Scottish 4G Infill Programme Consultation: Request For Information

Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust

September 2018

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Introduction

The Scottish Government (SG) and Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) have worked in partnership to develop the Scottish 4G Infill Programme (S4GI). The S4GI programme's aim is to deliver 4G LTE infrastructure and services to around 50-60 complete "notspots" in Scotland, and is backed with up to £25 million, which includes matched funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support activity in the Highlands and Islands region of Scotland. The programme has undergone a procurement process and in July 2018 appointed WHP Telecoms Ltd as the infrastructure provider.

In 2017, the programme consulted on a set of proposed target locations which ultimately elicited 16 sites which now comprise the programme's initial locations. This new consultation seeks to identify further locations which can facilitate the deployment of 4G LTE infill coverage where this does not yet exist, and where it is unlikely that industry will invest in the near to medium term future, given the economic challenges of doing so.

Purpose of this Consultation

This public consultation seeks to expand the intervention area of the S4GI programme from the initial 16 sites. To enable this, 100 potential areas of interest have been identified. SG and SFT wish to test these potential locations and their applicability for the programme to enable the £25 million available funding to be maximised, whilst adhering to geographic spend restrictions associated with the ERDF-funded and match-funded elements of the funding.

This consultation also serves to ensure compliance with the European Commission's Broadband Guidelines. These are EU Guidelines[1] which set out how governments should apply the European Commission's State Aid rules in relation to the deployment of broadband networks. For these purposes, 4G LTE is classified as a next generation access (NGA) broadband service. The objective of the S4GI programme is to provide access to mobile NGA infrastructure which is capable of delivering 4G LTE services.

EU regulations are designed to ensure that any use of public funding ('State Aid') is targeted at areas of market failure and produces positive market outcomes while minimising any distortion to competition. The State Aid rules require public interventions to be targeted so as to limit the risk of crowding-out or disincentivising existing and/or concrete planned private sector investments that would otherwise meet the desired policy objectives. In the context of broadband, the General Block Exemption Regulations permit the use of public funding only to extend broadband coverage in geographic areas where there is no provision of basic broadband or NGA broadband service or network and it is unlikely to be developed in the near future (within the next three years).

In accordance with this requirement, SG is holding a public consultation through publication of this consultation document on its website.

[1] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:025:0001:0026:en:PDF

Approach

To ensure the success of the programme, engagement and consultation will help make our overall strategy and performance more effective. We will do this by consulting about our intentions and others' views. We will gather feedback and analyse the results of the consultation, report on the results, and use this to inform our planning and priority setting.

1. Principles

The following principles will underpin all engagement activity. Engagement activity will:

• be **proportionate** both for the group being consulted and to the purpose of the engagement.

• be **open, transparent and focused,** being clear how their views will be used and what they may influence.

• be **consistent and joined up** ensuring no group has undue influence or access, but that engagement is tailored to the commitments and interests of the audience.

• **support and promote improvement** by sharing findings with key stakeholders e.g. partners, colleagues and wider Government departments.

• be **accountable and cost effective**, using the necessary resources and time to make a difference, and properly evaluate findings.

2. Levels of Engagement

We will engage with interested parties at the appropriate level, in appropriate ways and at appropriate times. The ways we engage with users, stakeholders and interested parties will depend on what we are trying to achieve. Engagement will operate at a number of levels:

• **information** – providing information about the service (including information about how to engage with services locally) and future changes to the way the service operates.

• **consultation** – seeking opinions about areas of our work and about the services we provide.

• **involvement** – engaging customers and corporate partners in becoming part of the solution by listening to their views and supporting them to bring about improvement.

In all of our engagement with users, stakeholders and interested parties, we will be clear about what we want to achieve and ensure that the means of engagement is designed to achieve that objective. We will tailor our engagement activities and use appropriate methods and will be mindful of the context from the external perspective. Annex A outlines the likely levels and basis of engagement in relation to the programme.

S4GI – Progress to Date

SG and SFT conducted a public consultation on a proposed initial intervention area in August 2017[2]. This elicited 16 initial locations which formed the basis of a procurement process which ran from March-June 2018, the purpose of which, was to identify an infrastructure provider for the S4GI programme. The procurement has concluded and the contract was awarded to WHP Telecoms Ltd in July 2018. WHP will be responsible for subsequent mast build ownership, operation and maintenance – and will deliver mobile services in partnership with a mobile network operator or operators.

All infrastructure built through the programme will be open access, future-proofed, be connected to backhaul capable of delivering 4G LTE services and be upgradable to 5G. Mast build will also be dependent of the commitment from at least one MNO to provide 4G LTE services at each location. The S4GI programme has now entered its delivery phase.

The S4GI programme will not deliver a service to all mobile notspots in Scotland – for the available funding we estimate that mobile services to around 50-60 locations in total could potentially be delivered by the programme, over the course of the four years until 2021/2022.

Expanding the Intervention Area – Selection of Areas of Interest

To expand the intervention area, SG and SFT needs to understand what complete notspots will remain after commercial rollout by the UK's four main mobile network operators (MNOs) is complete.

This programme is solely targeting complete notspots – that is, areas where there is no coverage from any MNO. Any location which has coverage from one, two or three – but not all MNOs – is outwith the programme's scope.

We have identified 100 areas of interest for potential inclusion in the programme. However not all of these will ultimately be included in the programme as we don't believe that the available funding will allow us to build more than 50-60 mast locations in total.

These locations have been derived through a process which, in the first instance, sought to identify 4G notspot locations identified from the best information available to SFT and SG; these include datasets from Ofcom and other UK Government programmes. These locations were then analysed against the following criteria:

1. Premises and associated population coverage uplift
2. Transport (road and rail) coverage uplift
3. Key tourism site coverage uplift
4. Geographic coverage uplift

[2] https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/08/1017/downloads

We have selected the top 100 locations from the resulting analysis as our potential areas of interest for the programme. These are shown on the map at Annex B, and in more detail at Annexes E - M. Grid References are presented in the table at Annex D.

