

Report on Consultation - Site Selection

Glenmoriston Substation

REF: PT793



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GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SHE Transmission's works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A – C(s).
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse impacts.
Scheduled Monument	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Areas of national importance. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated under the EC Habitats Directive to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SHE Transmission works.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in Great Britain.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (hereafter referred to as 'SSEN Transmission'), operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, owns, operates and develops the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands. SSEN Transmission is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SSE plc group of companies. SSEN Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.

SSEN Transmission is proposing to construct a substation extension in Glenmoriston to replace the current 132/11 kV transformer (hereafter known as Proposed Development), which is the only transformer at the site. The replacement is required to be in close proximity to the Glenmoriston power station to minimise losses and due to lack of space.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 site selection has been undertaken. In Stage 1, six Site Options were taken forward for evaluation. The comparative appraisal identified that out of the six Site Options, Site Options 3 and 6 were to be taken forward for Stage 2. For Stage 2, Site Option 6 from Stage 1 (offsite) was known as Site Option 1, whilst an in situ hybrid of Site Options 1 and 3 was known as Site Option 2. Taking into consideration the environmental, engineering and cost assessments on each site, Site Option 2 was the Preferred Site.

This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process which has been undertaken for the project between November 2022 and March 2023. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the rationale for and approach to, and the selection of the Preferred Site.

This report describes the key responses received and provides detail on the actions proposed in response to the issues raised. The consultation process has confirmed that Site Option 2 should be taken forward as the Proposed Site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Document

This document reports on the consultation responses received from the publishing of the Consultation Document and consultation events for Stage 1 and Stage 2, identifying key issues and how they have been considered in finalising the Proposed Development.

1.2 Document Structure

This report is comprised of six sections as follows:

- 1: Introduction – setting out the purpose of the Consultation Document;
- 2: The Proposal – describes the need for the proposal, the strategic alternatives considered, the proposed technology solution and the typical construction methods;
- 3: The Consultation Process – sets out the consultation process and methodology that has been applied to date;
- 4: Consultation Responses and Key Issues – describes the responses and key issues that have been identified;
- 5: Project Responses to Consultations – description of responses that the project has had to consultation; and
- 6: Conclusion – a summary of consultation and responses and sets out next steps.

The main body of this document is supported by a series of figures and appendices.

2. THE PROPOSAL

2.1 Project Background

SSEN Transmission is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SSE plc group of companies. SSEN Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland, and operating as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission.

The Glenmoriston 132/11kV substation (built in 1957) is a single transformer site which facilitates the connection of Glenmoriston (37MW) and Livishie (15MW) Hydro generation units. The existing grid transformer (GT) was manufactured and installed in 1998. However, a recent condition assessment has highlighted the transformer is showing signs of degradation and that there is now a need for the transformer to be replaced. The GT replacement is required in close proximity to Glenmoriston power station to minimise losses and due to a lack of space. An in-situ replacement only of the GT may not be feasible due to modern design and safety specifications and the required length of generator outage time at the nearby power stations of Glenmoriston and Livishie.

The approach to the site selection was as documented in the SSEN Transmission guidance. Six Site Options were assessed for a range of environmental, engineering and economic topics in Stage 1. After comparative analysis, two were taken forward for consideration to Stage 2 and it was Site Option 2 (in situ) that was the Preferred Site. It is a hybrid option, in that some of the existing infrastructure within the existing substation will be maintained for use.

2.2 Project Description

The Glenmoriston Substation Works, referred to as the Proposed Development, involves replacement of the existing GT. Much of the 132 kV plant and connections has been installed in recent years during the works to connect Bhlaraidh wind farm in 2018. It is anticipated the proposed work can be carried out without necessitating an outage on the Bhlaraidh Windfarm, which connects to the grid via the 132kV busbar at Glenmoriston substation.

The existing grid transformer and any existing associated equipment to be replaced will be removed. The development, depending on the final option progressed, may also include upgrade of existing / new access tracks and temporary site compounds and construction laydown areas.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview

In accordance with the SSEN Transmission guidance a process of consultation on the Preferred Site option was implemented. Given the similarities between all options at Stage 1 Initial Site Screening and Stage 2 Detailed Site Selection, and their close proximity to the existing substation, the Stage 1 Consultation included only statutory and non-statutory consultees. This section highlights the methods of consultation, the responses from consultees and response analysis.

3.2 Methods of Consultation

Consultation documents were produced for Stage 1 (six site options) and Stage 2 (two site options, one of which was the 'Preferred Site'). These were distributed for comment in November 2022 (Stage 1) and February 2023 (Stage 2). The consultation document describes the need for the project development and the rationale for the Preferred Site.

The consultation process comprised the following:

- The Stage 1 Consultation Document and covering letter were submitted to key statutory and non-statutory stakeholders inviting comments on 25th November 2022;
- The Stage 1 Consultation Document was made available on the SSE website on 28th November 2022;
- The Stage 2 Consultation Document and covering letter were submitted to key statutory and non-statutory stakeholders inviting comments on 1st February 2023;
- The Stage 2 Consultation Document was made available on the SSE website.;
- A summary information leaflet was made available during the public exhibitions detailed below;
- Public exhibition held at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall on 1st March 2023 between 14:00 and 19:00.

The consultation period closed on 29th March 2023. Responses were received via a variety of methods, including completed feedback forms, emails, comments via the project website and written letters.

3.3 Consultees

Table 3.1 lists the statutory and non-statutory organisations invited to consider the Consultation Document.

Table 3.1: List of Consultees from Stage 1 and Stage 2

Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees	
NATS	NatureScot
Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)	The Coal Authority
BT	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
JRC Windfarms	Scottish Water
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Transport Scotland
The Highland Council	Scottish Forestry
Ness Fishery Board	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Sustrans Scotland	Fisheries Management Scotland
John Muir Trust	Mountaineering Scotland
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)	Visit Scotland
Buglife	Highland Raptor Study Group

3.4 Public Consultations

The exhibition was advertised in the Press and Journal on 20th February 2023; a copy of the public notice is provided in Appendix B. The notice was also circulated to local community councils. The public exhibition provided a forum to share information about the project and the preferred site. Attendees were invited to take a Consultation Booklet (see Appendix C) and to consider information presented on a series of exhibition boards. All members of the public were invited to complete a feedback form which is included in the Consultation Booklet.

Nine members of the public attended the public consultation exhibition. A total of one completed feedback form was received following the exhibitions.

4. CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Summary of Comments

In total, 16 consultation responses were received during the consultation process, 15 from statutory and non-statutory consultees and one from a member of the public. A list of the statutory and non-statutory consultees who responded is set out in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents from Stage 1 and Stage 2

Respondent	Summary of Comments
NatureScot (Stage 1)	Due to the immediate proximity to the watercourse, all six suggested site options have the potential to affect the designated site features, specifically the freshwater pearl mussel and the Atlantic salmon, through water run-off. Should the proposal be taken forward a Surface Water Management Plan is provided. With specific regard to Sites 5 and 6 NatureScot advised works should adhere to the Forest and Water Guidelines and other published best practice in order to strictly control fine sediment and other diffuse pollution release into the SAC.
Scottish Water (Stage 1)	No objections to any Site Options. Proposed Project sits within a Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA), however is of low risk (water quality protection measures are advised). If a surface water discharge to the combined sewer system is likely to be required, SSEN are advised to discuss their drainage plans with Scottish Water at an early stage.
SEPA (Stage 1)	No requirement for Flood Risk Assessment but has advised existing tracks should be used and footprint of disturbance minimised. Compensation for any loss of wet woodland or other wetland habitats was also advised.
Transport Scotland (Stage 1)	No preferences of any Site Options indicated. However, they advise that any option would require assessment of potential impact of construction related vehicles on adjacent trunk road. An Abnormal Load Assessment will be required to show the infrastructure being removed can be transported safely on the trunk road network. Swept Path analysis should be undertaken as well as information on any changes to street furniture.
Highland Raptor Study Group (Stage 1)	Drawing attention to an unoccupied peregrine nest site and an occupied osprey nest within 1.5km of the site. They recommend checks of the peregrine nest site prior to any construction work in order to confirm that the site is unoccupied and thereby rule out potential disturbance. They recommend that both the peregrine falcon and osprey nest sites are included in the environmental assessment for this project and an appraisal of avoiding potential disturbance to these nest sites during the breeding season is carried out.
The Coal Authority (Stage 1 and Stage 2)	Site lies beyond coalfield so no further comments.
BT (Stage 2)	The Proposed Development will not cause complications or interference to BT's current planned radio network.

