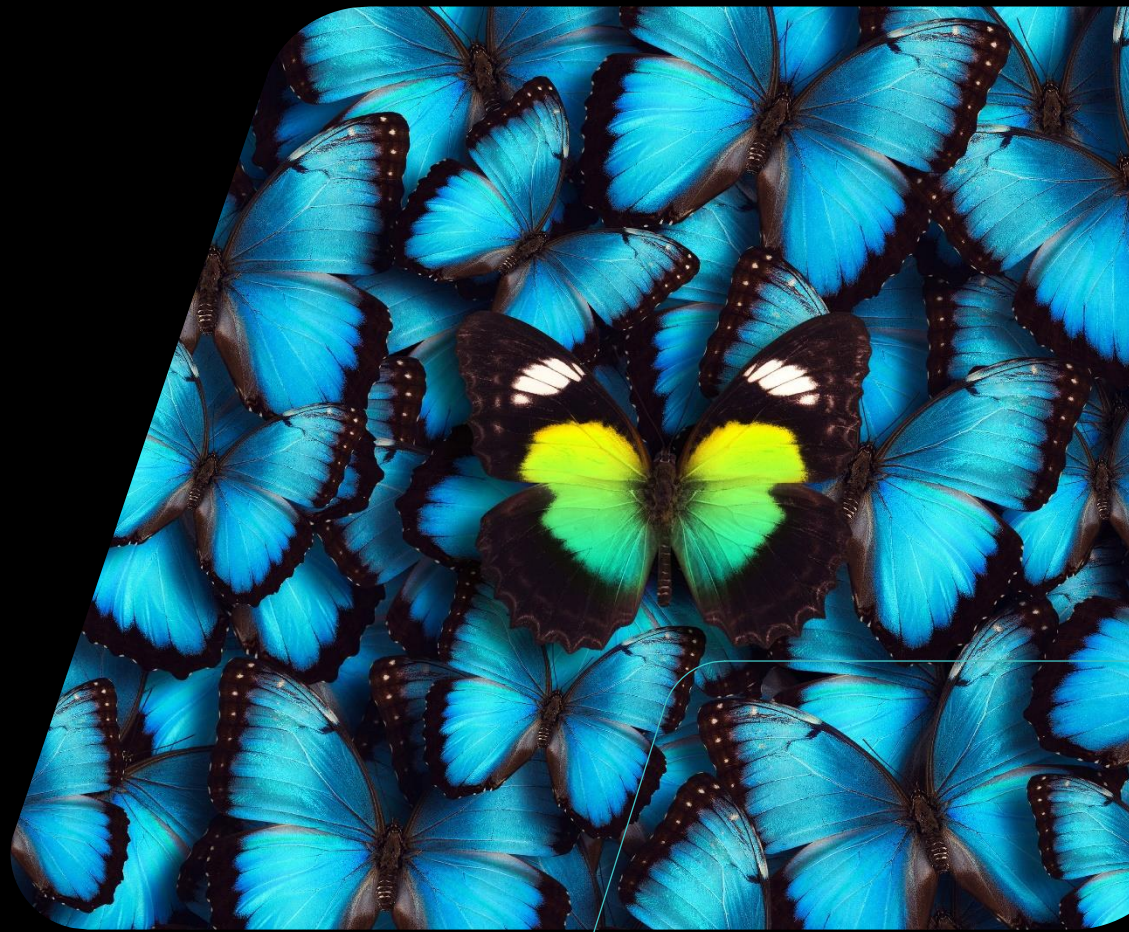


**POWERSCOURT.**



**ESSAR**

**UK'S FIRST REFINERY-BASED HYDROGEN FURNACE  
ARRIVES AT ESSAR STANLOW**

**16 AUGUST 2022**

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FULL ARTICLES

Burning issue A module for [...]  
 The Times  
 15 August 2022



Burning issue A module for the UK's first hydrogen ready furnace heads for Essar Oil's Stanlow refinery in Cheshire. It cost £45 million and is 26.5m long, 18.5m tall and 14.2m wide, which meant a section of the M53 had to close for 15 hours to allow it to pass on the last leg of its journey from Thailand



Wide load Part of a [...]   
 The Daily Telegraph   
 15 August 2022

Wide load Part of a £45m hydrogen furnace straddles the central reservation on the M53 as it heads towards Essar's Stanlow refinery in Cheshire. A three-mile stretch of the road was closed to traffic on Saturday as the delivery made the final leg of its trip from Thailand.

## Motorists are driven to distraction by 'Welsh-only' ticket machine

By Benny Torro

A CAR park ticket machine which only gives instructions in Welsh has caused chaos and left people queuing for up to half an hour. Visitors and locals have been frustrated by the device in an underground

car park in the seaside town of Rhyl. A motorist, who is not fluent in Welsh, said one driver was so frustrated he gave up trying to figure out the machine. "The whole point of a car park is to park quickly and easily," said a driver who did not want to be named.

"You don't expect to stand in a queue for half an hour whilst people try and work out how the machine works - or doesn't work in this case." Denbighshire council said: "Our paid display machines default to Welsh, as there is a large grey 'language button' that people can press to change the

language. This is explained on the machines; however, customer service management is also patrolling to assist customers on site." The council said there were two other machines available in the Rhyl Central car park and people could also use the smartphone app.

It follows a voluntary scheme where people wishing to buy properties in Welsh-speaking communities may have to start proving they can speak the language. The proposed "Fair Chance" scheme, unveiled earlier this month, aims to tackle the lack of affordable housing in

Wales, particularly in places where there are large numbers of second homes. Jeremy Miles, minister for the Welsh language, said: "For the Welsh language to thrive, we need sustainable communities and good job opportunities in the areas where it is widely spoken."

## Whisky sector faces green review over angels' share

Scottish government to examine the health and environmental effects of spirit-related emissions

By Daniel Sanderson   
 SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

NICOLA STURGEON could embark on a new green crackdown on Scotland's whisky industry over fears the "angels' share" - the portion of the spirit lost to evaporation during ageing - is harming the environment and human health. Every year about 2 per cent of whisky evaporates through porous wood casks during the maturation process - it is referred to as the angels' share because it disappears into the "heavens". But SNP and Green ministers are concerned that the emissions could be having a detrimental impact.

