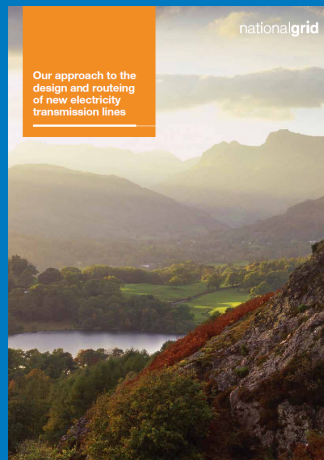
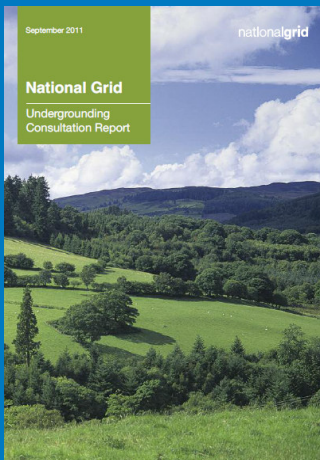


Our approach to the design and routeing of new electricity transmission lines



**Talking
Networks**

Simon Griew and Hector Pearson
Land and Development

Introduction

- **Context:**
 - Requirement to connect new sources of energy
 - Planning Act 2008 places new duties on infrastructure promoters
 - Increased importance of 'localism'
- **National Grid's new approach:**
 - 'Undergrounding approach' consultation
 - Key principles of the new approach
 - Focus on mitigating visual impact
 - Routeing and siting process
 - How we will consult
 - Options Appraisal

