



Welcome

Thank you for coming to our event.

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).

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

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

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) has determined that the connection points for Morven North and Morven South should be at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham and in the Branxton area, East Lothian.

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.

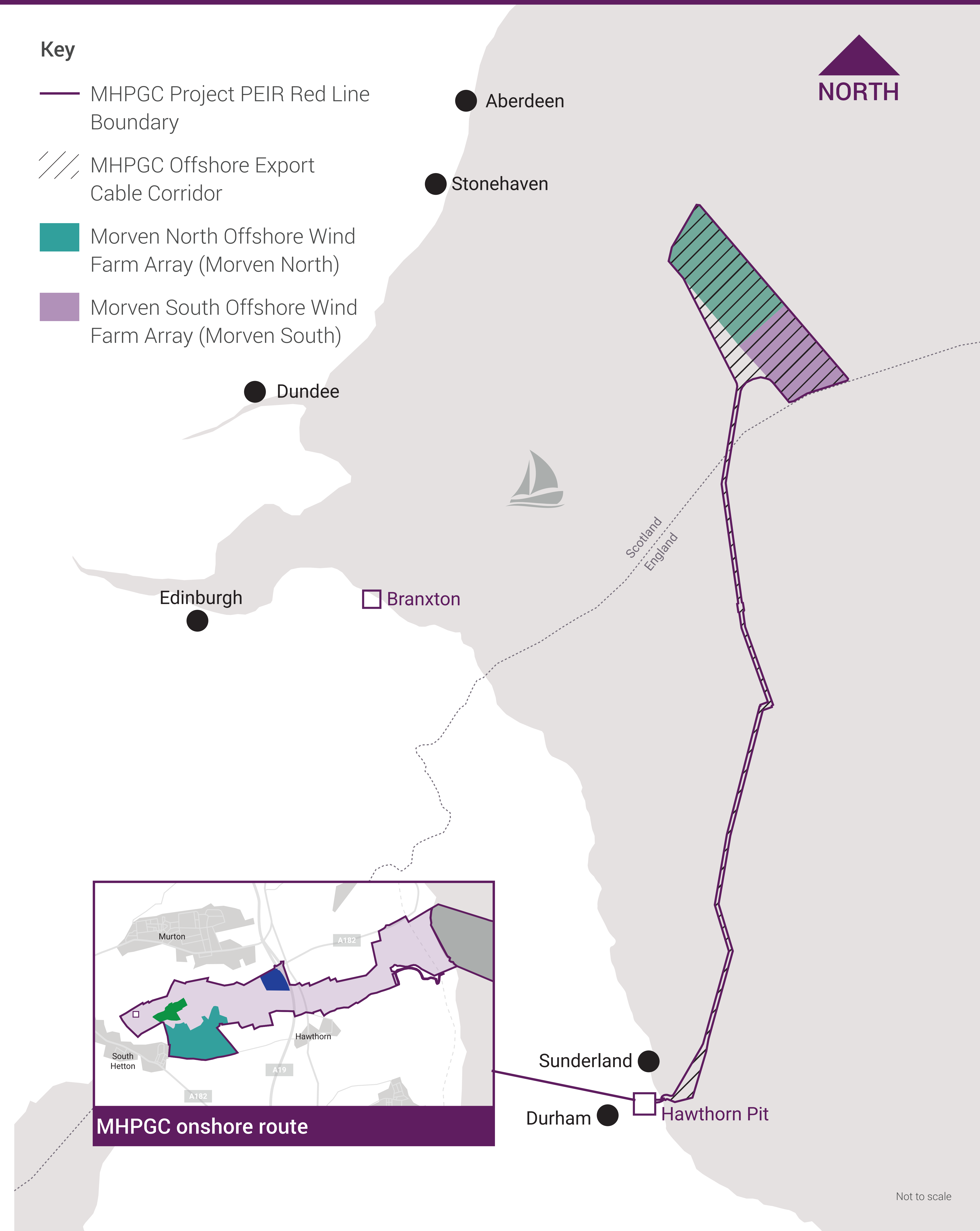
- Offshore export cable corridor in Scottish and English waters
- Onshore infrastructure in England, near Seaham, County Durham



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

Key

- MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary
- /// MHPGC Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Morven North Offshore Wind Farm Array (Morven North)
- Morven South Offshore Wind Farm Array (Morven South)

