



Morven Offshore Wind Farm

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Autumn 2026 Consultation – 6 October to 15 November 2026

Consultation brochure

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Acronym	Term
AC	Alternating current
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EnBW	EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg
ES	Environmental Statement
GW	Gigawatts
HDD	Horizontal directional drilling
HND	Holistic Network Design
HNDFUE	Holistic Network Design Follow-Up Exercise
HVAC	High voltage alternating current
HVDC	High voltage direct current
IP	Interested Party
JNBP	JERA Nex bp
LSS	Land substation
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MBAGC	Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team
MHPGC	Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MvOWL	Morven Offshore Wind Limited
NESO	National Energy System Operator
OSP	Offshore substation platform
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
RLB	Red Line Boundary
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
TJB	Transition joint bay

Term	Definition
Array	A group of wind turbines placed together to harness wind energy. Morven has two array sites - North and South.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008, as amended, granting development consent.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	An evaluation of the likely significant effects of the planned project on the natural environment and people throughout its construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.
Environmental Statement (ES)	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The ES will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order application.
Grid connection location	The specific point at which the energy is transferred from the generating system to the National Grid.
Land substation (LSS)	A purpose-built site comprising a compound containing the electrical components for converting the HVDC to HVAC power. The LSS site associated with the MHPGC Project adjusts the power quality and power factor to meet the requirements of power supply being fed to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.
Landfall	The area in which the offshore export cables make landfall (come onshore) and the transitional area between the offshore cabling and the onshore cabling. This term applies to the entire landfall area between the trenchless technique exit pits and the transition joint bay inclusive of all construction works.
Marine Licence	A marine licence permits the undertaking of different activities in the marine environment, including construction, the deposition or removal of substances or objects from the seabed and dredging. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires a marine licence to be obtained for licensable marine activities within the Scottish offshore region (12nm – 200nm) and in English offshore and inshore regions (noting that deemed marine licences will be included within the Development Consent Order application).

MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary (RLB)	The area within which all components of the MHPGC Project will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (such as construction compounds).
National Energy System Operator (NESO)	Public body with responsibility to plan, manage, and oversee the UK's energy network.
Offshore export cable	The proposed corridor in which the offshore export cables will be located, from either the Morven North or Morven South offshore substation platform to the transition joint bay(s) (TJB(s)) at landfall.
Onshore export cable	The proposed corridor within which onshore export cables and associated infrastructure will be laid and located, from the TJB(s) to the onshore land substation.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	A report that provides preliminary environmental information in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This is information that enables consultees to understand the likely significant environmental effects of a project, and which helps to inform consultation responses.
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 bay housing a joint which connects the offshore export cables to the onshore export cables. The TJB(s) will be located in the vicinity of the onshore side of the landfall.

Introduction

We are seeking your views on the proposals for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (the MHPGC Project), which forms part of the wider Morven Offshore Wind Farm programme (Morven).

Morven comprises two offshore array sites; Morven North Offshore Wind Farm Array (Morven North) and Morven South Offshore Wind Farm Array (Morven South), which would be located off the coast of Aberdeenshire in the North Sea. We have recently submitted planning applications for both array sites, find out more at www.morvenoffshorewind.com/morven-offshore-wind-farm/.

The MHPGC Project, which is the subject of this consultation, will transport the electricity from either Morven North or Morven South to the National Grid at Hawthorn Pit.



For more information, visit www.morvenoffshorewind.com/morven-hawthorn-pit-grid-connection/

Morven is being developed by Morven Offshore Wind Limited (company number 13792251) (MvOWL), a joint venture between EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW) and JERA Nex bp Limited (JNBP). Morven was awarded an Option Lease Agreement during Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind Leasing Round in 2022.

Morven requires both offshore and onshore elements to generate electricity and transmit it to the National Grid's electricity network.

Connecting to the National Grid

National Energy System Operator (NESO) is responsible for strategic electricity network planning in Great Britain and identified Hawthorn Pit, County Durham and the Branxton area, East Lothian as the connection locations for the Morven North and Morven South projects. This was determined through the Holistic Network Design and Holistic Network Design Follow-Up Exercise processes.

Previous consultations

Following our previous consultations in 2024 and 2025, we have considered the feedback received alongside further technical and environmental assessment to refine our proposals for the MHPGC Project. This has enabled us to move from broad areas of search and multiple options to more defined proposals for the offshore cable corridor, landfall and onshore cable corridor, while two potential land substation sites remain under consideration. This consultation is seeking your views on these further refined proposals, the potential impacts, and the measures proposed to avoid, reduce or mitigate those effects.

You can read more about how the feedback has helped shape our current proposals in this brochure.

How will the MHPGC Project be consented?

This consultation covers the **MHPGC Project as a whole**, including infrastructure in Scottish and English waters and onshore in England. The elements in England and English waters will form part of the proposed application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008. The offshore export cable in Scottish waters will be consented separately through the Scottish marine licensing process.

The MHPGC Project is holding its consultation phase from 6 October to 15 November 2026.

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.

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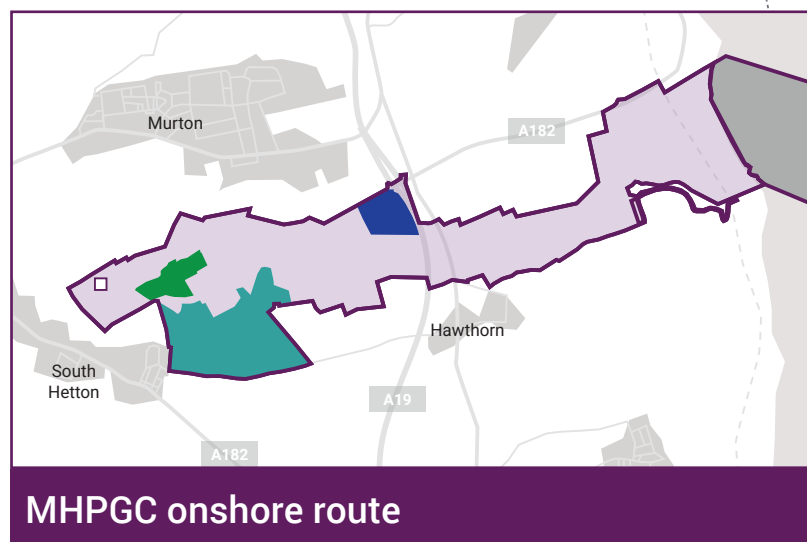


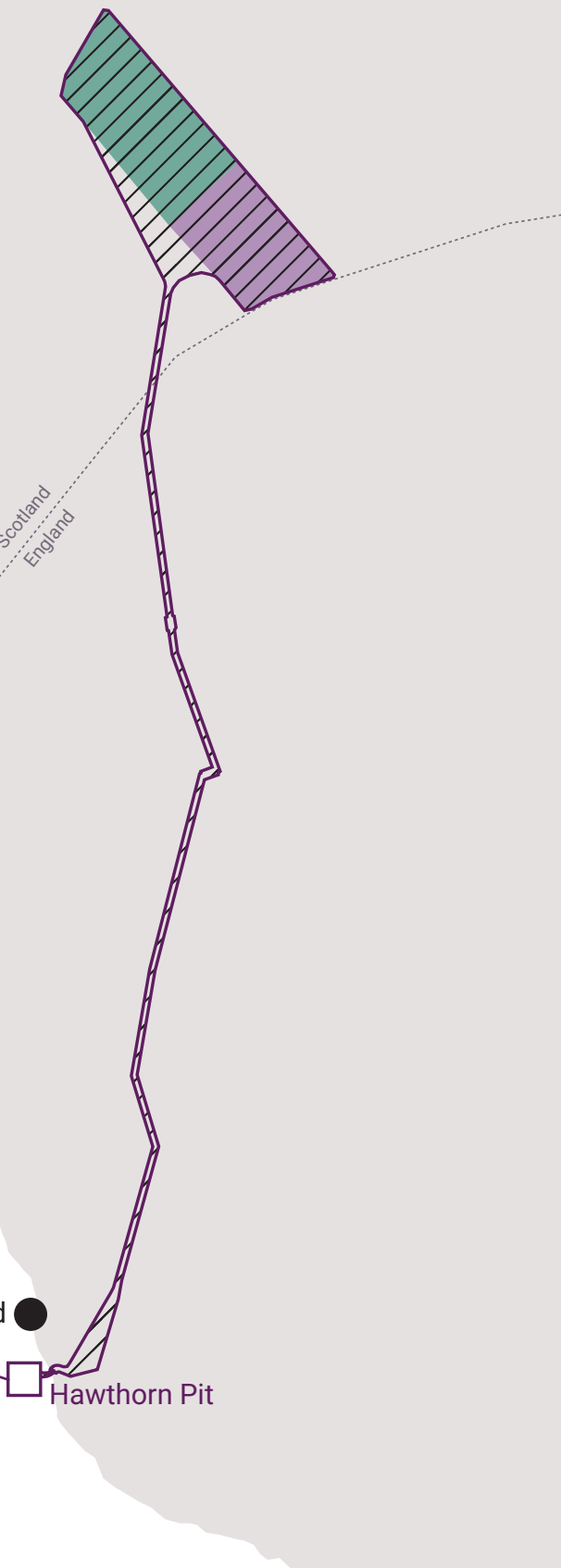
Morven Offshore Wind Farm Programme overview

Key

— MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary

/// MHPGC Offshore Export Cable Corridor





Morven Programme

**The Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project
(Morven North)**

**The Morven South Offshore Wind Array Project
(Morven South)**

Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection (MBAGC) Project

**Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection (MHPGC)
Project – the subject of this consultation**

Transmission assets to transport electricity generated by either Morven North or Morven South to the National Grid at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham.

