

# Powering change together

The time has come to further enhance Scotland's energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It's about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.



## We all have a part to play

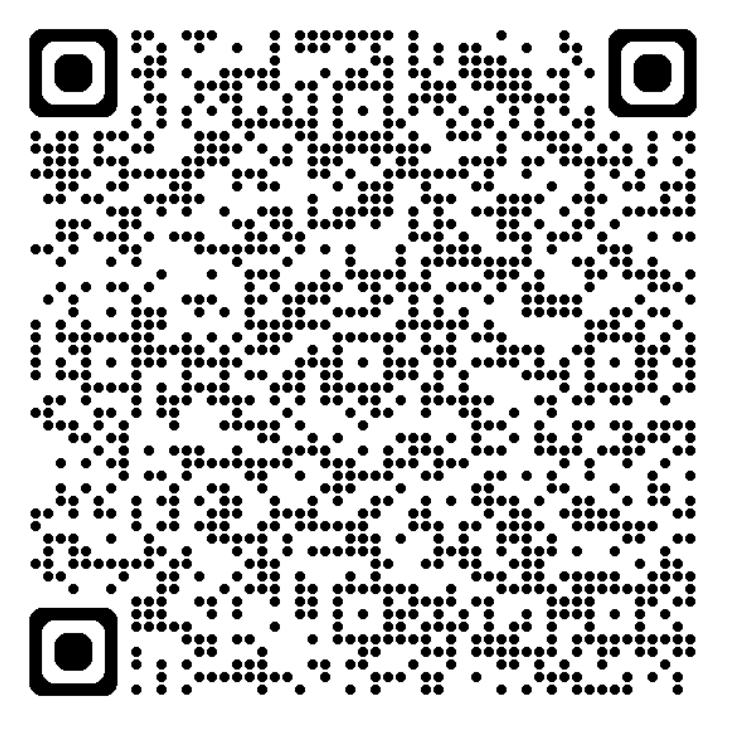
When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we're playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with the National Grid Electricity System Operator to connect vast renewable energy resources—harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation—to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two thirds of power generated in our network.

**But there's more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.**

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

**We're investing over £20 billion into our region's energy infrastructure this decade, with the potential for this to increase to over £30 billion. This investment will deliver a network capable of meeting 20% of the UK's Clean Power 2030 target and supporting up to 37,000 jobs, 17,500 of which will be here in Scotland.**



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.

## Who we are

We're responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We're part of SSE plc, one of the world's leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

## What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of the country's most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground and subsea cables and overhead lines to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

## Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on communities. So we're committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area. We're regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. The way we consult is also a two-way street. We want to hear people's views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: [ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us)



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



07879 288 666



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# The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require a significant acceleration of work over the next few years. In partnership with the UK and Scottish governments, we're committed to meeting our obligation of connecting new, renewable energy to where it's needed by 2030.

## Achieving Net Zero

By 2030, both the UK and Scottish governments are targeting a big expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 11GW respectively. The Scottish Government has also set ambitious targets for an additional 12GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland, there needs to be a significant increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver these 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero.

## Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices.

The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

## Meeting our 2030 targets

In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO), published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND). This set out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that's required to support the forecasted growth in the UK's renewable electricity. It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.

## What does this mean for the north and north-east of Scotland?

The north and the north-east of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The extensive studies that informed the ESO's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design confirmed the requirement to reinforce the onshore corridors between Beaully and Peterhead, and Beaully and Caithness, and for offshore subsea cables between Caithness and Peterhead, and between Peterhead and England, which include Eastern Green Link 3. Providing a 400kV overhead line and high voltage subsea cable (HVDC) connection between these sites provides the significant capacity required to take power from large-scale onshore and offshore renewable generation to the north-east of Scotland. From there, it will be transported to demand centres via HVDC subsea cables. To support these developments, new 400kV substations are also required at key locations. At Spittal, Beaully, and Netherton near Peterhead, high voltage converter stations are also required to convert DC electricity to AC (and vice versa), from offshore subsea connections between Spittal and Peterhead, and Peterhead and England.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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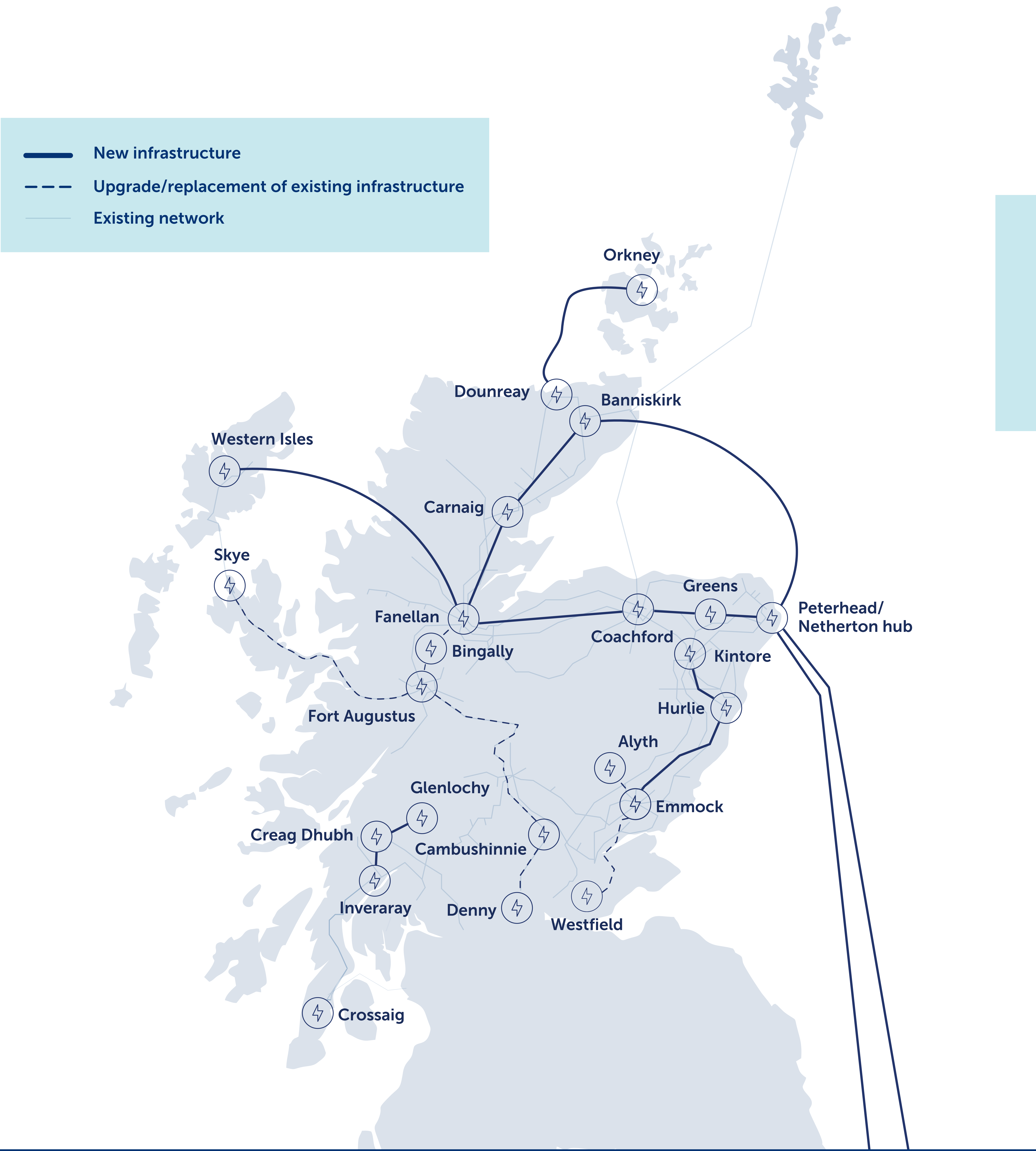


# The Pathway to 2030

## Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

To achieve these targets, further investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required. The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO’s, ‘Beyond 2030’ report, published in March this year. For the north of Scotland, the ESO’s plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets. These projects, which will be subject to extensive public consultation, are at the very early stages of development and further details will be set out in due course.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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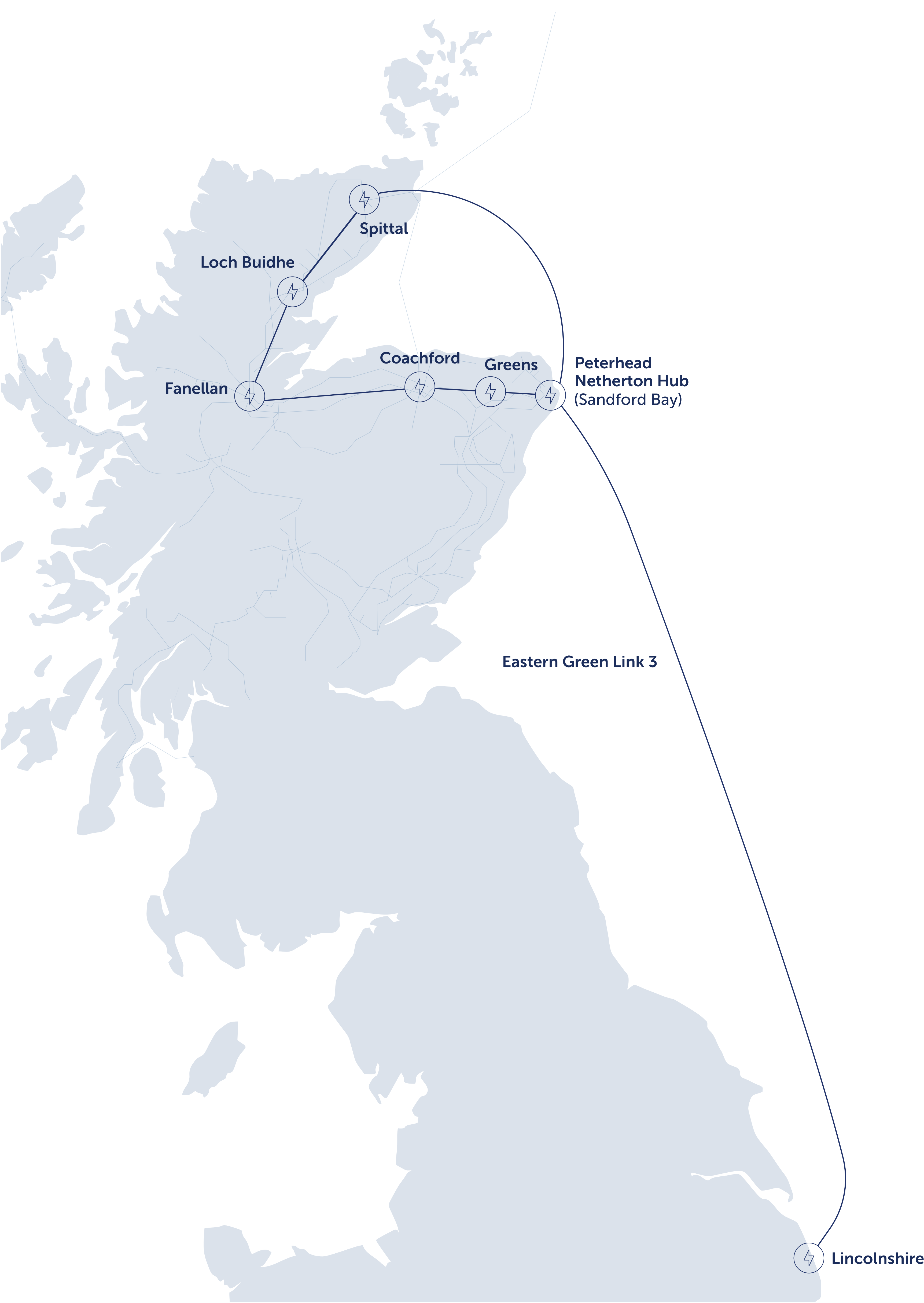


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# Project overview

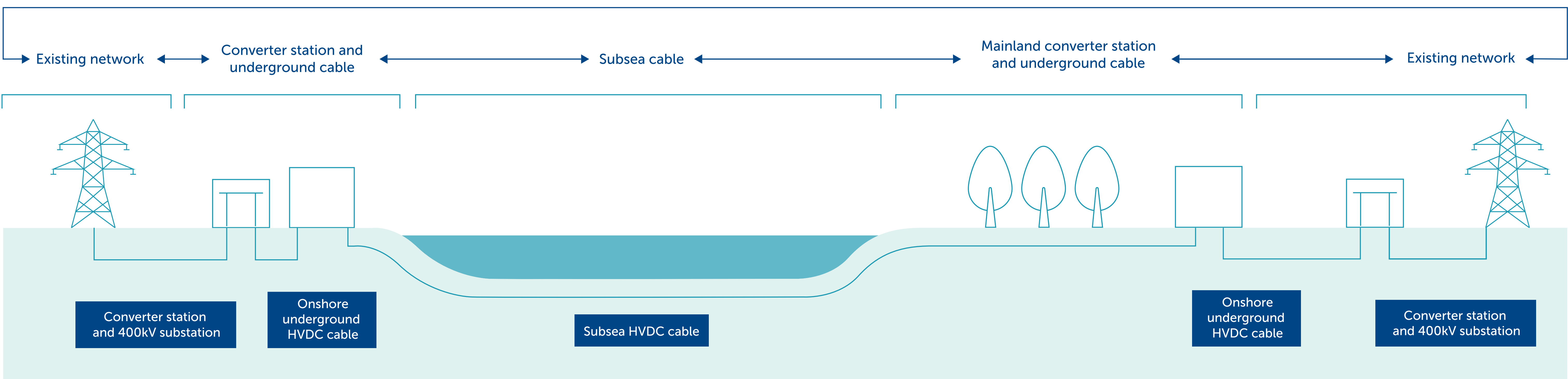
We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure, and quickly.



Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL3) comprises a 2 GW bi-pole, 525kV high voltage direct current (HVDC) system linking Peterhead in Scotland and Lincolnshire in England. Approximately 580km of subsea HVDC cable from a proposed landfall at Sandford Bay in Peterhead to a proposed landfall on the Lincolnshire coast. The subsea cable system will consist of two HVDC cables and a fibre optic cable for control and monitoring purposes. The Scottish element of the marine scheme extends from the marine border with English Waters up to MHWS at Sandford Bay, the route is approximately 145km.

