

Morven Offshore Wind Farm

Offshore and onshore infrastructure in England

Non-statutory consultation – 9th July to 3rd September

[Consultation brochure](#)





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Introduction

This brochure sets out information relating to the Morven Offshore Wind Farm and the public consultation on the infrastructure in England.

The Morven Offshore Wind Farm will be connected to the electricity transmission network (sometimes referred to as "the grid") via two grid connections. This consultation is about the part of one of these grid connections that will be located in England.

The wind array is located in Scottish territorial waters approximately 60km from the coast and adjacent to the border of English territorial waters. The wind farm array consists of turbines and supporting foundations, inter-array cabling and offshore substation platforms. The infrastructure in England will be located near Seaham.

Morven Offshore Wind Limited (MvOWL) is developing the project and is a joint venture between bp and Energie Baden-Württemberg AG EnBW.

The project was awarded a licence during the Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind Leasing Round in 2022.

Once operational, we estimate that the Morven Offshore Wind Farm will have the potential to provide enough electricity for the equivalent of around 3 million UK homes.

A coordinated approach

The Morven Offshore Wind project was scoped into the **Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design** workstream of the UK Government Offshore Transmission Network Review.

As part of this review, National Grid assessed options to improve the coordination of offshore wind farm connections and associated transmission networks. In July 2022, National Grid ESO published the 'Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design Report' which set out the approach to connecting 50GW of offshore wind to the grid. This concluded that the Morven Offshore Wind Project should connect the wind farm to the National Grid substation at Hawthorn Pit.

In March 2024, National Grid ESO published the 'Beyond 2030' report. This builds on the Holistic Network Design and makes a set of network recommendations to be implemented throughout the 2030s. This report recommends a second grid connection from the Morven Offshore Wind Project, connecting to a substation in the Branxton area, South East Scotland.

There will be a separate consultation for the electrical infrastructure required in Scotland and the wind farm array.

Should you require this consultation brochure, or any of our other materials, in a more accessible format, please contact our team by email on info@morvenoffshorewind.com or phone 0800 669 6110.

Morven Offshore Wind Farm

Morven Offshore Wind Limited is pleased to consult with you about our plans for the onshore and offshore infrastructure in England associated with the Morven Offshore Wind Farm, known as the Morven - Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection

The Morven Offshore Wind Farm is made up of three main parts:

- **Morven Wind Farm Array** – which is entirely in Scottish Waters consists of turbines and supporting foundations, inter-array cabling and offshore substation platforms.
- **Morven – Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection** – which is in English and Scottish waters and includes underwater offshore cables, underground onshore cables and a land substation. The Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection will be located in England.
- **Morven – Branxton Area Grid Connection** – this connection point has only recently been identified by National Grid ESO so preliminary site and route optioneering has not yet been undertaken. The Branxton area is located in Scotland.

Taking part

The aim of this consultation is to introduce the Morven Offshore Wind Farm project and share our early plans. We are seeking your views on the onshore and offshore infrastructure associated with the Morven - Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection.

The infrastructure will consist of subsurface offshore and buried onshore electricity cables and a Land Substation.

We will be engaging with local authorities and parish councils as we refine our proposals and there will be further community consultation, including statutory consultation, ahead of submitting our application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.

The Morven project will:

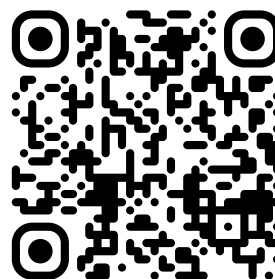
Be located 60km off the coast of Aberdeen.

Produce a potential of 2.9GW of offshore wind.

Sit in water depths of 64-76 metres.

Cover an area of approximately 860km².

Have the potential to provide enough electricity for the equivalent of 3 million UK homes.



Scan the QR code with your smart device to head straight to our virtual exhibition.



