

Stage 1 Consultation Feedback Form

October 2025

We are consulting on proposals to build a new 400 kilovolt (400 kV) overhead line between the England-Scotland border and the Carlisle area, a new 400 kV substation in the Carlisle area and a connection from the new Carlisle substation to the network.

This is our first public consultation on proposals for the English section of the Cross Border Connection.

The aim of this Stage 1 consultation is to receive your feedback on our early proposals while also explaining how and why they have been developed.

We recognise the importance of local knowledge in developing projects and are keen to seek feedback at a point early enough in the process to allow people the opportunity to influence the proposals.

We welcome your feedback as part of our Stage 1 consultation, which runs from **12pm on Wednesday 15 October to 11:59pm on Wednesday 10 December 2025.**

Consultation is an important part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, as it enables everyone to comment on our proposals. Feedback from our consultations – along with the outcome of technical assessments and environmental surveys – helps us to develop our proposals before we submit a DCO application.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete this feedback form.



Our proposals

During this Stage 1 consultation, we are seeking views on our proposals for Cross Border Connection in England. Our proposals include:

- a new 400 kV substation in the Carlisle area ('new Carlisle substation')
- a new 400 kV overhead line between the new Carlisle substation and the England-Scotland border
- a connection from the new Carlisle substation to the existing network.

We are consulting on two options for where the substation could be located

Electricity demand is growing across the country, including the North of England. More and more electricity is being generated to meet that demand and the electricity transmission network needs to be reinforced so we can transport the power to where it is needed: our homes, businesses and public services.

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) continuously looks at how the transmission network must adapt to meet future energy needs. They recommend where upgrades are needed to deliver a reliable, secure and cleaner network. Due to the rising demand for electricity, more new transmission projects are likely to be required in the North.

Our responsibility as National Grid Electricity Transmission is to develop proposals for new transmission infrastructure based on the recommendations from NESO. In doing that, we are required to strike a balance – reducing impacts on communities, the environment and important national assets like the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (Hadrian's Wall WHS), whilst delivering value for money for consumers.

We do not have all the details yet about the additional transmission upgrades that might be needed in the North, but we anticipate there will be greater clarity over the year ahead.

We are currently proposing two alternative substation options, as the choice may well be influenced by other potential projects. We will also have high regard to the feedback we receive at this consultation, along with other technical and environmental assessments. As our plans evolve, we will come back to consult you again.

The two options

We are considering two options for the location of the new Carlisle substation:

Option A – a substation located in an area north of Carlisle.

This option would include approximately 28 kilometre (km) of proposed overhead line. This includes overhead line between the proposed substation and England-Scotland border, and between the proposed substation and existing Harker substation.

Option B – a substation located in an area south of Carlisle.

This option would include approximately 47 km of proposed overhead line. This includes overhead line between the proposed substation and England-Scotland border, and between the proposed substation and existing Harker-Hutton overhead line.

Other requirements

We may use additional land to support the construction of the project or to protect the natural environment.

This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- temporary land for construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access
- land for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process and delivering Biodiversity Net Gain.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

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

From mid 2026, it is due to be made mandatory for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in England, like the English section of Cross Border Connection, to achieve 10% BNG – this means the project would result in more or better-quality natural habitat than there was before development. This may be achieved through habitat creation and/or enhancement.

Stage 1 consultation materials

As part of this consultation, we have also published:



Stage 1 Consultation Document – a document providing an overview of the project, details on our proposals and how we are consulting.



Strategic Options Report (SOR) – technical document that shows the needs case for Cross Border Connection and what strategic options we considered to address it.



Stage 1 Consultation Community Newsletter – summarising details of our proposals and our public consultation.



Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) – technical document that shows how we developed our preferred strategic options.



Consultation banners – a visual summary of our proposals, which will be on display at in-person public information events.



Interactive map – an online map showing locations of proposed infrastructure.



Stage 1 Consultation Strategy – a document detailing how we intend to carry out our Stage 1 consultation.



Project website – webpage hosting all project information, including downloadable versions of all consultation documents, FAQs, and the online feedback form: nationalgrid.com/cbc

All consultation materials are published on our project website: nationalgrid.com/cbc

Paper copies of our Stage 1 consultation materials are also available free of charge upon request by contacting the project team at crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com or **0800 358 1781**

If you require printed materials in a different format or language, please get in touch.

Key consultation documents will be available to view at our local information points and paper copies of all documents listed above will be available to view at our public information events.

We recommend you read our consultation materials as they contain detail which could help inform your feedback.

In this consultation, we are asking for your views on the English part of the project only. SP Energy Networks is responsible for the Scottish section, and the proposed route they identified was subject to public consultation in autumn 2024 and in spring 2025. Further information about the SP Energy Network proposals, including detailed maps and consultation materials, are available on their project website: spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_proposal.aspx



How to give feedback

Please submit your response to this consultation by **11:59pm on Wednesday 10 December 2025**. We cannot guarantee that responses received after this time will be considered.

You only need to provide answers to questions that you feel are relevant to you.

Your feedback will play an important part in shaping our plans before we make our DCO application, which is planned for 2028.

Following this Stage 1 consultation, we will review the feedback received. Alongside technical assessments and environmental surveys, your feedback will help refine our proposals.

We intend to carry out a second stage of consultation once our proposals are more developed.

Our Stage 2 consultation will demonstrate how we have considered your input, alongside the outcomes of technical assessments and environmental surveys, and will provide a further opportunity for you to share your views.

How we present our proposals

To help you provide feedback, we have produced a series of maps, which show the following:

Emerging preferred corridor

The emerging preferred corridor is an area within which infrastructure for Cross Border Connection may be located.

We are sharing two emerging preferred corridors as part of this consultation – one for Option A and one for Option B. Sections 1 to 3 are identical for both options and are referred to as the Core Route Options.

Siting zone/siting area

A siting zone is a large area of land within a study area where a substation could be located.

Inside a siting zone, there may be one or more 'siting areas', which are smaller, more specific places where the substation could actually be built.

We are showing two possible siting zones — one for each option:

Option A has a siting zone and also a smaller siting area within it.

Option B has just a siting zone at this stage.

Graduated swathe

The graduated swathe presents shaded areas within the emerging preferred corridor and siting zone/siting area within which infrastructure (such as overhead lines or substations), is considered more or less likely to be located.