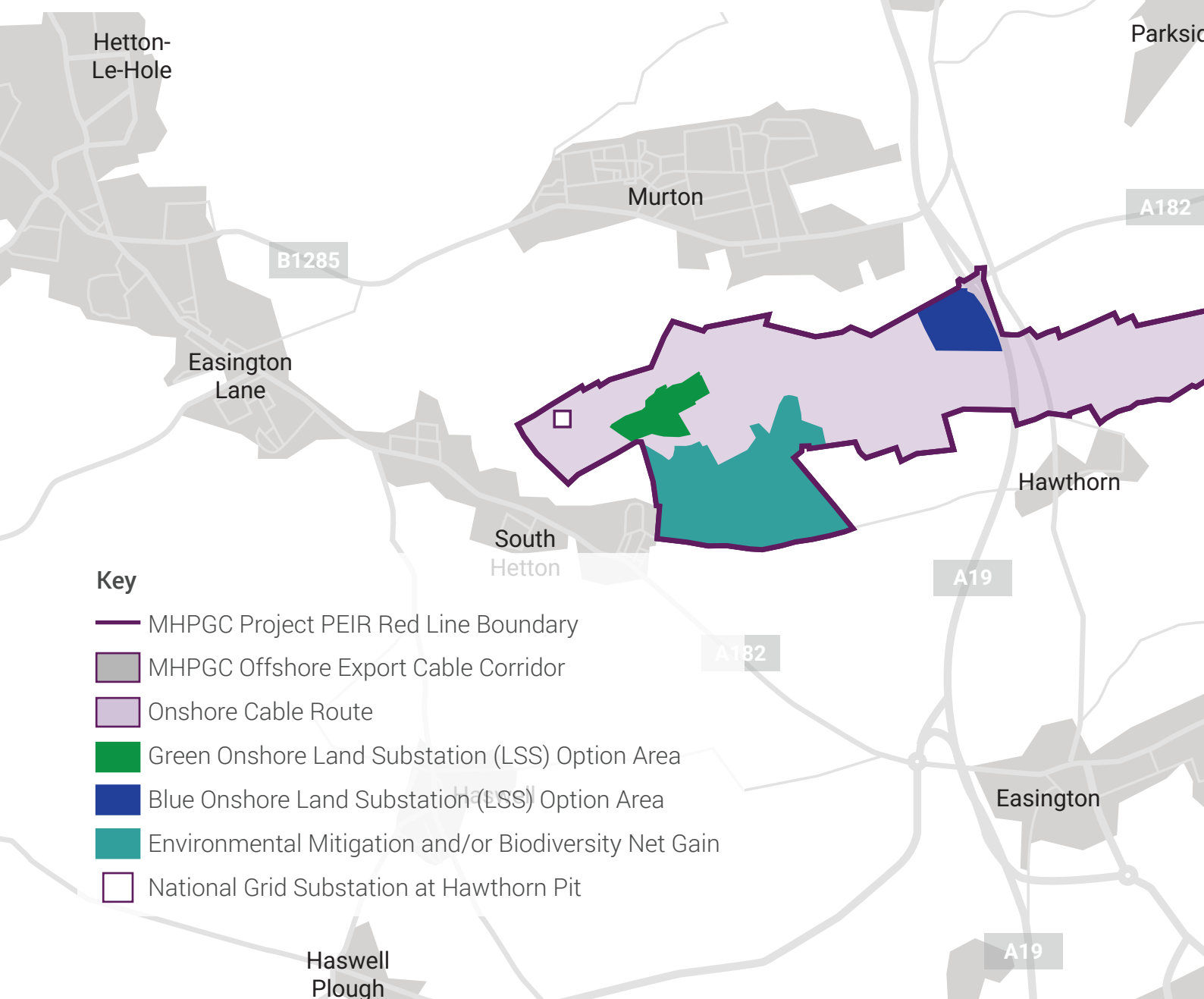
- Offshore export cable corridor in Scottish and English waters
- Onshore infrastructure in England, near Seaham, County Durham

Illustrative purposes
Not to scale

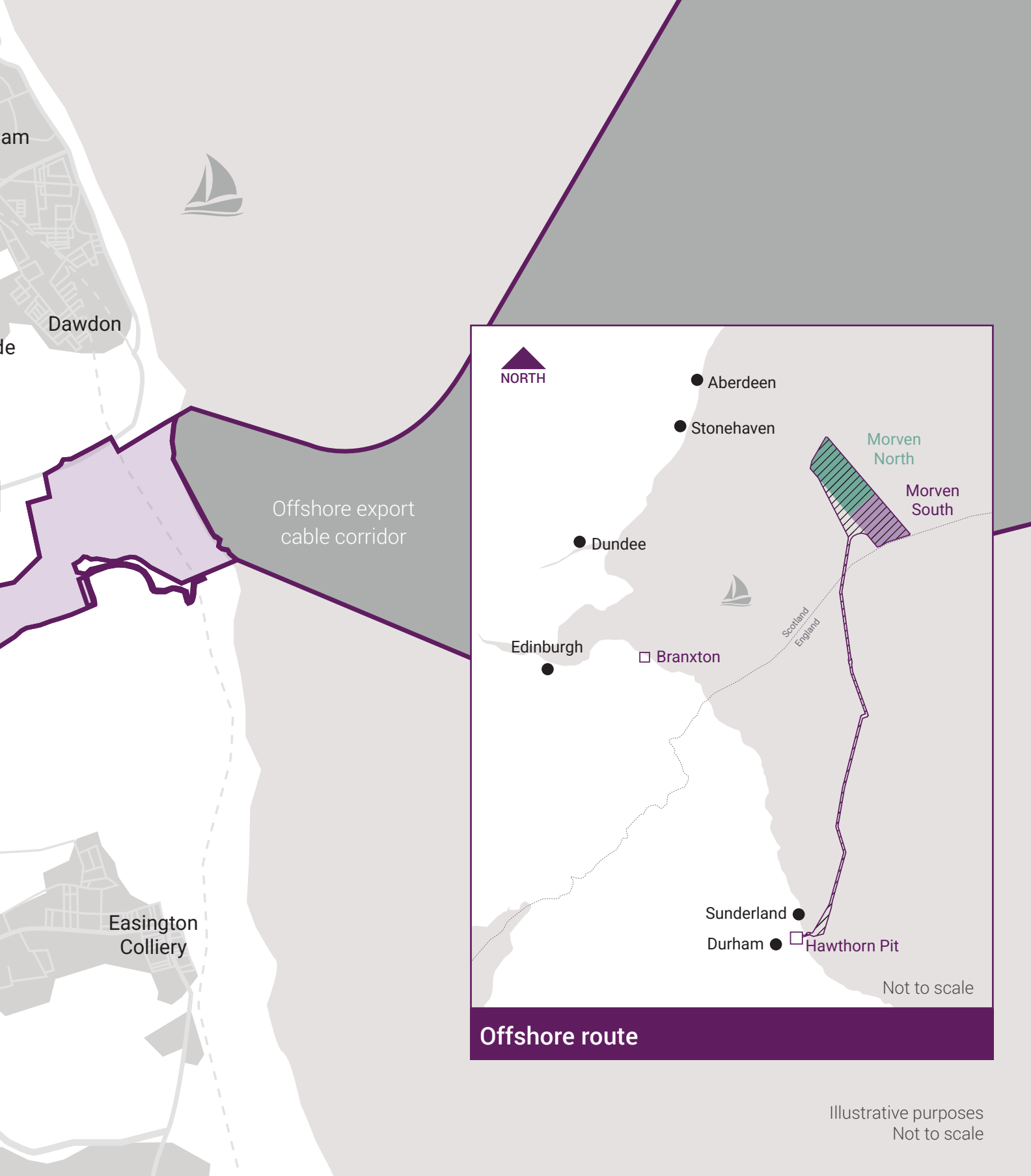
Introduction to the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Electricity generated by either Morven North or Morven South will be exported to the National Grid via the infrastructure included within the MHPGC Project.

The MHPGC Project is consulting on the area situated within the MHPGC Project Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Red Line Boundary (RLB). The RLB defines the geographical area of the MHPGC Project.



Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project Red Line Boundary



Illustrative purposes
Not to scale

Project Infrastructure

The offshore elements of the MHPGC Project

- **Offshore export cable(s):** High voltage direct current (HVDC) cables which export electricity from either the Morven North Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) or the Morven South OSP to the transition joint bay (TJB) at landfall.
- **Cable protection:** Where the offshore cable cannot be buried in the seabed.

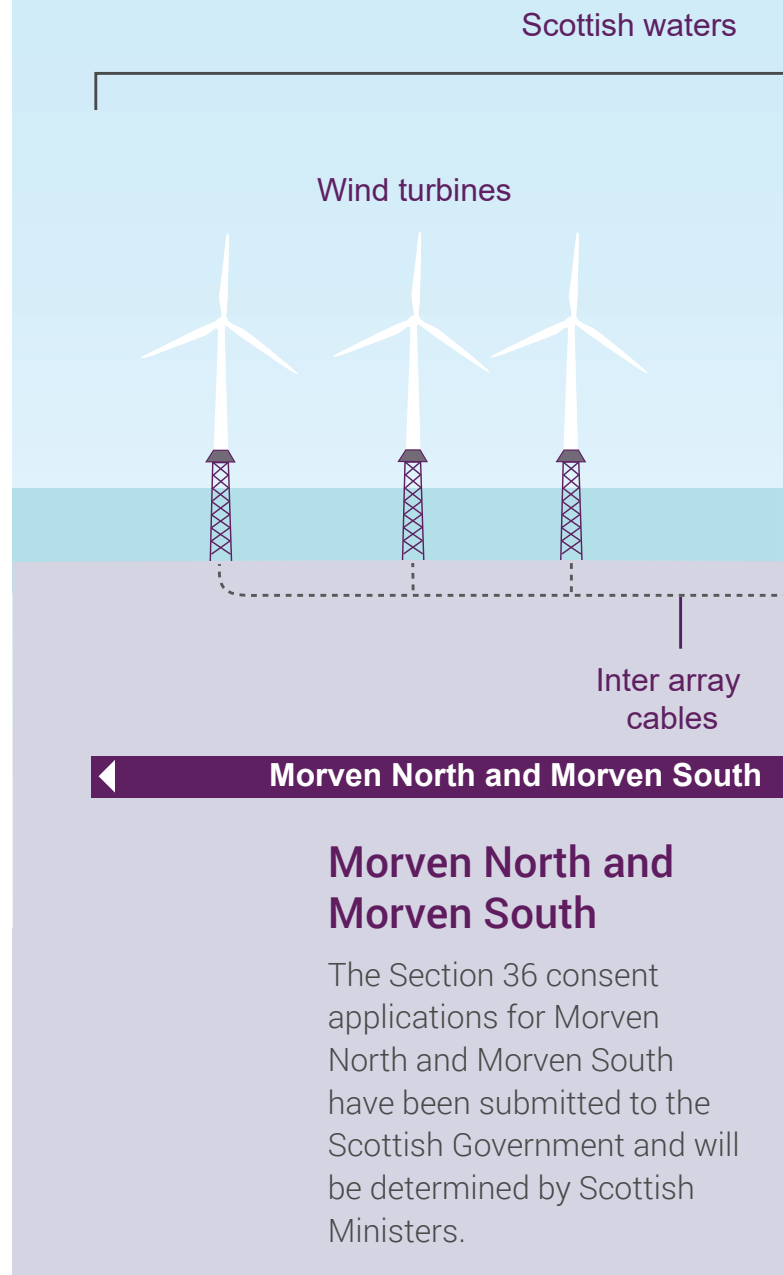
Landfall

Landfall is the point where the offshore export cables transition from the offshore marine environment to the onshore terrestrial environment.

