

Morven Offshore Wind Farm

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Non-statutory consultation – 22 October to 30 November 2025



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Glossary

Array	A group of wind turbines placed together to harness wind energy. Morven has two array sites - North and South.
Cable landfall point	The point where offshore export cables are brought ashore and are connected to the onshore export cables.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	A statutory order which provides consent to build, operate and maintain a development of national significance.
Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)	An evaluation of the likely significant effects of the planned project on the natural environment and people throughout its construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning.
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document which reports on the EIA. The ES will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.
Grid connection location	The specific point at which the energy is transferred from the generating system to the national grid.
Land substation	The onshore equipment used to change the voltage of the generated power to be suitable for supply to the national grid.
National Energy System Operator (NESO)	Public body with responsibility to plan, manage, and oversee the UK's energy network.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	A report produced to support the statutory consultation that appraises the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as understood at that stage.
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	Informs communities of the proposed development and ways in which they will be able to find out more and provide feedback.
Transition Joint Bay (TJB)	An underground concrete chamber, where the offshore cables are connected to the onshore cables.

Introduction

Morven Offshore Wind Farm includes two array sites; Morven North and Morven South, which would be located off the coast of Aberdeenshire in the North Sea. It is being developed by Morven Offshore Wind Limited, a joint venture between Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW) and JERA Nex bp. The project was awarded an Option Lease Agreement during Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind Leasing Round in 2022.

Once operational, we estimate that Morven has the potential to generate up to 3 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy – enough to power the equivalent of around 3 million UK homes.

Morven requires both offshore and onshore elements to generate electricity and transmit it to the electricity transmission network (known as “the grid”) operated by National Grid. The proposed infrastructure for Morven currently consists of:

- **The Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project (Morven North)** – entirely in Scottish waters, approximately 61km from the Aberdeenshire coast and covers an area of 511km². It would consist of up to 96 turbines and supporting foundations, inter-array and interconnector cabling and offshore substation platforms.
- **The Morven South Offshore Wind Array Project (Morven South)** – entirely in Scottish waters, approximately 86km from the Aberdeenshire coast and covers an area of 347km². It would consist of up to 95 turbines and supporting foundations, inter-array and interconnector cabling and offshore substation platforms.
- **Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (MHPGC)** – within both Scottish and English waters and includes offshore cables, underground onshore cables and a land substation. The Hawthorn Pit grid connection is proposed to be located in North East England, near Seaham. MHPGC will serve Morven North or Morven South.

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) determines where projects, such as this, should connect into the National Grid. Through their Holistic Network Design (HND) process NESO has determined that the first connection should be at Hawthorn Pit.

A second connection will be required to transmit the remaining power generated by the wind farm array sites. The grid connection location for this has yet to be confirmed by NESO, but it will not be at Hawthorn Pit.

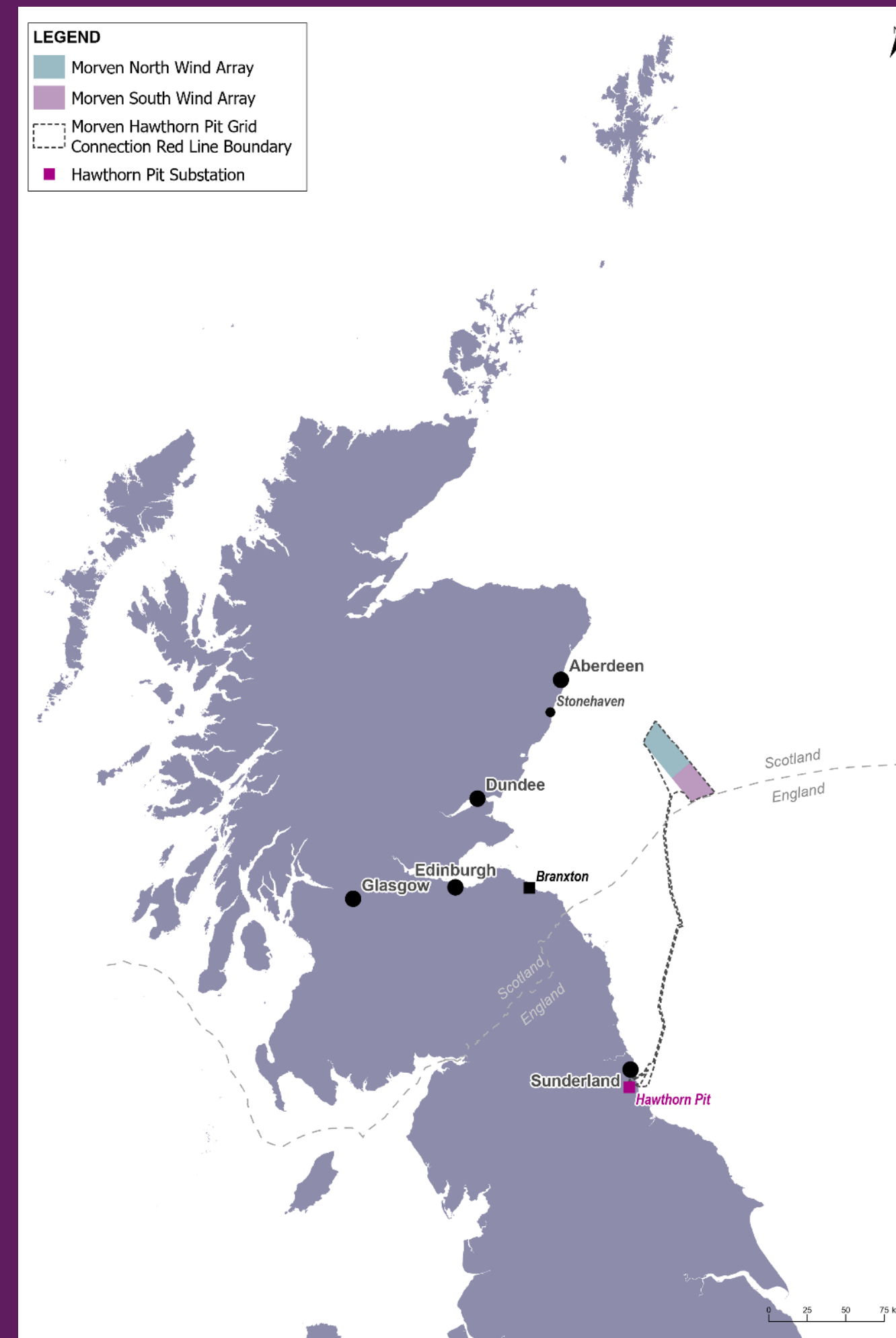
As the wind farm array sites are in Scotland, they follow a consenting process that is different to the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, which is required for the proposed Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project.

