The Great Grid Upgrade

Cross Border Connection

nationalgrid

Stage 1 Consultation Community Newsletter

October 2025

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid) owns and operates the high-voltage electricity network in England and Wales. We are now introducing a new project called Cross Border Connection.

Britain's use of electricity is changing fast. By 2035, demand is expected to be 40% higher than it is today. To keep the lights on in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need to strengthen the network that carries electricity around the country.

That's why we're working on Cross Border Connection – a new project to carry more clean, home-grown energy from Scotland into England. This will make bills more stable and improve the UK's energy security.

The project would include:

- a new 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead line between the England-Scotland border and Carlisle
- a new substation in the Carlisle area, where electricity can join the existing network and be distributed to where it's needed.

This new link will help bring renewable energy, such as wind power from the Scottish Borders, including the Teviot and Gala areas, to homes and businesses across northern England and beyond.

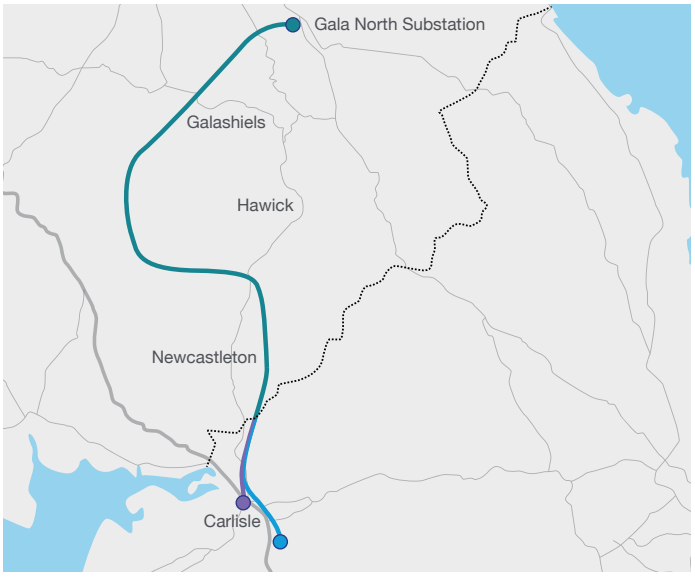
We are working in partnership with SP Energy Networks, who are responsible for the Scottish part of the project. National Grid is responsible for the English section, from the border down to Carlisle.

Please read on for more information, including how you can take part in our consultation.

Your voice matters

We are at the first stage of consultation and want to hear your views. Your feedback will help shape the proposals before we take them further.

The consultation runs from **12pm on Wednesday 15 October to 11:59pm on Wednesday 10 December 2025**. Inside this newsletter you'll find details about the project and how you can share your views.



Key

- Option A for proposed new 400 kV overhead line
- Option A for proposed new 400 kV Carlisle substation
- Option B for proposed new 400 kV overhead line
- Option B for proposed new 400 kV Carlisle substation
- Indicative proposed route in Scotland
- Proposed Gala North substation
- England-Scotland border
- Main road

Only one option, A or B, would be taken forward as part of the project in England.
Indicative map for reference only. Not to scale.

Figure 1 – Overview of Cross Border Connection

Our proposals

Cross Border Connection would transport enough clean, home-grown energy to power up to six million homes, playing an important role in building a more secure and resilient energy system.

During this Stage 1 consultation, we are seeking views on our proposals for:

- 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.

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.

Working with SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks has identified a proposed route for the Scottish section of the project up to the Scotland-England border, which was subject to public consultation in autumn 2024 and in spring 2025.

National Grid will be working with SP Energy Networks to finalise the design and to ensure alignment of proposed infrastructure at the England-Scotland border. A separate consenting application for the Scottish section will be submitted by SP Energy Networks, via the Energy Consents Unit to Scottish Ministers.

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

Options for infrastructure

We are considering two possible locations for a new substation in the Carlisle area.

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.

Please see the back of this newsletter for maps showing the two options in more detail, as well as descriptions of a substation and overhead line.

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.

Example of a 400 kV substation (under construction) - for illustrative purposes only

Our consultation

Our Stage 1 consultation will run for eight weeks from **12pm on Wednesday 15 October to 11:59pm on Wednesday 10 December 2025.** It is open to anyone with an interest in our proposals.