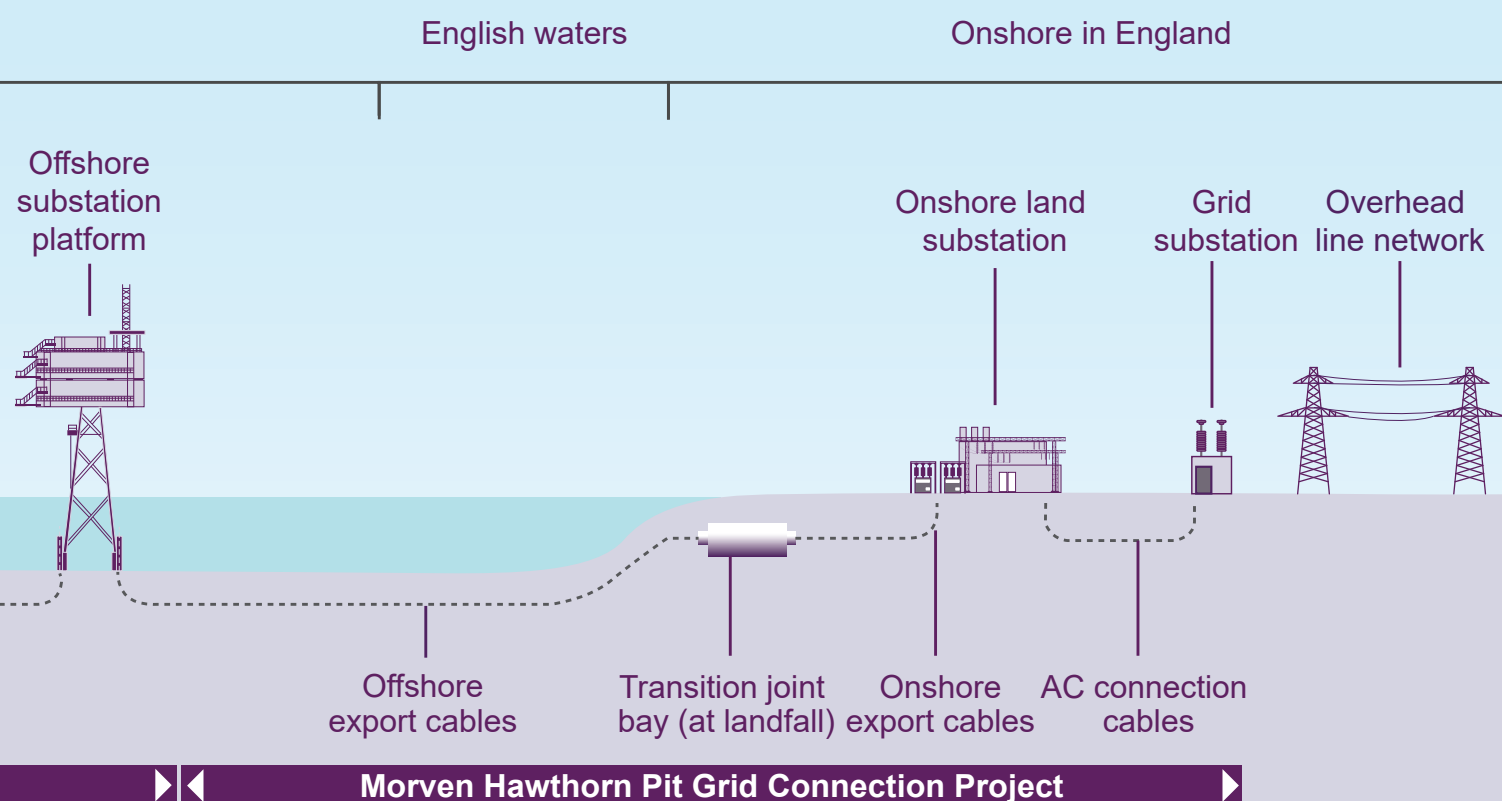
- **Transition Joint Bay (TJB):** An underground bay housing a joint which connects the offshore export cables to the onshore export cables, this will be located onshore at landfall.

The onshore elements of the MHPGC Project

- **Onshore export cables:** The high voltage direct current (HVDC) cables which bring electricity from the TJB to the onshore land substation (LSS).
- **Onshore land substation (LSS):** A purpose-built site comprising a compound containing the electrical components for converting the HVDC to high voltage alternating current (HVAC) power. The LSS site associated with the MHPGC Project will also adjust the power quality and power factor to meet the requirements of power supply being fed to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.



- **Alternating Current (AC) connection cables:** The high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables which will connect the proposed LSS to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.
- **Environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain area:** Temporary and/or permanent areas identified to provide environmental mitigation or biodiversity net gain.



The MHPGC Project

For the onshore and offshore components of the MHPGC Project in England, a development consent order (DCO) application will be made under the Planning Act 2008. Additionally, for those assets located within Scottish waters (specifically, Scottish Offshore Waters), marine licences will be applied for from the Marine Directorate: Licensing Operations Team, in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

We are keen to hear your views to help us further refine the MHPGC Project before we submit our application for development consent. See pages 38-39 for more information about how to provide your feedback. Please note that your feedback does not need to be limited to the areas covered in this brochure. We would like to hear any feedback you may have related to the MHPGC Project.

You can find more information and consultation materials on our website:

www.morvenoffshorewind.com/morven-hawthorn-pit-grid-connection. This includes our PEIR, which is an important document for this consultation.



We also encourage you to come along to our in-person events or join us online to find out more about our latest proposals. See pages 38-39 for more information.

How the MHPGC Project has developed

In 2022, the Holistic Network Design (HND) identified National Grid's Hawthorn Pit Substation in County Durham as the Point of Interconnection (PoI) for half of the electricity generated by the Morven Offshore Wind Farm. A separate connection in the Branxton area of East Lothian, Scotland, was subsequently identified for the remaining generating capacity.

Following recommendation of the Hawthorn Pit PoI, the Applicant began the site selection process for the MHPGC Project in 2024. This considered how Morven North or Morven South could be connected to the National Grid at Hawthorn Pit, including potential offshore cable routes, landfall locations, onshore cable routes and onshore LSS sites.

In April 2025, NESO confirmed that half of the Morven Offshore Wind Farm generating capacity would connect to Hawthorn Pit through a radial connection.

	Non-Statutory Consultation July to Sept 2024	Scoping	Non-Statutory Consultation Oct to Nov 2025	PEIR Consultation Autumn 2026
Offshore Cable Corridor	2 Potential Offshore Export Cable Corridors	2 Potential Offshore Export Cable Corridors	1 Refined Offshore Export Cable Corridor	1 Refined Offshore Export Cable Corridor
Landfall	3 Potential Landfall Options	2 Potential Landfall Options	2 Potential Landfall Options	Confirmation of 1 Landfall Option
Substation	Substation Search Area	Substation Search Area	3 Refined Substation Search Areas	2 Refined Substation Search Areas
Offshore Cable Corridor	3 Potential Onshore Cable Corridors	3 Potential Onshore Cable Corridors	2 Potential Onshore Cable Corridors	1 Potential Onshore Cable Corridor



The process has considered a wide range of environmental, landowner and engineering factors, including proximity to residential communities, environmental designations, baseline survey information and ground conditions.

Local community and stakeholder feedback received through our two consultations has also played an important role in informing our considerations and refinement of the MHPGC Project design.

The MHPGC Project has adopted an iterative approach to site selection, informed by additional environmental, engineering, land and planning assessments leading to refinements to all aspects of project design.

The table shown provides an overview of how our proposals for the offshore and onshore cable corridors and site selection for landfall and the land substation have developed.

The following sections present the latest developments for each aspect of the MHPGC Project. As part of this consultation, we would like to hear your views to help inform decision making.

The process of site selection and refinement is ongoing and, following this consultation, the final proposed siting for the infrastructure will be presented as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application and Scottish Marine Licence applications to the Scottish Ministers.

This ensures that ongoing technical assessments, environmental surveys, landowner discussions and consultation feedback can continue to inform the decision-making process, allowing a robust and evidence-based final site selection.

Your feedback: 2024 consultation

Feedback showed strong overall support for offshore wind, alongside a range of views on the proposed infrastructure.

You said	We did
Consider the visual impact and potential mitigation measures including landscaping and vegetation.	We have undertaken a preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (outlined in Volume 4, Chapter 1 of the PEIR) to identify the potential impacts and the need for any mitigation.
Protect wildlife, habitats and the natural environment, and consider opportunities for potential conservation.	We have continued environmental and ecological assessments to better understand habitats, wildlife and sensitive environmental areas. These considerations, as outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 3 of the PEIR, have been a key factor in refining the proposals and will continue to inform Project development.
Bury onshore cables underground where possible.	The MHPGC Project has committed to burying all cables underground. No overhead lines will be used.
Consider impact on fishing activities.	We have continued engagement with commercial fisheries stakeholders.
Minimise construction impacts, such as traffic, noise and disruption.	Potential construction impacts including traffic, noise, vibration and air quality are being assessed through the EIA process, as outlined in Volume 3, Chapters 5-7 of the PEIR. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will identify measures to reduce and manage impacts during construction and will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.
Continue engaging with local communities.	Following the 2024 consultation, we have continued engagement with elected members, parish councils, community groups and local residents.