This consultation focuses on the **Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project**.

You can find out more about Morven North and Morven South at www.morvenoffshorewind.com/morven-wind-farm-array/

If you would like this consultation brochure or any of our other materials in a different format, please contact the Morven team by email info@morvenoffshorewind.com or phone 0800 669 6110.

Project overview



This consultation

We are pleased to consult with you about our plans for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project, which includes the offshore and onshore infrastructure in England associated with Morven Offshore Wind Farm.

Between July and September 2024, we held a non-statutory consultation on broad corridors of search for where we might locate our offshore and onshore infrastructure. Since then, we have considered all feedback received, undertaken further technical studies and engaged with stakeholders and landowners to identify potential sites for the:

- offshore cable corridor;
- onshore cable corridor; and
- cable landfall;
- the land substation.

We are now holding a second round of non-statutory consultation to invite your feedback on these different options.

We are keen to hear your views about the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project to help us refine and develop our proposals.

Our next steps are shown in 'the consenting process' section. As we progress, we will keep our website up to date with further information.



Take Part

The views of stakeholders and the community are important to us and will continue to be considered as we further develop and refine our plans.

This consultation will run from **22 October 2025 to 30 November 2025**. Please provide your feedback by **23:59 pm on 30 November 2025** to ensure it is considered.

Meet the team

As part of the consultation, we're holding a series of public events. These are a great opportunity to meet the team, find out more about the project and ask questions.

Consultation events

3 November from 3pm to 7pm

Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton, SR7 9BX

4 November from 3pm to 7pm

Hawthorn Community Centre, Seaham, SR7 8SG

15 November from 10am to 3pm

Seaham Scout Centre, Dow House, South Crescent, Seaham, SR7 7HD

18 November from 3pm to 7pm

Robin Todd Community Centre, Front Street, South Hetton, DH6 2TH

Online webinar

We will also be hosting an online webinar on **12 November** at **6 to 7pm**. To register to attend, please visit our website: www.morvenoffshorewind.com.

You can share your feedback by



Visiting our project website: www.morvenoffshorewind.com and completing our online feedback form.



Sending an email with your feedback to: info@morvenoffshorewind.com



Sending a letter or hard copy feedback form, which will be available at events or by request to us in the post. You don't need a stamp. Our freepost address is: **Freepost MORVEN**

Contact the team

If you have any questions about the project or this consultation, you can contact the team by:



Calling us:
0800 669 6110



Emailing us:
info@morvenoffshorewind.com

How does the electricity get from offshore wind farms to homes and businesses?

Wind turbines

Electricity generated is transmitted to the electricity transmission network ("the grid") using cables.

Offshore cables

Offshore cables transmit electricity from the wind farm to shore and are typically buried in the seabed.

Cable landfall point

Offshore cables come ashore at this point to connect with onshore cables.

Transition joint bay at landfall

Offshore cables are connected to onshore cables in an underground chamber.

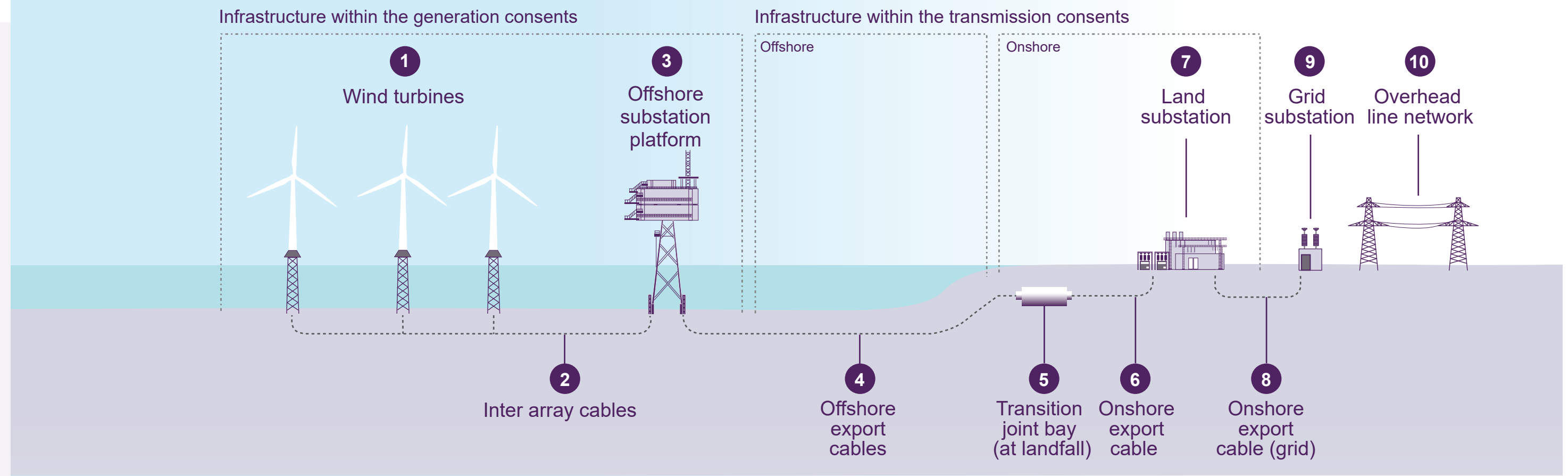
Onshore export cables

Once cables reach the shore, for offshore wind farms, they are typically buried underground (this is the case for our project).

Land substation

Onshore cables then transmit electricity to a land substation for connection to the grid. Electricity can then be distributed for use, including by homes and businesses across the UK.

