

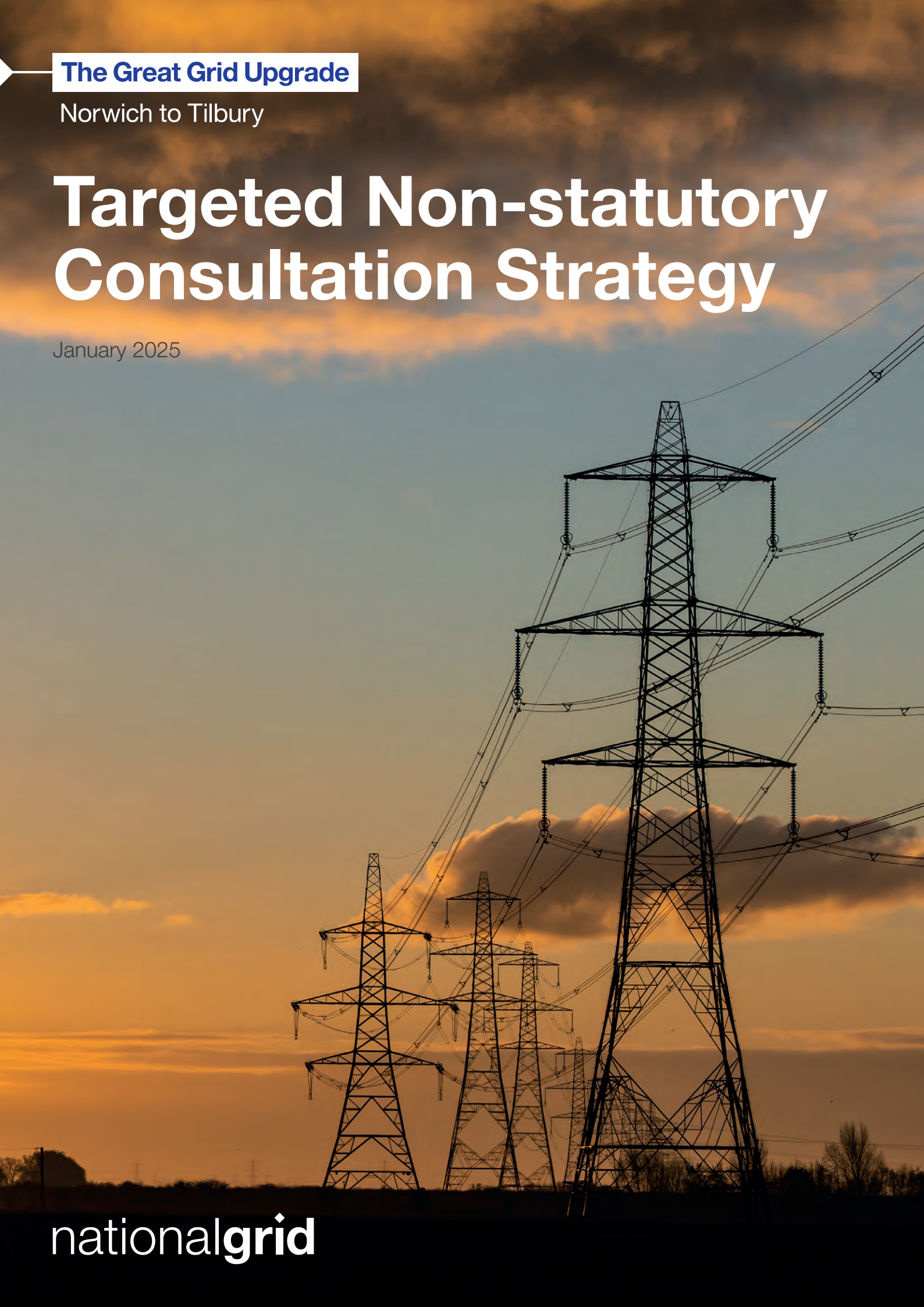
The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

Targeted Non-statutory Consultation Strategy

January 2025

nationalgrid

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several high-voltage electricity pylons (transmission towers) silhouetted against a dramatic, orange-hued sunset sky. The towers are arranged in a receding line from the foreground towards the horizon, creating a sense of depth. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds, and the overall atmosphere is one of industrial scale meeting natural beauty.

Introduction

National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders to give people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at formative stages of projects.

Our approach to engagement in support of Norwich to Tilbury is guided by the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and government guidance as set out in Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Our first non-statutory consultation was held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022. This was followed by a second non-statutory consultation held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.

We then held a statutory consultation between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024 when we consulted on our refined proposals, including a draft alignment, a new substation in East Anglia, six cable sealing end (CSE) compound locations, temporary construction works and an alternative design at Waveney Valley. We set out how we intended to consult in a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) published in April 2024 and we carried out the statutory consultation in accordance with that SoCC.

Further details of how we carried out these consultations and the proposals we presented at each stage can be found on our project website: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

Following the close of statutory consultation in July 2024, we reviewed and considered all consultation feedback and continued to carry out further assessments and survey work to inform our proposals. As a result, we are now considering making some changes to our proposals at a number of locations. These changes include moving some pylon locations and temporary works including access roads, tracks and construction compounds.

We have therefore chosen to hold further targeted consultations to provide stakeholders and the public with the opportunity to provide feedback on these proposed changes before we finalise our proposals for submission. As these changes would not fundamentally change the project as a whole, a targeted consultation approach is proposed, which is in line with guidance (Planning Act 2008:

Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, paragraph 020) issued in April 2024 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government):

“For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.”

“Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

This Targeted Non-Statutory Consultation Strategy sets out how we will undertake further targeted consultation so far as is relevant, practicable and proportionate in accordance with the principles and methods which are set out in the SoCC and the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and relevant guidance.

In all cases, where any new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (such as landowners) are identified, we will also engage separately under those provisions of the Act and related guidance.

All consultation carried out, whether statutory or non-statutory, will be considered fully; the project team will look at all feedback and have regard to any relevant responses received.

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

Targeted consultation locations

We are consulting local residents in locations where we are considering changes to the proposed project presented to the public at statutory consultation which ran from April to July 2024. A list of the locations can be found on our project website.

We have grouped changes geographically where appropriate to make it as easy as possible for people to understand the proposed changes in their area and provide feedback.

We have developed a bespoke consultation zone for each targeted non-statutory consultation location to include nearby properties which are likely to be affected. These have been created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of the change. Where it is appropriate to do so, potential changes have been grouped with a single consultation zone covering the grouped changes.