During this Stage 1 consultation, we are seeking your views on our plans for the English section of Cross Border Connection, and what you would like us to consider as we develop our proposals.

You can respond to the consultation in several ways:

Online Stage 1 Feedback Form

You can give your feedback by completing our online Feedback Form, available at **nationalgrid.com/cbc**

Email

You can send written feedback via email to **crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com**

Paper copy Stage 1 Feedback Form

You can pick up a paper Feedback Form from any of the public information events or local information points. Alternatively, you can request a consultation pack (Stage 1 Consultation Document, Feedback Form and envelope) to be sent to you in the post.

You can also download and print a copy of our Feedback Form from our website and post it back to us at **FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID CBC** (no stamp or other address details needed).

Letter

You can send a letter to **FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID CBC** (no stamp or other address details needed).

Important – to avoid any misinterpretation and ensure we have an accurate record of what we have received, we normally only accept written feedback via the methods set out. If for any reason someone is unable to provide written feedback, we may be able to take feedback over the phone. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

You are welcome to use our community information line **0800 358 1781** or speak to us at our events for information on the project or if you need any further assistance in providing feedback.

The Development Consent Order process

The English section of Cross Border Connection meets the threshold to be considered as a project of national significance. This type of project requires a special type of planning consent known as a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Consultation is an important part of the DCO process as it enables everyone to comment on the proposals. We are in the early stages of developing the English section of Cross Border Connection, and feedback from consultation, along with the outcomes of technical studies and environmental surveys, will help us develop our plans before we submit our DCO application.

Find out more

We encourage you to provide feedback after reviewing our consultation materials, including our Stage 1 Consultation Document, which explains our proposals in more detail.

This Stage 1 consultation community newsletter explains how you can find out more information by:

Attending a public information event:
Come along to one of our face-to-face public exhibitions

Joining a webinar:
By registering on our project website or contacting us for more information

Visiting our website:
All the latest information and consultation materials can be found on our website **nationalgrid.com/cbc**

The deadline to provide feedback is 11:59pm on Wednesday 10 December 2025

Public information events

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

There is no need to register for the events – you can just turn up on the day.

Venue	Date and time
Crosby-on-Eden Parish Hall, Crosby-on-Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4QN	Saturday 25 October, 11am – 4pm
Nicholforest Public Hall, Warwicksland, Penton, Carlisle, CA6 5QD	Tuesday 28 October, 2 – 7pm
Wetheral Village Community Hall, Cumwhinton Road, Wetheral, Carlisle, CA4 8HE	Saturday 1 November, 2 – 7pm
The Rockcliffe Centre, Rockcliffe, Carlisle, CA6 4AA	Tuesday 4 November, 2 – 7pm
Wreay Village Hall, Wreay, CA4 0RL	Thursday 6 November, 2 – 7pm
Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre, Arthuret Road, Longtown, Carlisle, CA6 5SJ	Saturday 8 November, 11am – 4pm

Online webinars

We will run four online webinar sessions, where we will present our proposals and hold a question and answer session.

Our webinars are location themed. **You can find the most relevant section to you by looking at the project maps on the back with this newsletter or viewing the interactive map on our website.**

Details on how to sign up for a webinar are available on the project website, by contacting us on **0800 358 1781** or by emailing **crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com**

Webinar name	Locations covered	Date and time
Webinar #1	**Core Route Options** **Section 1:** England-Scotland border to B6318 **Section 2:** B6318 to Rae Burn **Section 3:** Rae Burn to Woodlands Industrial Park	Tuesday 11 November, 7 – 8pm
Webinar #2	**Section 4** (Option A): Woodlands Industrial Park to A689 (including north of Carlisle substation) **Section 4** (Option B): Woodlands Industrial Park to A689	Thursday 30 October, 12 – 1pm
Webinar #3	**Section 5:** A689 to Scotby **Section 6:** Scotby to Cocklakes Yard (including south of Carlisle substation)	Friday 14 November, 12 – 1pm
Webinar #4	**General** – overview of proposals	Monday 17 November, 7 – 8pm

Local information points

Paper copies of the Stage 1 Consultation Document, Stage 1 Consultation Community Newsletter, Stage 1 Feedback Form (and envelopes) are available to collect at the locations listed below.