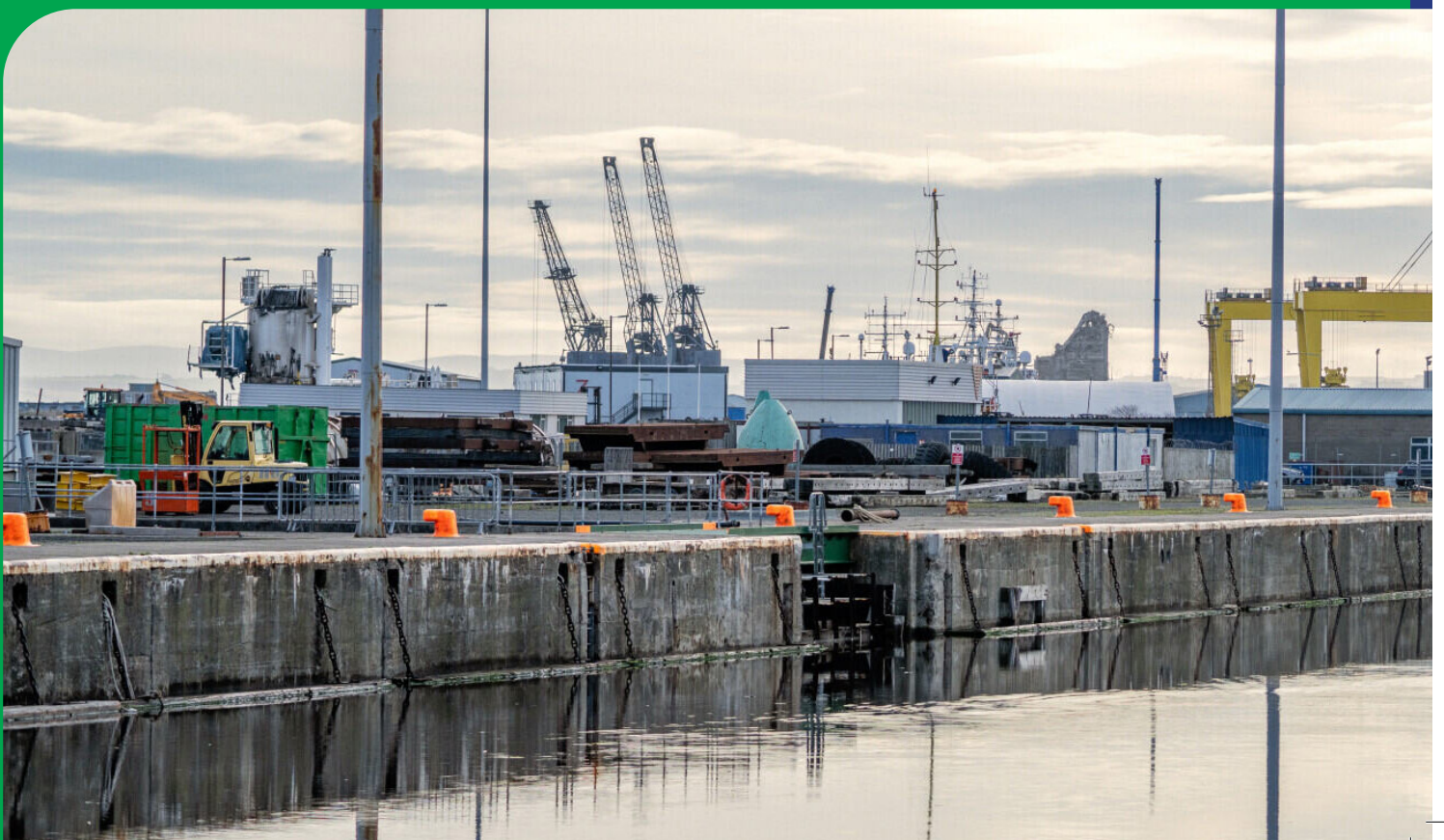
About the Joint Venture partners

About bp

bp has set out an ambition to be a net-zero company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world get to net zero. bp has set out a strategy for delivering this ambition. bp is focused on delivering its transformation into an integrated energy company, helping to provide the energy the world needs today – which is mainly oil and gas- and investing in the energy transition.

bp is investing in offshore wind, and is working towards safely developing and operating a multi-gigawatt global pipeline over the next decade. We have an offshore wind pipeline of 9.6GW net with planned projects in the US, the UK, Germany as well as partnerships in Asia.

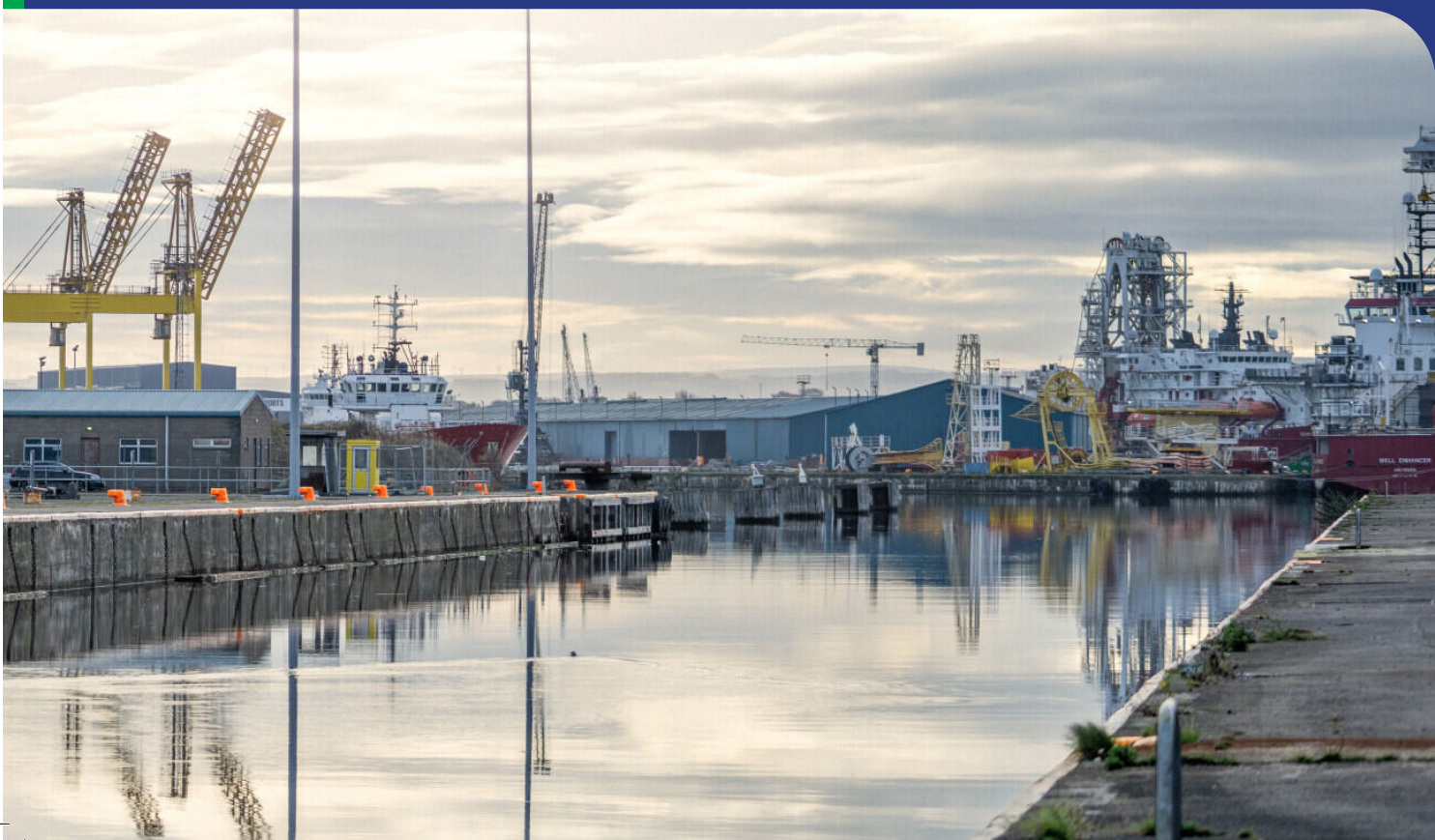
In the UK, bp and EnBW are leading the development of plans for the Morgan and Mona offshore wind projects in the Irish Sea and the Morven offshore wind project in the North Sea. These projects have a combined potential generating capacity of 5.9 GW, sufficient to power the equivalent of around 6 million UK households. bp and its partners are working to obtain the necessary consents and approvals for all of these projects.



About EnBW

EnBW is one of the largest energy supply companies in Germany and supplies electricity, gas, water and energy solutions, and energy industry services to around 5.5 million customers with a workforce of more than 27,000 employees. It aims to strengthen its position as a sustainable and innovative infrastructure partner for customers, citizens and local authorities to an even greater extent.