Respondent	Summary of Comments
Forestry and Land Scotland (Stage 2)	There is no objection to the Proposed Development as it is out with their land holdings. No impact on the land and how they wish to manage it in the future is expected.
Historic Environment Scotland (Stage 2)	Proposed Development is not considered to have significant impacts on their interests. Further advice should be sought from relevant archaeology and conservation service for matters such as unscheduled archaeology and Category B and C Listed Buildings.
JRC Windfarms (Stage 2)	There are no concerns about the Proposed Development.
NATS (Stage 2)	Proposed Development does not conflict with safeguarding criteria. However, if there are any changes to the Proposed Development, NATS should be consulted on such changes.
NatureScot (Stage 2)	Due to tree felling, the Proposed Development should follow Forest and Water Guidelines as well as other published best practice guidelines to mitigate sediment and other diffuse pollution release into the SAC. They also recommend a Surface Water Management Plan. Standing advice in relation to freshwater pearl mussels was also provided.
The Highland Council (Stage 2)	<p>The Planning Authority have provided pre-application advice and are supportive of the development in principle, providing that further work is undertaken in advance of the planning application in relation to the following topics raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees: the application will need to be supported by a tree assessment and protection plan, together with compensatory measures. • Ecology: matters relating to ecology as outlined by NatureScot and the Council's Ecology officer including the provision of biodiversity enhancement need to be addressed. • Noise: a Noise Impact Assessment needs to be submitted with the application. • Flood Risk: the development will need to be demonstrated to be operational during a 1 in 200 year plus climate change storm event. A Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) written in accordance with our Supplementary Guidance: Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment, is required to be submitted with the planning application. • Transport and access: a Transport Statement and CTMP is required. Potential cumulative issues with nearby developments also need to be fully explored and addressed. An assessment of the impact of this development on public access should be made. Mitigation measures should be identified to minimise the detrimental impacts and maximise public access.
Member of the Public (Stage 2)	Raised concerns about loss of ancient trees, noise for nearby residents and access in/around the Site for pedestrians and cyclists.

All consultation responses received during the consultation period have been collated and summarised in this document (Appendix A). Appendix A records the consultees contacted, along with a summary of their comments and whether or not each comment was positive, neutral or issue specific.

Table 4.2: Analysis of Responses to the Consultation Process

Source	Category		
	Positive	Neutral	Issue
Correspondent type			
General Public	0	0	1
Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees	1	11	3

4.2 Issues Emerging from Consultation Feedback

Responses covered a range of topics with a number raising specific issues in relation to the Preferred Site option.

Common themes emerging from the consultation responses received related to:

- The River Moriston SAC;
- Ornithology;
- Ancient Woodland;
- Public access; and
- Noise.

5. PROJECT RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS

5.1 Overview

Stage 1 was the Initial Site Selection, in which six sites were put forward and evaluated. The evaluation took into account the environmental, engineering and cost factors. The comparative appraisal identified that out of the six Site Options, Site Options 3 and 6 were to be taken forward for Stage 2. Stage 2 was the Detailed Site Selection, in which two sites were taken forward for additional evaluation. For Stage 2, Site Option 6 from Stage 1 (offsite) was known as Site Option 1, whilst an in situ hybrid of Site Options 1 and 3, making use of some existing infrastructure, was known as Site Option 2. Taking into consideration the environmental, engineering and cost assessments on each site, Site Option 2 was the Preferred Site. All Site Options have been subject to consultation.

The majority of consultation responses received indicated no issues with the site options and/or no preference for some options over others. However, the selection of the Preferred Site took into account concerns raised by consultees, including those about impacts on ancient woodland and water management, the latter especially in relation to the River Moriston SAC.

5.2 Proposed Site

Based on the consultation responses received, no changes to the Preferred Site are necessary and this will now be taken forward as the Proposed Site for further stages in the process.

5.3 Responses Relevant to Subsequent Environmental Appraisal

Some consultation responses related to specific environmental issues appropriate to consider when defining and delivering the scope of the Environmental Appraisal (EA). The scope of the EA is expected to include the following:

- Landscape and visual assessment
- Ecology and biodiversity (will consider issues raised by The Highland Council and NatureScot on the River Moriston SAC and site features, water and forest management, and by various consultees on woodland loss)
- Ornithology (will consider comments made by Highland Raptor Study Group)
- Cultural heritage
- Hydrology, hydrogeology and soils (will consider issues raised by The Highland Council)
- Noise and vibration (will consider issues raised by The Highland Council and the public)
- Land use and amenity (will consider issues raised by The Highland Council and the public)
- Cumulative effects (will consider issues raised by The Highland Council)

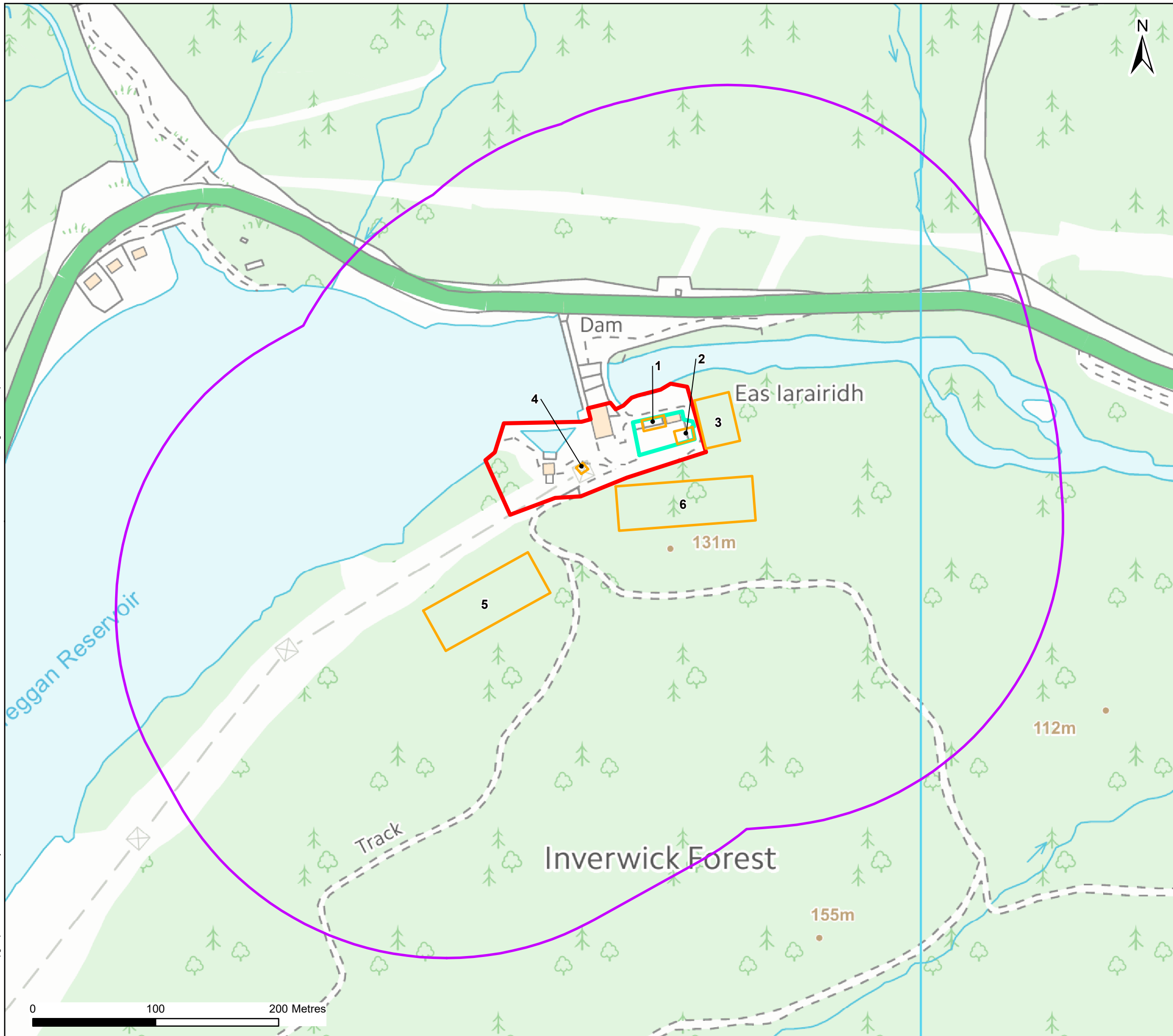
In addition, the Planning Application will be supported by an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Construction Traffic Management Plan and will consider issues raised by The Highland Council and the public.

6. CONCLUSION

This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process which has been undertaken for the project between November 2022 and March 2023. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the rationale for and approach to, the selection of the Preferred Site.

This report describes the key responses received and provides detail on the actions proposed in response to the issues raised. The consultation on the site selection process has been successful in obtaining feedback from both statutory and non-statutory consultees.