The feedback received from local communities, stakeholders and organisations during the 2024 and 2025 consultations has helped us:

- refine our offshore and onshore cable corridor proposals;
- refine our LSS site options;
- focus on reducing potential impacts; and
- shape how we engage with communities going forward.

Your feedback: 2025 consultation

Feedback showed preferences for the siting of certain infrastructure as well as support for ongoing engagement and community benefits.

You said	We did
Engage with a wider range of stakeholders and community groups.	Additional stakeholder groups have been added for future communications.
Consider the cumulative impact of multiple projects in the area.	We are engaging closely with the Durham County Council Planning team to identify the overlap of cumulative projects. This has informed our cumulative effects assessment as part of the EIA.
Protect biodiversity, wildlife and coastline.	We have continued environmental surveys and assessments and will assess potential impacts on, and mitigation measures for, habitats, species, biodiversity and the coastline through the EIA process, as outlined in Volume 3, Chapter 3 of the PEIR.
Support for the central landfall point and cable corridor.	The central landfall location has been selected and taken forward.
Support for the use of brownfield land and Jade Business Park land substation refined search area.	This feedback has contributed to our ongoing site selection process. Jade Business Park and the area adjacent to the A19 are the two remaining LSS site options to be considered for assessment at PEIR.
Support local educational, skills and training opportunities.	We have continued engaging with young people through schools and community groups and are considering how future community benefits could support education, skills, training and employment opportunities.
Create opportunities for local businesses and supply chain.	We have assessed potential economic effects as part of the EIA process in Volume 4, Chapter 3 of the PEIR.

As a result, some elements of the MHPGC Project have now been further refined to a preferred location or corridor, while two potential land substation sites remain under consideration. Your feedback during this consultation can continue to inform the refinement of the proposals, including the final land substation location and the measures used to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential effects.

Offshore cable corridor

Permanent offshore infrastructure proposed as part of the MHPGC Project includes up to two offshore export cables (forming a single circuit) buried in up to two trenches connecting either Morven North or Morven South OSP to the TJB at landfall.

The preferred installation method is burial, however, in certain areas, it may not be possible to fully bury the cables due to ground conditions. In these areas, the cables will be placed on the surface, with cable protection added to reduce the risk of cables getting caught or damaged.

Site selection

We have been developing our proposals to identify the most suitable location for these cables within a single offshore export cable corridor.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report (2024) presented two potential offshore cable corridors and an area of search north of Morven North and Morven South for a potential offshore connection hub to allow for the coordinated network design being proposed by NESO as part of the Holistic Network Design (HND). This was later discounted by NESO with a radial connection to Hawthorn Pit confirmed under the HND Follow-Up Exercise (HNDFUE).

Based on feedback received, engagement with key stakeholders, environmental survey data and engineering studies we have refined the offshore cable corridor boundary to a preferred temporary working corridor of a 1000m width to allow the installation of up to four cables (two conductors and two fibre optic) in up to two trenches.

We welcome your feedback on the proposed offshore export cable corridor including:

- the proposed offshore export cable corridor routeing;
- all activities associated with the offshore export cables' lifecycle;
- the findings of the PEIR, including the predicted environmental effects and assessment outcomes; and
- the proposed measures to avoid, reduce and mitigate environmental effects.

Key facts Offshore cable corridor

Number of offshore cables (both conductor and fibre-optic cables)	Up to 4 (in up to 2 trenches)
Number of cable circuits	1
Cable diameter (bundled)	320mm
Width of cable corridor	1000m
Maximum length of one cable (OSP to trenchless drill exit pit)	325km
Maximum length of one cable in Scottish waters	98km
Maximum length of one cable in English waters (to trenchless drill exit pit)	227km

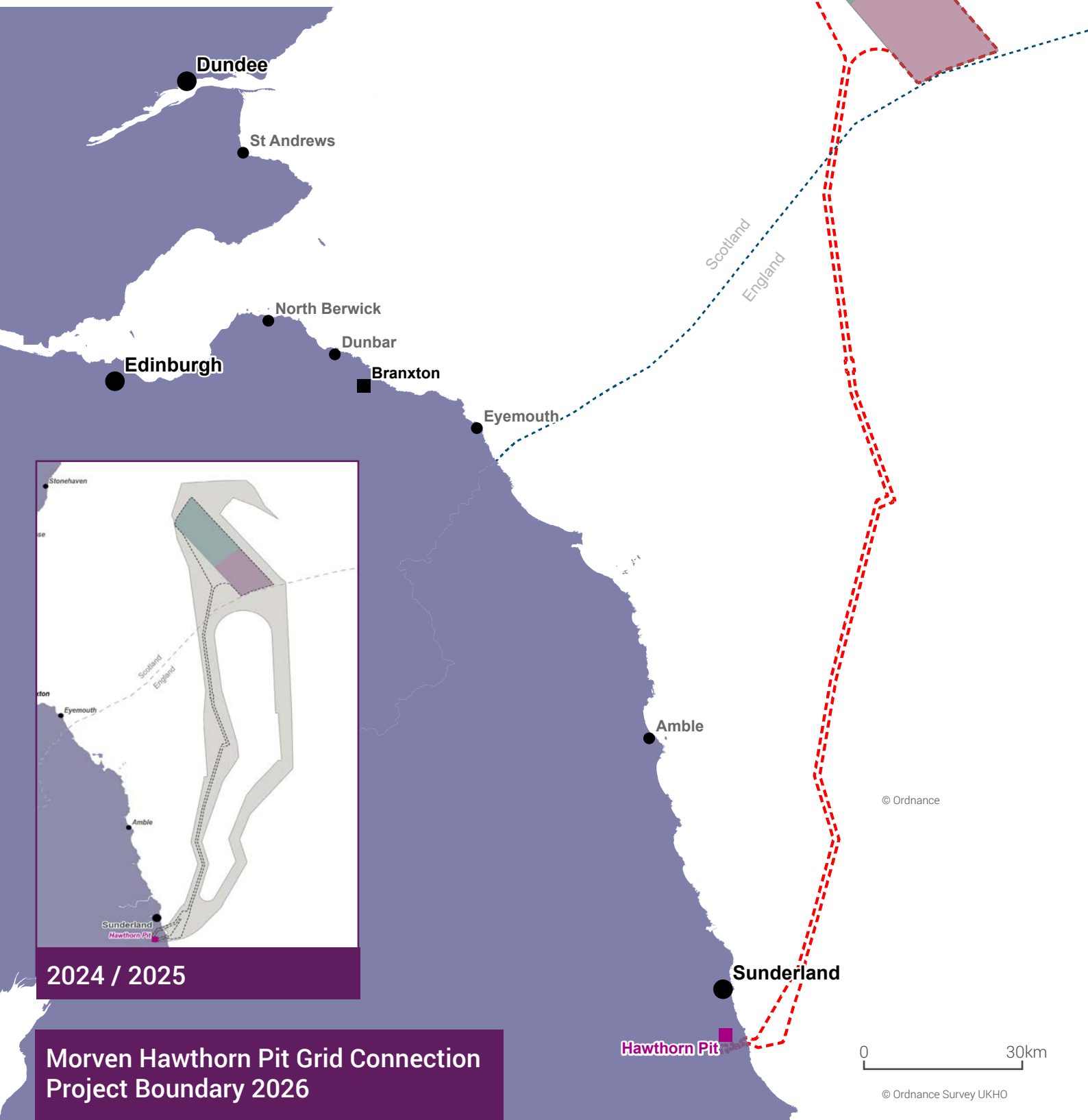
Key

 MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary

 National limit

 Morven North Wind Array

 Morven South Wind Array



2024 / 2025

**Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection
Project Boundary 2026**

Hawthorn Pit

0 30km



Landfall

Landfall works

The landfall is where the offshore export cables are brought onshore and connect to the onshore export cables within the TJB. Construction methods called trenchless techniques will be used at landfall due to the cliff height and the proximity to environmental designated sites.

Site selection

We have been carrying out detailed technical and environmental studies to identify the most suitable location for landfall. As part of our 2025 consultation, we presented two broad potential landfall search areas:

- **North** – north of Seaham; and
- **Central** – south of Nose's Point.

Community feedback from the 2025 consultation, alongside ongoing engagement and detailed technical and environmental assessments, showed a preference for the Central option.

Since the 2025 consultation, we have continued our technical and environmental assessments. As a result, the Central landfall location has been selected as the basis for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that accompanies this consultation. Ahead of submitting our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we will continue to refine the design at the landfall where possible.

We welcome your feedback on the proposed Central landfall location as part of this consultation. We are particularly interested in understanding your views on:

- the proposed landfall location;
- all activities associated with landfall throughout the MHPGC Project lifecycle, including construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning;
- the findings of the PEIR, including the predicted environmental effects and assessment outcomes; and
- the proposed measures to avoid, reduce and mitigate environmental effects.

