
Reinforcement to North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network: 132,000 volt wood pole overhead line from Oswestry to Wem



Have your say on plans for a new electricity line for North Shropshire

- New overhead line needed to support and enable growth in North Shropshire
 - Communities have important role in developing the line route
 - Stage One Consultation open from **29th June** to **9th September 2016**
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SP Energy Networks is planning to invest £18m in order to support and enable growth across North Shropshire. This investment is to reinforce the electricity distribution network by constructing an overhead 132,000 volt wood pole line from Oswestry substation, located at the A5/A495 roundabout, to Wem substation, located on Ellesmere Road on the western side of Wem.

This line will provide capacity to support development on land allocated for new jobs and homes in Oswestry, Whitchurch and Wem in current planning forecasts to 2026. And it will attract future business and housing investment across North Shropshire through to and beyond 2036. The new overhead line will reinforce the existing 33,000 volt electricity distribution network by increasing the capacity available throughout North Shropshire.

Route for the new line

We need to find a suitable route for the new electricity distribution line. Feedback from the local community will play an important role in assisting us to establish the final line route.

We have carried out a considerable amount of investigatory work to look at and consider the location of communities, heritage features and other sensitive areas. From these investigations, we have developed a number of proposed routes that seek to either avoid or mitigate impacts on these areas.

We now wish to open a consultation to enable people living in the area to have their say about our proposals. This is stage one of a two stage consultation. We will use your feedback together with our assessments to establish the most appropriate route in order to reinforce the North Shropshire electricity distribution network. Your views really can influence our work, so we strongly encourage you to take part in this consultation process.

“These proposals are good news. Shropshire Council has been pressing for investment in North Shropshire infrastructure, including Whitchurch, for a number of years. With the new homes and employment sites proposed, we are going to need the extra power. The North Shropshire reinforcement project will help our area realise its economic ambitions and ensure that we continue to enjoy a reliable electricity supply.”

Councillor Steve Charmley,
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We are holding events in the local area for people to view maps and to talk to our team.

See the back page for dates, times and locations.

Our work so far – identifying route options

It is essential that we determine the most appropriate route for the proposed wood pole line and, in so doing, seek to minimise the impact on the area for landowners and the local communities.

We have undertaken a wide range of assessments to find options that we think best achieve this.

STEP

1

Where to reinforce the network

During 2015, SP Energy Networks considered a number of alternative overhead line routes from other substations at Legacy and Marchwiell near Wrexham, Crewe and Shrewsbury. These alternatives, however, have been discounted due to technical suitability, costs and potential increased environmental impacts. The route from Oswestry to Wem was considered most suitable.

STEP

2

Choosing route corridors

In the latter part of 2015 and early 2016, we considered the location of villages and towns, the landscape, cultural heritage and other environmental sensitivities to develop **broad route corridors** (broad ribbons of land) which we could route the line within.

From our initial routeing work, we then identified two route corridors from Oswestry to Wem, each up to 1km wide, and assessed them to see which had the least impact overall. We have based our consultation zone on an area around these two route corridors to give local people in this area the opportunity to be involved.

STEP

3

Identifying line routes

More recently in 2016, we have carried out further work within the overall preferred corridor to identify and then consider alternative **line route options**. These alternative line routes are 100 metres wide at this stage, which enables flexibility for a more refined design at the next stage of our work. These line routes also include the land needed for constructing the overhead line (such as temporary construction roads and lay-down areas).

STEP

4

Choosing a preferred line route

Following further assessment, we have now identified our **preferred line route** (shown on the map inside) – the option which we think is the preferred design to minimise likely effects on the environment. In doing so, we have also identified alternative line route options in some sections.

As well as the information provided in this newsletter, additional background material is available in the following reference documents:

- [Strategic Options Report](#)
- [Route Corridor Report](#)
- [Line Route Report](#)

These documents are available on our website and at the reference locations listed on the back page.

Alternative 132,000 volt

There are a range of different technologies available for the new line, including steel pylons, heavy duty double wood poles and single wood pole Trident designs.

We also considered placing the new line entirely underground. However, this was discounted due to cost and not being the technically preferred option. Also, overhead lines are not generally considered incompatible in rural areas such as that covered by this project.

Wood pole Trident design

Following a review of the available options for this project, we are proposing to use a wood pole Trident design which would comprise mostly single poles. We consider that this design will have less of an impact on the area compared to the others and will provide a better fit within the local landscape.