The red line boundary for the Project encompasses all activities to construct and operate the project and is nominally 500m in width offshore, narrowing as it approaches the landfall.

The subsea cables will come onshore into a Transition Joint Bay where they will connect with the onshore cables. This project is being jointly developed by SSEN Transmission and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET).



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)

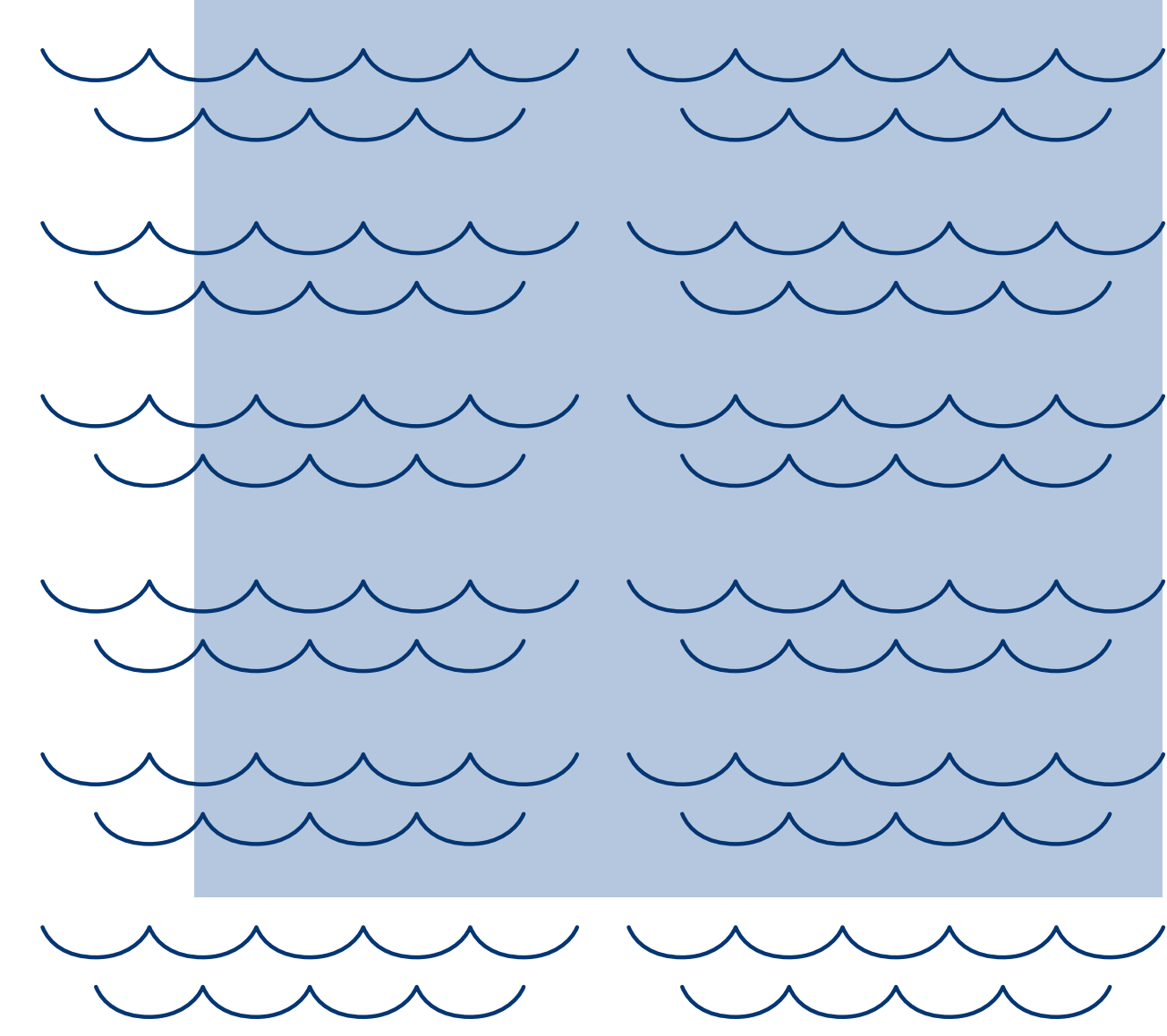


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# Help shape our plans

**The work we have planned is significant and has the potential to deliver massive benefits in your community, Scotland, and beyond. Yet we know that achieving our goals will require a lot of work that will impact your lives. That's why we want to work with you every step of the way throughout the planning and delivery stages of these essential and ambitious works.**

We're committed to delivering a meaningful consultation process that actively seeks the views of everyone affected by our plans. That means making our plans clear and easily accessible, so that you can give us input throughout each stage of the development process.

Throughout the consultation, we'll present our approach to developing the project, including changes made since we last consulted with you. We will also provide some visualisations and maps to show you where everything will be located.

We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of any changes and refinements we've made. By telling us what you think, you will help shape our proposals. We want to harness your local knowledge so that we spot any unforeseen challenges early and maximise the potential benefits and opportunities for your communities.

Because, ultimately, we want you to work with us to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.

## The marine pre-application process

We are holding a public consultation event in Peterhead in Aberdeenshire to provide information about the proposed subsea cables in Scottish waters, prior to submitting Marine Licence applications to the Marine Directorate Licensing and Operations Team.

This event complies with the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, which apply to Marine Licence applications in the Scottish Territorial Waters, from Mean High Water Springs out to 12 nautical miles from the shore. You are invited to comment on the material presented in this document and the proposed development prior to the submission to the Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team. Consultation responses must be returned before **Thursday 6 July 2025**.

### Who we're consulting with

As well as communities, we are keen to hear feedback from a broad range of other stakeholders including but not limited to landowners, businesses, non-statutory consultees and statutory consultees such as Marine Directorate, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses.

### What next?

Following today's event, a Pre-Application Consultation Report will be prepared which will be submitted to support the Marine Licence application. The report will describe the comments received during these events and how we have responded to those, including any additional mitigation or amendments to the project.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



07879 288 666



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# Marine Licensing in Scotland

Scotland's National Marine Plan sets out how developments in Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles) will be managed, including objectives and marine planning policies for subsea cables.

Subsea power cables in Scottish waters require a marine licence to be granted by the Marine Directorate Licensing and Operations Team (MD-LOT), on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. Cables longer than 1853m and which cross the intertidal boundary are also subject to pre-application consultation requirements, hence our current consultation on the subsea cable elements of this project.

Note that consultation on the EGL3 converter station at Netherton Hub has already been completed and is not part of this consultation. You can find more information about Netherton Hub at:

[ssen-transmission.co.uk/  
Netherton-hub](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/Netherton-hub)

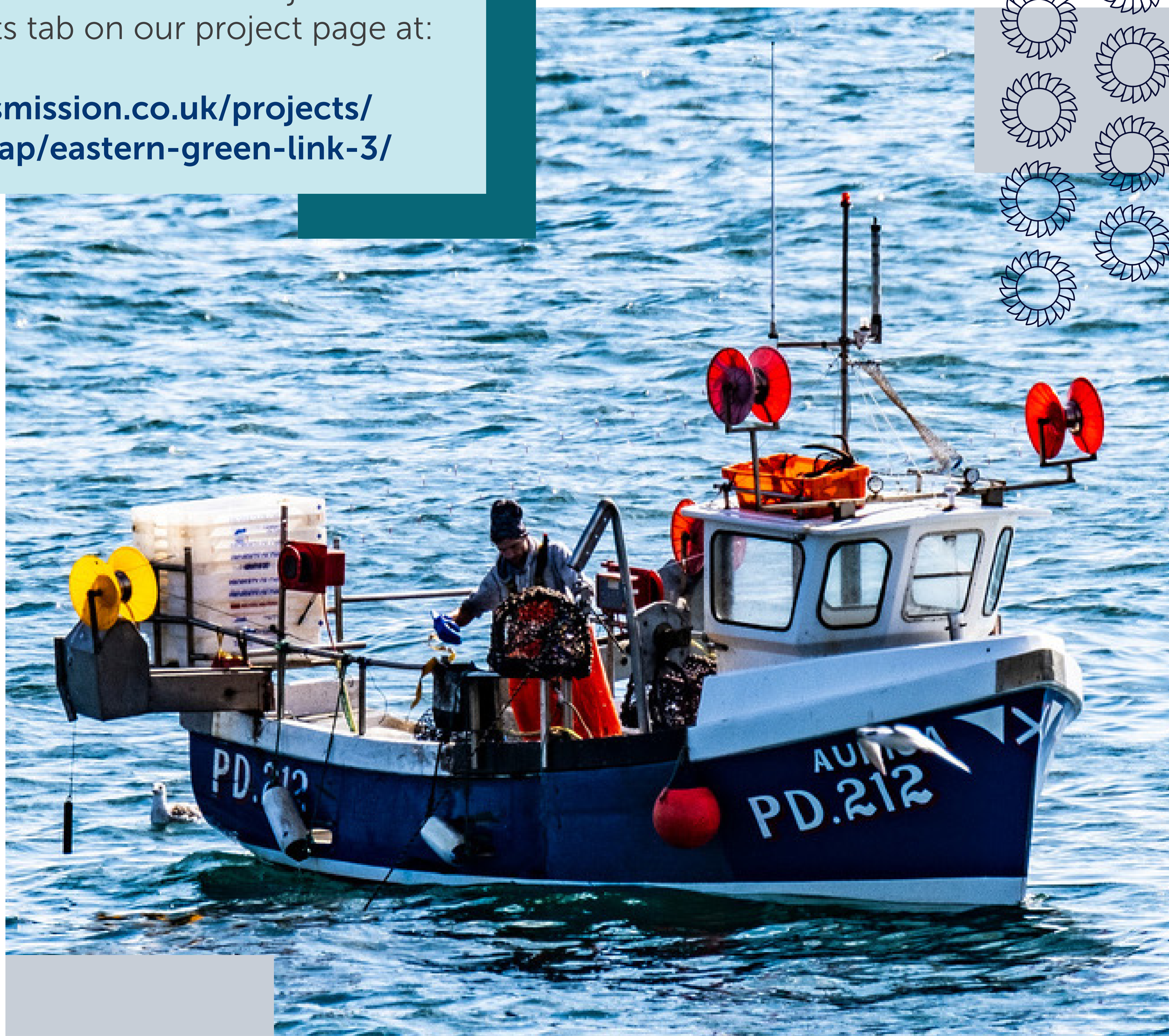
Furthermore, the onshore underground cable elements of this project are classed as 'Permitted Development' and are not subject to consultation. We are sharing details on our preferred alignment of the underground cable for information only and feedback will not be sought as part of this consultation process. Information on the underground cable can be found in the Project Documents tab on our project page at:

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Although subsea electricity transmission cables are not subject to a formal Environmental Impact Assessment process, the Marine Scotland Act requires that we consider the scale and nature of the project, and provide a proportionate environmental assessment. With this in mind, a non statutory marine environmental appraisal (MEA) will accompany our application for a marine licence. The MEA will detail the assessments that we have carried out, including our subsea cable routing studies and assessments of our potential impacts on the environment, cultural heritage, navigation, and other maritime activities.

We have also engaged with Crown Estate Scotland to obtain an option to lease agreement for the subsea cable installation corridor within Scottish territorial waters. Closer to the time of cable installation, the project will step from an option to lease to the full lease agreement, which provides SSEN Transmission with the seabed rights required to install and maintain the cable.

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[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



07879 288 666



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# How we've selected our proposed subsea cable route and landfalls

In our previous consultation on the EGL3 marine cable in June 2023, we presented potential subsea cable corridors between various landfall locations.

Several subsea cable corridors have been developed and considered as part of the selection process. These options were based on identifying pairs of landfalls linked by a subsea cable corridor.

The process of identifying subsea cable corridors followed the stages below:

## The process for selecting our proposed landfall and marine cable corridors:

### Stage.1



Preliminary landfall option identification, focussing on identifying potential landfall locations meeting essential construction characteristics.

### Stage.2



Constraints identification, identifying environmental, social, and technical constraints associated with each landfall.