The Scottish government is funding a review of the harm caused by non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), specifically from malt whisky maturation, which have surged in recent years as a result of whisky's rising international popularity. Researchers have been asked to suggest possible "mitigation strategies" for "controlling" whisky-related emissions, leading to a backlash from the industry.

A spokesman for the Scotch Whisky Association described loss of spirit during maturation as "a natural part of the whisky-making process". He added that the trade body invests in research and works with regulators such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency "to improve efficiency and minimise the amount that evaporates from the cask". "Loss of ethanol averages around 2 per cent per year and, as the Scottish government has previously stated, is neither harmful to health nor impactful on the environment due to its rapid dispersal," he said.

In a public notice seeking a researcher to review possible harms from whisky emissions, the Scottish government said it wanted to find out "whether this contribution is likely to be sufficient to generate significant health or environmental impacts".

The six-month project has been allocated a budget of between £10,000 and £20,000, and a final report is to be submitted by the end of March next year. It will consist of a review of existing evidence, with the government notice stating that the project "will not require any new research or other work."

Ms Sturgeon's government has presented itself as tough on climate change, with the SNP signing a power-sharing pact with the Scottish Greens at Holyrood and the First Minister reversing her previous support for further exploration of North Sea oil and gas. However, it has struggled to hit its targets for cutting emissions.

Ariane Burgess, the Scottish Green MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said the review was "very welcome".

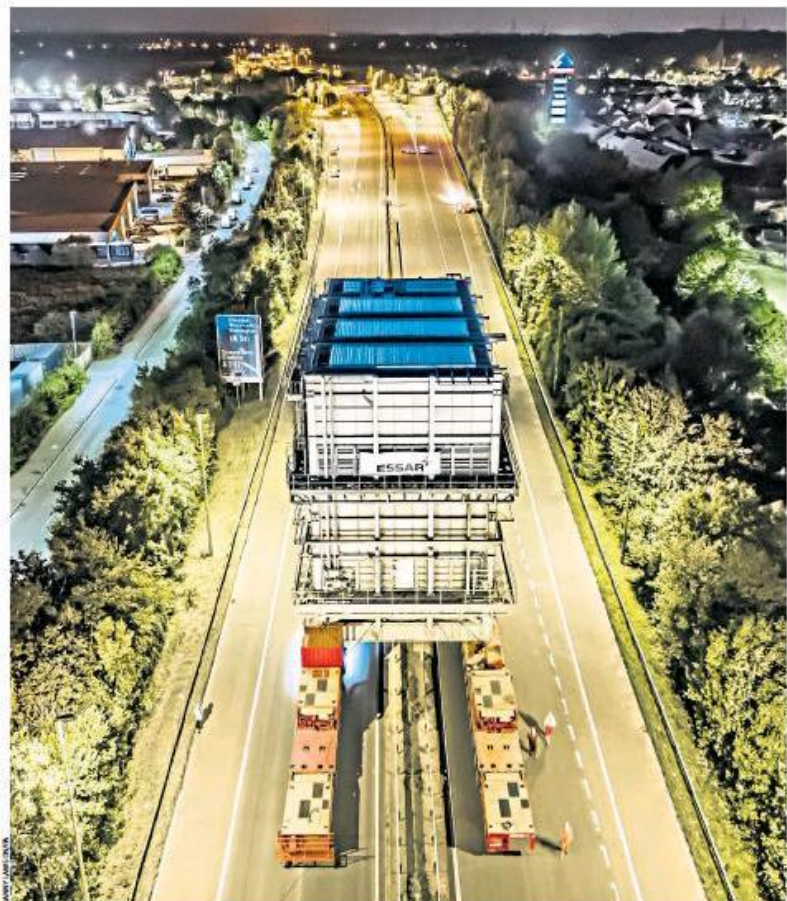
"If we are to hit our net-zero targets, then we all need to think about our carbon footprint and how we can reduce our emissions, and that applies to all our industries," she told *Scotland on Sunday*. "Our whisky is iconic and recognised

*The loss of ethanol is neither harmful to health nor impactful on the environment*

around the world. This research will be important in determining the source of these emissions and how they can be minimised in future."

The Scottish government said the industry contributes close to 50 per cent of Scotland's total NMVOC emissions. The UK Government has said that while NMVOC emissions have fallen in recent decades, they have increased in the food and drink sector, with whisky accounting for two-thirds of the total. In contrast, animal feed accounts for 12 per cent and bread baking 7 per cent.

A Scottish government spokesman said: "Last year, we published our updated air quality strategy... to support that, we are commissioning a review of the available evidence on the health and environmental impacts of NMVOC emissions, including an assessment of the emissions from malt whisky maturation."



Wide load Part of a £45m hydrogen furnace straddles the central reservation on the M53 as it heads towards Essar's Stanlow refinery in Cheshire. A three-mile stretch of the road was closed to traffic on Saturday as the delivery made the final leg of its trip from Thailand.

## **In Pictures: Widest load on British roads?**

*The Independent*  
14 August 2022

A massive section of a new furnace for an oil refinery crept down the M53 on Saturday night.

Part of the M53 in Cheshire was closed on Saturday night to accommodate what is thought to be one of the biggest objects to be moved on a UK road.

At 26.5 metres long and five times higher than a double decker bus, the piece of machinery could only travel at walking pace along three miles of the motorway.

The structure is part of a £45 million furnace that is being installed at Essar's Stanlow oil refinery and will be the first capable of running entirely on hydrogen.

It was built 6,000 miles away in Thailand and carried by ship to the Port of Liverpool before being transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and on to a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port.

Gordon Beattie, National Highways' abnormal loads manager for the North West, said: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway.

"The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway."

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ITV News  
14 August 2022  
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Warning for drivers as parts of M53 in Cheshire close to move an abnormal load

ITV News

11 August 2022

[Link](#)



## Warning for drivers as parts of M53 in Cheshire close to move an abnormal load



Parts of a major motorway in Cheshire will be closed as an abnormal load is transported to an oil refinery.

The huge 'module' for a new hydrogen-powered furnace is being moved from the Manchester Ship Canal, along the M53 near Ellesmere Port in Cheshire to Essar Oil's Stanlow refinery.

Between 7pm on Saturday, 13 August, until 10am Sunday 14 August the Southbound carriageway will be closed from junction 5 at Hooton to junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks.

The northbound carriageway will be closed between junction 10 and junction 8.

A diversion, using the A550 and A494 will operate between junction 5 and 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56.

Drivers are advised to check traffic conditions before setting out on journeys.