FIGURES



Legend

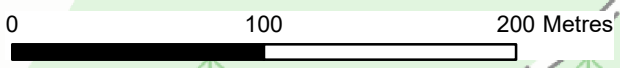
- Existing Site Boundary
- Existing Substation
- Site Options
- Site Option 250m Buffer

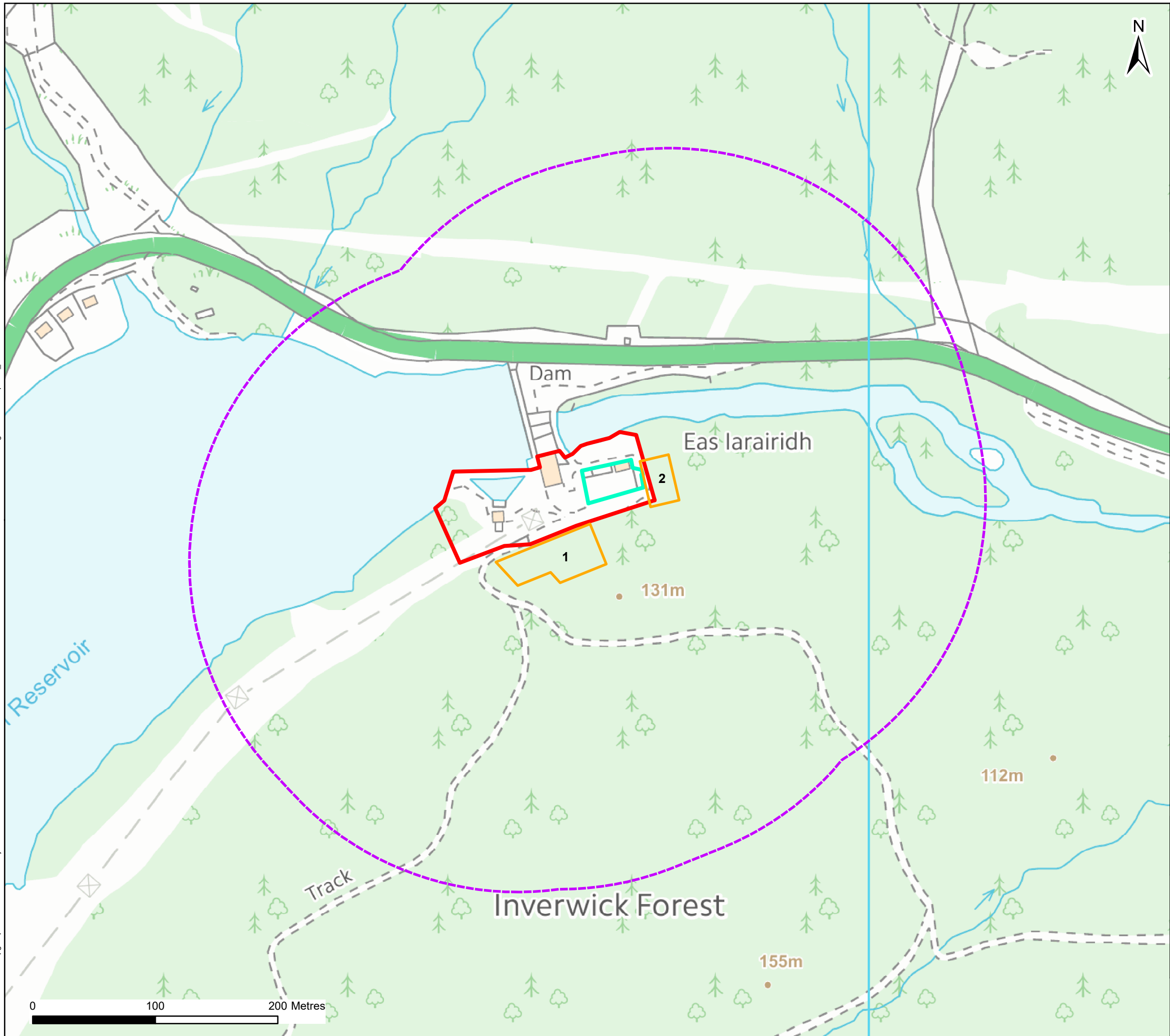
Client: 

Project: Glenmoriston Substation

Title: **Figure 1: Site Options (Stage 1)**

Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 Scale: 3,000 @ A3
 Drawn: MAL Checked: IM Approved: CM
 Drawing Number: GLENMORISTONSS-WSP-GIS-007





Legend

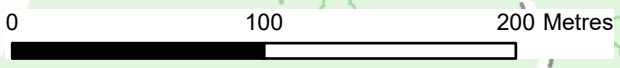
- Existing Site Boundary
- Existing Substation
- Site Option
- Site Option 250m Buffer

Client:  TRANSMISSION

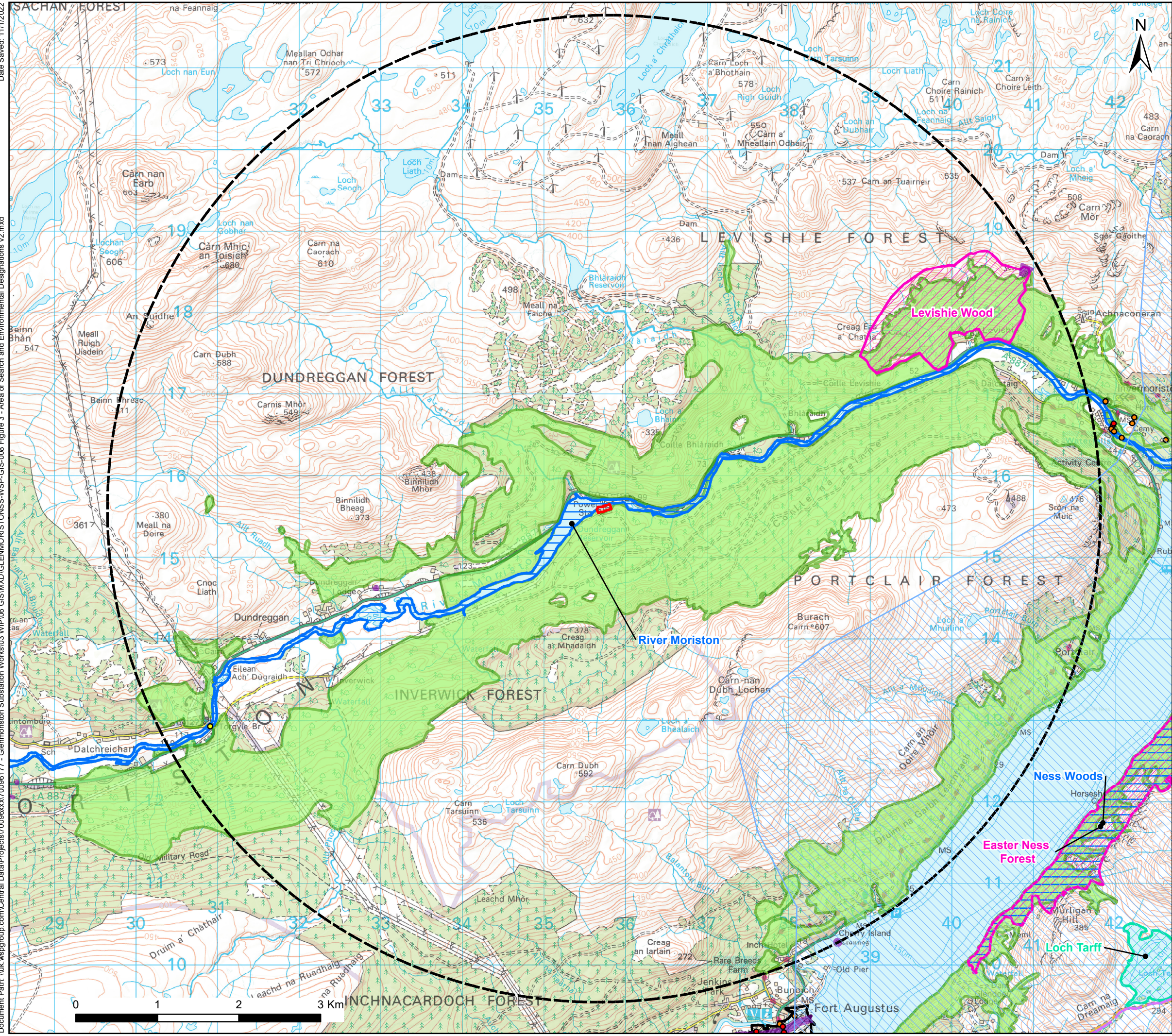
Project: PT736 Glenmoriston Substation Works: Detailed Site Selection

Title: **Figure 2: Site Options (Stage 2)**

Date: 10/28/2022 Scale: 3,000 @ A3
 Drawn: MAL Checked: IM Approved: EJ
 Drawing Number: GLENMORISTONSS-WSP-GIS-007



Date Saved: 11/1/2022
Document Path: \\uk.wspgroup.com\Central Data\Projects\70096xxx\70096177 - Glenmoriston Substation Works\03 WIP\06 GIS\GLENMORISTONSS-WSP-GIS-008 Figure 3 - Area of Search and Environmental Designations v2.mxd



Legend

- Existing Site Boundary
- Area of Search
- Constraints
- Listed Building Category
 - A
 - B
 - C
- National Cycle Network
- Important Bird Area (IBA)
- Conservation Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Scheduled Monument
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area