### Stage.3

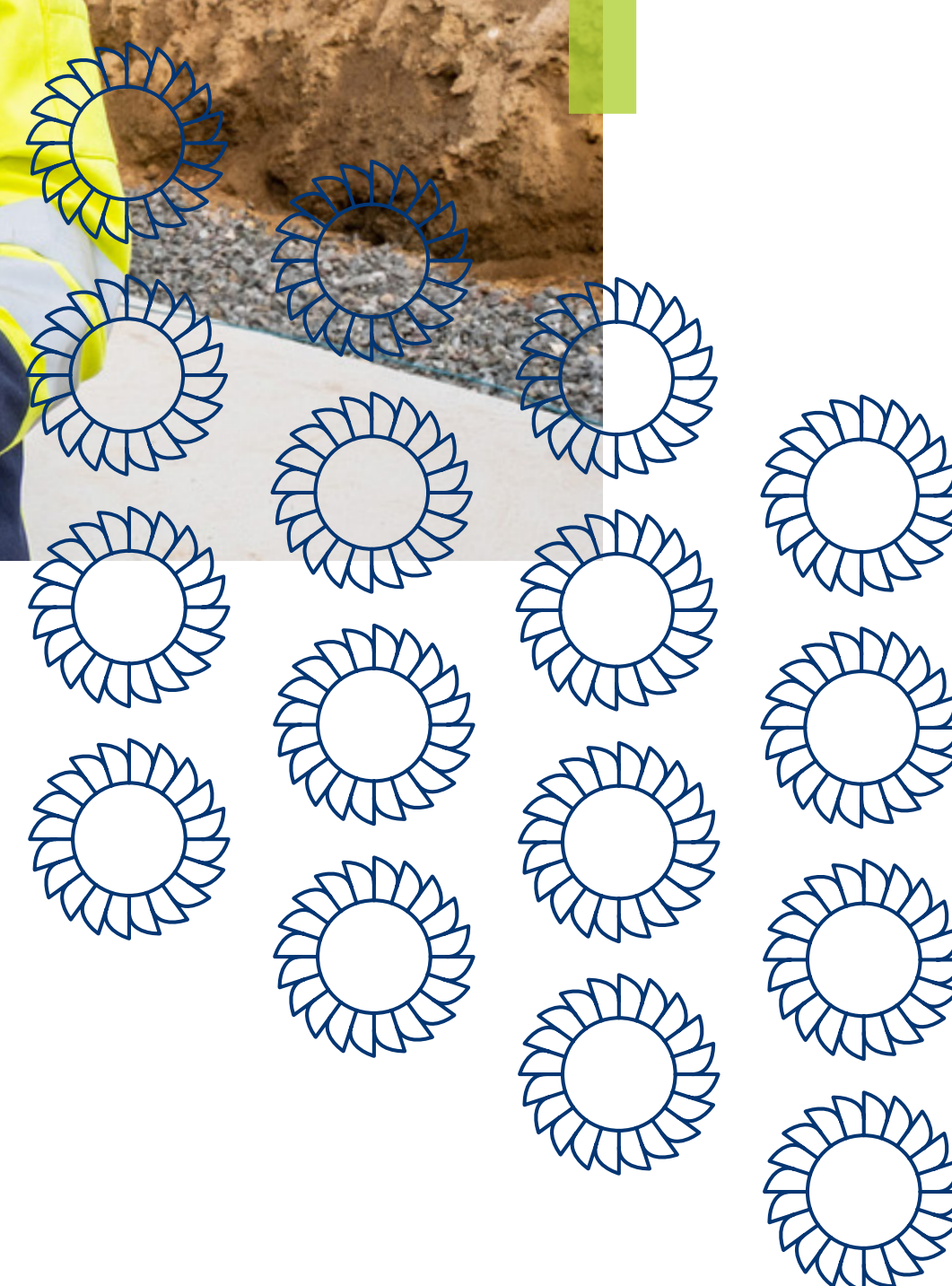


Corridor Optioneering, identifying potential subsea cable corridors based on relative impacts on constraints identified in Stage 2.

### Stage.4



Corridor Development and Selection, including a multi-disciplinary review of constraints and interactions between them to develop a suitable subsea cable corridor.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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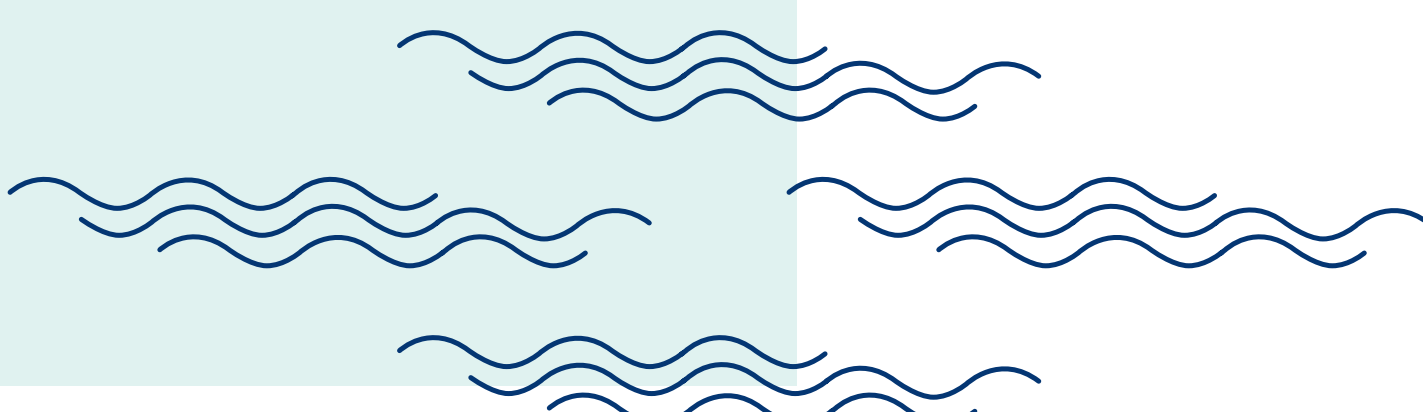
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# How we selected our proposed subsea cable route and landfalls

The landfall options in Aberdeenshire were:

- Sandford Bay
- Cruden Bay
- Scotstown Beach South
- Scotstown Beach North



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



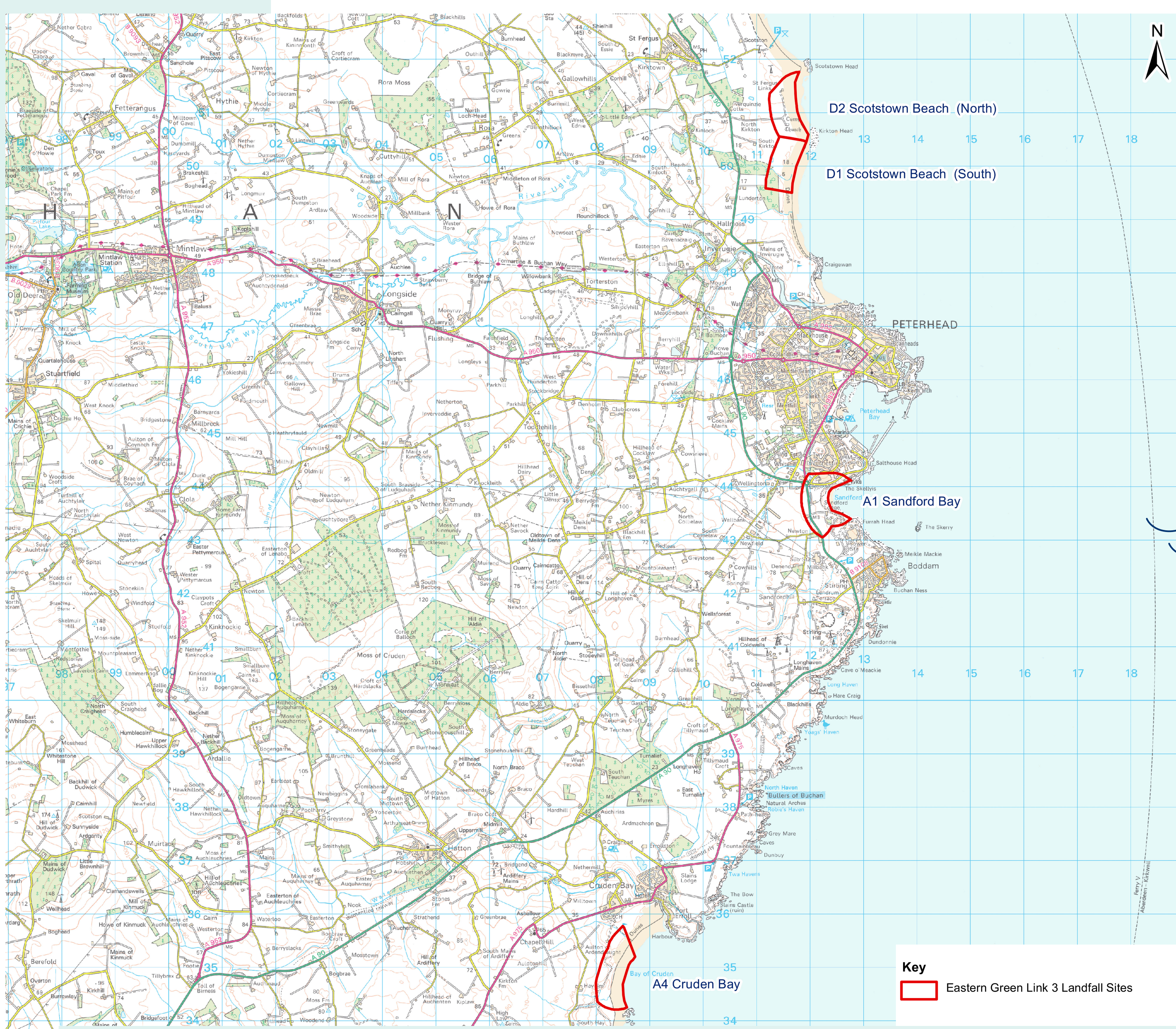
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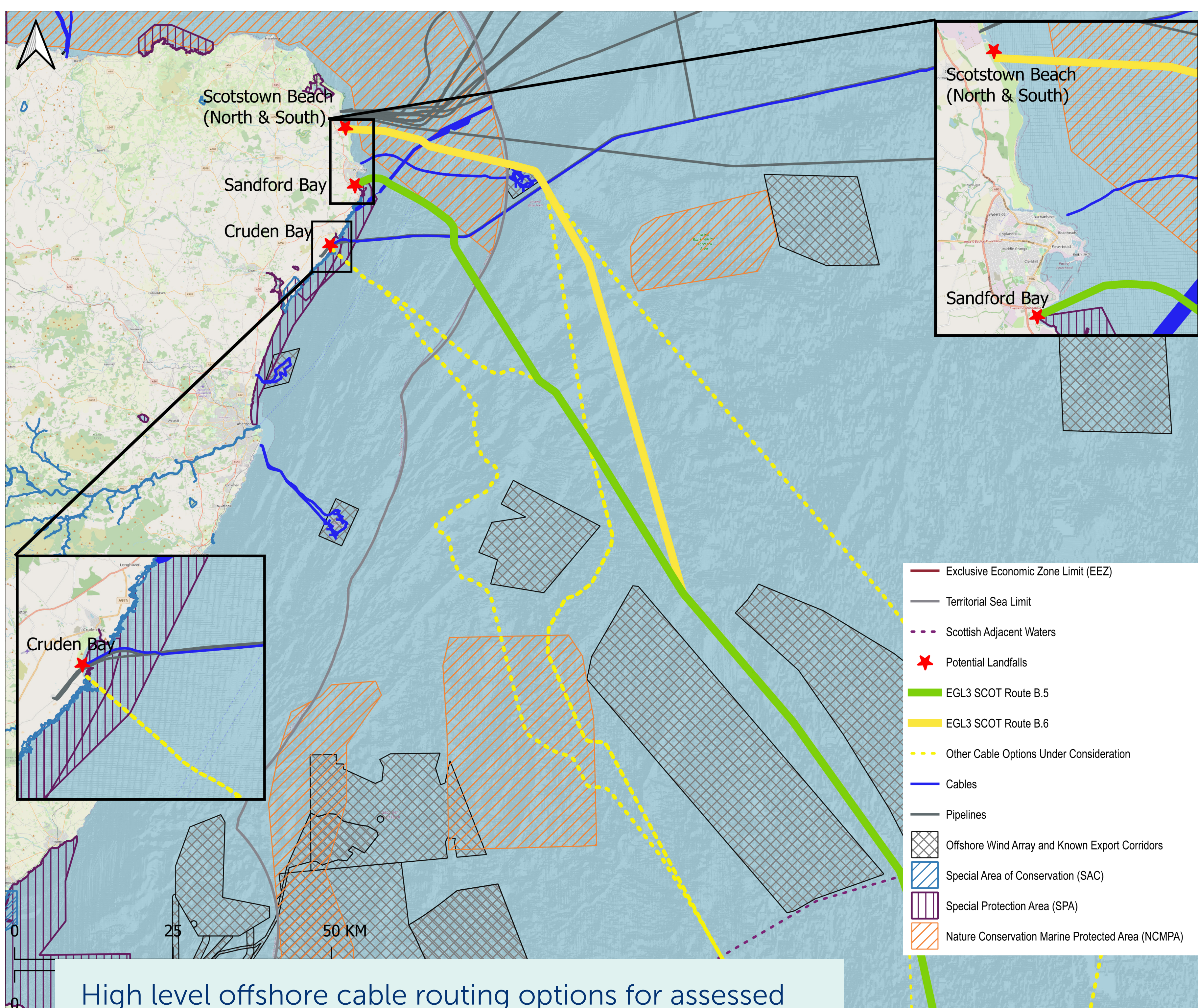
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# How we selected our proposed subsea cable route and landfalls



Subsea Cable Landfall Options - landfalls carried forward for further assessment



High level offshore cable routing options for assessed landfalls previously presented during public consultation



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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# Selecting a corridor between proposed landfall locations

The following key assessment principles were used during the preliminary corridor development process:

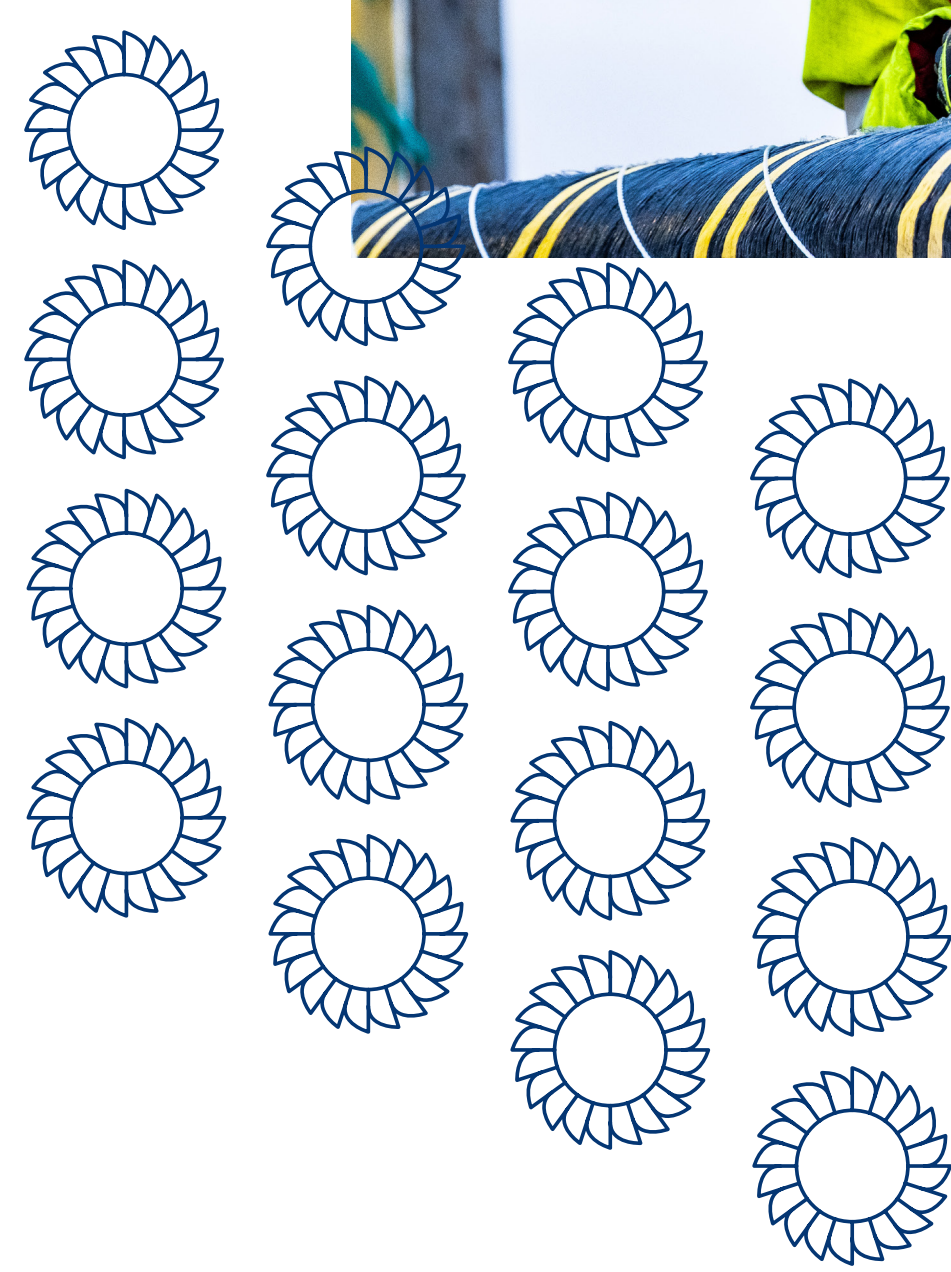
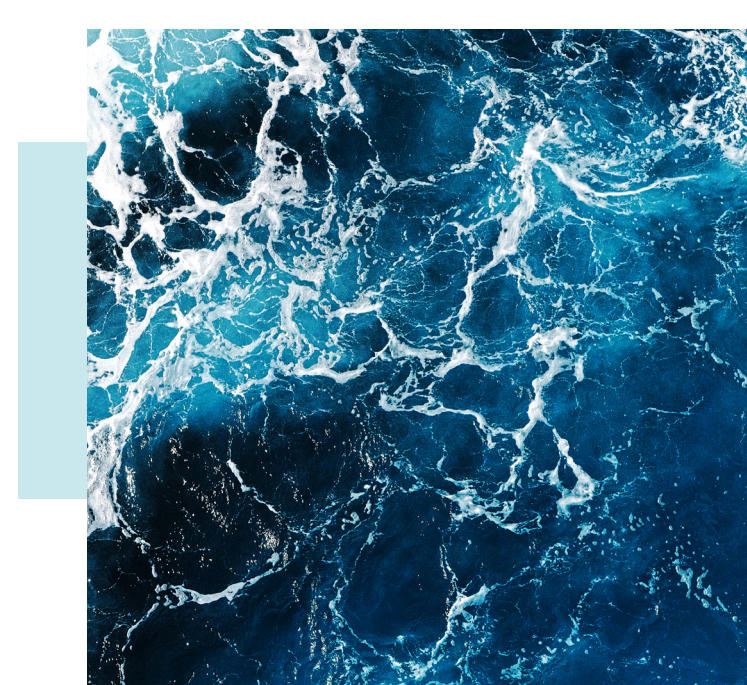
- Minimising subsea cable length, subject to avoiding important constraints
- Engineering factors that may affect cable laying feasibility and cost effectiveness have been considered as much as possible
- Avoidance (wherever possible) of interactions with designated sites, sensitive habitats and wrecks. Where avoidance is not possible, optimisation of the corridor to minimise impacts.
- Minimising disruption/ interactions with other marine infrastructure and sea users including shipping, commercial fisheries, cables, pipelines and oil and gas stakeholders.

Following our previous consultation, a subsea cable installation corridor between Sandford Bay in Aberdeenshire and the Lincolnshire coast was selected as the least constrained option because:

- It minimised interactions with protected areas and sensitive habitats and species to the greatest extent
- It maximised the potential for subsea cable burial throughout the cable corridor and minimised the number of crossings of third-party assets required
- It minimised the length of onshore underground cable required to connect to substations at each end
- It minimised coastline development disturbance due to the shared landfall with the EGL2 project.

Since our last consultation, we have carried out a marine survey campaign to gather additional data on the proposed subsea cable corridor between Sandford Bay and Lincolnshire. We have used this data to refine our cable installation corridor to maximise cable burial and to quantify and minimise the potential environmental impacts of our works.

We are preparing to apply to Marine Directorate for a marine licence for the installation and operation of the proposed subsea cable.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)

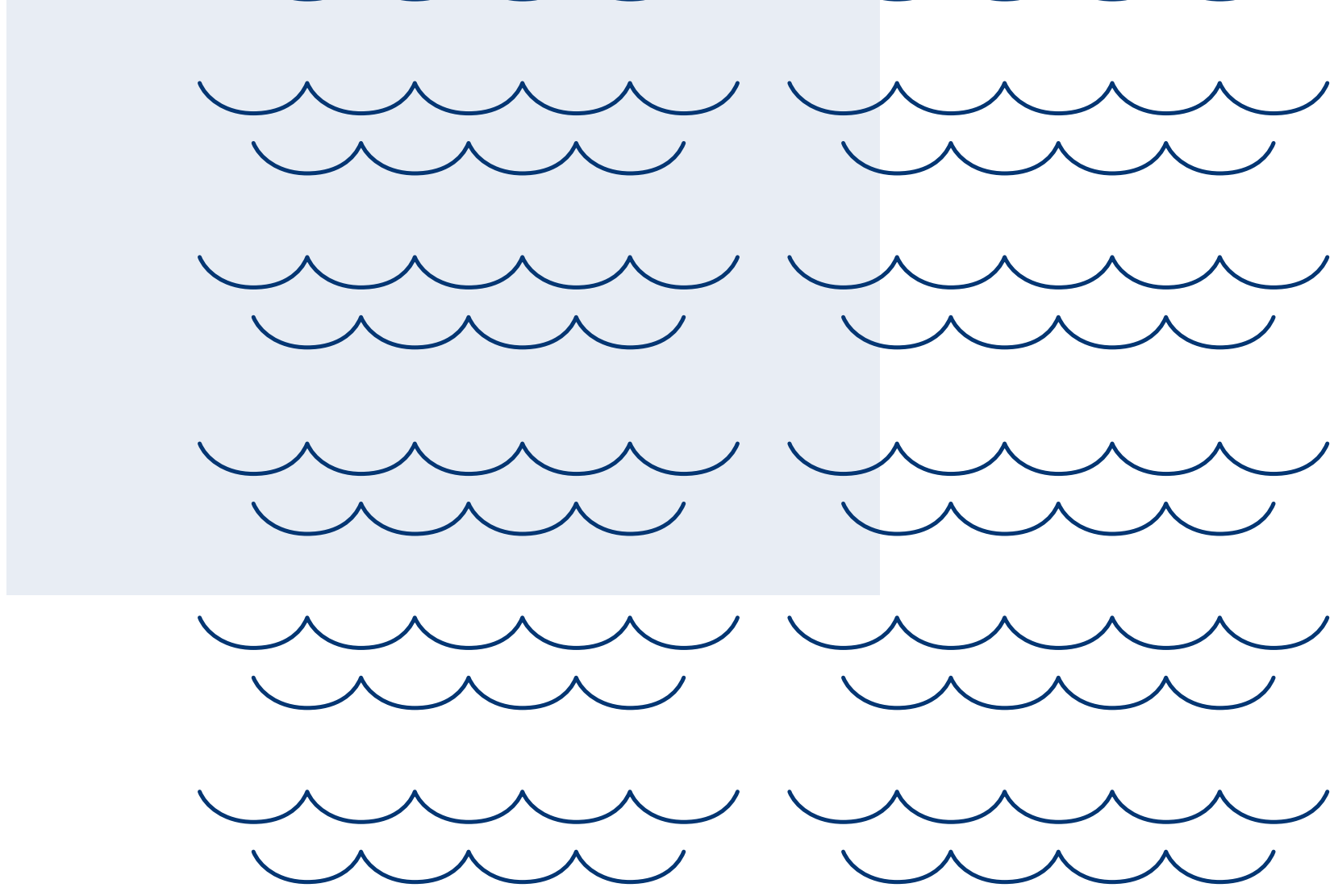


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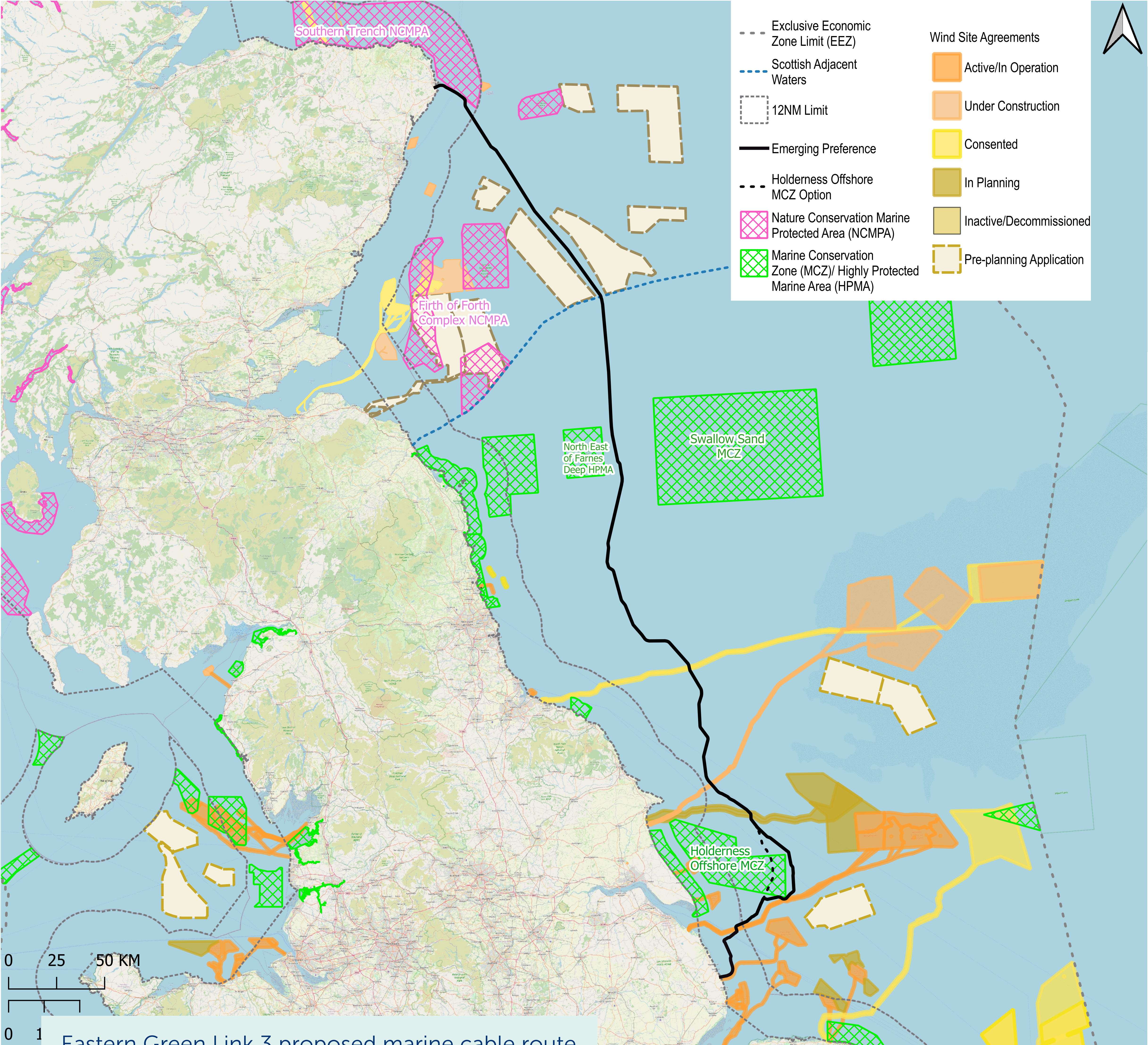




# Marine surveys

To support development of the subsea cable installation corridor, we carried out a series of intertidal, near shore, and offshore surveys during 2023 and 2024. The purpose of these surveys was to gather detailed information about the seabed and any technical constraints or sensitive features. This included:

1. Geophysical survey to determine water depths, seabed features, shallow geology, cable crossing positions, intertidal topography, and to detect objects on the seabed. Instruments used include Multi-Beam Echo sounder (MBES), Side Scan Sonar (SSS), Sub-Bottom Profiler (SBP), magnetometer, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
2. Environmental survey to understand seabed habitats and species, using underwater cameras and sediment grab sampling. We use this information to create maps of the type and extent of seabed habitats throughout the corridor.
3. Geotechnical survey to determine the structure and physical properties of the surface and shallow sediment layers. Instruments used include a Vibrocorer and Cone Penetrometer Testing (CPT).