**Wide load shuts M53 as giant part of £45m furnace is moved to Stanlow refinery**

PA Media

14 August 2022

[Link](#)



## Wide load shuts M53 as giant part of £45m furnace is moved to Stanlow refinery

A giant part of a £45m furnace is moved on the M53 which was closed between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks, to accommodate the abnormal load heading to Essar's Stanlow refinery. The structure is 26.5 metres long and five times higher than a double decker bus and will become part of the UK's first furnace capable of running on 100% hydrogen. The motorway was closed for three miles, as the load was moved very slowly and carefully towards the port with help from National Highways.

**In Pictures: Widest load on British roads?**

Independent.ie (Press Association)

14 August 2022

[Link](#)



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A massive section of a new furnace for an oil refinery crept down the M53 on Saturday night.

Part of the M53 in Cheshire was closed on Saturday night to accommodate what is thought to be one of the biggest objects to be moved on a UK road.

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The structure is part of a £45 million furnace that is being installed at Essar's Stanlow oil refinery and will be the first capable of running entirely on hydrogen.

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“The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.”

Essar Oil welcomes 'UK's first' giant hydrogen-powered furnace at its Cheshire site

*Business Green*  
*Amber Rollock*  
*16 August 2022*  
[Link](#)

## BusinessGreen™

### Essar Oil welcomes 'UK's first' giant hydrogen-powered furnace at its Cheshire site



Firm is replacing three gas-power oil refinery furnaces at the site with a new piece of giant blue hydrogen-powered kit

The UK's first hydrogen-powered furnace has been delivered to Essar's oil refinery in Cheshire, as part of the company's plan to decarbonise fossil fuel production at the Ellesmere Port site.

The company today hailed the successful completion of "a major logistical feat" to transport the huge hydrogen furnace - which is five times the height of a double-decker bus - to the Stanlow site, which Essar is aiming to transform into the "UK's first low carbon oil refinery".

At 18.5 metres tall, 26.5 metres long and 14.2 metres wide, the new hydrogen furnace is one of the largest objects ever moved on UK roads, even requiring the closure of the M53 motorway to traffic on Saturday night as the giant piece of kit took up the space of both lanes of the road, according to the firm.

Essar touted the furnace, which is capable of running on 100 per cent hydrogen - a fuel that produces zero emissions when burned to produce - as the first of its kind in the UK. It is being fitted as a replacement for three existing furnaces at Stanlow, which are run on fossil gas and are used to produce oil.

Once fully operational in 2023, Essar estimated the new furnace would help improve energy efficiency at Stanlow compared to existing furnaces, while helping to reduce CO2 emissions by more than 240,000 tonnes each year from 2026 and simultaneously cut maintenance costs.

The 'blue' hydrogen used by the new furnace from 2026 is to be produced on site by Vertex Hydrogen, a joint venture between Essar and Progressive Energy which launched in January. The blue hydrogen production facility, which will use methane to create the energy source, is also set to form part of the HyNet North West low carbon cluster.

Although relatively novel, Essar's use of the hydrogen furnace technology is likely to prove somewhat controversial in some quarters, given it is set to be used for oil refining, and that the blue hydrogen is to be sourced from a process that also utilises fossil fuels.

But Essar Oil CEO Deepak Maheshwari said he hoped the new furnace would help "pave the way" to decarbonising its oil refinery operations, alongside the firm's other plans to boost energy efficiency, low carbon energy and carbon capture and storage technologies at the site.

"After years of planning and months of transportation, we are delighted to take delivery of our new, state-of-the-art hydrogen furnace," he said. "The new furnace is the first of its kind at any refinery in the UK and demonstrates clearly Essar's long-term commitment towards decarbonising our operations and helping lead the UK's low carbon transition."

Essar Stanlow takes delivery of UK's first refinery-based hydrogen furnace

*The Business Desk*

Neil Hodgson

16 August 2022

[Link](#)



## Essar Stanlow takes delivery of UK's first refinery-based hydrogen furnace



Cheshire oil refinery, Essar Oil UK, has taken delivery of the first hydrogen-powered furnace at a refinery anywhere in the UK.

The owner of the Stanlow refining site in Ellesmere Port, said it took a major logistical feat, including closing the M53 motorway on Saturday night (August 13).

The furnace arrived the following evening, (August 14), after several hours of complex operations involving multiple agencies including National Highways and Cheshire Police, with the machinery being moved at a walking pace of less than four mph.

It moved along the M53 motorway, exiting at junction 10, before completing the final leg of its journey along the A5117 road to Stanlow.

The furnace, which arrived at the Port of Liverpool on June 20, is one of the largest objects moved on UK roads.

The principal component of the furnace - standing almost five times the height of a double decker bus at 18.5 metres tall, 26.5 metres long and 14.2 metres wide - completely filled both northbound and southbound carriageways of the motorway, straddling the central reservation at key points, with wheels either side of the barriers.

The furnace's 6,000-mile journey began in May this year in Thailand, where it was manufactured and fabricated.



After weeks at sea, the furnace arrived at Liverpool Port, before being transported by barge down the Manchester Ship Canal.

The furnace is the first of its kind in the UK, capable of running on a 100% hydrogen source and will replace three existing furnaces at Stanlow.

Hydrogen used by the new furnace from 2026 will be produced by Vertex Hydrogen, a joint venture launched in January between Essar and Progressive Energy, located on-site at Stanlow and part of the HyNet North West low carbon cluster.

Once fully operational in 2023, it will improve energy efficiency at Stanlow compared with existing furnaces, helping to reduce CO2 emissions by more than 240,000 tonnes each year from 2026, while simultaneously reducing maintenance costs.

The furnace will pave the way to decarbonising Essar's operations and cutting emissions at Stanlow - one of the country's most important refining and manufacturing sites. The furnace forms a central part of Essar's long term strategy for Stanlow to become the UK's first low-carbon refinery, helping lead the country's low carbon transformation.

In addition to the new furnace, Essar is investing in a range of energy efficiency, low carbon energy, and carbon capture and storage initiatives.

Deepak Maheshwari, chief executive at Essar Oil UK, said: "After years of planning and months of transportation, we are delighted to take delivery of our new, state-of-the-art hydrogen furnace. We are grateful to the many organisations, including National Highways and Cheshire Police, who helped ensure the safe arrival of such a large and complex item.