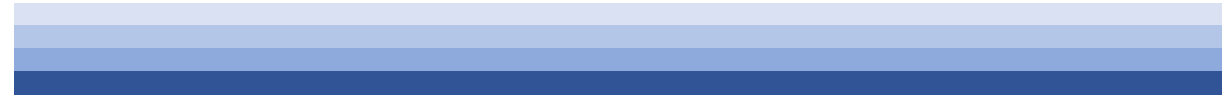
Client: Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Project: PT736 Glenmoriston Substation Works: Detailed Site Selection

Title: **Figure 3: Area of Search and Environmental Constraints**

Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 Scale: 45,000 @ A3
Drawn: IM Checked: JA Approved: CM
Drawing Number: GLENMORISTONSS-WSP-GIS-008

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION REGISTER



No.	Consultee	Stage	Email providing link to Consultation Document issued:	Response to consultation document	Date Responded	Positive/Neutral/Issue Specific
1	SEPA	Stage 1	25/11/2022	Thank you for consulting SEPA on the above proposal by way of your email below and related documents which explain well the process of choosing the preferred options. Based on the information provided at this stage then it does not look like SEPA would have any specific concerns with the proposals on the understanding that design and construction works follow best practice guidance and the guidance in our standing advice - sepa-triage-framework-and-standing-advice.pdf. The existing access tracks should be used as much as possible and the foot print of disturbance minimised as much as possible. Should any wet woodland or other wetland habitats be impacted by the development then we would look to see that compensated for. Both preferred sites fall outwith our flood maps so we wouldn't be looking for any flood risk assessment to support the proposals.	13/12/2022	Neutral
2	NatureScot	Stage 1	25/11/2022	We can provide advice on the potential impacts of the proposal on the River Moriston SAC. Due to the immediate proximity to the watercourse, all six suggested site options have the potential to affect the designated site features, specifically the freshwater pearl mussel and the Atlantic salmon, through water run-off. Should you take this proposal forward we recommend a Surface Water Management Plan is provided. With specific regard to Sites 5 and 6, works should also adhere to the Forest and Water Guidelines and other published best practice in order to strictly control fine sediment and other diffuse pollution release into the SAC. Please see the following link for our standing advice in relation to freshwater pearl mussel: https://www.nature.scot/doc/standing-advice-planning-consultations-freshwater-pearl-mussels	15/12/2022	Issue-specific
3	Scottish Water	Stage 1	25/11/2022	See email / pdf letter - no significant issues.	05/12/2022	Neutral
4	Transport Scotland	Stage 1	25/11/2022	Thank you for the opportunity for Transport Scotland to comment on the proposed Glenmoriston Substation Grid Transformer Upgrade Works. Having reviewed your Consultation Document (CD), I understand that Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN Transmission) are seeking comments on the site selection process for the siting of a proposed substation. The substation will replace the existing Glenmoriston substation, located next to Glenmoriston Hydroelectric power station approximately 6km west of Invermoriston, adjacent to the A887(T). I understand that six potential Site Options have been identified, all of which are in the general vicinity of the existing Glenmoriston Substation. I can confirm that Transport Scotland has no preference on these options, however, I would state that regardless of choice, the application will require to be supported by an assessment of the potential impact of construction related vehicles on the adjacent trunk road network. In addition, an Abnormal Load Assessment will be required to satisfy Transport Scotland that the components of both the new substation and the infrastructure of the substation being removed can be transported safely on the trunk road network. Swept path analysis should be undertaken and details provided with regard to any required changes to street furniture or structures along the route. I trust the above is sufficient at this stage but if you require anything further, please let me know	06/12/2022	Neutral
5	The Highland Council	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
6	Scottish Forestry	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
7	Forestry and Land Scotland	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
8	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Stage 1	25/11/2022	Thank you for your consultation regarding the replacement of the 132 / 11 kV grid transformer at the existing Glenmoriston substation. We confirm that the requirement of the project is clearly explained in your consultation. We also note that as there are no known heritage assets within our remit within the vicinity of the replacement substation we do not have a preferred site location. Our remit covers world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A-listed buildings and their settings, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, inventory battlefields and historic marine protected areas (HMPAs). The relevant archaeological and cultural heritage advisors will also be able to offer advice on the scope of the cultural heritage assessment. This may include heritage assets not covered by our interests, such as unscheduled archaeology, and category B- and C-listed buildings. We look forward to receiving your planning application in due course.	16/12/2022	Neutral
9	Ness Fishery Board	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
10	RSPB	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
11	Sustrans Scotland	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
12	Fisheries Management Scotland	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
13	John Muir Trust	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
14	Mountaineering Scotland	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
15	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
16	Scottish Wildlife Trust	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
17	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
18	Visit Scotland	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
19	Buglife	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
20	The Coal Authority	Stage 1	25/11/2022	No comments to make as does not fall within coalfield area.	02/12/2022	Neutral
21	Highland Raptor Study Group	Stage 1	25/11/2022	With regard to the proposal, there is an unoccupied peregrine nest site that merits drawing to your attention. The site was checked by HRS in 2018 and 2019 and was found to be unoccupied. We suspect this site is still unoccupied. The site lies within 1.5km of the site and depending on which option is chosen to construct the new substation, it could lie close to the recommended buffer distance to avoid disturbance to breeding peregrines. Whilst we believe this site is unoccupied, checks of the site would be helpful prior to any construction work in order to confirm that the site is unoccupied and thereby rule out potential disturbance. In addition, there is an osprey nest within 1km of the sub station. This nest has been occupied since 2015 when it was discovered. The proximity of the nest in relation to the substation lies close to the recommended buffer distance where the birds could be disturbed. We recommend that both the peregrine falcon and osprey nest sites are included in the environmental assessment for this project and an appraisal of avoiding potential disturbance to these nest sites during the breeding season is carried out.	09/01/2023	Issue-specific
22	Scottish Raptor Study Group	Stage 1	25/11/2022			
23	NATS Safeguarding	Stage 2	01/02/2023	The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.	03/02/2023	Neutral
24	JRC Windfarms	Stage 2	01/02/2023	Hi Shona, Apologies for not replying in time, we've had some issues with our ticketing system. We don't have any concerns regarding this development. Kindest Regards, Heather Willoughby	05/05/2023	Neutral

25	FLS	Stage 2	01/02/2023	<p>Hello Shona,</p> <p>I am the Planning Forester for Forestry and Land Scotland for the area in which this substation is located and have been asked to provide formal response to SSE's request for comment regarding the substation's upgrade proposals/options.</p> <p>I can confirm that FLS have no issues with any of the upgrade options presented in your consultation document.</p> <p>The substation is at over 800 metres from our landholdings on the southside of river Moriston (and >170 m to FLS land to the north across the river/dam and public road A887) and therefore none of the options presented for the intended expansion/new compound and equipment are likely to impact our land or how we wish to manage it into the future.</p> <p>Similarly, SSE's routine access to this substation is (presumably) taken across the dam itself (i.e. not using any FLS' internal forest road network) and consequently the construction phase too is not likely to inconvenience FLS in any way.</p> <p>I hope this satisfies your need for a response from FLS over this matter at this stage.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p><u>Chris March</u> Chris March</p>	07/02/2023	Neutral
26	BT	Stage 2	01/02/2023	<p>Thank you for your email dated 01/02/2023.</p> <p>We have studied the proposed windfarm development, with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links.</p> <p>The conclusion is that, the Project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.</p> <p>Kind regards Chris</p>	07/02/2023	Neutral
27	NS	Stage 2	01/02/2023	<p>Thank you for getting in touch with us regarding pre-application comments on the Stage 2 of Site Selection for GT upgrade on the River Moriston.</p> <p>We can provide advice on the potential impacts of the proposal on the River Moriston SAC.</p> <p>Due to the immediate proximity to the watercourse, both suggested site options have the potential to affect the designated site features, specifically the freshwater pearl mussel and the Atlantic salmon, through water run-off.</p> <p>Should you take this proposal forward we recommend a Surface Water Management Plan is provided.</p> <p>As both site options would require tree felling, works should also adhere to the Forest and Water Guidelines and other published best practice in order to strictly control fine sediment and other diffuse pollution release into the SAC.</p> <p>Please see the following link for our standing advice in relation to freshwater pearl mussel: https://www.nature.scot/doc/standing-advice-planning-consultations-freshwater-pearl-mussels</p>	13/02/2023	Issue-specific
28	The Coal Authority	Stage 2	01/02/2023	<p>Further to your email below, I can confirm that as the project site lies outside the coalfield, the Coal Authority's planning team have no comments to make.</p>	16/02/2023	Neutral
29	HES	Stage 2	01/02/2023	<p>Thank you for your consultation request in relation to proposals for the erection and operation of an upgrade to the Glenmoriston Substation. We have reviewed the details for our historic environment interests. Our historic environment interests cover world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their setting, category A-listed buildings and their setting, and gardens and designed landscapes (GDLs) and battlefields in their respective inventories.</p> <p>You should also seek advice from the relevant archaeology and conservation service for matters including unscheduled archaeology and category B and C-listed buildings.</p> <p>Given the location of the proposed development we confirm that we do not consider that there is a potential for significant impacts on our interests. We have no further comments to make regarding the proposals at this stage.</p>	02/03/2023	Neutral
30	The Highland Council	Stage 2	01/02/2023	<p>Full details in Pre-Application Advice Response. Summary of Key Issues:</p> <p>"The Planning Authority are supportive of appropriately located and designed electricity transmission infrastructure, and as such the principle of the development is supported. In this instance, although the proposal does not raise any insurmountable concerns at this stage, further work will need to be undertaken in advance of the planning application and these matters are outlined in this response pack.</p> <p>Overall, Site Option 2 is the preferred option in terms of landscape character and visual amenity. It is located adjacent to the existing substation and at the pre-application meeting it was confirmed that this will be at the same ground level, so less groundworks will be required, and it will be less visually intrusive. However, there will be a loss of woodland, which may open up views within this area. The application will need to be supported by a tree assessment and protection plan, together with compensatory measures. The information submitted needs to be robust and realistic and include all elements of the proposal including construction laydown areas and any widening of access routes etc. Matters relating to ecology as outlined by NatureScot and the Councils Ecology officer including the provision of biodiversity enhancement need to be addressed. A Noise Impact Assessment needs to be submitted with the application and the scope and methodology for this is outlined by the Councils Environmental Health Team in this response pack.</p> <p>As this development is classifiable under SEPA's Flood Risk and Land Use Vulnerability guidance as essential infrastructure, the Councils Flood Risk Management Team have stated that the Applicant should show that the development is likely to remain operational during a 1 in 200 year plus climate change storm event. A Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) written in accordance with our Supplementary Guidance: Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment, is required to be submitted with the planning application. A Transport Statement and CTMP is required. Potential cumulative issues with nearby developments also need to be fully explored and addressed. An assessment of the impact of this development on public access should be made. Mitigation measures should be identified to minimise the detrimental impacts and maximise public access. Subject to these elements and the other points outlined in this response being satisfactorily address, the Planning Authority are likely to be in a position to support the application."</p>	05/04/2023	Positive
31	Member of Public _1	Stage 2	n/a	<p>(Comment on Q4) Concerned about loss of any ancient trees or Caledonian pine or oak as this is being eroded each year. Do not mind "commercial" forestry being felled as that can be replaced. Ancient trees cannot.</p> <p>(Comment on Q5) Access to the area for pedestrians + cyclists may be further restricted. What impact will the build have on residents of the bungalows re noise etc.</p> <p>(Comment on Q6) Dont think so - cannot really visualise what the new kit will look like + would have been good to see an illustration for at least a couple of the options. Please keep public access to + through Inverwick open throughout construction.</p> <p>(Comment on Q7) Would really like pedestrian + cycle access over the dam itself to be considered as part of the project as community benefit. Access to areas that are developed is gradually being eroded + it would be good to open up new access where possible + make a circular walk around the glen.</p>	Mar-23	Issue-specific

