

INTRODUCTION TO LIONLINK



To support the UK's growing energy needs, National Grid Ventures (NGV) is bringing forward proposals for a new electricity link between Great Britain and the Netherlands with a direct connection to Dutch offshore wind.

In April 2023, EuroLink was renamed LionLink to better reflect our Anglo-Dutch partnership with TenneT, the national electricity transmission system operator of the Netherlands. The fundamentals of the project remain the same, it is only the name that has changed.

LionLink could supply up to 1.8 gigawatts (GW) of electricity, which would be enough to power approximately 1.8 million homes, as well as contributing to our national energy security and the UK's climate and energy goals.

Our previous consultation:

A non-statutory consultation on the LionLink project was held between October and December 2022. We have reviewed the feedback received during the consultation and have used it to inform the refinement of our proposals.

About this consultation:

As part of the options refinement process, we have identified an alternative landfall site at Walberswick and an alternative underground cable corridor to the north of Southwold.

We are holding this supplementary non-statutory consultation to inform you about these alternative options, gather your feedback to help refine our plans further and respond to your questions.

The consultation commenced on Friday 8 September 2023 and will run for eight weeks until Friday 3 November 2023.

We welcome comments and feedback on the other options, particularly if you were not able to provide feedback during the non-statutory consultation last year.



Scan QR code access for the online version of the feedback form.



ABOUT NATIONAL GRID VENTURES



Proposals for LionLink are being developed by National Grid Ventures (NGV) and our partner in the Netherlands, TenneT.

NGV is part of National Grid Group, which is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world and plays a vital role in connecting people throughout Great Britain to the energy they use.

NGV operates and invests in energy projects, technologies, and partnerships to accelerate the development of a clean energy future.

nationalgrid Group PLC

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)

Owns and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales.

National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED)

As the UK's largest electricity distribution network, it serves nearly 8 million customers in the East and West Midlands, South West and Wales.

Electricity System Operator (NGESO)

Ensures that Great Britain has the essential energy it needs by ensuring supply meets demand every second of every day.

National Grid Ventures (NGV)

Operates a mix of assets and businesses to help accelerate the development of our clean energy future, such as undersea electricity interconnectors with European partners.

There are four distinct electricity business entities under the umbrella of National Grid, as detailed in the diagram above, all with different roles and responsibilities.

NGV is a legally separate entity to National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) and National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED), which are subject to separate regulations.

