

PROPOSAL AND BACKGROUND

The Proposal

To connect Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm’s consented substation at Burnside with the planned new National Grid substation at Greens by underground cable.

Cable corridor
approx 3km
long

Up to 100m
wide

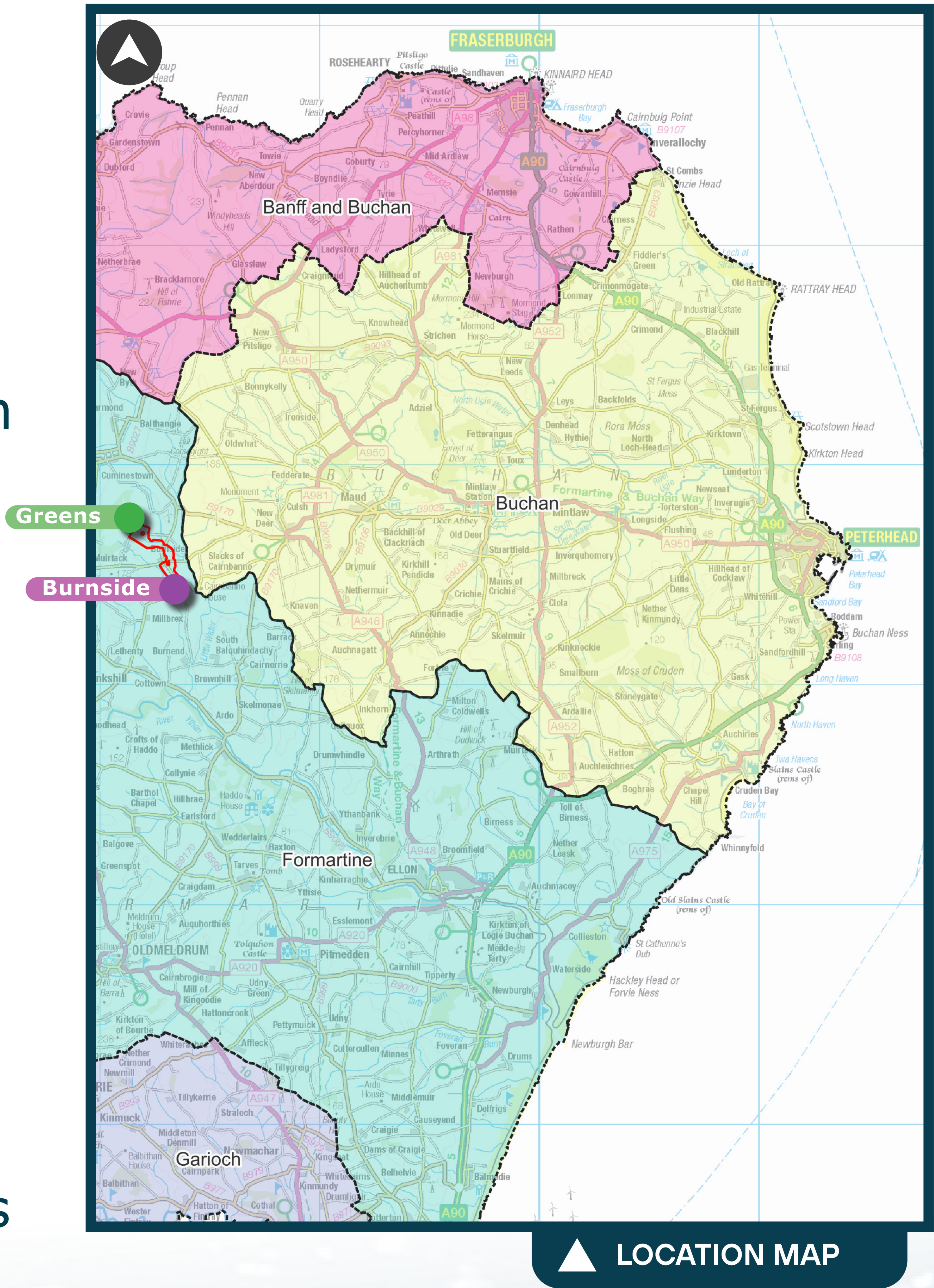
Up to four
400kV cable
circuits

Background

As part of the Scottish Government’s 2021 Scotwind process, Ocean Winds began development of the Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm. This included obtaining planning consent for an onshore substation at Burnside (July 2025).