Context: Major electricity transmission reinforcements

Cumbria Nuclear

- ~200km new line
- Delivery early 2020s

North Wales Nuclear and Wind

- ~30km new line
- Delivery 2017/18

Mid Wales Wind

- ~60km new line
- Delivery 2015/16

Hinkley Point Nuclear

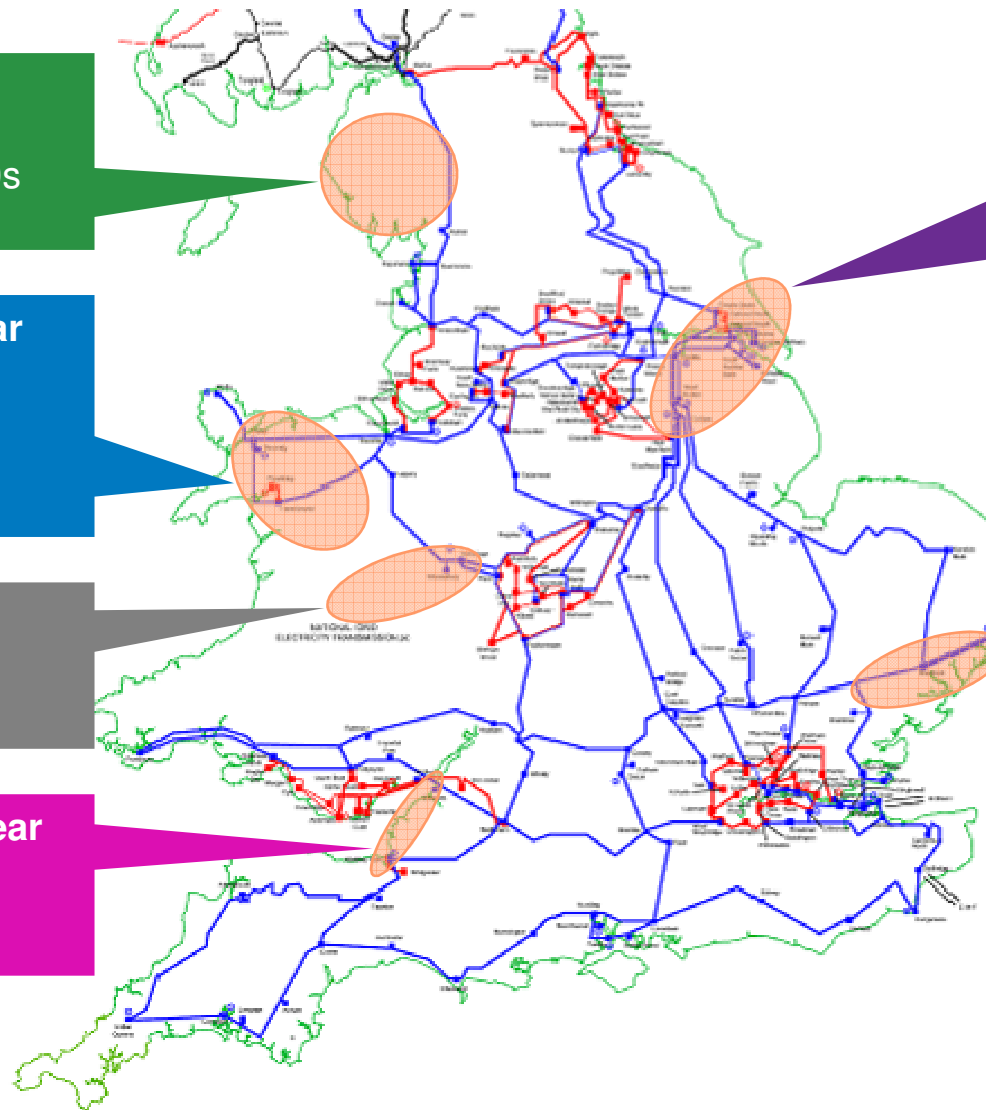
- ~60km new line
- Delivery 2017/18

East Coast Wind


- ~60-70km new lines or equivalent
- Delivery 2017/18 onwards

East Anglia Nuclear and Wind

- ~30km new line
- Delivery 2017/18



Context: Planning Act 2008



Planning Act 2008

CHAPTER 29

CONTENTS

PART 1

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING COMMISSION

1 The Infrastructure Planning Commission
2 Code of conduct
3 Register of Commissioners' interests
4 Fees

PART 2

NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

5 National policy statements
6 Review
7 Consultation and publicity
8 Consultation on publicity requirements
9 Parliamentary requirements
10 Sustainable development
11 Suspension pending review
12 Pre-commencement statements of policy, consultation etc.
13 Legal challenges relating to national policy statements

PART 3

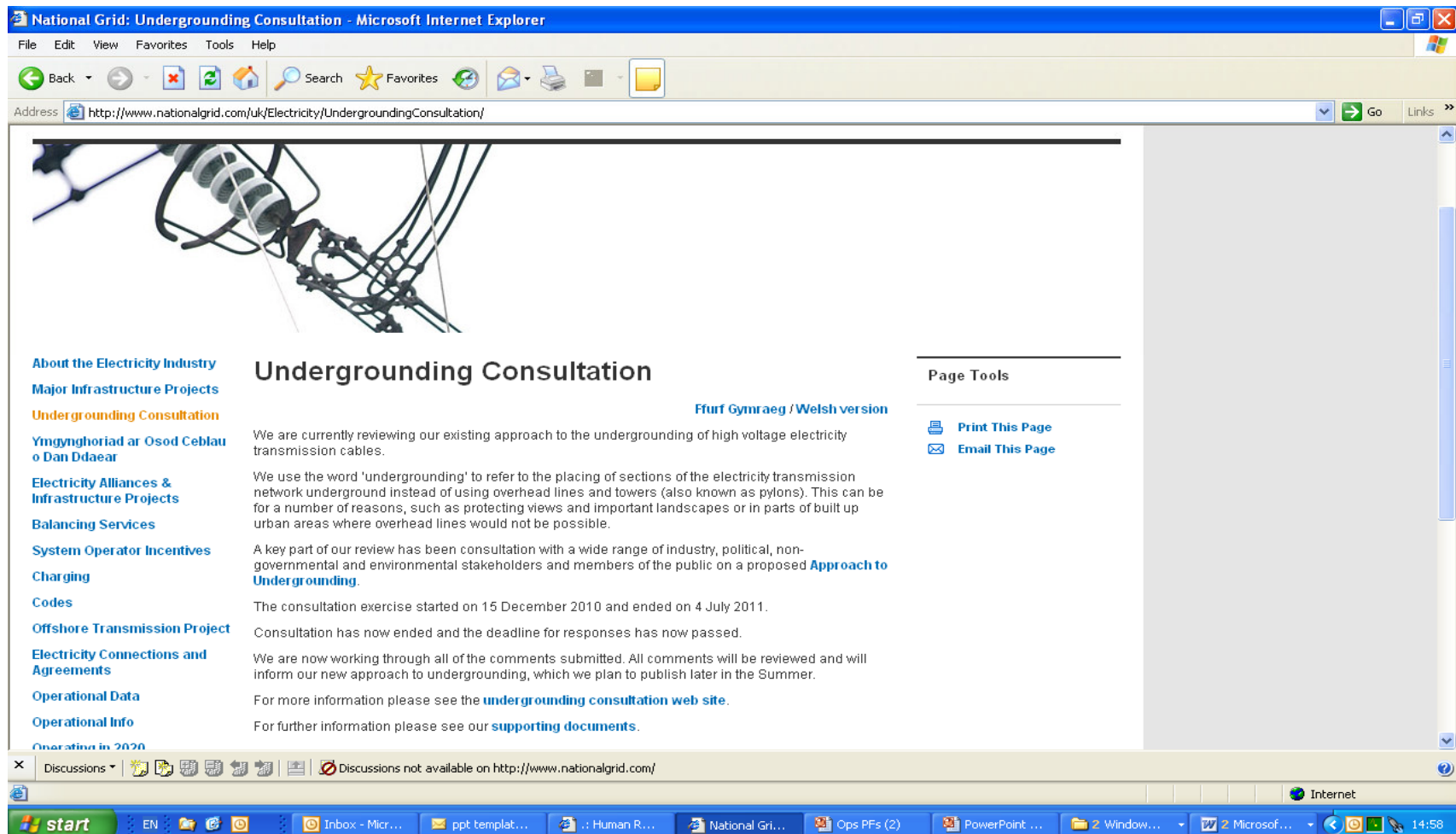
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