About SP Energy Networks

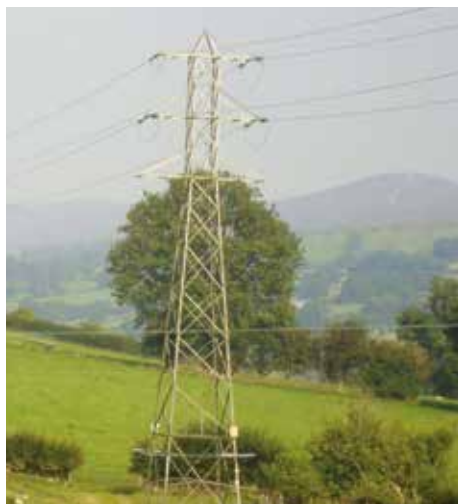
SP Energy Networks operates the local electricity network on behalf of SP Manweb plc. It is our responsibility to ensure that the electricity distribution network for the North Shropshire area is constructed, operated, and maintained in a technically efficient and cost-effective manner and has minimal impact on the environment.

designs

The wood pole Trident design offers more flexibility in how we route the line than the other options, which

helps in reducing potential impacts on important sites, communities and properties. A Trident design also assists

us in addressing landowner requests when determining the best location for poles on site.



Steel pylons –
approx. 26m



Heavy duty double wood poles –
approx. 15m



Single wood pole Trident –
approx. 12m

Indicative heights, actual heights can vary depending on design requirements

What we're consulting on – how your comments can influence our work

We've done lots of work to identify routes and would now like your local knowledge and comments to check the decisions we've made and develop our proposals further.

We'd like you tell us what effects you think our proposals could have on the local area, such as farming, communities, the landscape, wildlife, ecology and anything else you consider important.

Specifically, we are consulting on:

- The preferred line route in terms of its location and limits

- The likely environmental impacts of the preferred line route and its associated construction works, such as storage areas for equipment i.e. lay-down areas, and transport
- The other line route options that have been considered
- Any other aspects of this project that you think SP Energy Networks should consider
- SP Energy Networks' approach to consultation

We'd like your comments on all of these things and would appreciate as much detail as you can provide.

Using your feedback together with our own assessments we can identify a preferred line route that keeps any impacts as low as we can. We will review our proposals in line with the information we receive and develop them further. We will consult again in 2017 to get comments on a detailed design which will include the locations of the poles. This will be a statutory stage of consultation before making an application for planning permission.

How to send us your comments

You can give us your feedback by:

- **filling out a feedback form** online at www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire, at one of our events, or you can get in touch with us to request one
- **sending us an email to** enquiries@spennorthshropshire.co.uk
- **writing to our freepost address** FREEPOST SPEN NSR

Please give us as much detail as you can. If you think there's something we should consider – please tell us what and let us know why.

The consultation is open from **Wednesday 29th June** to **Friday 9th September 2016** so please make sure we have all comments by then.

Our community events and where to find out more

Our events are a great opportunity to ask us any questions you might have and find out more about the reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network. We look forward to meeting you there.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Wednesday 13th July	Whittington Community Centre, Oswestry SY11 4BS	5.00pm – 8.00pm
Thursday 14th July	Wem Town Hall, High Street, Wem SY4 5DG	3.30pm – 7.30pm
Monday 18th July	Cockshutt Millennium Hall, Cockshutt SY12 0JQ	3.30pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 19th July	Hordley and Bagley Village Hall, Lower Hordley, Nr Ellesmere SY12 9BQ	3.30pm – 7.30pm

We have published a number of technical documents and maps that can give you more information on our proposals. These are available on our website and at the following locations:

Wem Library,
High Street, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5AA