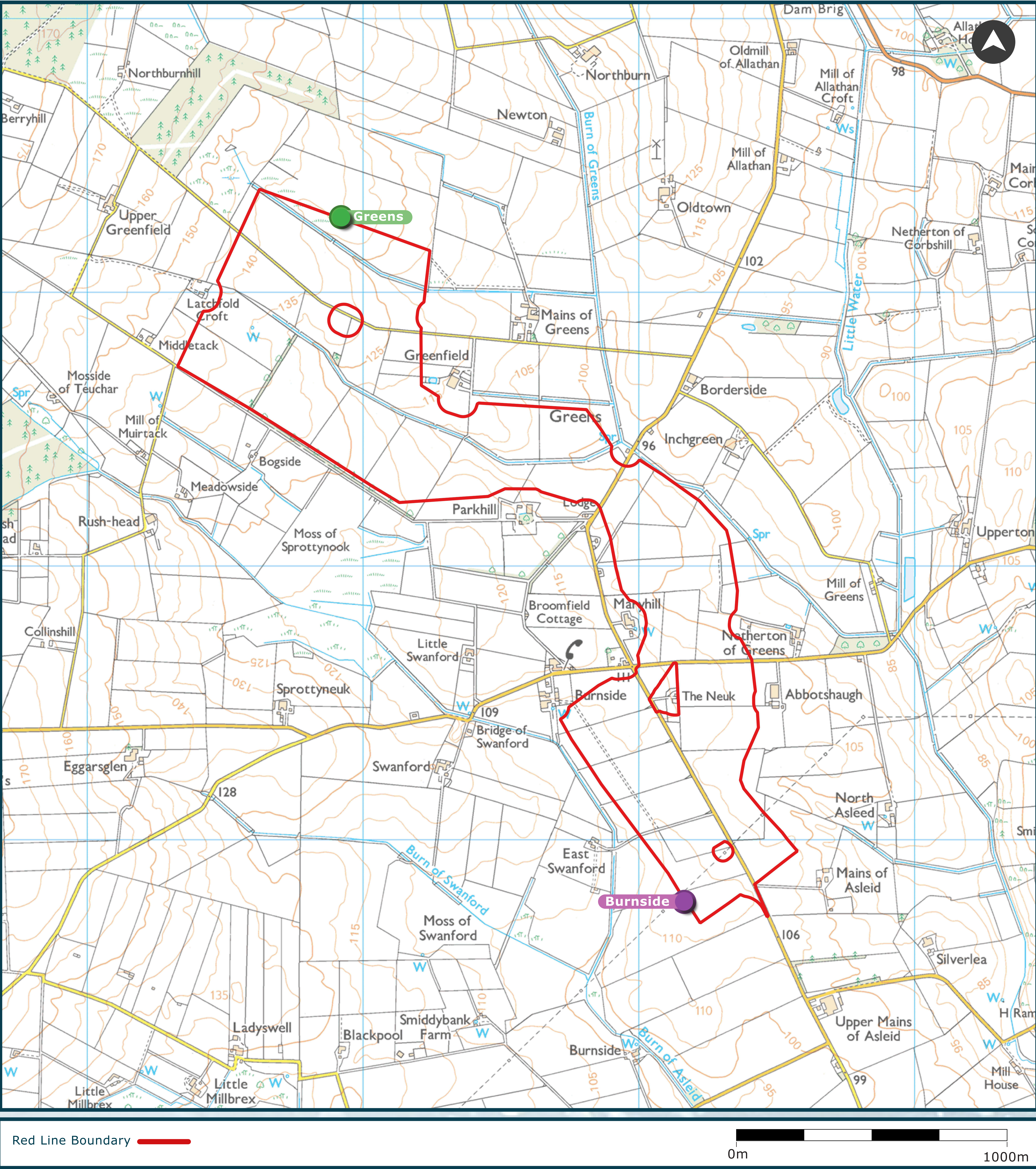
Over the same period, the owners and operators of the National Electricity Transmission Grid made plans for the grid’s upgrade, including a new substation at Greens.

It was not initially expected that Caledonia would connect to Greens, but this has changed as a result of changes to the process which allocates grid capacity to new electricity generation. Caledonia therefore proposes to connect its substation at Burnside to SSEN-T’s planned substation at Greens by underground cable.



SITE SELECTION

The Red Line Boundary indicates the broad search area within which the 100m wide cable corridor will be installed. The location of the cable corridor within the Red Line Boundary will be determined after environmental survey work and local engagement to inform the engineering process.



ENVIRONMENT

Land within the red line boundary is mainly agricultural, with gently rolling fields and woodlands. The red line boundary area has been chosen to avoid peatland and sensitive environmental areas. An ecological survey in 2025 found mainly agricultural habitats; there are no protected sites or designated heritage sites within or near the proposed development. Breeding and wintering birds and other protected species will be considered in design and prior to construction.

To inform engineering, and to support the planning process, an environmental appraisal is underway. This will cover the following aspects:

- Air Quality
- Ecology
- Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Noise and Vibration
- Traffic and Transport (Transport Assessment)
- Flood Risk and the Water Environment

INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS

A maximum working corridor 100m wide (to allow appropriate electrical separation and enables any necessary micro siting)

A maximum trench depth of 1.5m (to allow agricultural work to continue above the cables)

A maximum of four cable circuits (each circuit consisting of three single core cables typically in trefoil formation)

Working voltage of 400kV

A temporary construction corridor, including a temporary boundary fence, drainage ditches, temporary storage area and temporary haul roads. All to be reinstated after completion.

