

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

North Humber to High Marnham

# Localised consultation strategy

July 2024



**nationalgrid**

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# 1. Introduction

**The way we generate electricity in the UK is changing rapidly, and we are transitioning to cheaper, greener and more secure energy sources, such as new offshore windfarms. We are presenting some plans in your local area to help this transition and ensure the grid is ready. These proposals are part of The Great Grid Upgrade, the largest overhaul of the grid in generations.**

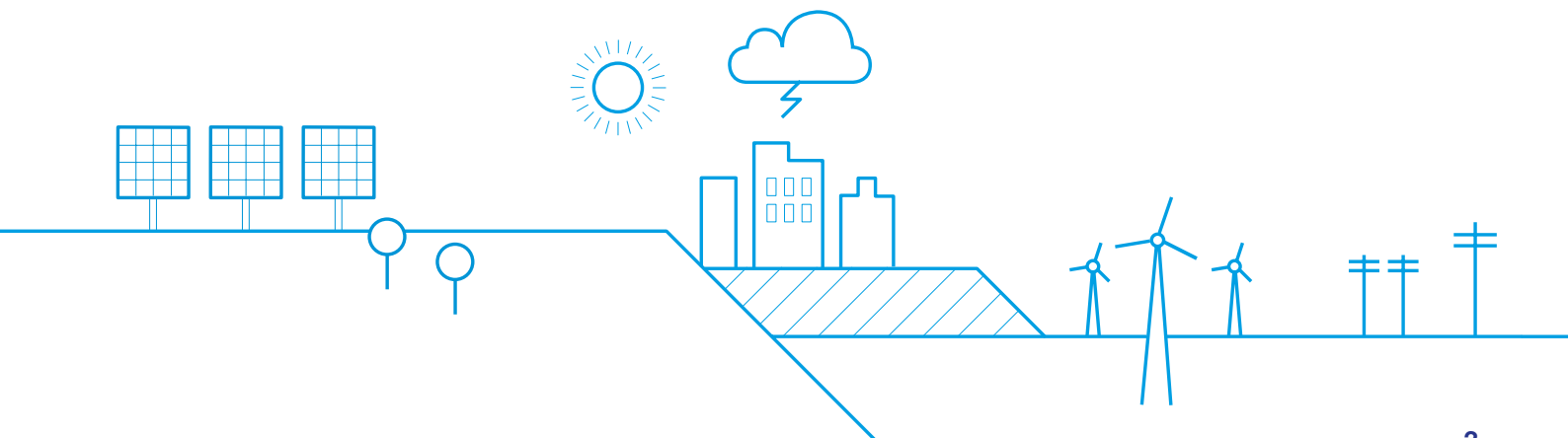
Between 1 June to 27 July 2023, National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) undertook a non-statutory public consultation (stage 1 consultation) on proposals to upgrade the electricity transmission network between a new substation at Creyke Beck, in the north Humber region, and a new substation at High Marnham in Nottinghamshire. We presented our emerging preferred corridor and graduated swathe, split into 11 different route sections. NGET is now carrying out a four-week localised non-statutory consultation between 9 July and 6 August 2024 regarding our proposals for a potential alternative corridor, referred to as the 'eastern corridor', between South Wheatley and High Marnham. This document sets out the agreed consultation strategy for the localised non-statutory consultation.

The North Humber to High Marnham upgrade will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network between the North of England and the Midlands and facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation and interconnectors with other countries, allowing clean green energy to be carried on the network.

At our stage 1 consultation in 2023, we asked residents and interested parties for their feedback on route sections 1 to 11 of the emerging preferred corridor and we will be carrying out a further stage of localised consultation in those areas. The feedback received from the localised non-statutory consultation will help us refine our proposals ahead of statutory consultation.

Representatives of Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council have been consulted about the proposed approach to localised consultation.

A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be prepared ahead of stage 2 (statutory) consultation, which is proposed to take place in early 2025. The content of the SoCC will be discussed with representatives of the relevant local planning authorities and publicised ahead of the formal stage of consultation on the SoCC, as per Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).



## 2. National Grid Electricity Transmission – What we do in the UK

**National Grid sits at the heart of Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day.**

We bring energy to life – in the heat, light and power we bring to our customers' homes and businesses; in the way that we support our communities and help them to grow; and in the way we show up in the world.