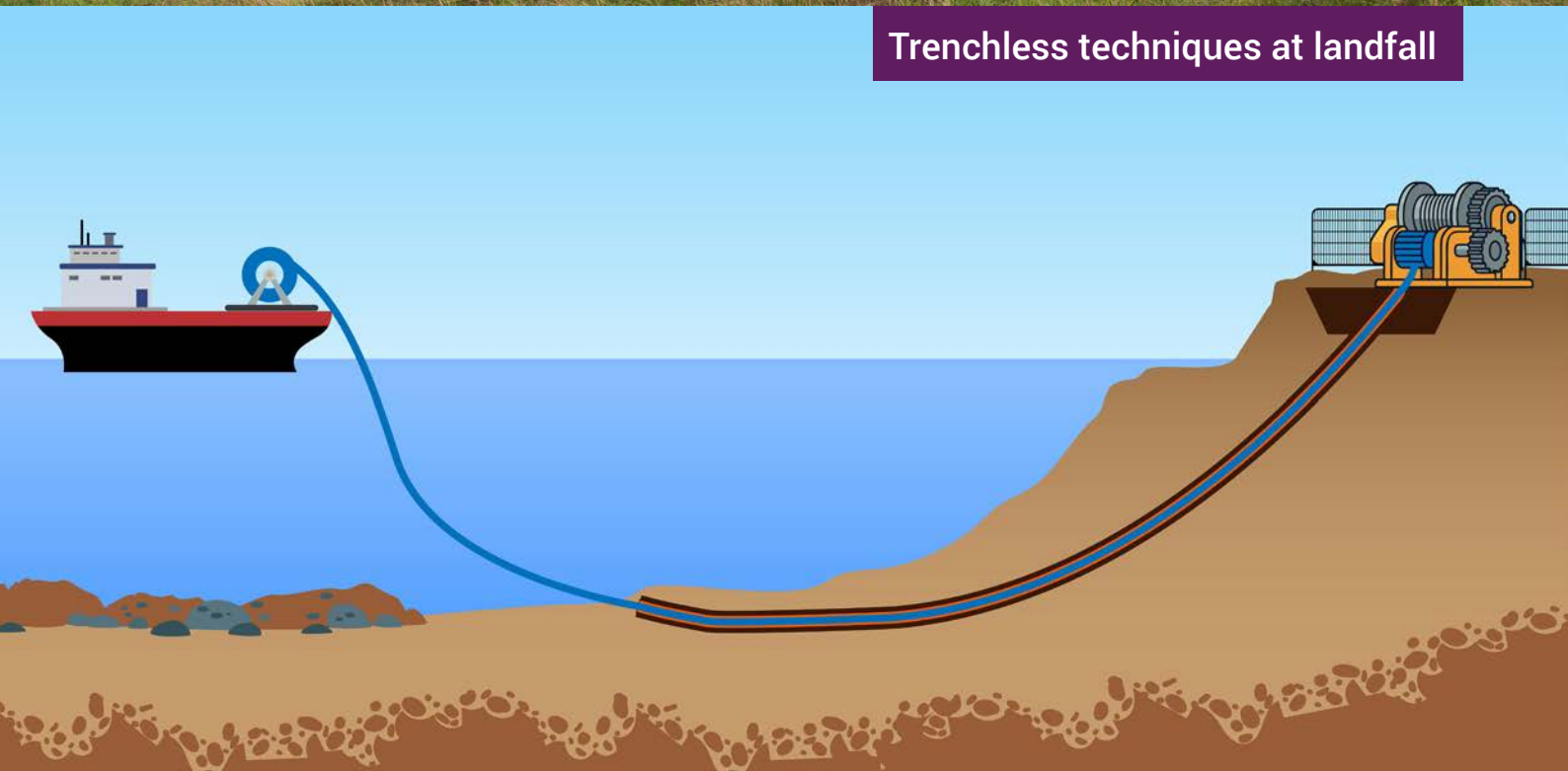
What are trenchless techniques?

Trenchless techniques, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) or direct pipe, are used to install cables underground without the need for continuous open-trench excavation. These techniques minimise disturbance to environmentally sensitive habitats, land users and obstacles such as roads, railways or watercourses. This helps avoid or reduce the impacts that could arise from conventional open-cut trenching methods.

View of Blast Beach, south of Nose's Point: Central landfall site



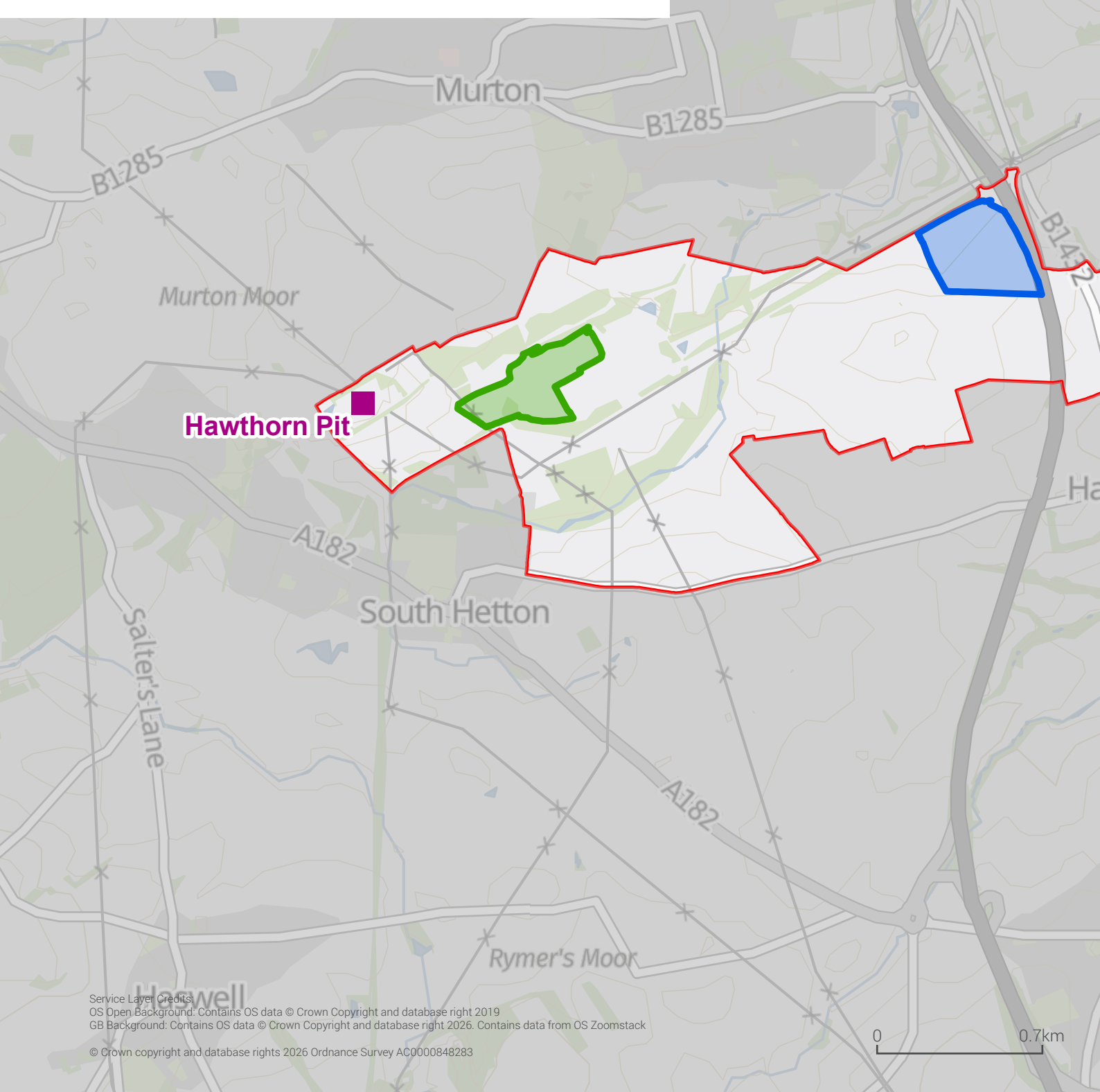
Trenchless techniques at landfall

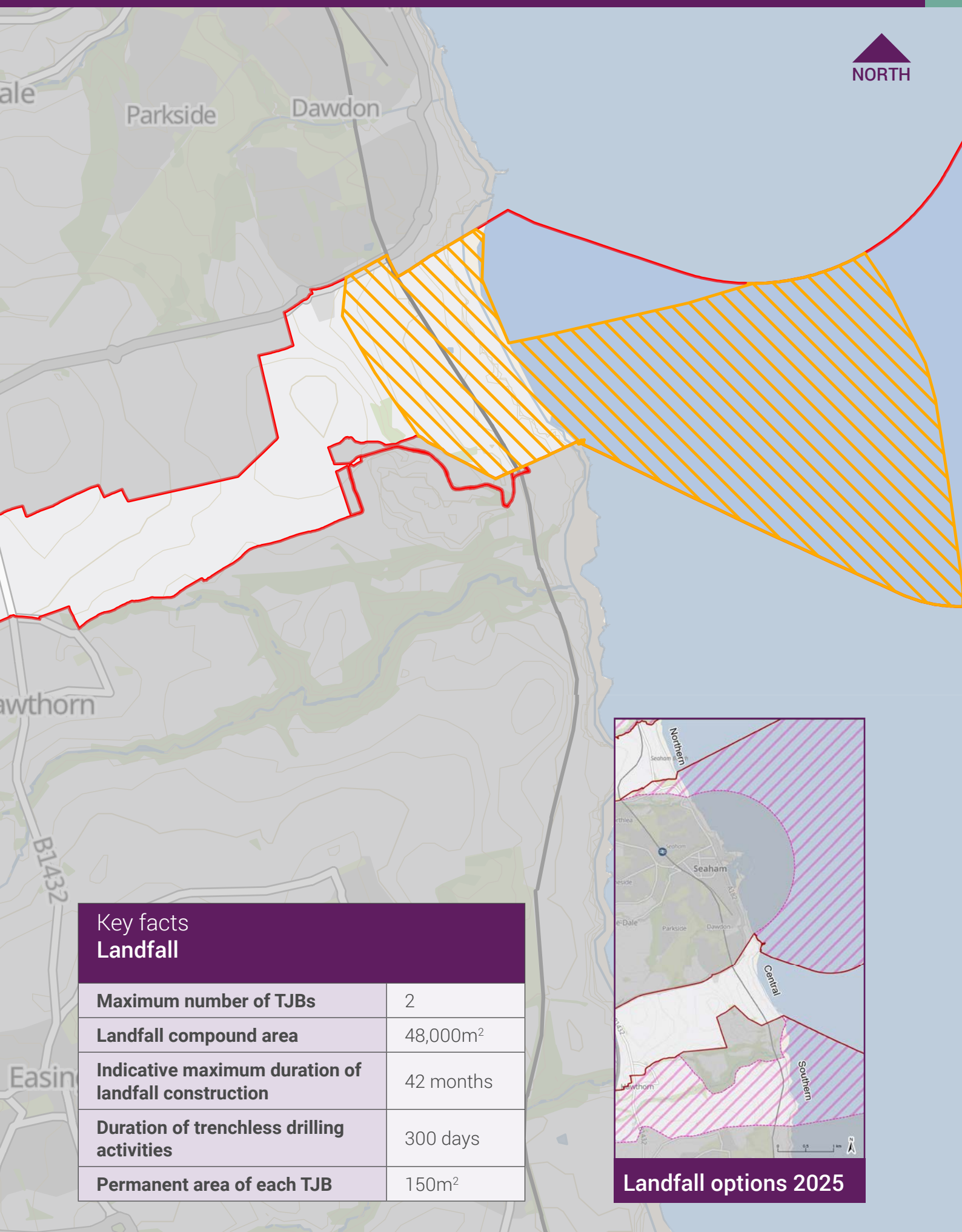


Landfall 2026

Key

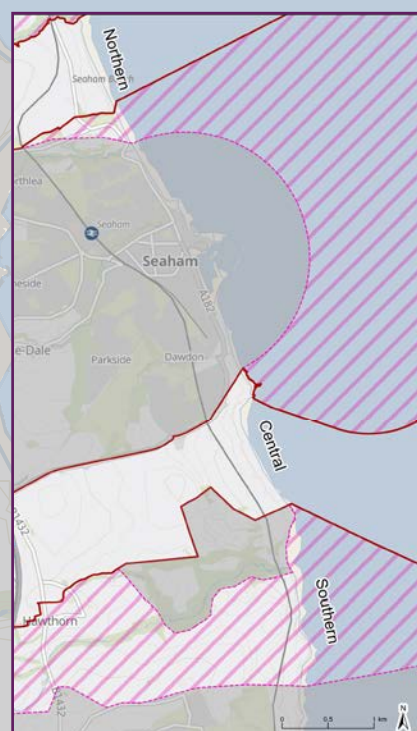
-  MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary
-  Green Onshore Land Substation (LSS) Option Area
-  Blue Onshore Land Substation (LSS) Option Area
-  Landfall area





