The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5)

Stage 2 consultation document

May 2026



nationalgrid

About National Grid and The Great Grid Upgrade

National Grid delivers electricity safely, reliably and efficiently to the customers and communities we serve. We do this while working towards building a secure, affordable and cleaner network for the future.

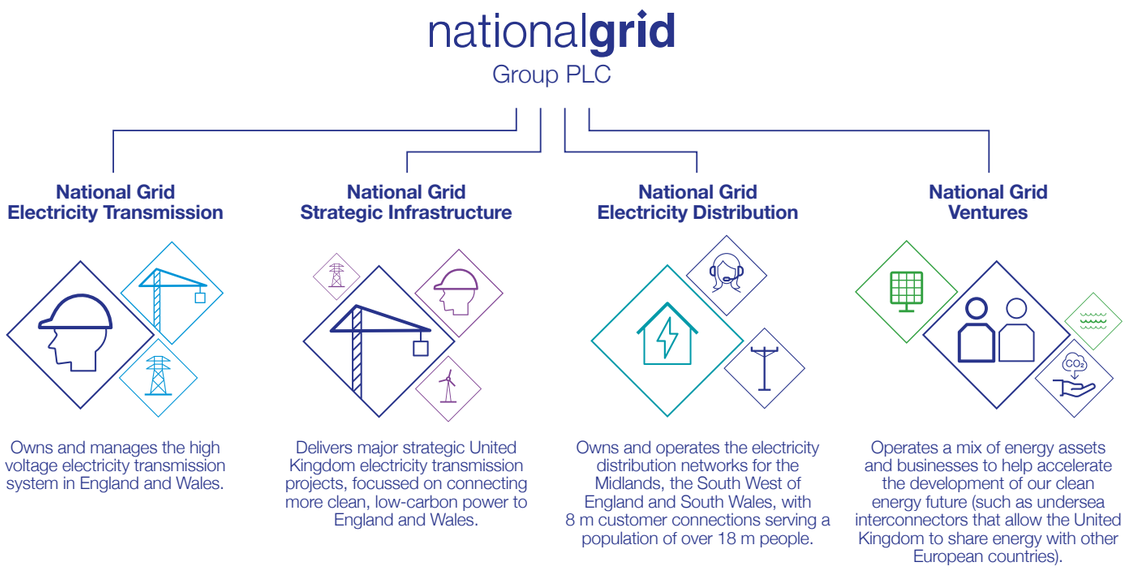


Figure 1 – Divisions of National Grid

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) sits at the heart of Britain's energy system. We connect millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day.

We don't generate electricity. We own and maintain the high-voltage network in England and Wales. We transport large amounts of electricity from where it is generated to where it is needed. Local network operators then deliver it at lower voltages to individual homes and businesses.

NGET's Strategic Infrastructure delivery unit is developing the proposals set out in this document. Under the Electricity Act 1989, it must do so in an efficient, coordinated and economical way. We must also consider people, places and the environment. We have published 10 commitments on how we go about doing this in our Stakeholder, community and amenity policy.

You can read more about this by scanning the QR code:
https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/566431/download

What is The Great Grid Upgrade?

The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the grid in generations. The existing system which transports electricity around the country was largely built in the 1960s. This includes infrastructure such as pylons, overhead lines and underground cables. It was not designed to transport electricity from where it is increasingly being generated today. This includes from offshore wind and other low carbon sources generated in Britain.

Electricity demand in Britain is forecast to increase by 40 per cent by 2035[1]. This means we must increase the amount of energy we need to power homes and businesses.

New transmission infrastructure is needed to meet government targets for connecting renewables, including up to 50 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind. This is enough to power every home in the country. It also helps reduce our dependency on energy imports.

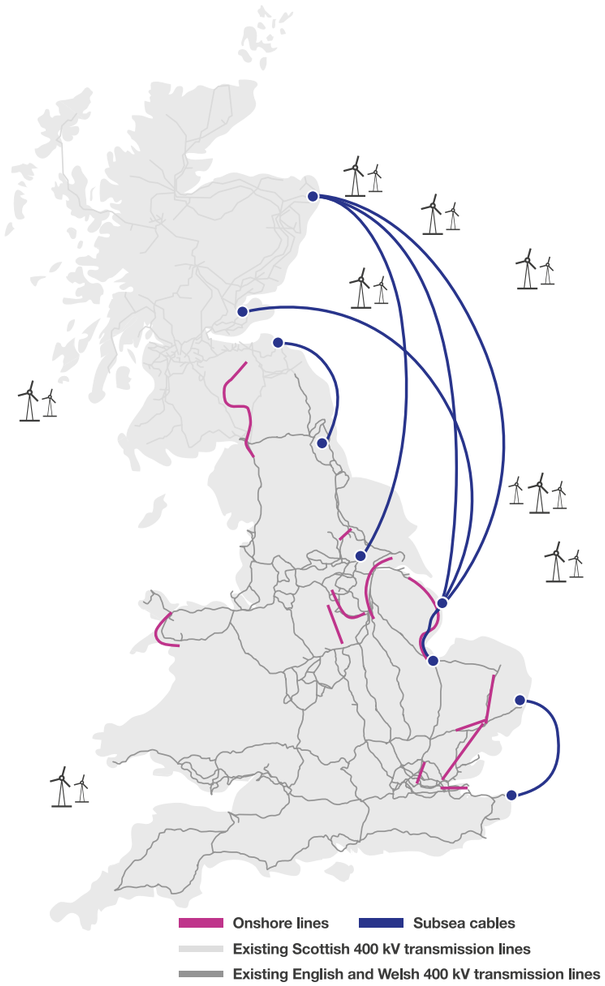


Figure 2 – Map of existing high voltage electricity transmission network and projects proposed as part of The Great Grid Upgrade

The Great Grid Upgrade will:

- Contribute to lower energy bills over the long term and make the UK's energy more self-sufficient.
- Support hundreds of thousands of jobs and contribute an average of £18.4bn to GDP.

[1] https://www.neso.energy/news/future-britains-energy-network

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Foreword

Thank you for taking an interest in Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5) and our plans to upgrade the electricity grid in your local area.

EGL 5 is a new primarily offshore high-voltage electricity link between Scotland and England, with some onshore infrastructure.

This new electricity link is needed because the existing network does not have enough capacity. It cannot reliably transport the increasing amount of energy generated in Scotland and Scottish waters to where it is needed.

Once built, it would connect enough home-grown energy to power up to two million homes and businesses. It would boost Britain's energy security.

We held our first stage of consultation in summer 2025. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to contact us, attend our information events and provide feedback. We have considered all feedback which, along with environmental surveys and further technical work, has helped to shape more detailed proposals.

We are now seeking feedback on these updated proposals in our Stage 2 consultation. We encourage you to share your views, including highlighting anything you want us to consider as we move towards finalising our proposals and submitting an application to build the project.

All documents published as part of this consultation can be found at **nationalgrid.com/egl5**. They are also available in hard copy on request by contacting the project team at **contactegl5@nationalgrid.com** or **0800 358 4817**. Please note some detailed technical documents may be subject to a printing charge.

Our consultation period runs from Friday 29 May 2026 until Friday 24 July 2026. We encourage everyone to take time to review our proposals and share your feedback.

Stephen Mathers,
Project Director, Eastern Green Link 5

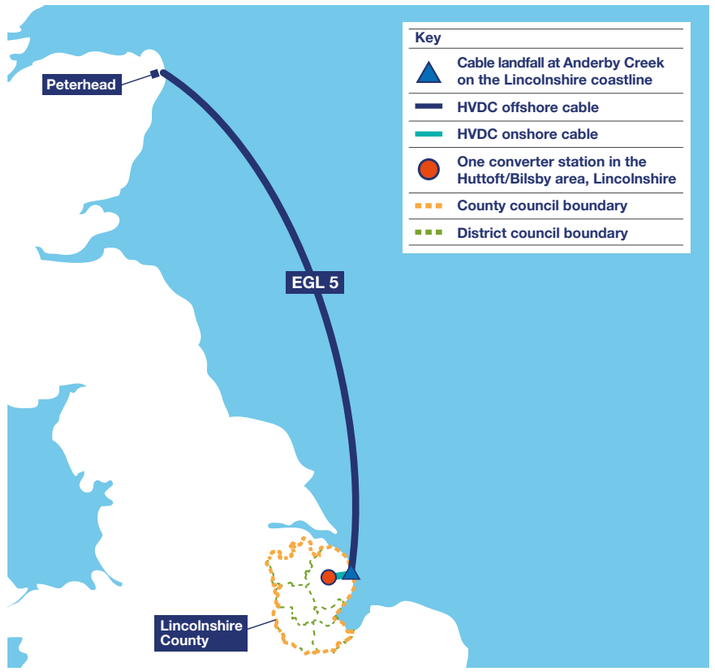


Figure 3 – Overview map of EGL 5

Consulting on our proposals

EGL 5 has been recognised as a project of national significance. These types of projects need a special type of planning permission to be built. This is known as a Development Consent Order (DCO).

We will be seeking consent for the English offshore and onshore elements of the project in a single DCO application.

Consultation is an important part of the DCO process, and this is our second consultation on the EGL 5 proposals. Feedback from our consultations - along with the outcome of technical assessments and environmental surveys – helps us to develop our proposals before submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate will then examine our application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Secretary of State will then decide whether to grant consent for the building and operation of EGL 5.

Who is the Planning Inspectorate?

The Planning Inspectorate is part of central government. They play an independent role in the planning system, by considering planning appeals and examining proposals for nationally significant infrastructure. They do this to ensure decisions are made fairly and transparently.

Our approach to working with the local community

All infrastructure projects can have impacts and benefits both locally and nationally. We will consult and work with local residents and their representatives through all stages of the planning and construction process. Our aim is to minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits for local communities.

Consent in Scotland and Scottish waters

We are jointly developing EGL 5 with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission). SSEN Transmission is responsible for obtaining the relevant consents in Scotland and Scottish waters.