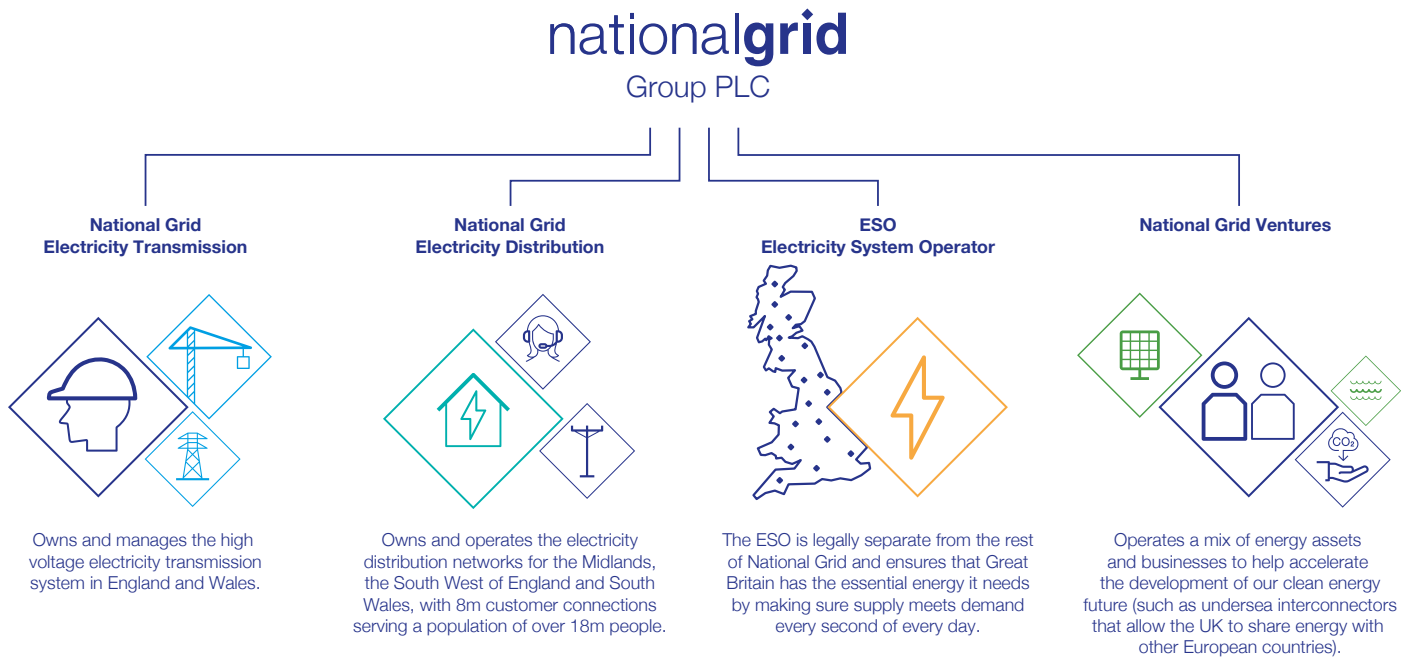
It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future. We believe that by acting now, the UK can become the world's first major clean economy, with net zero carbon emissions by 2050, creating growth and jobs for communities across Britain.

Within the wider National Grid PLC group of companies, there are four separate legal entities, each with their own roles and responsibilities. The structure of the National Grid PLC group of companies is available in Figure 1.



National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) owns, builds and maintains the transmission network in England and Wales. It is NGET that is developing the proposals for the North Humber to High Marnham upgrade.

**Figure 1: Structure of the wider National Grid PLC group of companies**



National Grid Electricity Distribution owns and operates the distribution networks for the Midlands, the South West of England and south Wales.

National Grid ESO is the Electricity System Operator (ESO) that operates the transmission network across Great Britain, including the networks in Scotland owned by Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks.

National Grid ESO also plans future network requirements, ensuring the right amount of energy is where it is needed. It is entirely separate from National Grid Electricity Transmission.

National Grid Ventures sits outside the above businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors – connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.