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



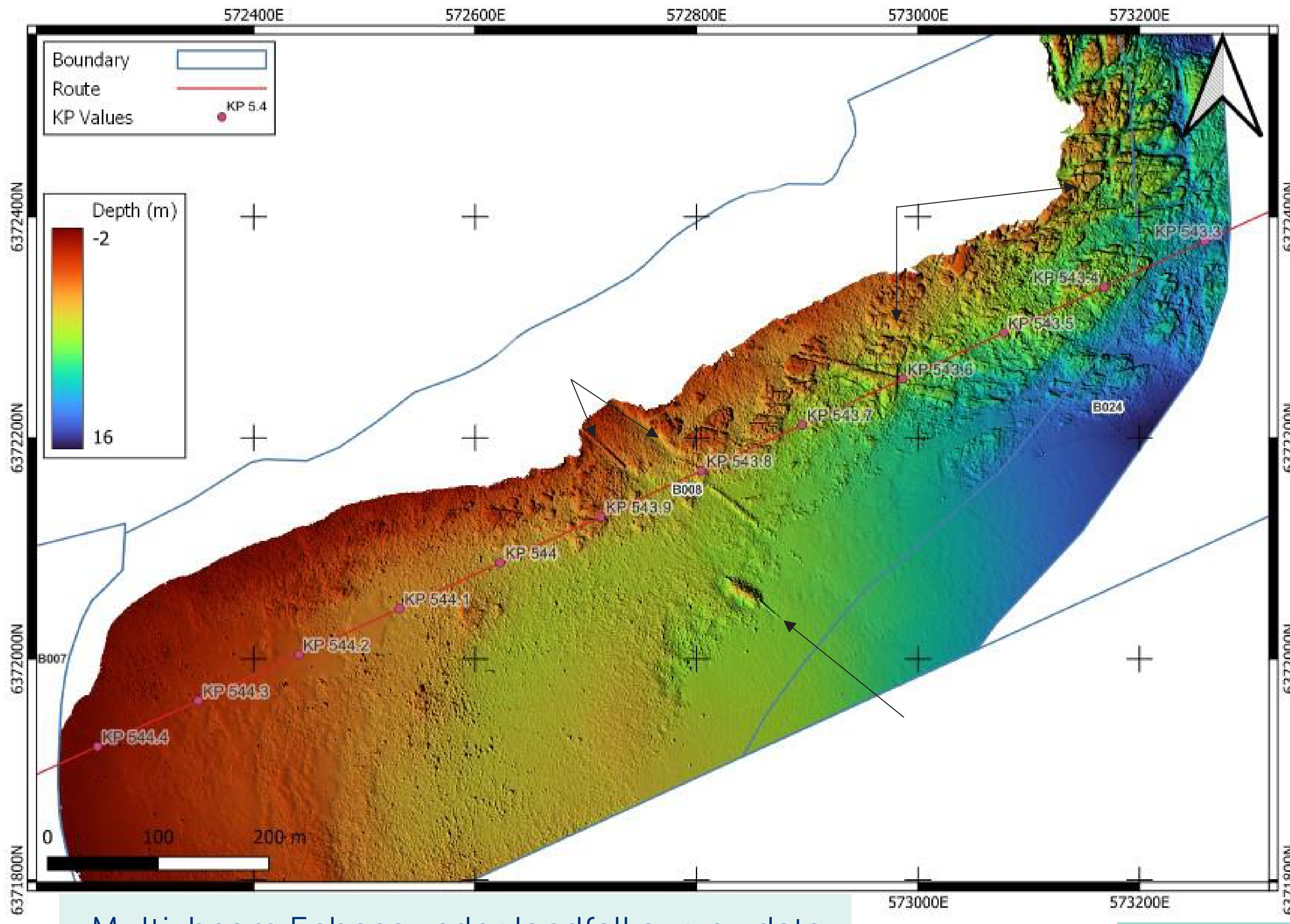
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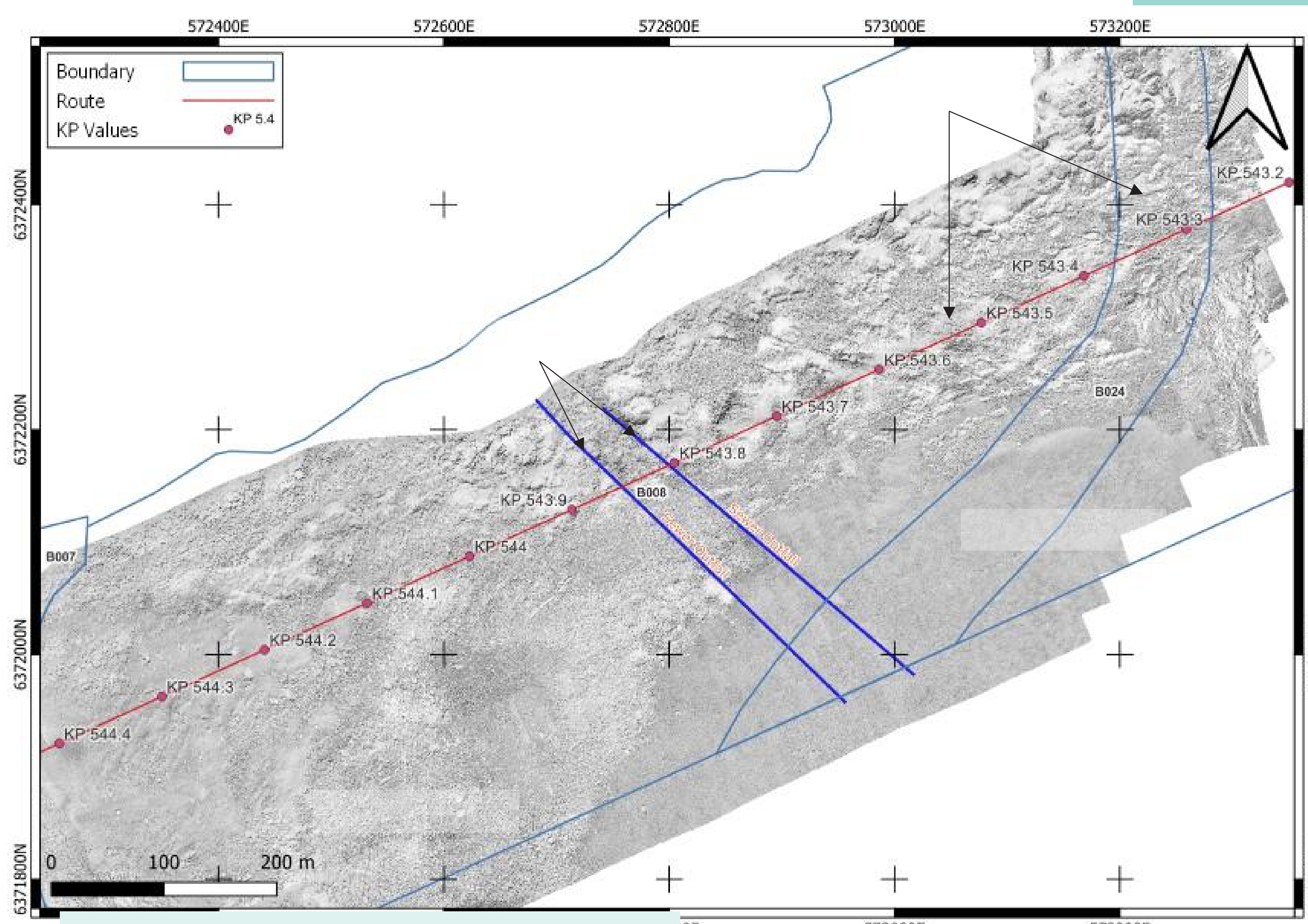
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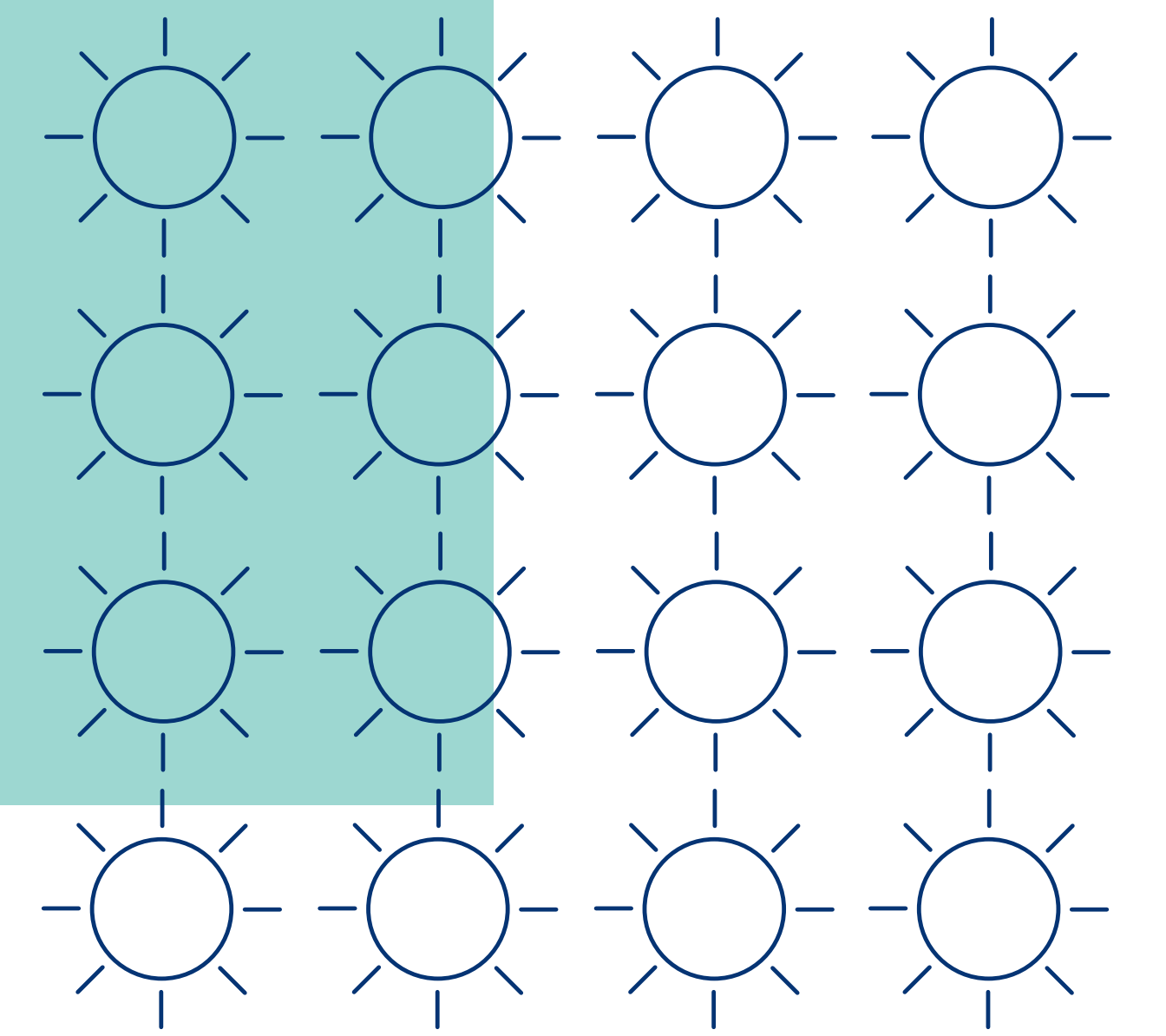
# Marine surveys



Multi-beam Echosounder landfall survey data



Sidescan Sonar landfall survey data



The data collected during the marine survey has allowed us to optimise the installation corridor to:

- Maximise cable burial by avoiding (wherever possible) obstacles, including boulders, rock outcrops, plough marks, and potential unexploded ordinance.
- Avoid (wherever possible) or minimise impacts to any additional sensitive habitats identified in the corridor.
- Avoid (wherever possible) mobile sediments including sandbanks and sandwaves. Where not possible, optimisation of the corridor to minimise any potential for exposure of the cable.
- Cross in-service subsea cables as near to 90° as possible.
- Minimise anchoring and navigation restrictions.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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# Subsea cable installation

The subsea cable system will be installed within a **Marine Installation Corridor** approximately 500m wide and 580km long (145 km in Scottish waters). The installation of the cables will be split into the following campaigns.

## Pre-lay survey

Prior to cable installation, additional marine surveys will be undertaken by the installation contractor within the subsea cable installation corridor to inform detailed route engineering and refinement. These surveys will aim to validate known constraints and identify any changes that could affect the cable installation including seabed sediments, sensitive environmental features, bathymetry, unexploded ordnance and other seabed features.

## Cable route clearance

Debris and obstructions to the cable route will be cleared from the seabed before the subsea cable is laid. Cable route clearance may involve the following activities:

- Pre-sweeping sand waves using a Mass Flow Excavator (MFE);
- Boulder clearance using grabs or ploughs;
- Debris clearance using a Pre-Lay Grapnel run (PLGR) and/or ROV; and
- Cutting and removing sections of out of service cables.

## Cable lay and burial

Considering the dynamic environment in which our marine cables are installed, there are various hazards that pose a risk to the integrity of the cable. The cable will be protected from damage in one of the following ways:

**Burial** - Burial in seabed sediments, using a trenching tool which follows the cable along the seabed using water jets or a plough to lower the cable into the seabed.

**Surface protection** - By using surface protection such as rock berms or protective ducts. Rock berms are placed over the cable using a fall pipe, allowing the rock to be accurately placed and the berm profile to be carefully designed. In some areas protective ducts or specially designed mattresses may be used, i.e in areas of environmentally sensitive habitats.