Infrastructure Diagram



The consenting process

The Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project will require several different types of planning permissions - known as consents - under various legislation in Scotland and England.

The focus of this consultation is on those aspects of the project located in English waters and onshore in England. In March 2024, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero directed that, for aspects of the project in England, Morven Offshore Wind Limited can submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008.

The DCO pre-application process ensures that there are many opportunities for local communities to provide meaningful feedback to help shape proposals. Local authorities have an important role and are identified in legislation as 'statutory consultees' that applicants (such as Morven Offshore Wind Limited) must consult with ahead of submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

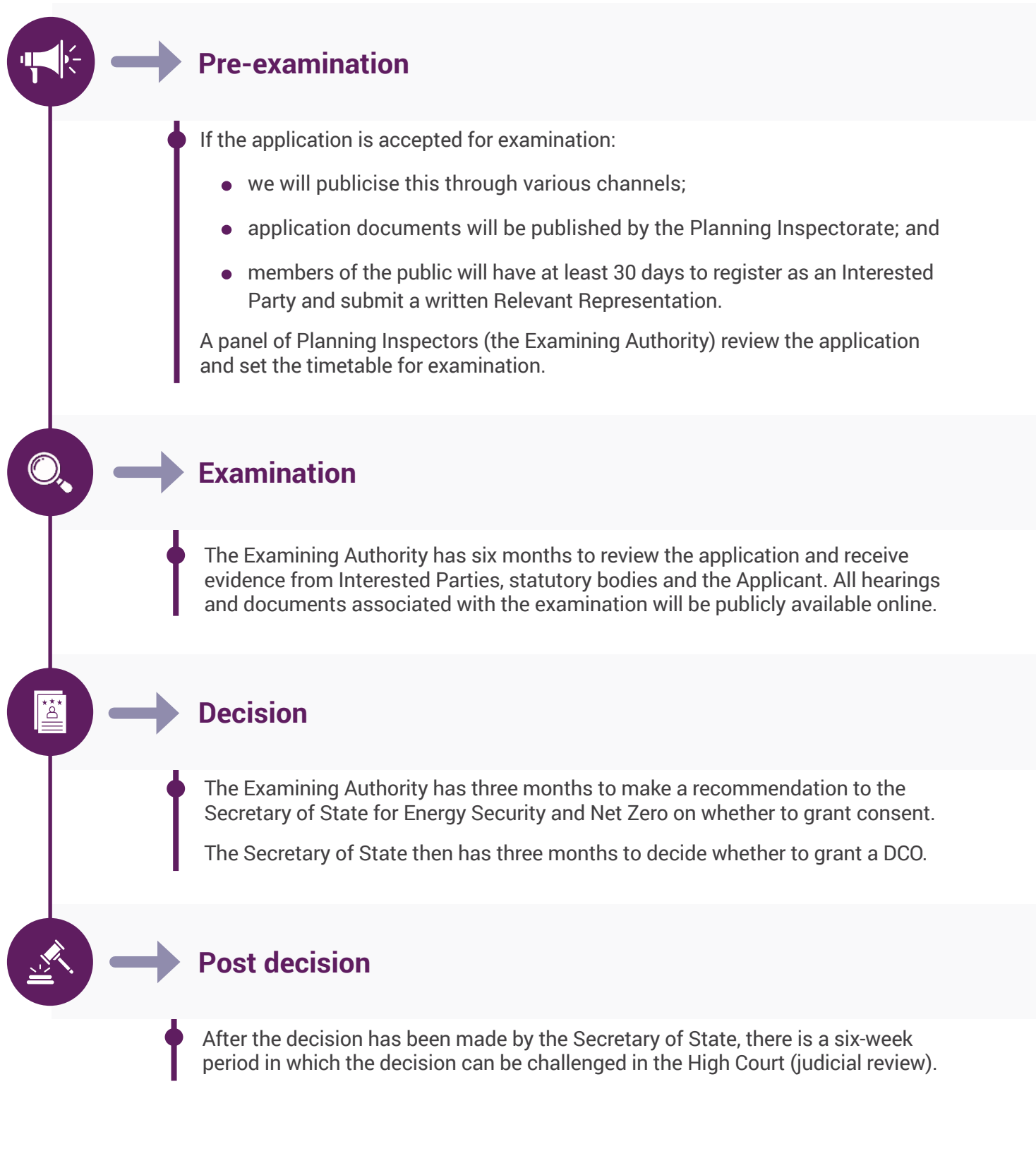
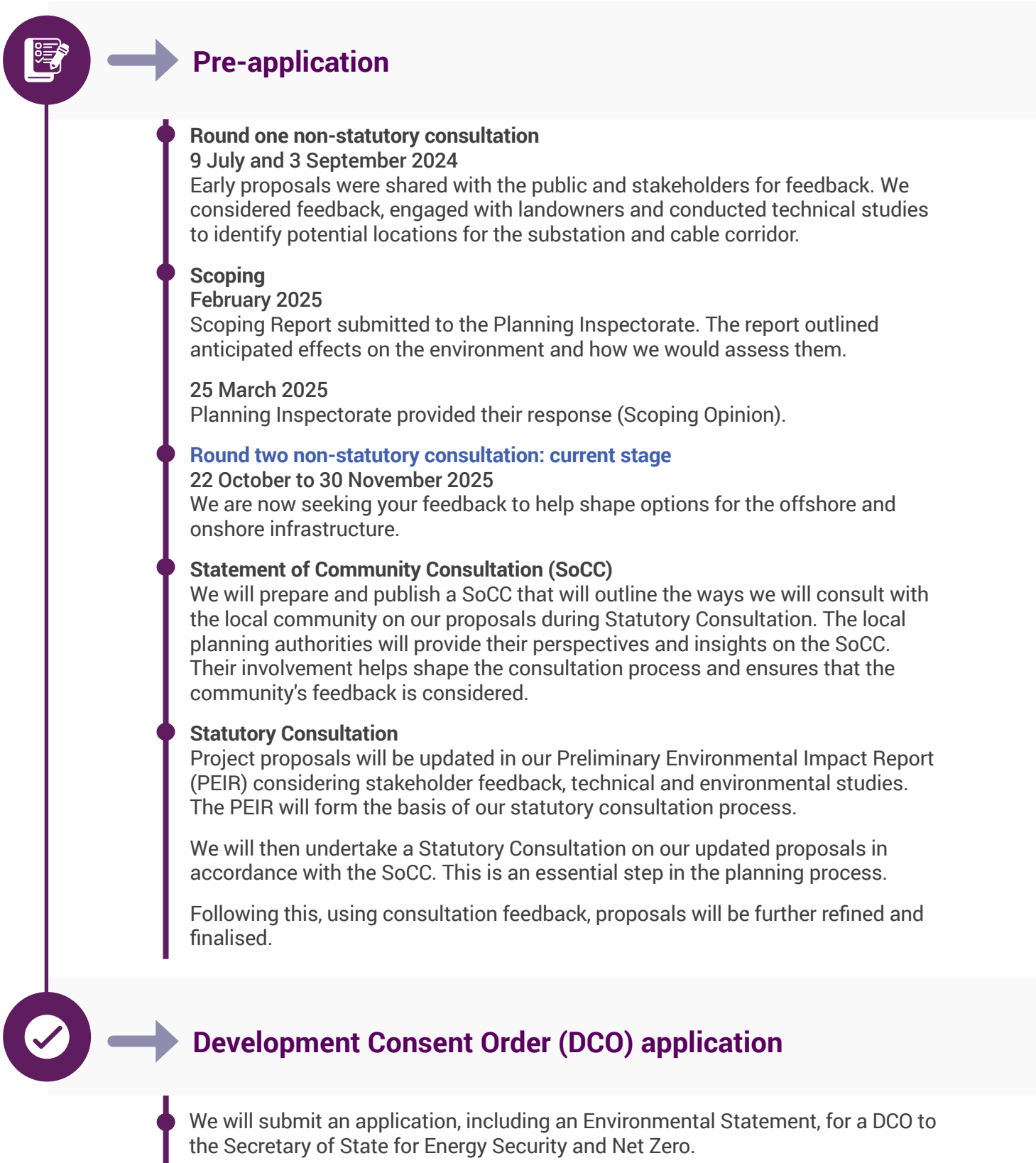
We will continue to work closely with all those directly affected by our proposals, including local authorities, landowners, local communities and other stakeholders as we continue to refine our proposals ahead of submitting the DCO application.