For any of these areas of interest to subsequently be incorporated into the programme and progress build phase will require the following items to be achieved *and* for costs to be within £500,000 per location:

1. Anchor tenancy from at least one MNO (i.e. commitment to provide 4G services from that mast)
2. Landlord agreement
3. Planning permission
4. Power connectivity
5. Network Connectivity

Achievement of items 1-3 are mandatory. Achievement of items 4-5 will be subject to costs and could influence whether an area is viable or not.

If an area of interest meets the requirements above, subject to funding availability, it would be our intention to include it in the programme. It is important to note that through this consultation and engagement with industry and the regulator, the areas of interest may change. The presence of location in the list of 100 sites does not guarantee that it will be included in the programme. Conversely, the absence of an area does not necessarily mean it would be excluded from the programme, if it can be evidenced that it meets the eligibility criteria outlined above.

We now seek views from those who may be able to support the provision of this network infrastructure in the target areas. This could be through ownership of specific telecommunications infrastructure or have plans to build such infrastructure. Also, we seek input from wider stakeholders such as local authorities on the potential intervention area.

Timescale

This consultation will run for 4 weeks from 10 September 2018 to 8 October 2018.

Your Response Required

We are sending this consultation to all principal mobile infrastructure and service providers, and are notifying Local Authorities. In addition, we are publishing this consultation document on our website. We welcome responses from any organisation or individual.

We require responses to the Consultation Questions set out in **Annex C**.

When responding to these questions, please provide the following information:

• Your organisation’s name

• Your organisation’s address

• Your name

• Position

• Contact email address

Please send your response to arrive not later than **23:59 on 8 October 2018**. You can respond via email to: 4Ginfill@Scottishfuturestrust.org.uk or in writing to:

4G Infill Programme
Scottish Futures Trust 11 – 15 Thistle Street
Edinburgh
EH2 1DF

Please note that the data you provide in your response will be treated as commercially confidential to SG and SFT, albeit that it may be necessary to share/some all of your response data with our professional advisors and/or BDUK, Ofcom, BIS State Aid Branch and the European Commission in the course of seeking State aid approval for our project.

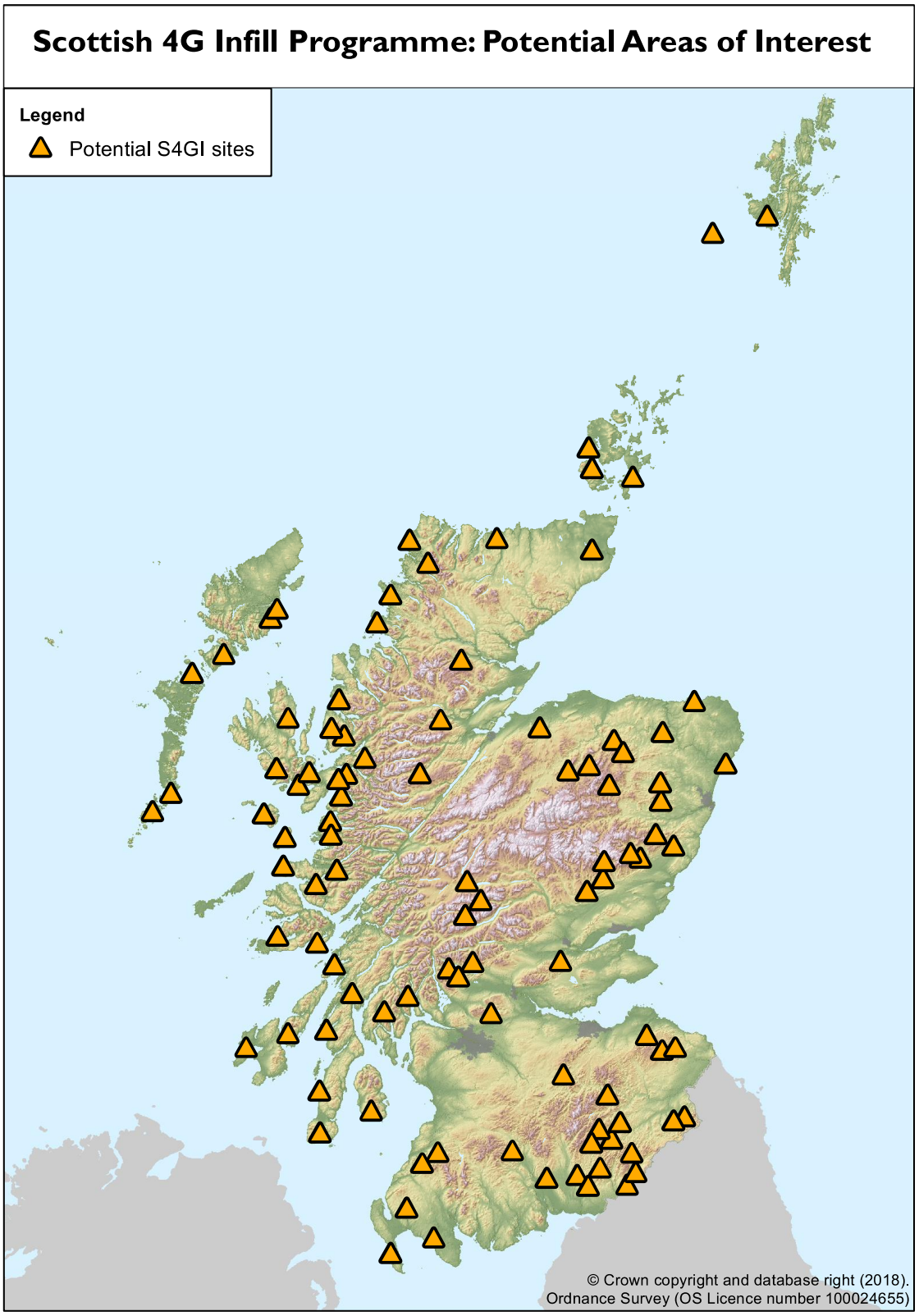
If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact 4Ginfill@Scottishfuturestrust.org.uk