"The new furnace is the first of its kind at any refinery in the UK and demonstrates clearly Essar's long term commitment towards decarbonising our operations and helping lead the UK's low carbon transition."

Ellesmere Port: Huge furnace arrives at oil refinery

*Chester Standard*

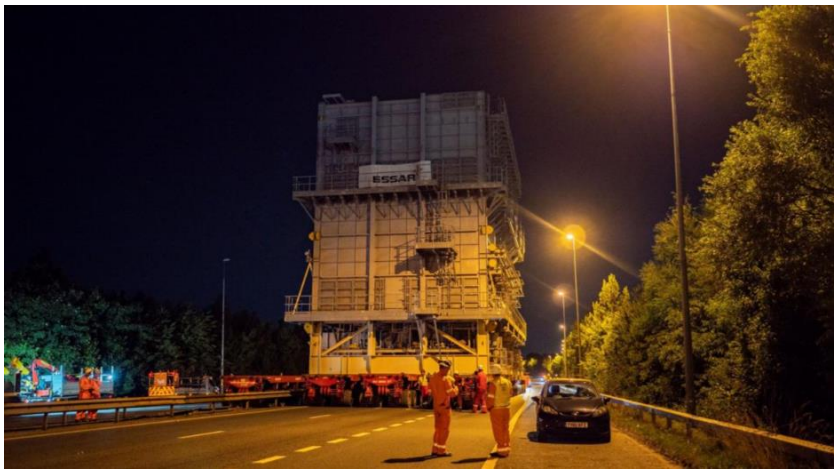
*Jonathan Barnett*

16 August 2022

[Link](#)

## The Standard

### Ellesmere Port: Huge furnace arrives at oil refinery



STANLOW Oil Refinery in Ellesmere Port has taken delivery of the first-ever hydrogen-powered furnace.

In a major logistical feat, which involved closing the M53 on Saturday night (August 13), the furnace arrived at Essar Oil UK's site on Sunday evening.

The complex operation took several hours and involved multiple agencies including National Highways and Cheshire Police, with the machinery being moved at a walking pace of less than four mph.

It moved along the M53 motorway, exiting at junction 10, before completing the final leg of its journey along the A5117 road to Stanlow.

The furnace is one of the largest objects ever moved on UK roads.

The principal component of the furnace - standing almost five times the height of a double decker bus at 18.5 metres tall, 26.5 metres long and 14.2 metres wide - completely filled both northbound and southbound carriages of the motorway.

The furnace's 6,000-mile journey began in May this year in Thailand, where it was manufactured and fabricated.

After weeks at sea, the furnace arrived at Liverpool Port in June, before being transported by barge down the Manchester Ship Canal.

The furnace is the first of its kind in the UK, capable of running on a 100% hydrogen source and will replace three existing furnaces at Stanlow.

Hydrogen used by the new furnace from 2026 will be produced by Vertex Hydrogen, a joint venture launched in January between Essar and Progressive Energy, located on-site at Stanlow and part of the HyNet North West low carbon cluster.

Once fully operational in 2023, it will improve energy efficiency at Stanlow compared to existing furnaces, helping to reduce CO2 emissions by more than 240,000 tonnes each year from 2026, while simultaneously reducing maintenance costs.

The furnace will pave the way to decarbonising Essar's operations and cutting emissions at Stanlow - one of the country's most critical refining and manufacturing sites.

The furnace forms a central part of Essar's long term strategy for Stanlow to become the UK's first low-carbon refinery, helping lead the country's low carbon transformation. In addition to the new furnace, Essar is investing in a range of energy efficiency, low-carbon energy, and carbon capture and storage initiatives.

Deepak Maheshwari, chief executive officer at Essar Oil UK: "After years of planning and months of transportation, we are delighted to take delivery of our new, state-of-the-art hydrogen furnace. We are grateful to the many organisations, including National Highways and Cheshire Police, who helped ensure the safe arrival of such a large and complex item."

**How giant furnace crawled along M53 before arriving at Stanlow refinery**

*Cheshire Live*

*Gary Porter*

*16 August 2022*

[Link](#)



## How giant furnace crawled along M53 before arriving at Stanlow refinery





Essar Oil UK has taken delivery of the first-ever hydrogen-powered furnace at a refinery anywhere in the UK at its Stanlow site in Ellesmere Port.

In a major logistical feat, which involved closing the M53 on Saturday night (August 13), the furnace arrived the following evening. The complex operation took several hours and involved multiple agencies including National Highways and Cheshire Police, with the machinery being moved at a walking pace of less than four mph.

It moved along the M53 motorway, exiting at junction 10, before completing the final leg of its journey along the A5117 road to Stanlow. The furnace is one of the largest objects ever moved on UK roads.

The principal component of the furnace - standing almost five times the height of a double decker bus at 18.5 metres tall, 26.5 metres long and 14.2 metres wide - completely filled both northbound and southbound carriageways of the motorway.

The furnace's 6,000-mile journey began in May this year in Thailand, where it was manufactured and fabricated. After weeks at sea, the furnace arrived at Liverpool Port in June, before being transported by barge down the Manchester Ship Canal.

The furnace is the first of its kind in the UK, capable of running on a 100% hydrogen source and will replace three existing furnaces at Stanlow. Hydrogen used by the new furnace from 2026 will be produced by Vertex Hydrogen, a joint venture launched in January between Essar and Progressive Energy, located on-site at Stanlow and part of the HyNet North West low carbon cluster.

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Deepak Maheshwari, Chief Executive Officer at Essar Oil UK, said: "After years of planning and months of transportation, we are delighted to take delivery of our new, state-of-the-art hydrogen furnace. We are grateful to the many organisations, including National Highways and Cheshire Police, who helped ensure the safe arrival of such a large and complex item.

"The new furnace is the first of its kind at any refinery in the UK and demonstrates clearly Essar's long-term commitment towards decarbonising our operations and helping lead the UK's low carbon transition."

**Giant hydrogen furnace makes its way down M53 in Cheshire**

*Cheshire Live*

*Angela Ferguson*

*14 August 2022*

[Link](#)



## Giant hydrogen furnace makes its way down M53 in Cheshire



A section of the M53 in Cheshire was closed as the gigantic hydrogen furnace was escorted to Stanlow by police

A section of the M53 was closed overnight as police escorted a huge hydrogen furnace en route to Stanlow as part of a 6,000 mile journey from Thailand. The hydrogen-ready furnace was being delivered to the Essar Oil UK site at Stanlow Refinery.