The decision whether a DCO should be granted is taken by the relevant Secretary of State.

The diagram on pages 12 and 13 shows the process that is being followed for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project.



Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project Steps



Transmission infrastructure



Grid connection location

National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified the National Grid Hawthorn Pit substation site in County Durham as a grid connection point for either Morven North or Morven South. The grid connection location was identified by NESO through their site selection process that explored different options to improve the coordination of offshore wind farms and their associated transmission networks.

To connect to the grid, we will need to lay cables (offshore and onshore) and construct a land substation. The new substation is needed to transform the power transmitted from the offshore wind turbines to the appropriate current and voltage to allow it to enter the network.

Choosing a cable landfall and land substation area

We are still in the process of refining our proposals. Our early site selection identification work used a range of engineering, commercial, environmental, land and community related principles and constraints to identify broad corridors of search within which the cables could be located, along with potential areas for our cable landfall and substation.

Local and community knowledge and considerations are integral to our site selection process, as we are committed to selecting the most technically and environmentally suitable cable corridors and substation area that takes into account the interests of our host communities and landowners.

At our previous consultation in 2024, we asked for your feedback on our early site selection work.

We presented:

- two corridors of search for the offshore cables (within which we could lay and, where possible, bury the offshore cables within the seabed);
- three potential cable landfall points (the point where offshore export cables are brought ashore and are connected to the onshore export cables);
- three corridors of search for the onshore cables (within which we could lay and bury the onshore cables underground); and
- a 'Land Substation Search Area'.

You told us:

- the offshore cable route and landfall point should be carefully considered to minimise impact on the coastline, sea users and beach users;
- brownfield land should be considered for the land substation site;
- impact on the community and environment should be key considerations in selecting the onshore cable route and land substation site;
- existing or planned infrastructure and land uses should be considered when selecting the cable route; and
- the visual impact of the land substation was a concern, so landscaping and natural materials should be used to help the substation fit in with the surrounding environment.