The darker shading in the graduated swathe indicates the areas that are likely to be more suitable for new infrastructure, while lighter shading indicates areas we believe are less appropriate.

It is important to note that the graduated swathe is both initial and indicative and will be reviewed and refined following further detailed assessment work and stakeholder and community feedback.

The map keys show how the footprint of proposed infrastructure is relative to the scale of the maps.

Specific locations along the proposed route

Where possible, we encourage you to refer to specific locations that are most important to you.

Our project maps and interactive map show the emerging preferred corridor of Option A and Option B of the new overhead line, and the proposed locations of the one new substation.

The emerging preferred corridor is the area we have identified where Option A and Option B of the new overhead line and substation could be located.



Feedback form structure

We have divided the proposals into sections to make it easier to review and provide feedback.

The first three sections are the same for both options (referred to as our Core Route Options) with the route then diverging for Option A and Option B.

Core Route Options

- **Route section 1:** England-Scotland border to B6318
- **Route section 2:** B6318 to Rae Burn
- **Route section 3:** Rae Burn to Woodlands Industrial Park

Option A – north of Carlisle

- **Route section 4:** Woodlands Industrial Park to A689
- **Including the North of Carlisle substation**

Option B – south of Carlisle

- **Route section 4:** Woodlands Industrial Park to A689
- **Route section 5:** A689 to Scotby
- **Route section 6:** Scotby to Cocklakes Yard
- **Including the South of Carlisle substation**



About you

Name:

Organisation/Group (if applicable):

Address:

Postcode:

Email address:

☐ Please tick here if you would like to be updated on our proposals via email.

Question 1: How would you describe your interest in Cross Border Connection?

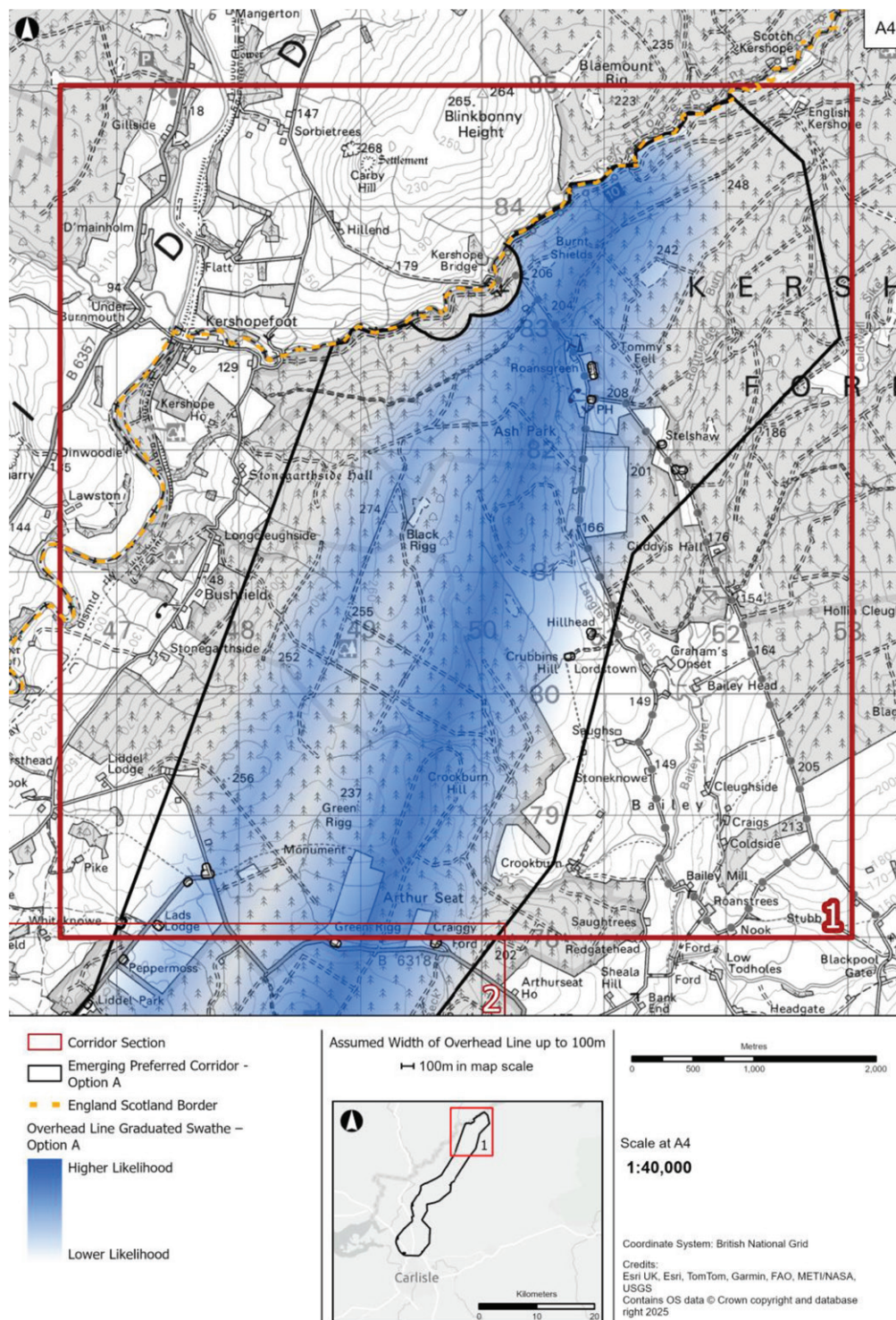
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular visitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local representative (eg. Councillor, MP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local interest group member
(please specify in the text box below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner or tenant/occupier within the preferred corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory organisation
(please specify in the text box below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local business owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other
(please specify in the text box below) |

Core Route Options

Route section 1: England-Scotland Border to B6318

This section of the emerging preferred corridor commences at the England-Scotland border and ends close to the B6318, which crosses this section of the corridor from east-west. More detail can be found on pages 24 – 25 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals in this route section, including how we selected our emerging preferred corridor. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