Annex A - Approach to Engagement

Engagement Plan Group	Engagement Method	Communication Method	When	Frequency
Providers of mobile infrastructure services	Consult	• Website • Verbal messages • SMS • E-mail • Customer survey	Within the consultation period	Throughout consultation period
Other interested parties	Consult	• Website • Verbal messages • SMS • E-mail • Customer survey	Within the consultation period	Throughout consultation period
Strategic partners, Delivery partners	Inform	• Dictated according to preference and proportionate to the significance of the issue.	Within the consultation period	As appropriate Throughout consultation period

Annex B – Map of Potential Areas of Interest

Map 1



Grid references for all sites are set out in Annex D.

Annex C - Consultation Questions

Question 1

If you are a provider of mobile infrastructure services, do you have any current or planned (next 3 years) investments within a 10 km radius from the grid reference indicated on the maps?

Question 2

If you are provider of mobile services, do you have any current or planned (next 3 years) investments of commercially available (open for public use) 4G LTE services within a 10 km radius from the grid reference indicated on the maps?

Question 3

If you are an interested party regarding mobile infrastructure services, do you have any current or planned (next 3 years) investments within a 10 km radius from the grid reference indicated on the maps?

Question 4

If you are a fixed telecommunications provider do you or are you developing fibre solutions that could provide cost effective >1Gbps service in remote rural areas.

Question 5

If you are a member of the public, do you have or are you aware of any current or planned (next 3 years) investments within a 10 km radius from the grid reference indicated on the maps?

Question 6

If you are a local authority or a member of the public, are you are aware of any complete 4G mobile notspots (defined as 5 km radius from a central point)[3]. If yes, please supply a 6-figure grid reference for a central point in which a 5 km radius can be placed, along with any other evidence you can provide to demonstrate the lack of coverage in that area

If you have answered yes to 1- 5 of the questions above, please provide information concerning current or planned (next 3 years) investments in the target areas indicated on the maps. For question 6 please supply the required information within the question.

Responding to this Public Consultation

When responding to these questions, please provide the following information:

- Your organisation's name
- Your organisation's address
- Your name
- Position
- Email address

[3] A complete 4G mobile notspots is defined as no 4G signal received by a 4G-compatible mobile handset from all the main network providers: EE, Telefonica (O2), Vodafone and Three.

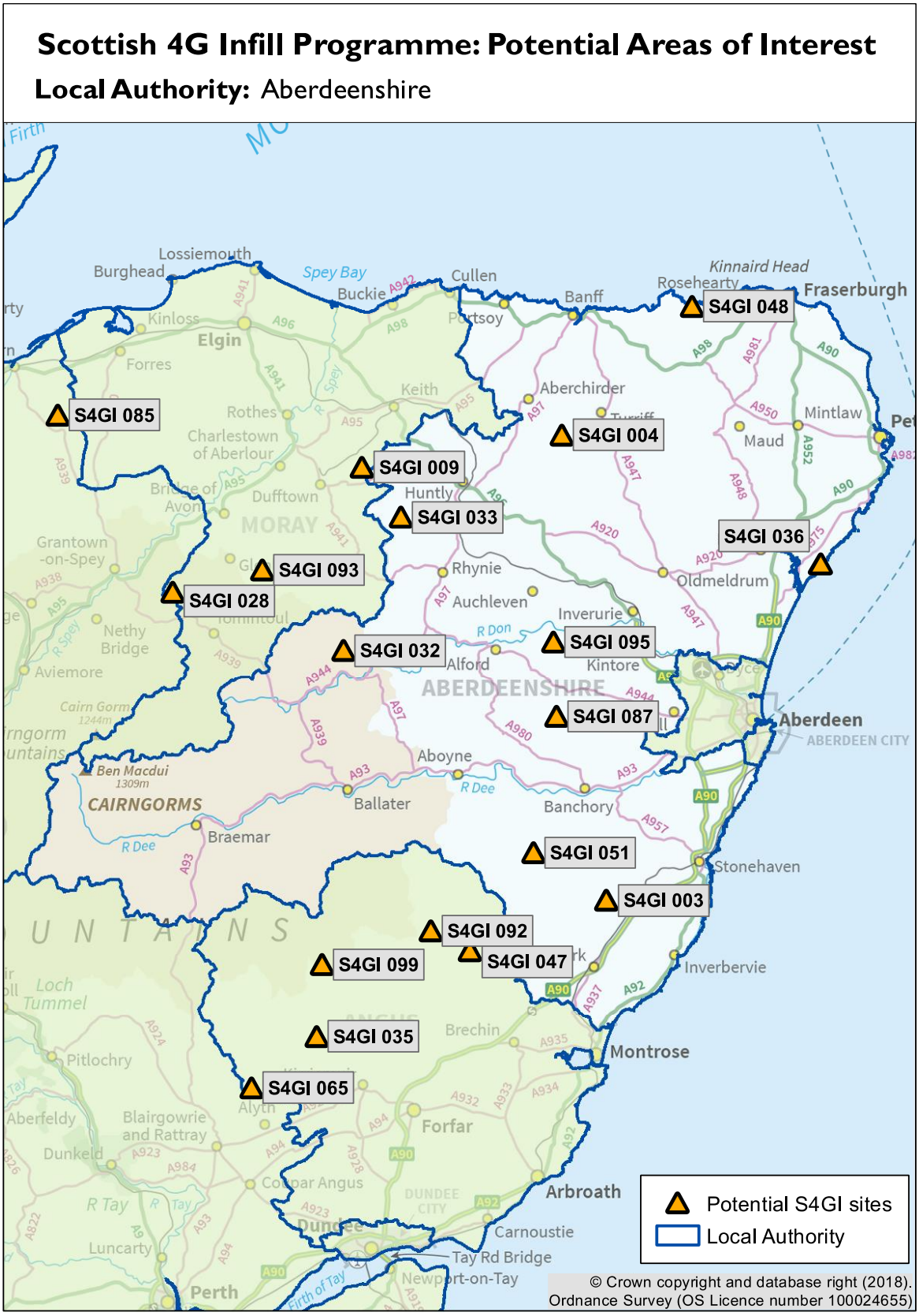
Annex D – Location Data for Proposed Areas of Interest