The southbound carriageway of the M53 between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks was closed from 7pm yesterday (Saturday, August 13) until 10am this morning. This unusual and striking delivery was the main module of the UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace.

The largest single 'module' for the new furnace measures a staggering 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide - twice the length of a road-going oil tanker, nearly five times higher than a double decker bus and six times wider than one of National Highways' famous orange salt spreaders.

As the huge furnace slowly made its way down the M53, a number of people took pictures. The M53 was part of the final leg of its 6,000 mile journey all the way from Thailand. It arrived in the Port of Liverpool by ship from Thailand before being transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey.

It then travelled through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port. And the last leg of its mostly watery journey took it along the strictly terra firma of the M53 motorway and A5117.

Photos taken of the humungous cargo, some with emergency services staff looking like Liliputians alongside it, reveal the sheer scale of it, and explain just why the M53 had to be closed to give it enough room.

And this was such a monumental operation that National Highways has had to remove and restore a number of lighting columns and matrix signs from the central reservation, boundary fencing and safety barrier from the verge, some safety barrier from the central reservation and a number of signs. Trees have also had to be trimmed in places along the A5117 to ensure there is enough room for the mega wide load, according to reports on social media.

So how exactly, did this mammoth furnace get to Stanlow?

Yesterday (August 13) it was moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8.

Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module was then slowly and carefully moved at walking pace some three miles en route to Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.

Diversions were put in place, using the A550 and A494 trunks which operated between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56.

Speaking ahead of the delivery with a difference, Gordon Beattie, National Highways' abnormal loads manager for the North West told Cheshire Live: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway. The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."



M53 shut this weekend for huge abnormal load - all you need to know

Cheshire Live

Gary Porter

12 August 2022

[Link](#)



# M53 shut this weekend for huge abnormal load - all you need to know

The Chronicle Thursday, August 11, 2022

## M-way closes for transfer of huge furnace

BY GARY PORTER

THE M53 in Ellesmere Port will be closed for one night to enable the delivery of a new furnace to Essar's Stanlow refinery.

The southbound carriageway will be shut between junction 5 at Footon and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks from 7pm on Saturday, August 13 until 10am the following day in order to accommodate the abnormal load.

The northbound carriageway will close after 7pm between junction 10 and junction 8, with the length of the closure subject to an appropriate reduction in traffic levels from Cheshire Oaks.

National Highways is closing the M53 to ensure the main module of the UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace can be delivered to Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site. The largest single 'module' for the new furnace is 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide - that's twice the length of a road-going oil tanker, almost five times higher than a double-decker bus and six times wider than one of National Highways' famous orange salt spreaders.

And the last leg of its 6,000 mile - and mostly watery - journey will be along the strictly terra firma of the M53 motorway and A5117.

After arriving by ship from Thailand to the Port of Liverpool in June it was transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay

near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port.

On Saturday, August 13 it will be moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8. Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module will then be slowly and carefully moved at walking pace some three miles onto Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.

Gordon Beattie, National Highways' abnormal loads manager for the North West said: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway. The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway."

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."

Stewart Prentice, Head of Projects, at Essar added: "We would like to thank National Highways for their support in this mammoth task, especially in facilitating closure of the M53 as our new furnace travels on its final leg to Stanlow."

"The new furnace is one of the largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads and key to Essar's strategy of transitioning to being a low carbon



● The module has already been moved across the River Mersey and up the Manchester Ship Canal to a landing site next to the M53 in readiness for next week's three-mile move by road to Stanlow

energy provider at the forefront of decarbonisation in the North West."

A diversion using the A590 and A494 trunks will operate between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56. As part of the work to

accommodate the abnormal load, National Highways will need to

remove and restore a number of lighting columns and matrix signs from the central reservation. boundary fencing and safety barrier from the verge, some safety barrier

from the central reservation and a number of signs.

The new furnace is part of Government-backed plans to include hydrogen in the race to reduce the country's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.



An overnight closure will be in place on the M53 in Ellesmere Port this weekend to enable the delivery of a huge new furnace to Stanlow refinery.

National Highways is closing the motorway in both directions with diversions in place for affected motorists. This is to ensure the main module of the UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace can be delivered to Essar Oil UK's site in Ellesmere Port.

The largest single 'module' for the new furnace is 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide - that's twice the length of a road-going oil tanker, almost five times higher than a double decker bus and six times wider than one of National Highways' famous orange salt spreaders.

After arriving by ship from Thailand to the Port of Liverpool in June it was transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port.

And the last leg of its 6,000 mile - and mostly watery - journey will be along the strictly terra firma of the M53 motorway and A5117.

Where and when are the closures in force?

The southbound carriageway will be shut between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks from 7pm on Saturday, August 13 until 10am the following day in order to accommodate the abnormal load.

The northbound carriageway will close after 7pm between junction 10 and junction 8, with the length of the closure subject to an appropriate reduction in traffic levels from Cheshire Oaks.

How is the furnace getting to the refinery?

On Saturday, it will be moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8.

Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module will then be slowly and carefully moved at walking pace some three miles onto Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.

Gordon Beattie, National Highways' abnormal loads manager for the North West said: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway. The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."

What diversion is in place?

A diversion using the A550 and A494 trunks will operate between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56.

As part of the work to accommodate the abnormal load, National Highways will need to remove and restore a number of lighting columns and matrix signs from the central reservation, boundary fencing and safety barrier from the verge, some safety barrier from the central reservation and a number of signs.

Pictures show 'mammoth load' begin 15-hour journey across M53

Liverpool Echo

Aaliyah Rugg

13 August 2022

[Link](#)



## Pictures show 'mammoth load' begin 15-hour journey across M53



The lanes are expected to open again at 10am on Sunday

One of the "largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads" began the last leg of its journey this evening.

Part of the M53 was closed on Saturday evening, from 7pm, to allow for the delivery of a huge new furnace to Essar's Stanlow refinery. The new furnace is one of the largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads, and is the main module of the UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace.

It is expected to fill the whole of the motorway and will take 15-hours to complete. As a result, the Southbound carriageway in Ellesmere Port was closed between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks as well as junctions 10 and 8 on the Northbound carriageway.

The lanes are expected to open again at 10am on Sunday. Pictures captured by the ECHO shows the massive load setting off on its journey, which is expected to "take a while".

