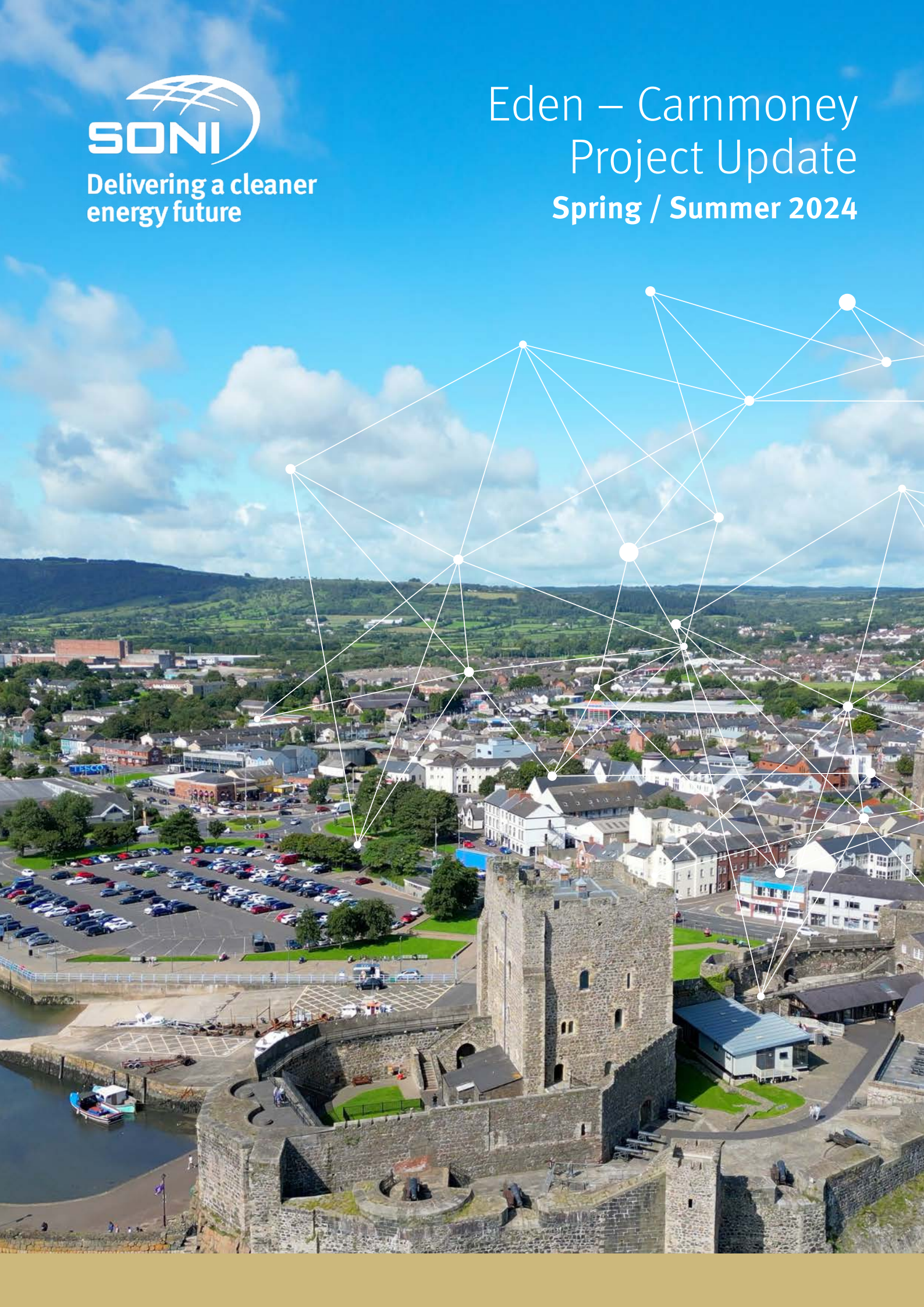




Delivering a cleaner
energy future

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.

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.