# 3. Project background and need

## **The increase in renewable energy generation, in line with the UK Government's Net Zero legislative agenda, is driving the need to expand the capacity of National Grid's transmission system.**

Upgrading to cleaner, greener and more affordable energy will create exciting new opportunities for growth across the UK and speed up our efforts to tackle the global climate challenge.

The Energy White Paper (December 2020) set a target to quadruple offshore wind capacity in the UK over the next ten years – enough to power every home in the UK. Everyone will benefit from clean energy and cleaner air, and a nationwide rollout of charging points will support the move away from fossil fuel for transport to more electric vehicles on our roads by 2030.

The British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) saw the UK make new commitments to develop cleaner, more secure and affordable energy. It aims to accelerate the deployment of a range of energy sources, which could see up to 95% of our electricity being low carbon by 2030.

In Powering up Britain, the Government explains that the grid needs to be expanded at an unprecedented scale and pace to deliver more clean power and increase our energy security.

Britain is leading the way and can become the world's first clean economy, with net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The Humber Estuary, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire are important and developing regions for renewable and low carbon energy. Like much of the high voltage electricity transmission network across the country, the network between the North and the Midlands was largely built in the 1960s, carrying electricity down from Scotland and the North and, connecting coal-fired generation in the Aire and Trent valleys with the main centres of population.

The existing network serving the North Humber region (the 'Creyke Beck area') can export just under 7 GW of electricity, whilst remaining compliant with the Security and Quality of Supply Standards that the network is operated to. Whilst this has been sufficient until today, it is not sufficient to meet the power carrying capability that is required by the end of this decade and beyond.

There are several new sources of clean green energy contracted to connect in the Creyke Beck area in the next decade. Should all of these be built, this would amount to just over 13 GW of generation capacity by the early 2030s. To help deliver this network capability, we need to build a new 400 kV electricity transmission line between a new substation at Creyke Beck, in the North Humber region, and a new substation at High Marnham in Nottinghamshire.

When developing transmission network proposals, we must, under the Electricity Act 1989, do that in an efficient, coordinated and economical way, and have regard to the desirability of preserving amenity. Options to deliver additional network capability and the options we take forward are evaluated against these statutory duties.

National Grid only develops new infrastructure where the existing transmission system cannot be further upgraded, system changes cannot be satisfied by other means, or where customer connections are required. The North Humber to High Marnham upgrade meets all those requirements for new infrastructure to be developed.

We have explained how we set out to meet these responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about our proposals in our Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy.

For further clarification on any of the detail included within this document, NGET has a glossary of terms and acronyms which can be found at the following website address: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/about-us/glossary-terms-and-acronyms>



## 4. Consultation and engagement to date

**National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the proposed Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.**