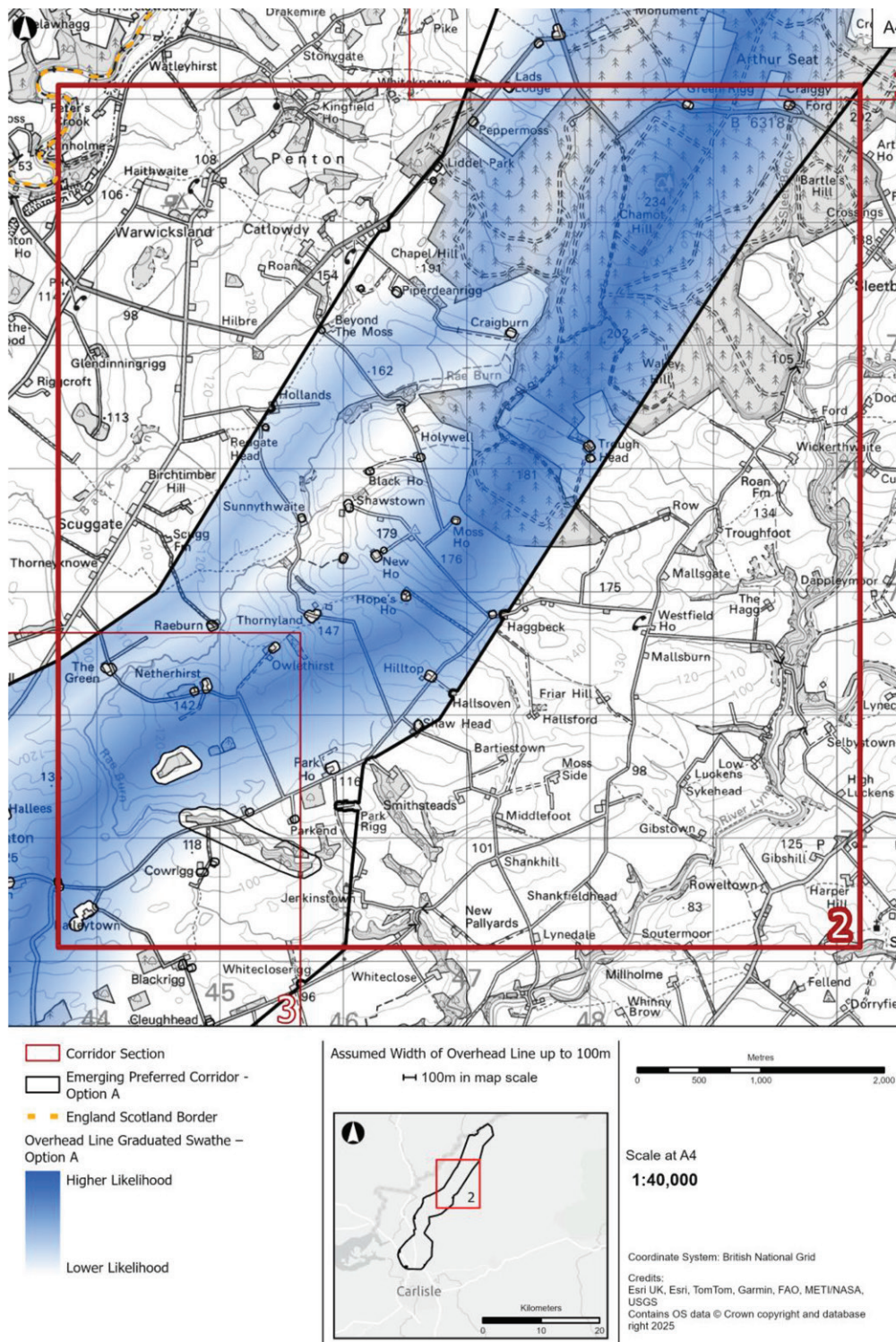
Question 2: Do you have any comments on route section 1, including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

Route section 2: B6318 to Rae Burn

This section of the emerging preferred corridor begins at the B6318 and runs north-east to south-west before ending close to Rae Burn. More detail can be found on pages 26 – 27 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals in this route section, including how we selected our emerging preferred corridor. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



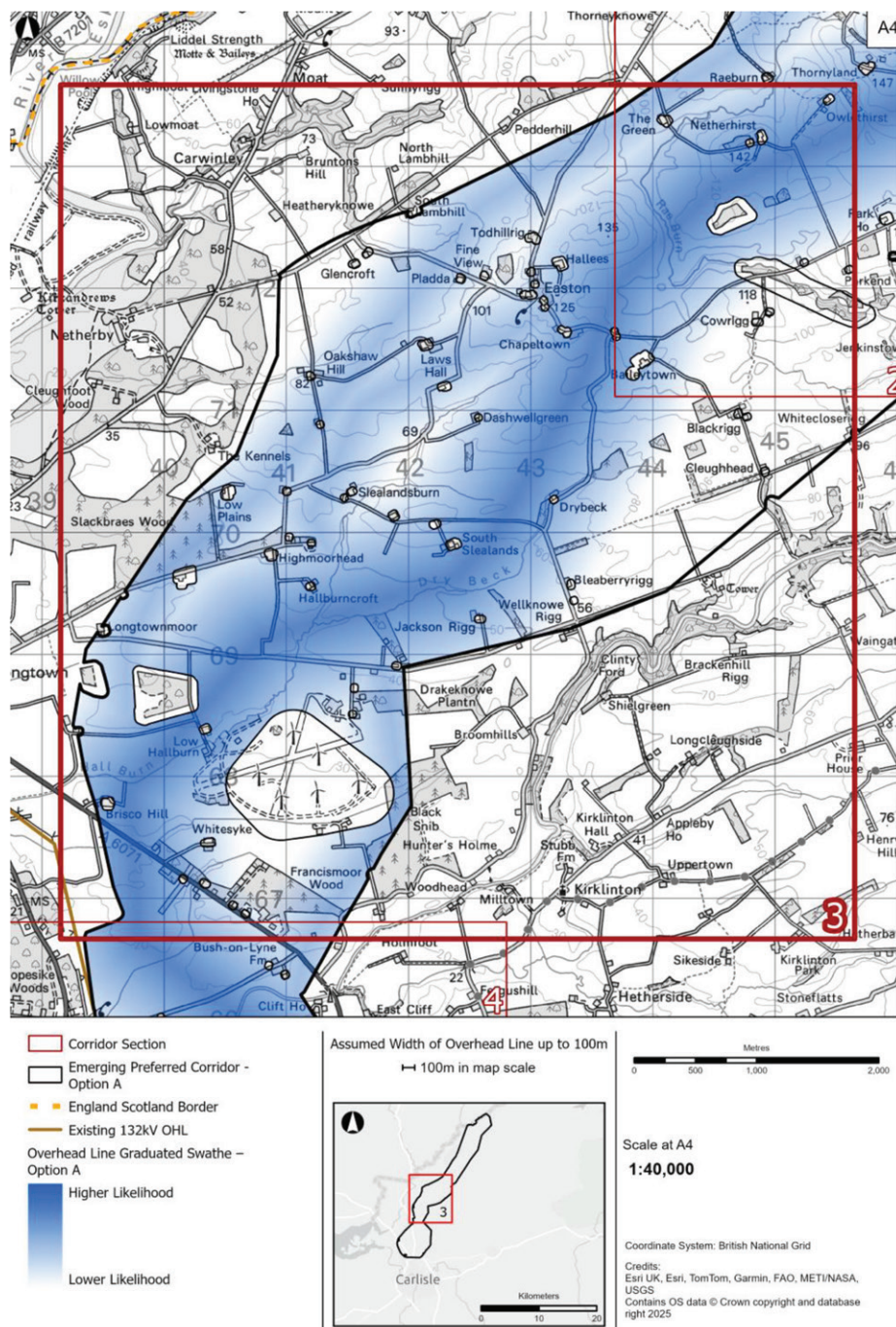
Question 3: Do you have any comments on route section 2, including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