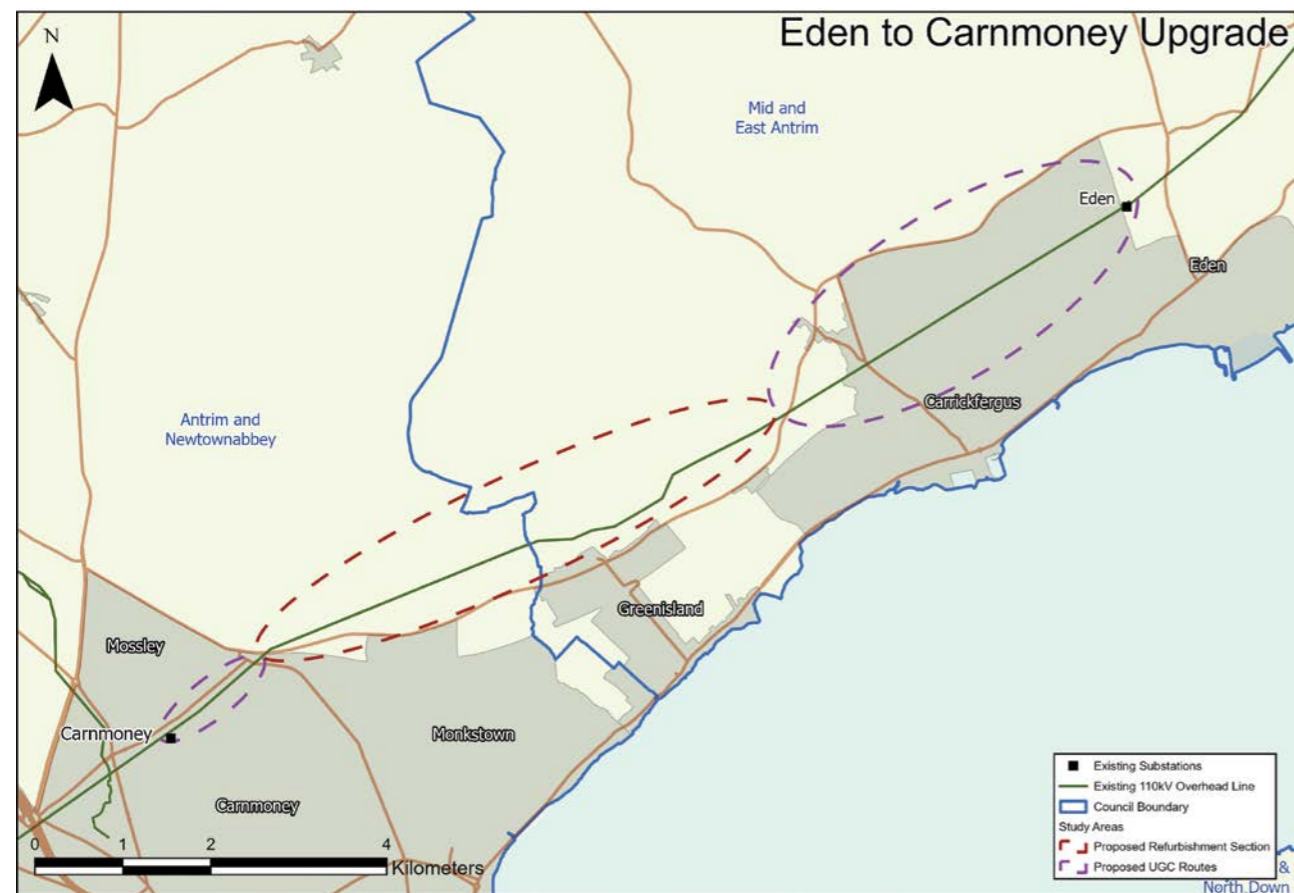
This project will enable the future removal of existing overhead line (OHL) circuit in some areas.

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 Carrmonee 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 – Carnmoney 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 Carnmoney Substation

- The de-energising and future removal of the section of existing overhead line (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

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 – Carnmoney project,** where members of the project team will be able to discuss it with you:

2pm – 7pm, Wednesday 13th March

Mossley Mill, Yarn Suite, Carnmoney 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

4. **Write your own submission and post it back to us at:**

Eden – Carnmoney 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-carmmoney-project/the-project/>