The consultation zones will be published on the project website as an appendix to this strategy.



Timing of consultation

We plan to hold a series of non-statutory targeted consultations on the proposed changes along the route of the project. The consultations will be open for 30 days and we will write to stakeholders to notify them of detailed timings, along with information on the locations where we are consulting on proposed changes. Dates and locations will also be published on the project website.

Non-statutory targeted consultation activities

We are committed to ensuring our non-statutory targeted consultations are 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.

Community consultation

We will send a letter to each property that falls within the relevant consultation zone setting out information on the targeted consultation and inviting the recipient to provide feedback.

Residents will also receive a consultation leaflet that explains what we are now proposing in their area and why, a map showing the proposed change in their area (as well as what had been previously presented at statutory consultation where applicable), how people can take part and provide feedback, an Environmental Implication of Change document setting out appropriate and proportionate environmental information on the implications of the proposed change, and a feedback questionnaire and a freepost envelope.

We will seek to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by:

- notifying the local and regional media via press release
- notifying the local parish / parish council, and offering a briefing via Teams
- publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website
- notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter
- providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones, to local authorities and parish councils
- running an advert in local media titles on / following consultation launch
- notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC.

We also highlighted the upcoming targeted consultations in an edition of our Community Newsletter, which was posted in January 2025 to approximately 77,000 properties along the route of the project.



Parish council consultation

We will notify parish clerks where any proposed changes fall within their parish boundary and set out all the proposed changes within their parish. The parish councils will be invited to provide feedback on changes within their area.

The parish councillors will also be invited to attend digital briefings, to be held by county.

Stakeholder briefings and meetings

We will offer briefings, either online or in-person, to provide information about the targeted consultation and respond to any questions for stakeholders including:

- Members of Parliament where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their constituencies.
- Elected representatives where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their ward. Briefings will be carried out via Teams.

Public webinars

We will hold public webinars for residents living near to the proposed changes along the route of the project. People will be able to sign up via the website. We will tailor the webinars to cover the proposed changes on a county-by-county basis.

Each 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.

Consultation materials

We will make all consultation documents available on the project website, including:

- a consultation leaflet for each location, including maps and potential environmental implications
- an Environmental Implications of Change document
- a downloadable feedback questionnaire
- an online feedback questionnaire
- contact details.

Project website

Our project website is where all information relating to these targeted consultations and all previous consultations is located. The website will be updated to include all relevant information for the targeted consultation.

Maps and visuals

Maps showing the proposed changes we are consulting on will be made available in the document library. We are not updating the interactive project map at this time, but it will remain available and include an explanation of what the map is showing and where the latest proposals can be viewed.

Accessibility

If people need consultation materials presented in different formats, we will consider this on request.





Function	Description
Project website document library with access to the information	<p>The library is our 'go to' deposit location for all project information. All information relating to the targeted consultations will be uploaded here. This includes the consultation leaflets being sent out to properties in the consultation zones.</p> <p>People will also be able to continue to access information related to all previous consultations and interim updates and milestones via this library.</p>
Consultation pages to display all relevant information and material being presented for consultation	<p>The location of each proposed change we are consulting on will be laid out in 'accordion' format on the consultation pages so people can navigate to the section and proposed change they are interested in.</p> <p>Information will be laid out in a simple, visual and interactive format, with pointers and instructions throughout to aid easy navigation. This includes a link to the online feedback questionnaire.</p> <p>We will also provide links and registration instructions for the public webinars we are holding.</p>
Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document	<p>For each location we are consulting on, we will develop and publish an Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document. This will set out proportionate and appropriate information on the environmental implications of the proposed change in each location and how that may or may not differ to those effects laid out with the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).</p>
FAQs	<p>This will help visitors find answers to frequently asked questions.</p>
Project update section	<p>This section allows members of the public to stay updated on the project and provides an easily accessible place for all recent updates to be hosted.</p>
Project contact details	<p>This includes telephone, email and freepost details for the public to get in contact and request further details or ask questions.</p>
Feedback questionnaire	<p>The online questionnaire will enable members of the public to provide their feedback easily for each location and submit to the project team. The document can also be downloaded from the website and returned by email or printed and sent back via Freepost. Paper copies will also be posted on request.</p>
GDPR (Legal statement)	<p>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. You can find more information about our privacy policy on our website here.</p>

Providing feedback

We want to make providing feedback as easy as possible for all our stakeholders and communities. Paper copies of the feedback questionnaire, along with a Freepost envelope, will be mailed to addresses that fall within our consultation zones and available on request. Website visitors will be able to provide their feedback via our online feedback questionnaire or by downloading it to return by email or Freepost (address listed below).

Each location has been given **a reference name and number** and we will ask people to quote this when providing feedback. This will enable us to consider their feedback in relation to the specific location of the proposed change(s). Reference names and numbers will be identified in the consultation leaflets sent to addresses in the consultation zones and in relevant sections on the project website.

Our contact and feedback channels are the same as they were at statutory consultation:

-  Email – contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com
-  Freepost – **FREEPOST N TO T**
-  Online feedback questionnaire nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury
-  People will also be able to call our hotline on **0800 915 2497** if they have any questions

We will review and consider all the feedback we receive following the close of the targeted consultations and this will be used to continue to inform the development and refinement of our proposals alongside further assessment and survey work. All the feedback we receive will be responded to in our Consultation Report, which will form part of our DCO application.

