

Leaderfoot Valley



132 kV overhead line seen against the backdrop of the Eildon Hills

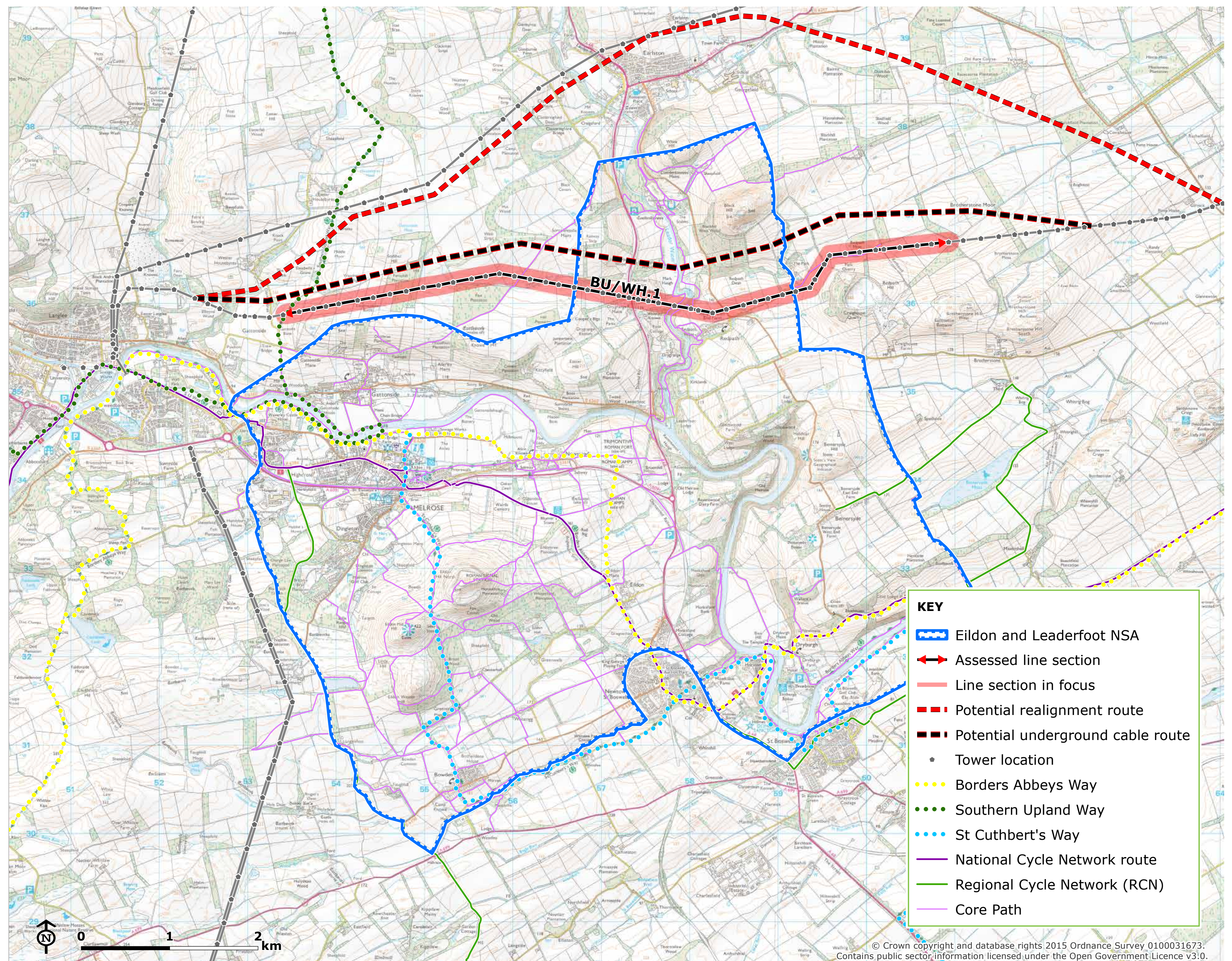
Landscape and visual context

One section of 132 kV overhead line crosses the valley of the Leader Water in the north of the National Scenic Area (NSA). A further two overhead lines are in proximity to the NSA, running parallel with the north and west boundaries. The valley of the Leader Water is contained by deciduous woodland with geometric blocks of coniferous woodland and enclosed farmland creating a relatively intimate scale landscape. The conical shaped landmarks of the Eildon Hills form the key focal point of views within and to the NSA, and offer long distance views of the two lines located outside the NSA boundary.

Landscape and visual impacts

The low vertical scale of the line crossing the NSA is generally well contained within the intimate farmland and valley landscape through which it passes. Overall the landscape impact is **Medium**.

Views of the lines are limited to those experienced within proximity, including from the Southern Upland Way to the north of the NSA. The A68 runs perpendicular to the overhead line west of the Leader Water, from where glimpsed views of the line are possible as it crosses the valley. Longer distance views of the lines outside the NSA are possible from the summits of the Eildon Hills, where the lines appear as a minor element in the view. Overall the visual impact is **Medium**.



Mitigation proposals



Undergrounding

A

Removal of 8 km of existing overhead line and undergrounding (within the NSA).

Re-routing

B

Re-routing of 8 km of existing overhead line along an alternative alignment to the north of the NSA.

Landscape enhancement

C

Development of an Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA Management Strategy/Plan. The plan must include objectives linked to the mitigation of visual impacts associated with overhead line infrastructure, and a chapter on the topic (rationalisation of infrastructure, removal of clutter, future rerouting out of the NSA).