

COMMUNITY UPDATE



Welcome to the latest edition of our community newsletter where you can find out what's been happening at protos and what to expect over the coming weeks and months.

AT A GLANCE

The Protos Community Benefit Fund backing brilliant local causes

Construction progress updates

New report on Protos nature areas

PROTOS AT THE HEART OF UK CARBON CAPTURE PROGRESS

Protos sits at the heart of HyNet industrial decarbonisation cluster, a £2bn network comprising a range of carbon capture, storage and energy production infrastructure in the North West. The UK's leading industrial decarbonisation project, HyNet is one of the first two carbon capture clusters that have been selected by Government.

Peel NRE is currently working with infrastructure partner Liverpool Bay CCS to deliver the **Protos Spur pipeline**, which will be capable of transporting almost one million tonnes of captured CO₂ each year. This infrastructure will give businesses at Protos direct access to carbon capture technology and help attract new investment and innovation to the site.

A number of major carbon capture projects are progressing or being planned at Protos, including Energy-from-Waste and biomass energy facilities.

Together, these developments aim to significantly reduce industrial carbon emissions while helping to support cleaner energy generation and more sustainable local waste management.

Investment in localised carbon capture infrastructure will also support jobs, attract further businesses to the area and strengthen the North West's role in developing low-carbon industry.

Click the button below to find out more:



ENCYCLIS – ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY

The Encyclis Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at Protos is entering the final stages of construction. Once operational, it will process non-recyclable, non-hazardous residual waste and convert it into energy to help power homes and businesses. By recovering energy from waste that would otherwise be sent to landfill, the facility is supporting more sustainable waste management while contributing to local energy generation.

Work is currently focused on finalising the remaining construction works in parallel with commissioning activities to bring the facility into operation. Final mechanical and electrical installations and the outfitting of the electrical and administration building are now taking place. Across the site, external works such as cladding, glazing and landscaping are also at an advanced stage, helping to shape the final facility. The project has also recently reached an important milestone with the start of ‘hot commissioning’ — an essential testing phase carried out before the facility becomes fully operational. As part of this process, both boilers have now been successfully fired on oil for the first time, allowing steam to be used to clean pipework in a process known as ‘steam blowing’. The delivery of waste to the facility is planned to commence in the coming weeks.

The project team has recently achieved the milestone of 5.5 million working hours as construction reaches its conclusion. The site is expected to be fully operational later this year and the recruitment of the new Operations & Maintenance team, including four apprentices, is now complete.

ENCYCLIS – CARBON CAPTURE FACILITY

The Protos ERF is set to host the UK’s first full-scale carbon capture plant for Energy-from-Waste after Encyclis signed a landmark agreement with the Government’s Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to secure investment.

The facility, part of the HyNet industrial decarbonisation cluster in the North-West of England, is poised to provide a blueprint for wider roll-out of carbon capture technology.

The carbon capture and storage (CCS) plant will capture around 370,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year, utilising the HyNet North West pipeline that will transport CO₂ for storage in depleted gas fields in Liverpool Bay. Construction commenced on site in November 2025 with site establishment, infill of existing Ecological Management Area E and formation of the working platform (pile mat) as the main activities. At present, piling is well underway and the project is moving into the civils construction phase involving pile capping and casting of reinforced concrete (RC) foundations.

Development of the CCS plant marks an important step towards cleaner and more sustainable waste management in the UK.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

ENVIROO - RECYCLING FACILITY

Enviroo are constructing a state-of-the-art facility at Protos that will recycle Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastics — a type of plastic commonly used for items such as drinks bottles and food containers into new high-quality, food-grade packaging, with a focus on achieving zero waste. The facility is designed to process up to 30,000 tonnes of PET plastic each year, with operations expected to begin by the end of 2026.

The facility is continuing to take shape, with major structural elements of the building now clearly visible across the site. The internal steel framework has been completed and the main concrete base successfully poured, while upcoming work will focus on the extruder hall floor slab, installation of the septic tank, office flooring improvements, and continued mechanical and electrical works.