Further consultation

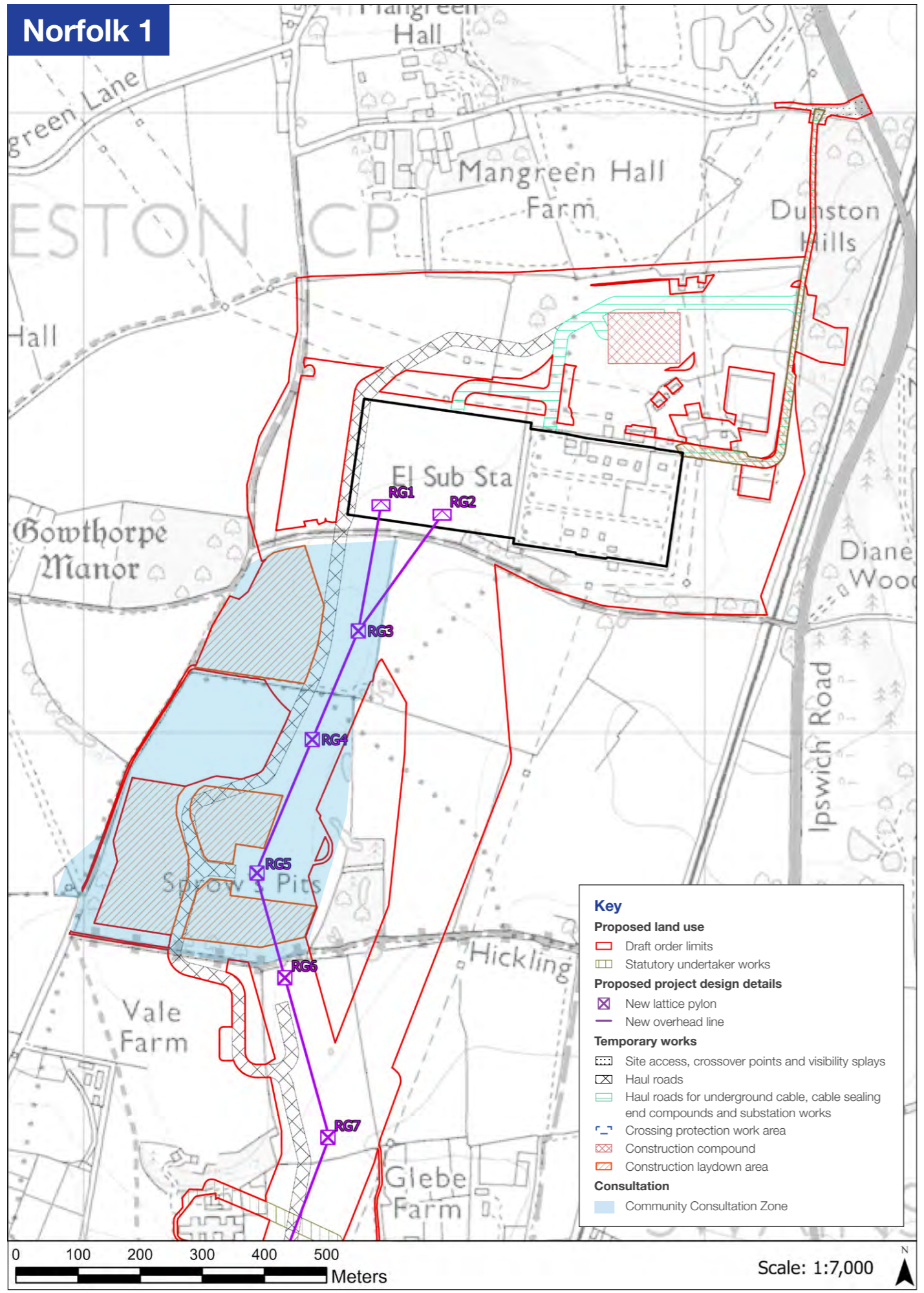
We may carry out further targeted consultation either with communities or landowners following feedback and our ongoing studies on a non-statutory or statutory basis. Where this is the case, we will carry out consultation so far as is relevant, practicable and proportionate in accordance with the principles and methods which are set out in this strategy and the SoCC as well as the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and relevant guidance.