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC NOTICE



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Red John Pump Storage Scheme 275kV Connection

Public Consultation Event

SSEN Transmission invites you to share your views with us

What is happening?

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission are holding a consultation exhibition event for Red John Pump Storage Scheme 275kV Connection. This consultation is focused on SSEN Transmission's routing for the underground cables connecting Red John Pump Storage Scheme in to Knocknagael Substation and the extension of the substation.

We would like to extend an invitation to local members of the community and all interested parties to attend an exhibition to discuss our plans with the project team and let us know your thoughts on our proposals.

The face to face consultation will be held at the following location:

Thursday 28th April 2022 2-7pm
Lochardil House Hotel - Stratherrick Road,
Inverness, IV2 4LF

Scan me



This is an open door drop in session, open to all members of the public and interested parties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Liaison Manager:



Ryan Davidson
Scottish Hydro Electric
Transmission, 1 Waterloo St,
Glasgow, G2 6AY

Phone: 01463 728 072
Mobile: 07901 133 919
Email: ryan.davidson@sse.com



@SSETransmission

APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION BOOKLET

Glenmoriston asset replacement

Proposal of application notice

Public consultation booklet

March 2023



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Who we are

We are Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc (SHE Transmission) for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland.



In total we maintain about 5,000km of overhead lines and underground cables – easily enough to stretch across the Atlantic from John O’Groats all the way to Boston in the USA.

Our network crosses some of the UK’s most challenging terrain – including circuits that are buried under the seabed, are located over 750m above sea level and up to 250km long.

The landscape and environment that contribute to the challenges we face also give the area a rich resource for renewable energy generation. There is a high demand to connect from new wind, hydro and marine generators which rely on Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks to provide a physical link between the new sources of power and electricity users. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is delivering a major programme of investment to ensure that the network is ready to meet the needs of our customers in the future.

Our responsibilities

We have a licence for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland and we are closely regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem.

Our licence stipulates that we must develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.

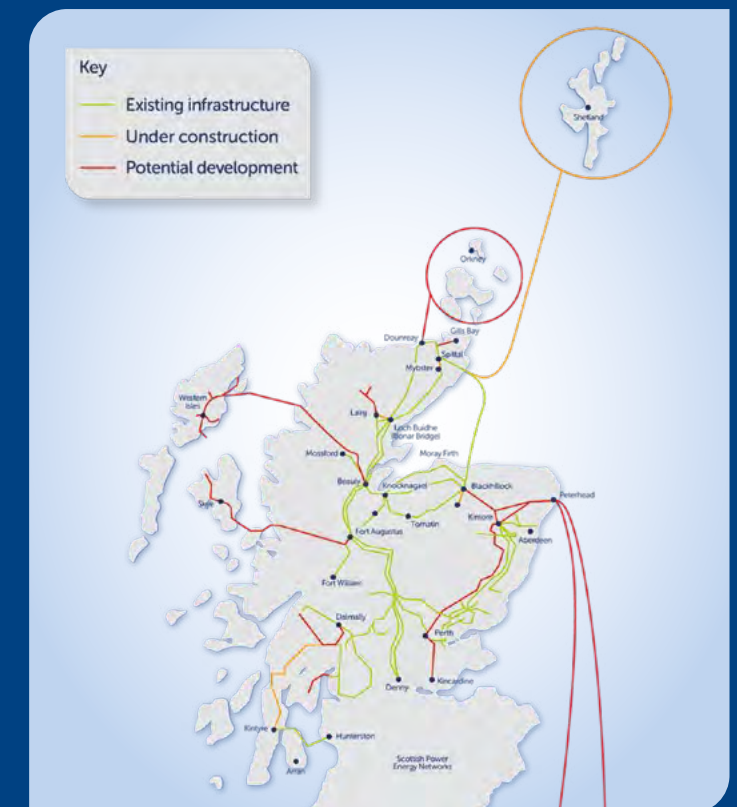
What is the difference between transmission and distribution?

Electricity transmission is the transportation of electricity from generating plants to where it is required at centres of demand. The electricity transmission network, or grid, transports electricity at very high voltages through overhead lines, underground cables and subsea cables.

Our transmission network connects large scale generation, primarily renewables, to central and southern Scotland and the rest of Great Britain. It also helps secure supply by providing reliable connection to the wider network of generation plans.

The electricity distribution network is connected into the transmission network but the voltage is lowered by transformers at electricity switching stations, and the power is then distributed to homes and businesses through overhead lines or underground cables.

Overview of transmission projects

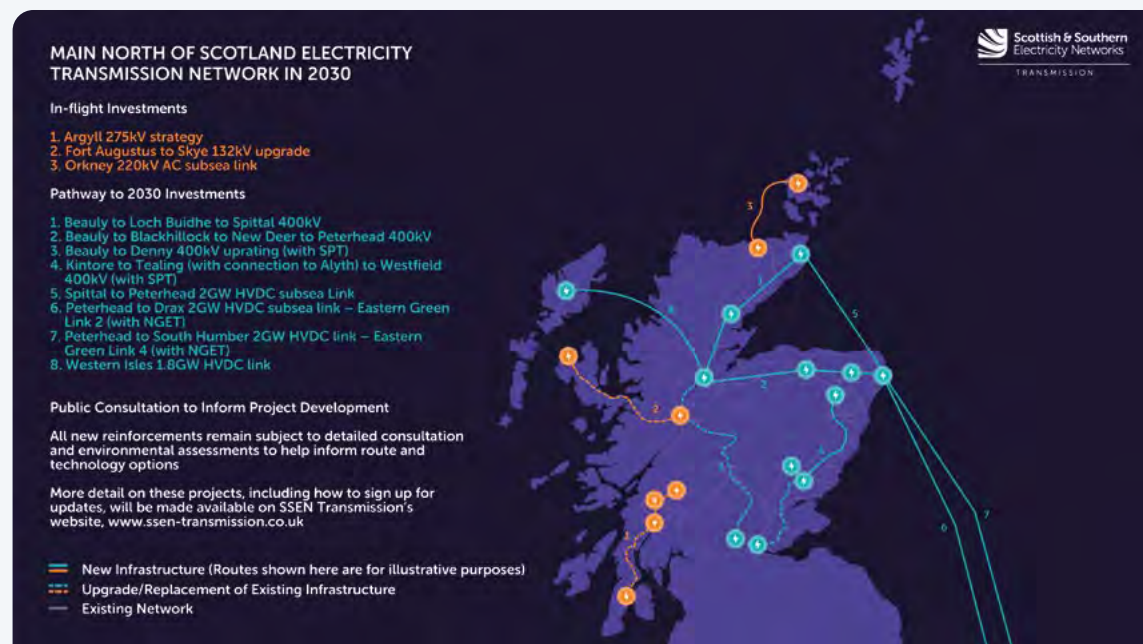


The Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design

In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO), published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (1), setting out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore electricity transmission network infrastructure required to enable the forecast growth in renewable electricity across Great Britain, including the UK and Scottish Governments 2030 offshore wind targets of 50GW and 11GW.