In Scotland, EGL 5 would make landfall in Aberdeenshire and connect to the electricity network at the Netherton Hub. You can find out more about SSEN's part of the project on it's website: **www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/eastern-green-link-5/**

Project timeline



Stage 1 consultation

Between Tuesday 13 May and Monday 23 June 2025, we held our Stage 1 consultation on our early stage proposals for EGL 5. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to provide comments.

Details on the feedback we received can be found in our Stage 1 Consultation Report, which is available in the *Document Library* on our website.

Following this consultation, we considered the feedback received, along with outputs from ongoing engagement with stakeholders, technical assessments, and environmental surveys. These have all helped us develop and refine the proposals for EGL 5.

Stage 1 consultation in numbers

3,238 newsletters sent to addresses within 1 km of our proposals.

3,471 people visited our website over the consultation period.

229 people attended our consultation events.

355 responses to the consultation received.

Stage 2 consultation

We are now in Stage 2 consultation. This stage of consultation is an opportunity to share your views on our updated and more detailed proposals for EGL 5. This consultation is a 'statutory' consultation as it is being carried out in line with the Planning Act 2008. Statutory consultation is a requirement of the DCO process.

NGET is aware of the UK Government's Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and the changes that will apply to the DCO and statutory consultation process. However, at the time of writing this document, the current regime of statutory consultation is required for EGL 5 until transitional arrangements are made. We have proceeded in line with the established regulations.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The SoCC is a document that explains how we will consult the community. It includes information on how to get involved and submit feedback. We have worked with each of the local and neighbouring authorities in the area potentially affected by the project to develop and agree the SoCC. You can view a copy on our website, in the *Document Library*.

What we are seeking feedback on now

During Stage 2 consultation, we are seeking feedback on all elements of our proposals. This includes where we propose to route and site the new infrastructure. We are also seeking feedback on any other factors you would like us to consider as we further develop our plans.

The key onshore and offshore elements of our proposals on which we are consulting in England are:

- up to 423 km of subsea high voltage direct current (HVDC) cables in English waters
- landfall siting at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline
- a transition joint bay connecting the offshore and onshore HVDC underground cables at landfall in Anderby Creek
- up to 8 km of new underground HVDC cable, from the landfall point at Anderby Creek to the converter station
- a new converter station, east of Bilsby, East Lindsey
- up to 1 km of new underground high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cable between the new converter station and the proposed Lincolnshire Connection Substation-B (LCS-B) being consulted on as part of National Grid's Grimsby to Walpole Project. *As this substation is included in the DCO for the Grimsby to Walpole project it will not be consulted on as part of the EGL 5 proposals.*

In addition, we are also seeking feedback on additional temporary access to land during construction. This includes two options for a temporary haul road (see page 31).

Key onshore and offshore elements of our proposals for both Stage 1 and 2 consultations and what has changed

Project element	What we proposed in Stage 1	What we are proposing in Stage 2
Offshore elements	We indicated there would be approximately 415 km of subsea HVDC cables in English waters. This would be from landfall somewhere in Scotland to landfall in Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire.	423 km of subsea HVDC cable from Netherton Hub near Peterhead, Scotland to Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire. This route was chosen to limit possible interaction with nearby windfarm projects and Marine Conservation Zones.
Underground onshore cable route	Two route options (either north or south of Huttoft) for the underground HVDC cable from Anderby Creek to the converter station.	A single route, north of Huttoft with up to 8 km of new underground HVDC cable. This would run from landfall at Anderby Creek to the converter station.
Converter station	Two options - either north-east of Bilsby or north-west of Huttoft - for the converter station.	A single option for the new converter station sited north-east of Bilsby.
Connection into the grid	Underground high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables running approximately 3 km. These would connect our new converter station to a new substation proposed as part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project.	Up to 1 km of new underground high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cable. This would run between the converter station north-east of Bilsby and a substation proposed as part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project.
Land for construction	As there were multiple options available for the route and location of key elements of the proposals at Stage 1, we did not include information about the proposed use of land for construction.	With preferred options now selected, we are able to consult on proposals for use of land for construction, including for a temporary haul road.

The need for EGL 5

EGL 5 would play an important role in building a more secure and resilient future energy system. It would do this by reliably transporting the increased electricity generated in Scotland, particularly from offshore wind farms to England.

The UK's electricity grid was originally built to connect electricity generated in power stations from fossil fuels, such as coal from the North and Midlands of England and South Wales.

The amount of energy being generated in the UK from renewable sources is increasing.

Following guidance from the National Energy System Operator (NESO), we have identified that the existing transmission network does not currently have the capacity to reliably transport this increasing energy. The energy needs to be transported between Scotland where it is generated, to the Midlands and the South of England where it is needed.

EGL 5 would help provide increased capacity, carrying up to 2 GW of electricity, enough to power two million homes and businesses. It would also strengthen our energy security and resilience.

National Energy System Operator (NESO)

NESO is a government-owned body. They are responsible for planning and operating the UK's entire energy system. They also plan the future energy grid and manage real-time electricity supply.

Increasing network boundary capability

The electricity network system in Britain is split into boundaries. Each boundary has a limit to the amount of electricity that can flow through. This is to ensure safety and reliability. As more electricity is needed, we can assess where the power flows between these boundaries will need to increase. The boundaries shown in Figure 4 are where we need to increase the capacity of the grid for this increased amount of electricity. EGL 5 is one of the projects needed to help support this.

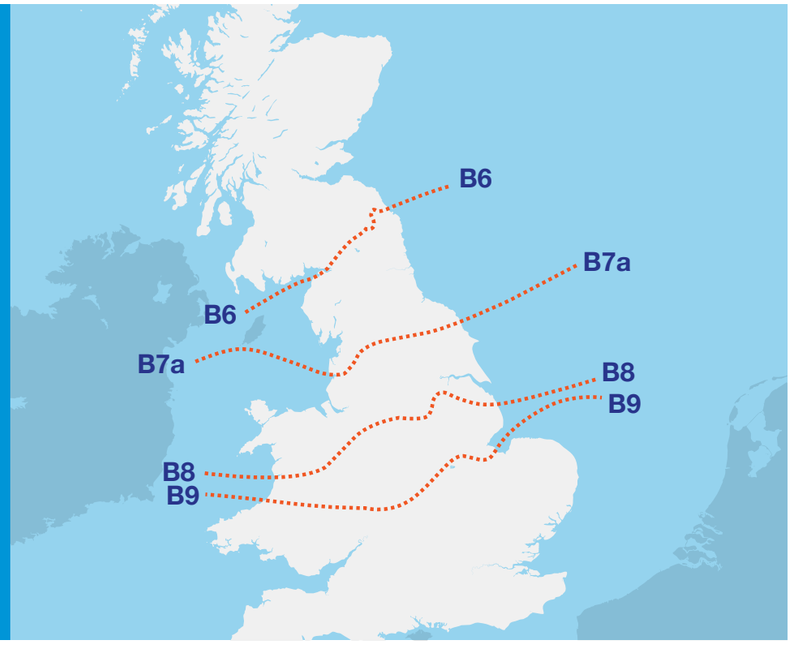


Figure 4 – Network boundaries across the UK

Why here?

An assessment of the options for the location of EGL 5 determined that the preferred location for landfall would be on the Lincolnshire coastline. Cables would connect into the transmission network via a converter station located to the north-east of Bilsby. This decision was made with several factors in mind, including agricultural land, flood zones, environmental and socio-economic impact.

Lincolnshire's proximity to the North Sea makes it a strategic location for connecting offshore wind farms to the grid. The region is seeing significant investments in renewable energy projects, particularly in offshore wind. Upgrades to the grid are required to handle the increased capacity.

Co-ordinating with other National Grid and third party projects in the area also plays a part. We aim to minimise the overall impact where possible (see page 16 for more information on our other projects in the area). As part of this we are proposing to connect our project into the substation being brought forward as part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project. We therefore must site our converter station near to the proposed Grimsby to Walpole substation.

Upgrading the regional network

The grid is a national network, and we have to plan its reinforcement as a whole. EGL 5 is one of a series of proposed new grid developments and is forming part of a larger group of projects being considered at the same time.

Other Eastern Green Link projects

EGL 5 is one of several primarily marine high voltage electricity links helping connect more home-grown renewable energy to homes and businesses.

Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL 1) in County Durham and Eastern Green Link 2 (EGL 2) in the East Riding of Yorkshire, are both under construction.

Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) and Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL 4), which would share a joint landfall with EGL 5 at Anderby Creek, are a little ahead of EGL 5 with their consultations. From Anderby Creek, EGL 3, EGL 4 and EGL 5 would follow independent routes through Lincolnshire to connect into the grid.

You can learn more about how we identified the need for EGL 5 and our appraisal process by looking at the following documents on our website:

- Strategic options report update
- Stage 1 Corridor and preliminary routing and siting study
- Stage 1 Marine route options appraisal non-technical summaries.

Co-ordinating The Great Grid Upgrade locally

In developing The Great Grid Upgrade, we have considered how these upgrades can be delivered cohesively. These upgrades must also ensure maximum benefit for consumers, local communities and the environment. In the region, this has included:

- **sharing landfall locations:** co-locating the onshore landfall of EGL 3, EGL 4 and EGL 5 at Anderby Creek
- **managing construction impacts:** co-ordinating construction machinery and site personnel to minimise cumulative impacts of construction where possible
- **minimising what we build:** using the same substation for EGL 5 and Grimsby to Walpole removes the need for extra infrastructure in the area.

As we progress our proposals for reinforcements in the region, we will continue to consider how we can coordinate all projects in our approach to surveys and stakeholder engagement, and also in our environmental and construction management plans.

Supporting local communities in the region

National Grid believes that communities should benefit from hosting new electricity transmission infrastructure. This infrastructure is essential to delivering homegrown, cleaner and more affordable power. The government has introduced recent guidance which sets a clear framework for working in partnership with communities. We want to ensure we deliver meaningful, long-lasting benefits.

More details can be found at: **gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-transmission-network-infrastructure-community-funds**.