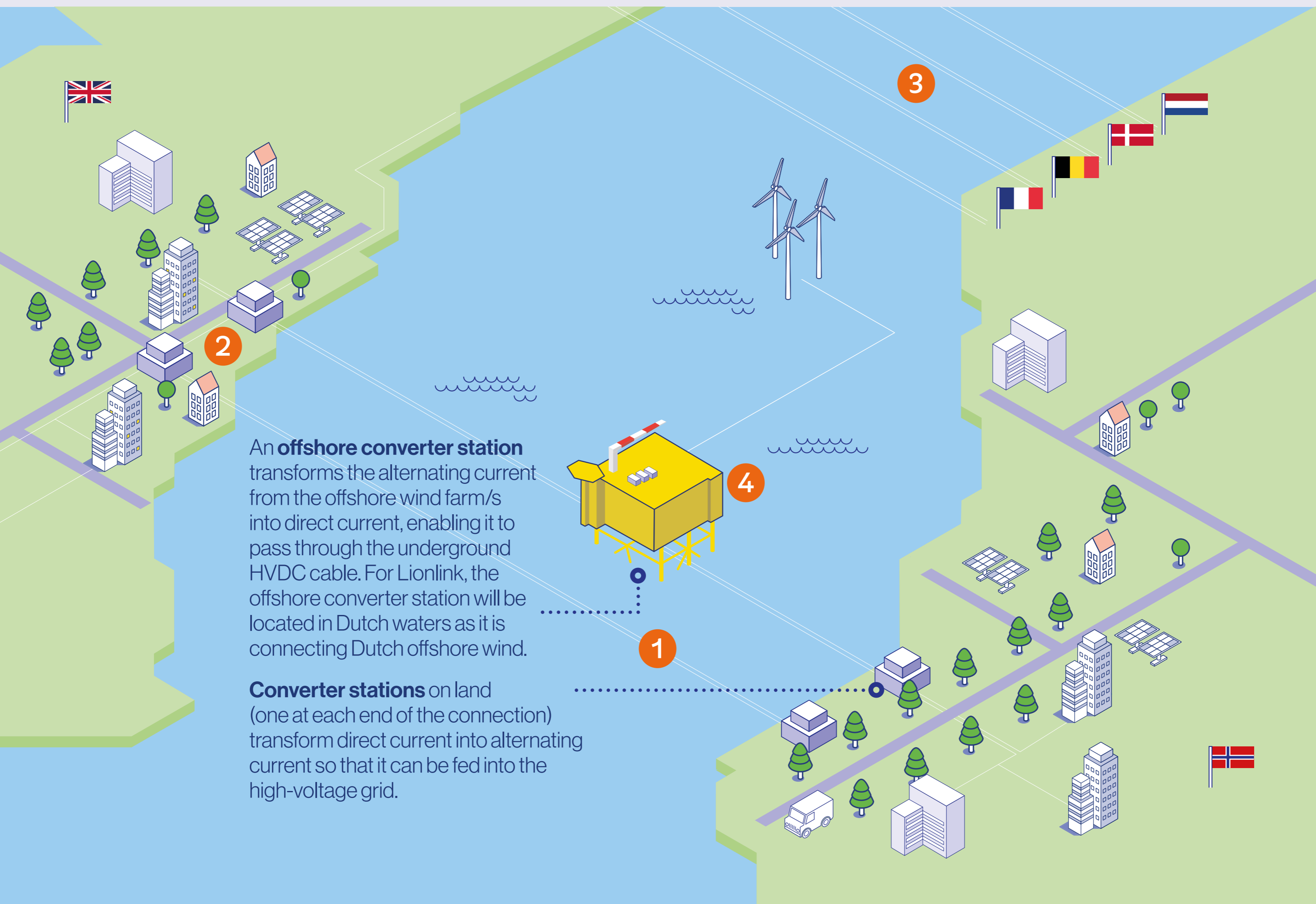


NGV has partnered with TenneT, the Dutch Transmission System Operator (TSO), to deliver the LionLink project.



HOW DO INTERCONNECTORS WORK?

- 1** An interconnector is a subsea cable that enables the trade of electricity between Great Britain and neighbouring markets. An interconnector connects the transmission systems of two (or more) countries.
- 2** Interconnectors enable us to import and export energy depending on the needs of the market, including moving energy from where there is excess, and the price is low to areas in need and where prices are high.
- 3** NGV currently has five interconnectors in operation: IFA and IFA2 to France, Nemo Link to Belgium, BritNed to the Netherlands, and North Sea Link to Norway. A new interconnector is under construction called Viking Link, which will link to Denmark.
- 4** Whilst a traditional interconnector can only connect national transmission systems, LionLink's technology could also connect energy sources, such as offshore wind, to these transmission systems.



Key Benefits of electricity links



Affordability

Import cheaper energy for consumers.



Security

Deliver energy security at the flick of a switch.