Site Reference	Grid reference	Easting	Northing	Local Authority
S4GI 003	NO73234 80347	373234.7606	780347.673	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 004	NJ66871 46668	366871.8694	846668.307	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 032	NJ3575115918	335751.1854	815918.8376	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 033	NJ4389034900	343890.4787	834900.9883	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 036	NK0378228291	403782.1679	828291.8374	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 048	NJ8541864992	385418.2231	864992.7653	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 051	NO6277987143	362779.673	787143.894	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 087	NJ6607406574	366074.5492	806574.3826	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 095	NJ6561617138	365616.4251	817138.1879	Aberdeenshire
S4GI 035	NO3188661012	331886.597	761012.348	Angus
S4GI 047	NO5380373165	353803.4911	773165.9809	Angus
S4GI 092	NO4817276040	348172.5651	776040.727	Angus
S4GI 099	NO3271571231	332715.1536	771231.5496	Angus
S4GI 018	NM41757 27630	141757.8486	727630.5238	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 044	NR6627036796	166270.3404	636796.6815	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 056	NS1800392250	218003.6256	692250.8207	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 058	NS0429383383	204293.3811	683383.4696	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 068	NM6471723706	164717.4625	723706.1586	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 069	NR8544594133	185445.574	694133.6224	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 071	NM7500710741	175007.8744	710741.5847	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 079	NR6664112574	166641.1631	612574.0555	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 082	NR4776770504	147767.1895	670504.9643	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 083	NR2320362377	123203.4054	662377.0228	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 086	NR7031572610	170315.7252	672610.8531	Argyll and Bute
S4GI 013	NS79057 01872	279057.3621	601872.8502	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 015	NX07721 42042	207721.453	542042.0661	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 022	NY1691487687	316914.4653	587687.5181	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 040	NY2346481218	323464.1122	581218.9369	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 060	NX9928885901	299288.8501	585901.8063	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 066	NX3298850928	232988.8829	550928.9189	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 077	NY3037991789	330379.7649	591789.6937	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 088	NX1728868470	217288.9248	568470.2003	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 089	NT2530606476	325306.9344	606476.3911	Dumfries and Galloway
S4GI 049	NT5763269584	357632.9041	669584.3438	East Lothian
S4GI 001	NC07745 27376	207745.4356	927376.1252	Highland
S4GI 006	NG79139 09393	179139.924	809393.5035	Highland
S4GI 012	NH49039 88974	249039.7146	888974.9558	Highland
S4GI 014	NC69972 60265	269972.1816	960265.2294	Highland
S4GI 016	NC29636 45899	229636.4092	945899.1262	Highland
S4GI 020	NC1905559329	219055.4372	959329.7266	Highland

S4GI 024	NM7252094794	172520.4588	794794.3915	Highland
S4GI 031	NG8205122362	182051.4173	822362.8412	Highland
S4GI 038	NG8061644585	180616.1051	844585.8121	Highland
S4GI 039	NH3721554158	237215.5976	854158.2573	Highland
S4GI 041	NG7725819258	177258.4569	819258.5686	Highland
S4GI 050	ND2558353513	325583.8679	953513.441	Highland
S4GI 052	NH2512622473	225126.4614	822473.8914	Highland
S4GI 053	NG7774865812	177748.7775	865812.4467	Highland
S4GI 054	NM3359199173	133591.9194	799173.717	Highland
S4GI 059	NM4605485347	146054.8223	785347.8892	Highland
S4GI 061	NM6414457627	164144.0991	757627.8453	Highland
S4GI 064	NB9991611013	199916.4298	911013.8076	Highland
S4GI 067	NM4507968376	145079.1947	768376.5638	Highland
S4GI 070	NG4088325478	140883.8559	825478.4336	Highland
S4GI 075	NM7287086548	172870.0765	786548.5722	Highland
S4GI 076	NG5373815818	153738.3218	815818.8962	Highland
S4GI 080	NG9259231517	192592.7701	831517.7901	Highland
S4GI 081	NM7637666197	176376.1609	766197.0137	Highland
S4GI 085	NH9507149493	295071.2155	849493.2544	Highland
S4GI 096	NG7328549136	173285.3011	849136.4318	Highland
S4GI 097	NG4784355202	147843.6624	855202.5931	Highland
S4GI 100	NG6004923175	160049.7908	823175.3187	Highland
S4GI 009	NJ38413 42083	338413.8468	842083.7124	Moray
S4GI 028	NJ1144724208	311447.7452	824208.3563	Moray
S4GI 093	NJ2413727411	324137.3204	827411.6167	Moray
S4GI 010	NG10019 92298	110019.1849	892298.3205	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
S4GI 027	NB3775913480	137759.5681	913480.3284	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
S4GI 043	NF7927511274	79275.2361	811274.5153	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
S4GI 057	NF6846300496	68463.2115	800496.4341	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
S4GI 073	NB4122718745	141227.7229	918745.0831	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
S4GI 091	NF9168181326	91681.5725	881326.2352	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
S4GI 084	NR9628425121	196284.3346	625121.5016	North Ayrshire
S4GI 017	HY23582 13301	323582.4035	1013301.442	Orkney Islands
S4GI 078	ND4965095991	349650.5084	995991.1628	Orkney Islands
S4GI 098	HY2561601167	325616.4163	1001167.6	Orkney Islands
S4GI 030	NN6045748455	260457.9419	748455.7629	Perth and Kinross
S4GI 055	NO0721512907	307215.4	712907.5784	Perth and Kinross
S4GI 065	NO2265053709	322650.887	753709.078	Perth and Kinross
S4GI 072	NN5265359401	252653.6881	759401.4327	Perth and Kinross
S4GI 002	NT37016 08818	337016.7663	608818.7111	Scottish Borders
S4GI 005	NT79622 21919	379622.7641	621919.2669	Scottish Borders
S4GI 021	NT4895600698	348956.9304	600698.6255	Scottish Borders
S4GI 025	NT6649960620	366499.9585	660620.3302	Scottish Borders
S4GI 029	NT3485534700	334855.4752	634700.1223	Scottish Borders