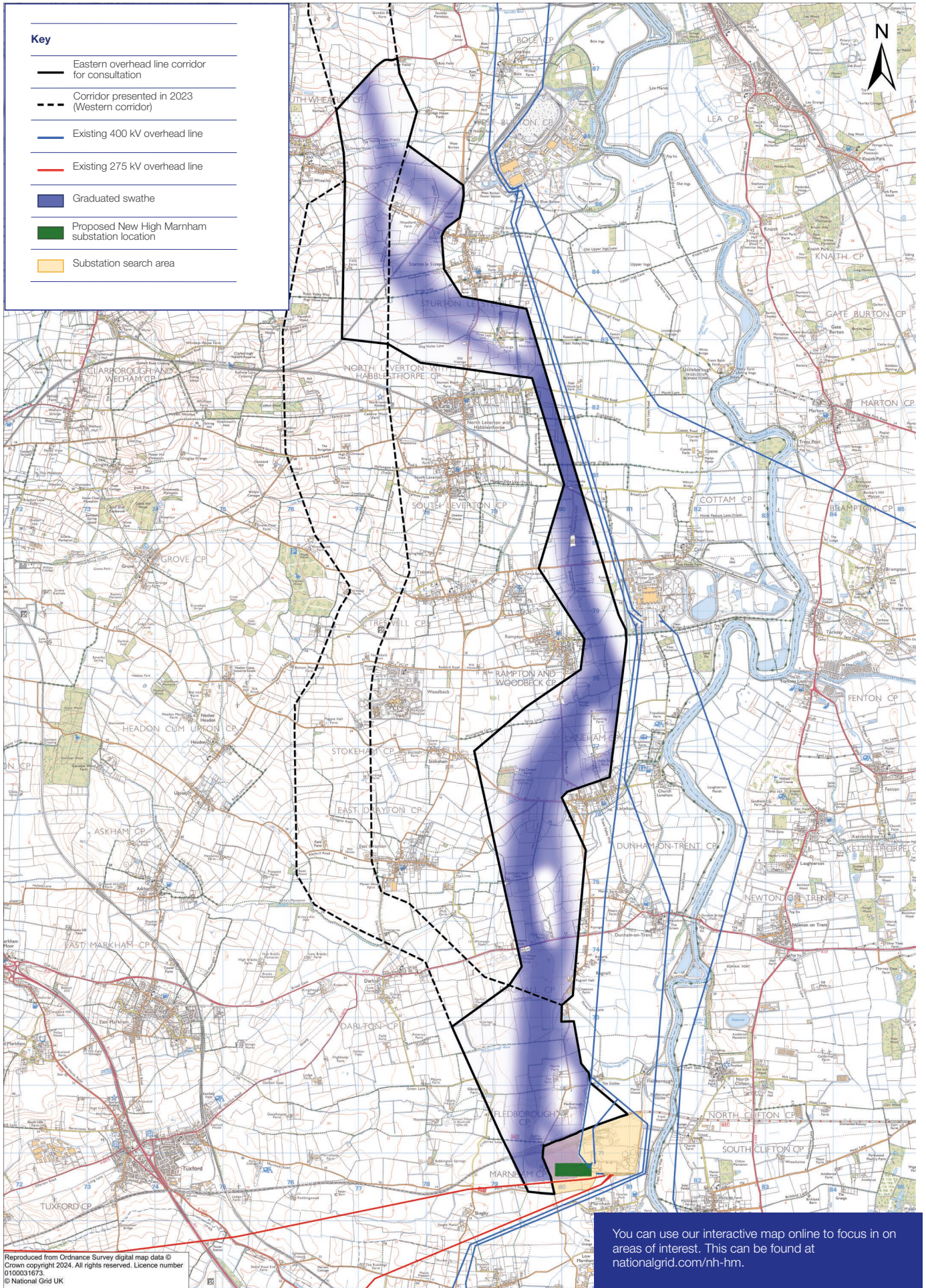
Our stage 1 consultation lasted 8 weeks, between 1 June and 27 July 2023. At this early stage, we presented an emerging preferred corridor and potential location for the new infrastructure in the form of a 'graduated swathe' within a wider corridor. This set out our thinking regarding the most appropriate locations where we may route the new transmission line.

We sought to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may potentially be affected by the proposed Project. We consulted with stakeholders at an early stage to ensure technical advice and local knowledge were taken into account in the early development of the Project. We wrote to just under 12,000 properties alongside the route, placed adverts in local and national newsletters and aimed to reach residents online through targeted social media advertisements.

**The purpose of the stage 1 consultation was to:**

- introduce and provide an overview of the project to the public
  - explain why we need to build the reinforcement
  - set out options that have been considered and how we made the decision on the emerging preferred corridor and graduated swathe being proposed
  - present and explain our emerging preferred corridor with a graduated swathe
  - present and explain the indicative zones for the siting of the two substations, to help explain the need for the project\*
  - ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity to provide feedback on our work to date
  - outline the next steps and programme and how we will further develop our proposals.
- \* The substation siting zones did not form part of the stage 1 consultation.





**Figure 2: Eastern Corridor for localised non-statutory**

# 5. Purpose of the localised consultation and consultation timing

## Following close of stage 1 consultation in 2023, we reviewed all consultation feedback and undertook a backcheck and review of the Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) 2023, taking into account new information, including consultation feedback.

This informed the decision to undertake an exercise to identify and consider a potential alternative corridor option between South Wheatley and High Marnham. This potential alternative corridor is referred to as the 'eastern corridor.' We are now carrying out a localised non-statutory consultation on the eastern corridor to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to review and provide feedback on this option prior to a decision being made on the overall preferred corridor and route ahead of stage 2 (statutory) consultation.

We have assessed the potential impacts that the eastern corridor may have across a wide range of criteria, including environmental, socio-economic, technical and cost factors. A Supplementary Corridor and Routeing Study Report (2024) has been prepared to provide information to inform local communities and stakeholders of an eastern corridor for the Project between South Wheatley and High Marnham.