Project	Connection to EGL 5	Project phase
Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) and Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL 4) are two offshore high voltage electricity links. They would connect offshore wind generated in Scotland to around two million homes in the Midlands and South of England.	EGL 3 and EGL 4 held their Stage 2 consultation alongside EGL 5's Stage 1 consultation in 2025. EGL 3 and 4 and EGL 5 are all separate projects. The projects would share a common landfall at Anderby Creek.	In spring 2026, EGL 3 and EGL 4 have held a targeted consultation on proposals relating to additional land and are now preparing a DCO application for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.
Grimsby to Walpole is proposing to build a new high voltage electricity transmission line and associated works. This would be between a new substation in north east Lincolnshire and a new substation in the Walpole area, in Norfolk.	The Grimsby to Walpole overhead line would route generally in the same direction as the EGL 5 cable route towards the Bilsby area. EGL 5 would connect into the substation being proposed as part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project.	In early 2026, Grimsby to Walpole submitted its planning application to South Holland District Council. A Section 37 application will also be submitted to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). In summer 2027, the Grimsby to Walpole Project will submit a DCO application.
Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire is a proposed network reinforcement. It would carry enough electricity into the Midlands to power up to six million homes.	Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire will not overlap with EGL 5.	Detailed proposals for Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire will be published in a second stage of consultation later in 2026.

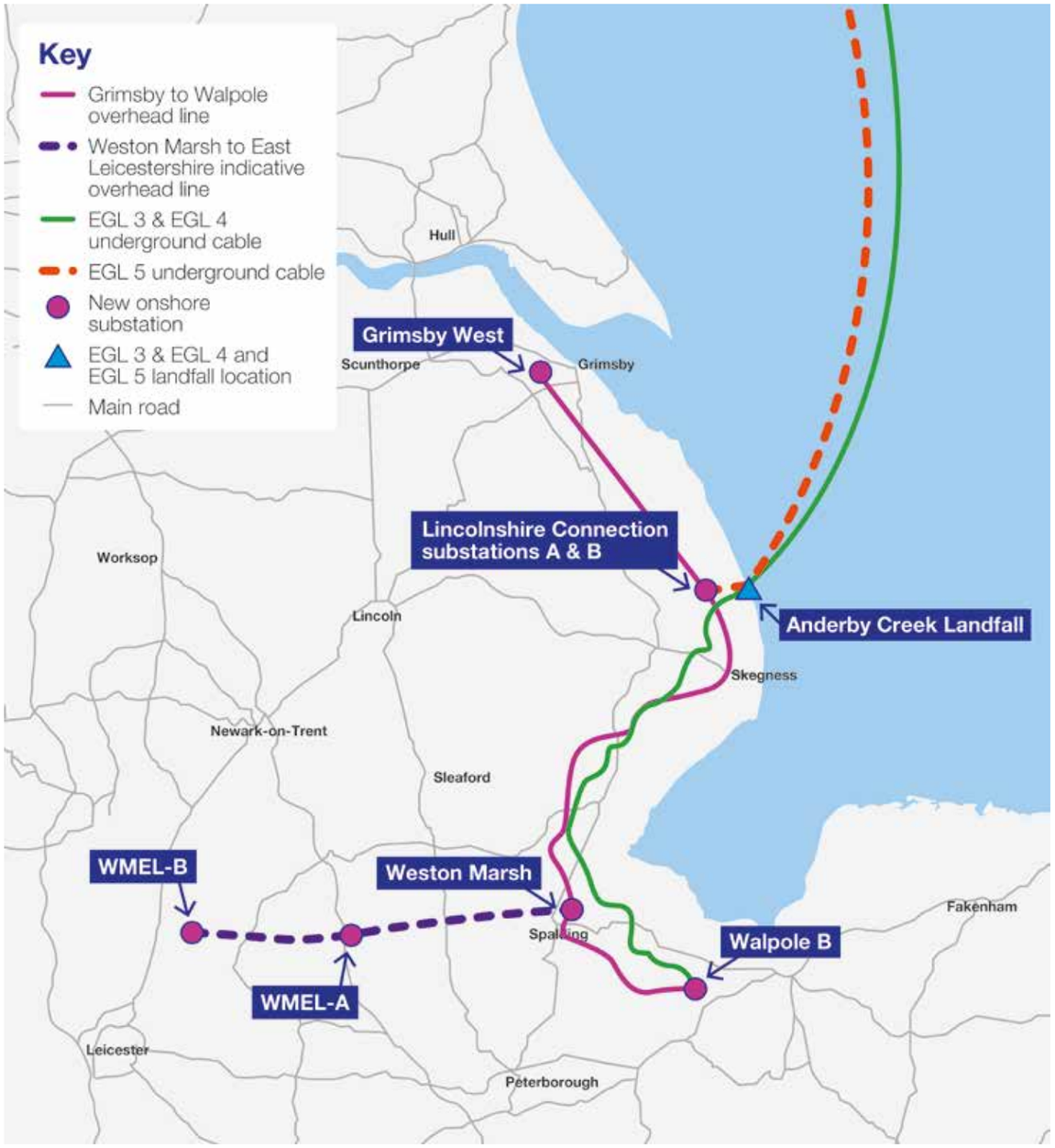


Figure 5 – Map of all Lincolnshire projects

Our proposals in detail

Summaries of our offshore and onshore proposals are included on the following pages. These include maps, key issues and constraints.

An interactive map is also available on our website at nationalgrid.com/egl5 and at our public information events.

Your feedback will be carefully considered as we refine our proposals. We welcome comments on all aspects of our proposals, particularly the areas that are most important and relevant to you.

You can see how our proposals have changed from Stage 1 consultation on page 9.

Infrastructure explainer	
High voltage direct current (HVDC) cables	HVDC cables are used to transport large amounts of power over long distances, onshore and offshore. When used onshore, these are installed underground. Subsea cables are installed under the seabed.
High voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables	Power is normally generated, transmitted and distributed as alternating current (AC). This is done through HVAC cables. AC is efficient for distributing energy into homes and businesses as its voltage can be easily changed to suit the need. These cables are installed underground.
Converter stations	Converter stations enable us to control the direction in which energy flows along HVDC cables. These cables contain specialist electrical equipment that converts electricity from direct current to alternating current or vice versa.
Transition joint bays	Transition joint bays connect offshore and onshore cables. These are located underground.
Cable joint bays	Cable joint bays are used to connect different sections of underground cables together along the onshore route. These will be located underground.
Marker posts	Marker posts are located above ground. These confirm the presence of a cable route, indicates where it crosses roads, field margins or changes in direction.
Temporary haul road	A temporary haul road is used during construction to facilitate the movement of materials, machinery, and people within the site. These roads are designed to handle heavy construction traffic and are typically removed after work has finished.

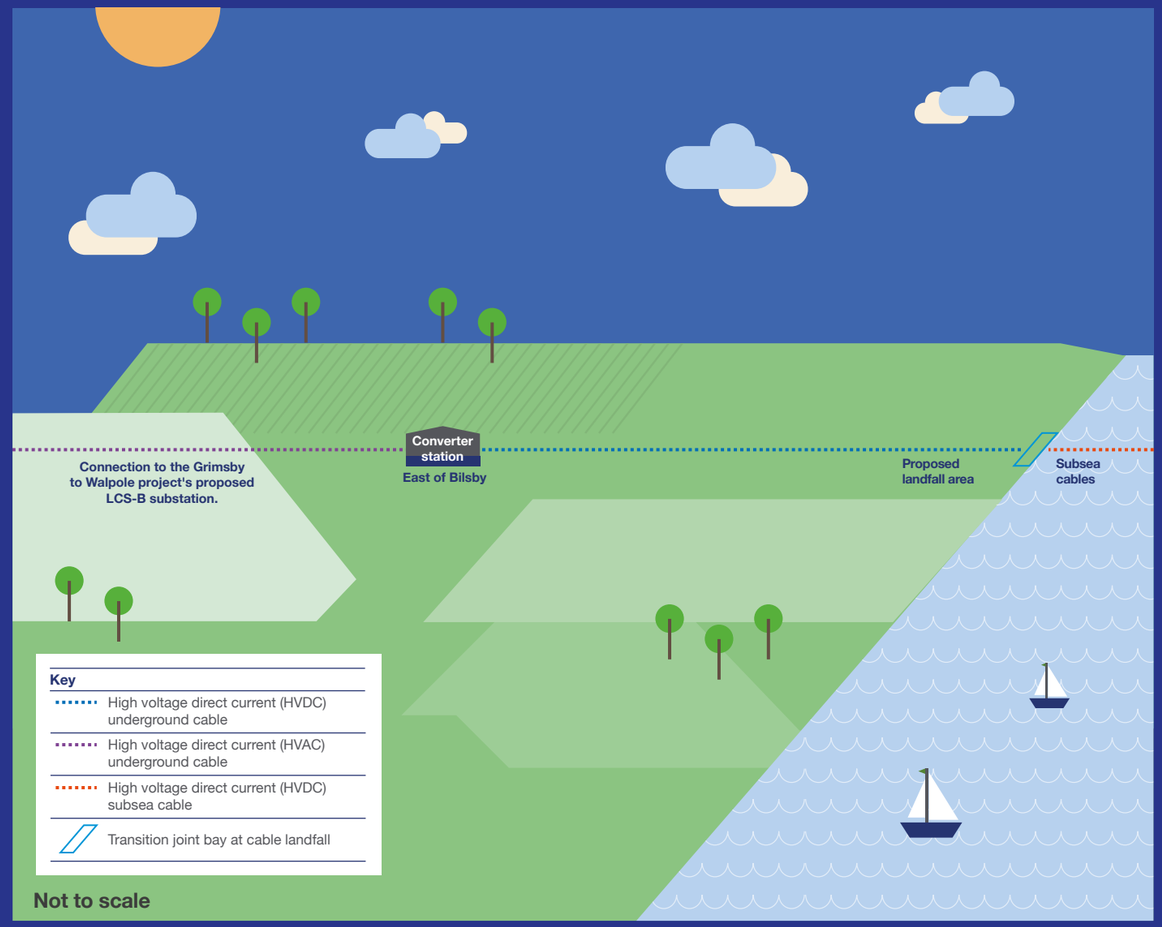


Figure 6 – EGL 5 onshore in England

Offshore proposals

Subsea cables

EGL 5's subsea cables will run from Scotland and make landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline. 423 km of the cables would be in English water.