S4GI 034	NT2964214465	329642.0227	614465.5628	Scottish Borders
S4GI 037	NY4600381882	346003.99	581882.5614	Scottish Borders
S4GI 042	NT7328919336	373289.9466	619336.2556	Scottish Borders
S4GI 046	NY5105389131	351053.0214	589131.0165	Scottish Borders
S4GI 063	NT4224418401	342244.1442	618401.102	Scottish Borders
S4GI 090	NT7446262288	374462.1075	662288.9918	Scottish Borders
S4GI 008	HT96097 38825	396097.6499	1138825.103	Shetland Islands
S4GI 094	HU2814848758	428148.8601	1148758.723	Shetland Islands
S4GI 026	NS3540601110	235406.8223	601110.1714	South Ayrshire
S4GI 062	NX2639794548	226397.1436	594548.3035	South Ayrshire
S4GI 019	NT0880946377	308809.1782	646377.5237	South Lanarkshire
S4GI 007	NN41839 08331	241839.8814	708331.0398	Stirling
S4GI 011	NS66715 82147	266715.1951	682147.4345	Stirling
S4GI 023	NN4755303819	247553.6074	703819.7732	Stirling
S4GI 045	NN5572112071	255721.9586	712071.1481	Stirling
S4GI 074	NN5142539651	251425.8766	739651.8929	Stirling

Annex E – Proposed Areas of Interest: Aberdeenshire



Map 2

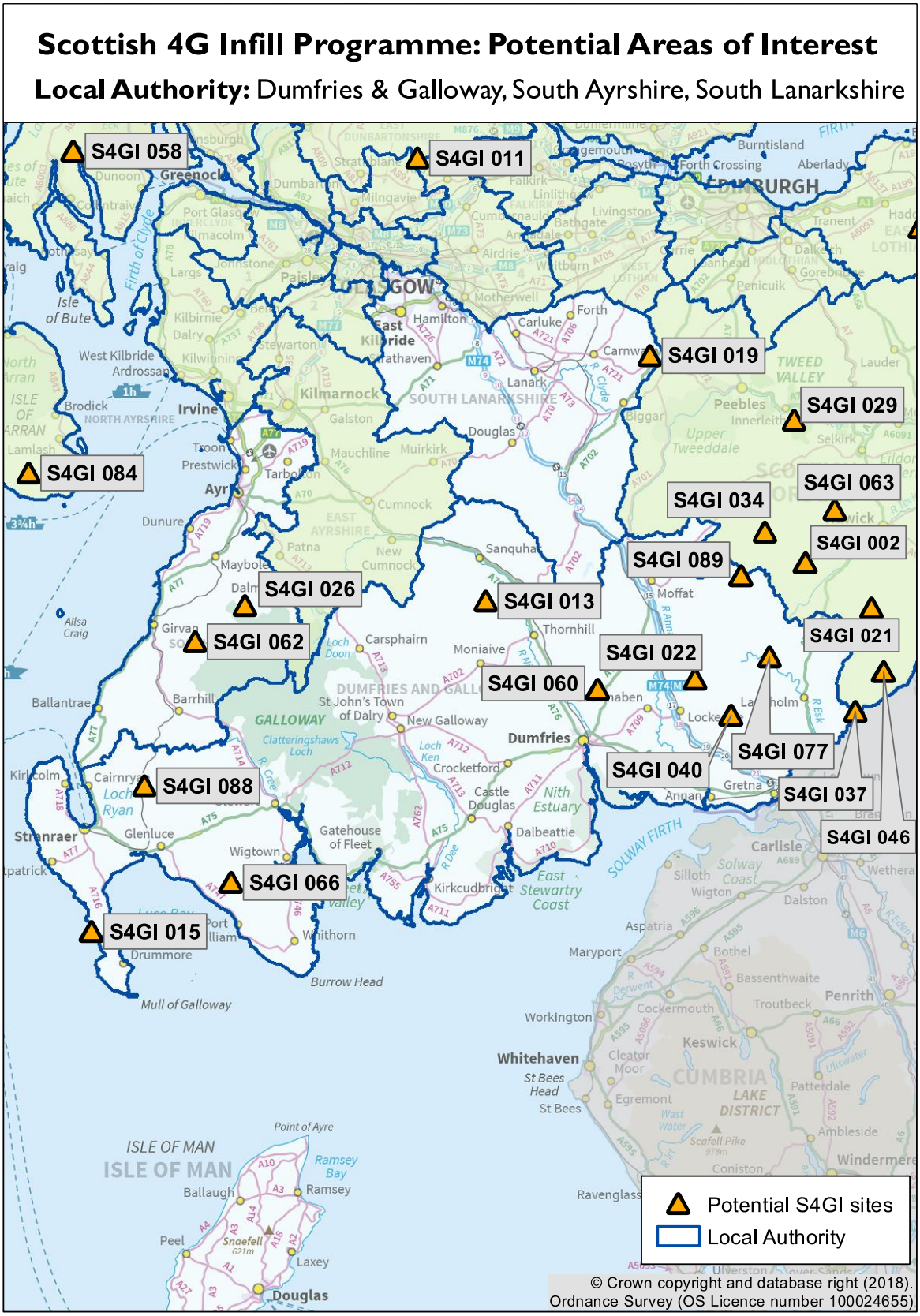
Annex F – Proposed Areas of Interest: Angus; Perth & Kinross