The repositioning of EnBW with a focus on renewable energies and smart infrastructure solutions is a key component of its strategy. With a focus on renewable energy and smart infrastructure solutions, EnBW's objective is for half of the electricity it supplies to be from renewable sources by the end of 2025. This is already having a noticeable effect on the reduction of CO₂ emissions, which EnBW aims to halve by 2030 and to be climate neutral by 2035. EnBW has been involved in the operation of hydro power plants in the Black Forest for more than 100 years and has a large and continuously growing number of onshore wind farms and solar photovoltaics in Germany, France and Sweden. In addition, EnBW developed, constructed and operates four offshore wind farms in Germany (EnBW Baltic 1, Baltic 2, Hohe See and Albatros) with a total installed capacity of 945 MW, commissioned between 2011 and 2020. A further 900 MW offshore wind farm, He Dreiht, is currently under development in Germany.



The consenting process

The project will require consents to be granted under electricity and planning legislation in Scotland and England.

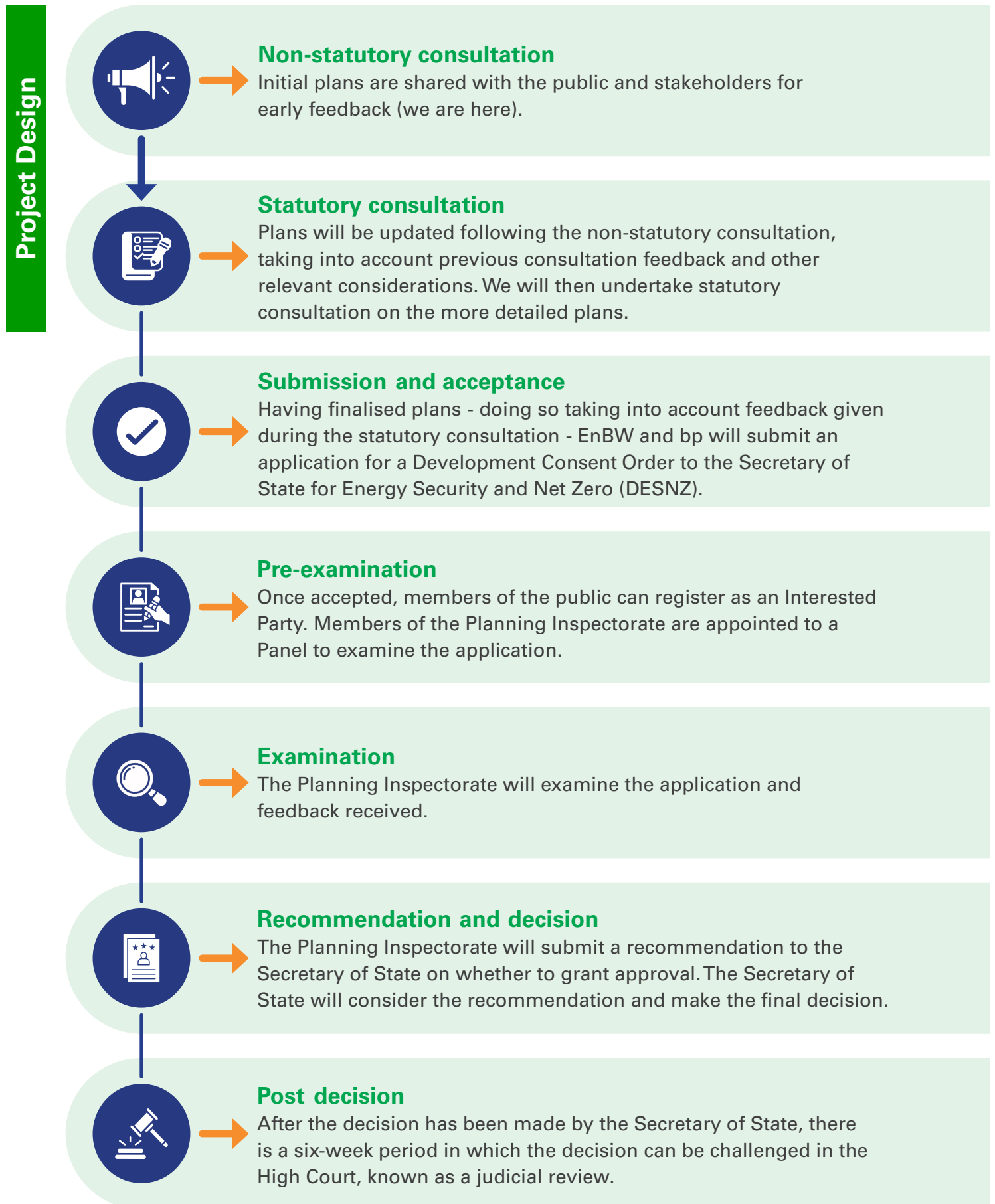
The focus of this brochure is on the aspects of the project that are located in England. This will be consented under the Planning Act 2008. The Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has directed that these aspects of the project should be consented by a Development Consent Order (DCO). DCO applications are submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate. Decisions are made by the relevant Secretary of State, in this case the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. Local authorities have an important role in influencing whether DCO applications are approved and are identified in legislation as 'Statutory Consultees' that applicants (developers) must consult. We will work closely with local authorities, communities and other stakeholders as our proposals are developed and refined.

The diagram opposite shows the process that will be followed for the Morven – Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection.



Turbine imagery is illustrative only – this project is in the early stages of development.

The development consent process



Why we need offshore wind

Energy security in the UK

Energy security is a priority for the UK Government, ensuring the security of our energy supply this winter, next winter and in the longer term.

Offshore wind, along with other energy sources, is essential to meet both net zero and energy security objectives. In the UK, the Government has committed to ambitious plans that will put the country at the forefront of the fight for a greener future.

The Morven Offshore Wind Farm could contribute to the UK's energy transition plans by:

- Generating low carbon electricity from the offshore wind farm in support of the decarbonisation of the UK's electricity supply.
- Contributing to achieving the aims of the UK's net zero ambitions.