The load is 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide, twice the length of a road-going oil tanker and almost five times the height of a double-decker bus. Images show the sheer height as workers kickstart the final leg of the journey.

Stewart Prentice, Head of Projects, at Essar said: "We would like to thank National Highways for their support in this mammoth task, especially in facilitating closure of the M53 as our new furnace travels on its final leg to Stanlow. The new furnace is one of the largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads and key to Essar's strategy of transitioning to being a low carbon energy provider at the forefront of decarbonisation in the North West."

## The journey

After arriving by ship from Thailand to the Port of Liverpool in June it was transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port. The last leg of its 6,000 mile, and mostly watery, journey will be along the M53 motorway and A5117 local road.

Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module will then be slowly and carefully moved at walking pace some three miles onto Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.

A diversion will be in place using the A550 and A494 trunks between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56. Also assisting the "mammoth load" are officers from North West Motorway policing team and Cheshire Police.

As part of the work to accommodate the abnormal load, National Highways confirmed they will need to remove and restore a number of lighting columns and matrix signs from the central reservation, boundary fencing and safety barrier from the verge, some safety barrier from the central reservation and a number of signs.

Gordon Beattie, our abnormal loads manager for the North West added: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway. The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."

## The furnace

The new furnace is part of Government-backed plans to include hydrogen in the race to reduce the country's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. A UK-first, the furnace is unique in that it will run off 100% hydrogen fuel source from 2026.



M53 to close this weekend as hydrogen furnace is delivered

Wirral Globe

Rebecca McGrath

12 August 2022

[Link](#)

## WirralGlobe

### M53 to close this weekend as hydrogen furnace is delivered



THE M53 motorway will be closed this weekend due to a 26-metre-long hydrogen furnace being delivered to Essar Oil UK's Stanlow refinery near Ellesmere Port in Cheshire.

After arriving by ship from Thailand to the Port of Liverpool in June it was transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port.

The last leg of its 6,000 mile and mostly watery journey will be along the M53 motorway and A5117 local road.

Gordon Beattie, abnormal loads manager for the North West said: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads and this one will completely fill the motorway.

"The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms, one on each carriageway, and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

The module has already been moved across the River Mersey and up the Manchester Ship Canal to a landing site next to the M53 in readiness for next week's three-mile move by road to Stanlow. (Image: National Highways)

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."

On Saturday, August 13, the furnace will be moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8.

Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module will then be slowly and carefully moved at a walking pace three miles onto Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.

The largest single 'module' for the new furnace is 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide.

The refinery is located on the south bank of the River Mersey, flanked on its west by the M53 and M56 to the south.

The module has already been moved across the River Mersey and up the Manchester Ship Canal to a landing site next to the M53 in readiness for next week's three-mile move by road to Stanlow.

The southbound carriageway will be closed between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks from 7pm on Saturday, August 13 until 10am on Sunday, August 14.

The northbound carriageway will be closed between junction 10 and junction 8 with the closure time on Saturday evening after 7pm and subject to an appropriate reduction in traffic levels from Cheshire Oaks.

A diversion using the A550 and A494 trunks will operate between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56

The new furnace is part of Government-backed plans to include hydrogen in the race to reduce the country's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

Stewart Prentice, Head of Projects, at Essar said: "We would like to thank National Highways for their support in this mammoth task, especially in facilitating closure of the M53 as our new furnace travels on its final leg to Stanlow.

"The new furnace is one of the largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads and key to Essar's strategy of transitioning to being a low carbon energy provider at the forefront of decarbonisation in the North West."

## **Motorway to close from Saturday so ENORMOUS oil refinery kit can be moved**

*manchestereveningnews.co.uk*

*Ethan Davies, Ellie Kemp*

*12 August 2022*

### **Motorway to close from Saturday so ENORMOUS oil refinery kit can be moved**

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest"

A section of the M53 will be closed from Saturday August 13 so a huge piece of oil refinery equipment can be transported to its new home.

The enormous metal structure is going to be installed at Essar's Stanlow oil refinery in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Once installed, the module will allow Stanlow to start the UK's first hydrogen furnace, which will enable it to cut its emissions.

The module is five times taller than a double decker bus – and six times wider than road salt spreaders which are seen in winter. In all, 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide – meaning the module will straddle both sides of the motorway during the final three miles of its journey, which started back in Thailand.

Read more:

“There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads --and this one will completely fill the motorway,” Gordon Beattie, abnormal loads manager for National Highways North West, said. “The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms – one on each carriageway – and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

“This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we’ll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place.”

After arriving by ship from Thailand to the Port of Liverpool in June, the module was transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port. On Saturday 13 August it will be moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8.

To facilitate the move, the southbound carriageway of the M53 will be closed between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks from 7pm on Saturday, August 13 until 10am on Sunday, August 14. The northbound carriageway will be closed between junction 10 and junction 8 with the closure time on the Saturday evening after 7pm and subject to an appropriate reduction in traffic levels from Cheshire Oaks.

A diversion using the A550 and A494 trunks will operate between between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56.

## **Giant hydrogen furnace makes its way down M53 in Cheshire**

*Macclesfield Express*

*Angela Ferguson*

*14 August 2022*

A section of the M53 in Cheshire was closed as the gigantic hydrogen furnace was escorted to Stanlow by police

A section of the M53 was closed overnight as police escorted a huge hydrogen furnace en route to Stanlow as part of a 6,000 mile journey from Thailand. The hydrogen-ready furnace was being delivered to the Essar Oil UK site at Stanlow Refinery.

The southbound carriageway of the M53 between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks was closed from 7pm yesterday Saturday, August 13 until 10am this morning. This unusual and striking delivery was the main module of the UK’s first hydrogen-ready furnace.

The largest single ‘module’ for the new furnace measures a staggering 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide - twice the length of a road-going oil tanker, nearly five times higher than a double decker bus and six times wider than one of National Highways’ famous orange salt spreaders.

As the huge furnace slowly made its way down the M53, a number of people took pictures. The M53 was part of the final leg of its 6,000 mile journey all the way from Thailand. It arrived in the Port of Liverpool by ship from Thailand before being transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey.

It then travelled through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port. And the last leg of its mostly watery journey took it along the strictly terra firma of the M53 motorway and A5117.

