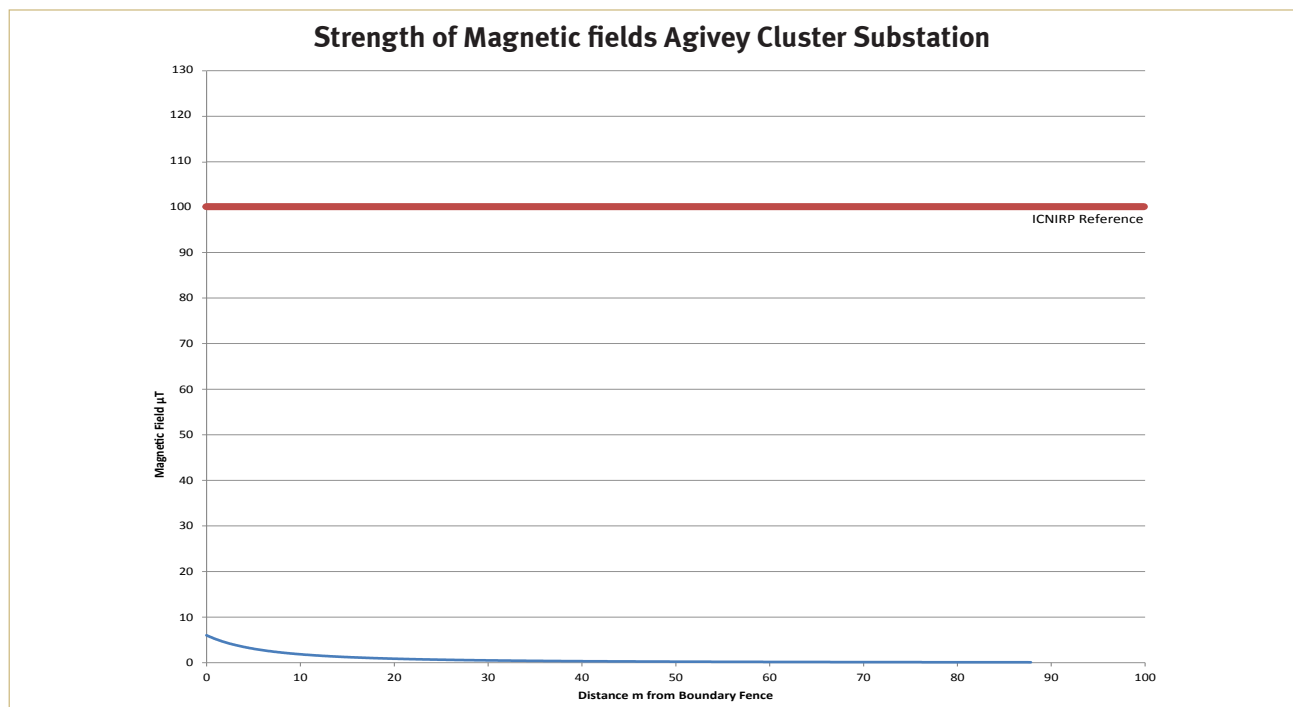
Having listened to your feedback at previous community consultation events for the Agivey Cluster Project, we have undertaken a detailed study of magnetic field strengths from the proposed substation and associated power lines. This is to ensure they comply with international guidelines.

The results show that electric and magnetic fields from the project and associated infrastructure will be well below UK, EU and international public guideline limits.

The graph below illustrates the strength of the magnetic fields (known as magnetic flux density) at key distances from the project. Guidelines produced by The International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) have set the public reference level at 100 microtesla, meaning anything under that level is considered to be safe.

Our studies show that the highest public exposure from the proposed substation is 6.02 microtesla (this will occur at the boundary fence of the substation compound and 3 microtesla from the overhead lines).

Our safety promise



We meet all applicable health and safety standards. We work for the benefit and safety of every citizen in Northern Ireland.

For further information on EMFs and overhead lines please visit <http://www.soni.ltd.uk/about/health-and-safety/> or alternatively you can request our “Power Lines and Your Health” brochure using our details on the back page.

Next steps

We are approaching the end of an extensive, 14-month community consultation period for the Agivey Cluster project, and we are gathering as much feedback as possible to help us prepare a final proposal.

We intend to submit a planning application for the project to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in January 2019. After the planning application is submitted, the public will have the opportunity to submit their views on the project directly to the Council.

We are hopeful that the Council will reach a decision on the planning application in 2019.



Your feedback is important to us

We evaluate all the feedback we receive and try our best to develop the project around your views. Please feel free to contact us with any feedback you have by [Friday 4th January 2019](#).

In the meantime, please find our contact details on the back of this brochure if you want to get in touch.

Please note that all consultation undertaken to date regarding the Agivey Cluster Project has been carried out by SONI, not the planning authority. The public will have the opportunity to submit feedback to the planning authority after we have submitted a formal planning application to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

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