UK Government policies and offshore wind

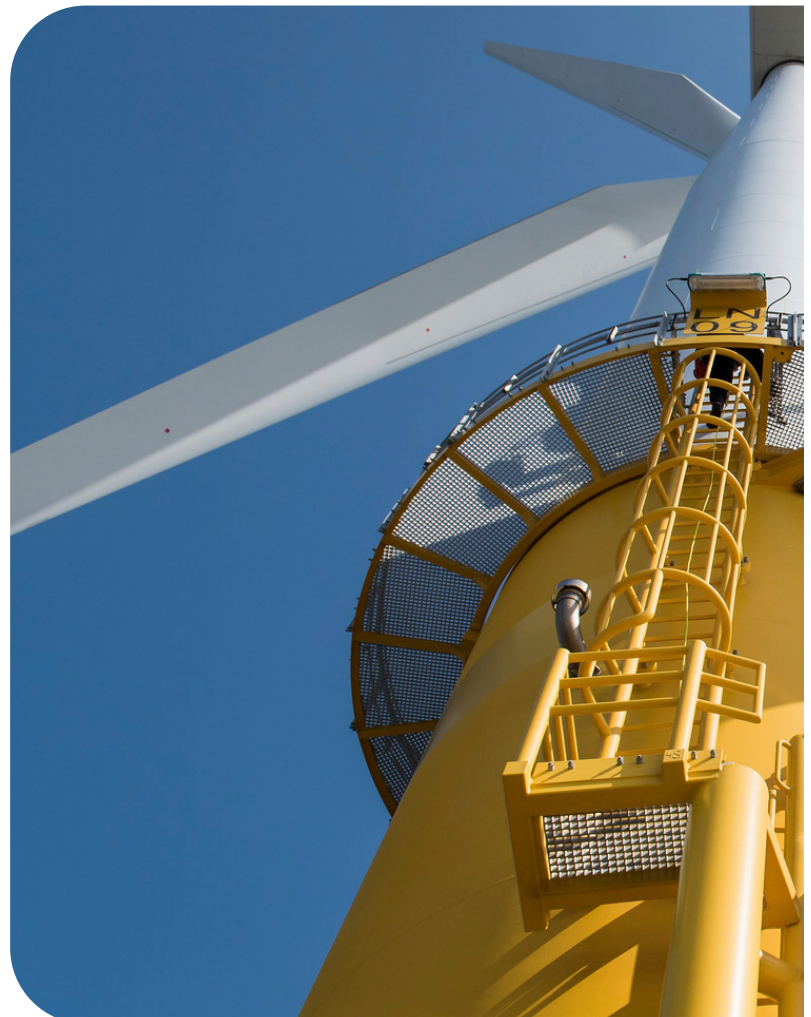
The commitments the UK has made to achieving net zero are enshrined in law.

These plans recognise the importance of offshore wind in achieving net zero goals in the UK. The UK is already a world leader in offshore wind and the seas around Britain are ideal for harnessing wind power. The UK has ambitions to increase offshore wind capacity to up to 50GW by 2030.

What is net zero?

Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane are created when we burn fossil fuels, such as oil, gas or coal. These gases are trapped in the atmosphere.

Net zero means no longer adding to the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. One of the best ways to do this is to move towards technologies such as renewable energy, which do not create carbon emissions.



What we're doing

bp – We are an integrated energy company delivering solutions to customers in over 70 countries around the world. Our ambition is to be a net zero company by 2050 or sooner and to help the world get to net zero. **You can find out more by searching 'bp getting to net zero' in your web browser.**

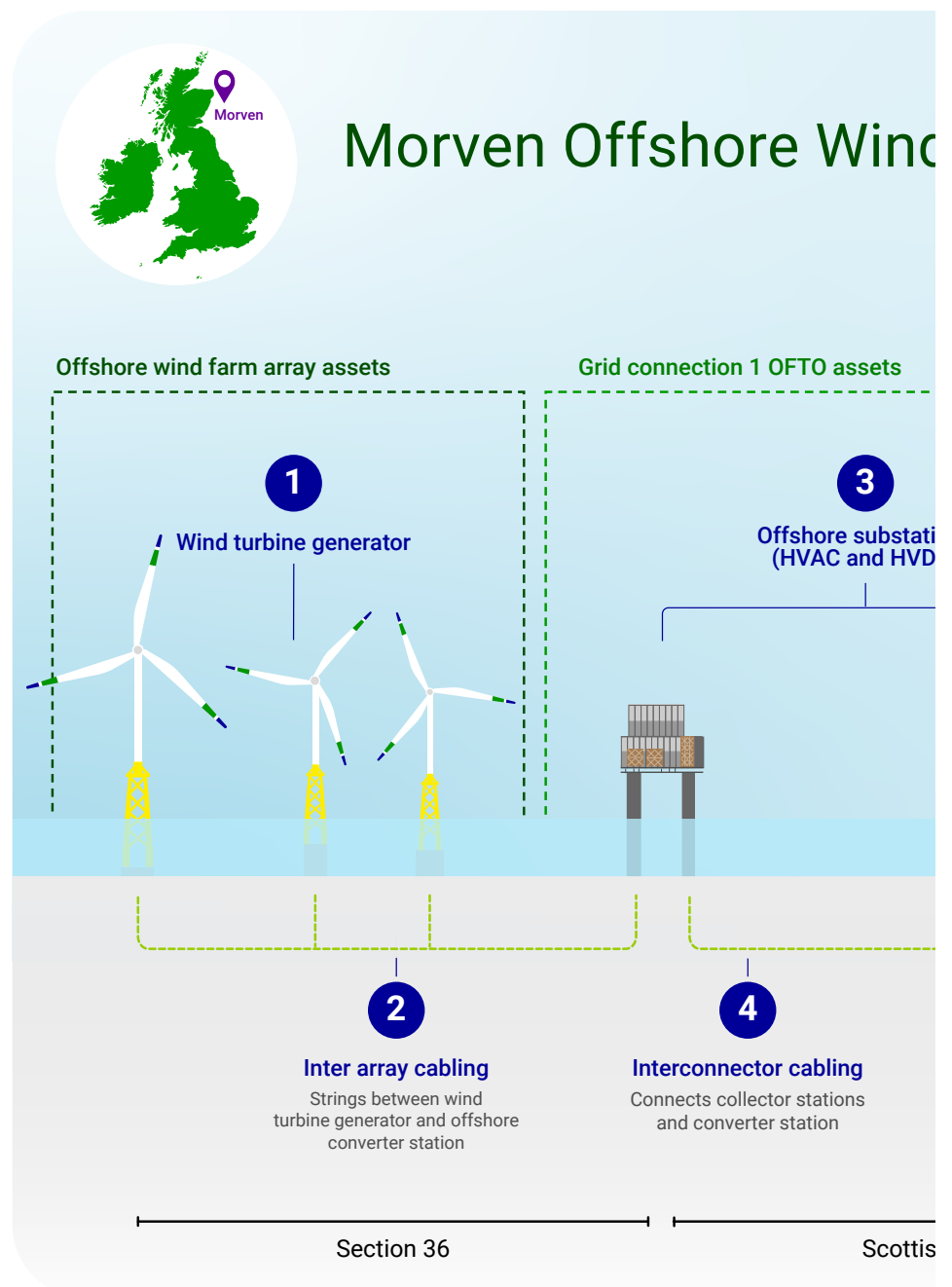
EnBW – At EnBW, our long-term business success is based on the achievement of economic, environmental and social targets. Under our EnBW 2025 strategy, we are transforming into a sustainable and innovative infrastructure provider. We have the ambitious aim of reducing the company's CO₂ emission to net zero by 2035. **You can find out more by searching 'Sustainability at EnBW' in your web browser.**



How does the electricity get from the wind farm to homes and businesses?