For the north of Scotland, this confirms the need for over £7bn of investment in onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero, several of which will require accelerated development and delivery to meet 2030 connection dates. The need for these reinforcements has been further underlined within the recent British Energy Security Strategy (2). This sets out the UK Government's plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence.

The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets via the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.



Projects in surrounding areas

Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Connection

The existing Bhlaraidh wind farm is located to the west of Loch Ness, approximately 5km north of Invermoriston on a high rocky plateau. The consented extension to the existing wind farm is due east on this plateau.

SSEN Transmission is proposing to construct a single circuit 132kV overhead line from the Bhlaraidh extension wind farm substation compound, for a distance of approximately 20km. The overhead line will be supported on trident wood pole structures.

Within the 20km, the first 3km and final 2km of the circuit is proposed to be underground cable; subject to obtaining the necessary wayleave and consent approvals.

For more information please visit: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/bhlaraidh-extension-windfarm-connection/

Project need and overview

The required project need is being driven by operational requirements and asset condition assessments of the affected existing transformer serving the Glenmoriston & Livishie hydro electric power stations at Dundreggan Dam.

The project is required to replace the existing grid transformer at Glenmoriston substation, which converts the 11 kilovolt output (kV) to 132kV for export to the Transmission network.

The assets are coming to the end of their operational life and need replacing. The consequent deterioration in its condition poses a risk of failure, meaning the power stations would no longer be able to generate renewable energy risking reliability of supply to customers.

The substation was originally built in 1957 to connect hydroelectric generation to the transmission network. The existing transformer was built when engineering design standards and requirements were very different.

Modern transformers are quieter and more efficient but also require more space around them for safe access and maintenance. Therefore, this project aims to replace the existing transformer to current standards.

The preferred upgrade will consist of an extension to the existing substation compound and a new control building, the replacement of the 11/132kV grid transformer and installation of ancillary high-voltage equipment.

The project has undertaken a detailed optioneering process to assess the technical feasibility, environmental impact and commercial viability to meet the requirements above.

Project overview

The following elements are anticipated requirements for the design and construction of an extension to the existing substation compound;

- Rerouting and upgrading the existing estate access track around the extension.
- Replace the existing 11/132kV grid transformer with a new modern grid transformer.
- Install a new 132kV circuit breaker .
- New 11kV cable from hydroelectric station to substation
- New control building with circuit breakers and protection equipment.
- Installation of a diesel generator, new LVAC and battery systems.
- Landscaping and Biodiversity requirements.



Our consultation process

At SSEN Transmission, we are committed to delivering a robust and transparent consultation process underpinned by inclusion and accessibility. As a stakeholder led business, we understand the importance of involving communities and key stakeholders throughout the each stage of our development process.

This period of engagement in the development phase is vital in shaping our proposals and to do this effectively, we need to capture feedback from stakeholders, harness local knowledge to identify risks in key areas of the project and explore potential community benefit opportunities.

Today we are presenting our approach to developing this project, including technology options, environmental considerations, the site selection process, and presenting maps which aim to give stakeholders and community members a better visual representation of the work on the project to date. If you require additional support to submit your views, please contact our Community Liaison Manager Ryan Davidson who will happily assist you.

What we're consulting on today

This consultation event is the first of two planned public consultation events following the submission of the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN).

The PAN submission triggers the initial formal Town and Country Planning (major application), consultation process for this site—including the 12-week (minimum) pre-application consultation period. We are therefore holding this and other consultations to share information on where our site selections and design inputs are to date.



Who we're consulting with

We are keen to hear feedback from a broad range of stakeholders including but not limited to local residents, landowners, businesses, non-statutory consultees and statutory consultees such as the local authority, Nature Scot, SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Forestry.



Substation site selection

Overview of the substation site selection process

SSEN Transmission has developed and implemented a formal process for the selection of sites for new substations of 132kV and above. The main aim of the process is to provide a consistent approach to the selection of new substation sites and is underpinned by our statutory obligations to:

'Develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical electricity transmission system in its licenced area' and in so doing, to 'have regard to the desirability of preserving the natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features of special interest and protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and do what we reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites buildings or objects'.

Our site selection process ensures the design, consenting, construction and operation of a substation is done in a manner that is technically feasible and financially viable whilst causing, on balance, the least disturbance during construction and operation to the environment and the people who live, work and use it for recreation.

Key stages

For most new substation projects, following pre-site selection activities, the approach follows two principal stages, each iterative and increasing in detail and resolution, bringing cost, technical and environmental considerations together in a way which seeks the best balance at all stages.

This staged process leads to the identification of a proposed substation site, which will be taken forward for planning.

The key site selection stages are:

Pre-site selection activities

The starting point in all substation site selection projects is to establish the need for the project and to select the preferred engineering option to deliver it. This process will be triggered by the preparation of several internal assessments and documents.

Stage 1: Initial site screening

This stage seeks to identify technically feasible, economically viable and environmentally acceptable site options within a defined area.

The search area may vary depending on terrain, other infrastructure, designated areas and features and connection options. The aim is to identify several potential sites which can be initially assessed for suitability.

Stage 2: Detailed site selection

This stage seeks to identify a preferred substation site, which avoids where possible physical, environmental and amenity constraints, is likely to be acceptable to stakeholders, and is economically viable, taking into account engineering and connection requirements.

This stage will be reported in a Substation Site Selection Report. Following public and stakeholder consultation, the Report will be updated to include any feedback and modifications made and confirm the proposed substation site to take forward for planning.

Environmental considerations

The following potential environmental impacts will be assessed as part of the Environmental Appraisal (EA), which will be submitted as part of the planning application to The Highland Council. The EA will be available for members of the public to view and comment on, following submission of the consent application.

Landscape and visual assessment

The appearance of the substation within the landscape and how it would be seen is being carefully considered. Site selection has been guided by the effects on the landscape, with particular consideration of:

- The narrow wooded glen of River Moriston, which is backed by the rugged moorland hills to the south and rocky moorland plateau to the north.
- The A887, which is a defining feature of the landscape, as the main access along the glen, to the north of River Moriston within the Area of Search (AoS).
- Glen Affric, which is the closest National Scenic Area (NSA) and lies 4 km to the west and north west of the AoS.
- The Central Highlands Wild Land Area (WLA) which lies over 5 km to the north west of the AoS (11km from the substation).
- The landscape character types of Wooded Glen (Inverness) LCT 226, Rocky Moorland Plateau (Inverness) LCT 222 and Rugged Massif (Inverness) 220.

Mitigation would likely include using the existing landform features and the creation of sympathetic hard and soft landscaping. The natural landform offers opportunities for screening views of the proposed development from key visual receptors.

Cultural heritage

There are no designated sites, such as World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes or Inventory Battlefields located within the vicinity of the substation, therefore it is unlikely any setting would be impacted. A single undesignated asset is located in proximity to all site options - Glenmoriston Power Station.

There is the potential for impacts on archaeological remains. Setting impacts will be considered as part of the substation environmental assessment. Mitigation may include screening measures to reduce any visual intrusion or a watching brief to ensure assets are recorded.



Terrestrial ecology and ornithology

Several ecology surveys and assessments have been carried out covering:

- Habitats, including biodiversity.
- Badger and otter.
- Bat habitat suitability.
- Bird habitat suitability.
- Reptile and amphibian suitability.
- Red squirrel and pine marten habitat suitability.

It's likely that some tree felling will be required to facilitate construction of the preferred site.



Water, environment and soils

The following hydrological aspects are being considered:

- Private water supplies: Dundreggan Power Station, Glenmoriston Power Station, Dundreggan Bungalows and Levishe Power Station.
- Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE's).
- Potential for flood risk.
- Drinking Water Protected Areas (groundwater).
- If any designated sites are hydrologically linked to the site.

An appropriate site drainage plan for both the construction and operational phases will be developed to reduce impacts on the surrounding water environment.

Environmental considerations

Woodland and forestry

The site is surrounded by woodland categorised within the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Further assessment will be undertaken to identify suitable mitigation. All tree felling will be compensated by an equivalent area of new tree planting.

Land use and recreation

No long-distance routes, core paths or public rights of way are located within the sites under consideration.

