

Interested Party Reference Number: 20053949

Ref: Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets (EN020032) – Site Visit Request

Dear Examining Authority Panel,

I note from your Rule 8 correspondence of 8 May that the Examining Authority intends to undertake several accompanied site visits. I am writing to formally request that the following locations be included in the itinerary, for the material reasons set out below.

1. Background

As the Councillor for Bourne Ward, Wyre Council in Thornton on the Wyre Peninsula, I submitted a Relevant Representation on 27 January 2025 (RR-0423). I highlighted that the Wyre Peninsula faces nationally significant levels of economic and social deprivation due to long-term decline in key industries, including tourism, fishing, sea transport and chemicals.

I emphasised that the **Hillhouse Industrial Zone**, located within my ward, is uniquely positioned to support the Project's objectives. The area aligns with Wyre Council's **Hillhouse Masterplan**, which identifies the urgent need to upgrade the **Stanah National Grid Substation**. I also noted that known contamination at the Hillhouse site presents an opportunity for environmental remediation, a factor not addressed by the applicant.

Considering the applicant's limited search of local development plans for suitable substation locations, and based on my earlier submission outlining the cost, regeneration and environmental benefits of utilising the **established transmission corridor via Stanah and the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (HTEZ)**, I believe a site visit is essential to assess this material alternative to the proposed non-compliant route.

NPL Hillhouse Thornton Facilities Management has also submitted a representation, stating:

"We do not consider the cable route and associated substations between the Wind Farm and the onshore electrical grid connection point at Penwortham to be the most appropriate route. We do not believe that an alternative route for the connection at Stanah, Thornton Cleveleys, has been adequately reviewed. We believe Stanah to be a more appropriate grid connection point."

HTEZ is a 138-hectare site, separated from residential and environmentally sensitive areas, with streamlined planning processes and extensive utilities and highway access. The site already hosts transmission infrastructure, including the **Walney 2 offshore wind farm substation**, operational since 2012. and connects directly to the **National Grid's Stanah 400kV substation**. It also benefits from a 2km open land corridor to the Irish Sea shoreline, offering a short and feasible cable route.

Utilising this existing infrastructure and corridor, via the established twin circuit 400kV line from Penwortham to Stanah, through HTEZ, and across the 2km corridor to the shore,

appears to be a faster, lower-cost, lower-impact and fully compliant alternative to the proposed 30km new cable route. No evidence has been presented to explain why this route has been dismissed. It is, therefore, a material alternative that warrants on-site examination.

2. Proposed Sites for Visit

To allow the Examining Authority to properly assess the potential of this alternative route, I request that the following locations be visited:

i) Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (HTEZ), FY5 4QP

To evidence:

- Availability of designated development land suitable for converter stations and substation expansion
- Utility infrastructure for both construction and operation
- Proximity to the National Grid's Stanah 400kV substation
- The existing Walney 2 OWE transmission asset connected to Stanah
- The protected northern access route and 2km of open land to the Irish Sea

The Hillhouse site is private land principally owned by NPL. Controlled access is via **Bourne Road, Thornton-Cleveleys, FY5 4QP**. I believe that based on NPL's previous statements that they would be very happy to accommodate a visit to the site.

ii) Junction of Fleetwood Road North and Enterprise Way, FY7 8RY

To evidence:

- The protected route of the proposed northern access road into HTEZ (just south of the prominent white Lancashire Renewables buildings)
- Availability of land suitable for **Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)** or other compliant underground cable installation methods across the 2km corridor to Rossall Beach

This location is publicly accessible.

iii) Rossall Promenade / Beach (adjacent to Rossall School's southern playing fields), FY5 1LP

To evidence:

- The clear 2km corridor between the Irish Sea and HTEZ
- The significantly reduced work, environmental impact and cost associated with a 2km cable route versus the applicant's proposed 30km trench

This location is accessible by pedestrians from the **Rossall Promenade sea wall** (approx. 250m north of the northern car park). Vehicle access is available via **Thornton Gate** or **North Promenade**.

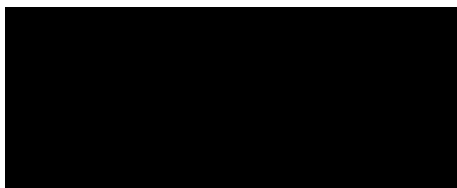
Additional Note

I assume the Examining Authority has already visited the **Penwortham substation** on the West Lancashire Coastal Plain, where the two sets of 400kV transmission lines can be observed, including the twin circuit overhead line that crosses the River Ribble and continues north-west across the Fylde to Stanah.

That same line continues onward to Heysham with enhanced conductor capacity. These connections are illustrated in **Figure A5** of the **National Grid Electricity Ten Year Statement 2024 – Appendix A**, where **Group R4** shows Penwortham and Stanah managed as a single operational entity: [🔗 ETYS Appendix A – Figure A5](#)

I hope the Panel will agree that visiting these sites is critical to properly assessing this route as a material and deliverable alternative. I look forward to hearing from you and will gladly support any access arrangements required and can also offer local and personal knowledge, as you may require on the site visit.