Electricity generated from the Morven Offshore Wind Farm would be transmitted to the electricity transmission network ("the grid") using approximately 200km of offshore cables.

When they're offshore, these cables are typically buried in the seabed and once they reach the shore they are usually buried underground.



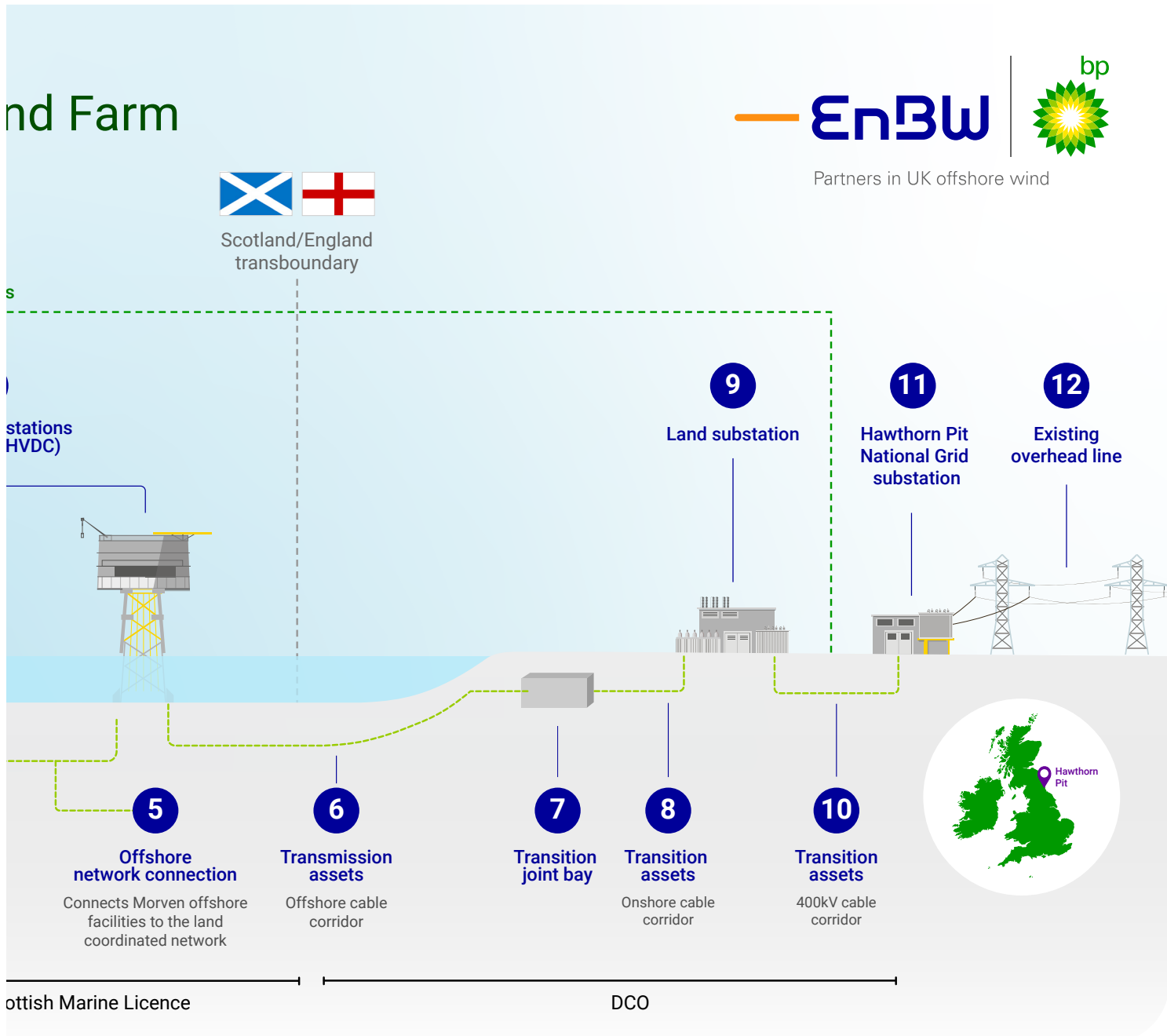
Find out more

You can read about the offshore and onshore infrastructure associated with the Morven Offshore Wind Farm on [pages 14-17](#).

The point where offshore cables and onshore cables meet is called the 'landfall point'.

Next, there needs to be a connection to the grid. Depending on the location and method of this connection, some above ground infrastructure – such as a land substation – can be required.

Power generated by the Morven project would go into the energy transmission network and would then be distributed for use, including by homes and businesses across the UK.



Morven transmission infrastructure

To construct, operate and maintain Morven, we'll need a combination of offshore and onshore infrastructure.

The point of interconnection

National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) has given the Morven Offshore Wind Farm a point of interconnection to the electricity transmission network at the existing National Grid Hawthorn Pit substation.

To connect the Morven Offshore Wind Farm to the Hawthorn Pit substation, we would be required to lay cables (onshore and offshore) and construct a land substation.

The Morven land substation

A dedicated substation would need to be constructed to connect the Morven project to the existing Hawthorn Pit substation. The new substation is needed to transform the power generated by the offshore wind turbines.

We are in the process of conducting a thorough site selection process, taking into account factors such as distance from homes, environmental considerations and technical constraints.

We have identified a zone of search in the vicinity of the Hawthorn Pit substation within which we are working to identify a suitable location for the new substation.

We are asking for your feedback on the substation search zone and any information you wish to share about specific uses within the area by the community.