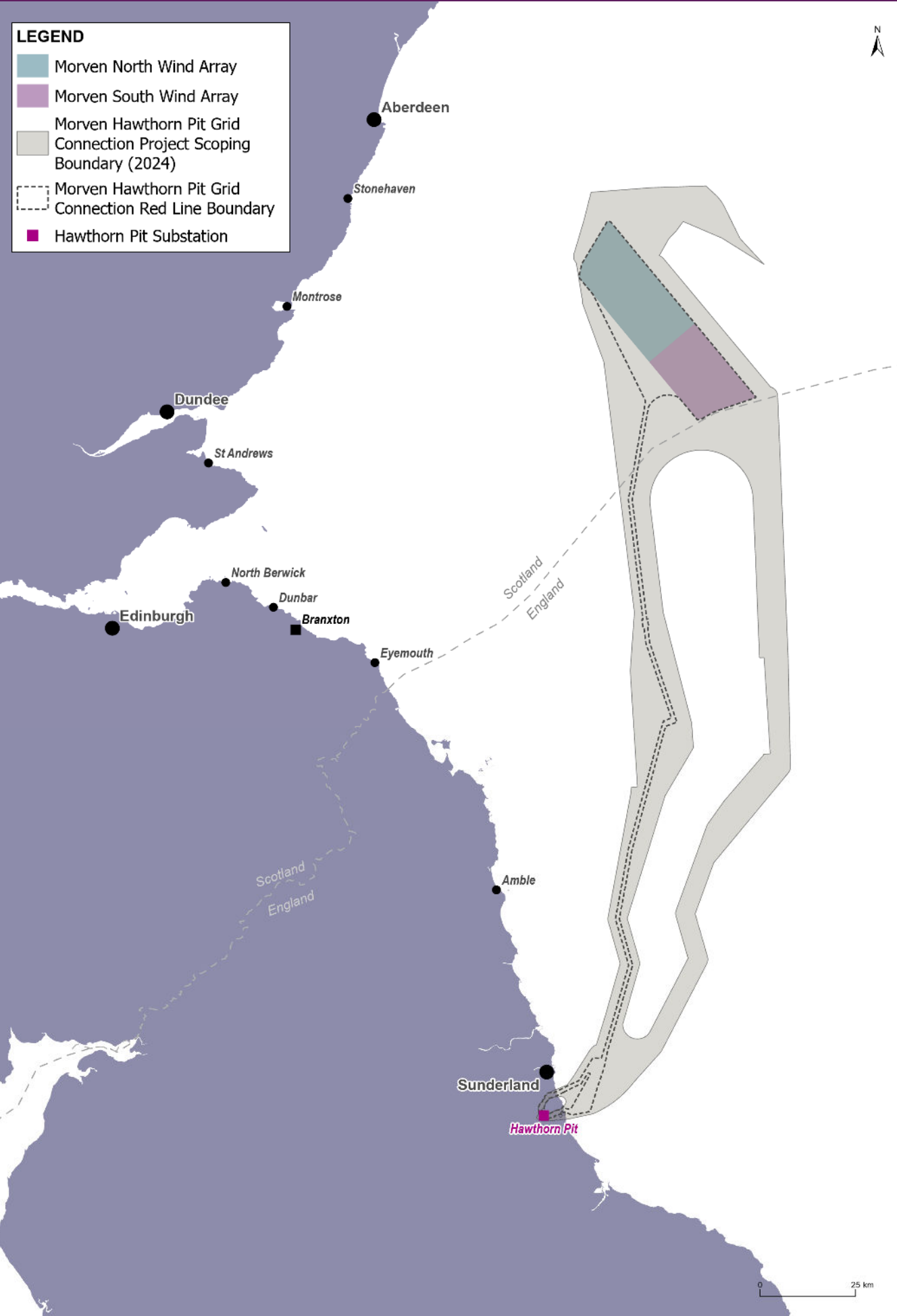
We have analysed this feedback, alongside outputs from further technical studies and consultation with statutory bodies. Based on this, we have now identified the following search area options:

- a preferred offshore cable corridor;
- two onshore cable corridors; and
- two cable landfall points;
- three land substation refined search areas.

We welcome your feedback on each of these refined options, set out in the following pages.

The process of site selection and refinement remains ongoing, and following this consultation, further refined proposals for siting both the offshore and onshore infrastructure will be presented at future engagement and consultation next year.





Offshore cable corridor

We will have offshore export cables which will connect either Morven North or Morven South to the onshore export cables at the cable landfall point. The offshore cables will be permanent offshore infrastructure and are typically buried in the seabed.

We have been shaping our proposals for where to best situate these cables within a single offshore cable corridor. At our previous consultation in 2024, we presented broad corridors of search within which the offshore export cables could be located to ask for your feedback. We sought further feedback through the EIA Scoping process.

Based on your feedback and engagement with key stakeholders, we have reviewed what offshore infrastructure is needed and where it is best located to minimise environmental and social impacts.

We have made the following changes:

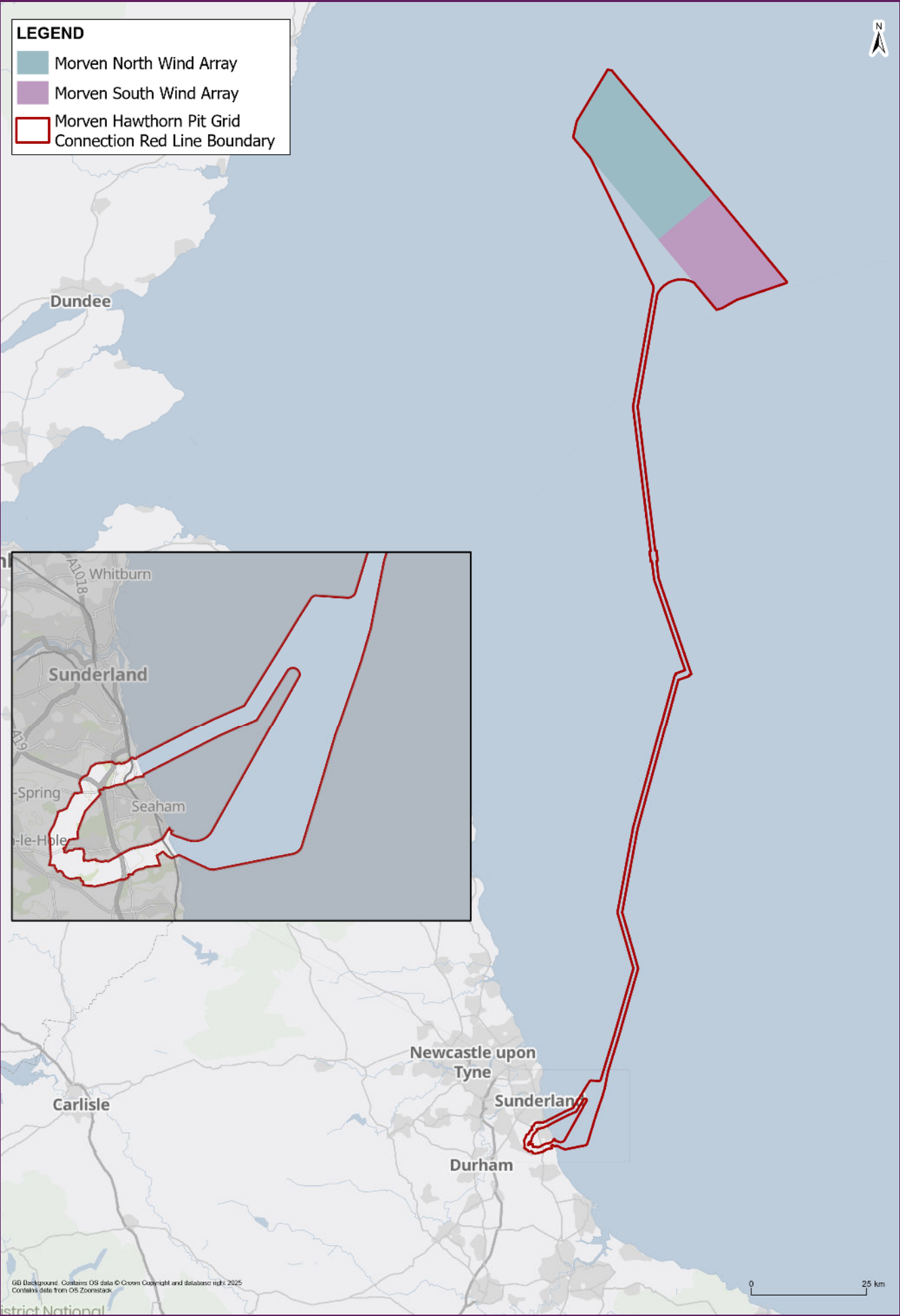
- reviewed geophysical and environmental survey data to understand what species or habitats are present in our offshore areas of search and how the route is best located to reduce environmental impacts; and
- reviewed engineering considerations such as technical feasibility along both corridors, for example whether the cable can be buried in the seabed or would it need to be laid on the seabed.

