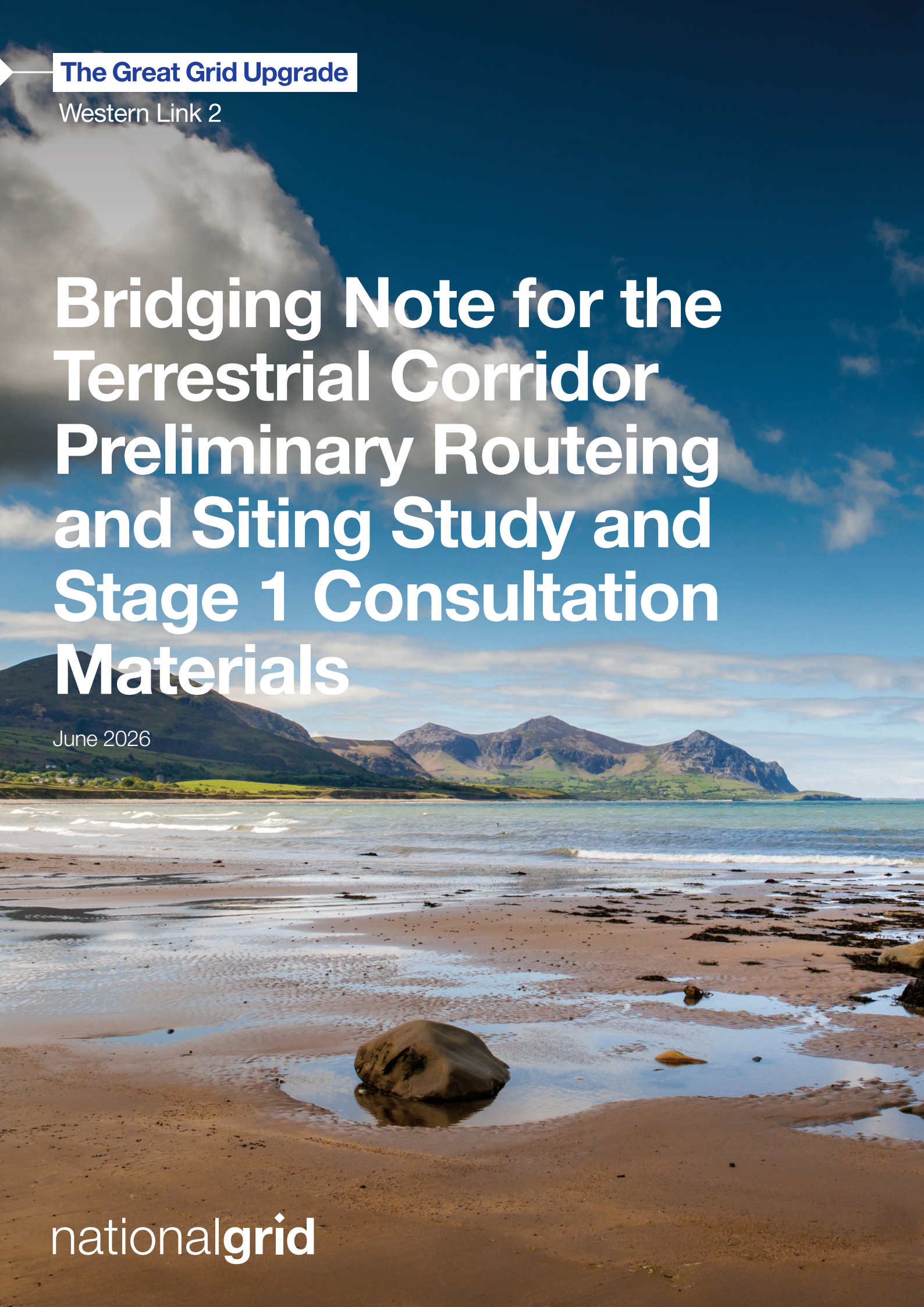
The Great Grid Upgrade

Western Link 2

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

June 2026



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

1.1 Purpose of this Note

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

1.1.2 The TCPRSS 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 explain key differences in terminology, structure and project description between the TCPRSS and the Stage 1 Consultation.

1.1.3 The TCPRSS is written in a form that incorporates outputs from technical assessment reporting and therefore, reports assessments of specific components of the Western Link 2 Project. In contrast, the Stage 1 Consultation Materials present a single description of the full project. This note explains how these earlier-stage TCPRSS align with that updated project position.

1.2 Scope of the Terrestrial Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Studies

1.2.1 The TCPRSS forms part of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid)'s Approach to Consenting: Options Identification and Selection, and focuses on the identification and appraisal of Welsh onshore infrastructure including landfall siting.