Route section 3: Rae Burn to Woodlands Industrial Park

This section of the emerging preferred corridor would initially follow a north-east to south-west alignment from Rae Burn and then end immediately south of Woodlands Industrial Park. More detail can be found on pages 28 – 29 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals in this route section, including how we selected our emerging preferred corridor. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



Question 4: Do you have any comments on route section 3, including the points listed below?

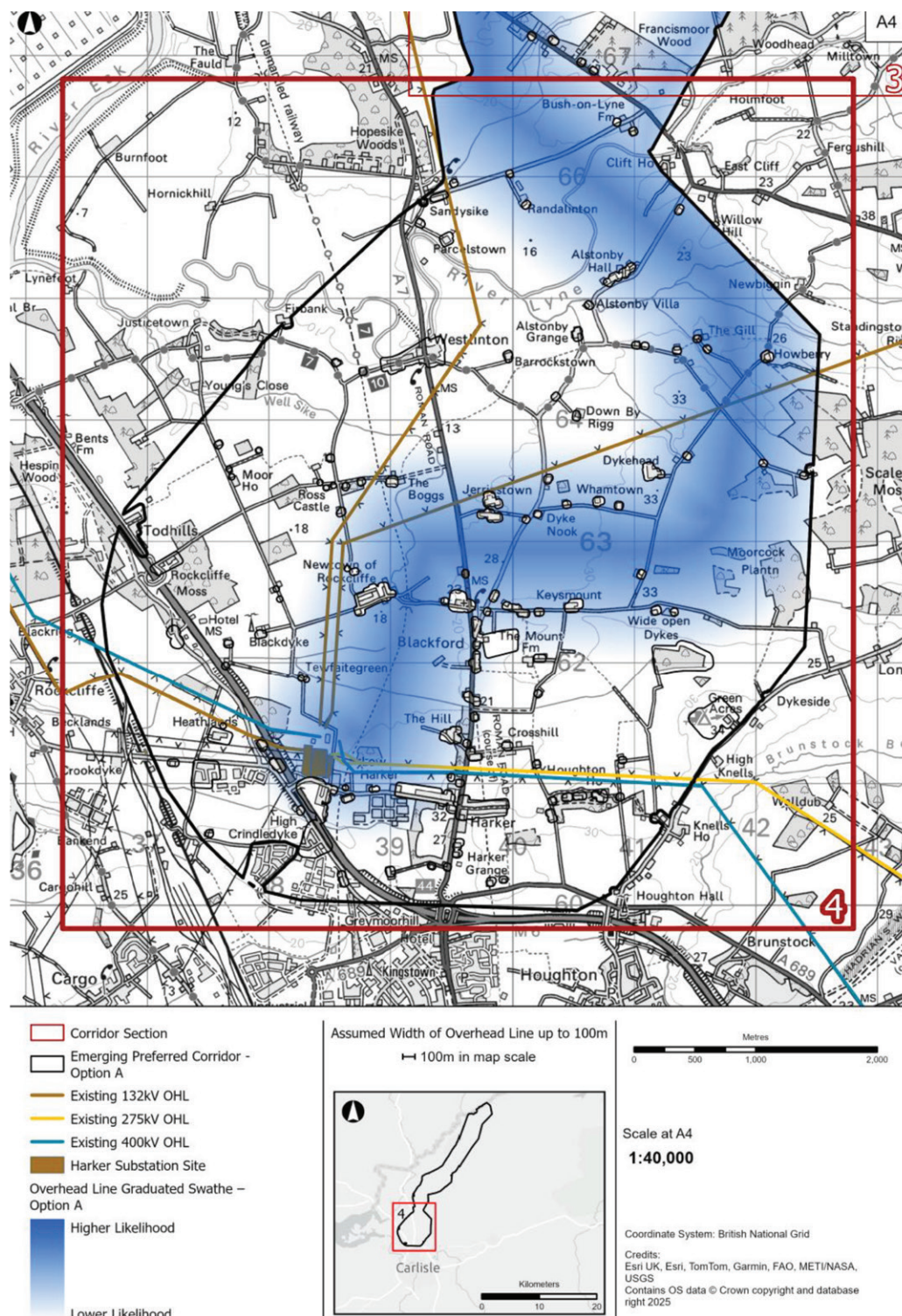
- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

Option A – North of Carlisle

Route section 4: Woodlands Industrial Park to A689

The fourth route section of Option A would commence to the south of Woodlands Industrial Park along a north-east to south-east alignment before turning south towards the preferred siting area for a new substation north of Carlisle. The corridor then routes from the new substation siting area to the existing Harker substation, ending close to the A689. More detail can be found on pages 32 – 33 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals in this route section, including how we selected our emerging preferred corridor. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