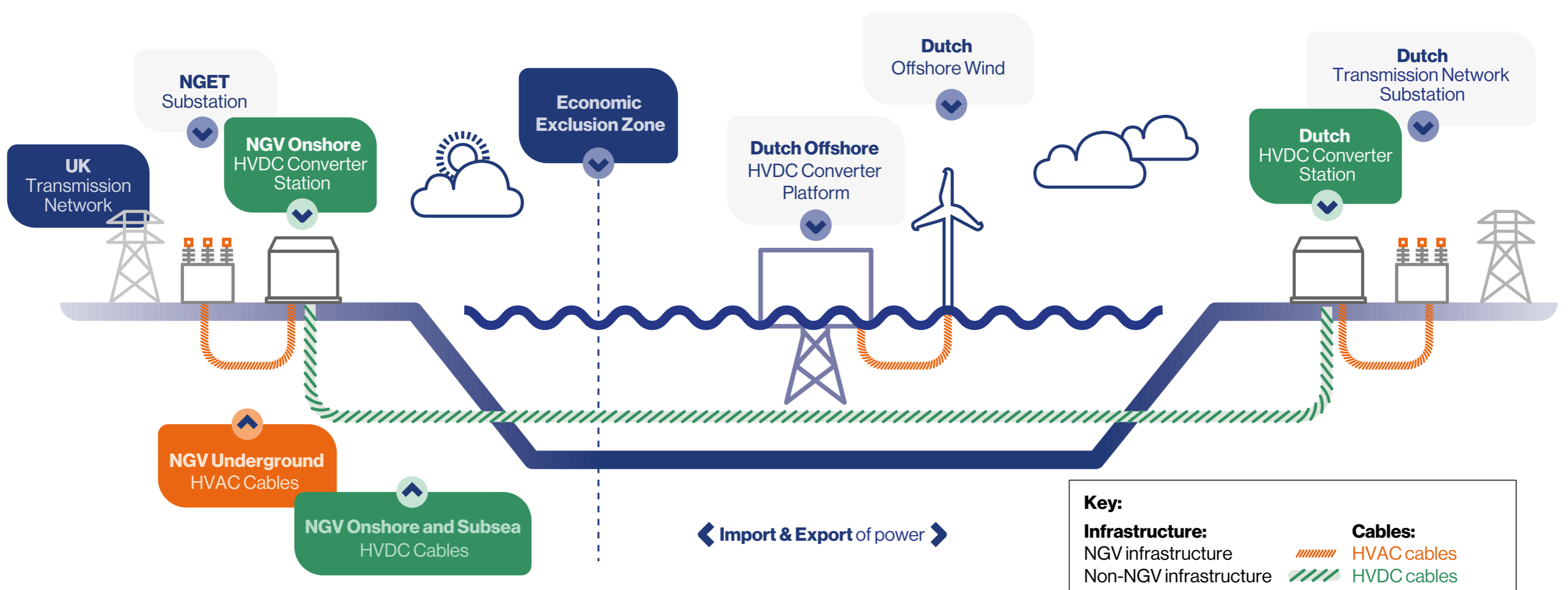
Supporting the energy transition

Efficient links for zero carbon energy.

HOW WILL LIONLINK WORK?



LionLink will transmit electricity under the North Sea through underground subsea cables, which will come onshore at a landfall point. The electricity will then be transmitted via underground cables to the converter site.



Offshore infrastructure

LionLink will connect Great Britain and the Netherlands via subsea cables, which will connect to Dutch offshore wind via an offshore converter station.

The offshore converter station will be in Dutch territorial waters and will be owned by TenneT. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) represents the boundary between Dutch and British territorial waters.

Onshore infrastructure



Landfall

Landfall is where the subsea cables are brought onto the land and are connected to the onshore cables.

Underground cabling

All the cables will be buried underground from the landfall site to the converter station and then underground again from the converter station to the substation. The cabling will have ground access points along the route but will otherwise not be visible along the cable route.



Converter station

At the converter station, the electricity will be transformed from high voltage direct current (HVDC) into high voltage alternating current (HVAC), which is necessary to enable the electricity to be fed into the transmission network.

