

East Irish Sea Transmission Project Community Newsletter

December 2025



Introduction

Ørsted, a global leader in offshore wind, is developing the East Irish Sea Transmission Project to bring secure renewable energy from the Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm in the Isle of Man's territorial waters to UK consumers.

Our grid connection point is at Penwortham as directed by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) following an assessment of potential grid connection points. An alternative connection to the Stanah sub-station is being actively explored, however the connection to the UK's grid would be determined by NESO.

In September 2025, we held local information events across our infrastructure search area and invited comments on our early-stage proposals. The feedback we received has helped to improve our understanding of the local area, better understand the views of local people and refine our proposals. Thank you to all that attended.

We will continue to use your feedback to further refine our plans. The next step will be to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application, which will be determined by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

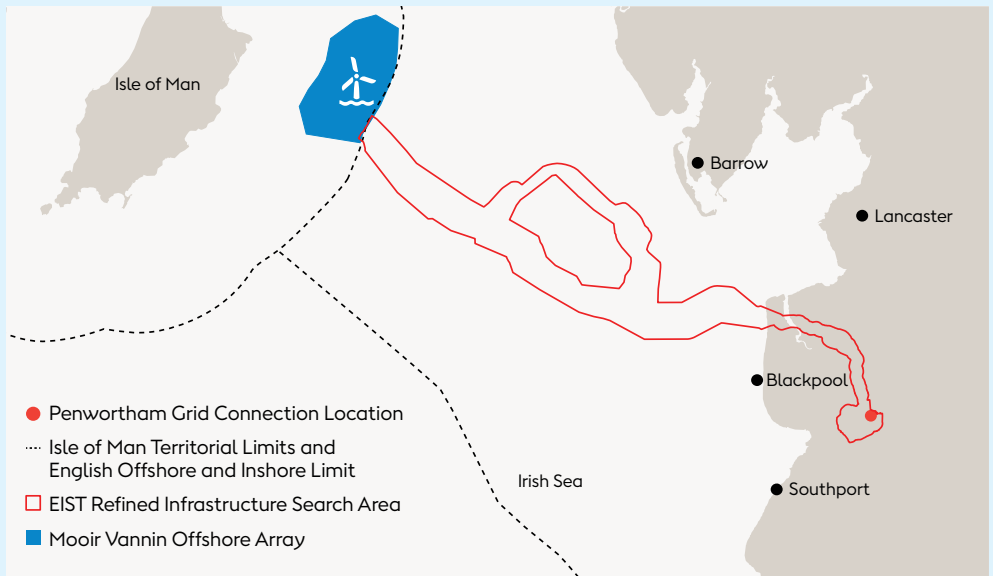
In this newsletter, you can find out more about the project, an update on the preferred cable route option that we will be progressing, and a summary of the themes raised at our public information events.

We also explain the next steps for the project and the opportunities for you and other local residents to engage with the development of the project moving forward.

The East Irish Sea Transmission Project

The East Irish Sea Transmission Project will develop the infrastructure needed to connect the Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm to the UK. This will include:

- **Offshore electrical connection cables** bringing power from the offshore wind farm to a landfall location in Northwest England.
- **Onshore electrical connection cables** bringing power from the landfall location to Penwortham Substation.
- Up to 3 **Offshore Booster Stations** to increase the power transfer capacity of the export cables.
- **An Onshore Substation** housing the electrical infrastructure required to connect to the UK high-voltage transmission network.
- Potential **Energy balancing infrastructure** such as battery storage technology.
- **Pylons**, but only where burial of cables is not technically, feasible which we anticipate for crossing the River Ribble only.



Our community information events

We held seven information events across our cable route search area from 8 September to 16 September 2025, where we met with over 550 local residents. These events were an opportunity for the community to meet with the project team and ask questions about our early-stage proposals.

We are grateful to everyone who attended our events, provided feedback and asked questions. We publicised our events by:

- Distributing our Community Information Booklet to over 22,400 properties within the project's Scoping Boundary.
- Placing advertisements in the Blackpool Gazette and Lancashire Evening Post.
- Engaging with your parish councils, and district and ward councillors across our search area.
- Sending posters to local community centres, libraries and village halls.

At the events we displayed early-stage information about search areas for landfall, cable routes, and potential onshore and offshore infrastructure to get local residents views on our proposals. Members of the East Irish Sea Transmission Project team including environmental specialists, technical specialists and land agents were on hand to answer your questions.