Our reviews concluded that the western corridor performed better technically and would result in fewer environmental impacts than the eastern corridor. The western route is also shorter, reducing the total length of the cable interacting with the marine environment.

We then focused on the western corridor and to further minimise impacts we have:

- significantly reduced the width of the corridor to 1,000m.
- removed the offshore approaches to the southern cable landfall point, which has been excluded due to technical complications of bringing the cable on shore in this location.

We have also retained flexibility in the boundary to allow further engagement and feedback, before progressing other design refinements.



Cable landfall

We have assessed an area of coastline that runs for approximately 10km south of the Sunderland/ County Durham boundary. To the north, landfall opportunities are restricted by the urban areas, Sunderland and Newcastle. To the south of the search area, coastal ribbon development combined with a number of sensitive environments limits the ability to deliver a cable landfall and cable corridors to the grid connection location.

We previously presented three cable landfall opportunities (see diagram on next page):

- North – north of Seaham
- Central – south of Nose’s Point
- South – east of Easington Colliery

Due to the nature of the coastline in this area of County Durham, all cable landfall locations would require trenchless solutions that would bore through the rock and under the seabed to a location offshore.

Further studies have concluded that the southern search area is unviable, due to the height of the cliffs and slope above them. Since these studies have concluded, design works have focussed on the northern and central sites.

The North and Central sites are considered to offer viable opportunities from both technical and environmental perspectives. We welcome the community's feedback on both options. However, the outcomes of the studies to date suggest that the Central location is the preferred of the two. Amongst other reasons this is because the Central cable landfall:

- offers ready access to the A road network;
- provides the shortest route from landfall to the grid connection location, therefore limiting the potential for disruption and duration of cable corridor works; and
- requires a shorter drill, again limiting duration of works, and also deeper water at point of exit for the drill – a key technical factor to ensure that there is no interference with navigable water depth offshore.

The outcome of this consultation will inform our down selection to a single cable landfall and a reduction in the width of the cable corridor. This will underpin our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) submission which will be subject to Statutory Consultation next year. A further refinement and reduction of the extent of the scheme will be undertaken ahead of final submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and presented in the Environmental Statement which is an application document.

Onshore corridor



Since the last consultation, we have removed the possibility of a southern cable landfall. This has also allowed us to remove the cable corridor search area that would have serviced this possibility. The corridors that we previously engaged the community on are shown below, with a red line showing the reduced area. The two remaining corridors (North and Central) exist to create connections between the two cable landfall search areas and the substation search area.

We will seek to reduce our options to a single corridor by the time we publish our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Whilst the PEIR corridor is likely to largely reflect the North or Central as currently shown, there will be significant reduction in the land captured by the red line boundary as we move towards the final DCO application. In order to do this we will need to undertake a number of further studies and further refine our design.

We welcome community feedback on the proposed cable routes as part of this round of consultation.

Land substation refined search areas

We have also been working to refine down the substation area of search to defined potential locations. When we last engaged with the community, the search area was presented. This is presented with grey striped shading on the onshore corridor options map.

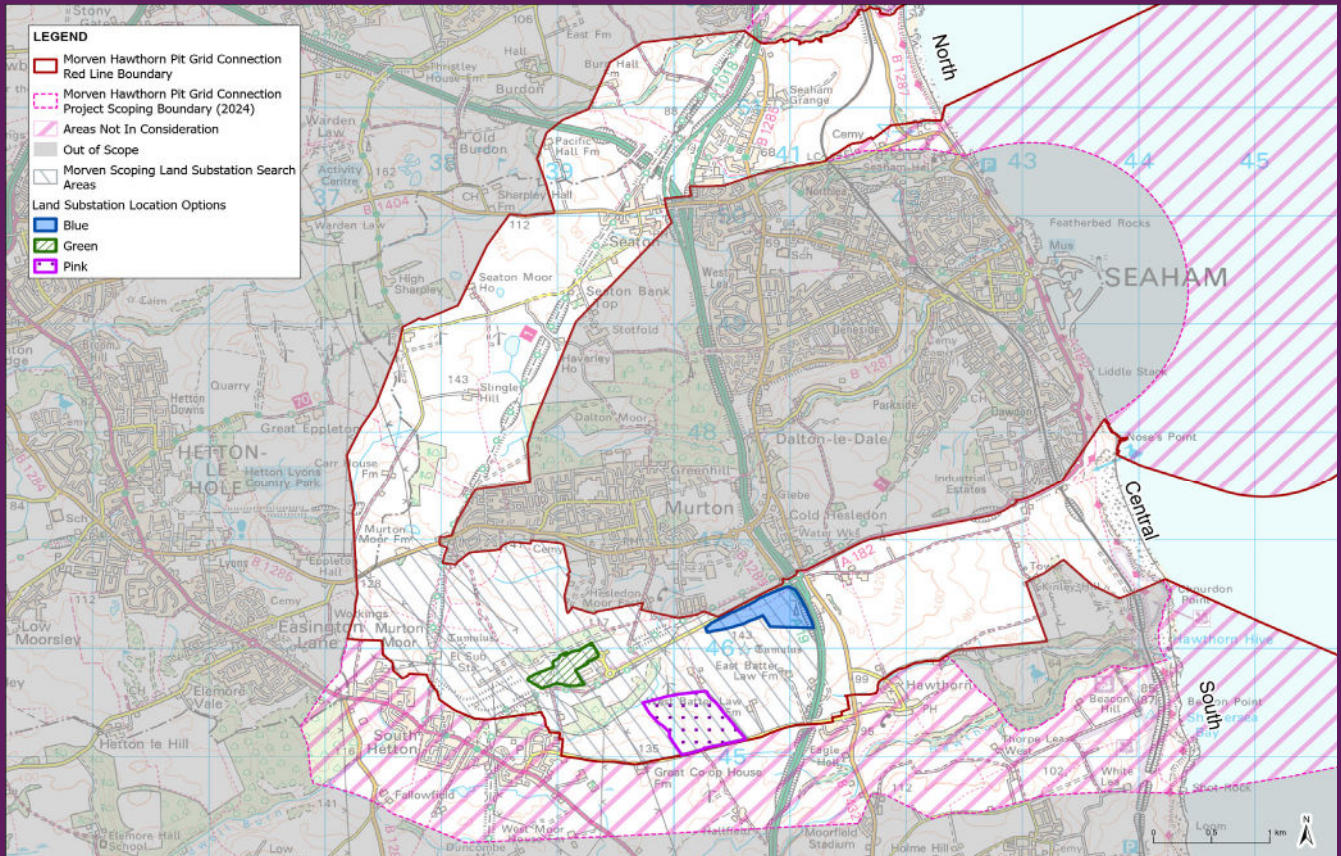
The project is currently considering three different refined search areas for the location of the land substation, marked on the map as, green, blue and pink on the map below.