Key facts Landfall

Maximum number of TJBs	2
Landfall compound area	48,000m ²
Indicative maximum duration of landfall construction	42 months
Duration of trenchless drilling activities	300 days
Permanent area of each TJB	150m ²



Landfall options 2025



Onshore corridor

In order to transport the electricity from the landfall location to the point of interconnection at the National Grid, the MHPGC Project will need to lay new underground electricity cables along a route.

These cables will comprise:

- **onshore export (HVDC) cables** which will run from the transition joint bay(s) to the onshore land substation (LSS); and
- **AC connection cables** which will run from the onshore LSS to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.

Key facts Onshore export cable corridor	
Number of onshore export cable circuits	1
Number of onshore export cables (including conductors and fibre optic cables)	4 bundled in up to 2 trenches
Maximum temporary main compound size	70,000m ²
Maximum temporary secondary compound size	10,000m ²
Indicative maximum length of onshore export cable corridor	5km
Indicative maximum temporary onshore export cable corridor width	40m
Typical cable trench depth	1.8m

Key facts AC connection cable corridor	
Number of AC Connection Cable circuits	4
Number of AC Connection Cables (including power cores, earth continuity conductors and fibre optic cables)	24 (bundled in up to 4 trenches)
Maximum temporary main compound size	70,000m ²
Maximum temporary secondary compound size	10,000m ²
Indicative maximum length of AC connection cable corridor	5km
Indicative maximum temporary AC connection cable corridor width	100m
Typical cable trench depth	1.8m

Site selection

We have selected the Central corridor as our preferred onshore corridor.

Since this decision, we have continued to refine the siting of the onshore cable corridor. As shown on the onshore corridor map, the southern extent of the corridor has been significantly reduced. In other areas, the boundary has been adjusted to provide greater flexibility in the design. This includes identifying a potential access route via Hawthorn Quarry to support landfall and onshore export cable construction activities.

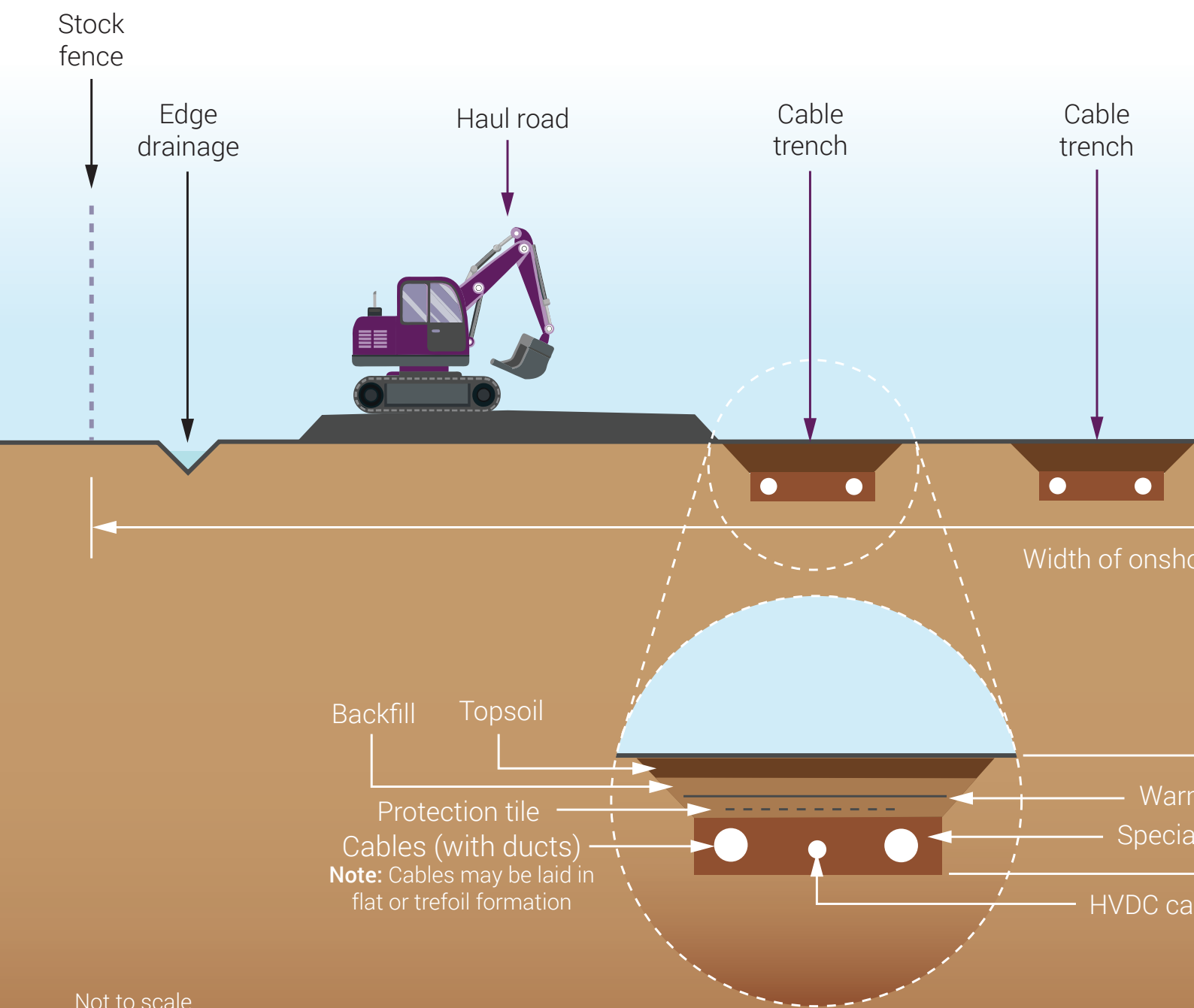
As we progress towards submitting our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we are continuing a comprehensive programme of surveys. The information from these surveys will help us further refine the design alongside feedback we receive.

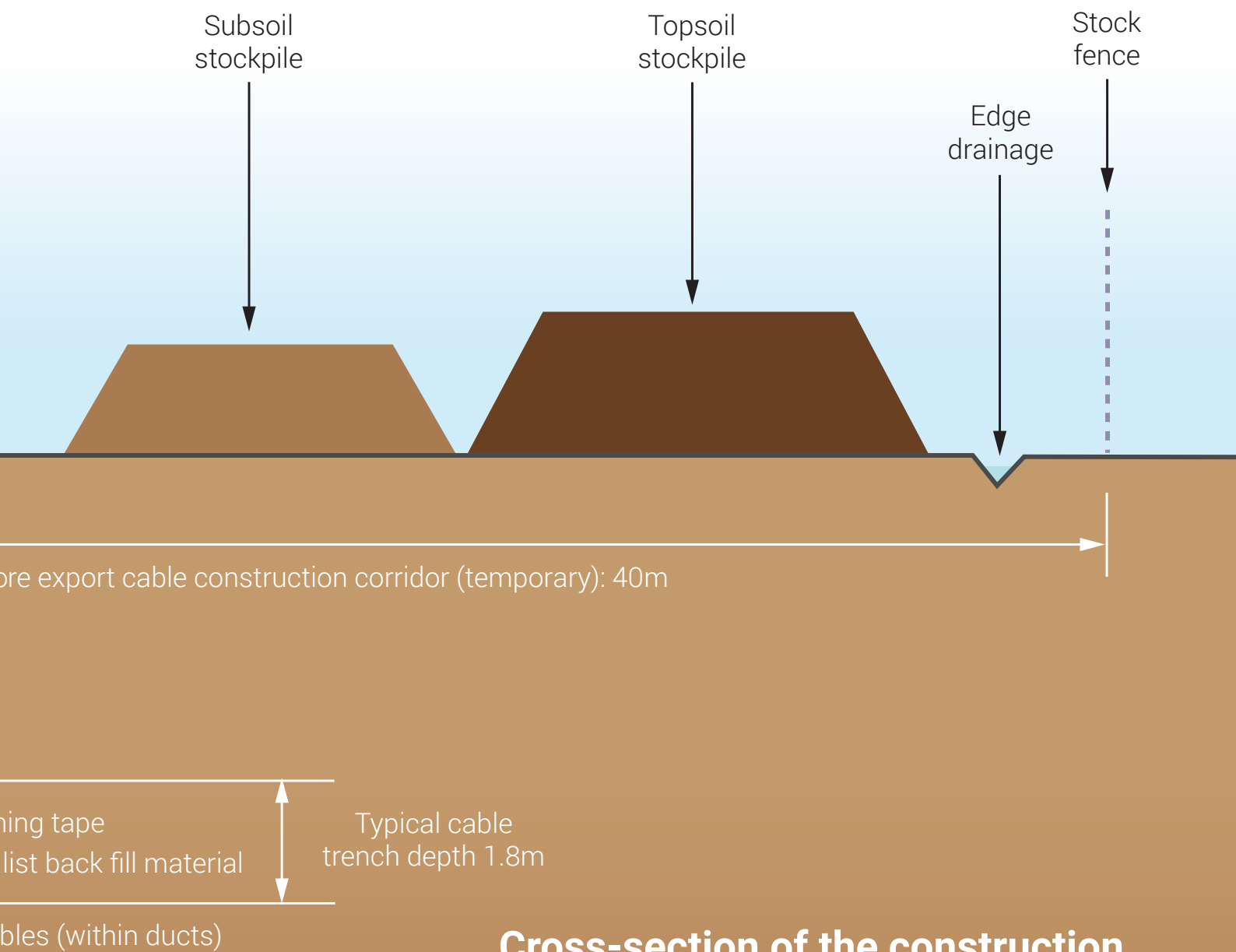
We welcome your feedback on the proposed onshore cable route as part of this consultation. We are particularly interested in understanding your views on:

- the proposed onshore cable route (encompassing both the onshore export cable corridor and AC connection cable corridor);
- all activities associated with the onshore export cable corridor and AC connection cable corridor throughout the MHPGC Project lifecycle, including construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning;
- the findings of the PEIR, including the predicted environmental effects and assessment outcomes; and
- the proposed measures to avoid, reduce and mitigate the environmental effects of the onshore cable route.