Map 3

Annex G - Proposed Areas of Interest: Argyll and Bute; North Ayrshire

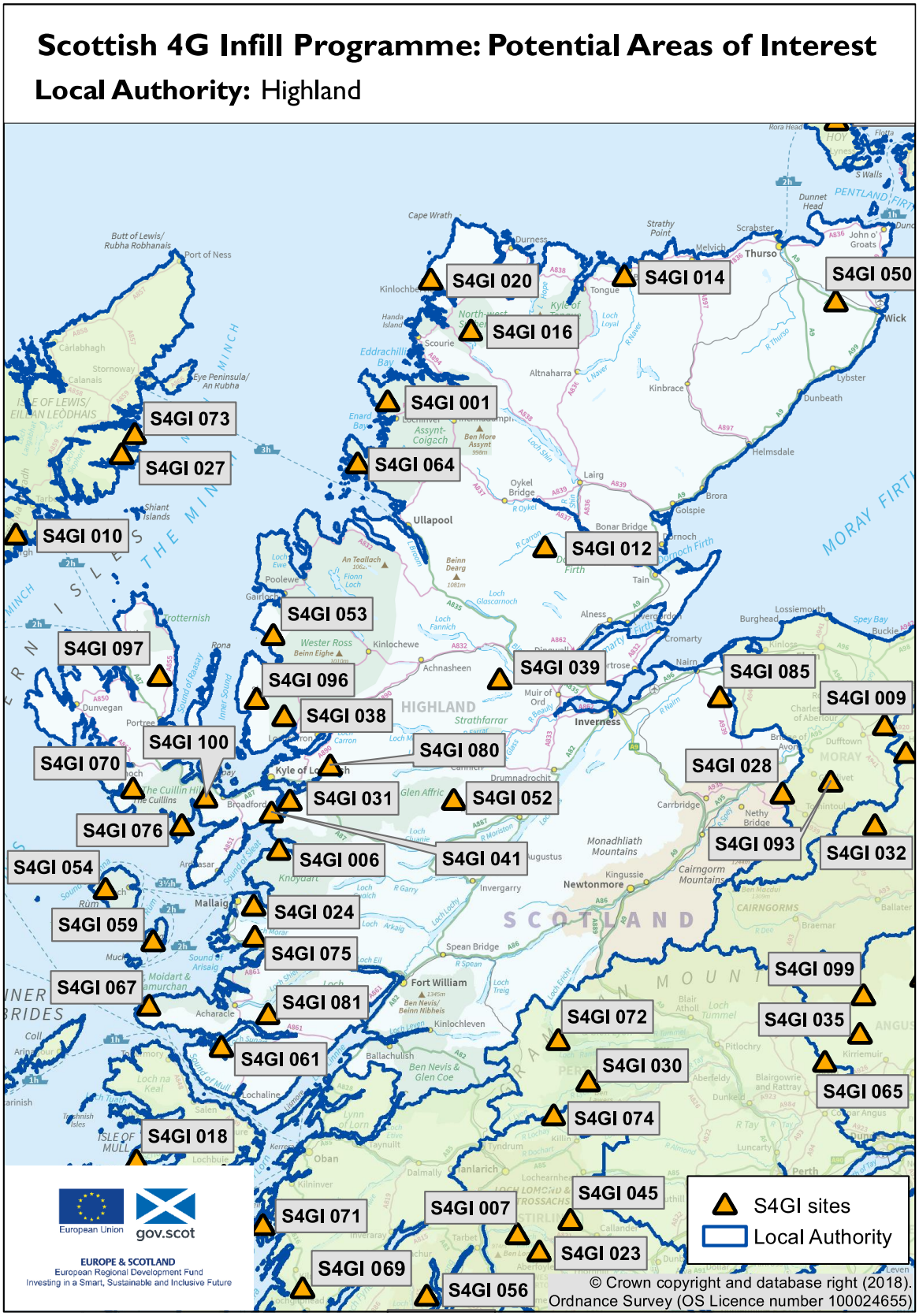
MAP 4

Annex H - Proposed Areas of Interest: Dumfries and Galloway; South Ayrshire; South Lanarkshire