The design, visual appearance and technology to be used as part of the land substation will be developed in the coming months and years. Updated information will be provided as part of future consultations.



Choosing a cable route

The onshore and offshore cables

As part of our early cable route identification work, we have identified broad corridors of search within which we could lay the offshore and onshore cables.

We are asking for your feedback on the broad corridors of search, offshore and onshore.

We are particularly interested in any information you may wish to share on the use of these areas and areas of high value to the wider community.

How do we choose a cable route?

The selection process for the onshore cable corridor route involves the identification of a range of engineering, commercial, environmental, land interest and community related principles and constraints. These are then used to identify potential onshore cable corridors.

Engineering considerations will include aspects such as technical feasibility, for example, ground conditions and water crossings, and the identification of the shortest and most direct route, wherever practicable.

Examples of environmental constraints will include consideration of towns and villages, designated sites, protected species, landscape and cultural heritage considerations.

Other constraints that will also be considered include the location of existing utilities and other local infrastructure.

As a responsible developer, we are committed to selecting the most technically and environmentally suitable cable corridor that takes into account the interests of our

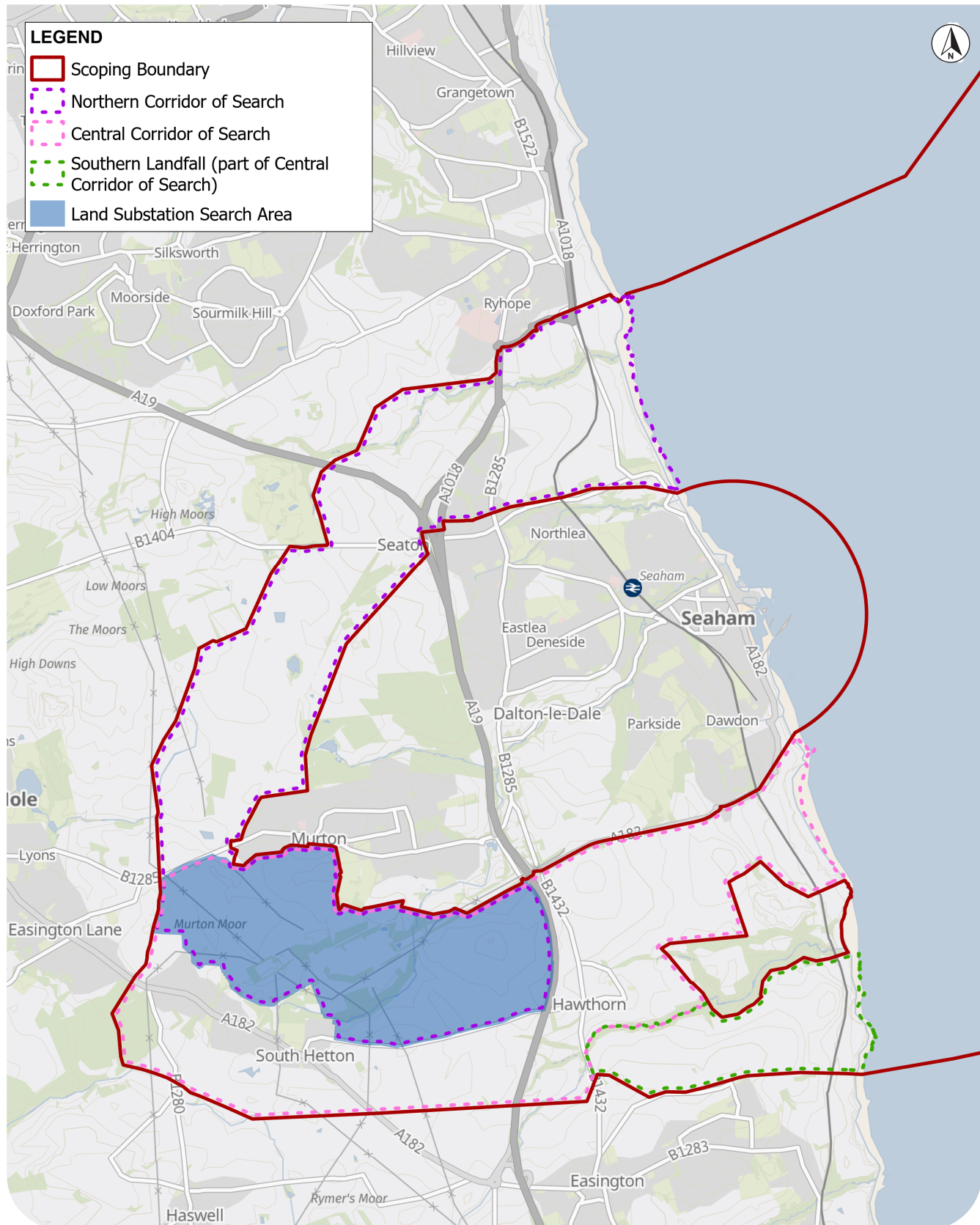
host communities and landowners. We will continue to work with communities through direct engagement, and by working with local authorities, town and parish councils. We will plan further engagement and consultation events to understand potential impacts on local people and seek to mitigate and manage these where practicable.

During this process we will also continue to seek feedback from bodies such as local planning authorities, the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency and Historic England, as well as, 'non-statutory' voluntary and community organisations to provide us with expert and local knowledge that will inform and help refine our proposals.