Feedback from the stage 1 consultation and localised non-statutory consultation in 2024 will be considered alongside further assessment and survey work in reaching a decision on the overall preferred corridor and route ahead of stage 2 (statutory) consultation.

This localised consultation will take place over a four-week period, between 9 July and 6 August 2024.

### Consultation area

We have defined a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) and a Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), to inform our engagement activities. They are shown in Figure 3.

#### Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ)

The Primary Consultation Zone will include communities and stakeholders whose property postcodes lie within 1km of the edge of the eastern corridor. Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets, rather than the 1km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods. All relevant stakeholders within this area will be consulted, including contacting each residential and business address directly.

The PCZ includes stakeholders who may be most directly affected by the proposals. We want to ensure they are kept fully informed about the project and will seek to actively engage them.

Before we start our localised consultation, we will send a newsletter to all properties whose property postcodes lie within the PCZ. The newsletter will include:

- an introduction to the project and overview of the proposals (as a number of people have not been consulted before and would not be aware of the project)
- a map of the eastern graduated swathe corridor
- details of the consultation, its purpose and how to get involved, including face-to-face engagement (local information events) and online engagement (webinars)
- information on how people can provide feedback online (or hard copy) or request printed materials including feedback forms and maps
- information on how to contact the project team and ask questions.

### Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ)

The Secondary Consultation Zone will extend to 5km from the edge of the eastern corridor. The SCZ will include stakeholders who are less likely to be directly affected by the project but may have impacts, such as construction traffic and long-distance views. Anyone in the SCZ will have the same opportunities to engage with us and provide feedback during the consultation, including receiving hard copy materials on request.

We will seek to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders within the SCZ through the broad dissemination of information. This will include:

- placing advertisements in local and regional newspapers with information about the consultation, engagement events and where to find out more information
- requesting placement of advertisements in prominent locations in the local community
- providing project documents in deposit locations (“public information points”) around the area for stakeholders to examine and some documents available to take away
- placing advertisements on social media to target different demographics and to include those who might not otherwise engage with the consultation
- publishing full details of local information events and webinars on the project website, and asking wider consultees to publish information on websites, where possible
- providing contact details for queries or to request paper copies of project documents.