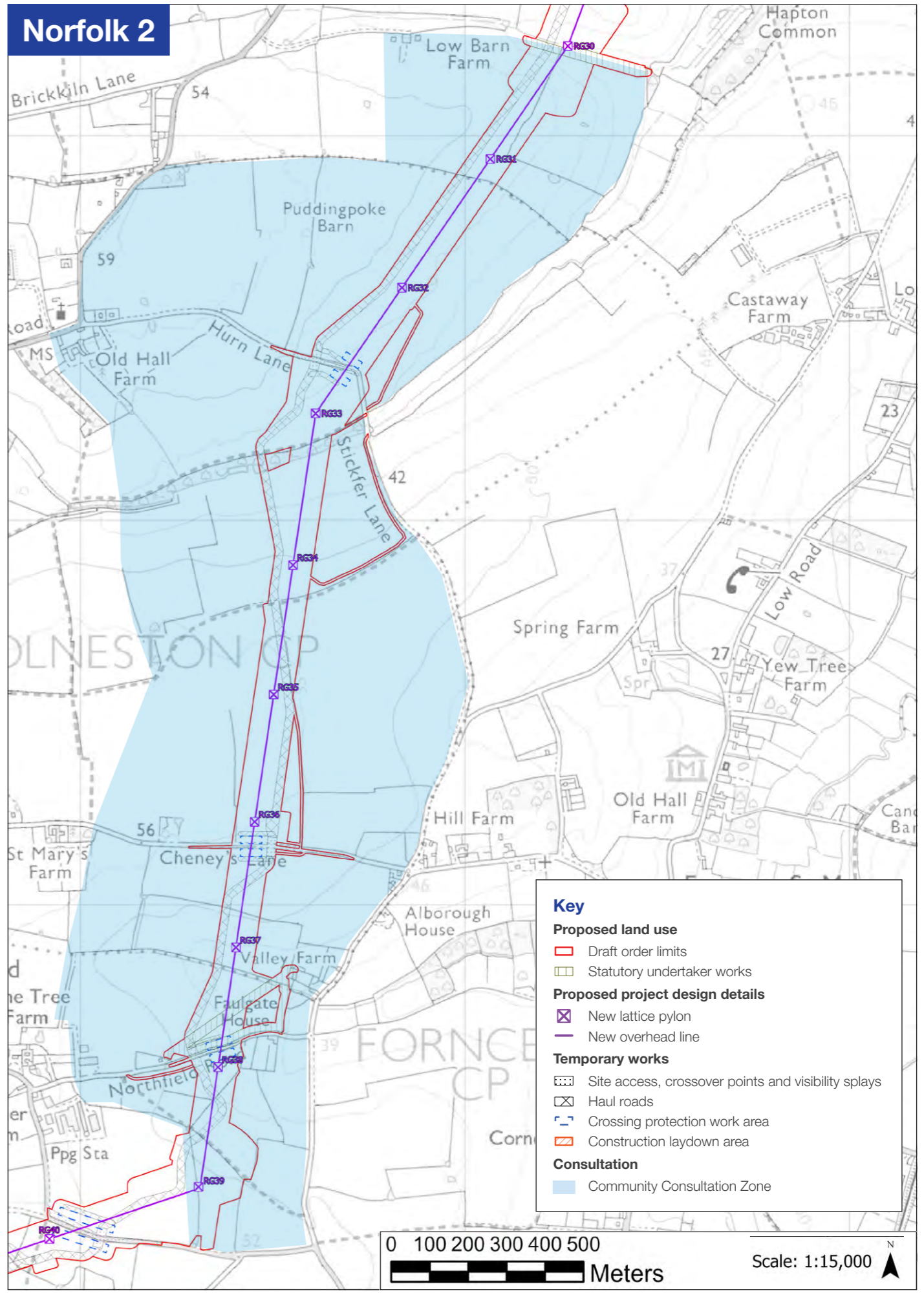
Appendices

- 10 **Norfolk 1 Community Consultation Zone**
- 11 **Norfolk 2 Community Consultation Zone**
- 12 **Norfolk 3 Community Consultation Zone**
- 13 **Norfolk 4 Community Consultation Zone**
- 14 **Suffolk 1 Community Consultation Zone**
- 15 **Suffolk 2 Community Consultation Zone**
- 16 **Suffolk 3 Community Consultation Zone**
- 17 **Suffolk 4 Community Consultation Zone**
- 18 **Suffolk 5 Community Consultation Zone**
- 19 **Suffolk 6 Community Consultation Zone**