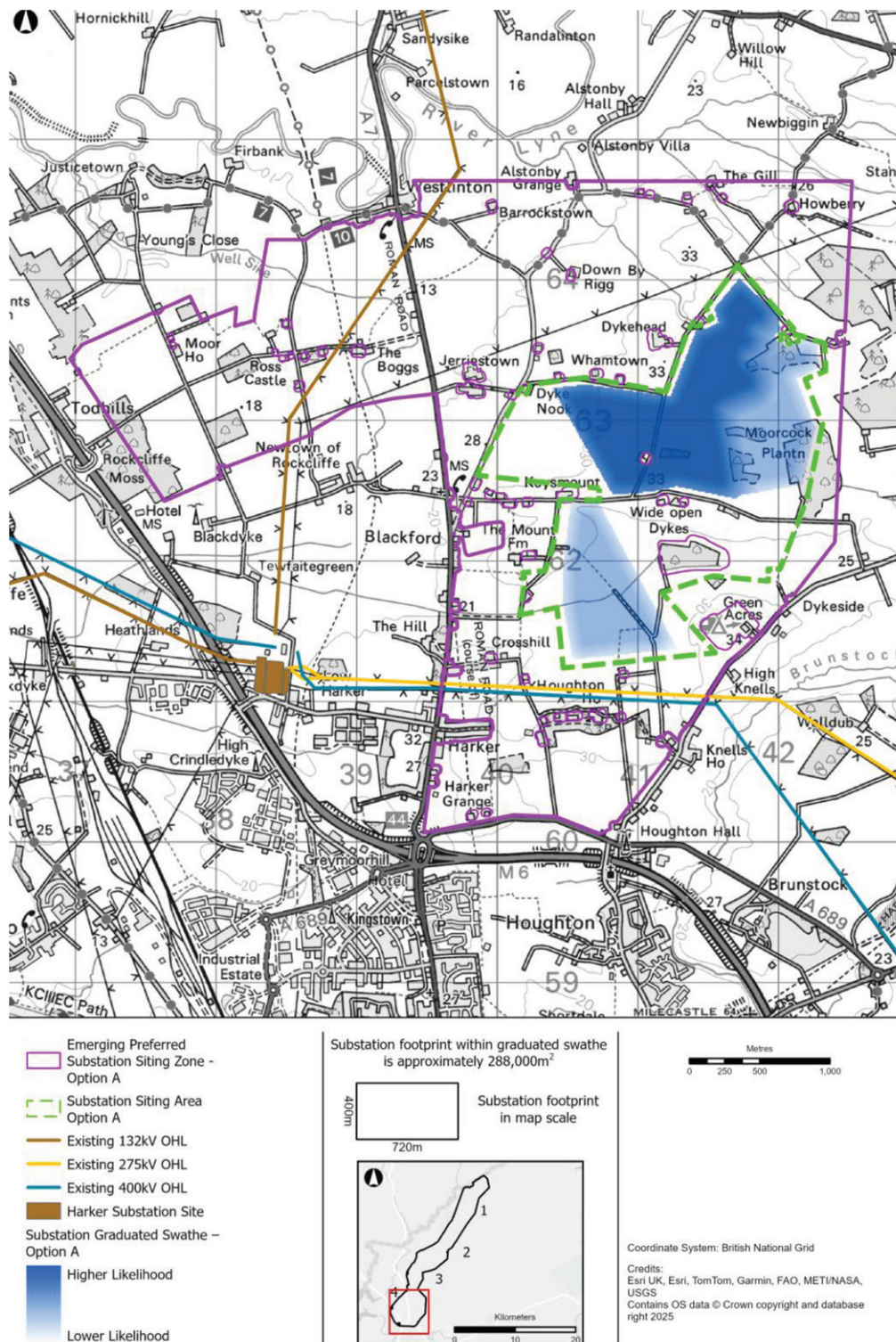
Question 5: Do you have any comments on route section 4 (Option A), including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

North of Carlisle substation

The north of Carlisle substation would be located approximately 1.7 km east of the existing Harker substation, to the east of the A7 and to the north of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (Hadrian's Wall WHS). More detail can be found on pages 34 – 35 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals for this substation, including how we selected our siting zone and siting area. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



Question 6: Do you have any comments on the north of Carlisle substation, including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

Option B – South of Carlisle

Route section 4: Woodlands Industrial Park to A689

This section of the emerging preferred corridor continues from the Woodlands Industrial Park, following a north-east to south-east alignment and ends near to the A689, to the south of Hadrian's Wall WHS. More detail can be found on pages 38 – 39 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals in this route section, including how we selected our emerging preferred corridor. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