The most northerly elements of the English offshore scheme would be located at the boundary of where English waters meet Scottish waters. The most southerly elements would be located at mean high water springs at Anderby Creek, at landfall.

The proposed 423 km of subsea HVDC cables would be buried along the length of the route. This is with the exception of infrastructure crossing points and areas where sufficient depth of burial cannot be achieved. Rock can be used to protect the cables if we have been unable to bury it to an optimal depth due to local ground conditions.

Draft Order Limits

Draft Order Limits outline the area where new infrastructure and temporary construction works would be located. This includes both onshore and offshore.

Our current draft Order Limits are based on technical and environmental assessments as well as feedback from stakeholders and the community.

You can provide feedback on our marine proposals. Please see question 1 on our feedback form.

How we chose our proposed route

The proposed offshore route for EGL 5 has been carefully designed to avoid ecologically important areas and to minimise interactions with other designated routes where possible. This has been balanced with finding routes that are technically feasible. We are also considering existing infrastructure and activities from other industries and sectors.

The exact alignment of the cables will be informed by further offshore surveys and Stage 2 consultation feedback. Our proposed routes are being developed through consultation with offshore stakeholders and technical and ecological surveys.

In English waters, we have been conducting marine survey activities for EGL 5's subsea cables, including geophysical surveys on the seabed.

Changes to our offshore route

Since Stage 1 consultation last year, two minor changes have been made to the offshore cable route. During engagement with stakeholders, including the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) project, it was agreed that EGL 5 would route slightly around the east of the ODOW project. This is to limit interactions between projects. In addition, engineering considerations, as well as geophysical and environmental surveys, confirmed that the preferred cable route interacts less with a local Marine Conservation Zone, contributing to our overall efforts to minimise the environmental impacts of the EGL 5 Project.



Protecting the marine environment

The marine environment is extremely complex and busy. Where possible, the offshore cable route has been designed to avoid ecologically important areas and minimise interactions with designated sites as much as possible while also finding a route that is technically feasible.

We have considered the following in planning our offshore route:

Seabed protection

Our offshore cable route proposals have been refined using seabed and environmental surveys to avoid sensitive areas where possible.

Cables will usually be buried beneath the seabed. Installation methods are chosen to achieve adequate burial depth to protect the cable and minimise disturbance. Protective covering will only be used where burial is not possible.

After installation, surveys will be carried out to check that the cables are buried at the adequate depth of coverage and that the seabed has been properly reinstated where possible.

Marine ecology

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being undertaken to assess potential effects on subsea habitats, fish and shellfish species, and marine mammals.

Pre-construction surveys help confirm baseline ecological conditions and inform detailed design.

Marine surveys

We have undertaken detailed marine surveys along the proposed cable route to understand seabed conditions, marine ecology and existing infrastructure.

These surveys have allowed us to present small changes to the marine cable route as part of our Stage 2 consultation. These changes are designed to help reduce potential environmental impacts.

Marine route users

The offshore route has been developed with consideration of existing offshore infrastructure, commercial fisheries, shipping activity and other marine users. We have also made efforts to bypass marine protected areas.

We will continue to engage with marine stakeholders throughout all stages of the project. Cable burial is designed to protect the cable from damage, reduce snagging risk from things, such as anchors or fishing gear. Temporary safety zones and notices will be issued during offshore installation to support safe navigation.

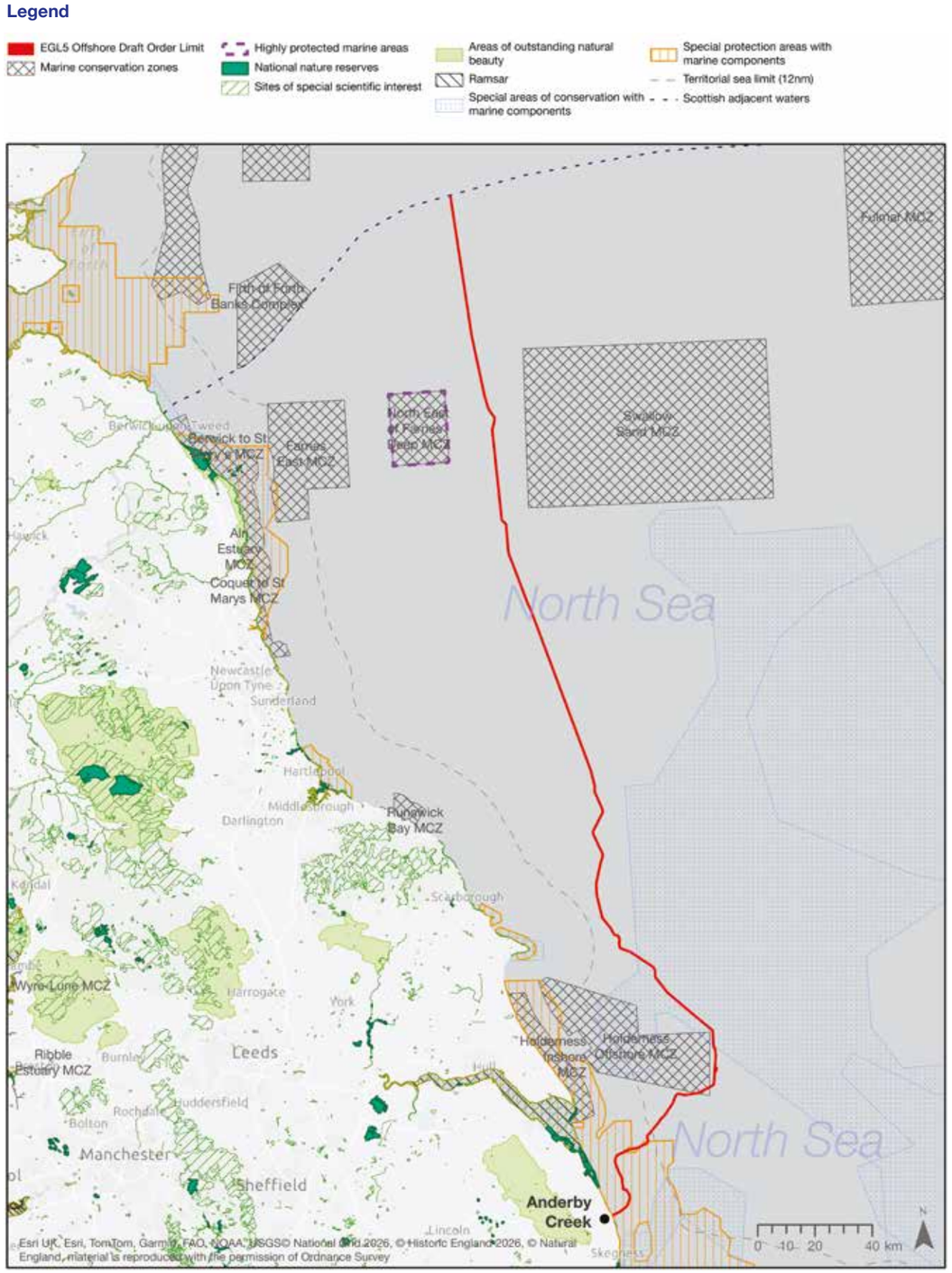


Figure 7 – Map of offshore route

Onshore proposals

Onshore proposals by location

We have divided our onshore proposals into the following components:

- Anderby Creek landfall
- underground cables
- converter station.

The HVDC subsea cables make landfall at Anderby Creek via a transition joint bay. The cables would then run underground up to 8 km to a converter station in north-east Bilsby. The EGL 5 converter station would convert electricity from HVDC to HVAC, to be distributed to homes and businesses.

1 km of HVAC cable would connect the converter station to a new substation, EGL 5's connection point into the electricity grid.

The substation is being proposed as part of National Grid's Grimsby to Walpole Project and is therefore not included in EGL 5's proposals.

Onshore draft Order Limits

Figure 8 shows a high-level view of the onshore draft Order Limits for EGL 5, located within Lincolnshire. The most easternly elements of EGL 5 would be located at Anderby Creek, on the Lincolnshire coastline. The project would make landfall here.

The draft Order Limits extend west from landfall before terminating at a new converter station north-east of Bilsby.