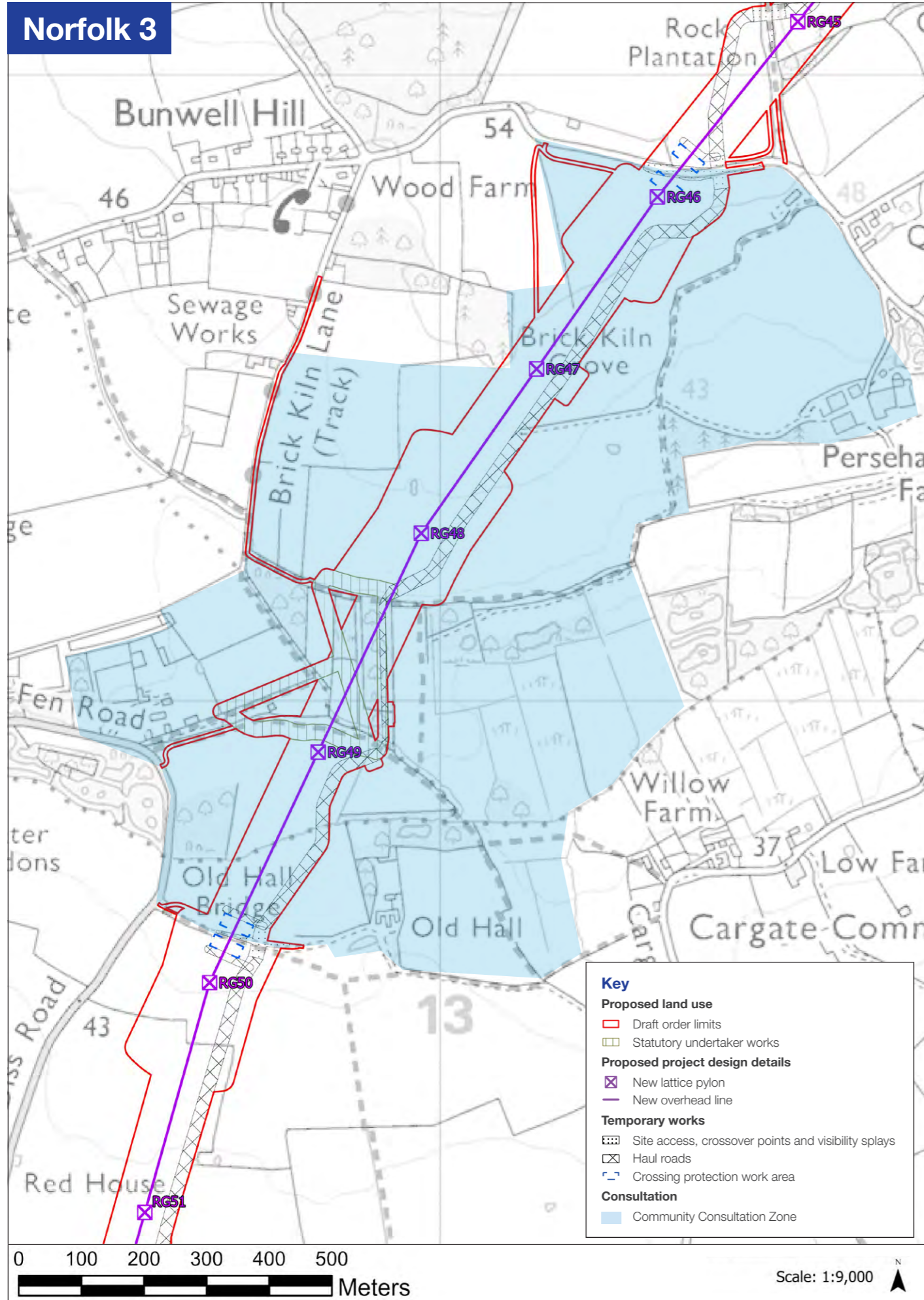
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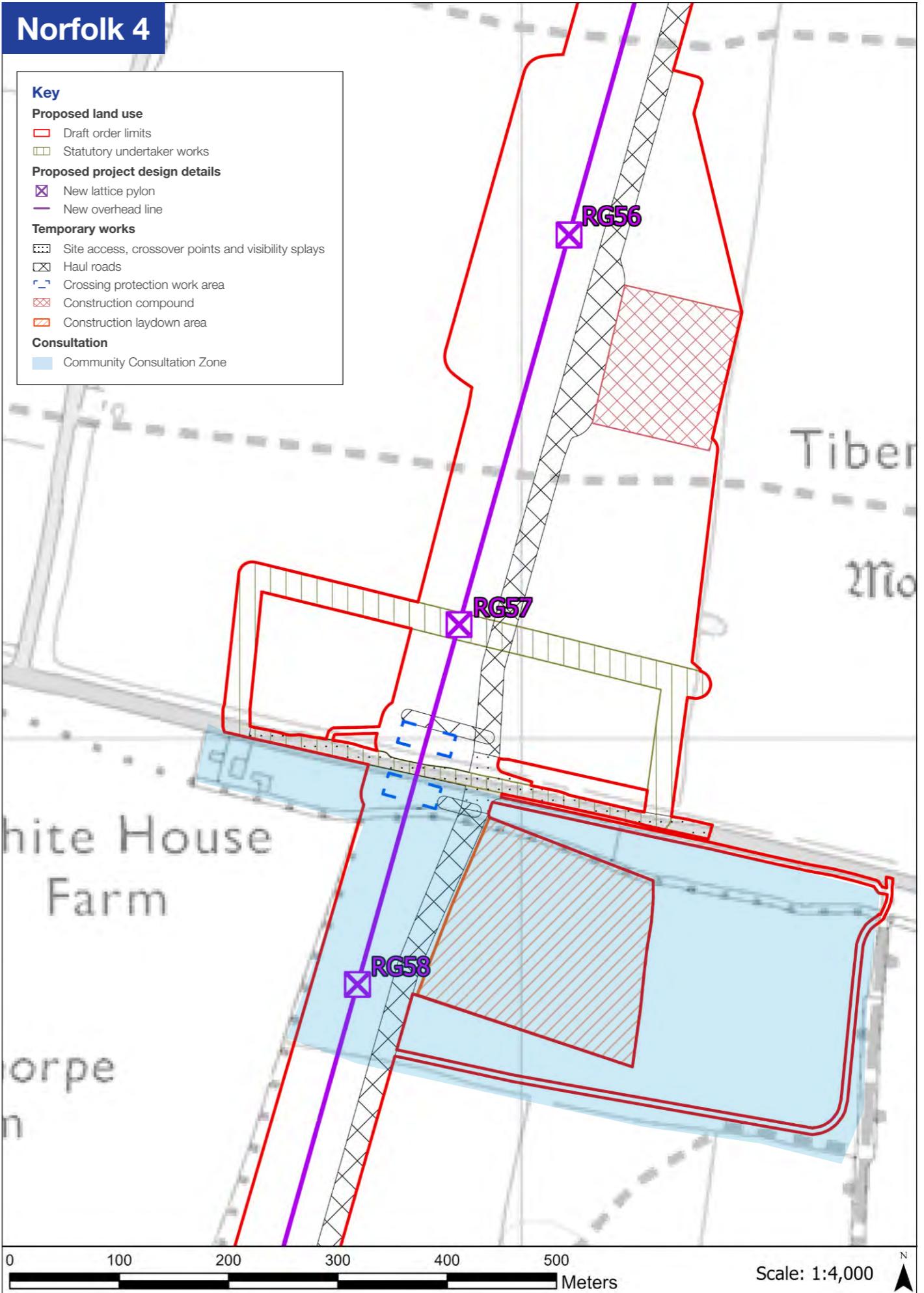