Yours sincerely,



Bourne Ward, Wyre Borough Council



Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7PU

Appendix A

 System geographic and schematic drawings

Contents

Appendix A includes a set of system geographic and schematic drawings of the current National Electricity Transmission System, with the approximate locations of existing power stations and reactive compensation plants shown. The schematics also show the National Electricity Transmission System boundaries and ETYS zones we have used in our analysis.

Each diagram illustrates the network as it has been provided and agreed by each asset owner; NESO does not own any network nor take any responsibility for each network component's accuracy on these diagrams.

Appendix A

Geographical	
A1 – GB Existing Large Power Stations	2
A2 – GB Existing Transmission System	3
A3 – GB Transmission System Boundaries.....	4
Schematic	
A4 – GB Existing Transmission System.....	5
A5 – GB Transmission System ETYS Zones	6
A6 – GB Transmission System Boundaries.....	7
A7 – GB Reactive Compensation Plant.....	8
A8 – GB Existing MITS Substations.....	9

Figure A1: GB Existing Large Power Stations*

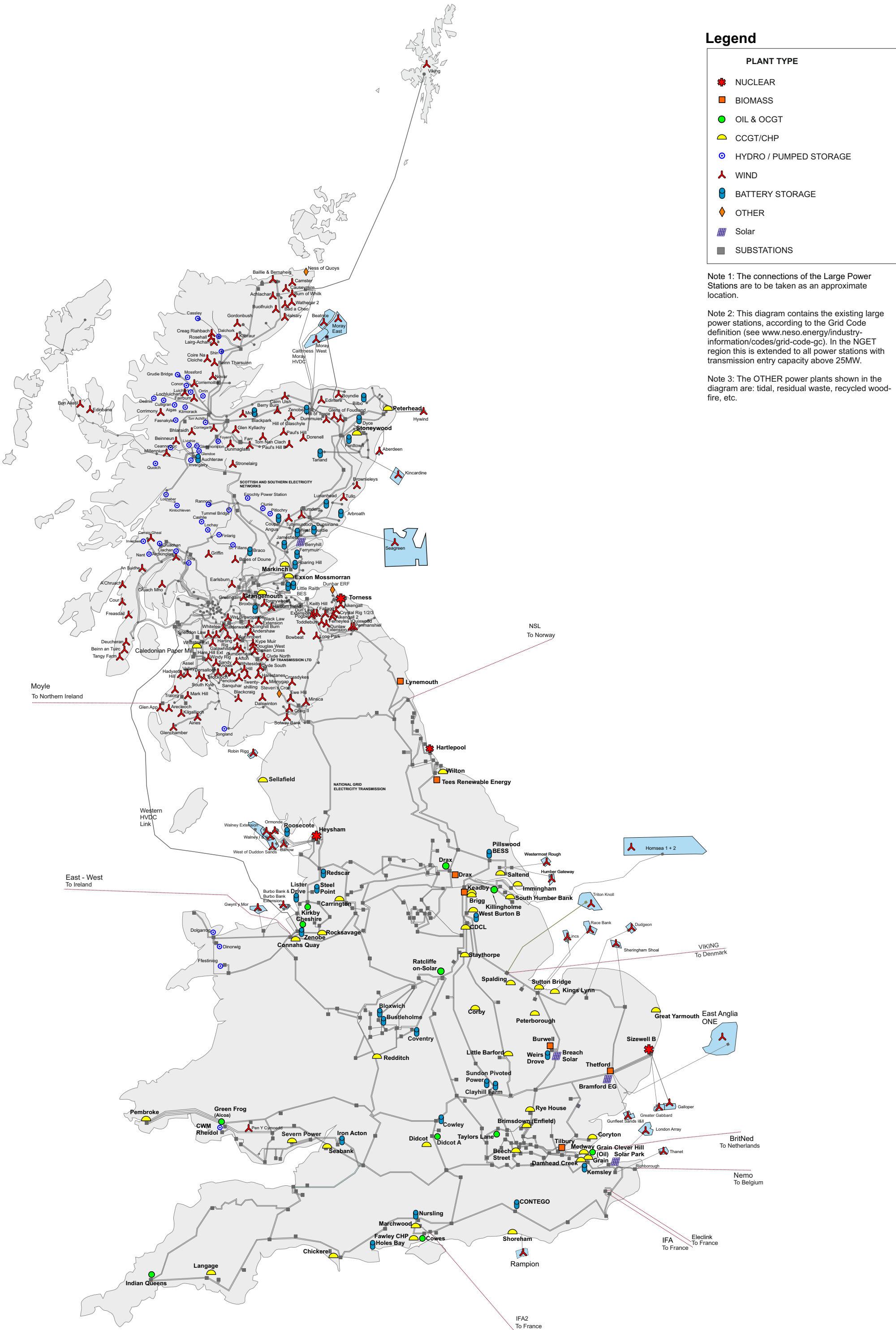


Figure A2: GB Existing Transmission System

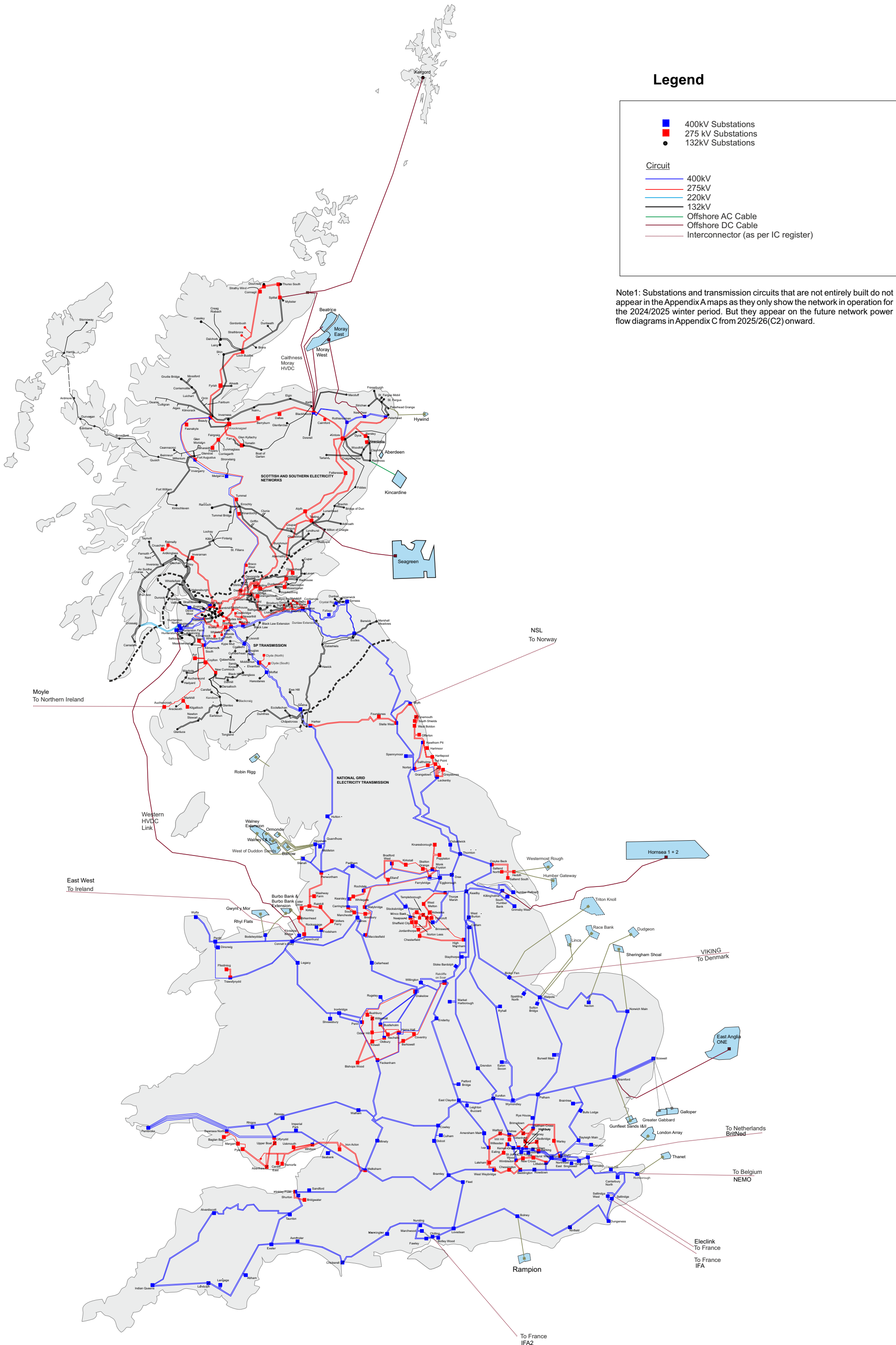


Figure A3: GB Transmission System Boundaries

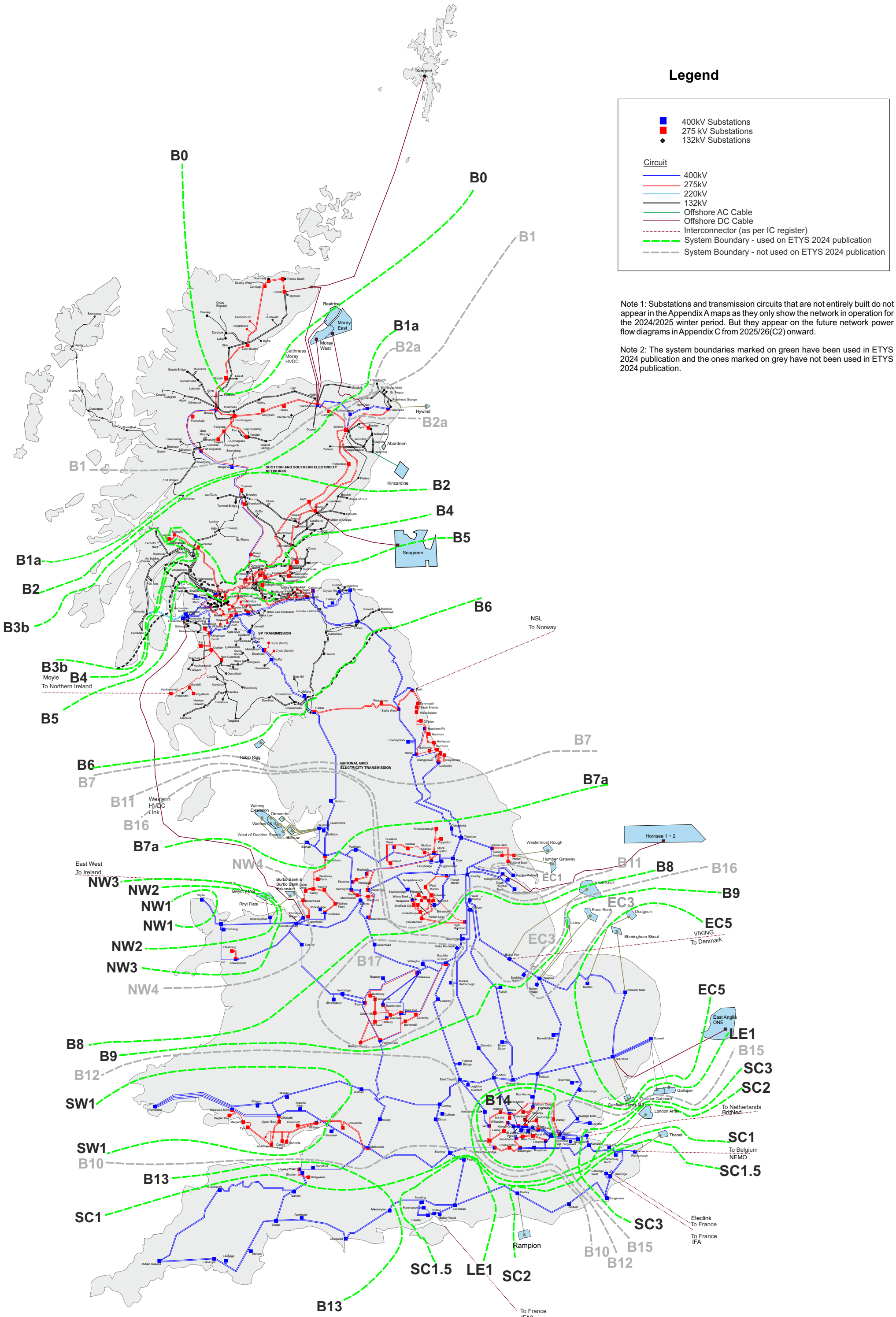


Figure A4: GB Existing Transmission System

SSEN TRANSMISSION

SP TRANSMISSION

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION

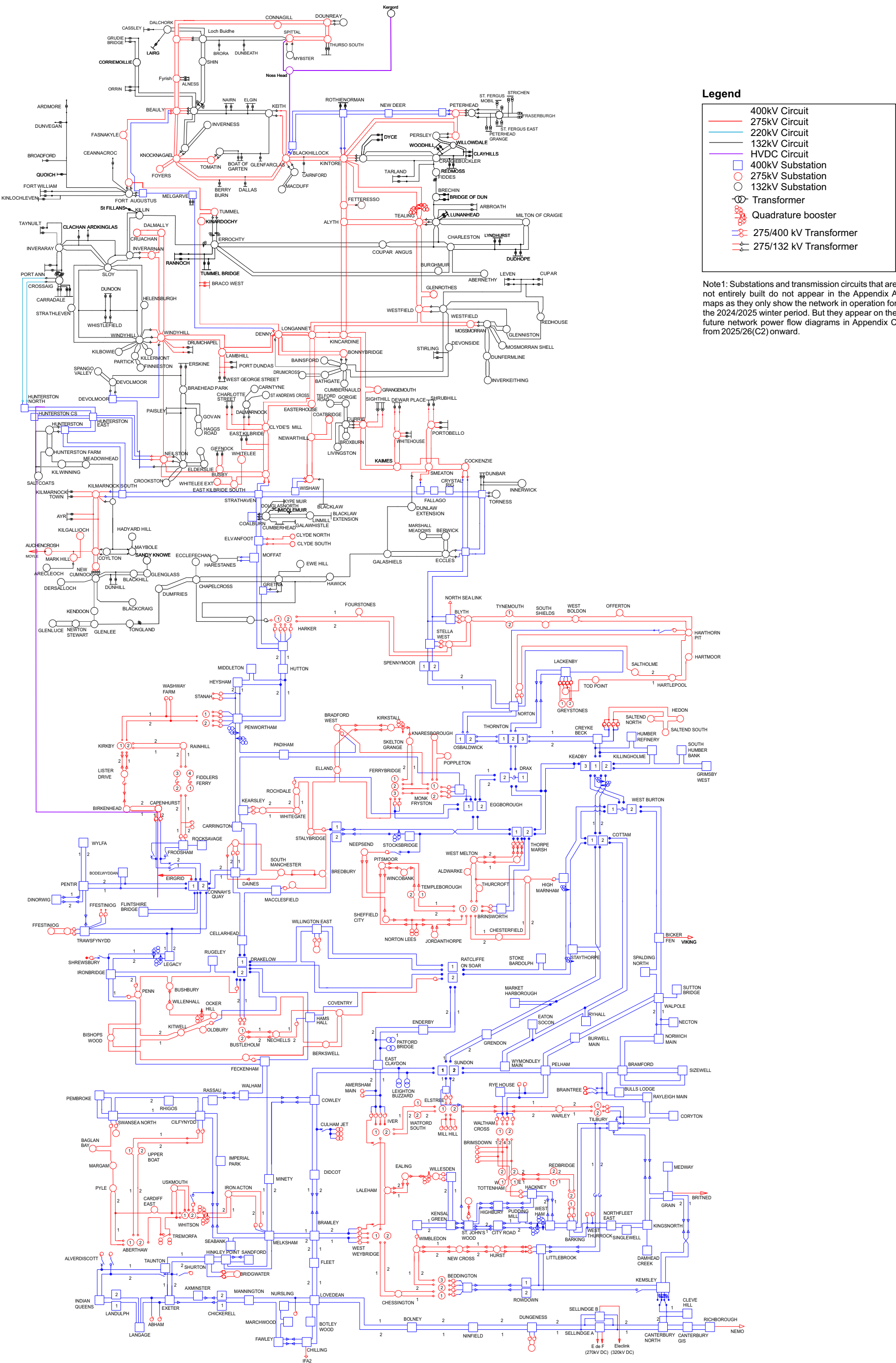


Figure A5: GB Transmission System ETYS* Zones

SSEN TRANSMISSION

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NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION

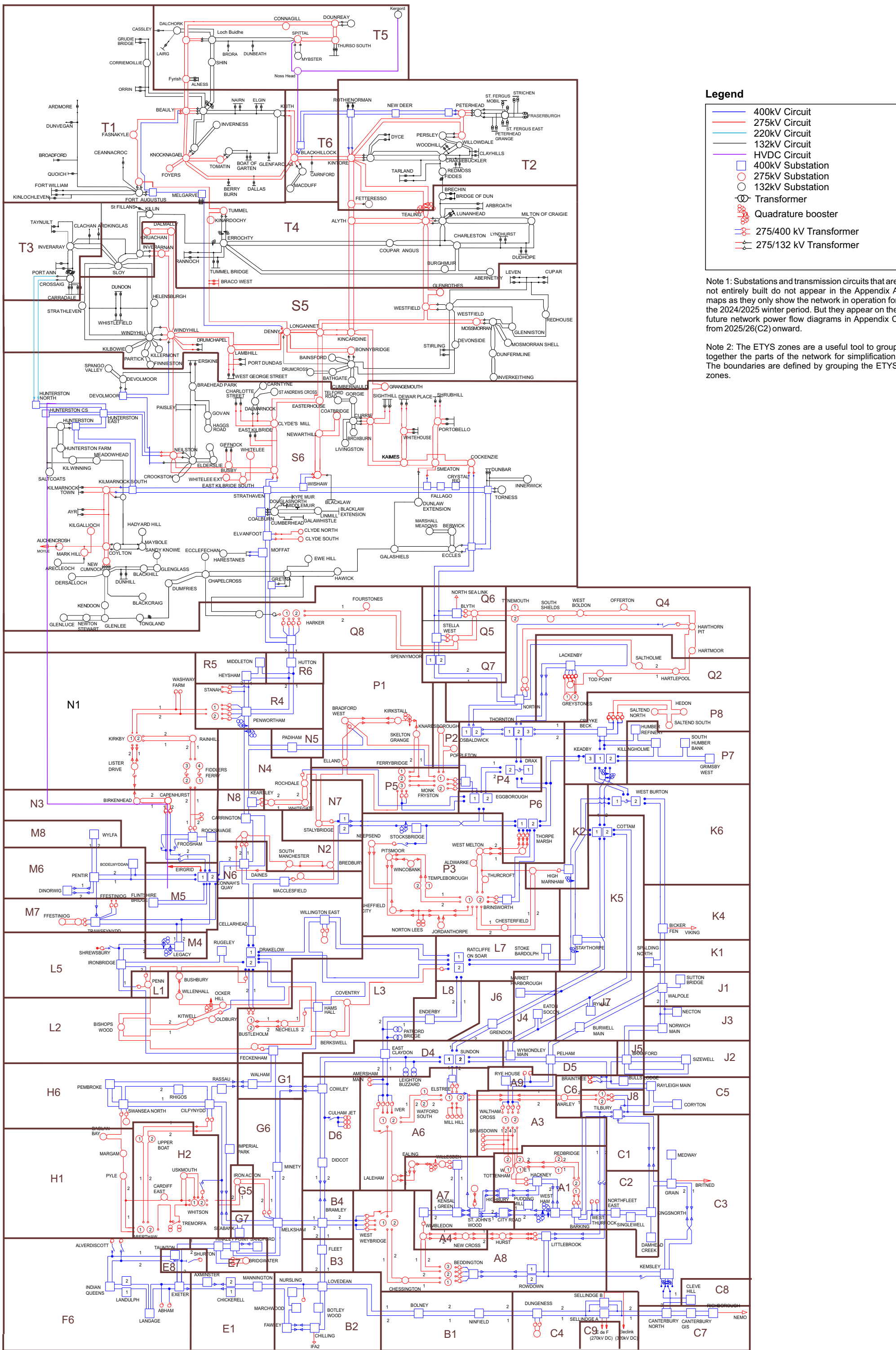


Figure A6: GB Transmission System Boundaries