# 6. Materials

## All project documents will be made available on the consultation website, including:

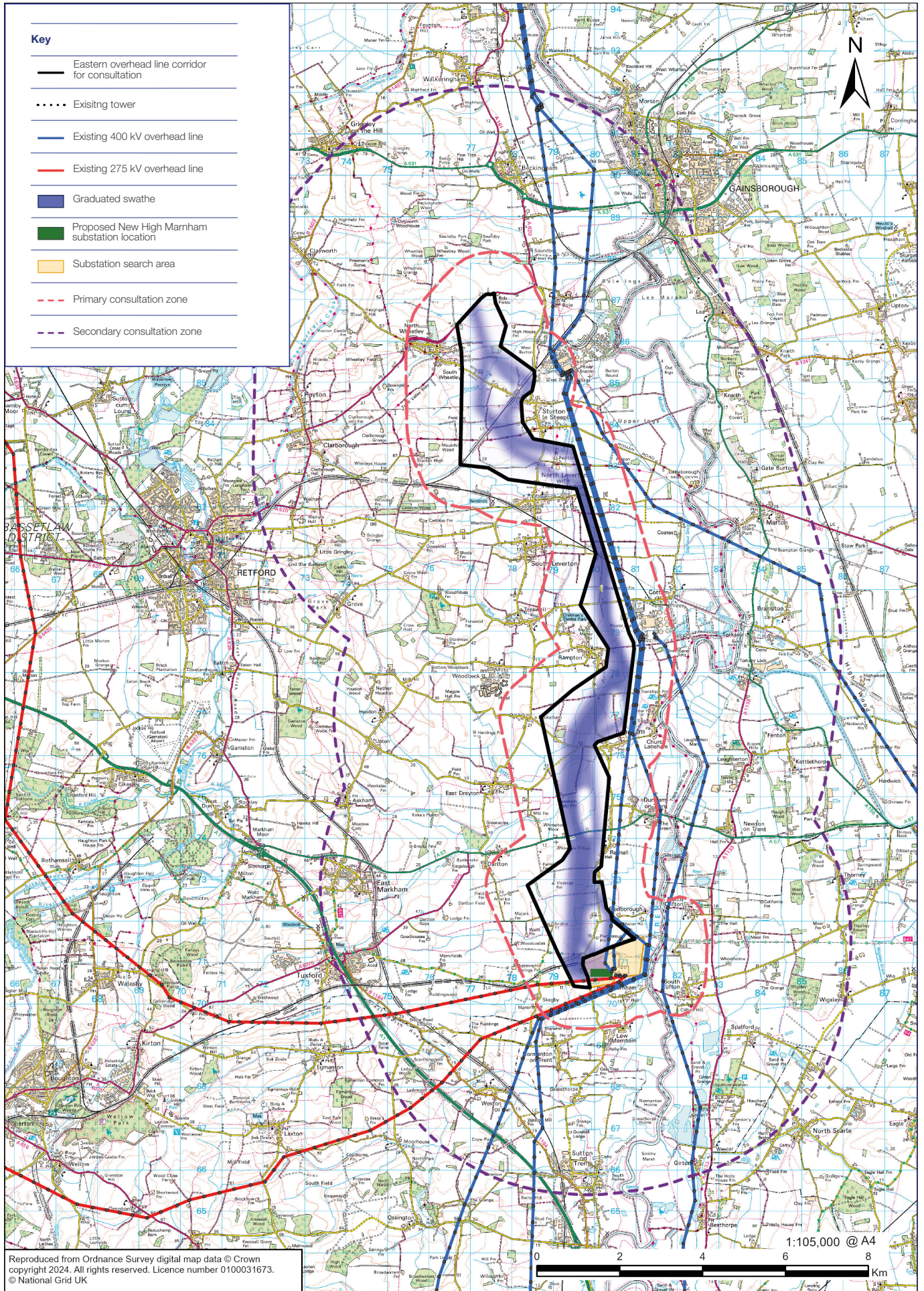
- Addendum to the Project Background Document: to provide an overview of the project
- Supplementary Corridor and Routeing Study 2024: a detailed report on how the eastern corridor was identified and the graduated swathe has been developed, between South Wheatley and High Marnham, explaining also the reasons for identifying and consulting upon the eastern corridor

- Consultation newsletter: high-level description of proposals and invite to consultation events
- Maps and plans of the eastern corridor in between South Wheatley and High Marnham
- Feedback form: including an online version to provide feedback and a downloadable PDF copy.

We will place paper copies of the consultation documents at suitable, publicly accessible locations along the eastern corridor of the new reinforcement. We recommend interested parties check with the information point ahead of visiting to ensure that they are open. These locations are as follows:

**Table 1: Public information points**

Public information point	Opening times
<b>West Lindsey District Council</b>	
Gainsborough Library, Cobden St, Gainsborough DN21 2NG	Monday to Friday (9am to 5pm) and Saturday (9am to 1pm)
<b>Bassetlaw District Council</b>	
All Saints Parish Church Misterton, High St, Misterton, Doncaster DN10 4AL	10am to 4pm (Monday to Sunday)
Retford Leisure Centre, Old Hall Dr, Ordsall, Retford DN22 7EA	6am to 10pm (Monday to Friday), Saturday 7am to 6pm (Saturday) and 7am to 9pm (Sunday)
Bassetlaw District Council (Retford office), 17B The Square, Retford DN22 6DB	9am to 5pm (Monday to Friday)



**Figure 3: Primary and Secondary Consultation zones for eastern corridor**



# 7. Stakeholder briefings and meetings

## **We propose holding meetings with stakeholders, either online or in-person, to provide information about the project and respond to questions.**

Before the start of the localised consultation, we will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders:

- Members of Parliament where all or part of their constituencies lie within the SCZ
- elected representatives of Bassetlaw District and Nottinghamshire County Council
- parish councils where all or part of the parish fall inside the PCZ.

Stakeholders will be sent digital copies of project information (paper copies will be provided upon request, or where digital receivership is not possible) and details on how to respond to the consultation and engage with the project team. These groups may include:

- third-party groups such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and business groups
- community groups or residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the project
- parish councils that fall outside of the PCZ
- interest groups with a close relationship to the project.