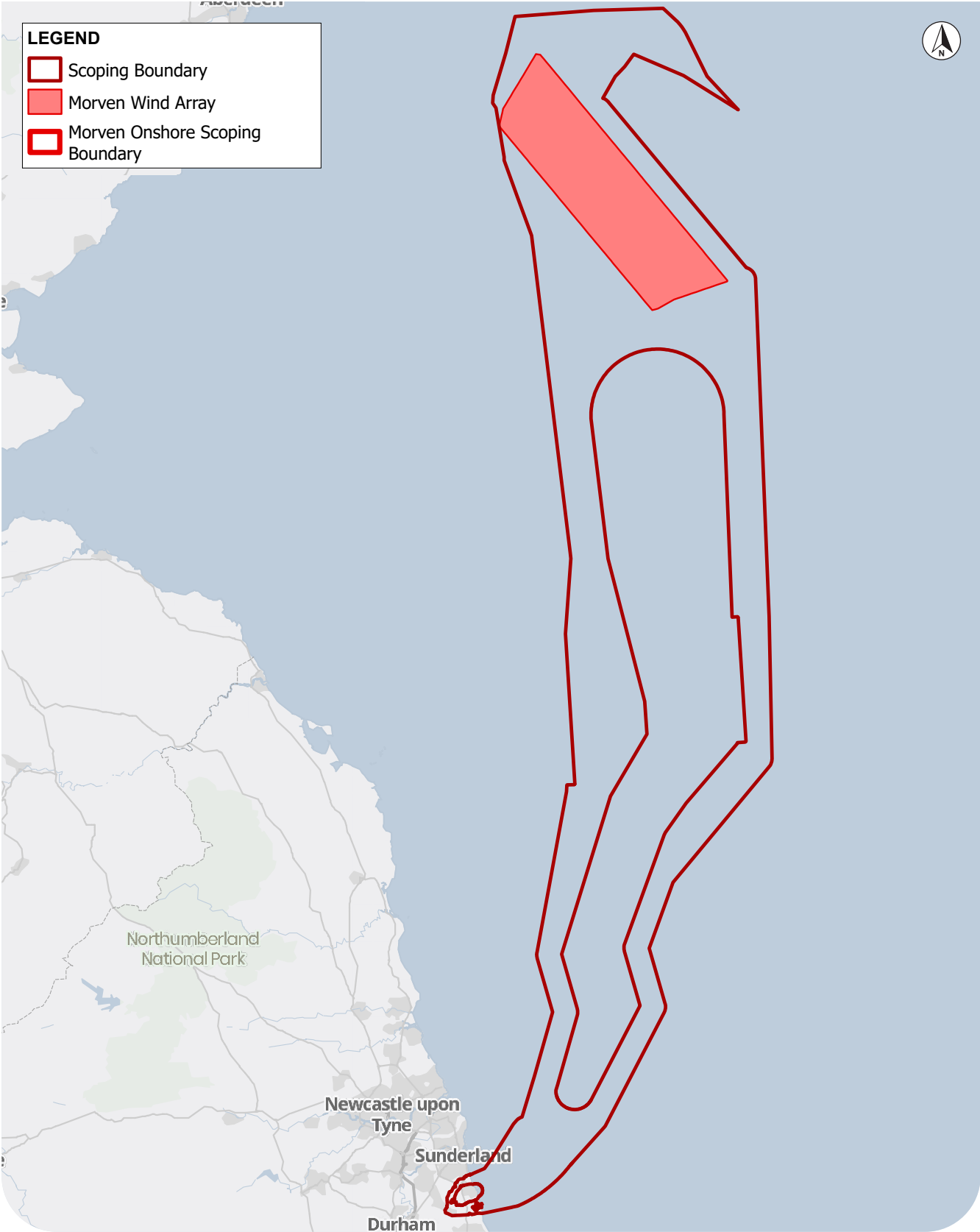
Our early work has identified the two broad corridors of search for the cables. These are shown on pages 16 and 17.



Onshore cable corridors of search and substation search area



Offshore cable corridors of search



Environmental Impact Assessment

As a part of the development process, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Morven Hawthorn Pit project. The EIA is paid for by, and produced on behalf of, the developer but is undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced independent environmental specialists.

The identification and assessment of potential environmental impacts has been, and will continue to be, undertaken in consultation with statutory bodies. These include local planning authorities, the Environment Agency, the Wildlife Trust, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and will be specific to the local environmental and social context and baseline.

A Scoping Report for the Morven – Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection will shortly be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. A Scoping Report provides a summary of the proposed development along with the anticipated environmental factors against which the impact of the project will be assessed. It will also summarise the assessment methods for each factor.

On receipt of our Scoping Report, the Planning Inspectorate will consult with a wider range of parties including local planning authorities to ask their views on how we intend to assess the environmental impact of the project. A Scoping Opinion will then be provided by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) for the project.

The Scoping Opinion will collate and incorporate this feedback and advise us on how the EIA should be undertaken.

The project team will review and consider the feedback, which will then form the basis of the more detailed assessments to be provided in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that will be produced for the application for development consent.

The PEIR will contain any mitigation and management that may have been identified, as a result of the environmental assessments at that stage. Once the PEIR has been prepared, we will undertake statutory consultation, again seeking feedback from statutory consultees, local communities and those with any interest in the land, on our more refined proposals.

We will give you further details as the project progresses.

Community benefits:

Morven Offshore Wind Limited and emerging UK Government guidance

UK Government – emerging policy

In 2023, the UK Government's DESNZ announced that it was consulting on a recommended approach to community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure. This includes infrastructure constructed by offshore wind developers. The consultation proposed creating voluntary guidance for industry and communities about developing individual community benefit packages.



Morven Offshore Wind Limited

Morven Offshore Wind Limited is closely monitoring the emerging Government policy in relation to community benefits and is committed to delivering a scheme that benefits the community. We will continue to engage where possible with Government on this and await further guidance being published.

We would like to hear your thoughts on how to enable any future scheme to consider the wishes of the community. In particular, we would like to hear from local residents and stakeholders on what projects, causes or initiatives you would like to see us engage with.

Offshore wind and the UK supply chain

The growth of the UK's offshore wind industry

The UK offshore wind industry already employs around 32,000 people and each new large offshore wind farm adds approximately £2-3bn to the economy. Employment is set to rise to over 100,000 by 2030 and investment in new offshore wind projects will create an economic opportunity worth up to £92bn for the UK by 2040*.

Many manufacturing jobs have been created by the industry, including facilities such as JDR's existing cable factory in Hartlepool, and its new £130m factory which is being built in Blyth with the creation of around 170 jobs.

Meanwhile, Teesside has seen the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds in facilities used for the fabrication of offshore wind foundations. Once fully operational, it is expected that around 750 direct jobs and around 1,500 further supply chain jobs will come from the SeAH manufacturing facility.

Supply chain: national, regional and local

The Morven Offshore Wind Farm is in the early stages of development and it will be several years before we would be able to apply for development consent for the project. Nevertheless, bp and EnBW are committed to engaging with, and supporting, the UK's growing offshore wind supply chain.

It is too early to have any clear estimates for the potential economic impacts and opportunities that could arise from this project. Greater clarity will be provided through the work of our supply chain engagement team and the detailed socio-economic impact assessment work we plan to undertake with the support of specialist economic consultants.

Throughout the development phase of the Morven Offshore Wind Farm, we will engage closely with local, regional and national stakeholders, as well as local business and industry groups, to understand the potential of the UK supply chain and to identify where commercially viable opportunities for UK suppliers may exist.