Fishing, stalking and driven shooting activities are undertaken on the Glenmoriston Estate within the Area of Search.

The Area of Search is located in a Class 6.2 agricultural land and is classified as land that is capable of use as rough grazings and is not considered to be prime agricultural land.

Noise

The closest noise receptors are third party dwellings approximately 450 m to the north west, adjacent to the A887 public road. The existing hydro development is unmanned with maintenance visits undertaken on a regular basis. Currently, the main source of noise from the existing site is the transformer. The proposed new transformer will generate a similar noise level to that at the site currently. Baseline noise monitoring surveys will be undertaken at noise sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the site to inform an operational noise assessment. Appropriate mitigation measures will be considered dependent on the results of the assessment.



Traffic

The construction of the proposed development will require vehicles to deliver plant, machinery and workers to the site. It is anticipated access would use the existing entrance off the A887 at the northeast corner of the site as is used currently for the existing substation.

An appropriate construction traffic management plan would be developed to ensure road safety for all other road users during the construction and for suitable management of all abnormal loads and vehicle movements.

Biodiversity net gain

We recognise that we have significant interaction with the environment through the activities we undertake in Scotland as we seek to develop and improve the transmission network. With this work comes a legal responsibility to design and build our projects in a manner which protects the natural and built environment.

We are committed to protecting and enhancing the environment by minimising the potential impacts from our construction and operational activities on biodiversity. To this end, we have committed to no net loss of biodiversity in non irreplaceable habitats for all of our projects gaining consent from 2020 onwards, and net gain of biodiversity on all projects gaining consent from 2025. This means that during the development, construction and operation of our projects, we will leave the environment no worse than when we found it, and where possible make it even better, leaving a positive environmental legacy at all of our SSEN Transmission sites.

As this project progresses through the development process, we will actively seek ways to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity, through careful design to avoid areas of highest biodiversity value, to implementing habitat restoration and improvement measures in areas within and surrounding the proposed development. Some examples of biodiversity improvements that have been implemented on other recent projects include:

Creag Rhiabach bird boxes

Installation of wooden bird boxes made from reused and recycled construction materials to support local raptor populations at key locations across the highlands, including kestrels, tawny owl and barn owl.



Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) Woodland Planting Collaboration

Argyll's rainforest is a unique and rare habitat of ancient and native woodland. This collaboration with ACT will help deliver SSEN Transmission's compensatory tree planting commitments in Argyll while helping towards ACT's woodland planting ambitions, supporting its charitable objectives including biodiversity gain, health and wellbeing improvement for local people, outdoor learning opportunities and climate change workshops.

Thurso South Substation

Creation of approximately 10 hectares of pollinator habitat to support the rare endemic great yellow bumblebee and contribute to wider conservation efforts for this species.



Stage 1 - Identified options

One of the fundamental project constraints is replacing and relocating the grid transformer without incurring significant interruptions to generation and associated grid supply. Owing to limited land availability, challenging site topography and other restrictions around Glenmoriston, several options to pick a new local site were deemed unfeasible for various reasons.

The project identified a number of options with an aim to meet the project scope. These options have been reviewed through an iterative process to identify a single preferred option to proceed into consultation, and thereafter a detailed design. All options have been assessed on the following criteria:

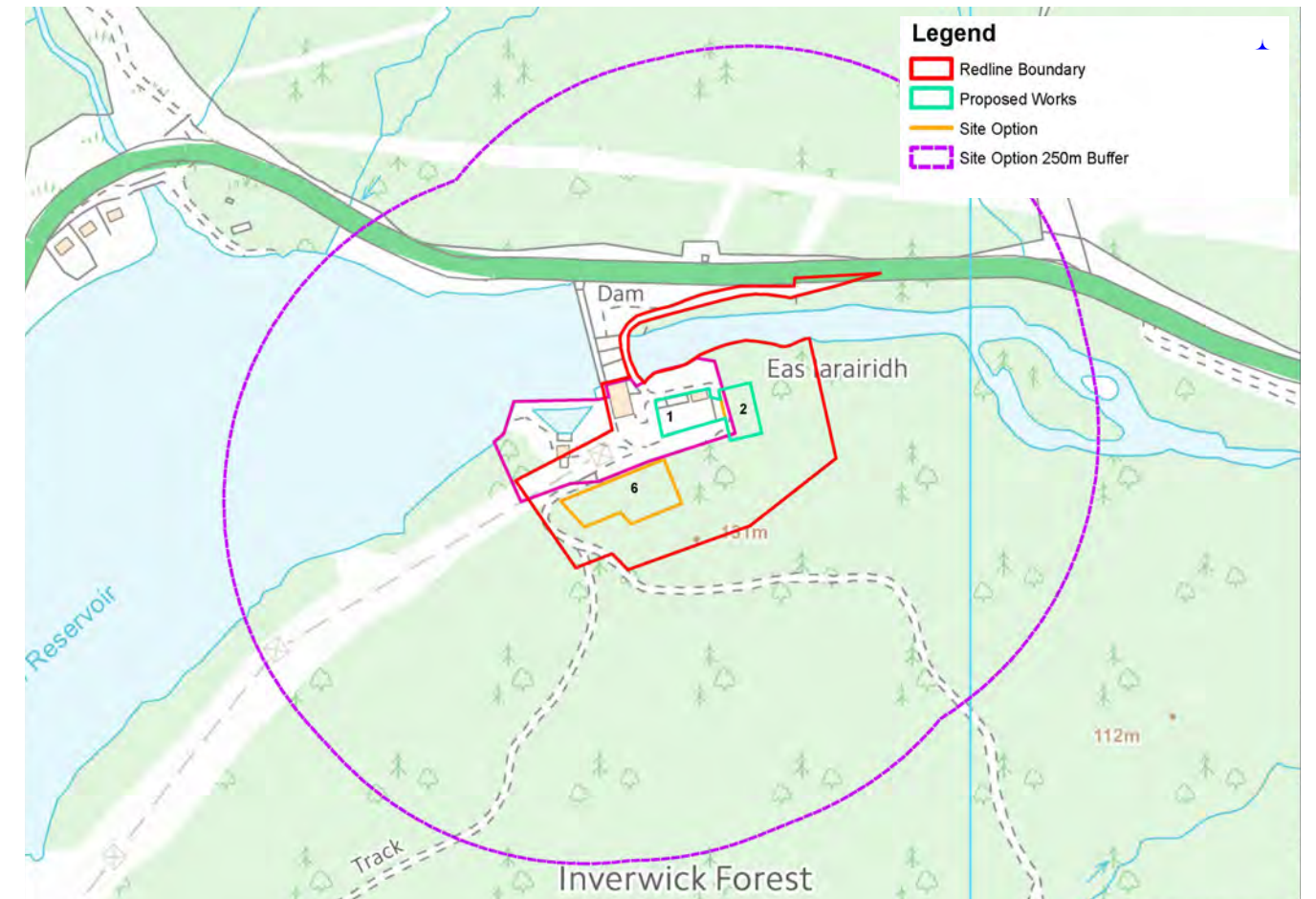
- Health and safety implications.
- Technical feasibility.
- Economic impact.
- Construction timescales.
- Environmental implications.

1. In-situ replacement.
2. New GT installed at SW corner of site.
3. New GT immediately east of existing.
4. New GT immediately adjacent to existing tower.
5. Glenmoriston Estate Ground (A).
6. Glenmoriston Estate Ground (B).



Stage 2 – Detailed site selection options

Site options taken forward to Stage 2 site selection



The Stage 1 Site Selection appraisal identified that most Site Options in terms of environmental aspects have few or very few constraints pertaining in particular to cultural heritage, access and recreation, landscape designations, natural heritage designations and species. However, Site Options 3, 5 and 6 would likely require loss of habitat, including habitats listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, making these Site Options potentially substantially constrained. Similarly, landscape character and visual impacts would be potentially substantial constraints for Options 5 and 6. Options 1, 2 and 4 are the environmentally preferred Site Options.

On engineering factors, Site Options 3, 5 and 6 would be the least constrained with regards to connectivity, footprint and hazards. Options 1 and 2 would offer reduced carbon footprint and better construction access. Option 2 performs worst in terms of connectivity with Option 4 also performing poorly for connectivity.

Option 1 and 2 perform the worst in terms of space availability, hazards and future development possibilities. However, Options 4, 5 and 6 perform the worst in terms of construction access and topography. The engineering preferred options would be options 3, 5 and 6.

Where Options 5 and 6 perform best generally so does Option 3, whereas where Options 5 and 6 perform worst Option 3 generally performs better.

On balance considering, environmental, cost and engineering constraints, the options taken forward to Stage 2 – Detailed Site Selection assessment were Site Options 1 and 3 (together) and 6. To meet modern specifications and standards a hybrid option utilising the existing substation platform (Site Option 1) along with an extension (Site Option 3) has been taken forward to Site Selection Stage 2 alongside Site Option 6.