**Trenching/ducts** - At the landfalls, the cable will be brought ashore using pre-installed ducts. The ducts are installed using a horizontal directional drill, where a bore hole is drilled from the shore, under the intertidal area, and emerging at circa 10m water depth, protecting the cable from damage and minimising impacts on sensitive intertidal environments.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



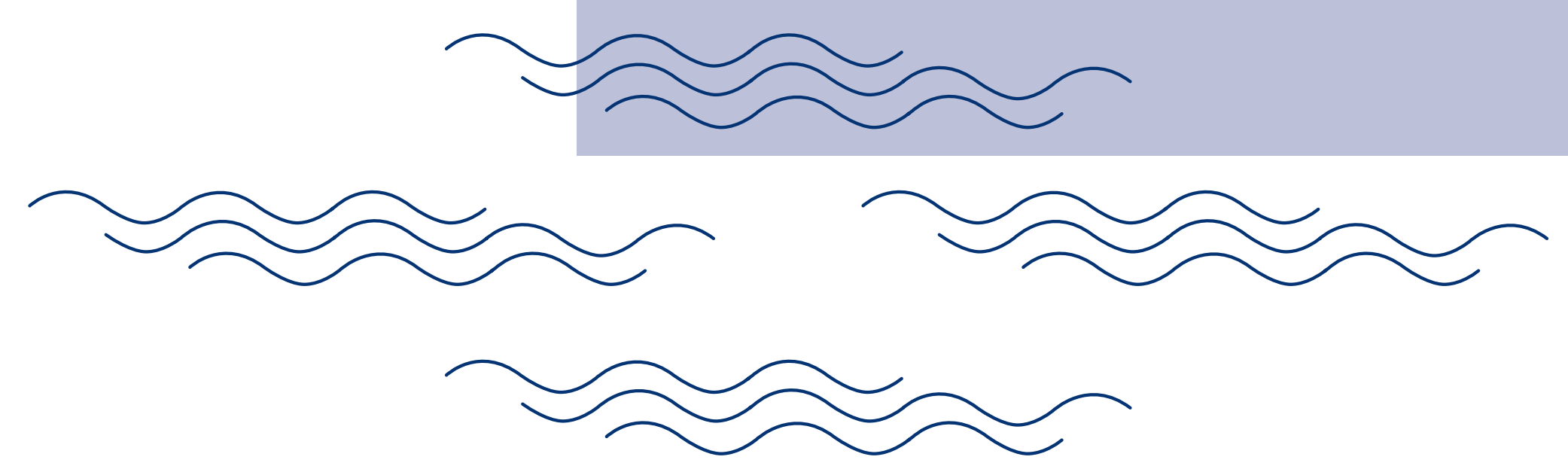
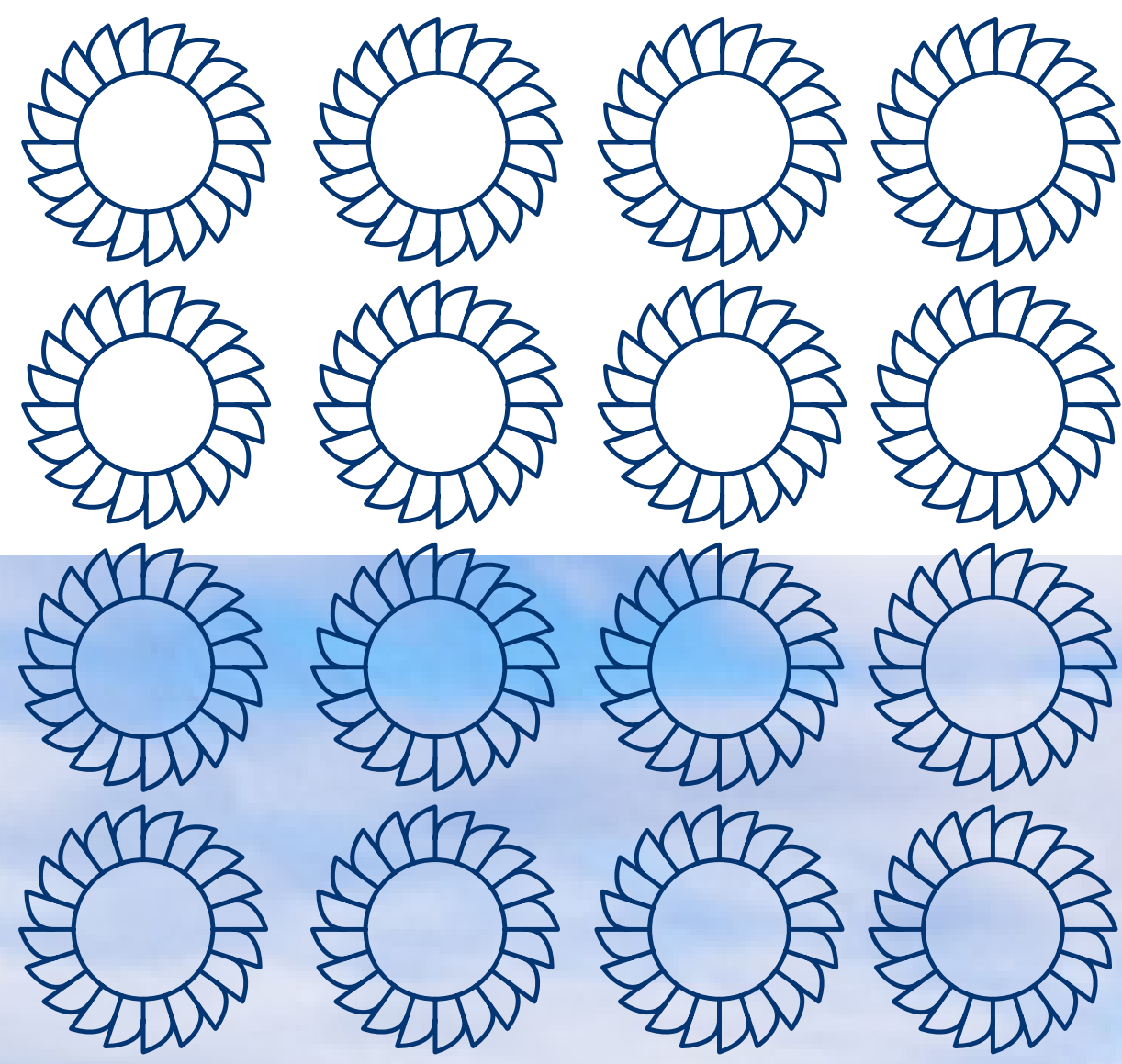
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# Subsea cable installation



## Post installation surveys

Detailed geophysical and imaging surveys will be undertaken to confirm the location of the installed cable and cable protection such as trenching and rock placement. Post installation surveys will also be used to monitor seabed recovery, particularly in areas of sensitive habitats.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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# Environmental considerations

The possible effects of the installation, operation, and decommissioning of the subsea cable are considered within the project Marine Environmental Appraisal (MEA). Cumulative and in-combination effects are also considered where there is potential for effects from this project to overlap with the effects of other marine and coastal developments.

The following topics are included within the MEA, as summarised on the pages that follow:

- Physical environment
- Benthic ecology
- Fish and shellfish ecology
- Marine mammals
- Ornithology
- Marine archaeology
- Shipping and navigation
- Commercial fisheries
- Other sea users



The study area passes a number of designated sites, which are designated for marine species and habitats, however the subsea cable avoids direct interaction with them.

The EGL3 route also contains bedrock and boulder fields which provide a potential habitat for other species.

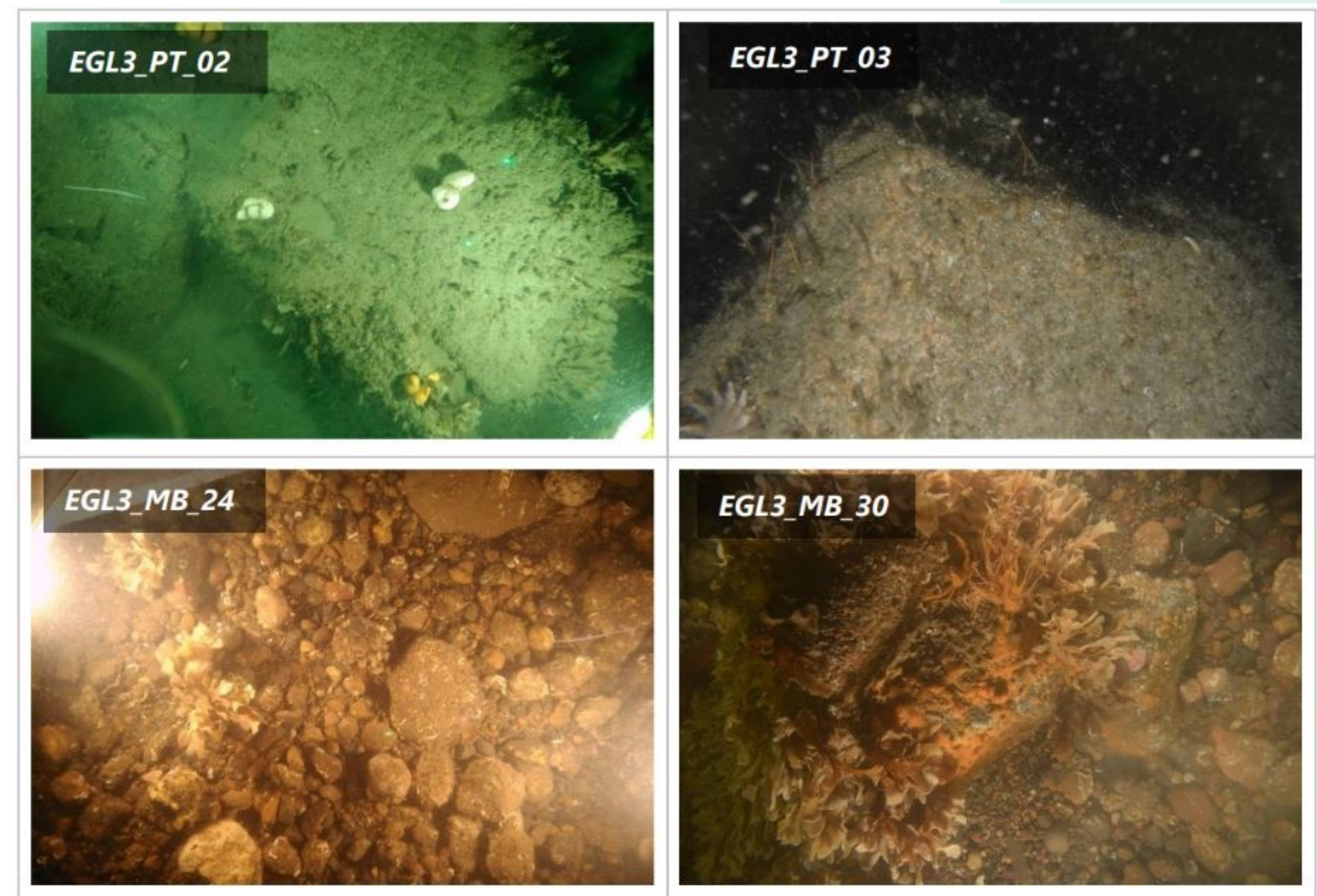
The ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) is a protected species which forms reef structures. A number of patches of sabellaria reef were identified during the site surveys, although these were all low reef structures. The presence of ocean quahog which is classed as a priority marine feature was also noted during the surveys.

Protected species and habitats will be avoided wherever possible.

## Benthic ecology and physical environment

The intertidal environment across the Sandford Bay survey area is considered moderately diverse with a number of different habitats identified. The shoreline is characterised by sand dunes and vegetated sea-cliffs. The coastline is fairly exposed and kelp debris can be found on the beach due to the influence of seasonal storm surge. Further down the beach the area changes to a mixture of shingle, cobbles, pebbles and coarse substrata closer to the low water mark. Either side of the bay presented areas of moderately exposed rocky shores dominated by barnacles and seaweed leading to kelp habitats on shingle, boulders and bedrock. The landfall is situated near to anthropogenic infrastructures, such as pathways, adjacent power station and a car park however the coastal habitats are listed as protected habitats.

Water depths across the EGL3 route transitioned from a minimum of 1.7m in the nearshore to a maximum of 104m before gradually shallowing to approximately 74m at the Scottish and English maritime border.



Example images of 'Faunal Turf Communities on Atlantic Circalittoral Rock' Habitat



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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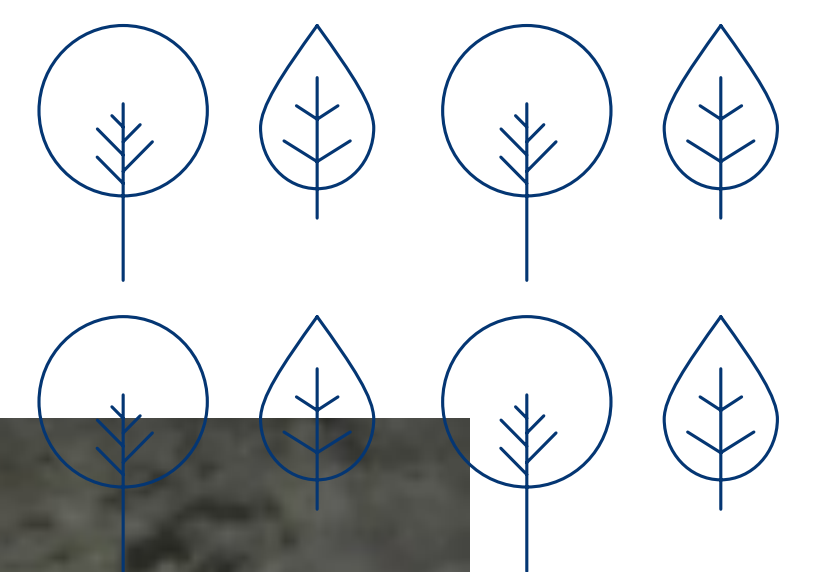
# Fish and shellfish ecology

The study area is important for commercial fish species including herring, mackerel and horse mackerel, in addition a number of shellfish species of note are within the study area including nephrops, scallops, crabs, squid and lobster.