Kinley Hill





Cross-section of the construction corridor for onshore export cables



Onshore land substation (LSS)

To connect to the National Grid, we will need to construct a new onshore land substation.

Why do we need an onshore land substation (LSS)?

In order to connect to the National Grid, the electricity exported from the wind farm needs to be converted from high voltage direct current (HVDC) to high voltage alternating current (HVAC) power. Other adjustments are also required (power quality and power factor) to meet the requirements of power supply being fed to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.

What equipment is located within the onshore land substation?

The onshore LSS would contain electrical equipment such as power transformers, cables, lightning protection masts, control buildings, communication masts, backup generators, access, fencing and other associated equipment, structures or buildings.

What type of substation?

There are two technologies the MHPGC Project is considering for the onshore LSS to provide electrical insulation:

- **Air insulated:** An air insulated substation has most of its electrical elements outside, making use of the natural insulating properties of air. Most substations in rural areas are air insulated.

- **Gas insulated:** A gas insulated substation puts all live electrical components in grounded metal enclosures, and the whole system is then housed in a chamber full of insulating gas.

Work is ongoing to determine the preferred technology for our LSS, and at this stage, no final decision has been made on the type that would be used. The dimensions presented in the key facts box represent the maximum parameters for the onshore LSS, irrespective of whether it is air or gas insulated.

While only one onshore LSS site will be selected, both the green and blue sites remain potential options.

We welcome your feedback on:

- the siting of the onshore land substation (LSS);
- views on or local insights into either the green or blue site options;
- all activities associated with the LSS throughout the MHPGC Project lifecycle, including construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning;
- the findings of the PEIR, including the predicted environmental effects and assessment outcomes; and
- the proposed measures to avoid, reduce and mitigate the environmental effects of the LSS.

Your feedback will help inform the ongoing site selection process.

Site selection

We have been working to determine where the onshore LSS should be located. At our last consultation, we presented three refined search areas and welcomed your feedback on the options:

- adjacent to the A19 (blue);
- Jade Business Park (green); and
- West Lane (pink).

Feedback received during the 2025 consultation on the pink site (West Lane) highlighted concerns about access, as well as the potential effects on agricultural land and the surrounding landscape. Taking this feedback into account, alongside further technical assessment, the pink site (West Lane) has been removed as a potential option.

View of green site (Jade Business Park)

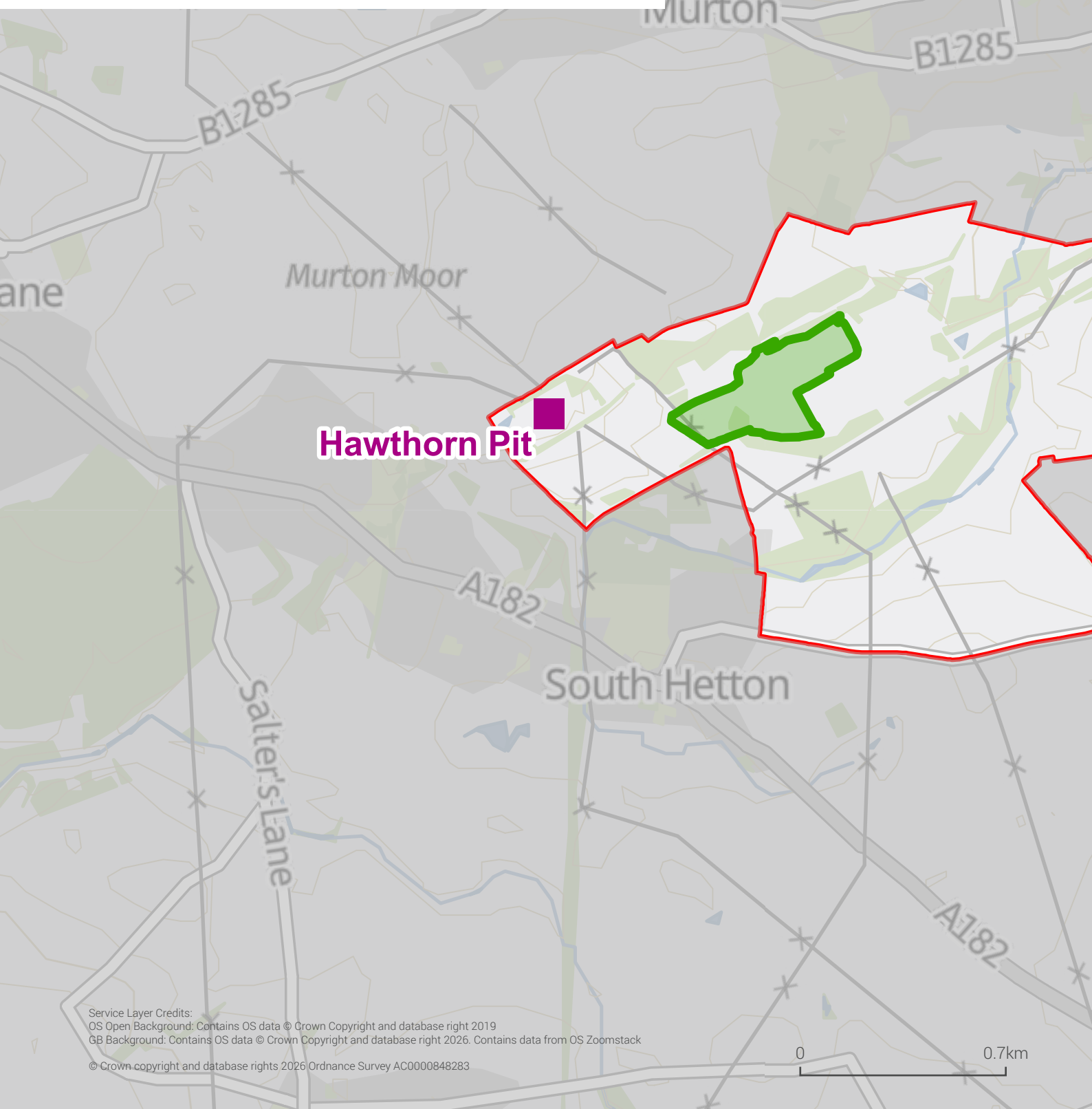


View of blue site (adjacent to the A19)

LSS 2026 Options

Key

-  MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary
-  Green Onshore Land Substation (LSS) Option Area
-  Blue Onshore Land Substation (LSS) Option Area



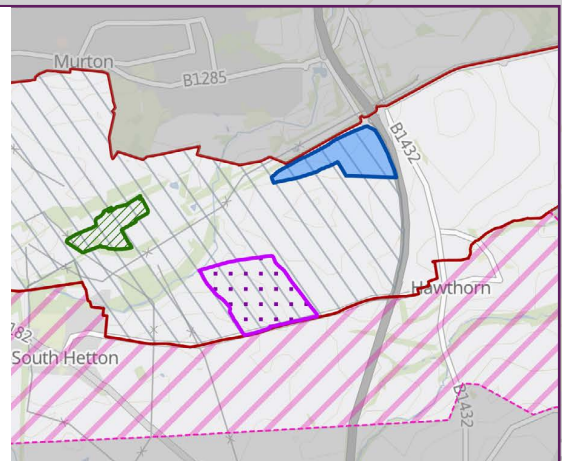
Key facts

Onshore land substation

Number of substations	1
Permanent footprint of substation	67,300m ²
Maximum height of the tallest building/structure on the substation	30m
Maximum width of main building/structure	100m
Maximum length of main building/structure	200m
Maximum height of lightning protection	35m
Construction period	54 months

Key

-  Green Onshore Land Substation (LSS) Option Area (2025)
-  Blue Onshore Land Substation (LSS) Option Area (2025)
-  Pink Onshore Land Substation (LSS) Option Area (2025)

**LSS 2025**

The consenting process

The MHPGC Project spans Scottish and English waters and includes onshore infrastructure in England. As a result, different consenting regimes apply to different parts of the MHPGC Project. This consultation covers the MHPGC Project as a whole. The elements in England and English waters will form part of the proposed Development Consent Order application, noting that the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero issued a direction under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 that the MHPGC Project should be treated as development for which development consent is required on 5 March 2024, while the offshore export cable in Scottish waters will be consented separately through the Scottish marine licensing process.

To build and operate the MHPGC Project, we will require several types of permissions - known as consents - under legislation in Scotland and England.

MHPGC Project assets located within Scottish waters require a Marine Licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

All offshore and onshore elements of the MHPGC Project that are within England and English waters will be consented via a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008, as directed by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in March 2024 pursuant to a section 35 direction. This will include a deemed Marine Licence for offshore infrastructure.



Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection

Project Steps

Pre-application

2024 consultation

9 July and 3 September 2024

Early proposals were shared with the public and stakeholders for feedback. We considered feedback, engaged with landowners and conducted technical studies to identify potential locations for the onshore land substation and onshore cable corridor.

EIA Scoping

February 2025

Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and Marine Directorate-Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT). The report outlined anticipated effects on the environment and how we would assess them.

25 March 2025

Planning Inspectorate and MD-LOT provided their responses (Scoping Opinions).

