

The Great Grid Upgrade

Western Link 2

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)
and Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)

Bridging Note for the Marine Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study and Stage 1 Consultation Materials

June 2026

nationalgrid

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS	3
1 BRIDGING NOTE.....	4
1.1 Purpose of this Note	4
1.2 Scope of the MCPRSS	4
1.3 Document context and dates.....	5
1.4 Evolution of Project terminology.....	5
1.5 Status and relevance of the MCPRSS	6

TABLES

Table 1.1: Defined terms for different Project components	5
---	---



ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Acronym	Definition
HVAC	high-voltage alternating current
HVDC	high-voltage direct current
MCPSS	Marine Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Studies
MHWS	mean high water springs
MLWS	mean low water springs
SP	Scottish Power
TCPRSS	Terrestrial Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Studies

1 BRIDGING NOTE

1.1 Purpose of this Note

This note has been prepared to explain to the reader the evolution of the Project and its description between the Marine Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (M CPRSS) when read alongside the Stage 1 Consultation Materials. This note is included at the front of the M CPRSS to provide context on how the document should be read in relation to more recent documentation.

The M CPRSS reflects the Project definition, terminology and level of design relevant at an earlier stage of the WL2 project life-cycle. The purpose of this note is to:

- provide context on how the Project has evolved to its current position;
- explain key differences in terminology, structure and Project description between the M CPRSS and Stage 1 Consultation Materials.

A key point for the reader is, that the M CPRSS is written in a form, which outputs technical assessment reporting and therefore, reports assessments of specific components of Western Link 2. In contrast, the Stage 1 Consultation Materials, which are public-facing, present a single description of the full Project. This note explains how the earlier-stage M CPRSS aligns with that updated consolidated Project position.

1.2 Scope of the M CPRSS

The M CPRSS forms part of National Grid's Approach To Consenting: Options Identification and Selection.

The M CPRSS specifically focusses on the inshore, offshore and cross-jurisdictional marine cable routeing. It is broadly aligned with Scottish Power (SP) Energy Networks' Inshore Marine Proposals in Scottish waters, National Grid's Wider Marine Proposals in Northern Irish (inshore and offshore) and Manx waters and National Grid's Inshore Proposals in Welsh (inshore and offshore) waters.

There is further overlap with SP Energy Networks' Onshore and National Grid's Onshore Proposals for the intertidal and landfall interface between mean high water springs (MHWS) and mean low water springs (MLWS). However, the M CPRSS considers these aspects only to inform offshore routeing feasibility and marine construction considerations. Detailed landfall siting, intertidal crossing design and onward onshore infrastructure for National Grid's Onshore Proposals are addressed within the TCPRSS.

SP Energy Networks' Onshore Proposals underwent a separate siting process led by SP Energy Networks'.

The M CPRSS has been used to inform the development of the Marine Scheme elements of the Western Link 2 Project presented in Stage 1 Consultation Materials.

1.3 Document context and dates

The original drafting of the M CPRSS began in September 2025 as part of Options Identification and Selection, reflecting the Project information available at that time.

An initial work-in-progress draft of the M CPRSS was prepared in early-2026 to support internal optioneering and early-stage assessment.

The M CPRSS has since been iteratively updated to support publication alongside the Stage 1 Consultation Materials. However, the analysis and conclusions remain representative of the earlier stage of Project development when they were initially drafted.

1.4 Evolution of Project terminology

At the time the M CPRSS documents was prepared, the Project was primarily referred to as “AC5” and “AC6” reflecting its designation within the National Electricity System Operator’s Holistic Network Design process.

Since then, the project has progressed, and has been formally renamed Western Link 2 reflecting the joint development approach between National Grid and SP Transmission Plc.

References to “AC5”, “AC6” or “the Project” within the M CPRSS relate to the Project as it was defined at that time. In subsequent documentation, the Project is referred to as Western Link 2 and this terminology should be considered current.

Terminology has also evolved to provide greater clarity for consultation purposes. Key changes include:

- clearer distinction between marine, inshore and onshore elements
- defined terms for different components of the Project, aligning M CPRSS terminology with the Stage 1 Consultation MaterialsThe relationship between terminology used in the M CPRSS in relation to relevant marine jurisdictions, and the Stage 1 Consultation Materials is outlined in Table 1.1 below.
- Table 1.1 clarifies Project responsibilities between SP Energy Networks and National Grid
- simplification of technical terminology.

The relationship between terminology used in the M CPRSS in relation to relevant marine jurisdictions, and the Stage 1 Consultation Materials is outlined in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Defined terms for different Project components

M CPRSS	Stage 1 Consultation Materials	Relevant marine jurisdictions
Scottish Terrestrial Works	SP Energy Networks’ Onshore Proposals	-
Marine Works (AC5)	SP Energy Networks’ Inshore Marine Proposals*	Scottish inshore
Marine Works (AC6)	SP Energy Networks’ Inshore Marine Proposals*	Scottish inshore
		Northern Irish inshore

M CPRSS	Stage 1 Consultation Materials	Relevant marine jurisdictions
	National Grid's Wider Marine Proposals*	Northern Irish offshore
		Isle of Man
		Welsh offshore
Marine Works (AC6)	National Grid's Inshore Marine Proposals*	Welsh inshore
Welsh Terrestrial Works	National Grid's Onshore Proposals	-

*Note collectively referred to as the Marine Scheme for the purposes of reporting.

The M CPRSS also uses Stage 2 terminology (for example: Landfall Siting Zones, Cable Corridor Sections and Cable Corridor Combinations). In the Stage 1 Consultation Materials, these are presented more simply as the key infrastructure components:

- marine high-voltage direct current (HVDC) cable
- landfall.

This reflects the progression from option identification to a more defined public-facing Project description.

Where differences occur, the terminology used in Stage 1 Consultation Materials should be considered current.

1.5 Status and relevance of the M CPRSS

The M CPRSS forms the foundations for the options to be consulted on at Stage 1 Consultation.

It provides:

- a clear explanation and narrative of the optioneering process
- evidence of how environmental, technical, planning and socio-economic constraints have influenced Project design
- description of the evolution and refinement of options.