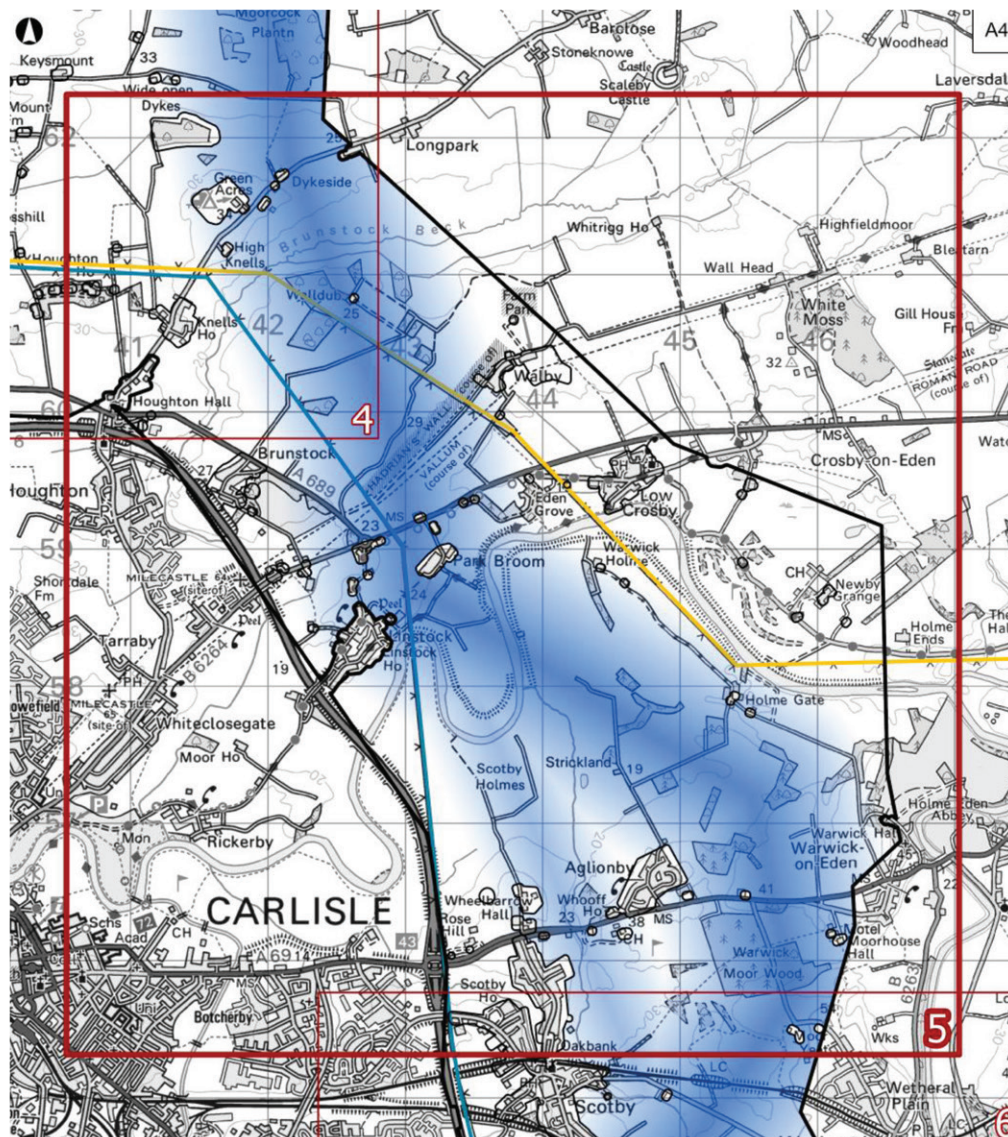
Question 7: Do you have any comments on route section 4, including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

Route section 5: A689 to Scotby

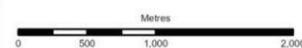
This section of the emerging preferred corridor begins near to the A689, and routes south, crossing the River Eden, before ending near Scotby. More detail can be found on pages 40 – 41 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals in this route section, including how we selected our emerging preferred corridor. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



- Corridor Section
- Emerging Preferred Corridor – Option B
- Existing 275kV OHL
- Existing 400kV OHL
- Overhead Line Graduated Swathe – Option B
- Higher Likelihood
- Lower Likelihood

Assumed Width of Overhead Line up to 100m
 ↳ 100m in map scale



Scale at A4
1:40,000

Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Credits:
 Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA,
 USGS
 Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database
 right 2025

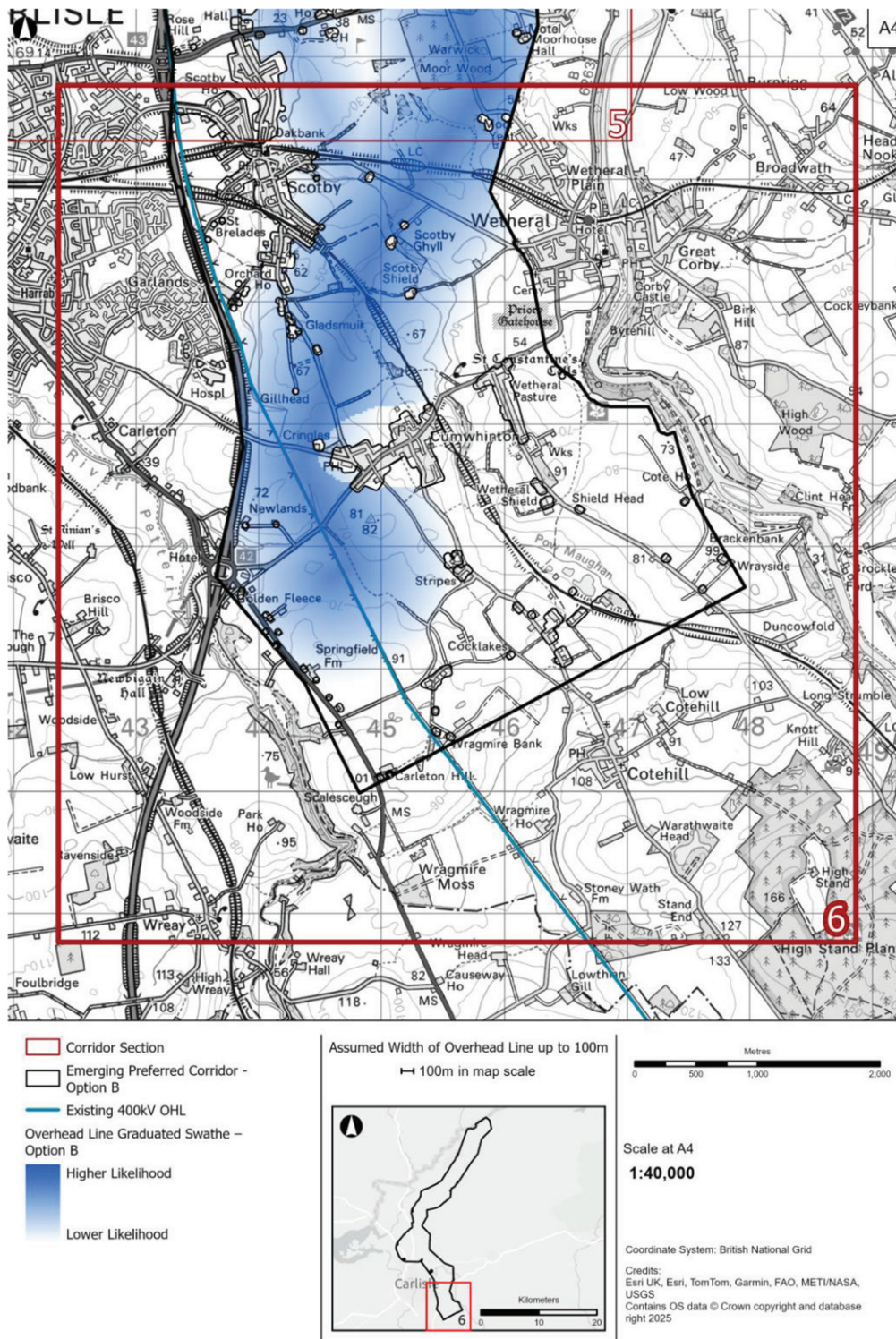
Question 8: Do you have any comments on route section 5, including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