All materials shown at our events are available to view and download on our website: eastirishseatransmissionproject.co.uk/documents

Our interactive map is still available for you to view and provide comments: eastirishseatransmissionproject.co.uk/consultation

We welcomed **554** people to the following events:

Local information event venue	Date
Southport Community Centre	Monday 8 September
Marine Hall Fleetwood	Tuesday 9 September
Hightown Club	Wednesday 10 September
Hambleton Village Hall	Thursday 11 September
Newton with Clifton Village Hall	Friday 12 September
Penwortham Arts Centre	Saturday 13 September
St Aidan's Hall Ormskirk	Tuesday 16 September



Your feedback

We welcomed a wide range of feedback on our proposals during the information events, where people had the chance to submit their views via our feedback form, interactive map, or afterwards via email or post.

During September and October 2025, we received:



174 feedback forms



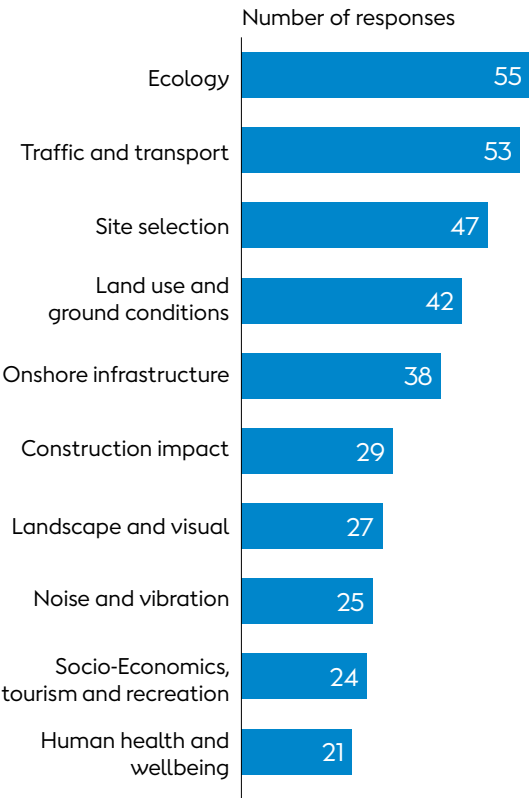
46 emails



68 map comments

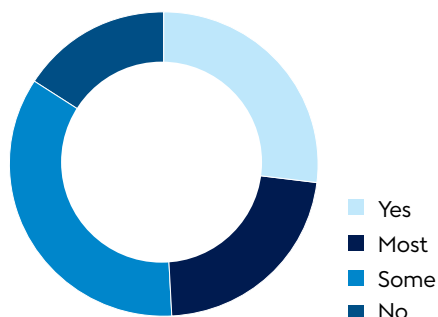
Your comments have helped us to further understand the local area and inform the development of the project.

Key feedback themes



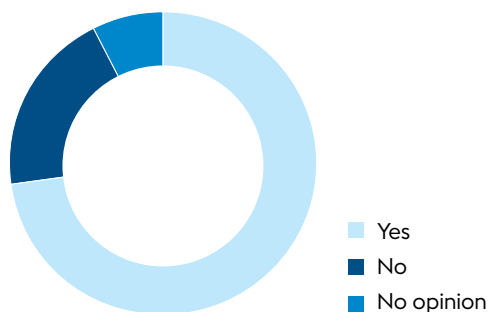
Have the questions you came with today been answered?

You told us that either all, most or some of your questions were answered at the events. As our project develops, we look forward to being able to supply you with greater detail next year.



Did you find the information presented today clear and informative?

Most attendees found the information presented at the events clear and informative, according to the feedback we received. Several residents said that additional and larger maps would have been helpful. We will develop these for our statutory consultation events next year.



Key themes raised and our response

There were several key themes which emerged from the feedback we received. These are listed below with information on how we are responding to them. In addition to these themes, a number of other potential impacts and effects were highlighted by respondents, for which

we are very grateful. Although these points are not featured in our summary of key themes, they are nonetheless important and have contributed to our understanding of the local area and continue to inform the development of the project design as it evolves.

Feedback

Our response

Traffic and access

Residents expressed concern about the impact of construction traffic.

Traffic and transport will be considered and assessed as part of the development and this will inform project design and management plans to mitigate potential adverse traffic impacts on the local road network. An outline construction traffic management plan will be developed for approval and submitted as part of the DCO application.

Flood risk

Across the Infrastructure Search Area, people highlighted concerns regarding land drainage and the need for us to avoid increasing flood risk.

The development of the project will include assessing flood risk, and this will inform the design of the scheme in consultation with stakeholders including the Environmental Agency to design appropriate drainage and mitigations for the project.

Feedback

Our response

Onshore ecology

Across the events, the potential impact of the proposals on wildlife came up frequently. It was highlighted that it was important for us to work with local conservation groups and continue our survey work.