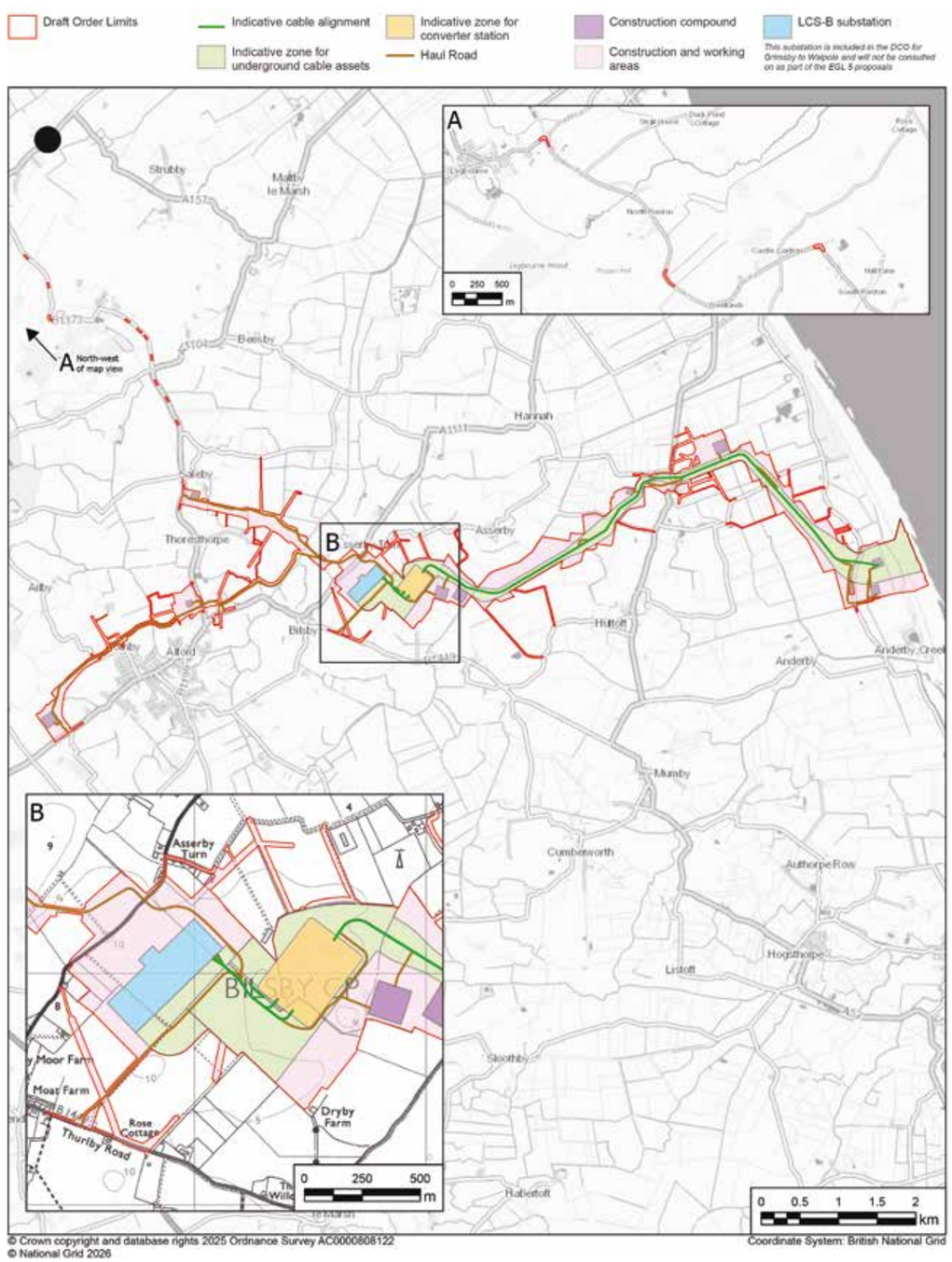


Figure 8 – Onshore cable route

Anderby Creek landfall

Proposed infrastructure includes:

- HVDC subsea and underground cables
- transition joint bay.

The proposed cable landfall is where the offshore and onshore elements of the project would meet. The landfall site extends from mean low water springs (the average height of the low water levels during spring tides). It will terminate at a transition joint bay, where the offshore and onshore cables would be connected (figure 9). The transition joint bay would be located approximately 1 km inshore from the mean low water springs.

We have identified an area for landfall situated to the north of Anderby Creek. This area is considered most suitable due to its mainly rural setting. It also has few statutory designated environmental sites, and narrower beach and dunes.

The areas further north and south of the area identified are comparatively more constrained by the National Trust Sandilands Nature Reserve and residential properties. Additional constraints include EGL 3 and EGL 4 Projects making landfall and the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm.

Transition joint bay

The onshore underground cables and subsea cables would meet at Anderby Creek in Lincolnshire. The cables would be connected at a buried transition joint bay located on land above the mean high water springs level.

A transition joint bay is a permanent underground chamber. It is constructed of reinforced concrete that houses the onshore and offshore cable joints and a fibre chamber/link pit. A single transition joint bay typically comprises an area of 60 sq. m.

No permanent above ground infrastructure would be required for the transition joint bays. However, there may be a requirement to permanently raise the platform for the transition joint bays and the landscaping provided around this. The height of the platform is not yet known, this will be confirmed at the detailed design stage.

As part of our proposals, we are consulting on a transition joint bay at landfall Anderby Creek. We are now seeking feedback on the transition joint bay location, and anything additional you feel we should know.

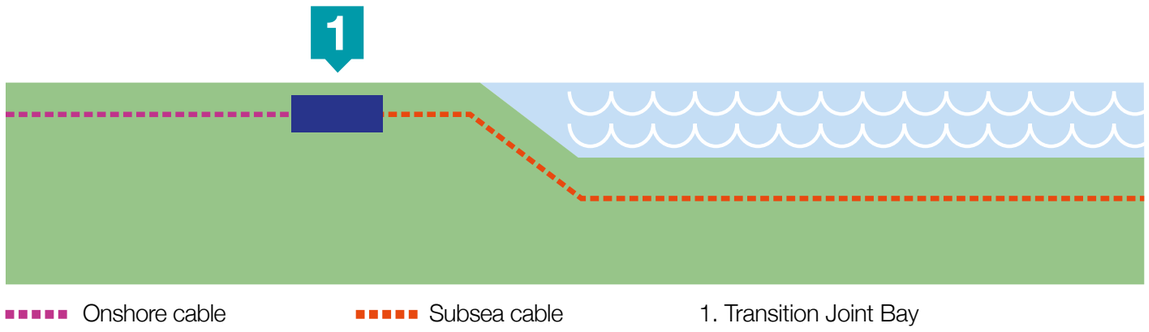


Figure 9 – Graphic of a Transition Joint Bay

Legend

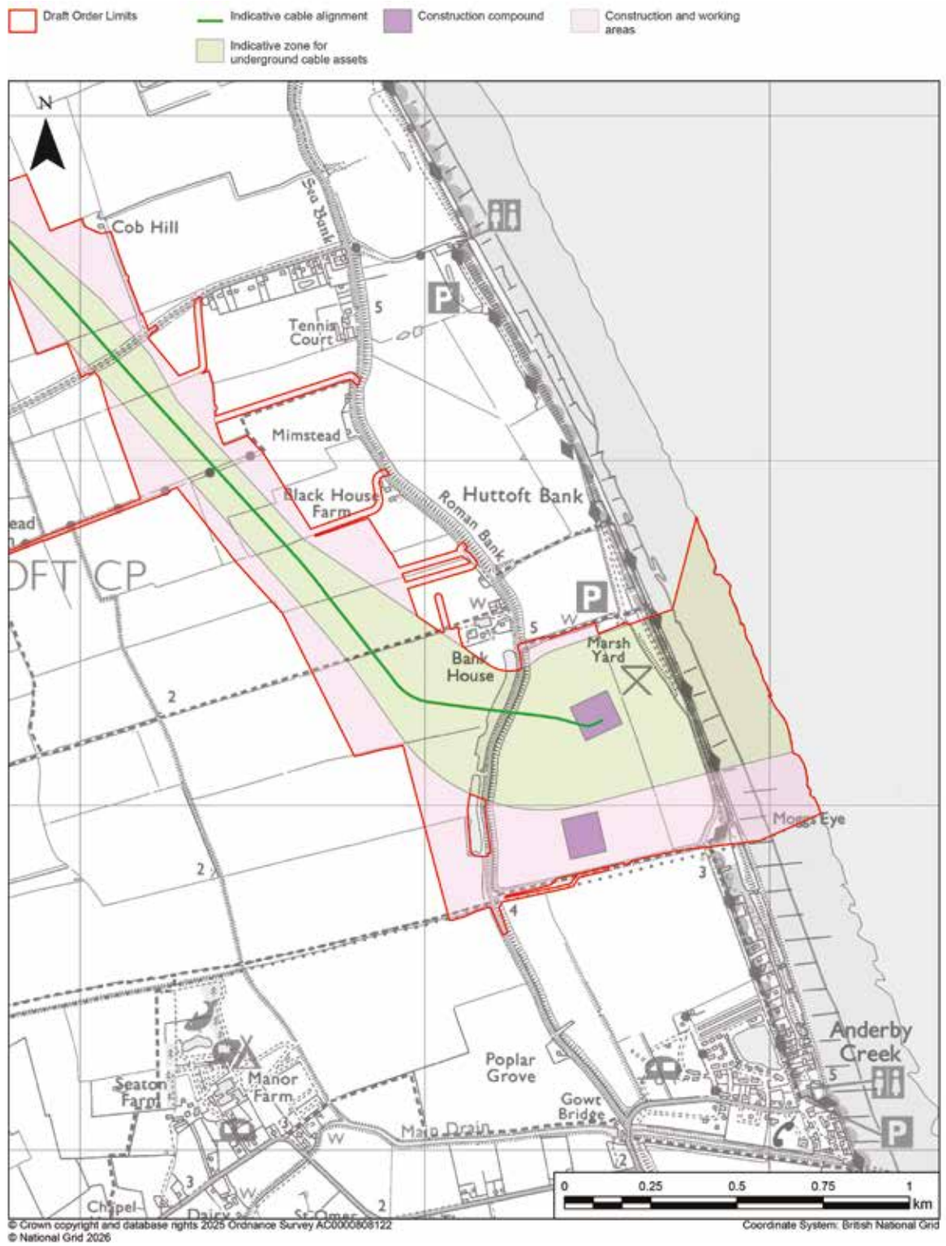


Figure 10 – Map of landfall

Underground cables

Proposed infrastructure includes:

- HVDC underground cables
- HVAC underground cables.

Our underground cable route runs north of Huttoft from Anderby Creek landfall to the EGL 5 converter station. It then runs to the **new LCS-B substation (part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project)**.

Our onshore cables, both HVDC and HVAC, would be buried underground.

The only above ground infrastructure required along the cables would be small marker posts for the HVDC cables and small marker posts and link pillars (boxes up to 1.5 metres high which connect or switch underground cables) for the HVAC cables. EGL 5 would have a set of two HVDC cables and a set of three HVAC cables.

HVDC cable route

From the Anderby Creek landfall, the underground cables would route west, crossing Roman Bank and Sea Lane, and then the A52 (Sutton Road) north of Huttoft. The route would then continue south-west past Asserby. It would finish at the A1111 (Sutton Road), north-west of Thurlby. The HVDC cable route would be up to 8 km in length. This route is shown in Figure 11, and on the interactive map on our website.

HVAC underground cable route

The 1 km HVAC would run from the south west of the converter station to the north east of the LCS-B substation. The HVAC cable route would be up to 1 km in length. This route is shown on figure 11 and on the interactive map.