SSEN TRANSMISSION

SP TRANSMISSION

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION

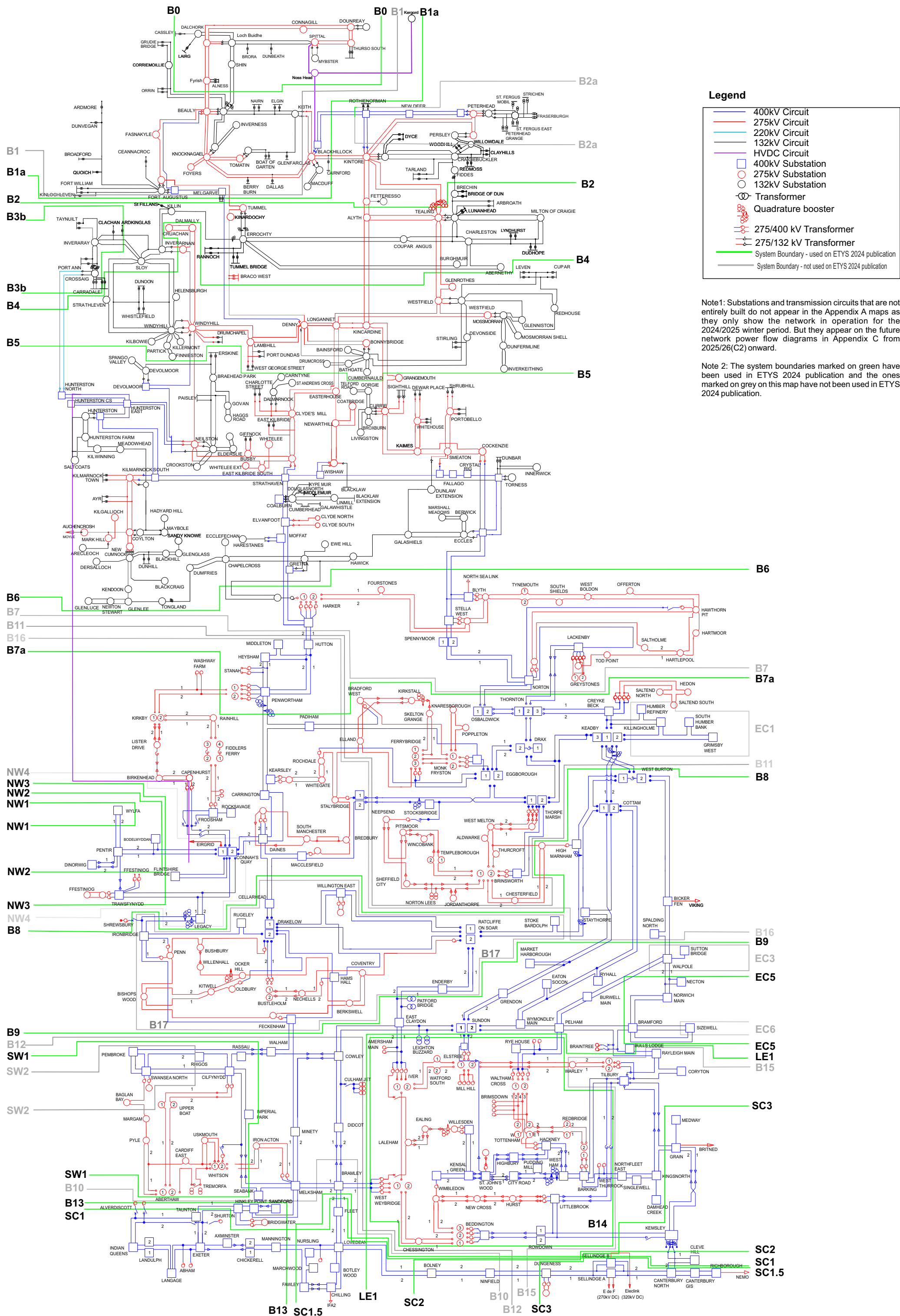
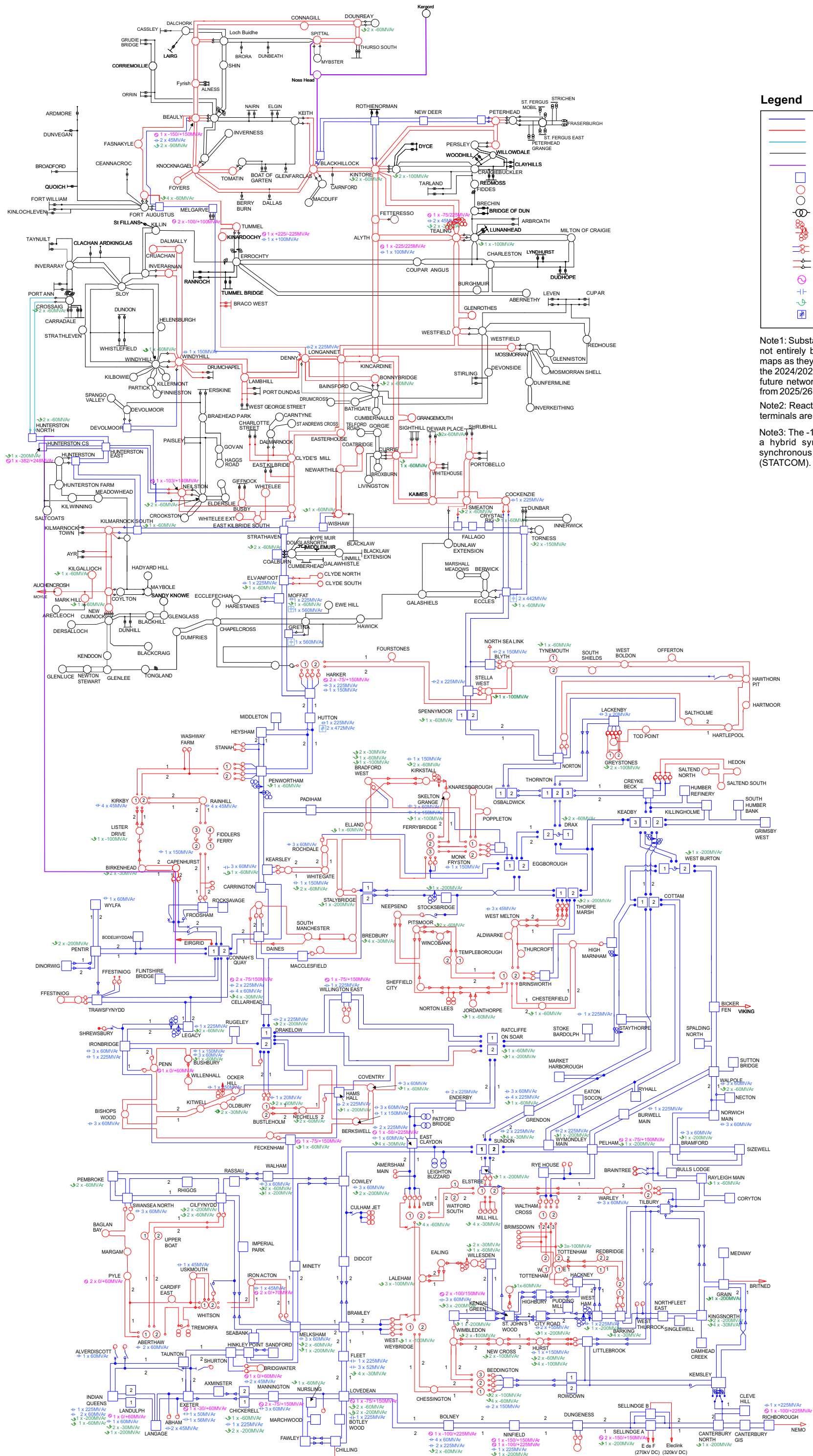