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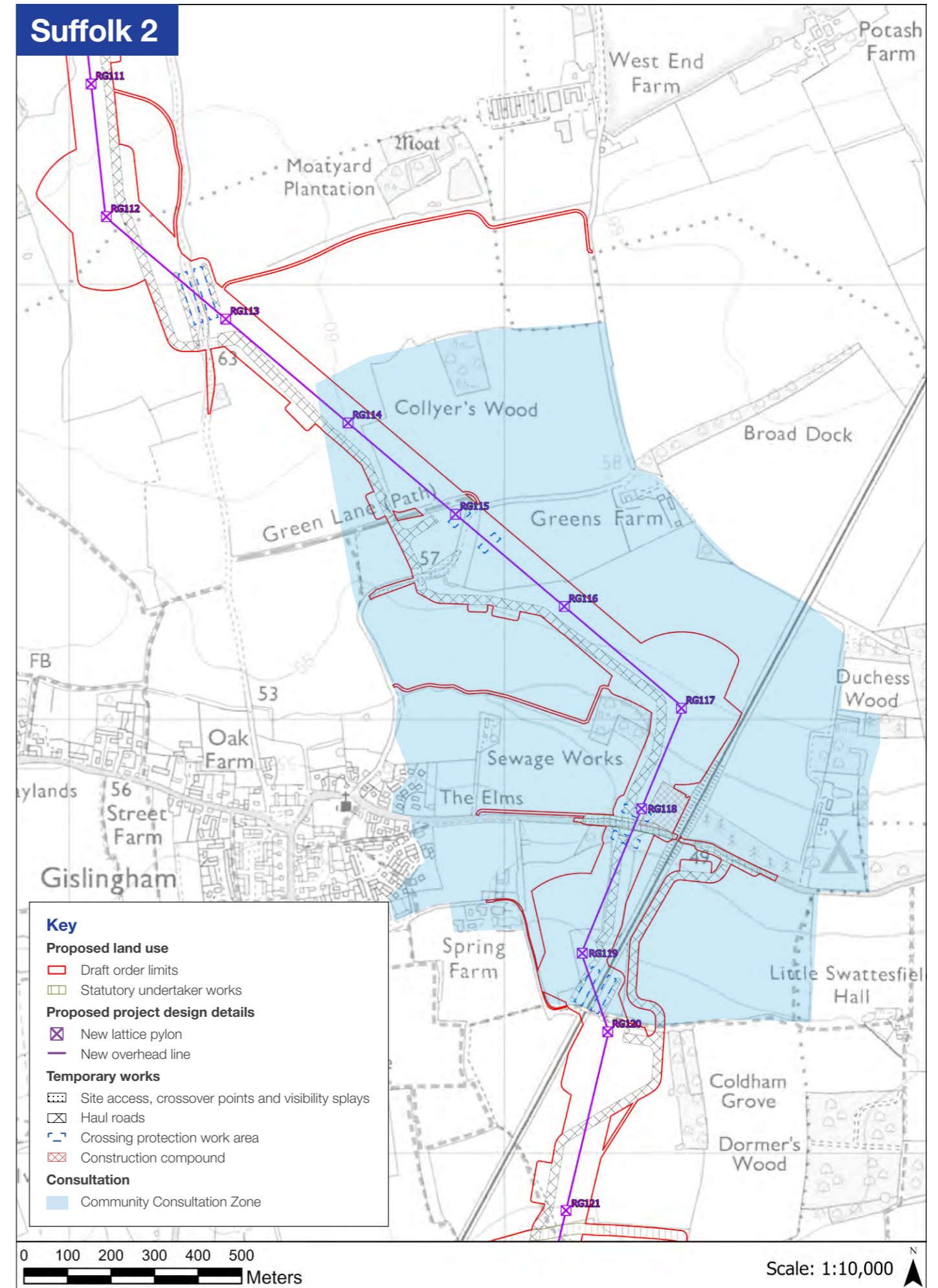
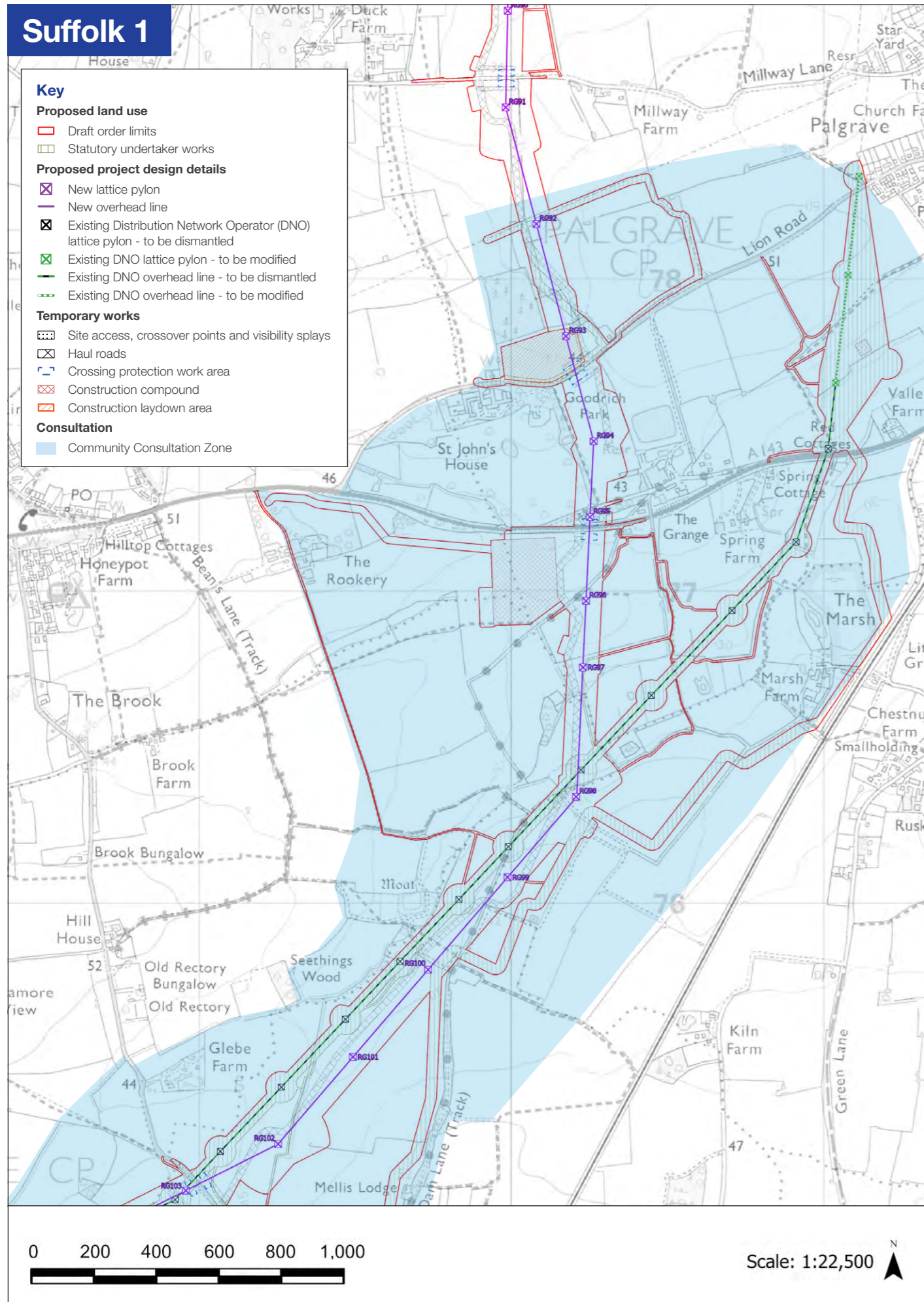