The Blue Site benefits from close access from the Jade Business Park Access Road and consolidates development around the junction with the A19 such as Dalton Retail Park. Due consideration will need to be given to residential properties in the wider area if a design is to be advanced at this location.

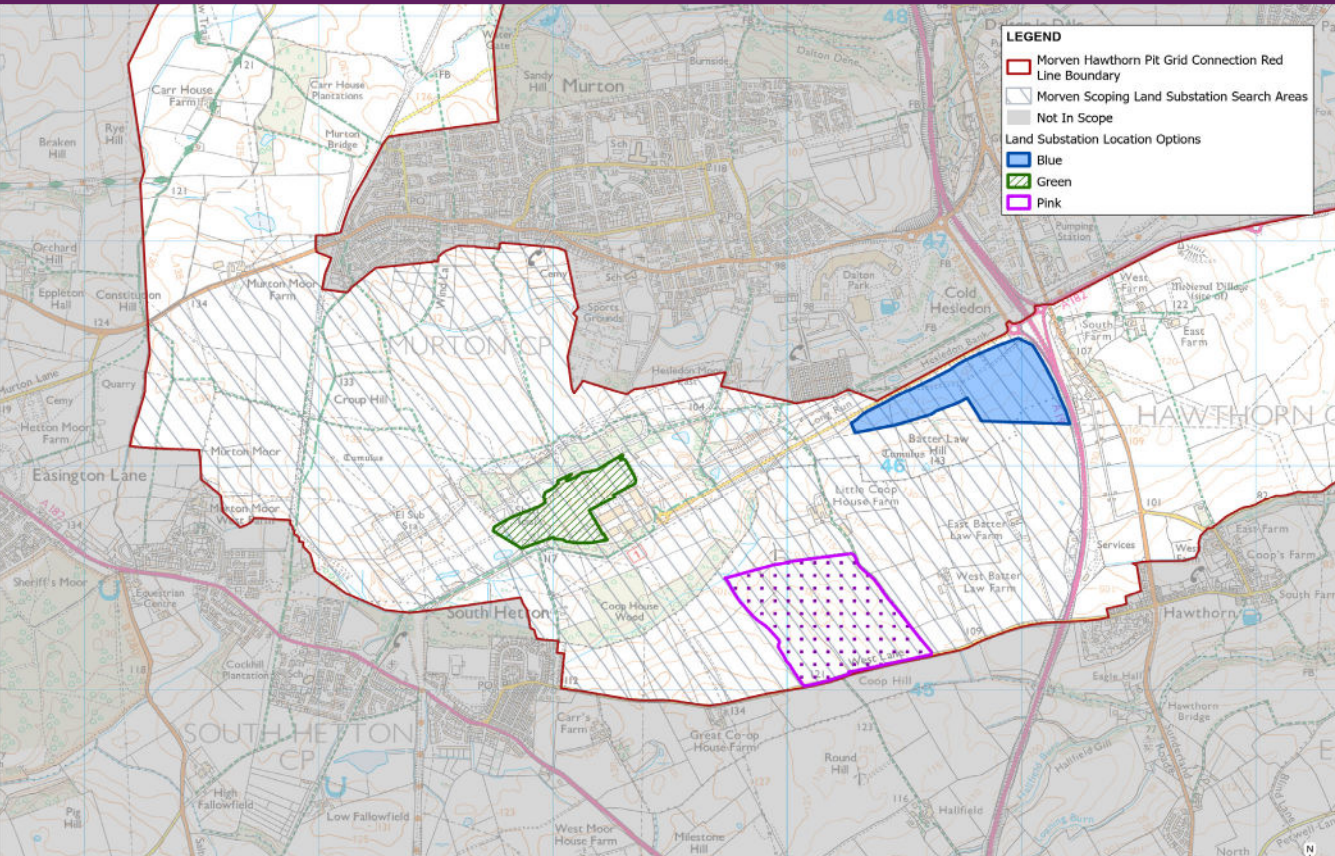
The Green Site reflects the community's preference for a site hosted on brownfield land. It also allows for a direct connection to the substation and good alignment with the central cable landfall. It also consolidates development alongside existing electrical infrastructure around the 400kV Hawthorn Pit substation and Jade Business Park.