General

14 Nationally significant infrastructure projects: general

- **Planning Act 2008** – new consent regime for major infrastructure projects
- New duty on National Grid for **stronger community engagement** – must demonstrate how consultation has influenced proposals
- **‘Frontloading’** – consultation at early stages of projects and important to get applications ‘right first time’
- Significant **public interest and scrutiny** of new projects

We consulted on our new draft Approach



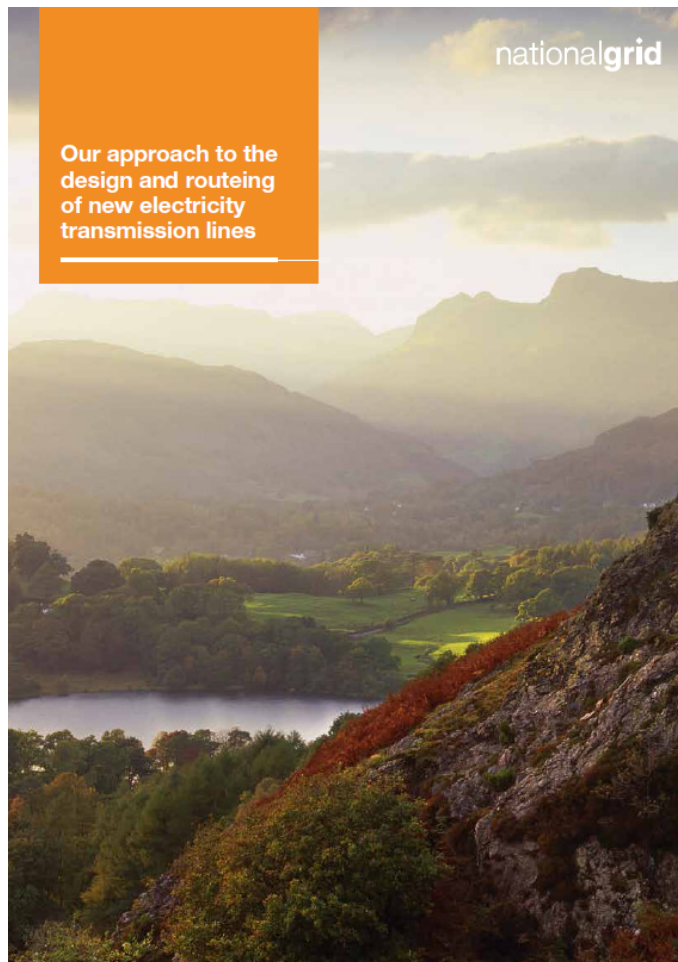
Consultation process

- **Workshop** with key statutory consultees in October helped us prepare a draft Approach for wider public consultation
- **Consultation period** from December 2010 to July 2011.
- Online **questionnaire**, or paper copy if requested
- **Emails**, **letters** and **phone calls** accepted and considered fully
- Three **regional workshops**; two for stakeholders and one specifically on landscape issues - Birmingham, London, Cardiff
- Meetings with **interested stakeholders** to explain the approach in detail – Cumbria, Somerset, Suffolk

Consultation feedback key messages

- New approach should be a **transmission routeing** process, rather than simply an undergrounding process
- Vast majority of the public in favour of **undergrounding** rather than overhead lines
- **all transmission technologies** (overhead, underground and sub-sea) should be considered and appraised throughout the route planning process
- Each project should be considered on a **case-by-case** basis
- **Designated areas** such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty must be treated as special cases
- **Valued landscapes** should be protected as far as possible, whether or not they have a specific designation
- **Cost** is one factor but not the over-riding driver for one technology to supersede another
- Early and meaningful **community consultation** and transparency is key to the success of future projects