We have commenced collecting environmental data to inform both our onshore and offshore Environmental Impact Assessments. We will continue to engage with stakeholders such as Natural England and the Environment Agency as we progress the proposed development. We will seek to minimise potential impacts as part of our Route Planning and Site Selection and mitigate any potential impacts where avoidance may not be possible.

Grid connection location

Many attendees, especially at the Newton and Clifton event, questioned the project's proposed grid connection location at the National Grid's Penwortham Substation, highlighting potential alternative sites at Stanah and the Hillside Technology Park to reduce the required cable route.

It is the role of National Electricity System Operator (NESO) to determine the connection point of any generation asset, ensuring the efficient and economical transmission of electricity alongside security of supply for consumers. While we are actively exploring an alternative grid connection to the Stanah substation we continue to progress our application with a connection at Penwortham. Further detail on our Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives will be available in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report and final Environmental Impact Assessment.

Feedback

Land use, including agricultural land

Residents expressed concern about the potential impact to agricultural land during the construction period of the project, notably the underground trenching. Some respondents asked why agricultural land had been selected for the underground cables, and not industrial land.

Our response

We understand projects like this can raise concerns about how agricultural land might be affected. Where land is needed for infrastructure or access, our dedicated land agents will work with landowners to minimise impacts. For landowners directly impacted, there will be a process for claiming compensation based on established frameworks. The location of underground cables considers technical feasibility and environmental and commercial constraints, including minimising impacts on communities and sensitive areas. The results of this process, along with the considerations and justifications for the chosen locations, will be presented in detail within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. These documents will explain how options were evaluated and why the proposed route was selected.

Pylons

Across our search area residents expressed concern about the potential for pylons and the visual impact they would bring.

Onshore cables will be buried underground with a possible exception for the crossing of the River Ribble should it not be possible to cross using underground installation methods. The project design envelope therefore includes an option for overhead lines (pylons) in this location.

Feedback

Visual impact of above ground infrastructure

Residents expressed an interest in the potential visual impact of the above ground infrastructure, particularly at our events in Fleetwood and Hightown.

Our response

Since our information events in September 2025, we have refined our project envelope to remove the need for an onshore booster station, and only buried cables will be required.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, the impact of the proposed development will be assessed and considered in consultation with key stakeholders such as Natural England, Historic England and Lancashire County Council. The project commits to developing a Design Vision Statement that will set out and communicate the principles of good design and engage with mitigations available to the project in-consultation with local councils and parish councils to minimise any potential impact.

Noise and vibration

The majority of the concern about noise and vibration was received at the Fleetwood and Hightown events. Attendees expressed concern regarding the potential noise emanating from the onshore booster station, and from underground cables.

The project design has since been refined to remove the proposed onshore booster station. Noise and vibration for remaining project infrastructure will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for both the construction and operational phases of the project in consultation with Lancashire County Council and appropriate mitigation will be included in the design where required.

Project design update

While the work to refine our proposals is still ongoing, we can confirm that we have now taken the decision to progress an application for making landfall at Fleetwood. We will no longer be pursuing a cable route option making landfall at Sefton.

This preferred cable route has been selected based on environmental, technical, commercial and planning considerations, as well as the community feedback we received during the

September community information events - see pages 8-11 for more details. The selection of the northern onshore cable route provides flexibility should NESO confirm Stanah substation is a viable alternative connection point.

We can also confirm that we are no longer planning to develop an onshore booster station and instead will be progressing an application with between 1 and 3 offshore booster stations instead.







Next steps

We would like to thank all those who provided feedback so far to help us shape the design of the East Irish Sea Transmission Project. We are keen to work together with local residents to help us shape the best possible project for the area.

Statement of Community Consultation

The Statement of Community Consultation is a statutory document which sets out our intended approach to consultation and engagement. We'll take your feedback on our engagement to date into account when writing the draft. We are always looking to explore more ways in which we can engage with the local community – please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any feedback on our events or engagement to date.

Infrastructure working groups

We are in the process of establishing an Onshore Substation Consultation Group (OSCG) and Wyre Crossing Consultation Group (WCCG). These working groups will include community representatives, inviting them to offer feedback on our proposals. Further updates on the working groups will be included in our next newsletter.

Statutory Consultation

During this we will be holding further information events, where we will be presenting more detailed plans for the project, including our Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

Stay informed

If you would like to receive regular updates on the project so that you can understand how it is developing, you can sign up for project updates on the Consultation page of our website: eastirishseatransmissionproject.co.uk/consultation

Share your views

Don't worry if you haven't had time to give us your views. You can still contact us and give your feedback via the dedicated communication lines set out at the end of this newsletter.

Contact us

You can contact us using the details below. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions

**Send us an email:**

EISTransmission@orsted.com

**Send us a letter**

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**EIST website:**

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