2025 consultation

22 October to 30 November 2025

Further refined proposals were shared with the public and stakeholders for feedback. We also asked for feedback on potential community benefits and local knowledge to help develop our plans.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Summer 2026

We published a SoCC that outlines the ways we have planned to consult with the local community on our proposals during the final round of consultation. We engaged with Durham County Council to gather their feedback on the SoCC to help shape the consultation process and ensure that the community's feedback is considered.

2026 consultation: current stage

6 October to 15 November

We have been working to update the MHPGC Project proposals and have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which forms the basis of this consultation. Your feedback will help shape the final proposals to be submitted as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) and Scottish Marine Licence applications.

Continued engagement with local communities and stakeholders remains an important part of our approach to the MHPGC Project. Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to undertake pre-application consultation or publish a PEIR, we have chosen to undertake this further round of consultation and publish a PEIR so that stakeholders and local communities can understand and provide feedback on the proposals and their potential environmental effects.

Development Consent Order (DCO) application (England)

We will submit an application, including an Environmental Statement (ES), for a DCO and deemed Marine Licence to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. Further information regarding the process can be found at <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/decision-making-process-guide>.

Marine Licence application (Scotland)

We will also submit Marine Licence application(s) and an Environmental Statement (ES) to MD-LOT for those assets located in Scottish waters. MD-LOT will consult statutory and key stakeholders during the determination phase and consider responses as part of their decision whether to grant Marine Licence(s).

Development Consent Order Process

Pre-application



As outlined above, and in line with Government guidance to consult and engage, the MHPGC Project has conducted three rounds of public consultation. Numerous detailed documents have been produced and shared with stakeholders to define the proposals, and outline mitigation for any impacts the project could have on the environment.

Post decision



Once the Secretary of State has made a decision, challenges can be made to the High Court. All procedures must be followed when making a challenge. The High Court will decide if there are grounds for a judicial review.

Recommendation and decision



The Examining Authority sends its recommendation report to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero within 3 months of the end of examination stage.

The Secretary of State then reviews the report and makes the final decision.

They have 3 months to make a decision.

Submission



The MHPGC Project will review all feedback received during consultations and, in addition to engagement with technical stakeholders such as the Local Authority, finalise the proposals. All feedback will be summarised in our Consultation Report which will form part of our DCO application which will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Acceptance



After the application is submitted, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.

Examination



The Examining Authority examines evidence from all parties via written submissions and hearings. Registered Interested Parties can submit written comments at specified deadlines and if hearings occur, can attend and take part.

This stage takes up to 6 months.

Pre-examination



If accepted for examination, the Examining Authority is appointed. The MHPGC Project will publish that the application has been accepted and include details of how anyone who wants to have their say can register as an Interested Party (IP). The pre-examination stage usually takes about 3 months.



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

We understand that any major infrastructure development can create environmental impacts. It is important that these are identified, and where they cannot be avoided, minimised and managed.

As a part of the consenting process, we are undertaking an EIA to assess the likely significant effects of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the MHPGC Project.

The EIA will be undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders, including Durham County Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, NatureScot, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), MD-LOT and any other relevant consultees.

Scoping Report

In February 2025, we submitted a Scoping Report for the MHPGC Project to the Planning Inspectorate and MD-LOT. The Scoping Report provides a project summary, sets out the early work we have undertaken to understand the environmental characteristics of the site, potential interactions the MHPGC Project might have with the environment, as well as further studies and detailed assessments we believe we needed to carry out.

Following receipt of the Scoping Report, the Planning Inspectorate and MD-LOT reviewed it and consulted with key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, NatureScot 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, and MD-LOT provided us with their 'Scoping Opinions', detailing their response to our Scoping Report.



The Scoping Opinions help to inform the scope and focus of our EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment that we will submit as part of our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate and Marine Licence application(s) to MD-LOT.

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)

As part of this pre-application consultation, we are seeking your views on our PEIR.

We have published our PEIR on our website available using the web link above.

The PEIR covers a wide range of environmental topics and includes:

- detailed project information;
- the preliminary assessments undertaken to date; and
- a record of ongoing technical engagement with key stakeholders.

Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to undertake pre-application consultation or publish a PEIR, the MHPGC Project has chosen to do so to help stakeholders and local communities understand and provide feedback on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project. This feedback will help us further refine the proposals before the relevant applications for consent are finalised.

Environmental Statement (ES)

After this consultation, we will prepare an ES. The ES is the report on the EIA work. It will incorporate responses we received from all consultations 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 and Marine Licence application(s) that we will submit to MD-LOT.

Take part

The views of stakeholders and the community are important to us and will help shape the final proposals before the Development Consent Order and Marine Licence applications are finalised.

This consultation will run from 6 October to 15 November 2026. Please provide your feedback by 23:59 on 15 November 2026 to ensure it is considered.

Meet the team

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

Online webinar

We will also be hosting an online webinar on **22 October 2026, 18:00 – 19:00**. To register to attend, please visit our website www.morvenoffshorewind.com.



Consultation materials

To support this consultation, we have published the following materials, available on our website:

- Consultation brochure
- Feedback form
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- Non-technical summary of the PEIR
- Interactive project map

Consultation events

Friday 16 October 2026

15:00 – 19:00

Hawthorn Community Centre,
Seaham, SR7 8SG

Saturday 17 October 2026

10:00 – 15:00

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

Tuesday 3 November 2026

15:00 – 19:00

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

Tuesday 10 November 2026

15:00 – 19:00

Glebe Centre, Durham Place,
Murton, SR7 9BX

Information points

Hardcopies of the consultation brochure, non-technical summary of the PEIR and feedback form are available at the following information points:

Seaham Library

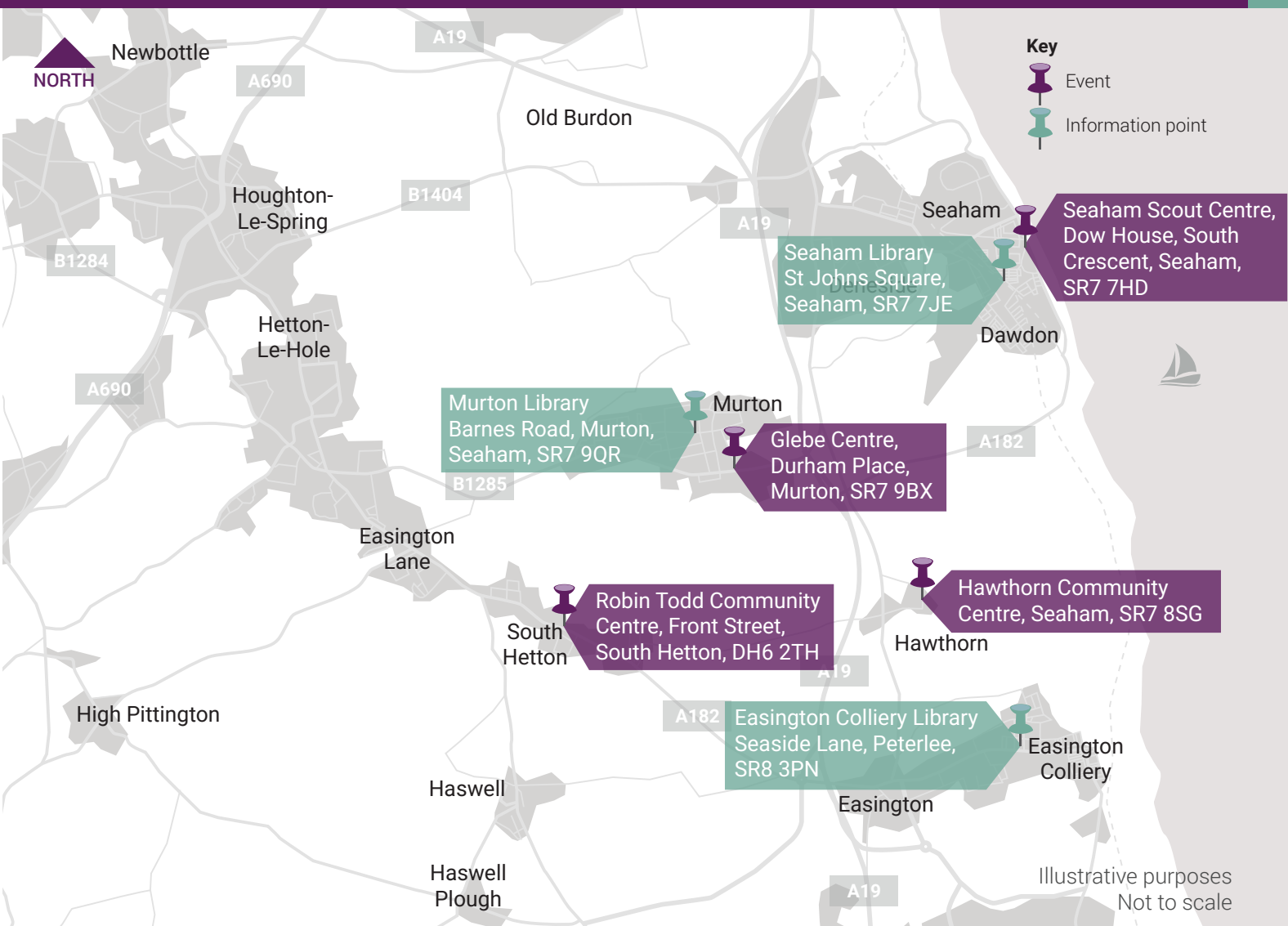
St Johns Square, Seaham, SR7 7JE

Murton Library

Barnes Road, Murton, Seaham, SR7 9QR

Easington Colliery Library

Seaside Lane, Peterlee, SR8 3PN



Share your views

You can share your feedback in the following ways:

-  **Online:** visit our website and complete our online feedback form www.morvenoffshorewind.com;
-  **Email:** send your feedback to: info@morvenoffshorewind.com; or
-  **Post:** send a letter or hard copy feedback form (available at events or on request) to our freepost address, Freepost MORVEN (no stamp required).

Contact the team

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

-  **Phone:** 0800 669 6110; or
-  **Email:** info@morvenoffshorewind.com.



Find out more on our website
morvenoffshorewind.com or scan the QR code.



info@morvenoffshorewind.com



Freepost MORVEN



0800 669 6110

If you would like this 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.



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