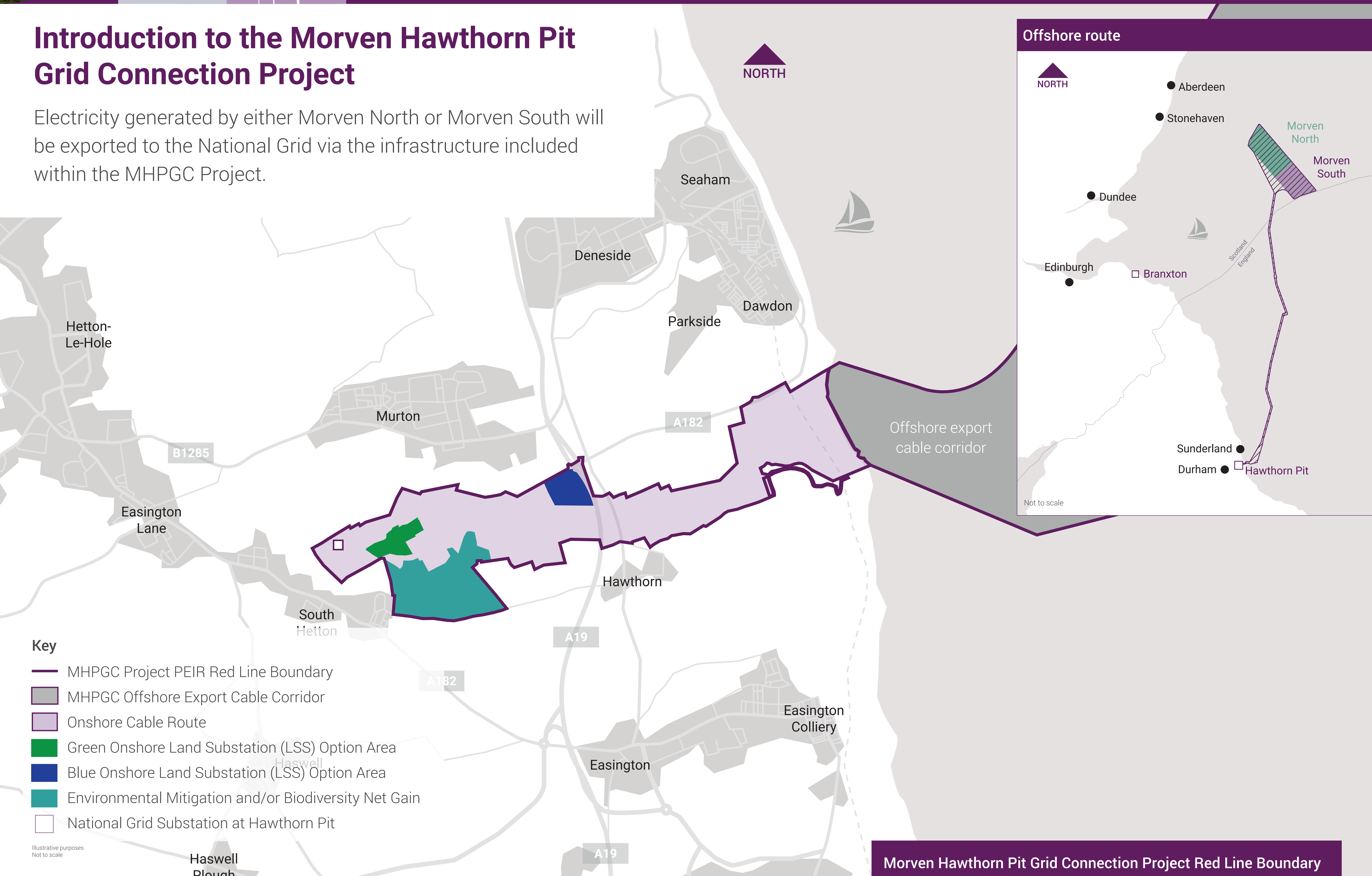


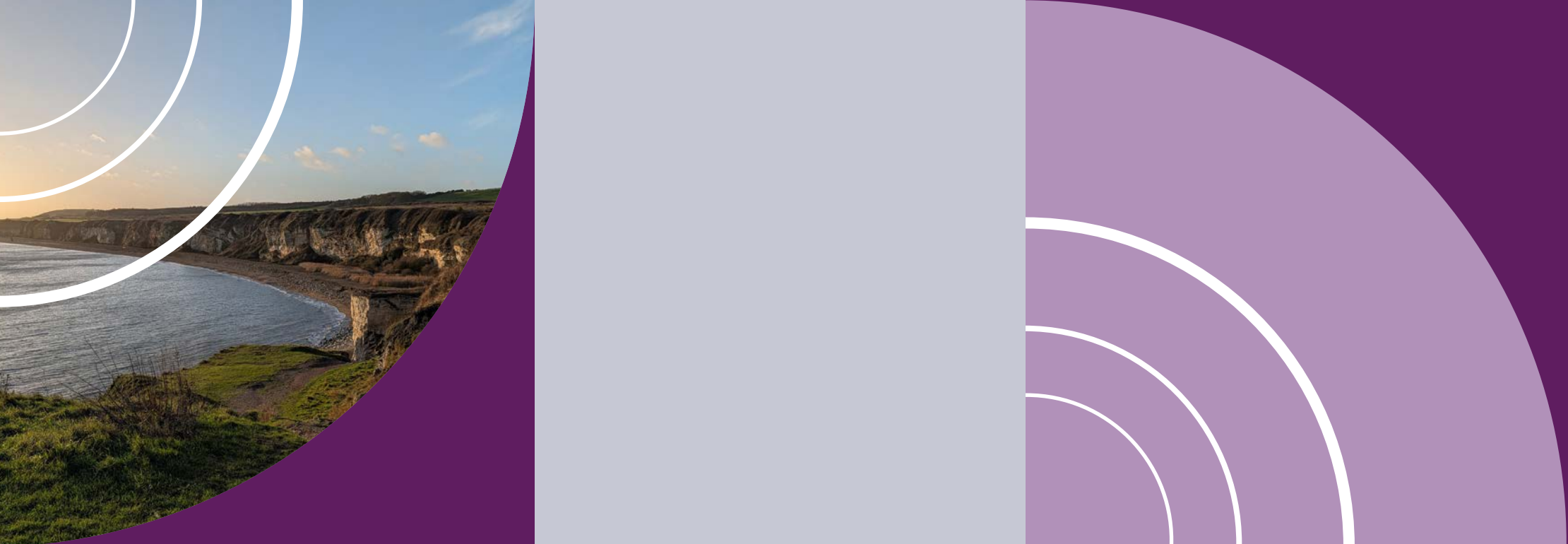
MHPGC onshore route



Introduction to the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

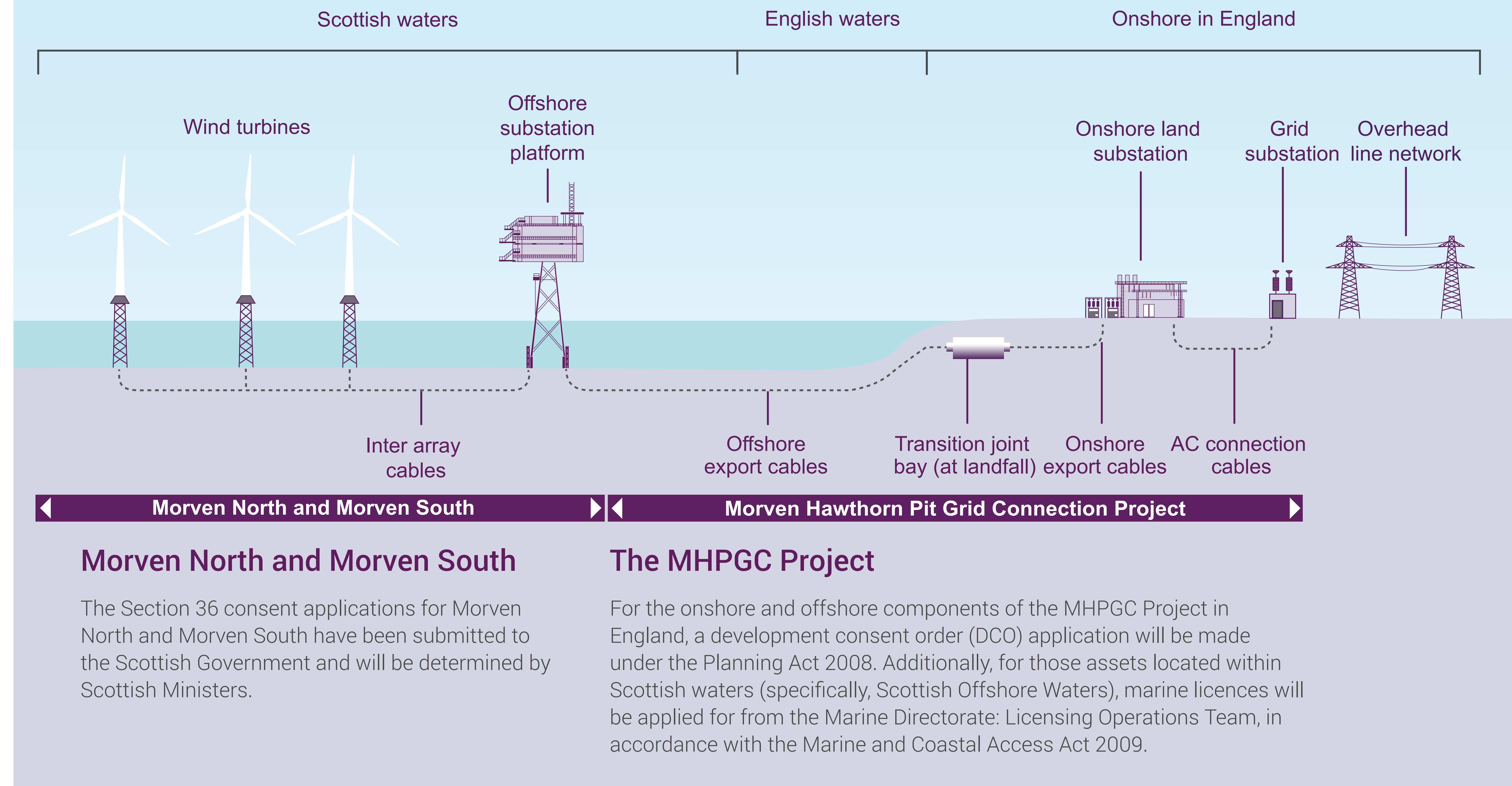
Electricity generated by either Morven North or Morven South will be exported to the National Grid via the infrastructure included within the MHPGC Project.





Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (MHPGC)

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. This area will comprise both permanent and temporary infrastructure including, but not limited to, the following elements.



The offshore elements of the MHPGC Project

- **Offshore export cable(s)** export electricity from either Morven North Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) or Morven South OSP to the transition joint bay (TJB) at landfall.
- **Cable protection** covers the offshore cable when it cannot be buried in the seabed.

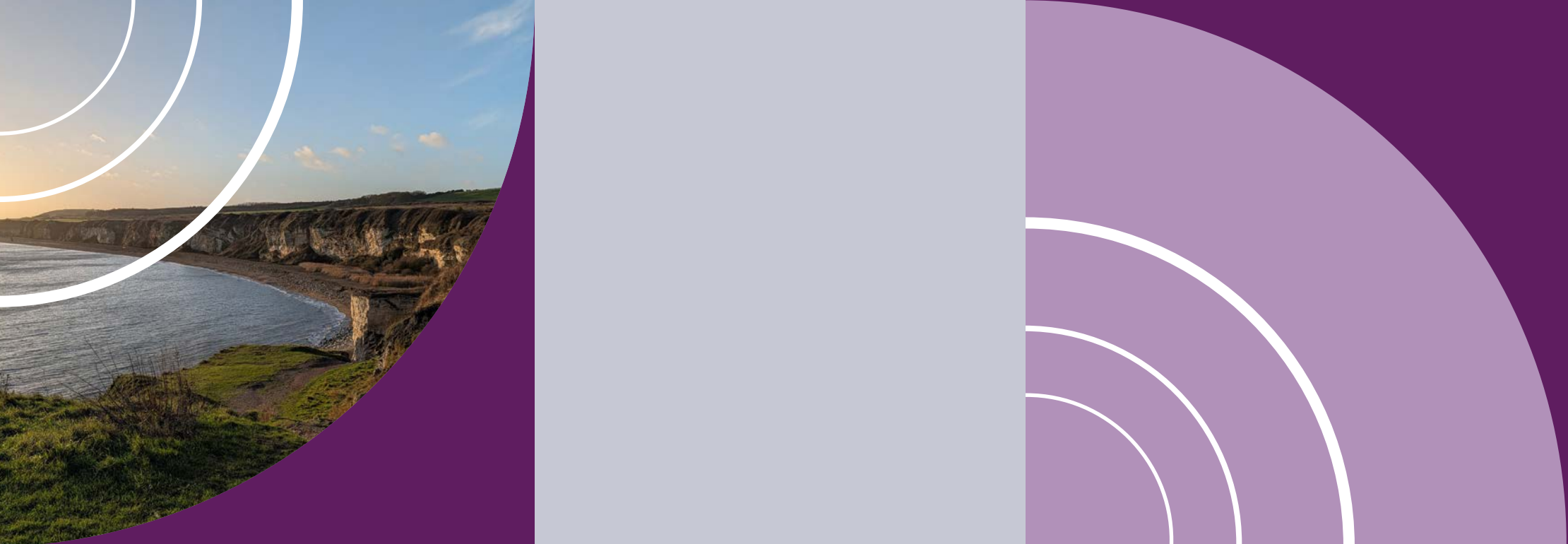
Landfall

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

- **Transition Joint Bay (TJB)** connects the offshore export cables to the onshore export cables, this will be located onshore, underground at landfall.

The onshore elements of the MHPGC Project

- **Onshore export cables** bring electricity from the TJB to the onshore land substation (LSS).
- **Onshore land substation (LSS)** converts the power to meet the requirements of power supply being fed to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.
- **Alternating Current (AC) connection cables** connect the proposed LSS to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.
- **Environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain** areas are identified to provide environmental mitigation or biodiversity net gain.



Your feedback

This consultation is a further opportunity for you to provide feedback on our proposals. The previous consultations have helped us develop our options for routing the offshore and onshore cable corridors, and siting of the **onshore land substation (LSS)**.

The table below 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.