Route section 6: Scotby to Cocklakes Yard

Section 6 of the emerging preferred corridor begins at Scotby and follows a north-south alignment parallel to the existing 400 kV Harker Hutton overhead line. This overhead line section would then end at Cocklakes Yard, at the site of our proposed south of Carlisle substation. More detail can be found on pages 42 – 43 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals in this route section, including how we selected our emerging preferred corridor. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc



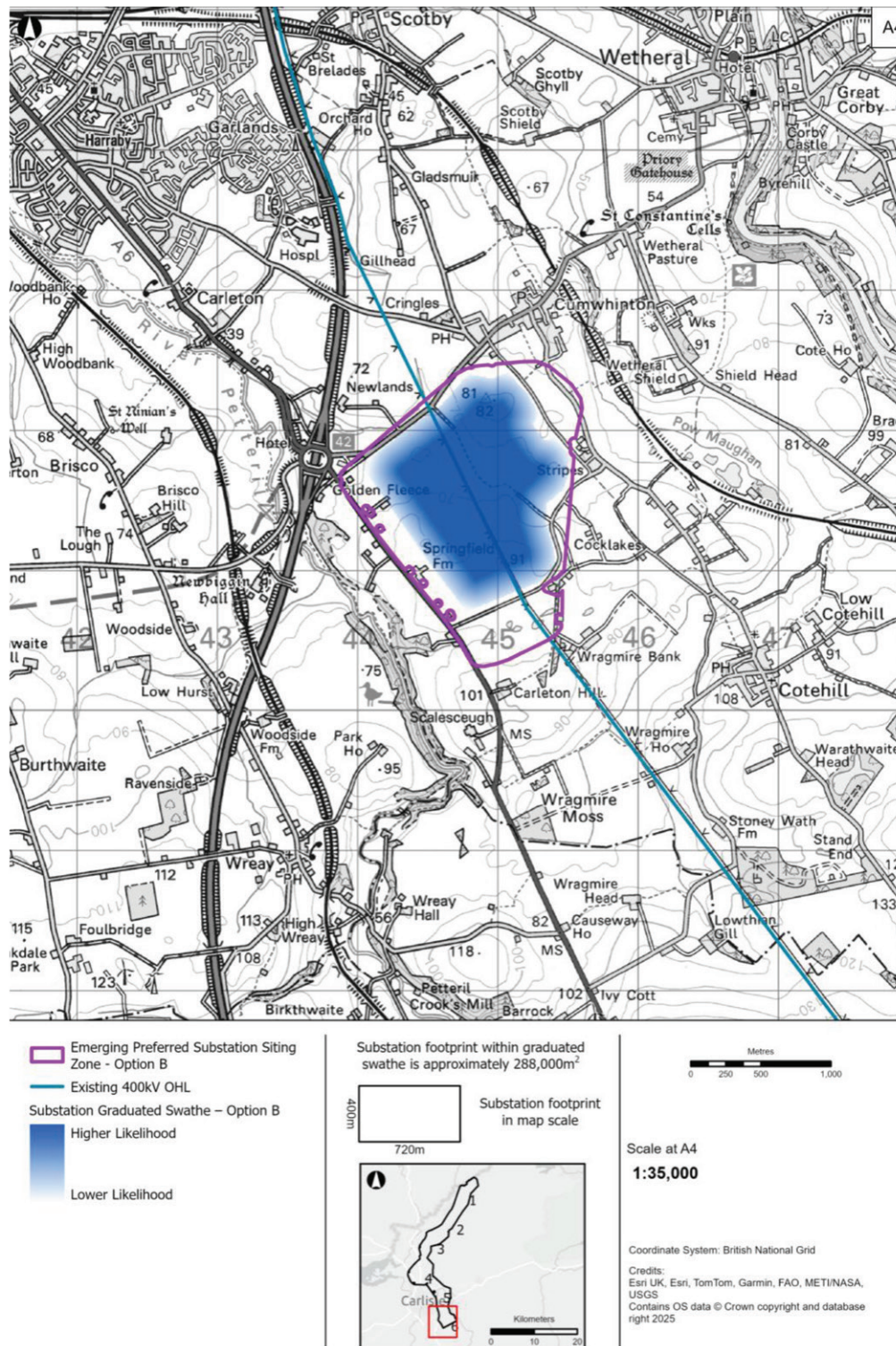
Question 9: Do you have any comments on route section 6, including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Our local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

South of Carlisle substation

The south of Carlisle substation would be located to the south of the village of Cumwhinton. More detail can be found on pages 44 – 45 of the Stage 1 Consultation Document.

Please refer to the Stage 1 Consultation Document and Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) for more information on our proposals for this substation, including how we selected our siting zone. You can view these documents at nationalgrid.com/cbc