If necessary, temporary traffic management measures to standards agreed with the local authority, including, where necessary, local upgrades.

Full reinstatement will mean the infrastructure has no visual legacy or impact, except for the small roadside markers used for cable identification.

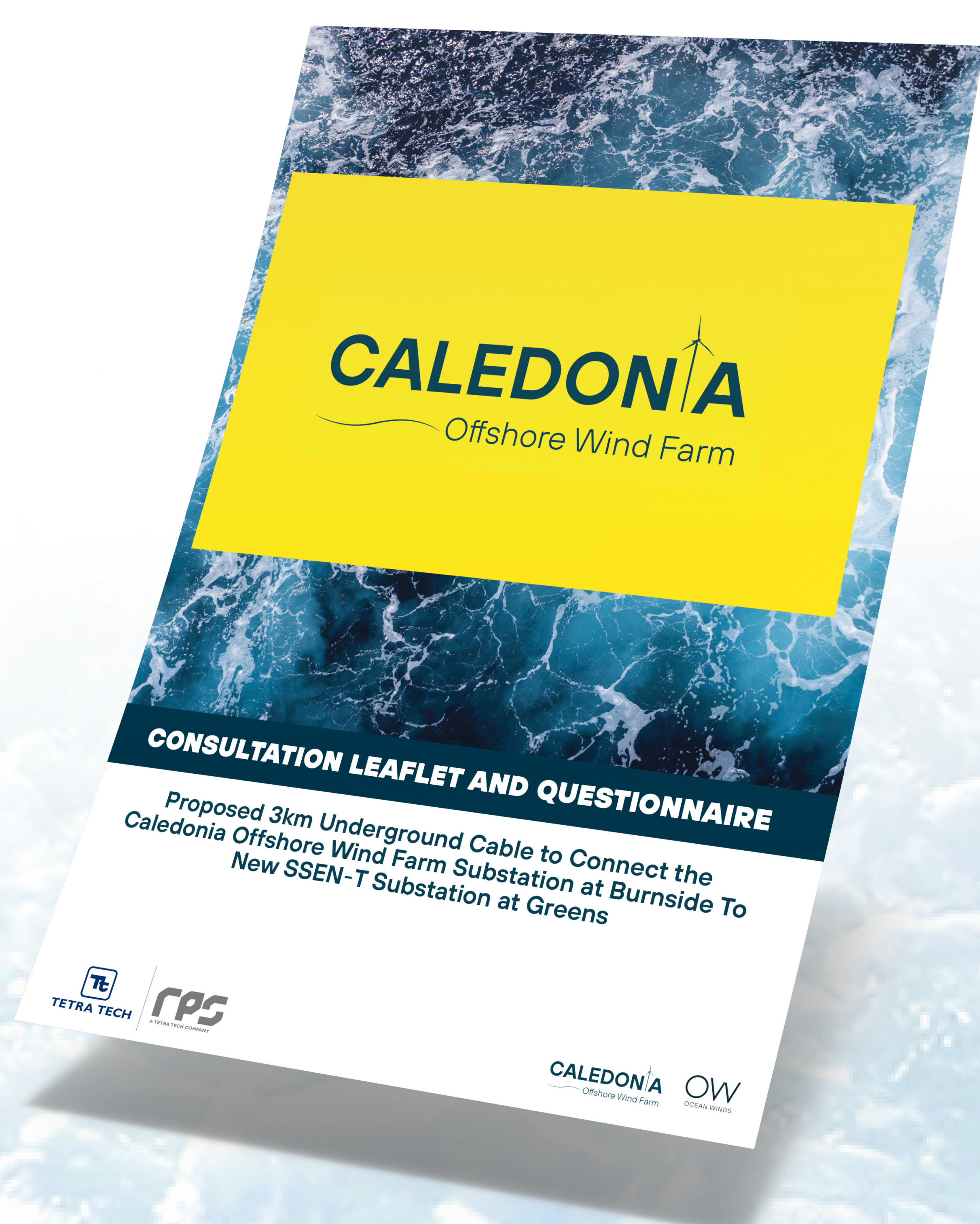


NEXT STEPS

Feedback from this event will be reviewed and reported back at a further public engagement event that will be held in October.

It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in Winter 2025/6.

The application is expected to be for Planning in Principle (PiP) – which means the council will be asked to approve the idea of the underground cables, not the exact details. If approved, the specific route would be decided later in the application process with Aberdeenshire Council; this is known as “Matters Reserved by Condition” (MSC).



Visit project website

www.caledoniaoffshorewind.com