	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

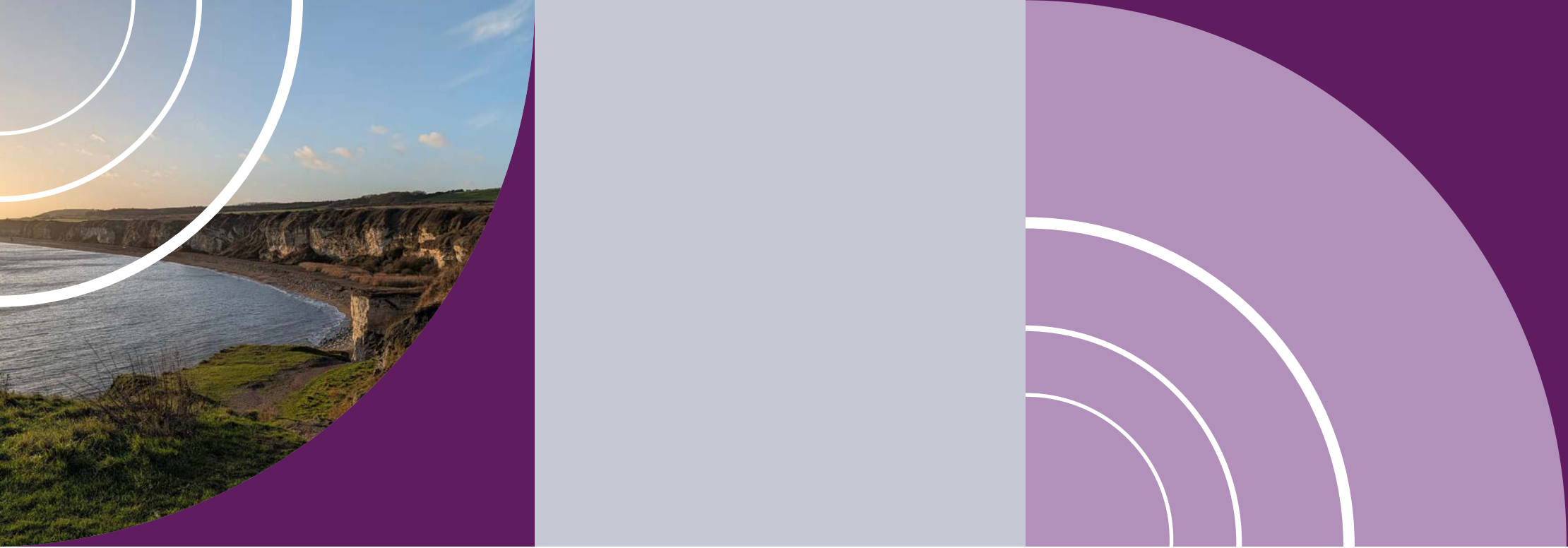
2026 Consultation

We are inviting your feedback on:

- the proposed infrastructure routeing and location:
 - one refined offshore export cable corridor;
 - one proposed landfall location;
 - one indicative onshore export cable corridor;
 - one AC connection cable corridor from the new land substation to the existing National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation;
 - two, further refined, land substation sites;

- the proposed approach to construction, operation and maintenance, including temporary infrastructure and associated activities; and
- the potential impacts of the MHPGC Project and the measures proposed to avoid, reduce or mitigate these effects as outlined in the PEIR and non-technical summary.

As part of this consultation, we would like to hear your views to help inform decision making.



Offshore cable corridor

Permanent offshore infrastructure 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. Where ground conditions do not enable burial, cables will be placed on the surface, with cable protection to reduce the risk of cables getting caught or damaged.

Site selection

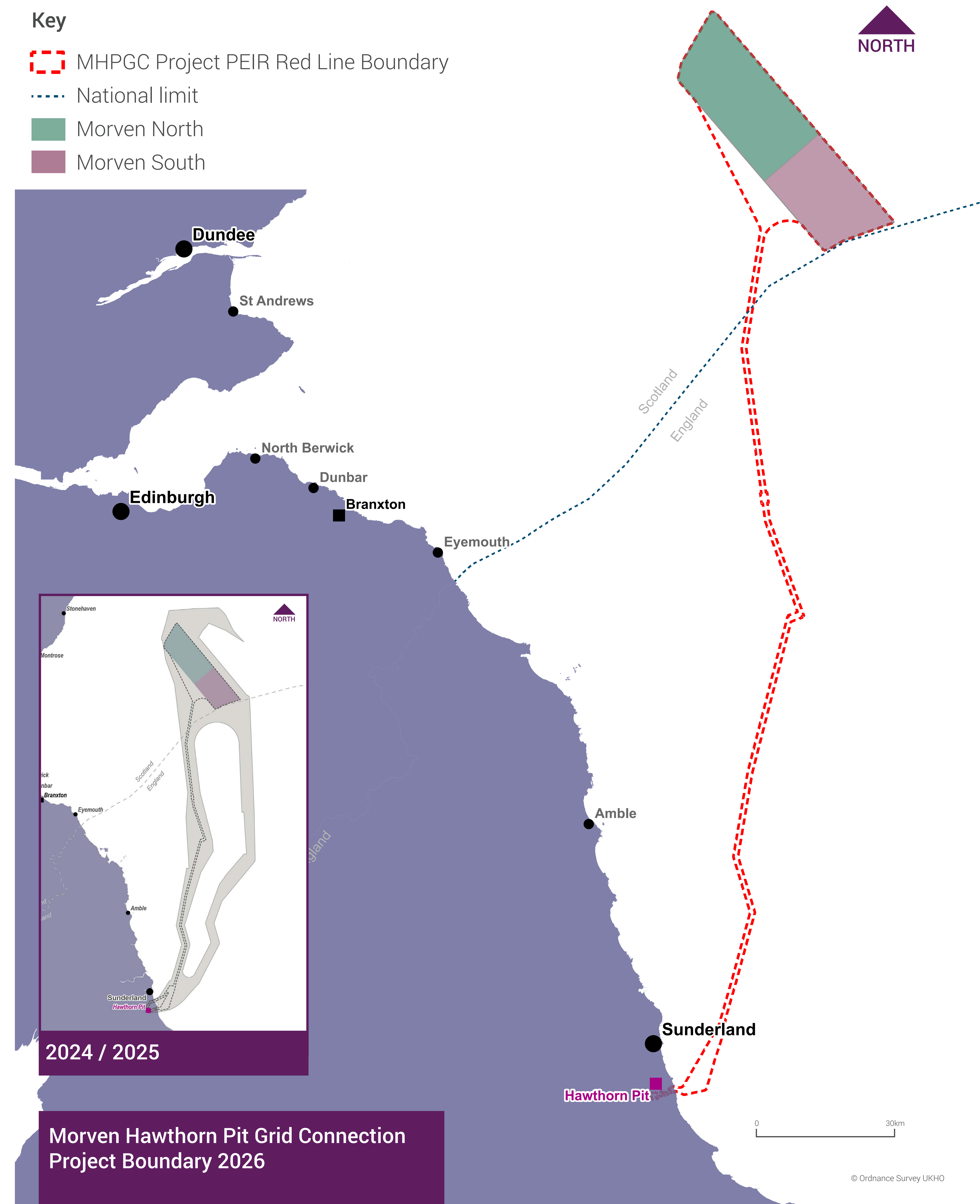
Based on feedback received, engagement with key stakeholders, environmental survey data and engineering studies we have refined the offshore cable corridor boundary to a preferred temporary working corridor of a 1000m width to allow the installation of up to four cables (two conductors and two fibre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