The typical footprint for a converter station site covers an area of five hectares (12 acres), with an additional two hectares for the construction service areas. This includes space for the converter station building. However, we are at the early stages of design and further details will be published in due course.

NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION 2022

The 2022 non-statutory consultation provided an opportunity for people to view and comment on our initial siting and routeing options.

We value the feedback received and will continue to work with local communities to develop our proposals further.

During this time:

234

feedback responses were received from community members and stakeholders, including town and parish councils, and Members of Parliament.

87

people attended our community webinar events.

8,006

views of our website and virtual exhibition.

535

people attended our in-person community events.



Please scan the QR code to view the Interim Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Summary Report, which provides an overview of the feedback received and explains how this is being used to refine our project.

Key Themes in Feedback



Preference for coordinated infrastructure option



Avoiding protected areas



Cumulative impact on local communities



ALTERNATIVE ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE OPTION

Walberswick Landfall Site

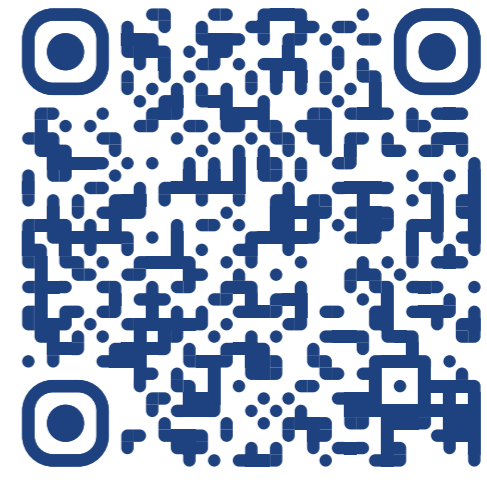
Following feedback from the 2022 non-statutory consultation, the project team has refined our proposals and identified an alternative landfall site at Walberswick and an alternative cable route north of Southwold, in addition to the 2022 landfall sites and route corridors.