August 2026



PLANNING UPDATE

EVERO - INCE BIOMASS PLANT CARBON CAPTURE FACILITY

Evero has submitted a planning application to deliver the UK's first Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) facility delivered under the GGR Business Model. The proposal would transform the existing plant by introducing carbon capture technology to the existing waste wood biomass facility.

If approved, the project is expected to capture and permanently store up to 217,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year, helping to reduce carbon emissions while continuing to generate energy from waste wood.

FUTURE FUELS

August 2026

As the world faces growing pressure on energy supplies, the need for cleaner, more secure low carbon fuel sources to decarbonise industry and transport has never been more important.

For the UK, this is driving a major shift towards developing more sustainable, homegrown energy sources that can support both energy security and the low carbon energy transition.

READY TO MEET DEMAND

Protos' connected location within the ORIGIN cluster at the heart of the North West's industrial core and its connection to existing low-carbon infrastructure make the site well placed to support the development of future fuels. With electricity, gas and water connections already in place, alongside largescale development-ready plots, Protos offers an ideal location for organisations looking to scale new low-carbon fuel technologies. This means projects can be delivered more quickly and efficiently, while benefiting from shared infrastructure and services already connected across the site.

By building on the area's strong industrial heritage, Protos is helping to attract investment, support innovation and create new opportunities for businesses and local communities whilst also supporting the transition to a cleaner, more resilient and energy-secure future.

Click the button below to find out how we're building Britain's future fuels hub:



NATURE AREAS UPDATE

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) continues to manage the nature areas at Protos. Across Snipe Haven, Goldfinch Meadows and the wider nature areas, wildlife continues to thrive as the habitats become more established. Covering around 76 hectares, the site is home to ponds, wetlands, grassland, hedgerows and woodland that support an increasing variety of species.

During winter, flocks of lapwing, goldfinch, linnet and chaffinch gathered across the site, while curlew numbers also continued to grow. Breeding has also been confirmed for several birds this year, including wrens, blue tits, reed buntings and reed warblers.

Barn owls remain a favourite sight for many visitors and are regularly spotted hunting across the grasslands, with the specially built nest boxes continuing to support successful breeding.

The site is also supporting a growing range of mammals, including water voles, badgers, foxes and brown hares, while bats can often be seen foraging around the ponds and woodland edges at dusk.

For more information on how you can enjoy the nature areas, click the button below:



The Protos Community Fund means that local community causes can become a reality every year. Below is a project we've been really proud to support.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE I HELSBY HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 students from Helsby High School recently took part in Young Enterprise's Learn to Earn programme, which helps young people learn more about the range of career opportunities available to them in the future.

Supported by the Protos Community Benefit Fund, the programme encourages students to think about their career path, build confidence and explore opportunities they may not have previously considered.

Volunteers from businesses including KPMG, OCS, Sage and Amazon, alongside local organisations such as Powers Consulting and Bene Gelateria, shared their knowledge and experience across the programme.

JASON CALLAGHAN HEAD OF PSHCE PROVISION COMMENTED:

"Year 9 were supported by Young Enterprise and gained valuable information about financial capability and future pathways.

The Young Enterprise Programme 'Learn to Earn' helps students to create future goals and develop employability skills as they consider career choices, the cost of living and effective budgeting. This session was valuable for students and put these things into perspective."

The Protos Community Fund is open to bids for funding from organisations and causes in the parishes of Ince, Elton, Helsby, Frodsham, Thornton le Moors and Little Stanney.

Transport, community buildings, sport, youth and heritage are among the wide range of causes considered.

To find out more and how you can apply, click the button below:

EVERO COMMUNITY FUND

As well as Protos' own Community Fund, occupier Evero also have their own community fund for organisations making a difference around the site.

If you're part of a local organisation with an idea that could benefit the community, get in touch with the team through the button below.

WHAT IS PROTOS?

Protos is Peel NRE's destination for energy, innovation and industry. It is powering an energy transition that drives industrial decarbonisation, whilst supporting regional investment, jobs and economic growth.

GET IN TOUCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROTOS

Visit: protos.co.uk

Email: community@protos.co.uk

Call: **Freephone 0800 689 1095**
(During office hours Mon-Fri).

You can also follow us on X (Formerly Twitter):
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