Key facts Offshore cable corridor	
Number of offshore 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
-  Morven South

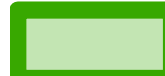
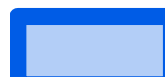


Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection
Project Boundary 2026



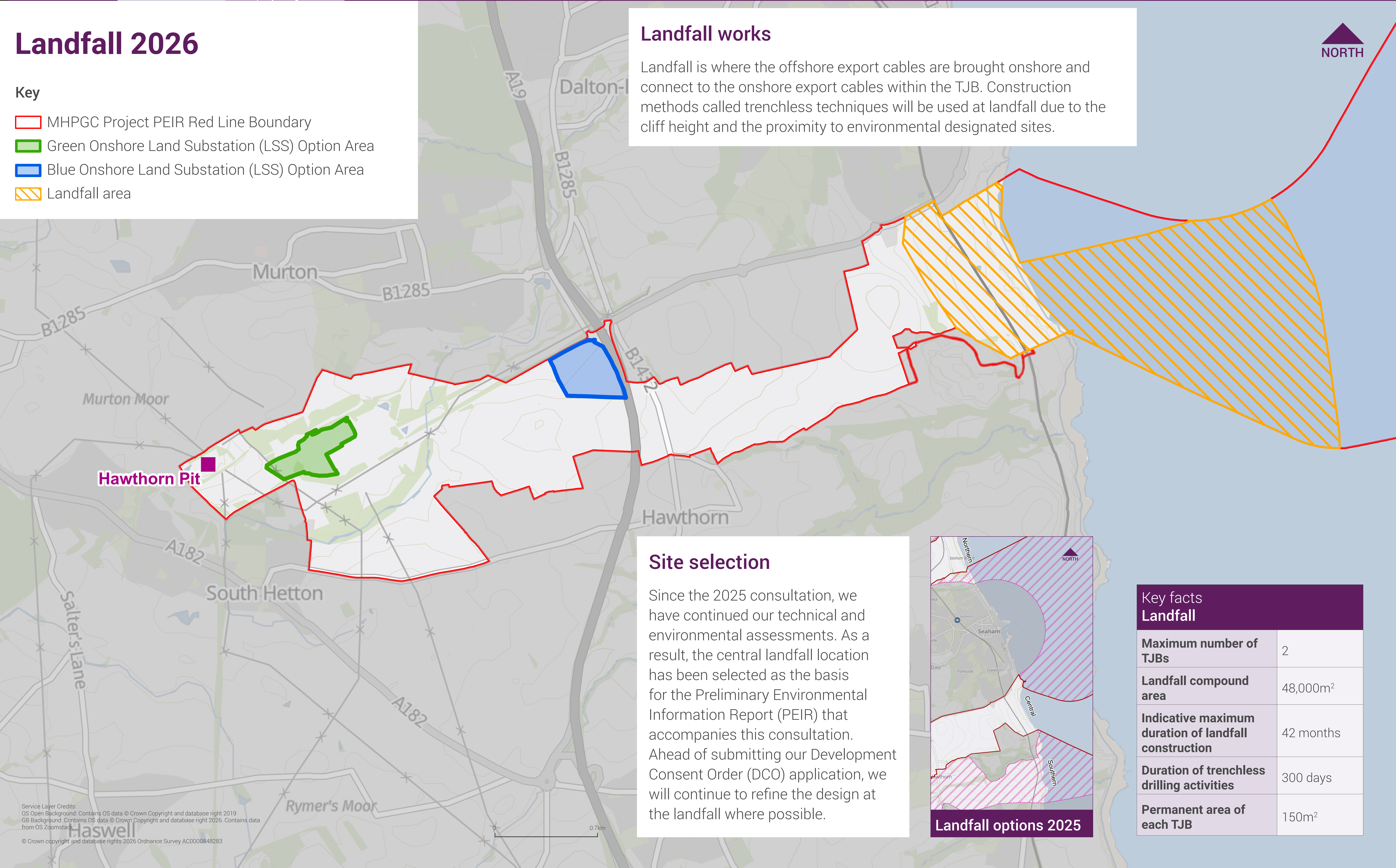
Landfall 2026

Key