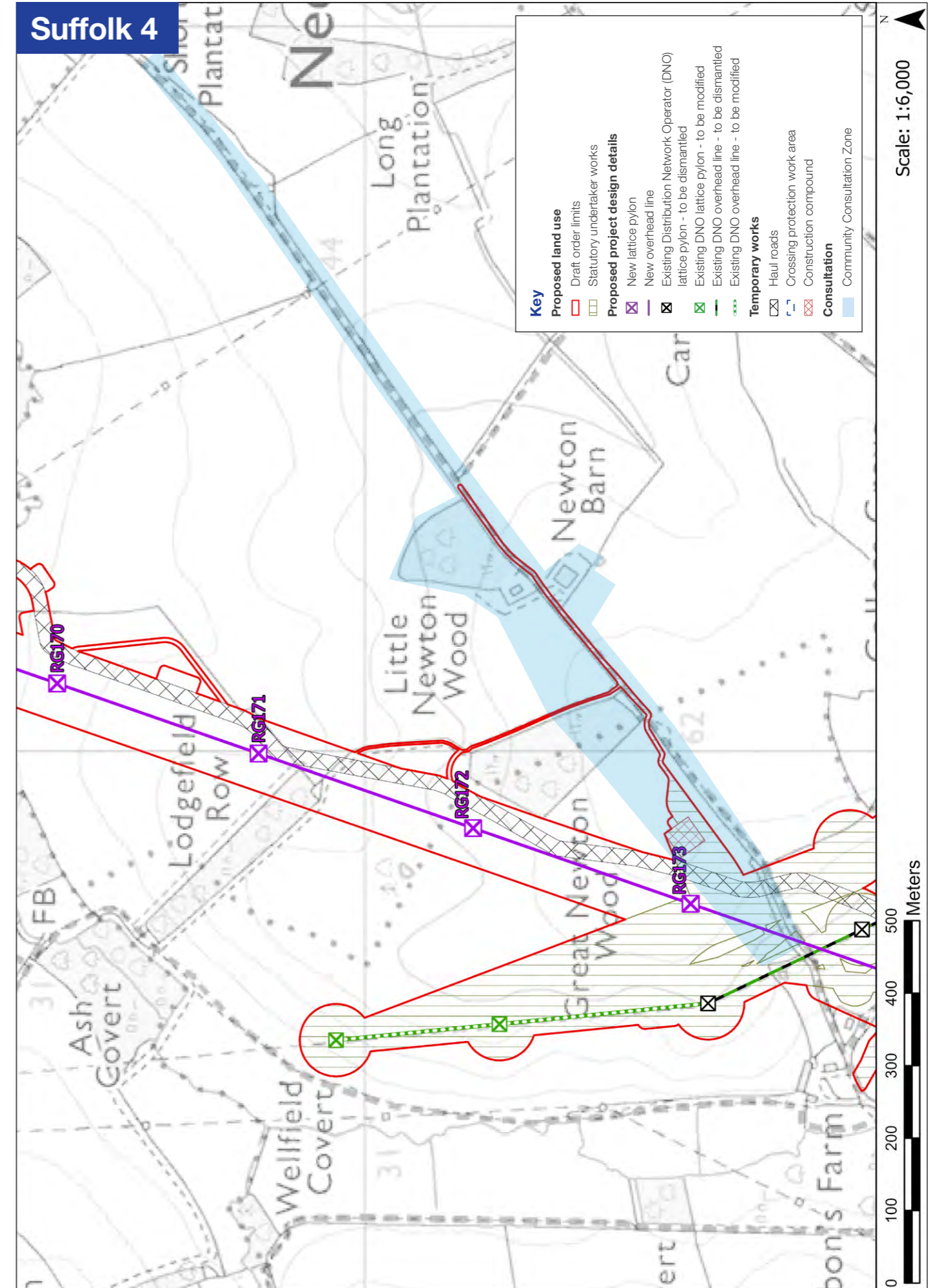
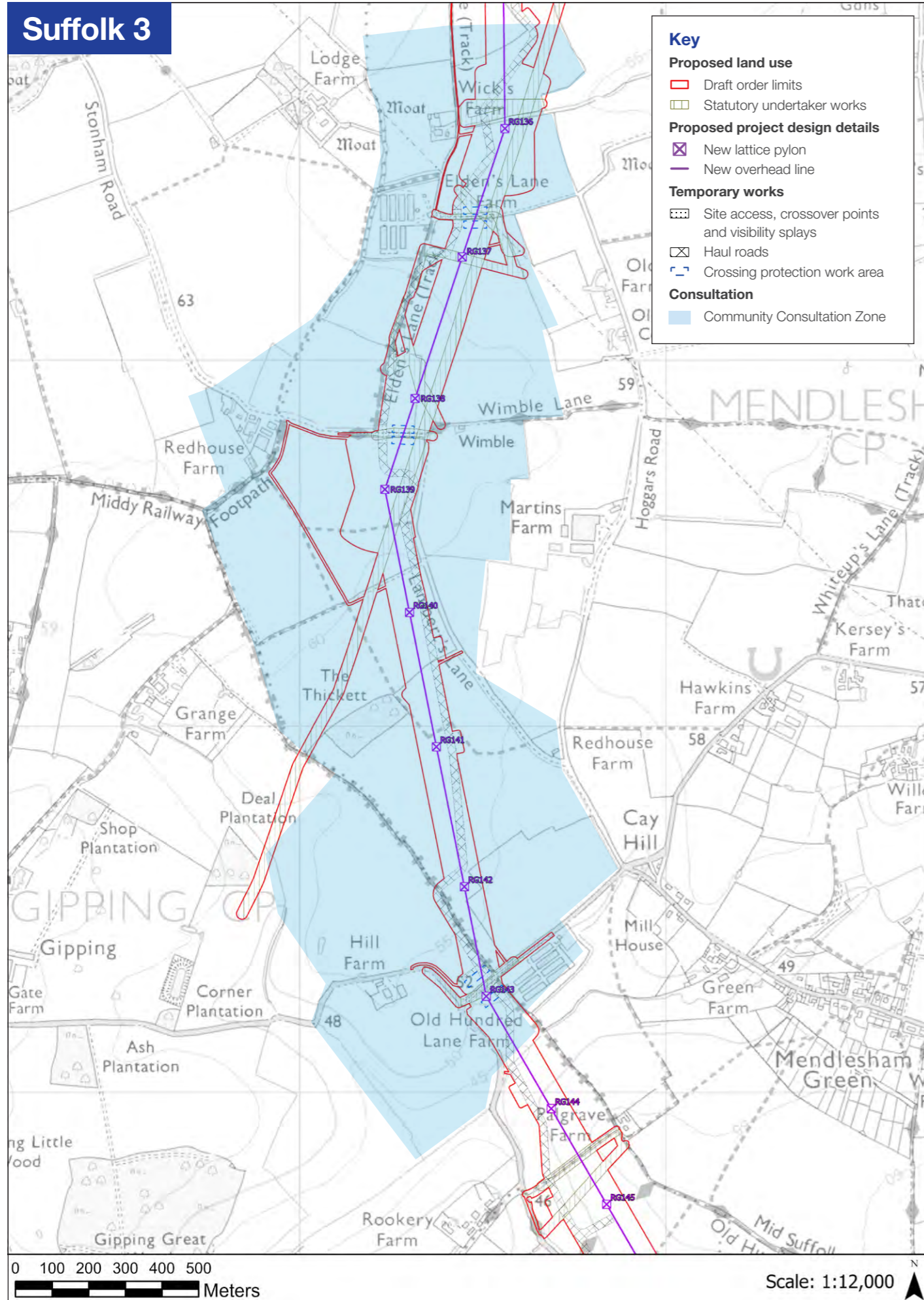
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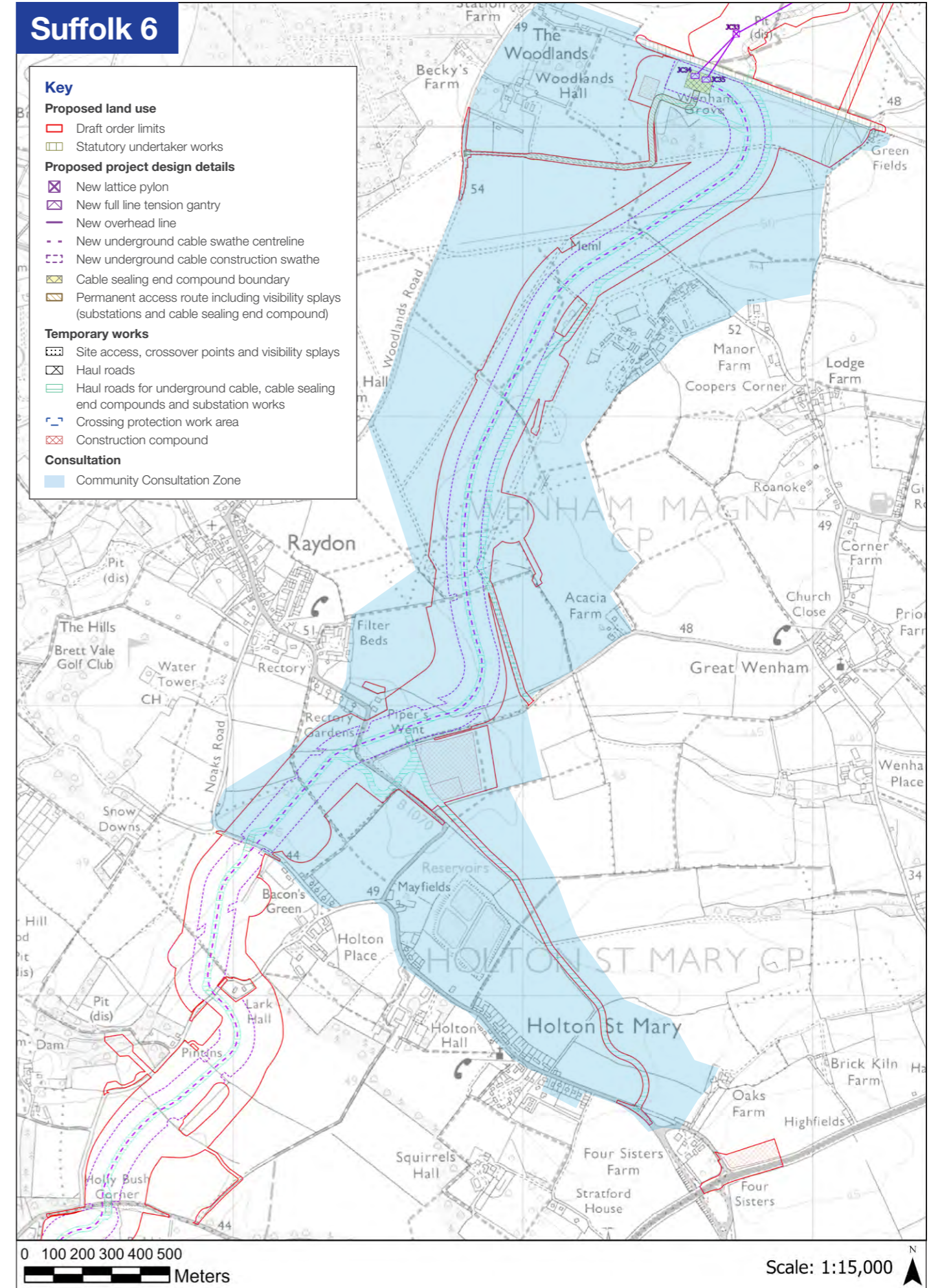
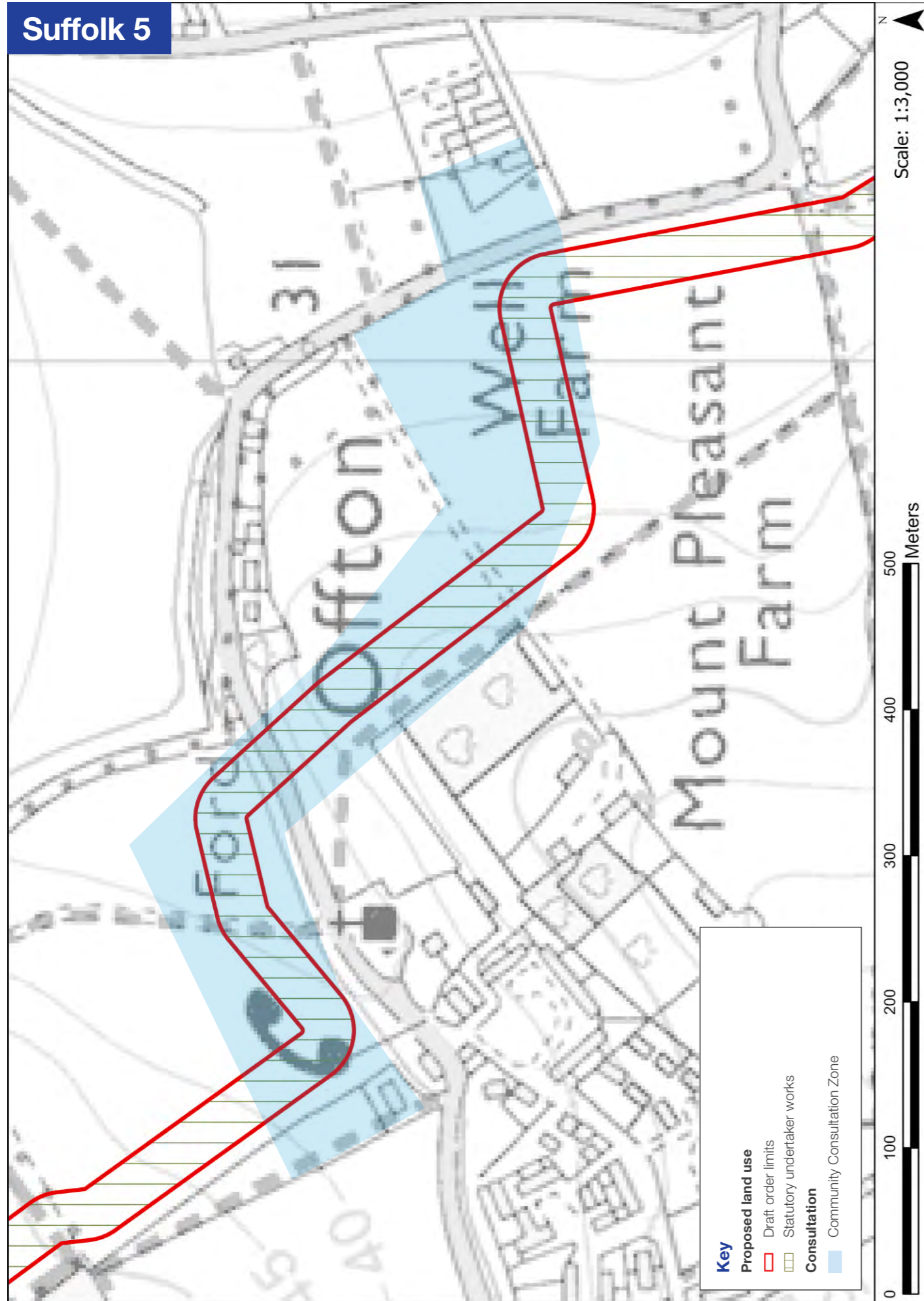


Norfolk 4











Contact us

If you would like to contact the community relations team, please get in touch via:

T: 0800 915 2497 FreePost: **FREEPOST N TO T** **E: contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com**
www.nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