You can provide feedback on our underground cable proposals. Please see question 3 on our feedback form.

Legend

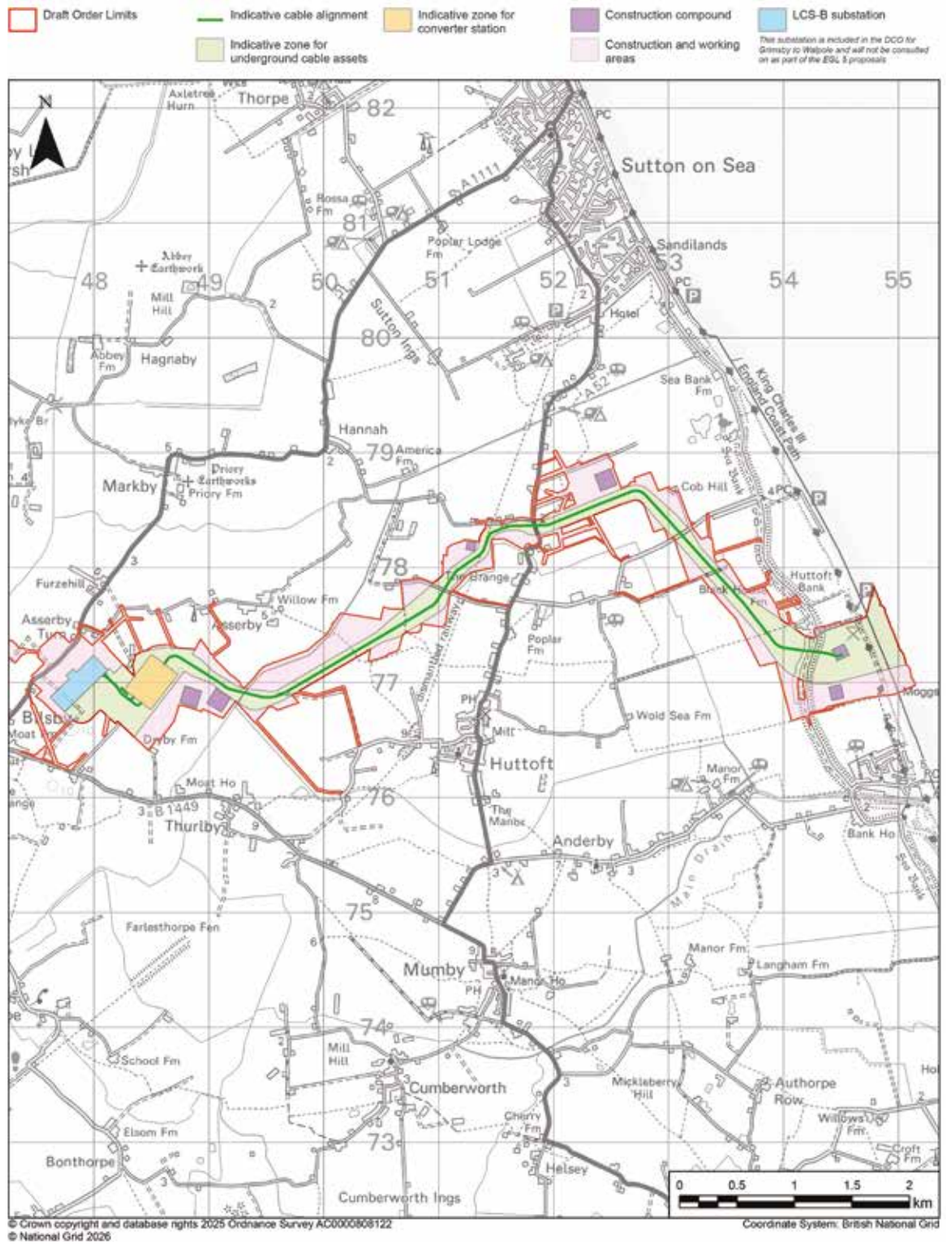


Figure 11 – EGL 5 proposed underground cable route

EGL 5 converter station

The EGL 5 converter station would convert electricity from HVDC to HVAC, to be distributed to homes and businesses.

Following Stage 1 consultation, we are now proposing to locate the converter station to the north-east of Bilsby.

This site is located adjacent to the area that has been proposed for the **LCS-B substation (part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project)**, which EGL 5 would connect into.

Taking forward the north-east of Bilsby location

During our Stage 1 consultation, we introduced two potential siting zone options for the EGL 5 converter station. These were the EGL 5 west converter station siting zone and EGL 5 east converter station siting zone.

After considering local feedback and our environmental and technical assessments, we decided to move forward with the west converter station siting zone. This is situated north-east of Bilsby.

This site was taken forward based on the following considerations:

- **initial landscape and visual assessments.** Outcomes from these assessments concluded that there would be only marginal difference in terms of converter station visibility or potential impact on residents. Therefore, feedback was strongly relied upon to make this siting decision
- **Stage 1 consultation feedback.** This suggested a greater preference towards the west converter station siting zone
- **siting the converter station north-east of Bilsby** meant it was closer to the substation being proposed by the Grimsby to Walpole Project. This substation would facilitate our proposed connection to the grid. This means that we would be co-locating the converter station and substation in one area, therefore, reducing the impact on the surrounding environment and residents.

To provide feedback on our proposals for the EGL 5 converter station, please see question 4 on our feedback form.

Legend

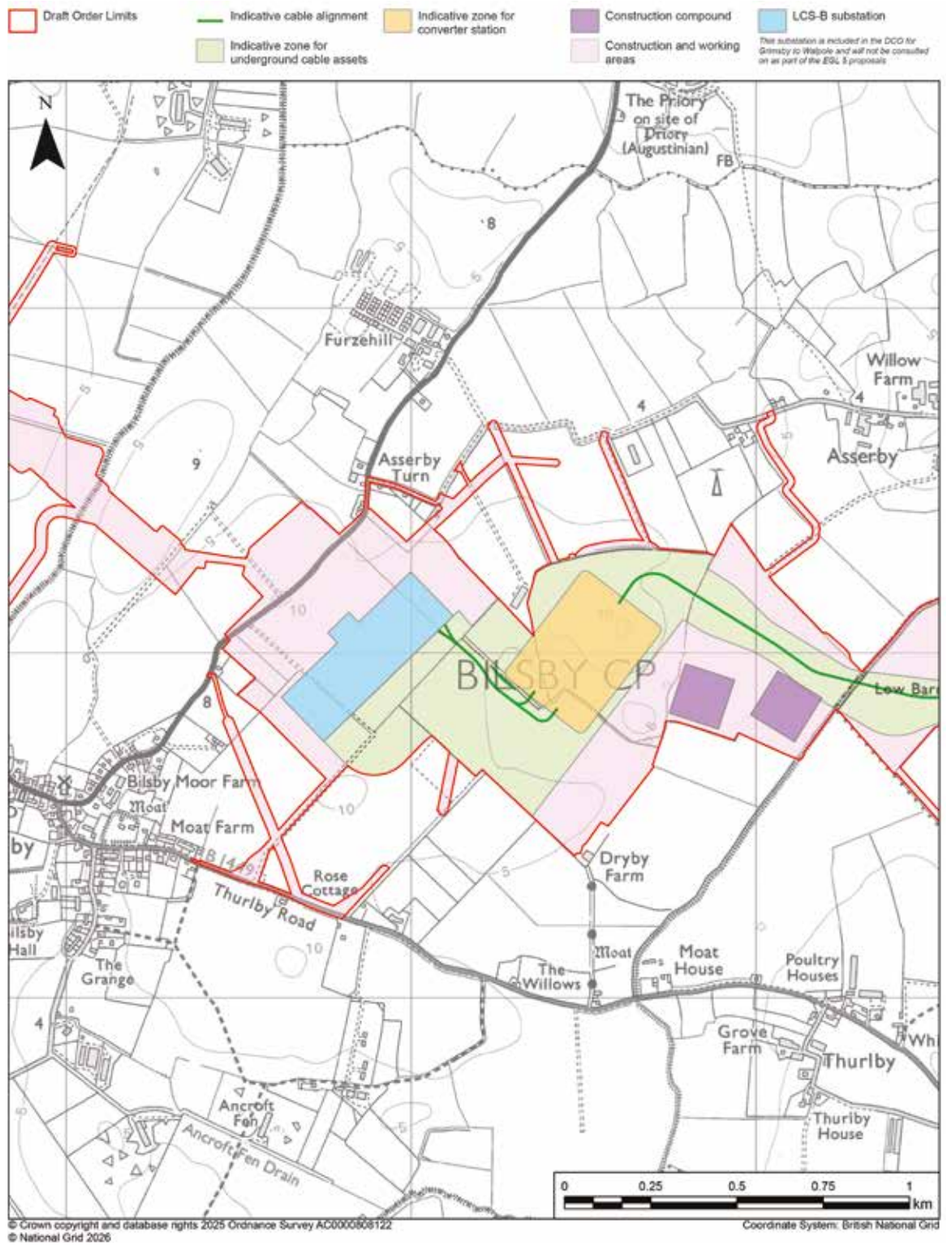


Figure 12 – Map of EGL 5 proposed converter station siting zone

Converter station design

We will be finalising potential design options for our converter station at a later stage of the design process. Possible approaches are outlined below in figure 13.

Permanent access would be needed for the new converter station, as well as additional surrounding landscaping, drainage, and other related works.

You can provide feedback on our converter station design. Please see question 5 on our feedback form.



Figure 13 – Showing possible converter station designs

Construction

Should consent be granted for EGL 5, we would expect construction to start in 2030 and take approximately five years.

Offshore construction

How we lay new subsea cables out at sea

The cables are made from reinforced material and are buried beneath the seabed to be protected from shifting seabed sediments, tidal movements and ship anchors.

The cables are loaded onto large reels on a specialist cable laying vessel. From there, we can use two methods to lay cables under the seabed:

- simultaneous lay and burial, where one vessel will lay and bury the cables
- post lay burial, where one vessel will lay the cables and a second follows to bury them.