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

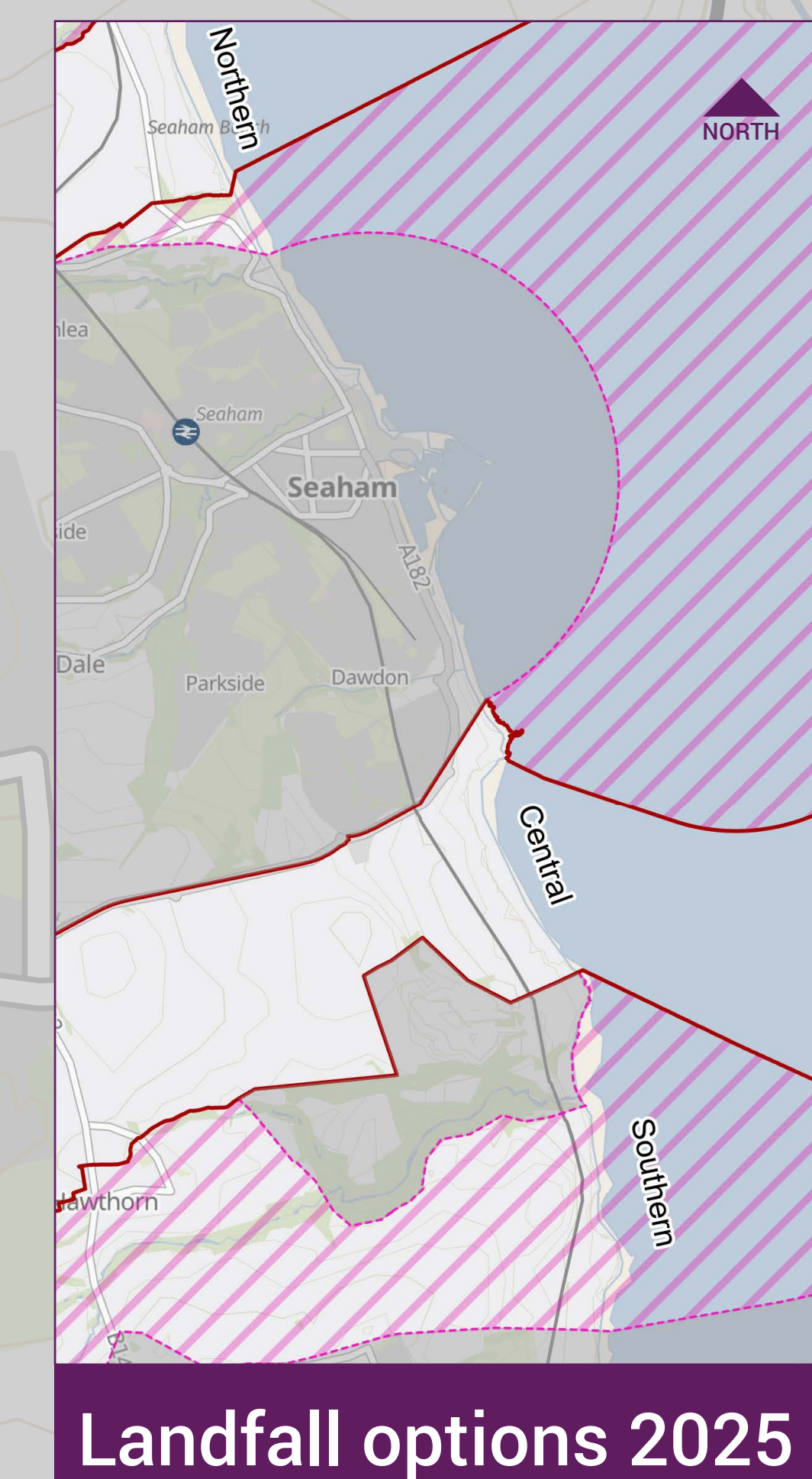
Landfall works

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.

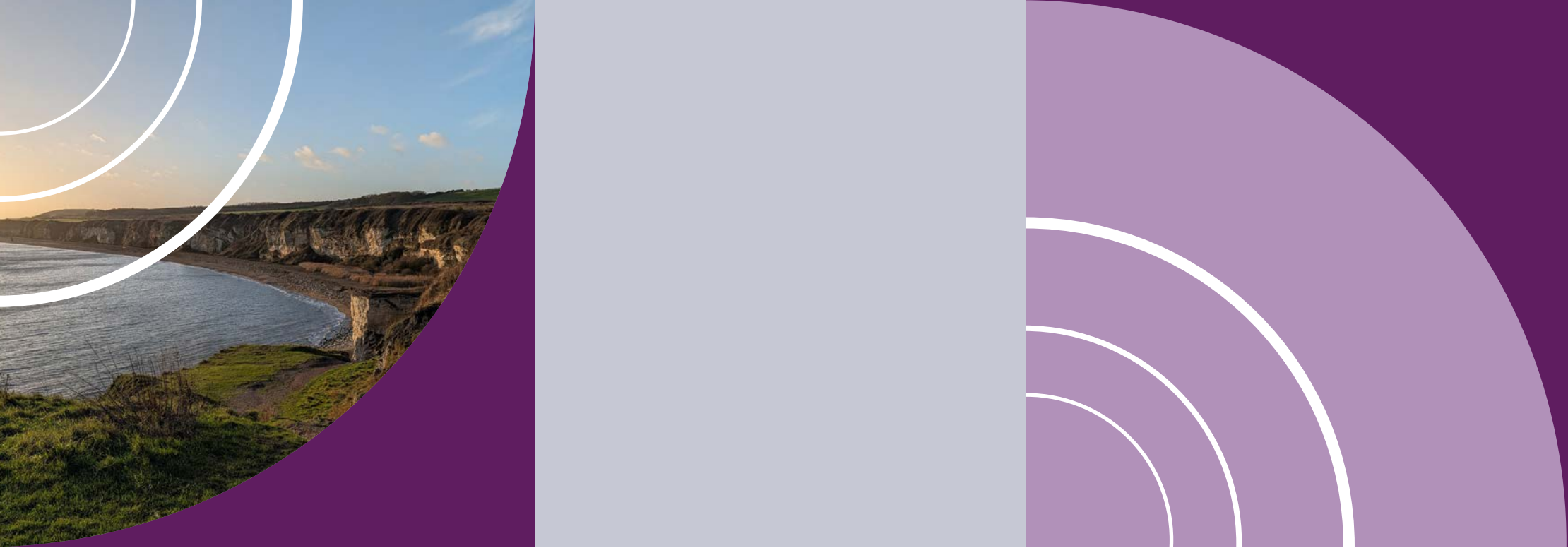


Site selection

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.



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



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.