## 8. Public consultation

**We will use a blend of in-person and online engagement channels for this public consultation. This will involve using the Project website and other digital tools to present information on the project and gather feedback on our proposals. This approach is widely accepted for consultations on infrastructure proposals.**

We are committed to engaging with all stakeholders and we want to ensure that our consultation is inclusive and will reach those who otherwise may not engage with us or do not have access to the most

traditional and conventional methods of consultation. Our approach to engaging with seldom heard (SH) groups is outlined in section 10 of this document.

### **Project website**

The North Humber to High Marnham project website was launched in 2023 with the relevant information associated with the stage one consultation and has remained accessible to all stakeholders following its close.

The website will be updated to include all relevant information for the localised non-statutory consultation, including the aforementioned documents and materials used as part of the local information events.





**Table 2: Information include on project website.**

Function	Description
Document library with access to the information	The library will be the 'go to' deposit location for all project information. It will ensure that all project information is available in one, easy to access location. We will encourage third parties hosting deposit locations (such as local authorities, libraries, etc.) to provide links to this page.
Consultation pages to display all relevant information and material being presented for consultation	Project documents will be laid out in a simple, visual and interactive format, with pointers and instructions throughout to aid easy navigation.
Find out more pages	Details of dates and timings of consultation events, webinars and other 'ask the experts' sessions during the consultation period.
FAQs	This will help visitors to find answers to frequently asked questions.
Project update section	This section will enable members of the public to stay updated on the project and provides an easily accessible place for all recent updates to be hosted.
Project contact details	We will publish telephone, email and freepost details for the public to get in contact and request further details or ask questions.
Team call-back requests	Members of the public will be able to request a call-back to discuss the project over the phone.
Feedback form	The online form will enable members of the public to provide their feedback easily and submit to the project team. A hard copy form can also be downloaded from the website and returned by email or printed and sent back via Freepost.
GDPR (Legal statement)	All personal data will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area or used for purposes other than those outlined. The website will be made accessible for all users through the provision of audio guides, videos, other visual material and the ability to request translation.

### Interactive map

An interactive map provides a visual representation of the proposals presented at stage 1 consultation. The map shows the eastern corridor and graduated swathe that sits within it.

### Public information events and webinars

We have arranged a mix of face-to-face public events and online webinars to provide stakeholder opportunities to find out more about the proposals and to provide feedback.

Public information events will be organised to be accessible to as many stakeholders as possible and held at suitable community hubs along the proposed route. We will be holding two events on weekdays – beginning in the afternoon and ending in the early evening – and one event on a Saturday, running from the morning into the afternoon.

In-person events will provide an opportunity to view details on the eastern route corridor and speak to technical experts within the team. If events need to be cancelled for any reason, we will publicise the cancellation and hold an online webinar in place of the event.

Online webinars will be organised to enable the project team to present the same information as that at the public events to a large number of interested stakeholders. The webinar presentation will be recorded and made available on the project website for playback by those who cannot attend the webinar sessions.

The sessions will also include time for questions and answers. Different webinars have been arranged to focus on specific geographical areas and the programme will be widely advertised. Details of how to sign up for the webinars will be widely publicised and available on the website.

### The schedule of events and webinars is as follows:

### Face to face public information events

Table 3: Consultation events

Date and time	Venue
<b>Friday 12 July 2024, 2pm to 7pm</b>	Dunham On Trent Village Hall, Low Street, Dunham, Newark NG22 0FJ
<b>Saturday 13 July 2024, 10am to 3pm</b>	Sturton Hall & Conference Centre, Brickings Way, Sturton Le Steeple DN22 9HY
<b>Tuesday 23 July 2024, 2pm to 7pm</b>	Rampton Village Hall, Manor Grounds, Rampton, Retford DN22 0JU

## Online webinars

**Table 4: Consultation webinars**

Webinar session	Date	Start time
<b>North Humber to High Marnham localised consultation – Our proposals between South Wheatley and High Marnham</b>	Friday 19 July 2024	10am
<b>North Humber to High Marnham localised consultation – Our proposals between South Wheatley and High Marnham</b>	Thursday 25 July 2024	7pm

## Team call-back

Stakeholders will be able to request a telephone call from a member of the project team if they would prefer to ask questions over the phone. This provides an alternative option for those who may have restricted access to other engagement channels or are less comfortable with online technology.