The seabed surface conditions determine which method is used.

How we make cable landfall

When cables come ashore, our preference is to use a trenchless construction method, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to reduce disruption and potential environmental impacts (see figure 15).

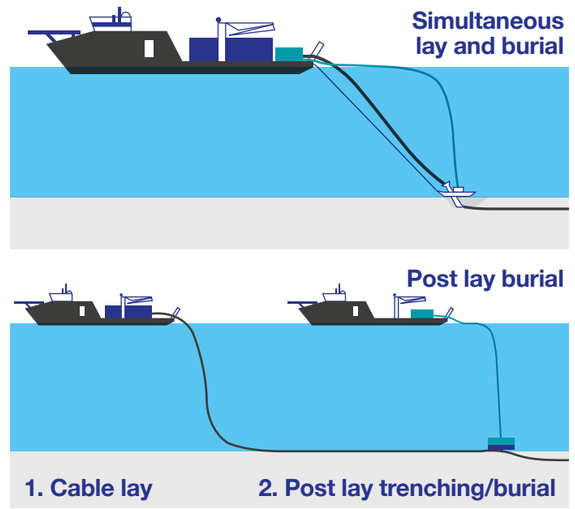


Figure 14 – Methods of laying cables

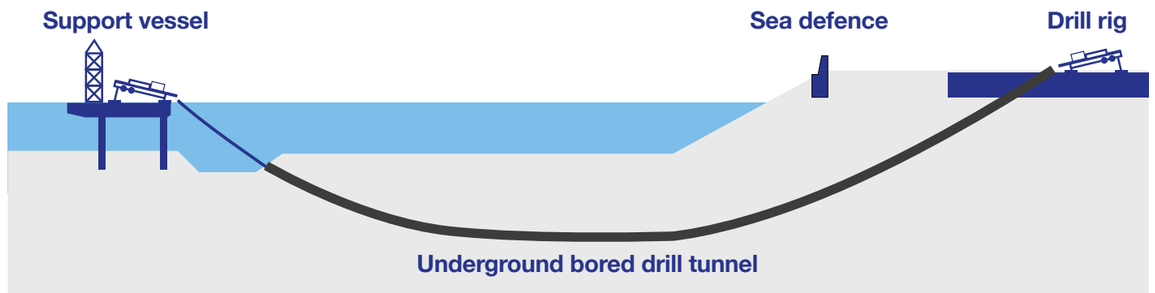


Figure 15 – Diagram showing typical HDD method

Onshore construction

To construct EGL 5, we would need a range of temporary and permanent facilities and access to some land.

Our proposals include works associated with preparing the land for construction activity. These works include:

- diversions of third-party assets such as utilities and services
- construction of bellmouths - bell-shaped entrances to a track or road from a public highway that allows for the safe entrance and exit of construction vehicles
- installation of haul roads - temporary carriageways for transporting materials, machinery and people during construction
- installation of welfare and storage facilities, such as site offices and equipment stores.

We will also carry out drainage works which are to ensure that land is not harmed by flooding or other damage. These works will be in place throughout the construction and operation of EGL 5.

Converter station construction

First, we clear and level the area, then we excavate the earth to make way for the foundations – sometimes this earth is used to landscape the surrounding terrain. All building structures are built with steel beams. We finish the construction by cladding the buildings in line with the design specification and approach agreed during the planning process, this is informed by the characteristics of the surrounding area and feedback received.

Trees, hedges, and shrubs may be planted on the landscaped area surrounding the site to help screen the converter station from view.



Temporary haul roads

As part of our proposal for EGL 5, we are seeking feedback on **two potential routes for a temporary haul road**. Both options begin to the west of the project and lead to the converter station. The haul roads would reduce the amount of construction traffic travelling through Alford and Bilsby.

In addition to gathering feedback, further technical analysis is ongoing to understand the feasibility of each temporary haul road, including opportunities for where we can co-ordinate with other projects in the area.

Haul road options

Both temporary haul roads lead from the converter station north of Bilsby, cross over the A1111 and then take different routes.

Option A goes north from Asseby Turn and continues north of Thoresthorpe, towards College Farm. The haul road joins the A1104 between Snape Hill and Saleby Manor. Option A haul road would be 2.7 km.

Option B runs from the A1111 into the fields at Asserby Turn and then runs south, parallel to Alford Road, through East Street near The Alford Windmill Trust and Alford Town Football Club. It continues north of Alford, parallel to West Street and joins the A1104 by Station Road, near the Alford Crematorium. Near the Crematorium there is a temporary construction compound proposed to help facilitate the construction activities. Option B haul road would be 5.5 km.

We are seeking feedback on both options for the haul roads. Depending on feedback received and outcomes from surveys and technical assessments, both haul roads may be needed for construction.

To provide feedback on our proposals for a temporary haul road, please see question 6 on our feedback form.

Legend

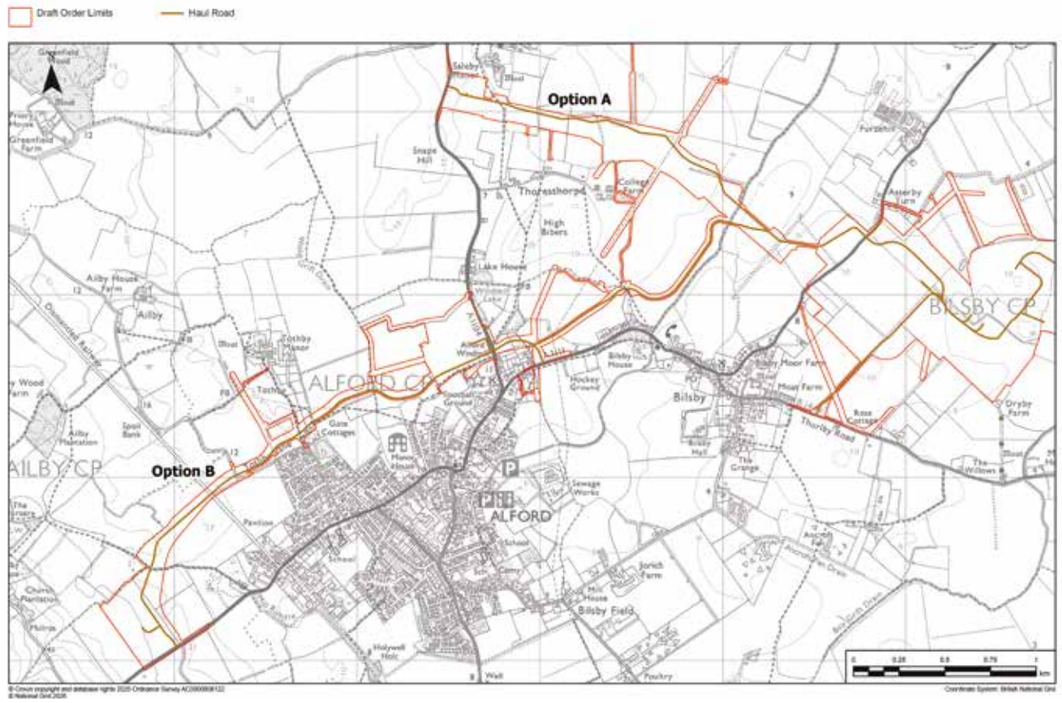


Figure 16 - Map of haul roads

How we install onshore underground cables

Before we install electricity cables on land, we undertake extensive technical studies and surveys. We also work with landowners to carefully plan the most appropriate route. This ensures that the cables can be installed safely and with minimum disruption (where possible).

A variety of methods can be used to lay the HVDC and HVAC underground cables. This includes ducted and trenchless methods.

Onshore cable installation – trenchless

Trenchless methods, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD), micro-tunnel and auger bore, allow us to install cables while minimising interaction with the land surface, which reduces the impact on wildlife, traffic, and local communities.

Use of HDD or other trenchless methods depends on local conditions and any obstacles we need to overcome.

Onshore cable installation - ducted

Our cables would be installed in trenches alongside our haul road. First, we carefully remove the topsoil and store it alongside the trenches. This means we can replace it after the work is finished. Then we dig the number of trenches we need on both sides of the haul road.

The trenches are dug in lengths of up to 1.5 km. We then lay a bed of cement bound sand along the length of each trench. This helps manage any heat created by the electricity cables. Next, we either lay the cables on the cement, or install ducts that run the length of each trench. Ducts are essentially tubes that house the cables and each cable must have its own duct.

Cables are normally buried with a minimum of 0.9 metres of material cover above their protective tiles. However, they could be buried deeper depending on the outcome of soil Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), or due to drainage and ground investigation surveys.

At the end of each trench, we dig a wider area that we call the joint bay. A joint bay is where two lengths of cable are joined together. If we are using ducts the cables are then pulled through from one joint bay to the other. This is done using a wire attached to the end of the cable which unspools from a large cable drum.

Once the ducts have been installed, or when the cables have been laid in their individual trenches, we will return the subsoil and topsoil back from where it was removed.



Figure 17 – The ducted method of cable laying



Managing and mitigating effects

We use best practice environmental impact assessment techniques to assess possible effects of our works and identify opportunities for mitigation measures and for delivering biodiversity net gain.

Biodiversity net gain (BNG)
BNG is a way to ensure that the environment is left in a better state after construction than it was before the work started.

BNG can be achieved through habitat creation and/or enhancement and may be delivered on site or off site. We are working with regional and local partners to identify BNG opportunities in parallel with the development of the Project design.

Protecting the environment during construction

Our detailed environmental surveys and assessments have helped us to understand the potential effects of our proposals. They also help us understand how they can be avoided, reduced or mitigated. Where avoidance and mitigation are not possible, we would offset or compensate for any effects on the environment. We do this by planting or enhancing the environment near to the area of works. We are working closely with local authorities and relevant stakeholders to identify what kind of enhancement is most suitable and where to locate it.

Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR)

Our PEIR considers the likely significant effects of our proposals on the environment. It also includes the measures we are proposing to mitigate these impacts. The PEIR is available from our Project's website at **nationalgrid.com/egl5**.