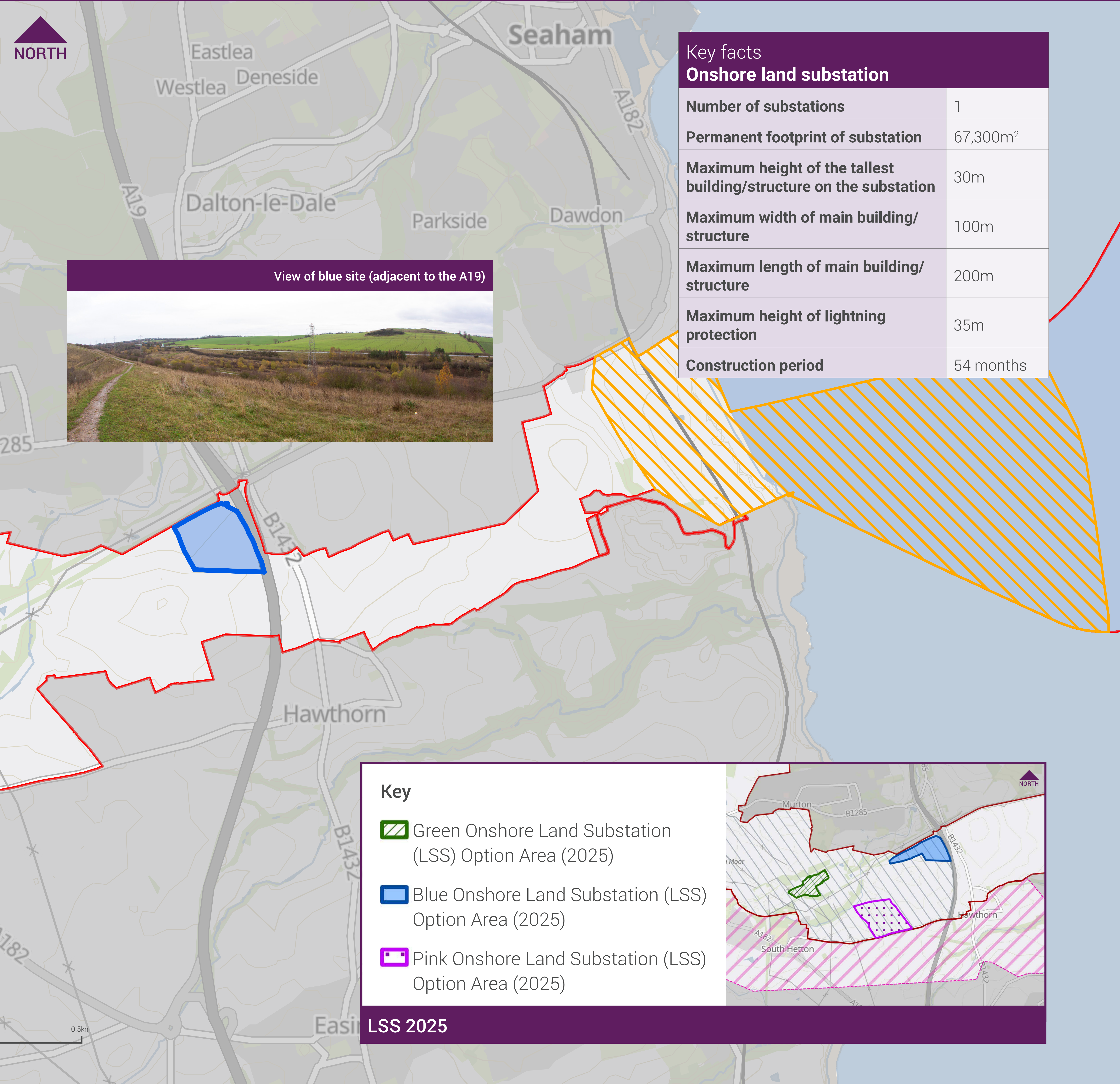
Kinley Hill

Onshore land substation

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

The LSS converts electricity exported from the wind farm from high voltage direct current (HVDC) to high voltage alternating current (HVAC) power.

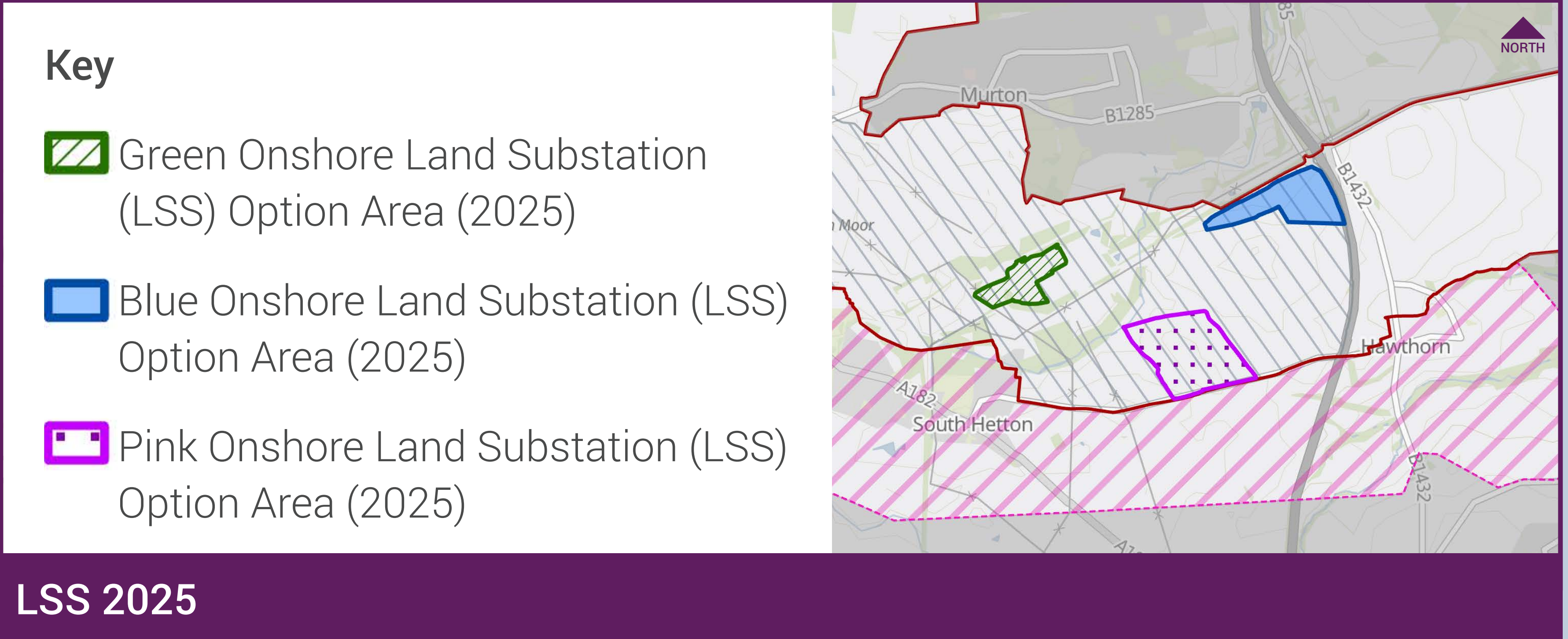
Work is ongoing to determine the preferred technology for our LSS, and at this stage, no final decision has been made on the type that would be used.