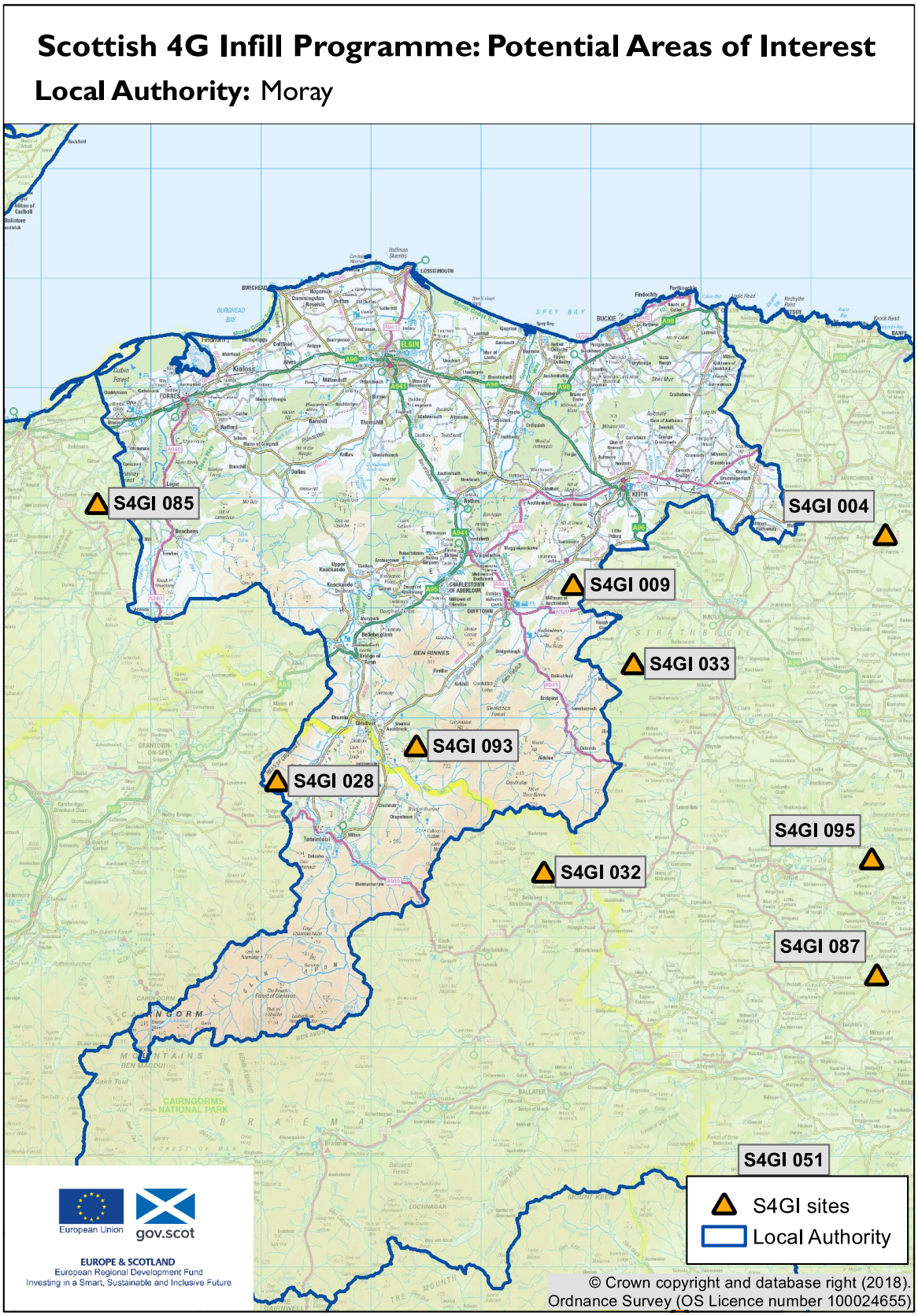
MAP 5

Annex I - Proposed Areas of Interest: Highland



MAP 6

Annex J - Proposed Areas of Interest: Moray

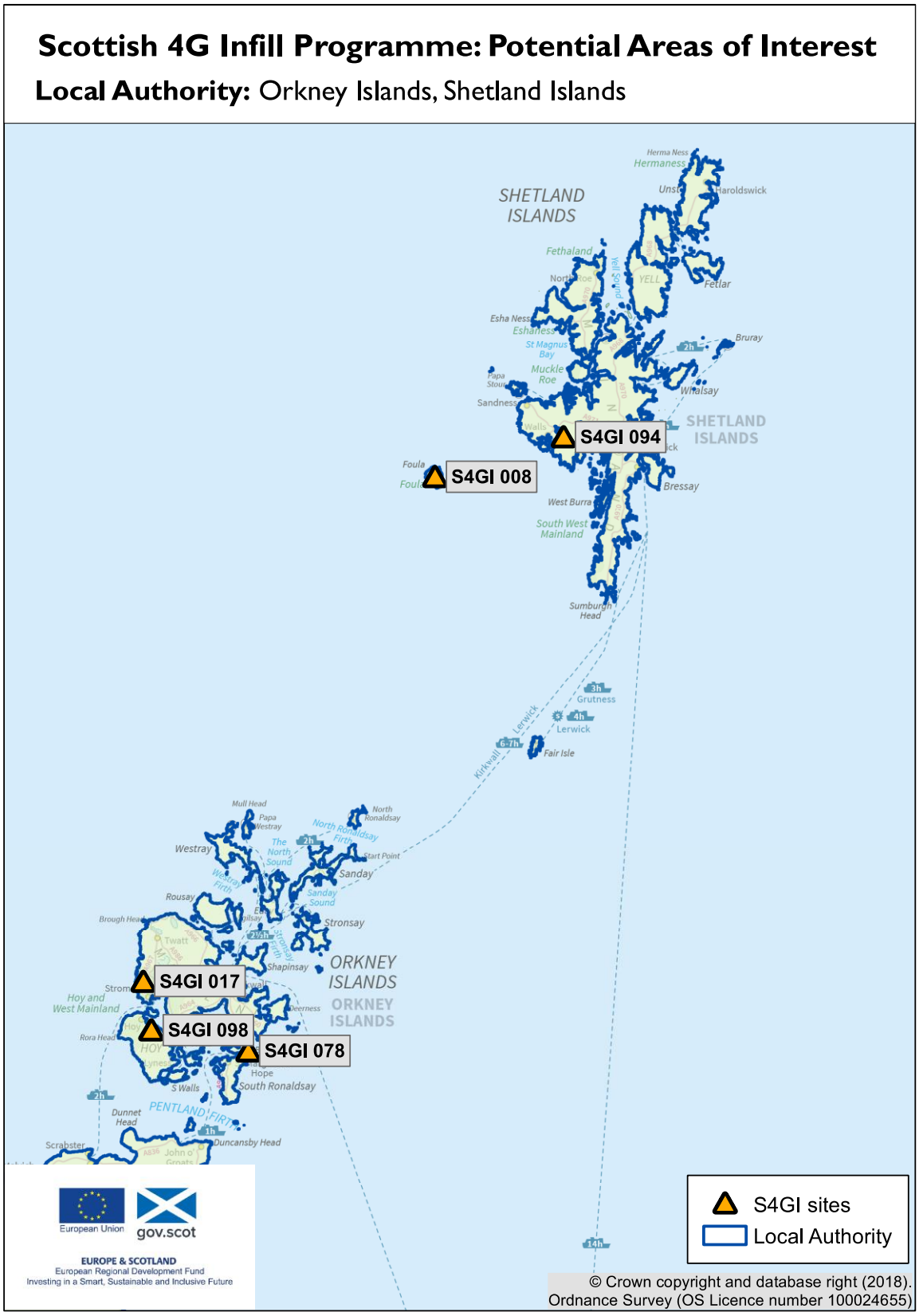


MAP 7

Annex K - Proposed Areas of Interest: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

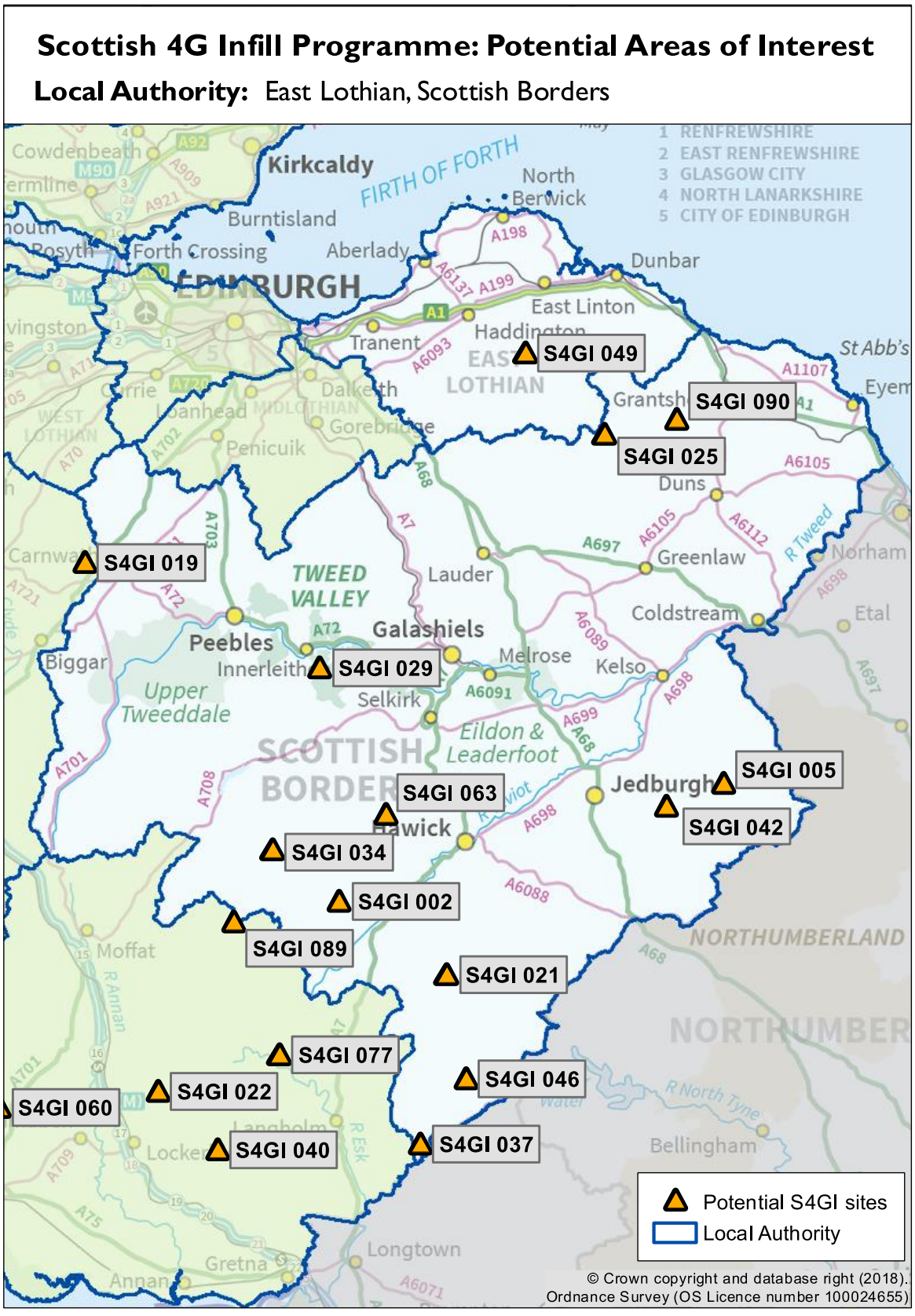
MAP 8

Annex L - Proposed Areas of Interest: Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands



MAP 9

Annex M - Proposed Areas of Interest: Scottish Borders; East Lothian



MAP 10

© Crown copyright 2018

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit **nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3** or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: **psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk**.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at **www.gov.scot**

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-78781-197-3 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, September 2018

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS466406 (09/18)