The new approach: key principles



- An approach to **routeing lines** – wider than undergrounding
- A **process** rather than a policy
- Recognises **environmental** and **social** impacts as well as system and cost issues
- Early and meaningful **engagement** with stakeholders and communities to understand local considerations
- Options Appraisal methods to be applied on a **case-by-case** basis – no preference for overhead or underground solutions
- Greater emphasis on **mitigating visual impact** – recognise that not all sites that are valued or important are in designated areas

Greater focus on mitigating visual impact

Sensitive routeing of overhead lines



Screening and landscaping



Rationalisation of **existing** lines



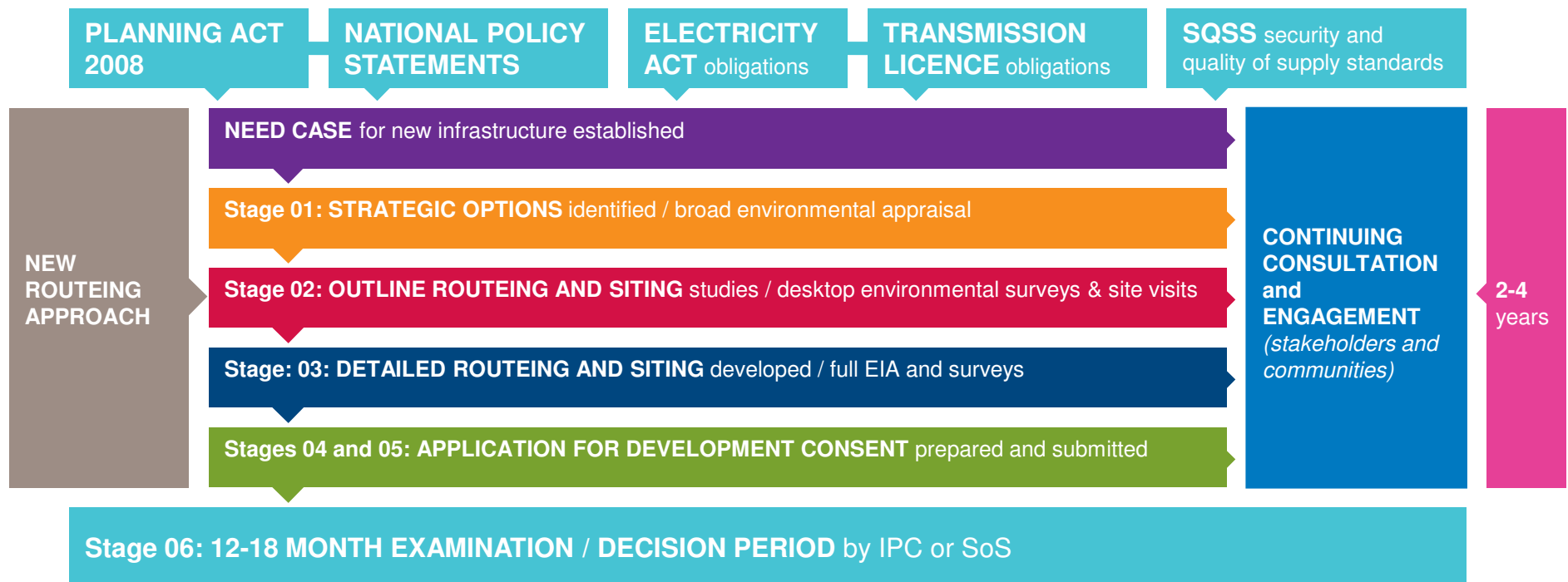
Alternative **pylon** designs



Placing new lines **underground**



The routeing and siting process



How we will consult

- **Transparent** process intended to inform and review judgements and make all information accessible.
- **Several stages** of consultation.
- Key stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, Environment Agency, English Heritage/Cadw, Natural England/CCW, Marine Management Organisation, WAG, Joint Nature Conservation Committee) consulted at **earliest stages** for best technical advice and local knowledge.
- Group of stakeholders **expanded and refined** as project develops – e.g. NGOs, parish councils, local interest groups.
- First **public consultation** at Stage 2 (Outline Routeing and Siting) will cover all issues – need case, strategic options etc.
- Results of all consultations **published**.