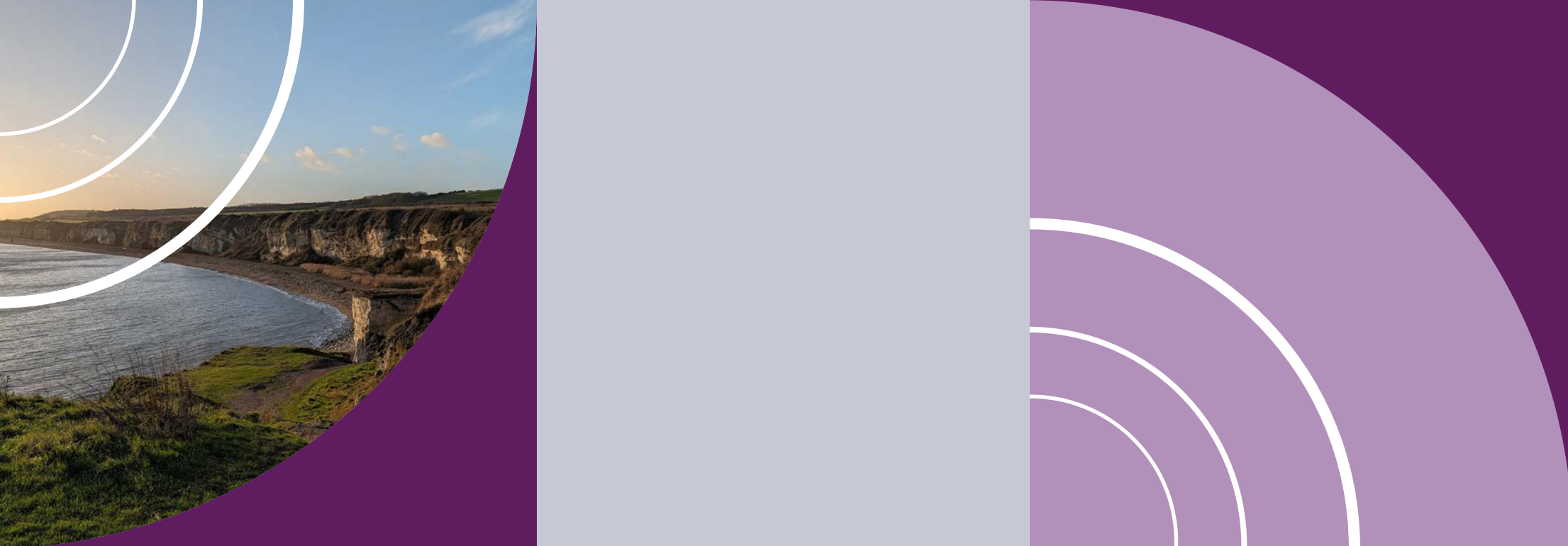


Key facts Onshore land substation	
Number of substations	1
Permanent footprint of substation	67,300m ²
Maximum height of the tallest building/structure on the substation	30m
Maximum width of main building/structure	100m
Maximum length of main building/structure	200m
Maximum height of lightning protection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

LSS 2026 Options

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





Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

We are assessing any potential environmental impacts of construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the MHPGC Project, so the impacts can be avoided, minimised or managed.

We will consult with key stakeholders, including Durham County Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, NatureScot, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), MD-LOT.

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;
- overview of the early work to understand the environmental characteristics of the site;
- potential interactions the MHPGC Project might have with the environment; and
- further studies and detailed assessments that may be required.

The Planning Inspectorate and MD-LOT reviewed the Scoping Report 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 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 consultation, we are seeking your views on our PEIR.

We have published our PEIR on our website.

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.

The MHPGC Project has chosen to hold this consultation and publish a PEIR to enable communities to 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.

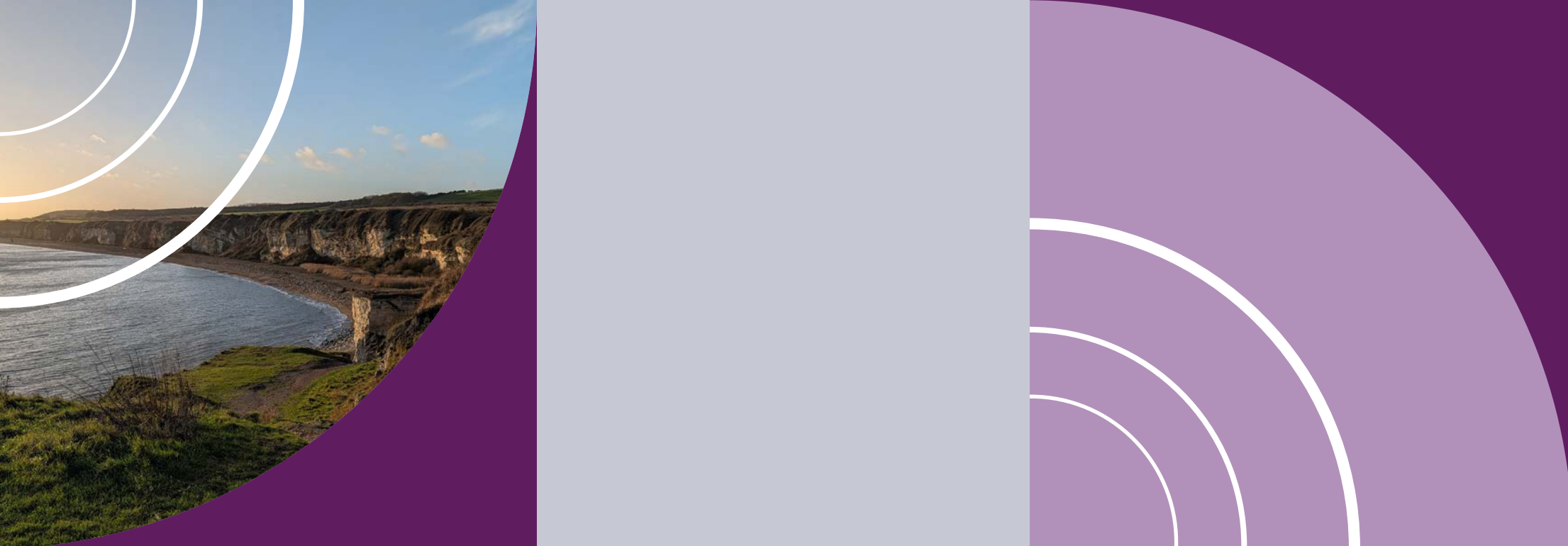
Environmental Statement (ES)

After this consultation, we will prepare an ES. The ES is the report on the EIA work and will include:

- responses received from all consultations;
- results of any final assessments; and
- any changes made since this consultation.

The ES 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.





Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project Steps

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Take part

The views of stakeholders and the community are important to us and will help shape the final proposals to be submitted as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) and Marine Licence application.

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.

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

Information points

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

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:

- Hand in a hardcopy feedback form to a member of the team at our consultation events.
- Complete the online feedback form at www.morvenoffshorewind.com
- Email info@morvenoffshorewind.com
- Send a letter or hard copy feedback form to our freepost address (no stamp required), **Freepost MORVEN**.

Contact the team

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

Phone: 0800 669 6110

Email: info@morvenoffshorewind.com