1.2.2 It broadly aligns with National Grid's Onshore Proposals as presented in the Stage 1 Consultation Materials, including:

- Landfall and transition infrastructure;
- Underground HVDC cable route;
- Converter station;
- HVAC connection to the existing network; and
- Extension to the existing Pentir substation, including associated auxiliary works.

1.2.3 For clarity, where the TCPRSS refers to "AC6" or "the Project", this reflects the terminology that was used at the time of preparation and refers to the wider project as it was then defined, to include both offshore and onshore elements. However, the scope of the TCPRSS itself is limited to the Welsh onshore component of the project, which corresponds to National Grid's Onshore Proposals as described in the Stage 1 Consultation Materials. References within the TCPRSS to the Welsh Onshore Project

(or equivalent terminology) should therefore be understood to relate specifically to these proposals.

1.2.4 **The TCPRSS has informed the development of the Welsh onshore elements of Western Link 2 presented in the Stage 1 Consultation.**

1.3 Document Context and Dates

1.3.1 The drafting of the TCPRSS began in September 2025 as part of Options Identification and Selection, reflecting the project information available at that time.

1.3.2 An initial work-in-progress draft of the TCPRSS was produced late-December 2025, to support internal optioneering and early-stage assessment.

1.3.3 The TCPRSS 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 at which the study was originally undertaken.

1.4 Evolution of Project Terminology

1.4.1 At the time the TCPRSS was prepared, the project was primarily referred to as “AC6”, reflecting its designation within the National Electricity System Operator’s Holistic Network Design process.

1.4.2 Since then, the project has progressed and has been formally renamed Western Link 2 (WL2) reflecting the joint development approach between National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc and Scottish Power Transmission Plc.

1.4.3 References to “AC6” or “the Project” within the TCPRSS relate to the project as it was defined at that time. In subsequent documentation, including the Stage 1 Consultation Materials, the project is referred to as Western Link 2 and this terminology should be considered current.

1.4.4 The relationship between terminology used in the TCPRSS and the Stage 1 Consultation Materials is outlined in **Table** below:

Table 1-1: Comparison of terminology used in TCPRSS and Stage 1 Consultation Materials

TCPRSS Terminology	Stage 1 Consultation Terminology
Welsh Onshore Project (or equivalent)	National Grid’s Onshore Proposals
Landfall Siting Zones / Landfall Compound Siting Areas	Landfall siting zones
Cable Corridor Sections / Combinations	Underground HVDC Cable Route
Converter Station Siting Zones	Converter Station Siting Zones

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

1.5 Evolution of the Project Description

1.5.1 The TCPRSS builds on work undertaken during Strategic Proposal development, which identified Pentir in North Wales as the preferred connection location for Western Link 2.

1.5.2 The TCPRSS therefore focuses on refining routeing and siting options for the Welsh onshore component, including landfall, cable routeing and converter station siting within the established study area at Pentir.

1.5.3 At the time the TCPRSS was prepared the project description reflected the structure of the optioneering process, with individual infrastructure components considered separately to allow targeted appraisal of constraints.

1.5.4 The TCPRSS reflects an early stage, constraints led optioneering process, where multiple options were identified and retained to maintain design flexibility. This includes:

- Four Landfall Siting Zones;
- Broad Terrestrial Cable Corridor Sections and multiple Terrestrial Cable Combinations;
- Four Converter Station Siting Zones; and
- Consideration of infrastructure areas of search rather than fixed locations.

1.5.5 Since the completion of the TCPRSS, the project description has been refined for Stage 1 Consultation. Key developments include:

- A clearer and more defined description of the Welsh Onshore Project, presented as a set of infrastructure components;
- Introduction of indicative project parameters, such as approximate lengths and footprints;
- A more structured and accessible project description, suitable for Stage 1 Consultation and environmental assessment; and
- Improved definition of how the onshore infrastructure components relate to one another, including the connection at Pentir substation.

1.5.6 In contrast to the TCPRSS, which presents a range of options within defined study areas, the Stage 1 Consultation Materials describe the project as a set of proposals, while retaining flexibility to reflect ongoing design development.

1.5.7 The Stage 1 Consultation Materials therefore represent a more advanced and consolidated stage of project definition, moving from option identification towards a more defined project design, while maintaining the ability to respond to consultation feedback, further survey work and detailed engineering design.

1.6 Status and Relevance of the TCPRSS

1.6.1 The TCPRSS forms the foundations for the options to be consulted on at the Stage 1 Consultation.

1.6.2 It provides:

- A clear explanation and narrative of the optioneering process to identify emerging preferences;

- Evidence of how environmental, technical, planning and socio-economic constraints have influenced project design;
- Context for the evolution and refinement of options; and
- Insight into how these constraints have been balanced to inform the current Welsh onshore proposals.

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