The Pink Site is a relatively isolated site with reduced potential for residential impacts. The project considers the most appropriate access for this site will be from the Jade Business Park Access Road to the North, which would allow direct access from the A19 (Cold Hesledon Junction).

Onshore corridor options



Land substation refined search areas



Environmental Impact Assessment

We understand that any major infrastructure development can create environmental impacts. It is important that these are identified, managed, minimised and, where possible, avoided.

As a part of the DCO process, we are undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the likely significant effect of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project.

The identification and assessment of likely significant environmental effects has been, and will continue to be, undertaken in consultation with statutory bodies. These include local planning authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and will be specific to the local environmental and social context and baseline.

Scoping Report

In February 2025, we submitted a Scoping Report for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project to the Planning Inspectorate. The Scoping Report provides a summary of the project, sets out the early work we've undertaken to understand the environmental characteristics of the site so far, potential interactions the project might have with the environment, as well as further studies and detailed assessments we believe we need to carry out.

Following receipt of the Scoping Report, the Planning Inspectorate reviewed it and consulted with statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency and Durham County Council to seek their views. In March 2025, the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero provided us with their 'Scoping Opinion', detailing their response to our Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion helps to inform the scope and focus of our EIA and our Habitats Regulations Assessment, that we will submit as part of our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. You can find a link to the Scoping Report and Opinion on our website:

www.morvenoffshorewind.com/morven-hawthorn-pit-grid-connection/



Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Following this non-statutory consultation, our next round of consultation will be our main statutory pre-application consultation when we will consult you on our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

The PEIR will cover a wide range of environmental topics and will provide detailed project-relevant information, the preliminary assessments undertaken to date, feedback from prior consultation, and ongoing technical engagement with statutory bodies. It will likely include our preliminary biodiversity net gain strategy and potential areas for environmental enhancement and/or mitigation.

The purpose of the PEIR is to help statutory bodies and the local community understand the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development, enabling them to provide an informed response to our statutory consultation. This will in turn help us further refine our proposals.

We will publish our PEIR on our website and place notices in local newspapers to let those directly affected, the local community and wider public know that the consultation is underway. Hard copies of the PEIR Non-Technical Summary, consultation brochure and feedback form will be made available in local centres.

Environmental Statement (ES)

After PEIR, we will prepare an Environmental Statement (ES). This is the final report on the EIA work. It will incorporate responses we received from our consultation and results of any final assessments undertaken. The ES will also describe any changes we have made to our proposals since the PEIR was consulted on. It will form part of the DCO application that we will submit to the Planning Inspectorate.



Community benefits

In 2023, the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero announced that it was consulting on a recommended approach to community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure. This includes infrastructure constructed by offshore wind developers. The consultation proposed creating voluntary guidance for industry and communities about developing individual community benefit packages.

The project is closely monitoring the emerging Government policy in relation to community benefits and is committed to delivering a scheme that benefits the community. We will continue to engage where possible with Government on this and await publication of further guidance. We would like to hear your thoughts on how to enable any future scheme to consider the wishes of the community. In particular, we would like to hear from local residents and stakeholders on what projects, causes or initiatives you would like to see us engage with.

Any community benefits delivered are separate to the environmental mitigations and/or enhancements accounted for in the EIA forming part of the DCO application. Typically, this type of community benefit is delivered post-consent.



The benefits of offshore wind

Energy security

Securing the UK's energy supply is a top national priority, and offshore wind is playing an increasingly important role in our electricity system. Offshore wind now supplies more than 17% of the country's electricity needs, supporting British homes and businesses with reliable power from our own resources.

The UK is one of the leading markets in the world for offshore wind, second only to China in terms of installed capacity. The seas around Britain are ideally suited for wind power and large-scale projects like Morven reinforce our leadership and help support affordable, homegrown energy.

Economic benefits

Offshore wind is delivering real economic benefits to the UK. Each major project boosts the economy by £2-3 billion, supports high-value manufacturing, port upgrades and supply-chain growth, and creates thousands of skilled jobs from Teesside to the Highlands. Britain's offshore wind workforce is expected to grow from around 32,000 today to as many as 100,000 by 2030 - meaning more opportunities for communities across the country.

Morven and other ongoing offshore energy projects will contribute to this growing sector further, strengthening UK energy security, creating new jobs and investment, and cementing Britain's status as a world leader in offshore wind.



Offshore wind and the UK supply chain

Many manufacturing jobs have been created by the industry, including facilities such as JDR's existing cable factory in Hartlepool, and its new £130m factory which is being built in Blyth with the creation of around 170 jobs.

Meanwhile, Teesside has seen the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds in facilities used for the fabrication of offshore wind foundations. Once fully operational, it is expected that around 750 direct jobs and around 1,500 further supply chain jobs will come from the SeAH manufacturing facility.

Supply chain: national, regional and local

Whilst it is too early to have any clear estimates of the potential economic impacts and opportunities that could arise from Morven, we have committed to spending £1.7 billion within the UK¹ and have registered on the Pathfinder platform to advertise relevant tender packages². We will undertake a detailed socio-economic impact assessment with the support of specialist economic consultants. This process will provide greater clarity on the potential socio-economic impacts and opportunities.

Throughout the development phase, we will engage closely with local, regional and national stakeholders, as well as local business and industry groups, to understand the potential of the UK supply chain and to identify where commercially viable opportunities for UK suppliers may exist.

This process will involve collaborative engagement with teams in Durham County Council and North East Combined Authority, as well as officials from both UK and Scottish Governments.

We are in the early stages of development, nevertheless, Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW) and JERA Nex bp are committed to engaging with, and supporting, the UK's growing offshore wind supply chain.

Future suppliers

If you would like to register your interest as a future supplier, you can register your interest on our supplier database at www.m3wind.com/suppliers/

Suppliers are also encouraged to register with the ORE Catapult's 'UK offshore wind directory' at www.uowd.co.uk/



Scan the QR code to head to the supplier registration page.



1. www.crownstatescotland.com/sites/default/files/2023-07/morven-scds-outlook-july-2023-update.pdf
 2. energypathfinder.nstauthority.co.uk/projects?project-title=morven



Morven

Offshore
Wind Farm



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info@morvenoffshorewind.com



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