Photos taken of the humungous cargo, some with emergency services staff looking like Liliputians alongside it, reveal the sheer scale of it, and explain just why the M53 had to be closed to give it enough room.

And this was such a monumental operation that National Highways has had to remove and restore a number of lighting columns and matrix signs from the central reservation, boundary fencing and safety barrier from the verge, some safety barrier from the central reservation and a number of signs. Trees have also had to be trimmed in places along the A5117 to ensure there is enough room for the mega wide load, according to reports on social media.

So how exactly, did this mammoth furnace get to Stanlow

Yesterday August 13 it was moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8.

Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module was then slowly and carefully moved at walking pace some three miles en route to Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.

Diversions were put in place, using the A550 and A494 trunks which operated between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56.

Speaking ahead of the delivery with a difference, Gordon Beattie, National Highways' abnormal loads manager for the North West told Cheshire Live: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway. The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms -one on each carriageway -and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."



M53 to shut overnight as 14m wide module is transported to UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace

*New Civil Engineer*

*Rob Hakimian*

12 August 2022

[Link](#)

## New Civil Engineer

### M53 to shut overnight as 14m wide module is transported to UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace



National Highways will close a section of the M53 near Whitby overnight tomorrow (Saturday 13 August) as the largest single module for the UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace is transported to Essar Oil UK's Stanlow refinery near Ellesmere Port in Cheshire.

The module is 26.5m long, 18.5m tall and 14.2m wide and the operation on Saturday night is just the last leg of its over 9,600km journey from Thailand, where it was manufactured. It was sent by ship in one piece via the Suez Canal, arriving at the Port of Liverpool in June.

From there, the module was transferred on to a barge to cross the River Mersey and worked its way through the locks into the Manchester Shipping Canal. It was then placed into a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port, where it has remained for the last couple of months.

On Saturday night, the module will be moved away from the canal and on to the M53 via the southbound entry at junction 8. Moving at a walking pace, the module will be carefully transported down the M53 then exit at junction 10 to travel along the A5117 to its destination at the Stanlow refinery.

Its size means it will straddle both north and southbound carriageways, which will be closed from 7pm. National Highways will have to remove lighting columns and matrix signs from the central reservation, boundary fencing and safety barrier from the verge, some safety barrier from the central reservation and a number of signs. These will have to be restored before this section of the M53 can be reopened.

Essar Oil's 770ha site on the Ellesmere Port is home to a refinery that supplies 16% of the UK's road transport fuels, and is now going to host the country's first low-carbon refinery. The £45M furnace

will be the centrepiece of the HyNet North West Decarbonisation Cluster and will become operational later this year. It is projected to produce 1GW of hydrogen annually across two units from 2026.

It is part of Essar Oil's £1bn investment between 2021 and 2026 to drive down emissions. The company will decommission three existing furnaces, including a 140m-tall chimney, and replace them with the new highly-efficient furnace that has a chimney approximately 71m tall. The new gas-only refinery will significantly reduce emissions of carbon and nitrogen dioxide.

Once the refinery is operating 100% on hydrogen, it has the potential to reduce 242,000t of CO2 emissions every year. Ongoing maintenance costs will also be reduced.

National Highways abnormal loads manager for the North West Gordon Beattie said: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway. The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."

Essar head of projects Stewart Prentice said: "We would like to thank National Highways for their support in this mammoth task, especially in facilitating closure of the M53 as our new furnace travels on its final leg to Stanlow.

"The new furnace is one of the largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads and key to Essar's strategy of transitioning to being a low carbon energy provider at the forefront of decarbonisation in the North West."

## Hydrogen furnace arrives at Essar's Stanlow refinery

*Hydrocarbon Engineering*

*Callum O'Reilly*

*16 August 2022*

[Link](#)

# HYDROCARBON ENGINEERING®

Essar Oil UK has taken delivery of the first-ever hydrogen-powered furnace at a refinery anywhere in the UK at its Stanlow site in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, UK.

In a major logistical feat, the furnace arrived on 14 August. The complex operation took several hours and involved multiple agencies including National Highways and Cheshire Police, with the machinery being moved at a walking pace of less than 4 mph. It moved along the M53 motorway, exiting at junction 10, before completing the final leg of its journey along the A5117 road to Stanlow.

The furnace is one of the largest objects ever moved on UK roads. The principal component of the furnace - standing almost five times the height of a double decker bus at 18.5 m tall, 26.5 m long and 14.2 m wide - completely filled both northbound and southbound carriageways of the motorway.

The furnace's 6000 mile journey began in May 2022 in Thailand, where it was manufactured and fabricated. After weeks at sea, the furnace arrived at Liverpool Port in June, before being transported by barge down the Manchester Ship Canal.

The furnace is the first of its kind in the UK, capable of running on a 100% hydrogen source and will replace three existing furnaces at Stanlow. Hydrogen used by the new furnace from 2026 will be

produced by Vertex Hydrogen, a joint venture launched in January between Essar and Progressive Energy, located on-site at Stanlow and part of the HyNet North West low carbon cluster.

Once fully operational in 2023, it will improve energy efficiency at Stanlow compared to existing furnaces, helping to reduce CO2 emissions by more than 240 000 tpy from 2026, while simultaneously reducing maintenance costs.

The furnace will pave the way to decarbonising Essar's operations and cutting emissions at Stanlow - one of the country's most critical refining and manufacturing sites. The furnace forms a central part of Essar's long-term strategy for Stanlow to become the UK's first low-carbon refinery, helping lead the country's low carbon transformation. In addition to the new furnace, Essar is investing in a range of energy efficiency, low-carbon energy, and carbon capture and storage initiatives.

Deepak Maheshwari, Chief Executive Officer at Essar Oil UK, commented: "After years of planning and months of transportation, we are delighted to take delivery of our new, state-of-the-art hydrogen furnace. We are grateful to the many organisations, including National Highways and Cheshire Police, who helped ensure the safe arrival of such a large and complex item.

"The new furnace is the first of its kind at any refinery in the UK and demonstrates clearly Essar's long-term commitment towards decarbonising our operations and helping lead the UK's low carbon transition."

**M53 closure to help construct hydrogen-powered refinery**

*Fleet point*  
 Mark Salisbury  
 9 August 2022  
[Link](#)



**M53 closure to help construct hydrogen-powered refinery**



National Highways is paving the way for cutting carbon emissions at one of the country’s biggest oil refineries.