This supplementary consultation is primarily focused on the new alternative options. But, we welcome comments and feedback on all options, particularly if you were not able to provide feedback last year. All previous feedback has been received and documented.

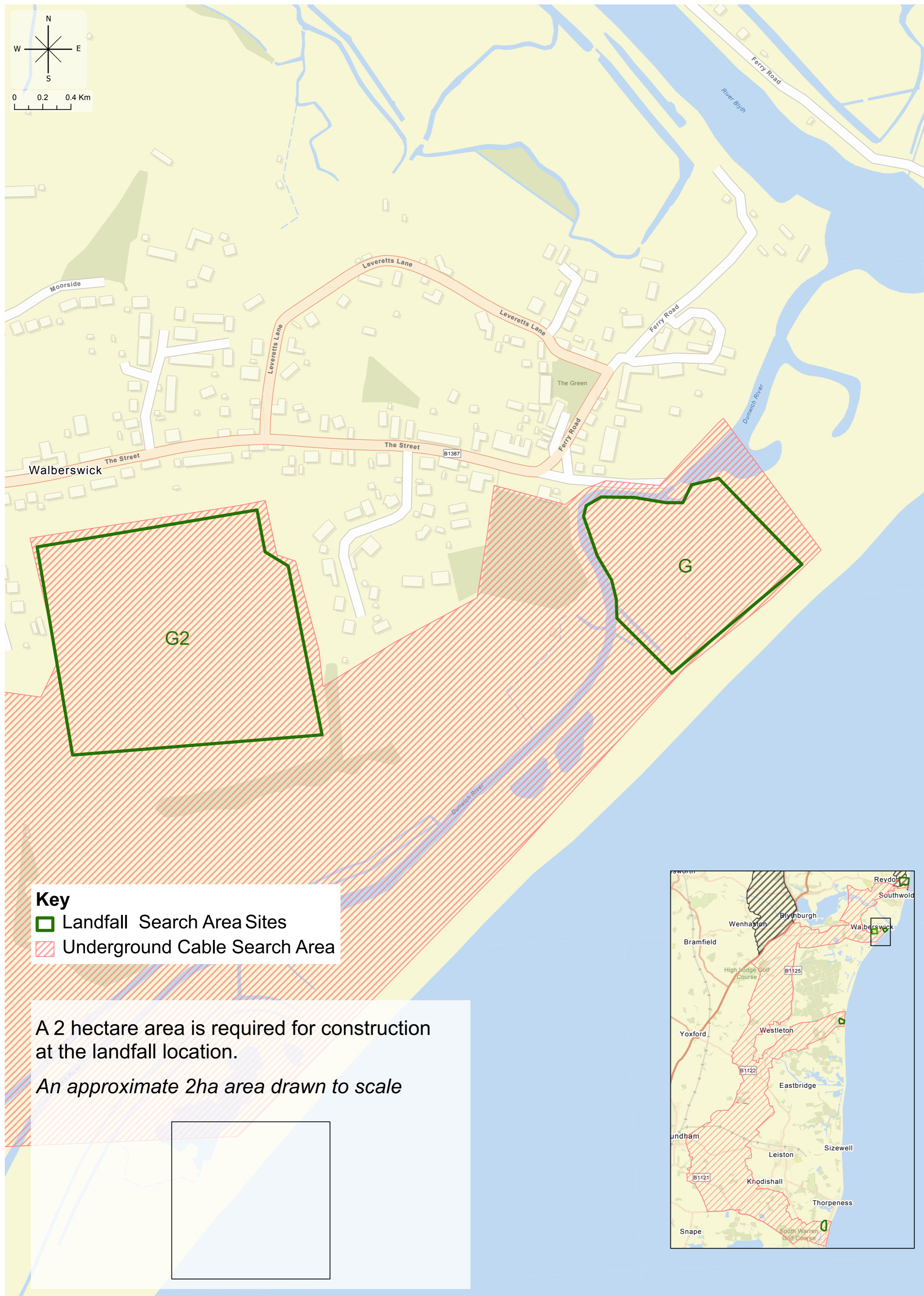
Alternative Walberswick Landfall Site

Feedback highlighted constraints at the initially proposed Walberswick landfall site (Landfall G).