Protecting soil and agricultural land

We understand the national significance of agricultural land affected by our proposals, and will put measures in place to reduce our impact, including:

- the careful removal of soil to be stored adjacent to the working area, meaning soil of the same texture, organic matter content and nutrient status can be reinstated in the same area it was removed from and to match the existing soil profile as far as it is possible
- implementing a soil management plan to ensure there is no drop in soil quality as a result of construction works. As part of the plan, soil will be tested before and after construction
- protection of livestock by erecting suitable fencing
- soil handling works will be supervised by appropriately qualified and experienced individuals, and an appropriate aftercare period and plan will be set out.

Our aim is to reinstate land to its original condition and land grade by implementing these mitigation measures.

Drainage

We also recognise the importance of effective drainage for local farmers and propose the following measures for land affected by our proposals:

- a specialist contractor will be employed to carry out a pre-works assessment of the existing drainage systems in consultation with relevant landowners and other stakeholders
- a pre-construction drainage management plan would then be prepared for review and approval by stakeholders. This plan will set out and record the condition of the existing drainage network
- a post-construction drainage management plan would also be prepared later as the cable route is installed.

You can read more about how we will protect soils and drainage by reading our Soils and Drainage Leaflet on our website.



Supporting the local community

Our approach to working with the local community

All infrastructure projects can have impacts and benefits both locally and nationally.

At National Grid, we believe that communities hosting new electricity transmission infrastructure should share the benefits. That's why we work closely with local communities and their representatives at every stage, from early planning through to construction and beyond.

We aim to shape a community fund that delivers long-lasting, real impact even after the project is operational.

Our aim is to reduce impacts and deliver real, lasting benefits for local communities. We aim to do this through community grant schemes and investment in community groups or via regional partnerships.

Government guidance

The way we deliver community funding is informed by government guidance published in March 2025. This sets out the types of infrastructure projects that should deliver community funds, and the level of funding that should be made available.

This is based on:

- £530,000 for new substations, converter stations and switching stations per project
- £200,000 per kilometre of new overhead line (This includes changes to some existing network infrastructure, such as uprating existing overhead power cables and extensions to existing substations as defined within the government guidance) per project.

You can read more about government guidance for community funds by scanning this QR code:

During our Stage 1 consultation last year, we published a Community Fund survey designed to gather views on how best we can support the communities closest to our projects. We also asked for feedback on where a community benefit fund could be best used.

Our survey is open, and the form is available on our Project website (**nationalgrid.com/egl5**).

You can also contact us via email **contactegl5@nationalgrid.com** or freephone **0800 358 4817** for a printed copy.



How to find out more

To learn more about our EGL 5 proposals, you can:

- **visit our website at nationalgrid.com/egl5 –** where you will also find an interactive map of our proposed route and infrastructure
- **come to a public information event (Table 2) –** to find out more about our proposals
- **watch a short project video –** by visiting the website
- **visit a local information point (Table 3) –** these local information points will host important project documents
- **book a 'call-back'** from a member of the project team by visiting our website, calling or emailing us
- **call us on freephone 0800 358 4817** to speak to the Community Relations Team. Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am –5pm, with an answerphone facility taking messages outside of these hours
- **email us: contactegl5@nationalgrid.com**



Consultation materials

To support our Stage 2 consultation, in addition to this document we have published:

- **Feedback form:** to gather comments and feedback on our proposals
- **Consultation newsletter:** a summary of the EGL 5 project and public consultation details
- **Consultation banners:** a summary of EGL 5's onshore and offshore proposals
- **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC):** our approach to consulting with the local community on our proposals. Has been developed in consultation with all relevant local authorities
- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR):** considers the likely environmental effects of our proposals. Also sets out our proposed mitigation measures
- **Non-technical summary of the PEIR:** an overview of the likely environmental effects of our proposals. Also sets out our proposed mitigation measures
- **Stage 1 consultation feedback report:** summarises the feedback we received during the stage 1 consultation. Also sets out how it has been considered
- **Design drawings:** illustrative drawings of infrastructure proposed
- **Soils and drainage leaflet:** explains how land drainage and soil quality will be protected and reinstated
- **Interactive projects map:** shows a higher level of detail of our full proposals. Also available on the EGL 5 website
- **Onshore and offshore plans:** detailed plans of where we propose to locate our onshore and offshore infrastructure
- **Strategic Options Report update:** an updated overview of the appraisal and review of the approach we have used to date
- **Design Development Report:** explains how the development has progressed since the Stage 1 consultation
- **Converter station design - background to potential architectural approaches:** provides a background to and summary of the potential architectural approaches for the new converter station.

All of these materials are available to download from our website at **nationalgrid.com/egl5**. Printed copies of most of our consultation documents are available free of charge on request. Some detailed technical documents may be subject to a printing charge.

Printed copies of the below documents are also available:

- Consultation newsletter
- Feedback form
- Stage 2 consultation document.

You can find these at our public information events and local information points. More information on this can be found in Table 2 and Table 3.

Reference only copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR and SoCC are also available to view at local information points.

Local information points

Printed copies of the Stage 2 Consultation Document, the Consultation newsletter and Feedback Form are available at our local information points. Reference only copies of the Non-technical summary of the PEIR and SoCC are also available to view.

Local information point opening hours can be subject to change. Please check with the relevant venue for the most up to date opening hours.

Local information point	Address	Opening times
Alford Library and Focal Point	6 South Market Place, Alford, LN13 9AF	Monday Closed Tuesday 10am – 2pm Wednesday Closed Thursday Closed Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm Saturday 10am – 1pm Sunday Closed
Ingoldmells Community Library	Skegness Road, Ingoldmells, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 1NP	Monday 10am – 12pm Tuesday 10:30am – 12pm Wednesday 10am – 12pm Thursday 10am – 12pm Friday Closed Saturday Closed Sunday Closed
Sutton on Sea Library and Community Centre	Broadway, Sutton on Sea, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, LN12 2JN	Monday 10am – 1pm Tuesday Closed Wednesday 1pm – 4pm Thursday Closed Friday 10am – 1pm Saturday 10am – 1pm Sunday Closed
Alford Town Council offices	1st Floor, South Market Place, Alford, Lincolnshire, LN13 9AF	Monday 9am – 1pm Tuesday 9am – 1pm Wednesday 9am – 1pm Thursday 9am – 1pm Friday 9am – 1pm Saturday closed Sunday closed

Public information events

During the consultation, we are holding four in-person public information events. At these events, we will present information about the proposals. Members of the project team will also be available to answer your questions and you will be able to view copies of our maps and technical documents.

Location	Date	Time
Alford Corn Exchange, 9 Market Place, Alford, LN13 9EB	Saturday 6 June 2026	11am – 4pm
Anderby Village Hall, Sea Road, Anderby, Skegness, PE24 5YD	Thursday 11 June 2026	2pm – 7pm
Huttoft Village Hall, Sutton Rd, Alford, LN13 9RG	Saturday 13 June 2026	11am – 4pm
Huttoft Village Hall, Sutton Rd, Alford, LN13 9RG	Thursday 18 June 2026	2pm – 7pm

How to respond to the consultation

Complete the online Feedback form on our website

Email your comments to: **contactegl5@nationalgrid.com**

Post your written responses (no stamp required) in an envelope addressed to: **Freepost EGL 5**

Complete a printed Feedback form and return it using the freepost address

Please submit your comments by 11:59pm on Friday 24 July 2026 for them to be considered. Postal responses will be accepted up to a week after the consultation closes, if they were sent during the consultation period.

Information for landowners

When developing our proposals, we need to understand who has a legal interest in the land in and around the areas being considered as part of the project.

If you are identified as a person with a legal interest in land, we will contact you directly.

Whilst much of the information we need is available on public registers, we have appointed land referencing firm Ardent to contact individual landowners to verify the publicly available information and ensure we have made best efforts to identify any potentially impacted landowners.

Ardent provides land and consenting advice to support the promotion and delivery of major projects in the UK. Ardent will also assist with contacting landowners and occupiers to arrange access for non-intrusive and intrusive surveys which we plan to carry out whilst we develop the proposals and prepare the application for a DCO.

More detailed information for landowners, along with relevant contact information can be found on the landowner page of our website.

If you are a landowner and believe your property may be affected by our proposals, and want to talk to our lands team, please email **egl5@ardent-management.com** or call **0203 105 0989** or write to: **EGL 5 Ardent, 36 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 5JL**



Next steps

All feedback we receive as part of this consultation will be carefully considered. This is alongside the outputs of our ongoing technical and environmental assessments. We will do this as we finalise our proposals and prepare our application for development consent.

During this time, we will also:

- continue our discussions with landowners and people with a legal interest in land
- continue briefing local elected representatives
- continue working with local authorities and other stakeholders
- carry out any further technical studies and surveys along the route
- provide updates to those who have asked to be kept updated on our proposals via email. You can register for these updates on our website **nationalgrid.com/egl5**
- post updates on the EGL 5 project website at **nationalgrid.com/egl5**
- continue to refine our proposals in response to feedback and findings from technical studies and surveys
- prepare our DCO application for submission.

Once we have prepared our DCO application, we will apply to the Planning Inspectorate, seeking consent for EGL 5.

Our submission will include a consultation report. This will show how we have taken account of feedback received from communities and stakeholders across both stages of consultation.

The Planning Inspectorate will examine our proposals and make a recommendation on the application. This recommendation will be made to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. They will make the final decision on whether to grant consent.

If consented, we expect construction work to start in 2030, with EGL 5 operational by 2035.

Contact us

Please get in touch if you have any questions or comments about our proposals for EGL 5.

Email us:
contactegl5@nationalgrid.com

Post your written responses (no stamp required) in an envelope addressed to:
Freepost EGL 5

Call us on our freephone line, with an answerphone facility taking messages outside of these hours:
0800 358 4817 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

Stay informed

Whatsapp:
Join our WhatsApp channel to stay updated on key project updates throughout the consultation.

GridEngage:
Download National Grid's GridEngage app to keep informed about the consultation.

National Grid plc
1-3 Strand
Charing Cross
London
WC2N 5EH
United Kingdom

nationalgrid.com