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

Information points	Address	Opening times
Carlisle Library	11 Globe Lane, Carlisle, CA3 8NX	Monday 9am – 5:30pm Tuesday 10am – 5:30pm Wednesday 9am – 5:30pm Thursday 9am – 5:30pm Friday 9am – 5:30pm Saturday 9am – 4pm Sunday Closed
Longtown Library	Lochinvar Centre, Longtown, Carlisle, CA6 5UG	Monday 1 – 5pm Tuesday Closed Wednesday 10am – 2pm Thursday Closed Friday 1 – 5pm Saturday Closed Sunday Closed
Harraby Library Link	Harraby Community Centre, Edgehill Road, Carlisle, CA1 3SN	Monday 9am – 5pm Tuesday 9am – 5pm Wednesday 9am – 5pm Thursday 9am – 5pm Friday 9am – 5pm Saturday Closed Sunday Closed
Brampton Library	1 Market Place, Brampton, CA8 1NW	Monday 2 – 5pm Tuesday Closed Wednesday 10am – 12pm & 2 – 5pm Thursday 2 – 5pm Friday 2 – 5pm Saturday 10am – 1pm Sunday Closed

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.

Next steps

The feedback we receive from this Stage 1 consultation, along with results from technical assessments and environmental surveys, will help refine our proposals for Cross Border Connection in England.

An indicative project timeline can be found below.

2025
Stage 1 consultation
We are at this stage

2026
Stage 2 consultation

2028
DCO application submission

2030
Construction starts

2033
Fully operational

Information for landowners

If you feel your land may be affected by these proposals, please contact the Cross Border Connection Lands Team by calling **0333 188 5375** or by emailing **crossborderconnection@dalcourmaclaren.com**

Contact us

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

Email us:
crossborderconnection@nationalgrid.com

Call us: 0800 358 1781
(lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm, with an answerphone taking messages outside these times)

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

Overview of Cross Border Connection in England

These are overview maps of the Cross Border Connection's proposed route in England, showing our two options.

Please view our project website to see our highly detailed interactive map and other maps we have made available for this consultation.
Paper maps will also be on display at in-person public information events.

What these maps show

These maps show the proposed route of our overhead line route from the England-Scotland border to a new substation in the Carlisle area.

The proposed **overhead line** is shown within an emerging preferred corridor, with a graduated swathe showing its potential route.

The proposed **substation** is shown within siting zones and a siting area (see inset maps).

There are two options, A or B, (see page 3 for more detail) for the location of infrastructure. Only one option would be taken forward for development.