The project team identified an alternative location (see Landfall G2) below that avoids the river crossing, beach car park and beach huts, with the potential for a construction haul road that could mostly avoid Walberswick.



Scan QR code for larger version of map.



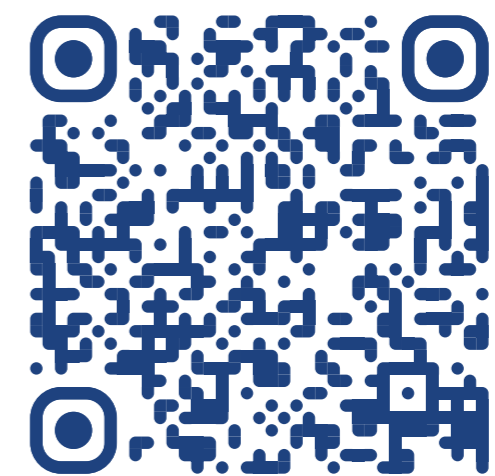
ALTERNATIVE ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE OPTION

Cable Route North of Southwold

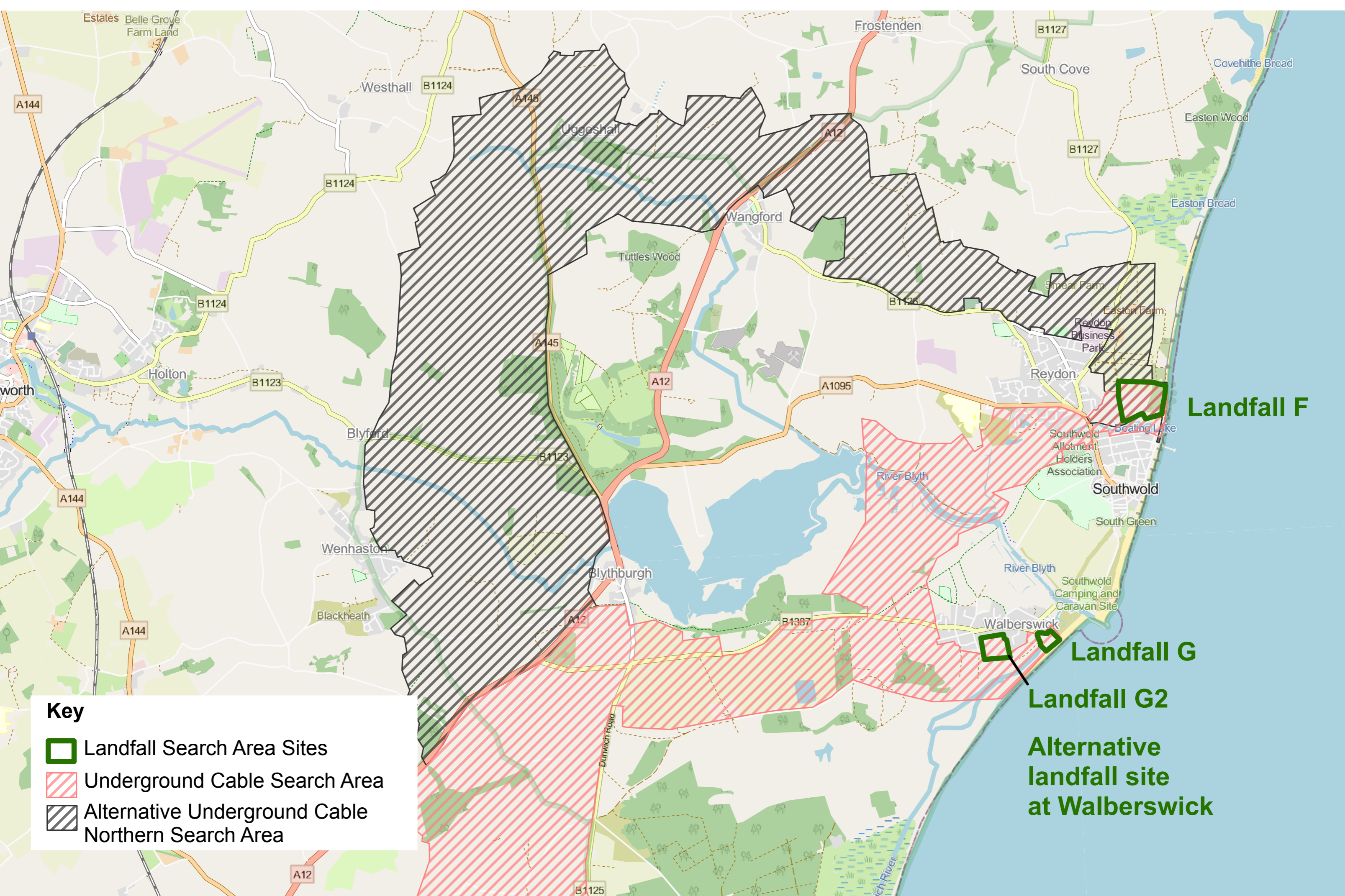
Alternative cable route north of Southwold