Options Appraisal process

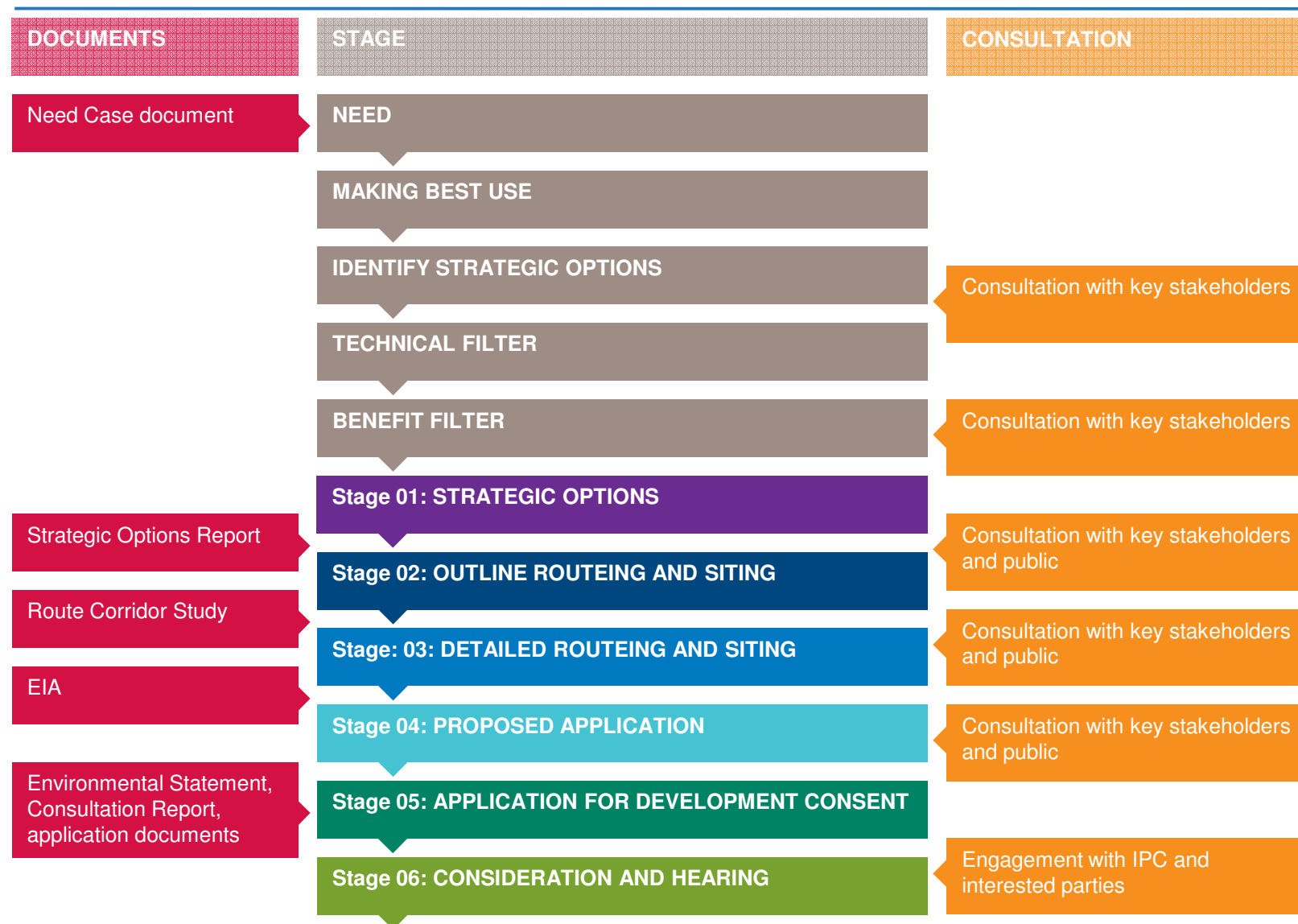
Environment I	Landscape/Visual, Ecology, Cultural Heritage, Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, Soils and Geology, Water issues, Resources and Waste, Greenhouse Gases and Energy Efficiency, Climate Change Adaptation
Socio-economic I	People and Communities, Aviation and Defence, Traffic and Transport, Local Economic Impact
Technical I	Technical, Safety
Cost I	Capital Cost, Lifetime Cost

- Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) – structured and transparent approach
- Assesses environmental, socio-economic, technical and cost issues
- Compares options and analyses relative costs and benefits
- No ‘hierarchy’ between topics
- Projects will take into account views of stakeholders in determining the weight attributed to different sub-topics.
- Back-check and review process.

Options appraisal and consultation process

nationalgrid

THE POWER OF ACTION



Conclusions

- An approach to **routeing lines**
- A **process** not a policy
- Early and meaningful **engagement** and **consultation**
- Greater emphasis on **mitigating visual impact**
- Recognition of **environmental** and **social** impacts as well as system and cost issues