Figure A7: GB Reactive Compensation Plant

SSEN TRANSMISSION

SP TRANSMISSION

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION



Legend

- 400kV Circuit
- 275kV Circuit
- 220kV Circuit
- 132kV Circuit
- HVDC Circuit
- 400kV Substation
- 275kV Substation
- 132kV Substation
- Transformer
- Quadrature booster
- 275/400 kV Transformer
- 275/132 kV Transformer
- SVC
- MSC/STATCOM
- Reactor
- Series Capacitor

Note1: Substations and transmission circuits that are not entirely built do not appear in the Appendix A maps as they only show the network in operation for the 2024/2025 winter period. But they appear on the future network power flow diagrams in Appendix C from 2025/26(C2) onward.

Note2: Reactive compensation plants at the HVDC terminals are not listed on this diagram

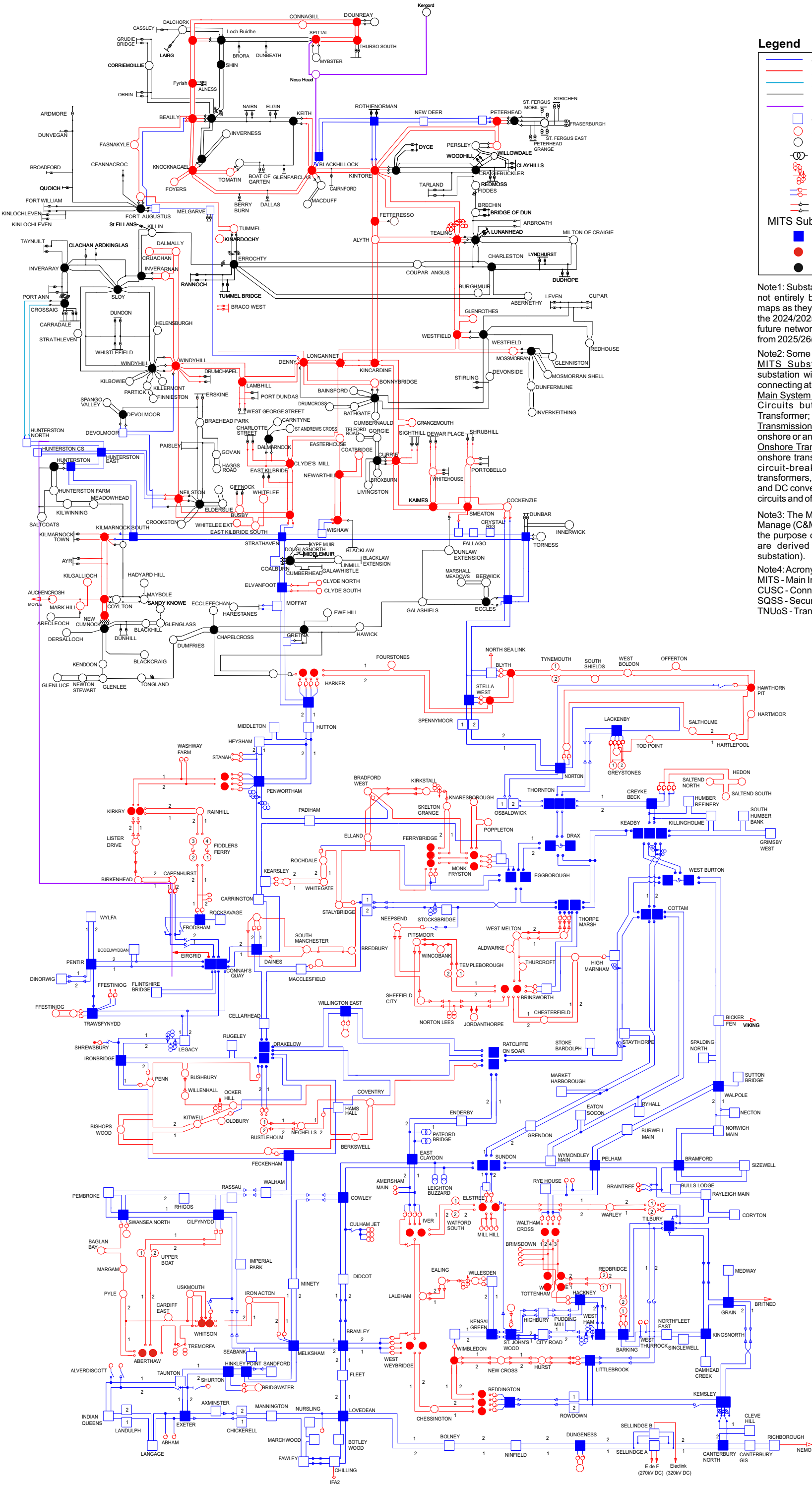
Note3: The -103/+140 Mvar at Neilston substation is a hybrid synchronous condenser, a combined synchronous condenser and static compensator (STATCOM).

Figure A8: GB Existing MITS Substation

SSEN TRANSMISSION

SP TRANSMISSION

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION



Legend

- 400kV Circuit
- 275kV Circuit
- 220kV Circuit
- 132kV Circuit
- HVDC Circuit
- 400kV Substation
- 275kV Substation
- 132kV Substation
- Transformer
- Quadrature booster
- 275/400 kV Transformer
- 275/132 kV Transformer
- MITS Substations (Notes 3 and 4)
- 400kV
- 275kV
- 132kV

Note1: Substations and transmission circuits that are not entirely built do not appear in the Appendix A maps as they only show the network in operation for the 2024/2025 winter period. But they appear on the future network power flow diagrams in Appendix C from 2025/26(C2) onward.

Note2: Some definitions as per CUSC and SQSS:
MITS Substation (CUSC) = a Transmission substation with more than 4 Main System Circuits connecting at that substation;
Main System Circuit (CUSC) = means Transmission Circuits but excluding a Grid Supply Point Transformer;
Transmission Circuit (SQSS) = This is either an onshore or an offshore transmission circuit;
Onshore Transmission Circuit (SQSS) = part of the onshore transmission system between two or more circuit-breakers which include, for example, transformers, reactors, cables and overhead lines and DC converters but excludes busbars, generation circuits and offshore transmission circuits.

Note3: The MITS substation map is for Connect and Manage (C&M) purposes and should not be used for the purpose of TNUoS local circuit charges (which are derived from MITS node instead of MITS substation).

Note4: Acronyms
MITS - Main Interconnected Transmission System
CUSC - Connection and Use of System Code
SQSS - Security & Quality of Supply Standard
TNUoS - Transmission Network Use of System