Cockshutt Millennium Hall,
Cockshutt SY12 0JQ

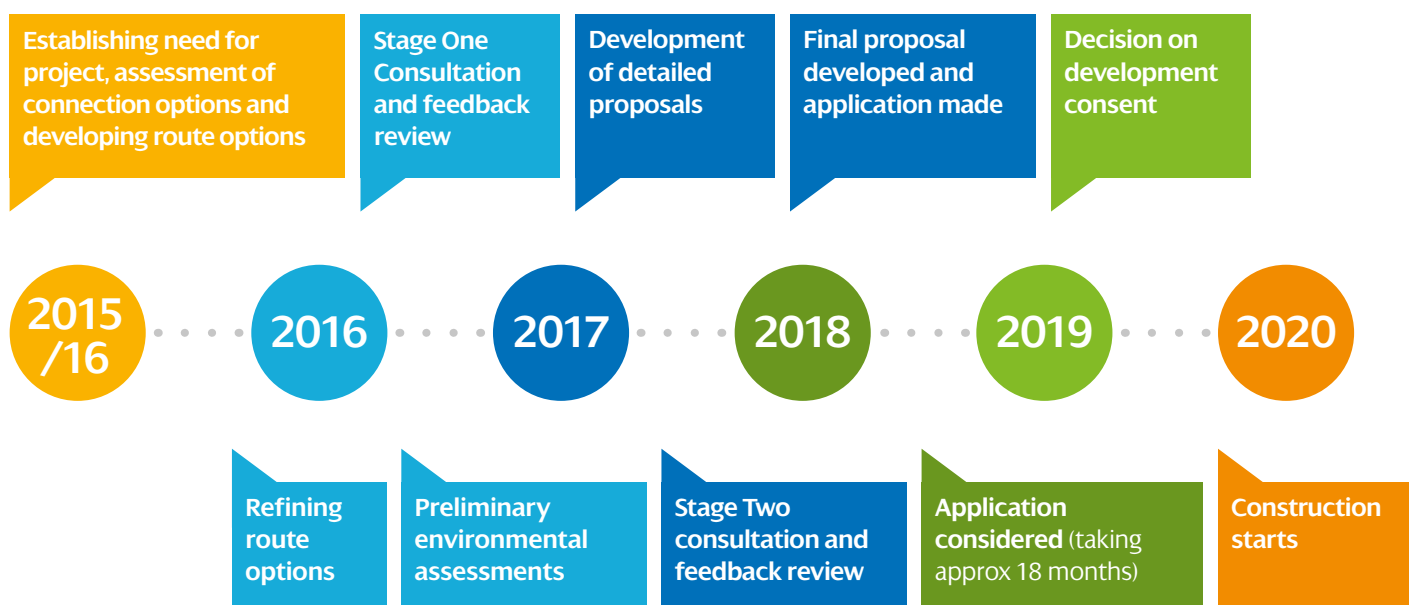
Oswestry Library,
Arthur Street, Oswestry SY11 1JN

Wem Town Council,
Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem SY4 5DB

Ellesmere Library,
Fullwood House, Victoria Street, Ellesmere SY12 0AA

Whitchurch Library,
High Street, Whitchurch SY13 1AX

Project timeline



Contact us:

Visit our website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire

Email us: enquiries@spennorthshropshire.co.uk

Give us a call: 0800 804 4666

Write to us: FREEPOST SPEN NSR

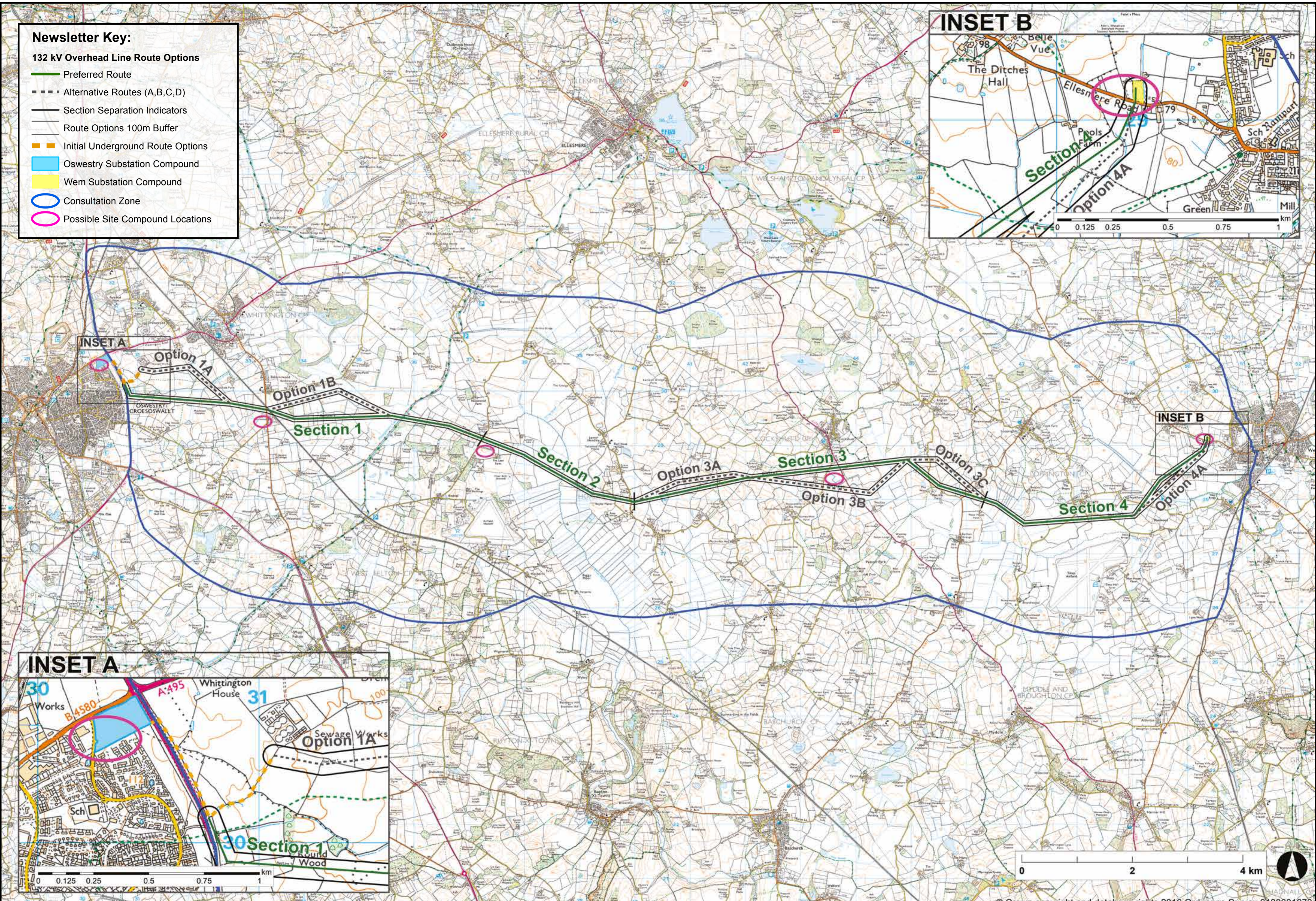
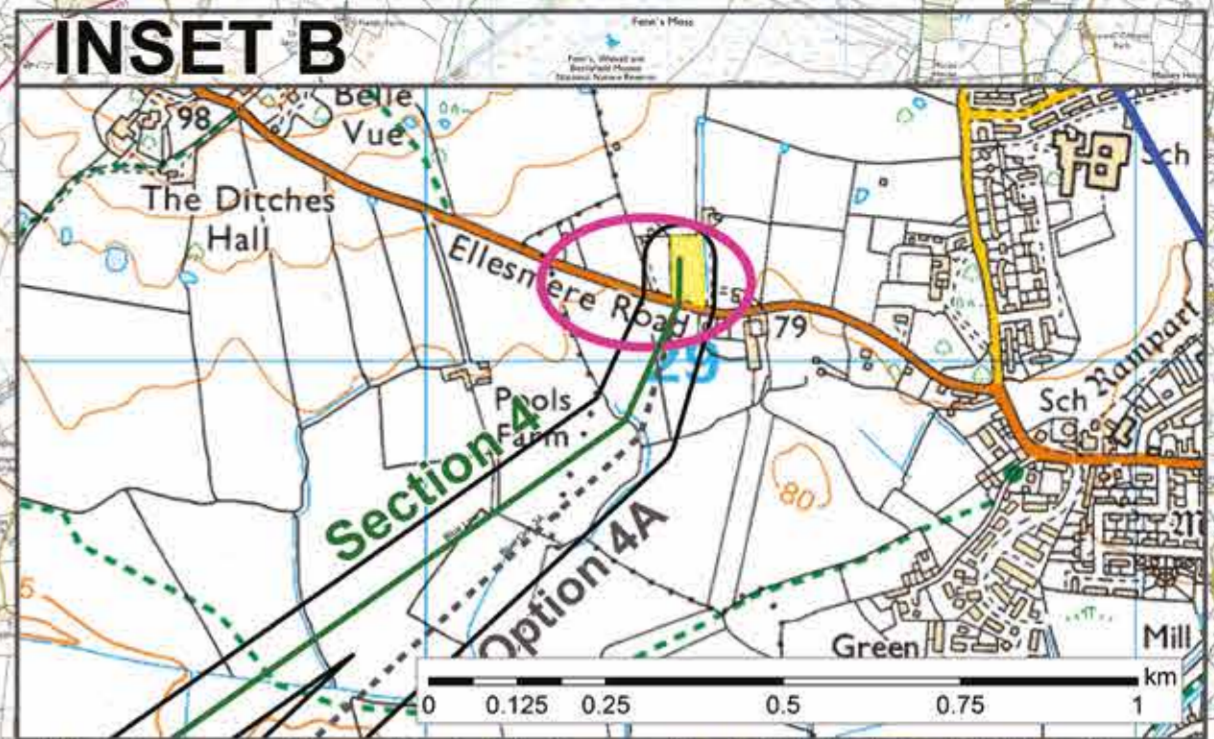
As well as the different ways of accessing project information, we're sending a copy of this newsletter to residents, businesses and landowners and tenants in the consultation area. We're also sending it to local parish councils along with posters to be