Route sections

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

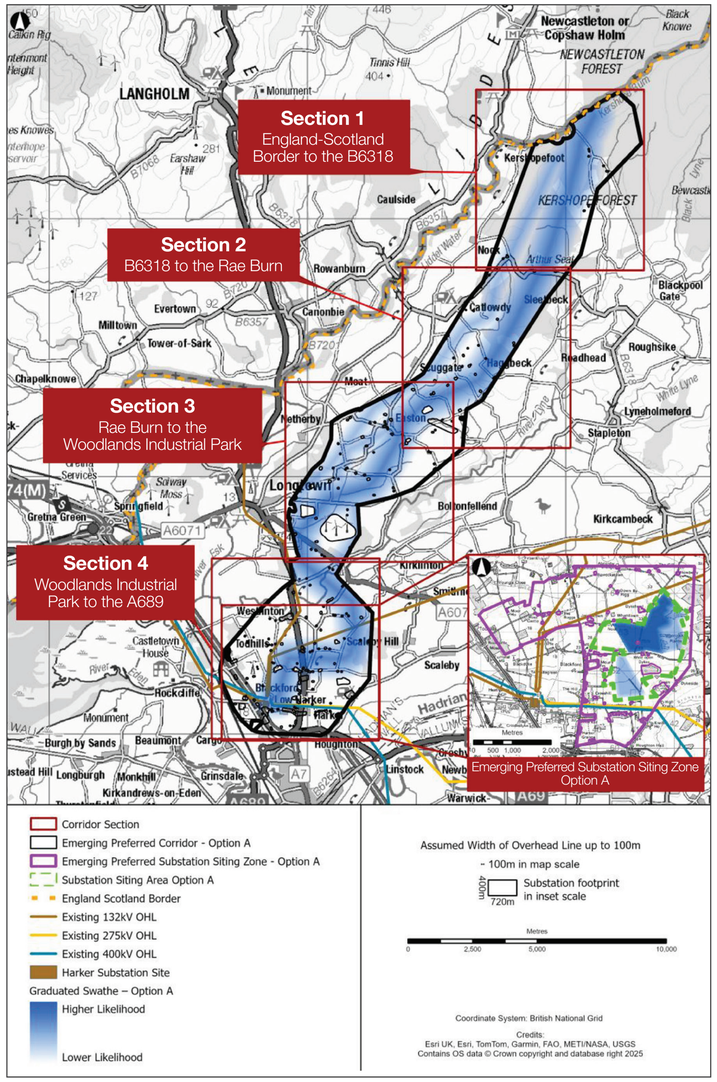
Route section 5: A689 to Scotby

Route section 6: Scotby to Cocklakes Yard

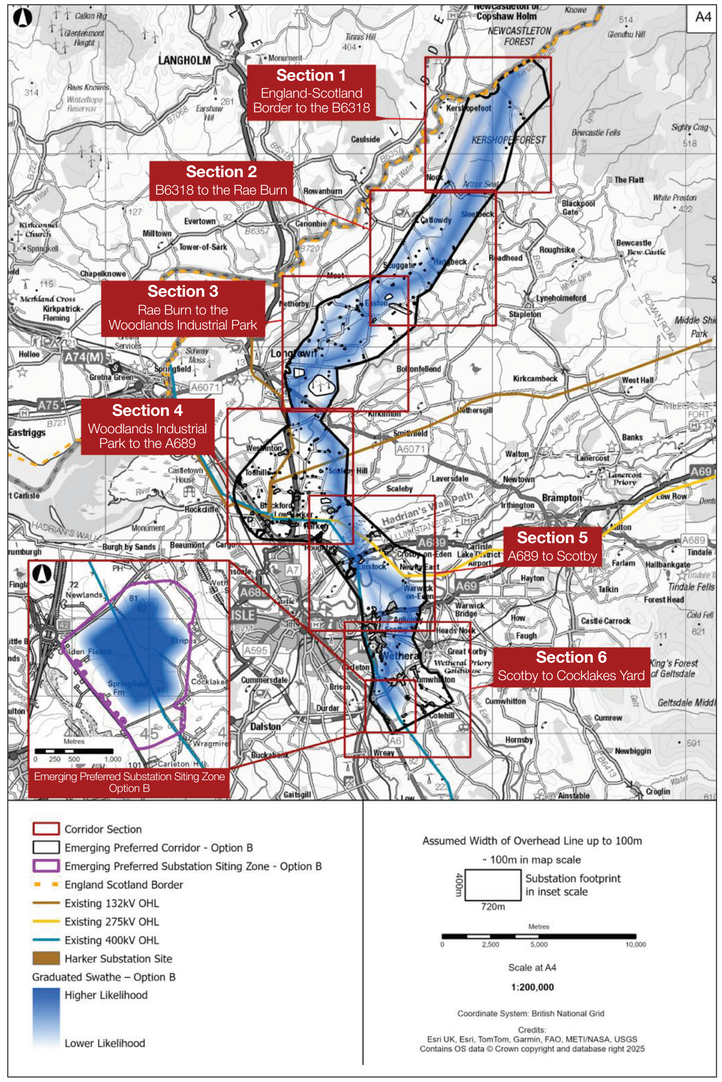
Including the South of Carlisle substation

More detail on our proposals, including the sections shown on the maps, can be found in our Stage 1 Consultation Document on our website.

Option A – north of Carlisle



Option B – south of Carlisle



How we present our proposals

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 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 a substations), is considered more or less likely to be located. This is illustrated by the darker or lighter areas of shading.

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.

Proposed infrastructure

What is a substation?

Electricity substations are a vital link in the energy network, acting as the heart of our electrical infrastructure. They connect power sources like wind farms and power stations to the grid, efficiently managing the flow of electricity to homes and businesses.

Substations are crucial for maintaining a healthy and reliable energy network. Without them, it would be impossible to deliver electricity from where it's generated to where it's needed. They play a key role in ensuring that we all have access to the power that runs our daily lives.

What is an overhead line?

Overhead lines are above ground electricity lines that safely and securely transport electricity through a series of wires.

Overhead lines comprise a series of components including pylons.