

## Community Update

May 2026

### Cross Border Connection is a proposed new high voltage overhead transmission line that would help move secure, cleaner and more affordable energy between Scotland and England.

In late 2025, we consulted on our early proposals for the section in England and are grateful for the feedback received. We are now reviewing all comments and carrying out surveys to refine our plans.

#### About the project

National Grid is responsible for the section of the project in England. This includes a new overhead line from the England-Scotland border to a new substation in the Carlisle area. We are also proposing to build a connection from the new substation into the existing network.

SP Energy Networks is responsible for the section of Cross Border Connection in Scotland. You can learn more about these proposals on their website: [spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross\\_border\\_proposal.aspx](https://spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_proposal.aspx)

#### Stage 1 consultation

Although Stage 1 consultation is now closed, you can still find all the materials we published in the *Document library* on our website: [nationalgrid.com/cbc](https://nationalgrid.com/cbc)

The feedback we received, along with outputs from environmental surveys and technical work, will help us to develop our proposals. In this newsletter, we share some of the key themes we've identified in your responses so far.

We will seek views on our updated proposals at a further stage of consultation in 2027, before submitting a planning application.

#### Stage 1 consultation in numbers



**14,643** households received newsletters



**675** people attended our public information events



**32** people attended our online webinars



**500+** consultation responses received



**18,006** people visited our website



**8,000+** users engaged with our social media campaign

## What you told us

We are still in the process of reviewing consultation feedback. So far, some of the emerging key themes include:



**Ecology:** Some people raised concerns about the potential loss of habitats and associated impact on wildlife, including birds and protected species.

Others told us about specific animals in the local area, including red deer, bats, owls, and goldfinches.



**Landscape:** We received feedback about how the landscape could be affected, including possible visual, noise and light impacts.

People also asked about potential effects on agricultural land and the rural character of the area.



**Community impact and the location of infrastructure:** Many people provided feedback on the route options for the overhead line and substation location. Concerns were raised about the impact on rural communities, including how nearby homes, villages and schools might be affected.

Questions were also raised about whether the new line could go underground and whether the existing line could be upgraded instead.



## How we review your feedback

We are carefully reviewing all suggestions for design changes to Cross Border Connection in England, considering key factors such as:

1

**Feasibility** – are there engineering, environmental or socio-economic factors that impact the viability of the suggested change?

2

**Planning policy and other guidance** – does the suggested change comply with planning policy and relevant guidance?

3

**National Grid's statutory duties** – does the change meet our duties to develop proposals that are efficient, coordinated and economical?

As part of our Stage 2 consultation, we will publish a consultation report explaining how feedback from Stage 1 has been considered.

## Community benefit

Thank you to everyone who completed our community benefit survey during Stage 1 consultation. Your feedback helps us to understand what matters most to local communities and how funding could make a real difference.

Based on survey responses, the main areas you would like community benefit funding to support are:



### Education and skills

You told us about opportunities to support education, jobs and skills development.

Ideas included outdoor learning events and helping to build skills at all ages.



### Transport and connectivity

You gave suggestions on how we could improve local travel options.

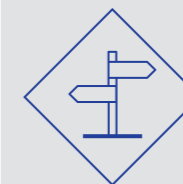
This included better walking and cycling routes, new footpaths, and support for rural community transport.



### Sustainability

You shared ways we could protect and enhance the local environment.

This included ideas like supporting nature recovery initiatives, biodiversity projects, and wildlife groups.



### Community facilities

The importance of local facilities to village life was highlighted.

Suggestions included maintaining and improving community spaces, such as parish halls and schools.

## Surveys

Over the coming months, we will be carrying out technical and environmental surveys along and near the potential locations for our proposed overhead line and substation. This will help us better understand the current conditions of the local environment.

Earlier this year, we wrote to landowners about accessing land for non-intrusive surveys, that are planned in the next 12 to 24 months. If you have received a letter about a survey licence or are a landowner with questions, please contact our dedicated Lands team by calling **0333 188 5375** or emailing **[crossborderconnection@dalcourmaclaren.com](mailto:crossborderconnection@dalcourmaclaren.com)**



## Next steps

The feedback we received from Stage 1 consultation, along with outputs from technical and environmental surveys, is helping to shape the development of proposals for Cross Border Connection in England.

We will continue to keep local communities and stakeholders updated as we refine the proposals.

## Stage 2 consultation

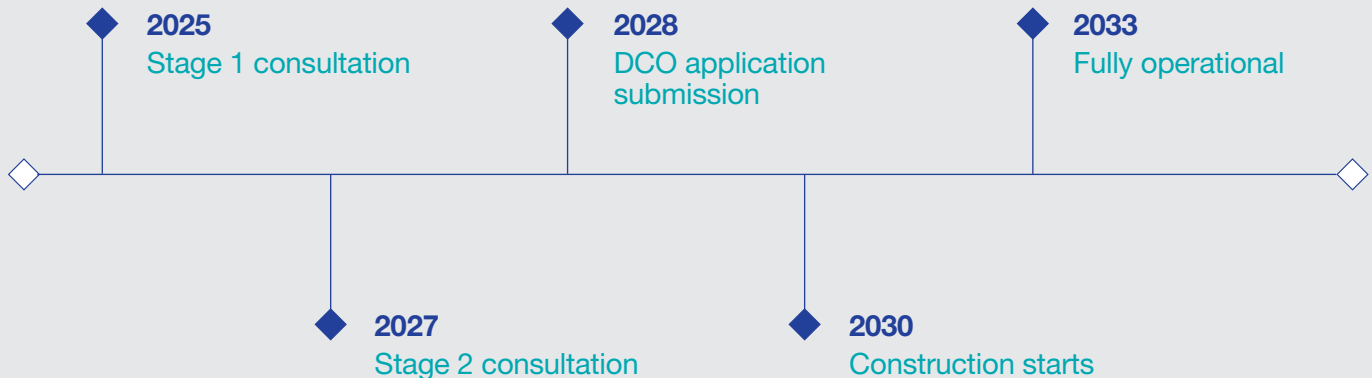
Stage 2 consultation is now expected to take place in 2027.

We had planned to hold it this year, however due to the surveys and assessments we need to carry out to inform our proposals, we now anticipate this will take place in 2027.

In the meantime, you can still contact our community relations team using the details below if you have any questions.

Visit our website [nationalgrid.com/cbc](https://nationalgrid.com/cbc) to register for project updates on Cross Border Connection in England.

## Indicative project timeline



## Contact us

Please get in touch if you have any questions about our proposals for Cross Border Connection.



**Call us: 0800 358 1781**

(lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm, with an answerphone taking messages outside these times)



**Email us:**

**[crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com](mailto:crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com)**



**Write to us:**

**FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID CBC**

(no stamp or further address details are required)