The company, responsible for operating the country’s motorways and major A roads, is closing the M53 for a night later this month to ensure the main module of the UK’s first hydrogen-ready furnace, can be delivered to Essar Oil UK’s Stanlow refinery near Ellesmere Port in Cheshire. The refinery is located on the south bank of the River Mersey, flanked on its west by the M53 and M56 to the south.

The largest single ‘module’ for the new furnace is 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide - that’s twice the length of a road-going oil tanker, almost five times higher than a double decker bus and six times wider than one of National Highways’ famous orange salt spreaders. And the last leg of its 6,000 mile - and mostly watery - journey will be along the strictly terra firma of the M53 motorway and A5117 local road.

After arriving by ship from Thailand to the Port of Liverpool in June it was transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port.

On Saturday 13 August it will be moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8.

Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module will then be slowly and carefully moved at walking pace some three miles onto Essar Oil UK’s Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.



To help with the delivery, National Highways is closing the M53 for a night this week.

Gordon Beattie, National Highways' abnormal loads manager for the North West said: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway. The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.

"This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we'll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place."

Stewart Prentice, Head of Projects, at Essar said: "We would like to thank National Highways for their support in this mammoth task, especially in facilitating closure of the M53 as our new furnace travels on its final leg to Stanlow.

"The new furnace is one of the largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads and key to Essar's strategy of transitioning to being a low carbon energy provider at the forefront of decarbonisation in the North West."

National Highways today released full details of the overnight motorway closure - including diversion information. The southbound carriageway will be closed between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks from 7pm on Saturday 13 August until 10am on Sunday 14 August.

The northbound carriageway will be closed between junction 10 and junction 8 with the closure time on the Saturday evening after 7pm and subject to an appropriate reduction in traffic levels from Cheshire Oaks.

A good diversion using the A550 and A494 trunks will operate between between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56.

As part of the work to accommodate the abnormal load, National Highways will need to remove and restore a number of lighting columns and matrix signs from the central reservation, boundary fencing and safety barrier from the verge, some safety barrier from the central reservation and a number of signs.

The new furnace is part of Government-backed plans to include hydrogen in the race to reduce the country's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

Night time closure on M53 this weekend as 18 metre high furnace is delivered to Stanlow  
 Deeside  
 11 August 2022  
[Link](#)

**DEESIDE.COM**

## Night time closure on M53 this weekend as 18 metre high furnace is delivered to Stanlow



A section of the M53 around Ellesmere Port will be closed in both directions this weekend - on Saturday night into Sunday morning - for the movement of a massive load.

The main module of the UK's first hydrogen-ready furnace is being delivered to Essar Oil UK's Stanlow refinery near Ellesmere Port.

The refinery is located on the south bank of the River Mersey, flanked on its west by the M53 and M56 to the south.

The largest single 'module' for the new furnace is 26.5 metres long, 18.5 metres tall, and 14.2 metres wide.

That's almost five times higher than a double decker bus and six times wider than a motorway gritter.

And the last leg of its 6,000 mile - and mostly watery - journey will be along the strictly terra firma of the M53 motorway and A5117 local road.

After arriving by ship from Thailand to the Port of Liverpool in June it was transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and onto a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port.

On Saturday (13 August) it will be moved away from the canal a few hundred yards onto the neighbouring M53 via the southbound entry slip road at junction 8.

Straddling both the northbound and southbound carriageways the module will then be slowly and carefully moved at walking pace some three miles onto Essar Oil UK's Stanlow site, exiting the M53 at junction 10 and travelling along the A5117 local road.

To help with the delivery, the M53 will be closed for the night.

Gordon Beattie, National Highways abnormal loads manager for the North West said: “There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway.”

“The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway.”

“This has been a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved but we’ll be closing the motorway at a time when traffic is at its lightest and a very good diversion will be in place.”

Stewart Prentice, Head of Projects, at Essar said: “We would like to thank National Highways for their support in this mammoth task, especially in facilitating closure of the M53 as our new furnace travels on its final leg to Stanlow.”

“The new furnace is one of the largest objects ever to be moved on UK roads and key to Essar’s strategy of transitioning to being a low carbon energy provider at the forefront of decarbonisation in the North West.”

Drivers warned of overnight closure on the M53 near Cheshire Oaks

*The Leader*  
Jonathon Barnett  
13 August 2022  
[Link](#)

**the Leader**

## Drivers warned of overnight closure on the M53 near Cheshire Oaks



DRIVERS are being reminded that parts of the M53 near Ellesmere Port will be closed on Saturday night into Sunday morning this weekend.

National Highways is paving the way for cutting carbon emissions at one of the country's biggest oil refineries with a huge 'module' for a new hydrogen-powered furnace being moved from a quay alongside the Manchester Ship Canal via the M53 and A5177 to Essar Oil UK's Stanlow refinery.

Motorway users are being advised the southbound carriageway will be closed between junction 5 at Hooton and junction 10 for Cheshire Oaks from 7pm on Saturday (August 13) until 10am on Sunday (August 14).

The northbound carriageway will be closed between junction 10 and junction 8 with the closure time on Saturday evening after 7pm and subject to an appropriate reduction in traffic levels from Cheshire Oaks.

A good diversion using the A550 and A494 trunk roads will operate between junction 5 and junction 11 at Stoak Interchange where the M53 meets the M56.

Drivers are advised to check traffic conditions before setting out on journeys.

**In Pictures: Widest load on British roads?**

*The Northern Times*

14 August 2022

[Link](#)

## The Northern Times

### In Pictures: Widest load on British roads?



Part of the M53 in Cheshire was closed on Saturday night to accommodate what is thought to be one of the biggest objects to be moved on a UK road.

At 26.5 metres long and five times higher than a double decker bus, the piece of machinery could only travel at walking pace along three miles of the motorway.

The structure is part of a £45 million furnace that is being installed at Essar's Stanlow oil refinery and will be the first capable of running entirely on hydrogen.



It was built 6,000 miles away in Thailand and carried by ship to the Port of Liverpool before being transferred to a barge for the short trip across the River Mersey, through the locks into the Manchester Ship Canal and on to a holding bay near National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port.

Gordon Beattie, National Highways' abnormal loads manager for the North West, said: "There are abnormal loads and there are abnormal loads - and this one will completely fill the motorway.

"The module will be mounted on two wheeled platforms - one on each carriageway - and will look a bit like the bridge of a container ship gliding down the motorway."