Feedback highlighted the potential impact of the proposed cable route corridor options on designated sites of ecological importance.

We have identified an alternative onshore cable corridor to the north of Southwold, which may reduce impacts on designated sites of ecological importance.

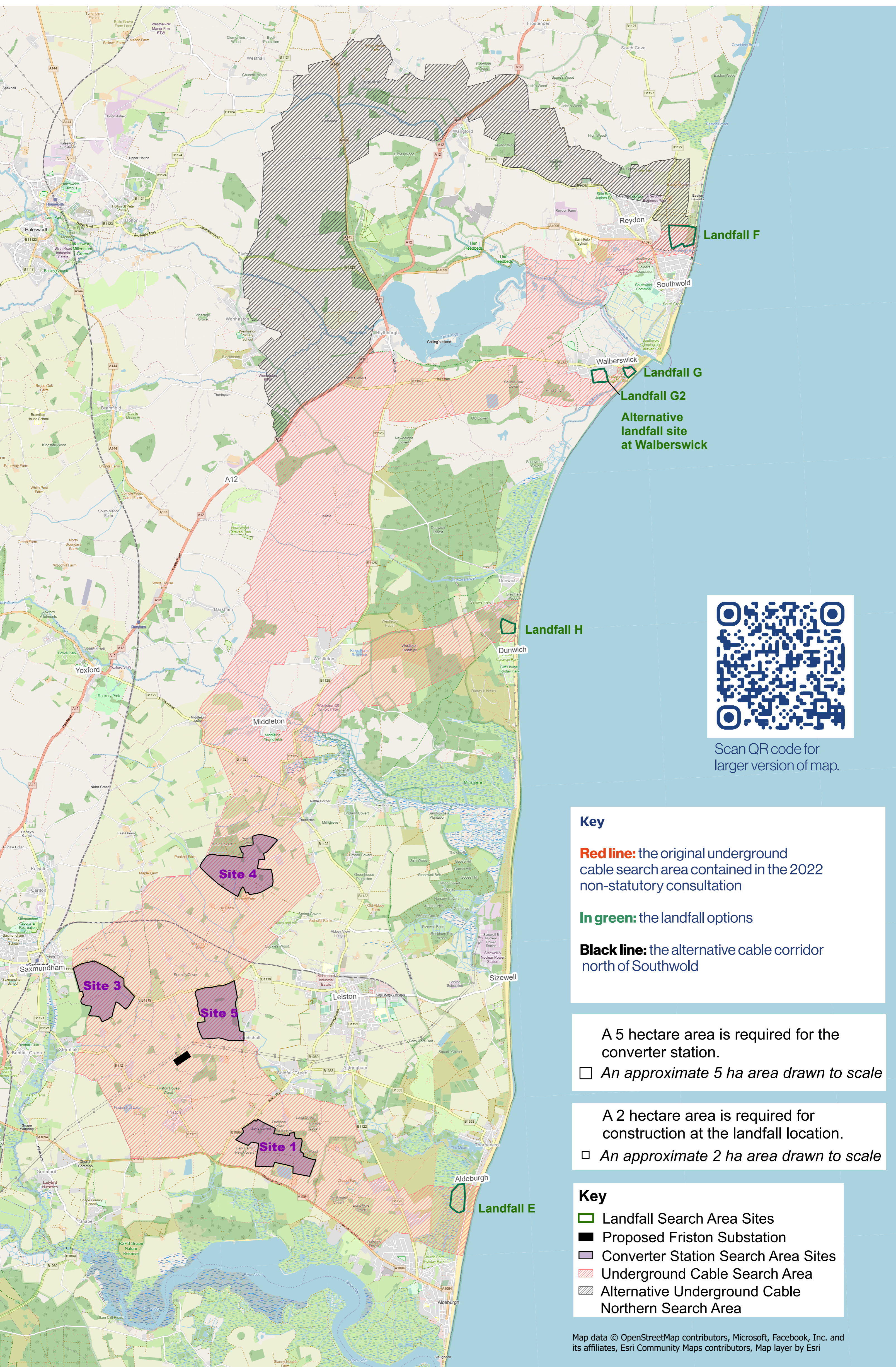


Scan QR code for larger version of map.



LIONLINK ROUTEING OPTIONS

Original and alternative onshore
siting and routeing options



Scan QR code for larger version of map.

Key

- Red line:** the original underground cable search area contained in the 2022 non-statutory consultation
- In green:** the landfall options
- Black line:** the alternative cable corridor north of Southwold

A 5 hectare area is required for the converter station.
 An approximate 5 ha area drawn to scale

A 2 hectare area is required for construction at the landfall location.
 An approximate 2 ha area drawn to scale

Key

- Landfall Search Area Sites
- Proposed Friston Substation
- Converter Station Search Area Sites
- Underground Cable Search Area
- Alternative Underground Cable Northern Search Area

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR CO-ORDINATION

We are working closely with other developers in the area to explore opportunities to coordinate activities and minimise impact on local communities and the environment.

What could coordination look like?

Coordination could range from co-location of infrastructure from different projects on the same site, to coordinating construction activities to reduce potential impacts on local communities and the environment.

This is explored further under the subheadings below:



Exploring opportunities for co-location

NGV and NGET are working collaboratively to explore opportunities to co-locate onshore infrastructure for the LionLink, Nautilus and Sea Link projects, including:

- up to three converter stations on one site
- shared underground cable route corridors
- shared landfall and underground cables are possible.

We welcome feedback from local communities on whether co-location is a preferred option. Further engineering studies and assessments are being progressed to understand if co-location of landfalls and shared underground cable route corridors are possible.

NGV is continuing to explore a possible alternative location for Nautilus. Until this is confirmed to be viable, Nautilus will be included as part of our co-ordination work