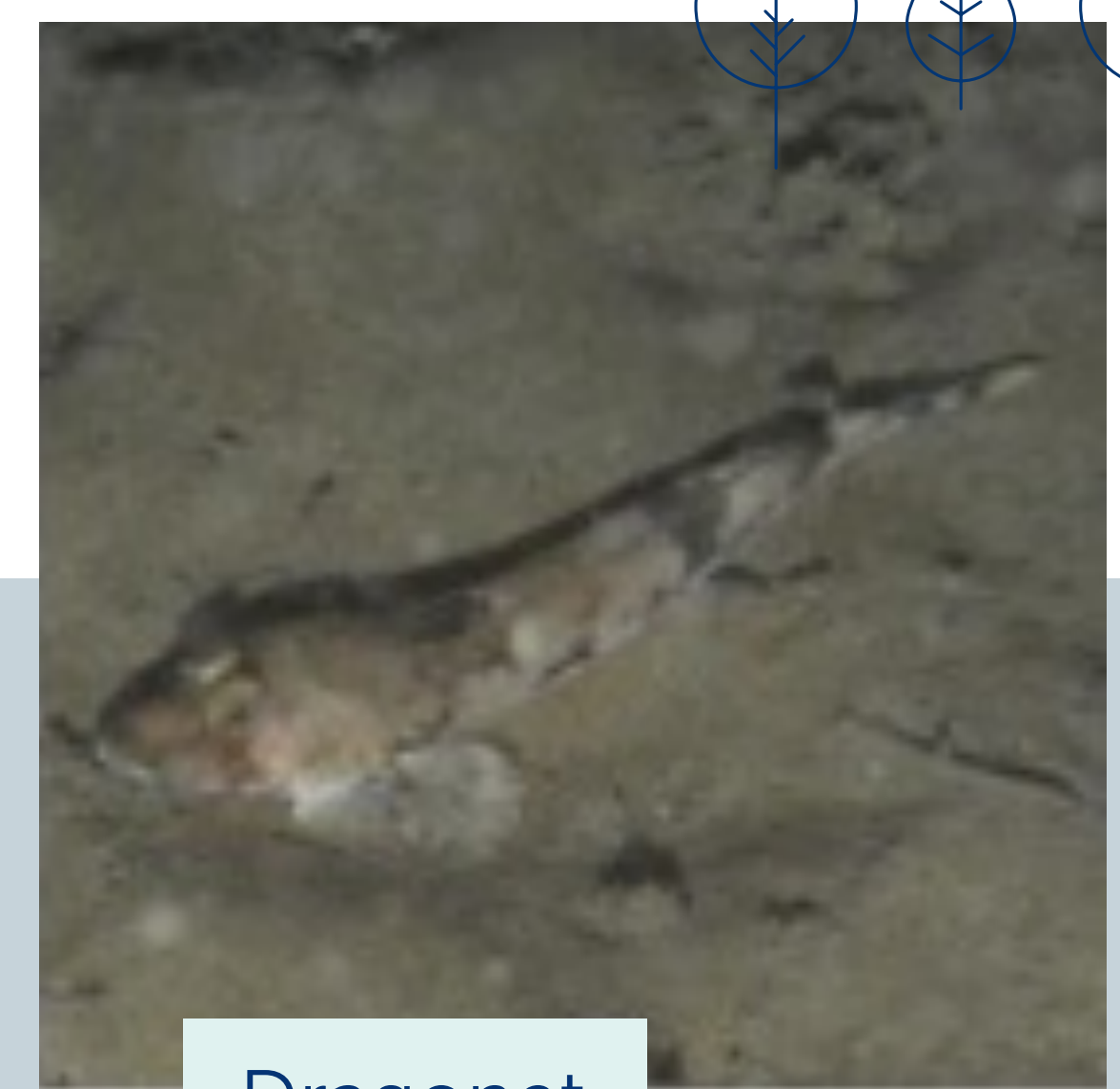
There are a couple of notable types of fish that are present within the cable corridor which include herring and fish that are electrosensitive (elasmobranchs).

Herring are a widespread pelagic fish, listed as a United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) priority marine species of principal importance. Herring spawning grounds are prevalent around the Scottish north and east coasts, with high intensity nursery grounds close to shore, and low intensity nursery grounds widespread throughout the North Sea. Elasmobranchs are amongst the most vulnerable marine fish. This is due to their slow growth rates, late maturity, low reproductive productivity which limits their ability for population recovery should it decline. All sharks and rays are on the OSPAR list of threatened or declining species (OSPAR Commission, 2024). There are several elasmobranchs which are regularly caught by commercial fisheries along the Proposed Submarine Cable Corridor. These include cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*), dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*), spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*), thornback ray (*Raja clavata*), and spotted ray (*Aetobatus narinari*).

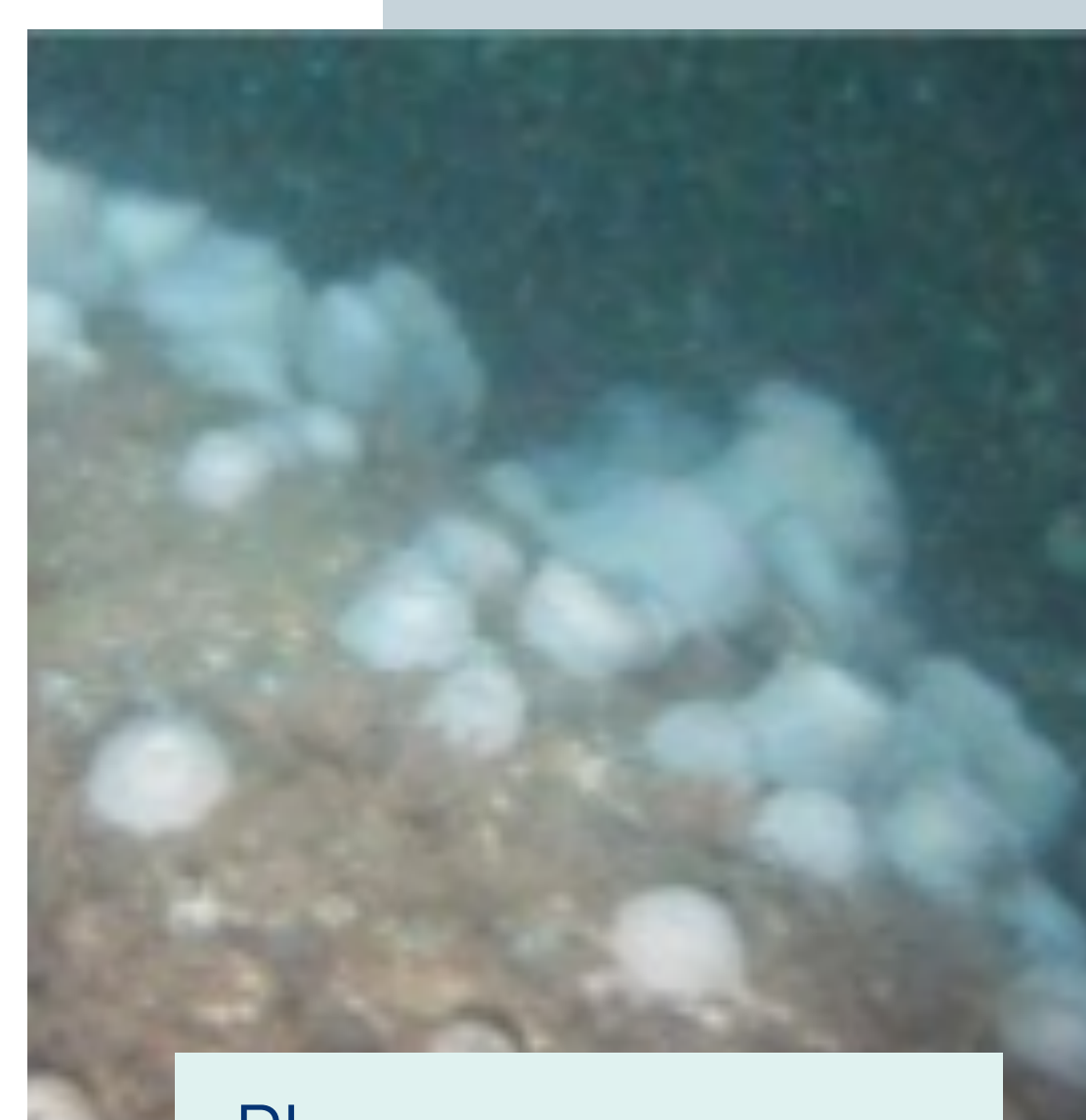
A number of nursery grounds are also present within the study area for a variety of different species. These are areas that fish return to each year to spawn and rear young.



Common Sun Star



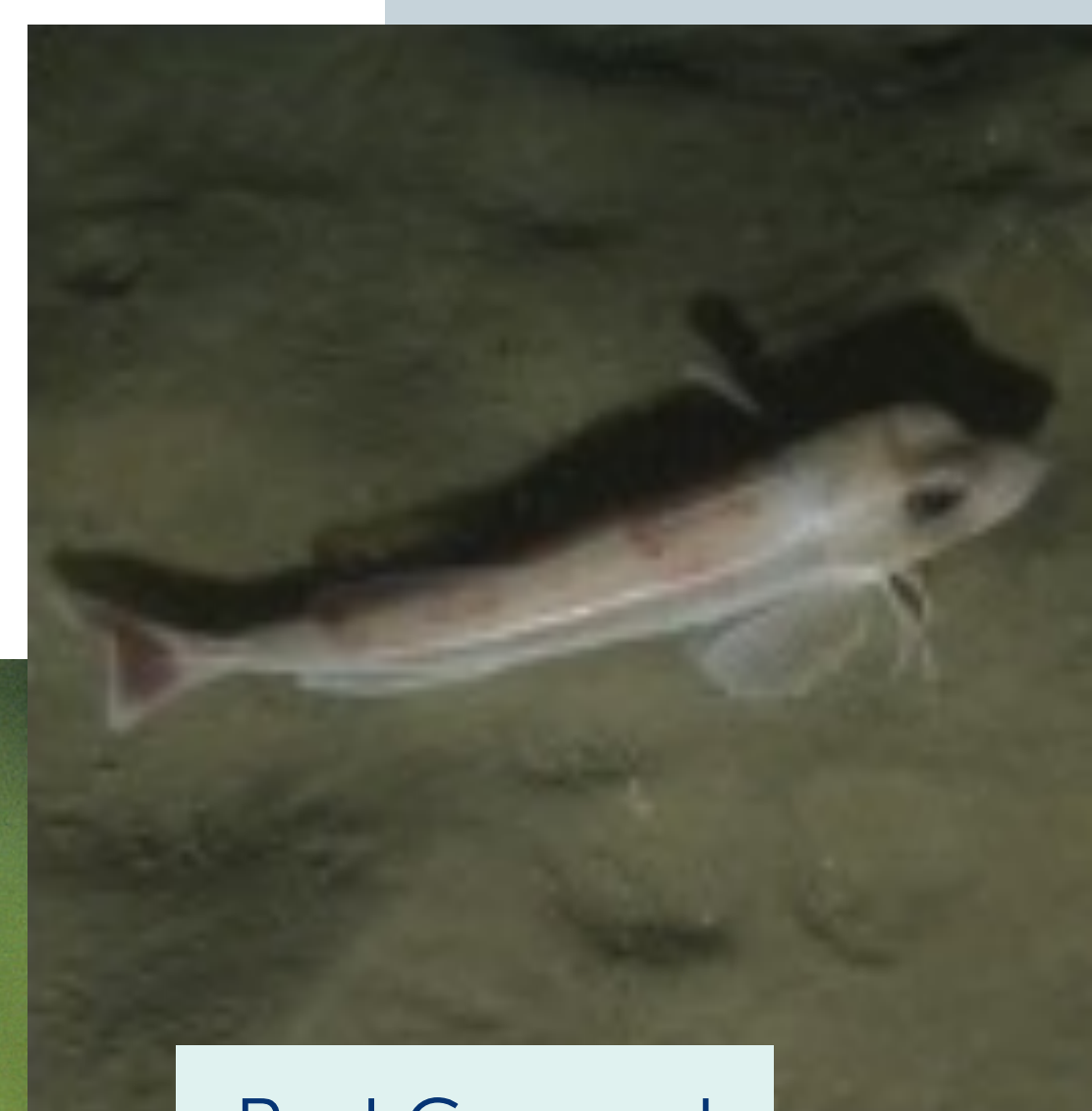
Dragonet



Plumose anemone



Edible crab



Red Gurnard



Dahlia anemones



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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# Marine mammals and megafauna

Scottish waters are home to an abundant array of marine mammals. Within the study area there are a number of marine mammal species to note. A number of marine mammals have been noted within the study area including harbour porpoise, short-beaked common, bottlenose and white-beaked dolphin, minke humpback, fin, long-finned pilot and northern bottlenose whales as well as grey seal, harbour seal and leatherback turtles. Bottlenose dolphin we recorded most regularly, followed by harbour porpoise. Eurasian otters have also been recorded along the coastline within the study area.

All cetaceans are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are European Protected Species under the Habitats Regulations. Minke whale are a designated feature of the Southern Trench NCMPS, which they use as a seasonal feeding ground.

Grey and harbour seals are found in the vicinity of the subsea cable installation corridor, although grey seals are more numerous than harbour seals.

The proposed project work does not overlap with any designated otter habitat, including at landfalls. There is unlikely to be any significant interaction between Eurasian otters and the proposed project.

To minimise any disturbance to marine mammals, we will undertake a detailed assessment of potential impacts, which will inform a marine mammal mitigation plan for the marine elements of the project. All work will be carried out following relevant guidance, including the Joint Nature Conservation Committee guidance and the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code.

## Marine ornithology

The landfall at Sandford Bay crosses the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA which is designated for a number of breeding birds including Fulmar, herring gull, kittiwake and guillemot which are present in summer months. The Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA includes a variety of marine habitats that supports breeding bird populations. The area is characterised by varied coastal vegetation on the ledges and the cliff tops include maritime heath, grassland and brackish flushes. There are a number of other neighbouring designations hosting a variety of bird species.

During the breeding season, the sea in the southeast of Scotland is internationally important for at least thirteen breeding bird species, namely northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*), Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*), herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), lesser blackbacked gull (*Larus fuscus*), black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), common guillemot (*Uria aalge*), razorbill (*Alca torda*)



## Marine archaeology

### Submerged prehistory

A series of melt water channels and moraines have been mapped crossing the Study Area up to c. 60km offshore from the Scottish landfall and lake deposits at the northernmost part of the Study Area.

### Maritime and intertidal archaeology

There are two records within the Study Area that are subject to statutory protection as Scheduled Monuments. Both are situated within the onshore zone in Aberdeenshire Aviation archaeology.

There are 19 wreck sites recorded by the UKHO. Two of these are recorded as 'foul ground'. A further seven are recorded as 'dead', indicating that they have not been detected by repeated surveys. Four wrecks are recorded as 'lifted' indicating no, or little, remains on the seabed. Six (6) wreck sites are recorded by the UKHO within Scottish waters of the Study Area beyond 12 NM. One (1) of these is recorded as 'dead', indicating that they have not been detected by repeated surveys.