## Providing feedback on our proposals

We want to make providing feedback on our proposals as easy as possible for all stakeholders. Paper copies of the feedback form will be available at information points along the route and at public information events (as previously listed). Visitors to our project website will be able to fill out and submit a feedback form online or download the PDF form and send it back directly via email or the Freepost address.

Members of the public will also be able to telephone our freephone contact number and request a paper copy of the feedback form, and a Freepost envelope, enabling them to send their feedback to the project team free of charge.

We will review all feedback following the close of consultation and this will be used to inform the development and refinement of our proposals, alongside further assessment and survey work. All feedback provided will be responded to in the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, which will be published as a part of the stage two (statutory) consultation in early 2025. The Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report will report on feedback from both the 2023 and 2024 consultations.

# 9. Advertising

## **We will use advertising to raise awareness of the public consultation on the project proposals.**

### **Print media**

To raise general awareness of the project within the area and to advertise the localised consultation, we will place advertisements in key local publications. These advertisements will help ensure that stakeholders without access to the internet are made aware of the project consultation.

Advertisements will generally be half-page prints, published in the run up to the start of localised consultation, to make stakeholders aware of the localised consultation taking place.

### **Social media**

We will use social media to advertise the consultation. We will target advertisements to the postcodes within the PCZ. Social media advertisement may draw in stakeholders who wouldn't otherwise engage with the consultation, for example, young people. Social media advertisement will include the use of Facebook.



# 10. Accessibility, seldom heard and interest group strategy

**We recognise that some people and groups may not be comfortable with the digital methods used for the consultation. We want to ensure that our consultation and engagement are inclusive and that we engage equally with all stakeholders, irrespective of access to and familiarity with digital communications.**

**To ensure our consultation is accessible to all, we will:**

- directly mail a newsletter with project information to all stakeholders whose property postcodes lie within the PCZ; and eastern corridor; and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post
- make important information available in both digital and non-digital formats and we will provide alternate formats for those who need them on request
- make paper copies of the information available at local information points, along with contact details for the project team who will be able to provide further assistance and send consultation packs to those who are unable to access the material online
- make information available in alternative languages and formats (e.g. large-print, braille), on request
- advertise the consultation and project contact details through a variety of traditional and social media methods.

## **Seldom Heard Strategy**

The key objective of the Consultation Strategy is to undertake a meaningful, purposeful, and informative consultation, with a wide range of stakeholders.

Seldom heard (SH) groups can often be overlooked but are essential for demonstrating an effective and inclusive consultation. The wider objectives of this strategy are to:

- ensure under-represented groups are more represented in the localised non-statutory consultation for the project
- ensure the proposals are presented in a simplistic and non-technical way, including a clear understanding of the consultation process
- receive feedback from SH groups that could help shape the project's future development in ways that might otherwise be overlooked.

SH groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods for any reason. They could include the following:

- ethnic minority groups and people for whom English is a second language
- the Traveller community
- the elderly
- people with visual and hearing impairments
- people with limited mobility/disability
- the 15-19 and 20-39 age groups
- carers and families with young children
- economically inactive individuals
- geographically isolated communities or individuals.

We will discuss how best to engage with SH stakeholders with local authorities and will continue to welcome suggestions for further groups to engage. Methods for engagement with SH and local interest groups have been designed to help engage with these groups.

Wider interest groups will also be engaged to help reach SH audiences. These interest groups include:

- business groups, such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and Chambers of Commerce
- community groups, such as residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the project
- educational establishments, including universities, colleges and schools in the local area and wider regions.

### **SH and interest groups contact database**

We will create a database of identified relevant contacts at seldom heard community groups and other interest groups and organisations.

We will use this contact database to ensure these

groups and organisations are kept up to date with the development of the scheme through regular mailing, telephone, digital and face-to-face contact.

We will also monitor the success of our communications tools to test the suitability of our approach to engagement.

Depending on the reception of our early communications with these interest groups, we will adjust our approach to engagement accordingly.



National Grid plc  
1-3 Strand  
Charing Cross  
London  
WC2N 5EH  
United Kingdom

**[nationalgrid.com](https://nationalgrid.com)**