Coordination during construction

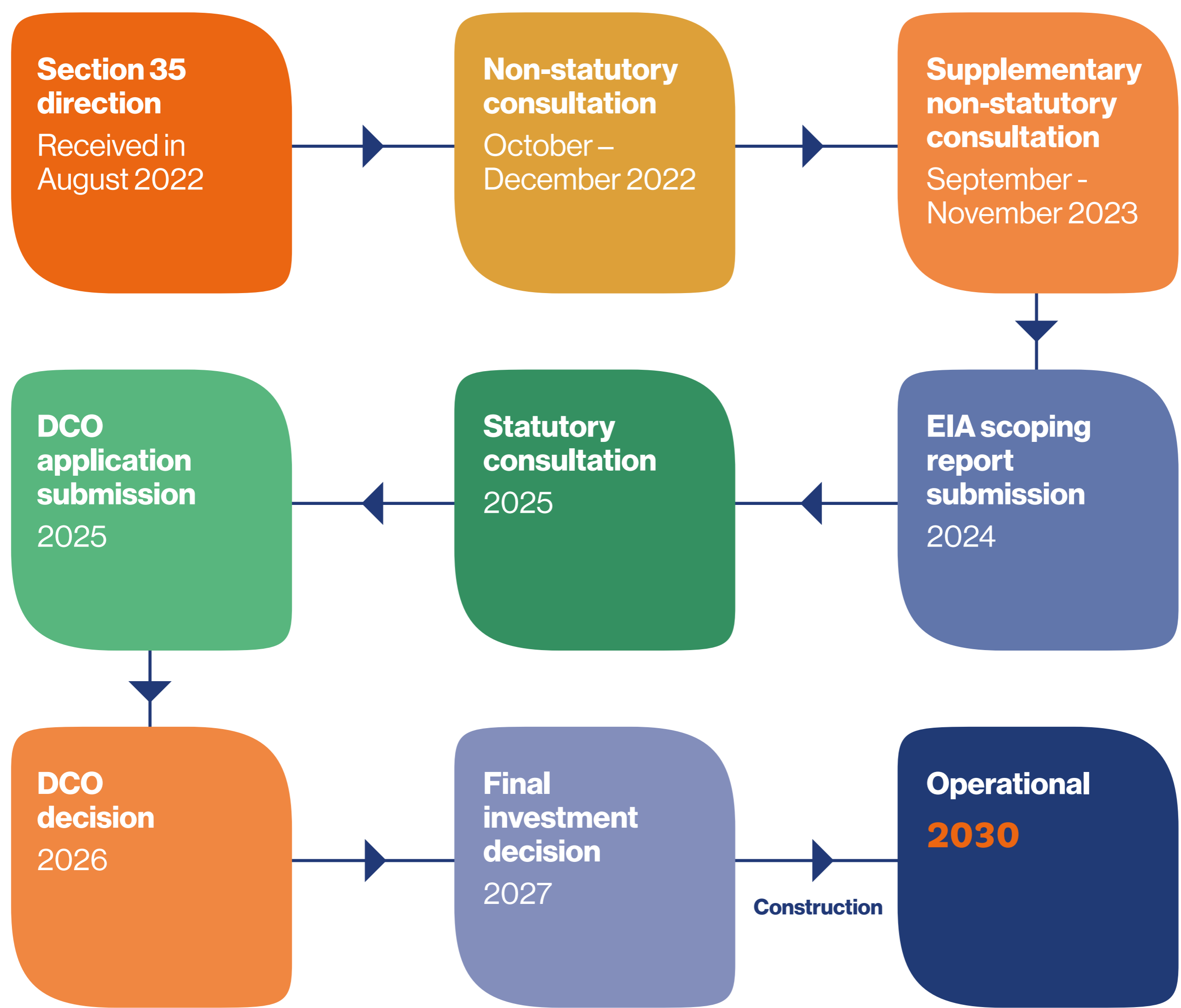
As the project is refined and a more detailed construction programme developed, we will explore opportunities to coordinate construction activity between LionLink and other developers in the local area. Coordination could include aligning specific works to reduce impacts on the environment and local communities, alongside re-using materials, sharing site compounds, landscaping and mitigation opportunities and how we invest in communities.



PROJECT TIMETABLE

As a nationally significant project, LionLink will require a DCO that would contain all primary permissions, powers, and consents necessary to enable the project to proceed.

A DCO application process brings together planning, land assembly, environmental and access matters for a proposed project within a single consultation, application, examination, and decision-making process, determined by the Secretary of State.



RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

LIONLINK

This supplementary non-statutory consultation starts on Friday 8 September and will run for eight weeks, closing on Friday 3 November.

Your feedback will help us identify our preferred locations for landfall sites, cable routes and converter station sites.

Have your say

- In person by attending one of our three in-person events
- Online via one of our two webinars or our project website and online feedback form
- By post via a letter or completing one of our feedback forms and posting it back to us free of charge
- You can also email us, call us or write to us using the details at the bottom of this board

Exhibition events

Reydon:

Friday 22 September 2023, 14:00 - 20:00
Reydon Village Hall, Reydon, Southwold, IP18 6RF

Walberswick:

Saturday 23 September 2023, 11:00 - 16:00
Walberswick Village Hall, The St, Southwold, IP18 6TZ

Leiston:

Friday 6 October 2023, 14:00 - 20:00
Leiston Community Centre, Sizewell Rd, Leiston IP16 4JU



Webinars

Webinar 1: Tuesday 17 October 2023, 19:00 - 20.30

Webinar 2: Wednesday 18 October 2023, 19:00 - 20.30

To register to attend the webinars, read more information about our proposals or complete an online feedback form, please visit our project website here: nationalgrid.com/lionlink or scan the QR code above.

Contact us

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about the project and consultation:

Freephone: **0800 083 1787**

Email: info@lionlink.nationalgrid.com

Web: www.nationalgrid.com/lionlink

Post: **Freepost NGV LionLink**