## Aviation archaeology

One UKHO record relates to an aircraft crash site in Scottish waters, situated within the Study Area beyond 12 NM. Three aircraft loss records held by Canmore have been identified at sea in Scottish waters of the Study Area; two within 12 NM and one beyond. No further crash sites are recorded by the HERs. As these are recorded losses, the positional data is unreliable and serves only to provide an indication of the types of aircraft that flew over this coastline, and the potential to identify remains within the Study Area. The hinterland of Peterhead, Scotland, was home to several airfields, operational during both World Wars, resulting in significant aircraft traffic in the area during the first half of the 20th century.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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# Shipping, navigation and other sea users

The key navigational features found in the study area are:

- Peterhead Port Authority
- Port Erroll (Cruden Bay)
- Boddam Harbour
- Pilotage station (2.5km to Easy of Boddam)
- Offshore wind farms (OWFs) (Morvan, Ossian, Thistle Wind, Hywind)
- Military Practice Area  
- Areas of Intense Aerial Activity

Nearing the landfall, there is an increase in marine traffic nearshore due to higher vessel activity related to the Aberdeen and Peterhead ports, particularly to service oil and gas infrastructure in the North Sea, where hotspots can be identified.

The study area navigates between areas that are proposed for two new wind farms (Morven and Ossian OWFs). The current levels of marine traffic in this area are low; these windfarms are not yet constructed but are currently in development. Over the coming years, this area is likely to have significantly higher levels of marine traffic, particularly with the increasing spatial pressures off the east coast of the UK.

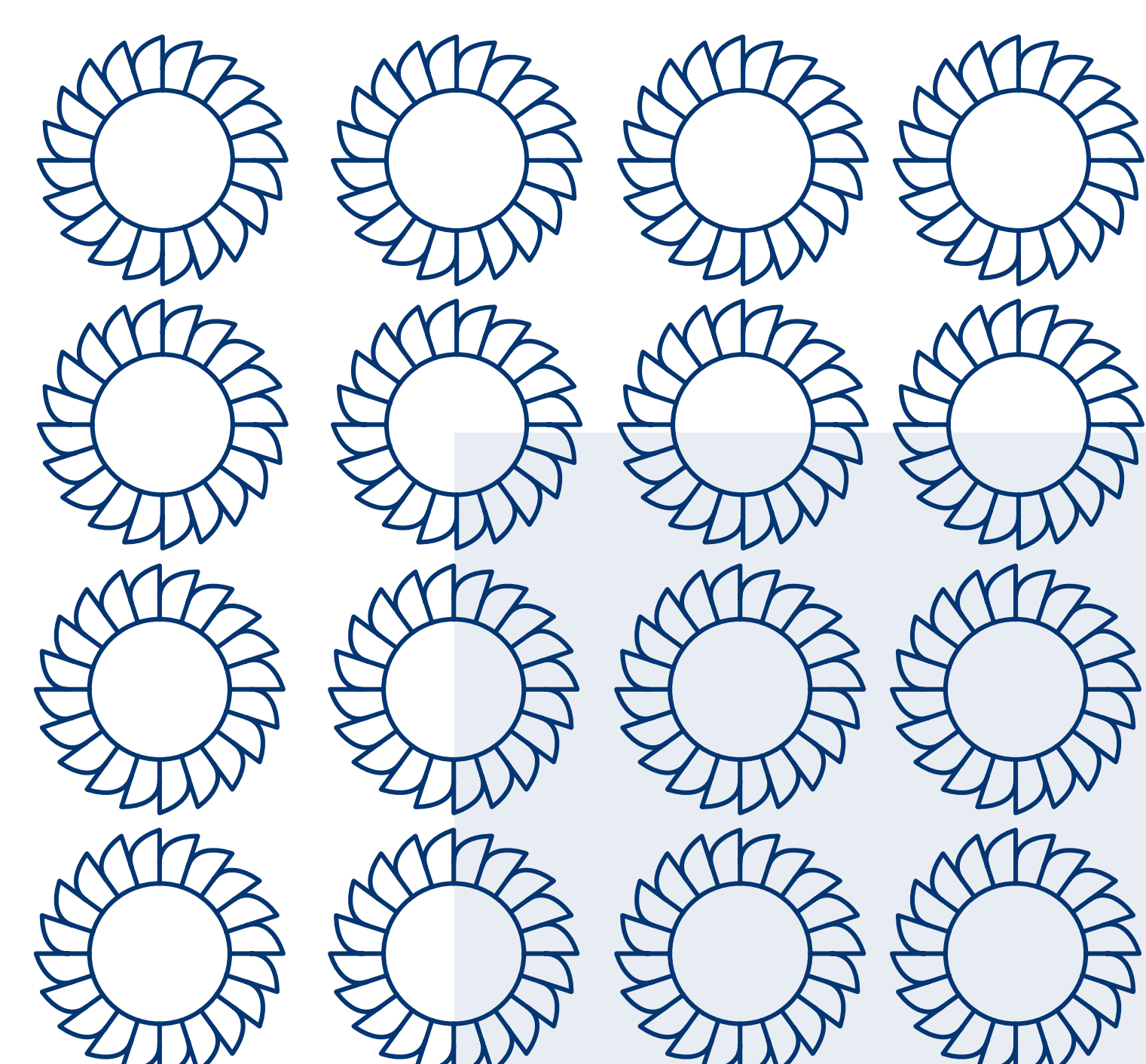
Although just outside the Study Area, it is noted that vessels are present in a high concentration by the peninsula near Fraserburgh. This can be contributed to a high ratio of fishing vessels.

There are sixteen operational or planned OWFs in proximity of the study area, there is one planned inter connector two planned reinforcement power cables and one active telecommunications project. The EGL3 project is proposed to make landfall within the similar location as the Eastern Green Link 2 reinforcement cable. There is one active and one abandoned gas pipeline which crosses the study area and one Carbon Capture and Storage project within the study area.

A number of MOD practice and exercise areas are also present within the study area.

Recreational use around the landfall is generally low but there may be some use of the nearshore area by divers, sailors and other water sports.

The subsea installation corridor crosses a number of pieces of infrastructure which includes pipelines associated with the oil and gas industry. Where this occurs, appropriate crossing and proximity agreements will be put in place.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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# Commercial fisheries

The study area is very important for commercial fisheries with a number of registered and licensed fishing vessels operating in the vicinity of the subsea cable corridor. These vary in size from the smaller (under 10m) vessels and larger (over 10m) vessels with the main port for fish landings being Peterhead. The majority of the smaller vessels hold a shellfish license with lobster and crabs being the target species. Some of the larger vessels also target scallops, however the main type of fishing for the larger vessels demersal and pelagic catches, targeting species such as haddock, herring and mackerel. Over the 5-year period (2018 to 2022), 18,764 tonnes of fish were landed with a value of over £36 million.

A large area off eastern Scotland has restrictions on catching sandeel. This is not a permanent ban or byelaw but has been something that the Scottish Government has put in place for the last three years to benefit the wider marine ecosystem including marine mammals and sea birds who feed on sandeel. (gov.uk, 2023a).

To foster good relationships with all shared users of the marine space, we have consulted with fisheries organisations including the Scottish Fisherman's Federation (SFF), Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA), and local fishers to improve our understanding of existing commercial fishing activity in the area. The results of these consultations have helped to inform the design of our subsea corridor.

Safety zones will be required around the subsea cable installation area to ensure the safety of all personnel involved in the cable installation, so access to certain areas along the cable route will be restricted for temporary periods of time. These areas will be communicated ahead of time and a Notice to Mariners will be issued prior to the installation of the subsea cable.



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



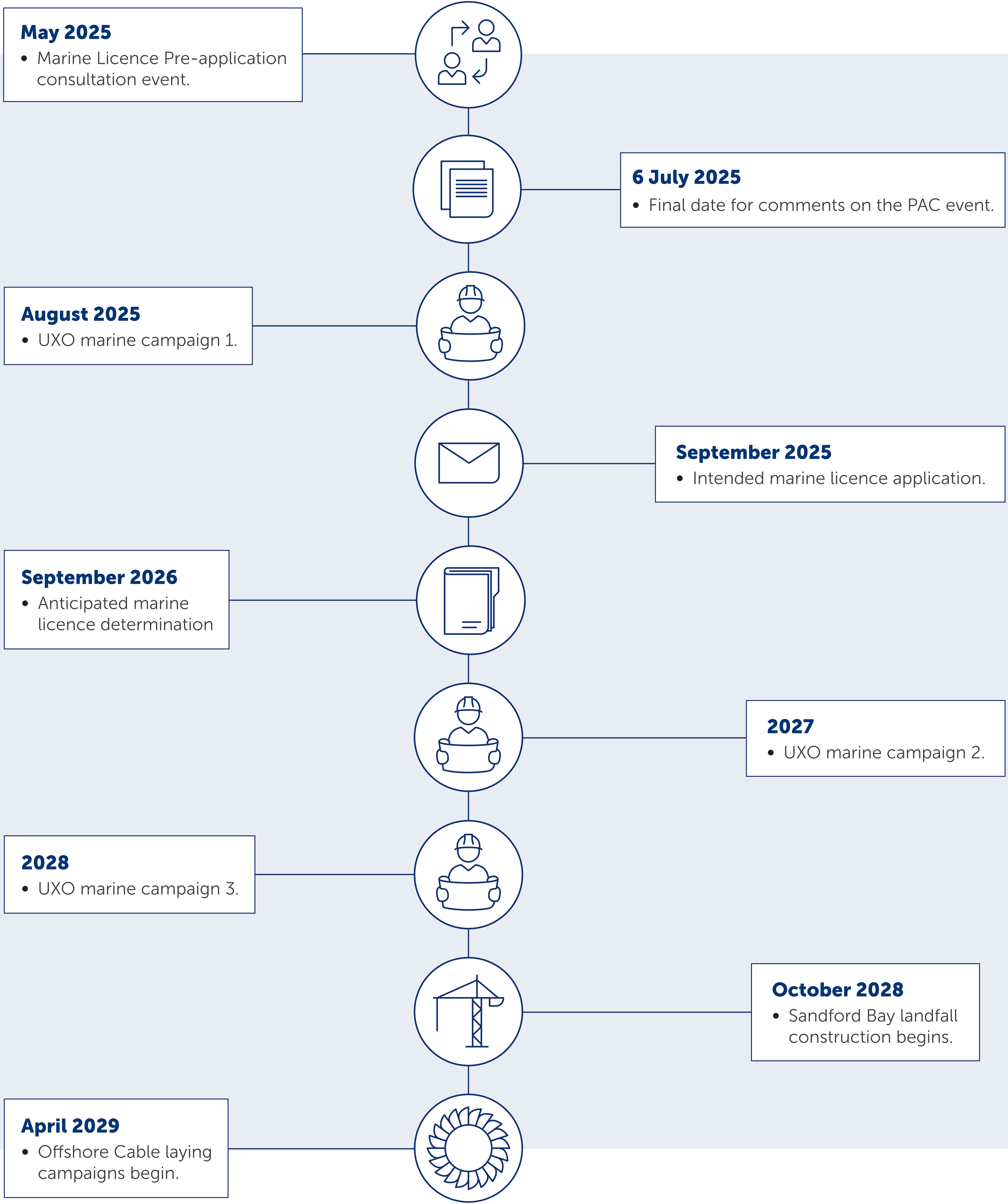
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# Project timeline



Note: Timeline subject to change



[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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# Have your say

## Feedback

We will accept feedback from now until **6 July 2025**.

## How to provide feedback

Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage at: [ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/eastern-green-link-3/](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/eastern-green-link-3/)

Email the feedback form to the Community Liaison Manager, or write to us enclosing the feedback form at the back of this booklet.

## Our Community Liaison team

Each project has a dedicated Community Liaison Manager who works closely with community members to make sure they are well informed of our proposals and that their views, concerns, questions or suggestions are put to our project teams.

Throughout the life of our projects, you will hear from us regularly. We aim to establish strong working relationships by being accessible to key local stakeholders such as community councils, residents' associations, and development trusts, and regularly engage with interested individuals.

## What we're seeking views on

During our last public consultation events in June 2023, we wanted to understand your views on the proposed locations of the subsea cable landfalls and potential cable route. We also wanted to understand whether there were any significant factors or environmental features that you considered to be important, as well as your overall perspectives on the project.

We'll be actively looking to mitigate the impacts of this subsea cable project as much as possible over the coming months by scheduling the installation to have least impact to marine activities. It would be helpful to understand from marine users the location and timing of any activities to inform our plans. We would also like to understand if there are any opportunities to deliver a local community benefit.

## Underground land cable

Note that information on the proposed land cable alignment for the underground cable between the proposed landfall at Sandford Bay to the converter station to be located in Netherton Hub is outlined in a separate document that can be found on the Documents tab of the project webpage at: [ssentransmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/eastern-green-link-3/](https://ssentransmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/eastern-green-link-3/)

It is provided for information and does not form part of this consultation process.



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Please select "Accessibility" on our website to try out our inclusive toolbar."

## Community Liaison Manager

**Gillian Doig**

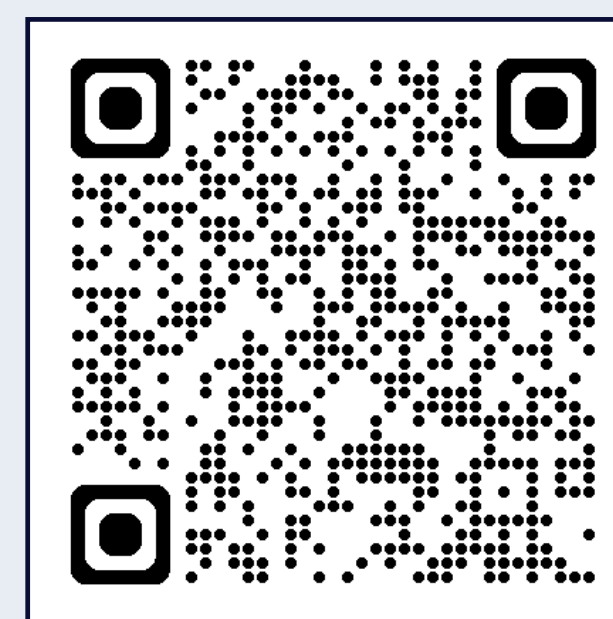


[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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## Additional information:



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[gillian.doig@sse.com](mailto:gillian.doig@sse.com)



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