This process will involve collaborative engagement with teams in Durham County Council and Sunderland City Council, the newly formed North East Combined Authority, and officials from both UK and Scottish Governments.

Renewable UK Press Release, 2024: Offshore wind industry unveils Industrial Growth Plan to create jobs, triple supply chain manufacturing and boost UK economy by £25 billion

Source: www.thecrownestate.co.uk/news/offshore-wind-industry-unveils-industrial-growth-plan-to-create-jobs Accessed 02 July 2024



Join the conversation

This initial public consultation provides the local community with the opportunity to join the conversation and provide feedback on our plans early in the DCO process. Your views are important to us and will inform necessary amendments.

This consultation will run from Tuesday 9th July to Tuesday 3rd September 2024. Please ensure all feedback is received by **Tuesday 3rd September 2024** to ensure it is considered.

You can share your feedback by:



Visiting our project website:
morvenoffshorewind.com

You can submit your feedback on our online feedback form.



Send an email to:
info@morvenoffshorewind.com

We welcome all feedback and any questions you might have about the project.



Send written feedback to our freepost address: Freepost MORVEN

You can write us a letter or send hard copy feedback forms, which will be available at events or by request. You don't need a stamp.

Call the team:



Give us a call on: 0800 669 6110

This is a voicemail service which is monitored regularly. Please leave your name, number and your question and a member of the team will get back to you where necessary.

Scan the QR code with your smart device to head to our project website.



Meet the team

As part of the consultation, we're holding a series of public events. These are a great opportunity to meet the development team, find out more about the project and ask any questions you may have.

Consultation events:

Thursday 11th July from 3pm to 7pm
at Robin Todd Centre, Front Street, South Hetton, DH6 2TH

Friday 12th July from 10am to 4pm
at Seaham Town Hall, Stockton Road, Seaham, SR7 0HP

Saturday 13th July from 10am to 5pm
we will have a stall at Seaham Carnival

Wednesday 17th July from 2pm to 7pm
at Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton, SR7 9BX

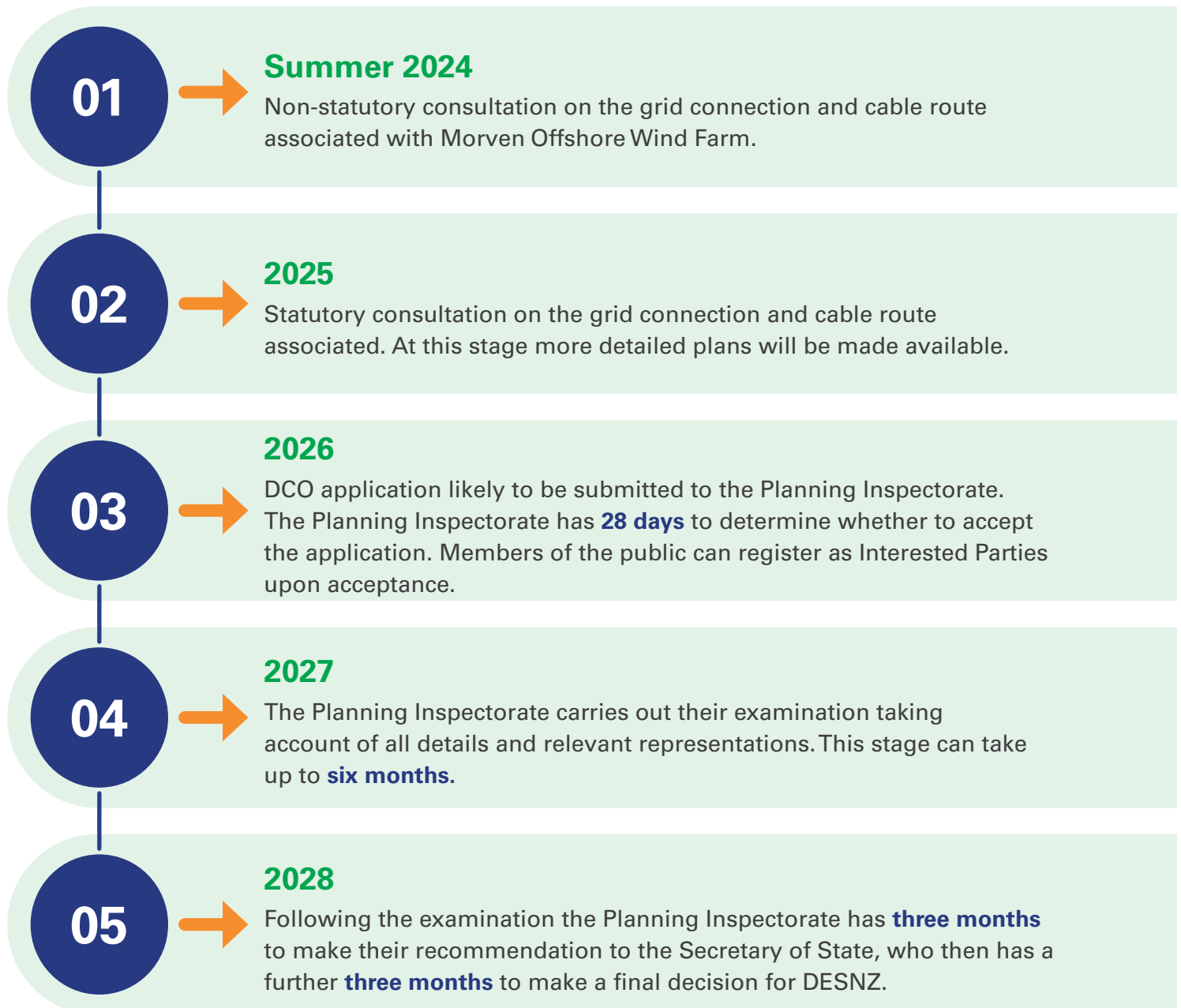


Next Steps

Following this non-statutory consultation, we will consider all feedback, alongside the ongoing technical studies, to further develop the proposals. Our next step will be to undertake a statutory round of public consultation where you will be able to provide your feedback on our more detailed proposals. An indicative timeline for the statutory consultation and remaining planning process is provided below:

Indicative timeline


(as of July 2024)



 Find out more on our website
morvenoffshorewind.com or scan the QR code.

 info@morvenoffshorewind.com

 Freepost MORVEN

 0800 669 6110