displayed within their area. If you'd like any further copies or know of anyone else that would be interested in taking part in this consultation and would like further copies, such as businesses or visitors to the area, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

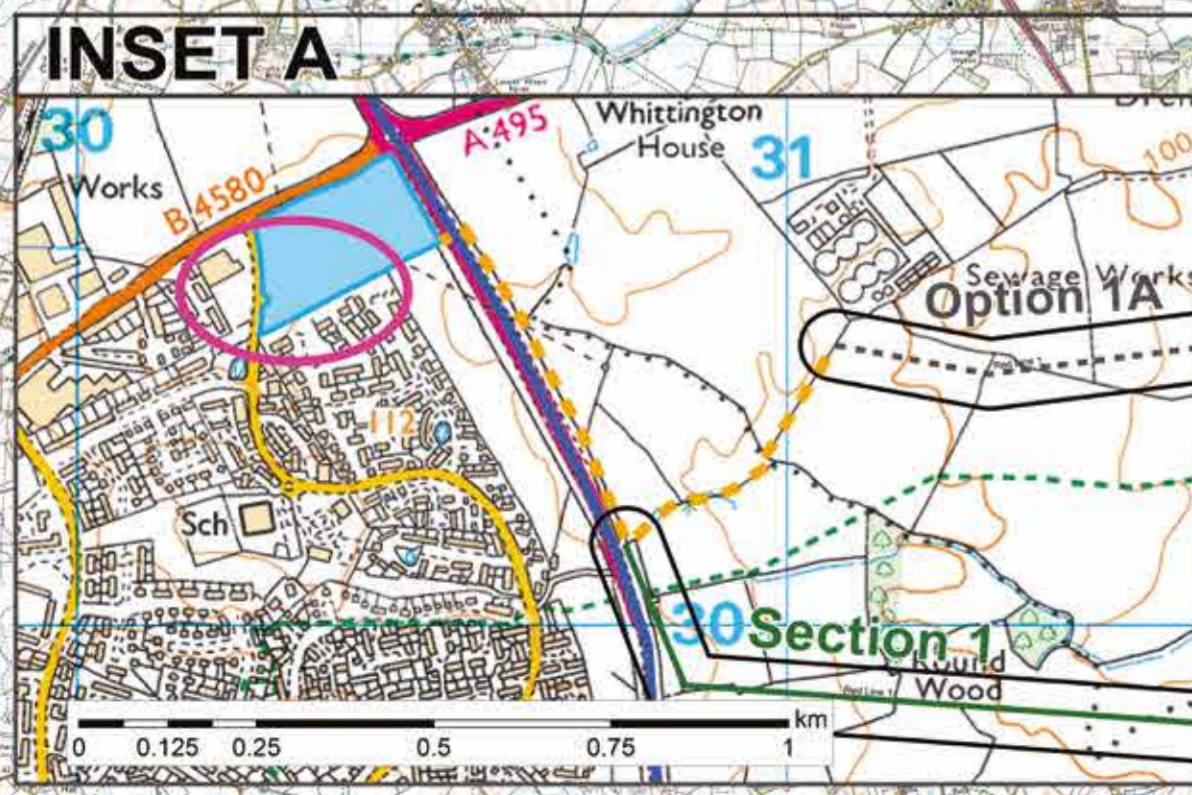
Newsletter Key:

132 kV Overhead Line Route Options

- Preferred Route
- - - - Alternative Routes (A,B,C,D)
- Section Separation Indicators
- Route Options 100m Buffer
- Initial Underground Route Options
- Oswestry Substation Compound
- Wem Substation Compound
- Consultation Zone
- Possible Site Compound Locations



INSET A



INSET B