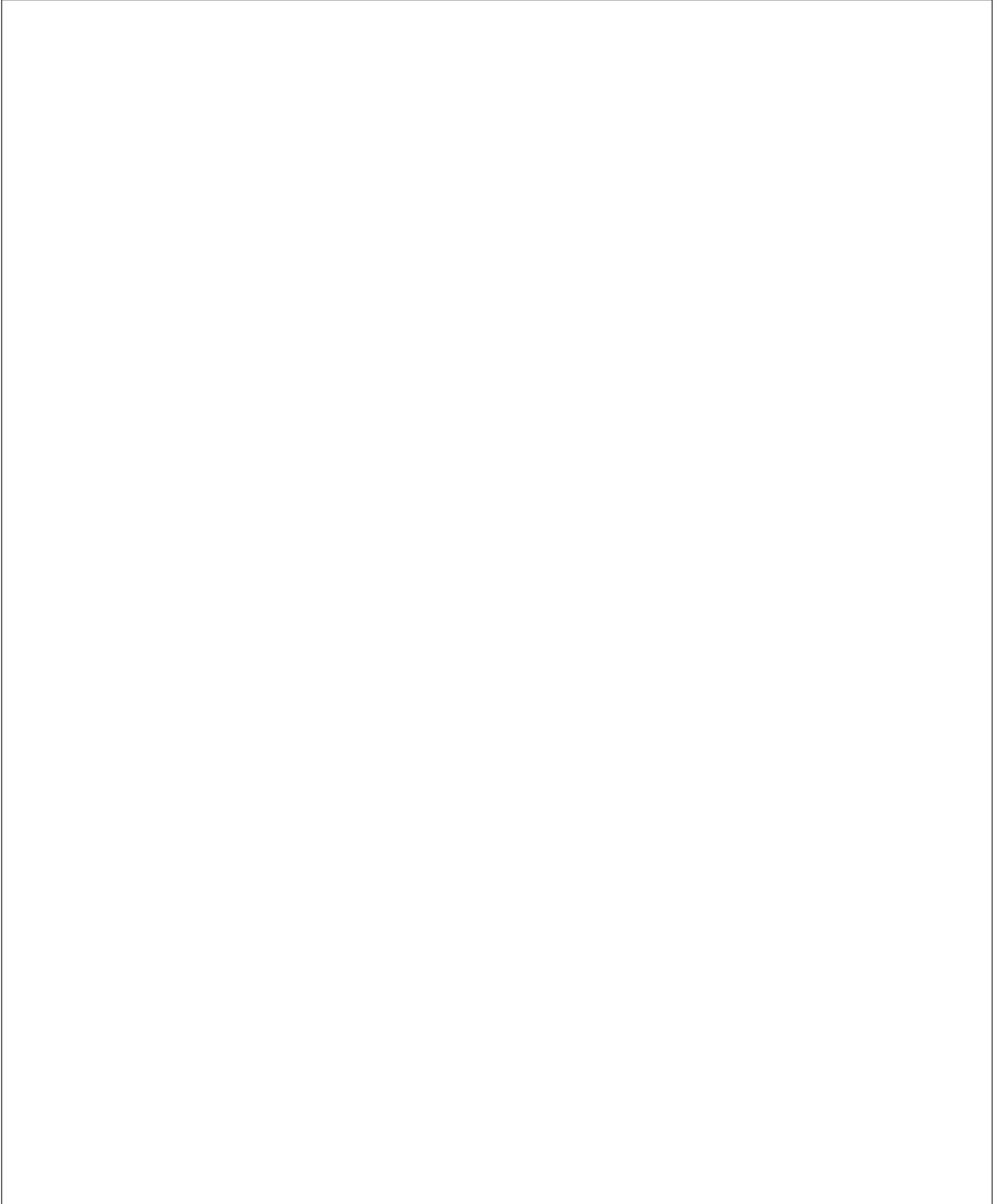


Question 10: Do you have any comments on the south of Carlisle substation, including the points listed below?

- Our emerging preferred corridor
- Our graduated swathe
- Your local knowledge on the most appropriate location within the emerging preferred corridor to locate the new overhead line
- Local features and impacts that are important to you
- Construction activities we have outlined
- Anything else we should consider as we develop our proposals further.

Further comments

**Question 11: Is there anything else you would like us to consider as we develop our proposals?
Please provide details below.**



Equality and diversity

We would be grateful if you could answer the following optional, demographic questions.

We will use the information we receive to help understand whether our consultation has been useful to people of different backgrounds and requirements, and only in accordance with our Data Privacy Statement, as set out later in this form.

We may publish a summary of the results, but no information about an individual would be revealed. The answers you provide to some of these questions are defined as 'special category data'. If you agree to provide this information, you can withdraw your permission for us to use it in our reports at any time. To withdraw your permission, please contact us via email at: crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com

Question 12: What is your gender?

☐ Male

☐ Non-binary

☐ Female

☐ Prefer not to say

Question 13: Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?

☐ Yes

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ No

Question 14: How would you describe your ethnic background?☐ White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British☐ Bangladeshi☐ Irish☐ Chinese☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveler☐ Any other Asian background (please state)☐ Any other White background (please state)☐ Black African☐ White and Black Caribbean☐ Black Caribbean☐ White and Black African☐ Black British☐ White and Asian☐ Any other Black, African, or Caribbean background (please state)☐ Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background (please state)☐ Arab☐ Asian or Asian British☐ Any other ethnic group (please state)☐ Indian☐ Pakistani☐ Prefer not to say**Question 15: What is your age?**☐ Under 16☐ 35-44☐ 65+☐ 16-24☐ 45-54☐ Prefer not to say☐ 25-34☐ 55-64

Data privacy statement

We will use your personal data collected via this consultation for a number of purposes, including:

- to analyse your feedback to the consultation
- to produce a Consultation Feedback Report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in the Report)
- to write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments (if you do not wish to be contacted, you can submit the form anonymously)
- to keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.

Any personal information you include in this form will be handled and used by (or made available to) the following recipients, to record, analyse and report on the feedback we receive:

- National Grid
- SP Energy Networks who are our partners in developing the Cross Border Connection Project, and are responsible for the Scottish section

- the Planning Inspectorate (who will consider our application for consent to build the project – any details published as part of this process will be anonymised)
- the Secretary of State (who will make the decision on our application)
- our legal advisers
- consultants working on behalf of National Grid.

Where you provide feedback as part of this consultation which is relevant to other National Grid projects, it may be included as indirect feedback for the other project(s).

What rights do I have over my personal data?

Under the terms of the UK GDPR you have certain rights over how your personal data is retained and used by National Grid. For more information, see our full data privacy statement

nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy



Contact us

Please get in touch if you have any questions about our proposals for Cross Border Connection, or for any assistance you may need accessing or responding to the information provided.



Call us:
0800 358 1781 (lines are open
Monday to Friday, 9am – 5:00pm)



Email us:
crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com



Write to us:
FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID CBC
(no stamp or further address details are required)

How to provide feedback via this feedback form

Return this form to **FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID CBC**
(no stamp or further address details are required)

You can also provide feedback by the methods below.



Completing the Feedback Form online
at **nationalgrid.com/cbc**



Emailing us your completed Feedback Form at
crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com



Emailing or sending a letter via the email and
postal addresses provided above.

Landowners

If you are a landowner and want to talk to our Lands team,
please email **crossborderconnection@dalcourmaclaren.com**,
or call **0333 188 5375**

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