Environmental considerations

Option	Pros	Cons
1. In-situ replacement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located within an existing area of infrastructure and therefore is less likely to support protected species. Does not incur any habitat loss. No potential for direct or indirect impacts on any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Garden & Designed Landscapes or Inventory Battlefields. Does not lie within or have intervisibility with any national or local landscape designations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Moriston Special Area of Conservation (SAC) adjacent to Site. Potential for Protected Species including bats, red squirrel and pine marten within vicinity. Schedule 1 bird species in proximity to Site. Design to contain potential oil spillage is more likely to not be achievable due to lack of space.
2. Same site replacement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located within an existing area of infrastructure and therefore is less likely to support protected species. Does not incur any habitat loss. No potential for direct or indirect impacts on any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Garden & Designed Landscapes or Inventory Battlefields. Does not lie within or have intervisibility with any national or local landscape designations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Moriston Special Area of Conservation (SAC) adjacent to Site. Potential for Protected Species including bats, red squirrel and pine marten within vicinity. Schedule 1 bird species in proximity to Site. Design to contain oil spillage is more likely to not be achievable due to lack of space.
3. New site extension due East.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No potential for direct or indirect impacts on any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Garden & Designed Landscapes or Inventory Battlefields. Does not lie within or have intervisibility with any national or local landscape designations. Environmental parameters e.g. oil spillage containment design can be achieved due to sufficient space. Has the potential to be screened by existing woodland. Immediately adjacent to existing similar infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for Protected Species including bats, red squirrel and pine marten in, and within vicinity of site. Schedule 1 bird species in proximity to Site. Woodland, of which some falls within Ancient Woodland Inventory is present. Potential of presence of unknown archaeological remains.
4. New GT near existing tower.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located within an existing area of infrastructure and therefore is less likely to support protected species. Does not incur any habitat loss. No potential for direct or indirect impacts on any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Garden & Designed Landscapes or Inventory Battlefields. Does not lie within or have intervisibility with any national or local landscape designations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tall established native trees surround the area. Potential for Protected Species including bats, red squirrel and pine marten in, and within vicinity of site. Schedule 1 bird species in proximity to Site. In an elevated position increasing the potential of landscape and visual impacts from the A887 public road. More likely design to contain oil spillage cannot be achieved due to lack of space. Potential of presence of unknown archaeological remains.
5. Offline Option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further from the River Moriston SAC watercourse than Options 1 to 4 and so potential impacts will be less likely and likely of lesser magnitude. No potential for direct or indirect impacts on any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Garden & Designed Landscapes or Inventory Battlefields. Does not lie within or have intervisibility with any national or local landscape designations. Environmental parameters e.g. oil spillage containment design can be achieved due to sufficient space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for protected Species including bats, red squirrel and pine marten within and in vicinity of site. Schedule 1 bird species in proximity to Site. Potential landscape and visual impacts from A887. Established commercial woodland present which falls within the Ancient Woodland Inventory. In an elevated position increasing the potential of landscape and visual impacts from the A887 public road. Potential of presence of unknown archaeological remains.

Environmental considerations Cont.

Option	Pros	Cons
6. Offline Option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further from the River Moriston SAC watercourse than Options 1 to 4 and so potential impacts will be less likely and likely of lesser magnitude. No potential for direct or indirect impacts on any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Garden & Designed Landscapes or Inventory Battlefields. Does not lie within or have intervisibility with any national or local landscape designations. Environmental parameters e.g. oil spillage containment design can be achieved due to sufficient space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for Protected Species including bats, red squirrel and pine marten in, and within vicinity of site. Schedule 1 bird species in proximity to Site. Presence of established native woodland which falls within Ancient Woodland Inventory. In an elevated position increasing the potential of landscape and visual impacts from the A887 public road. Potential of presence of unknown archaeological remains.

Engineering considerations

Option	Pros	Cons
1. In-situ replacement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheapest option. Existing transformer bund can be reused. No site extension. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant space constraints for new equipment. Doesn't satisfy fire separation clearances. Long outage required. Building is too small for new LVAC and battery room.
2. Same site replacement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No site extension required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant space constraints for new equipment. A lot of equipment has to be repositioned. Multiple long outages required. New transformer bund/platform needed.
3. New site extension due East.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for an offline construction. More space to satisfy some separation requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land purchase needed. Many ancient woodland trees to fell. Public consultation and consent required.
4. New GT near existing tower.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal space required. Fire clearance requirements would be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated ground so issues with delivering the new GT. Too close to dam. Difficult to establish a secure boundary. Would require a lot of cabling.
5. Offline Option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient space to satisfy all clearance requirements. Alternative delivery route for heavy loads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site is uphill of existing site, so challenges for load delivery. Significant interference with LT295 planned poles/towers route. New tower required (introducing Section 37) Uphill 11kV cable runs would have most distance and most costs. Land purchase needed. Many ancient woodland trees to fell.
6. Offline option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient space to satisfy all clearance requirements. Some existing HV infrastructure would be reused. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site is uphill of existing site, so challenges for load delivery. New tower required (introducing Section 37) Expensive uphill cable runs have more distance and costs. Land purchase needed. Many ancient woodland trees to fell.

Preferred site option

The Stage 2 Site Selection appraisal identified that both Site Options in terms of environmental aspects have few or very few constraints, similar to those at stage 1. However, loss of habitat, including habitats listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, introduce constraints on both Options.



Option 6 would require more removal of woodland than Options 1 and 3 (together) and thus achieving no net loss or net gain for biodiversity would be more challenging.

Landscape character would be potentially more substantially affected for Option 6 given its elevated position. Conversely, Options 1 and 3 (together) sits closer to the River Moriston Special Area of Conservation (SAC), with greater potential for effects on that site and its qualifying interests; and on hydrology. As such, the location of the preferred option relative to the river is an important consideration. On balance the environmental preference is Option 1 and 3 (together).

On engineering factors, Option 1 and 3 (together) is least constrained as regards connectivity, footprint and ground conditions such as topography. It should be noted that both options are broadly similar across a number of topics however overall, Option 1 and 3 (together) is preferred as it utilises existing infrastructure where practicable and reduces new footprint area compared to Option 6.

On balance considering, environmental, cost and engineering constraints, the preferred option is the Option 1 and 3 (together) utilising a hybrid arrangement of an in-situ replacement alongside an extension to the existing substation platform.

What happens next

The planning application process

The outcome of the substation site selection process will be a development for which consent under the Town and Country Planning regime will be sought. The application will identify:

- The site boundary clearly shown in red (the Planning Red Line Boundary) including any access route (up to the public road including junction improvements).
- The proposed development in relation to the site boundary with dimensions of all permanent structures, buildings, perimeter fencing, and any key drainage features (SuDS pond) and key electrical features, such as transformers.

In some cases, the application will be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (due to its scale or number and significance of potential environmental effects),

This may result in further alterations to the Proposed Development to reflect outcomes of the EIA consultation process. Should the Proposed Development be deemed non EIA, a voluntary Environmental Appraisal is carried out to support the application.

Further public and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken to present our proposals ahead of submitting a planning application.

Where overhead line elements are required, a similar application is made to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

This will specifically cover the overhead line, not the main substation works. Based on the current preferred site option, it is anticipated a Section 37 application is not required.



Project timeline



Spring 2023
Public consultation



November 2023
Planning application



August 2024
Anticipated
consent granted



November 2024
Construction starts



January 2026
Project completion

What happens now and how do I have my say?

We understand and recognise the value of the feedback provided by members of the public during all engagements and consultations.

Without this valuable feedback, the project development team would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

We are keen to receive your views and comments in regards to the following questions:

- Have we adequately explained the need for this project?
- Do you feel sufficient information has been provided to enable you to understand what is being proposed and why?
- Are you satisfied that our approach taken to select our preferred site has been adequately explained?
- Do you agree with our preferred site, if not, why?
- Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the preferred site selection process?
- Do you have any particular concerns or queries on the proposed project?
- Do you have any other comments (positive or negative) or concerns in relation to the need for the project, the transmission infrastructure requirements or about the preferred site?

Comments

Your views and comments can be provided to the project team by completing the feedback form or by writing to our Community Liaison Manager. All feedback received will be assessed and the proposed options adapted where necessary.

Feedback

We will be seeking feedback from members of the public on this exhibition until **29th March 2023**.

Feedback is welcomed throughout the development of the project. To provide comments on the proposal or to gain further information on the project, visit our virtual event or contact our Community Liaison Manager.

Community Liaison Manager, Ryan Davidson



ryan.davidson@sse.com



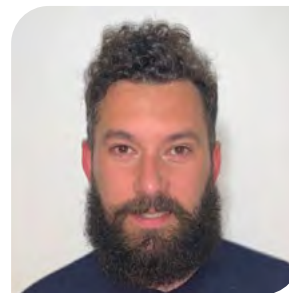
01463 728 072



07901 133 919



Ryan Davidson
Scottish Hydro
Electric Transmission,
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Glasgow, G2 6AY



Additional information

Information will also be made available via the project webpage and social media channels:

Project website:

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/glenmoriston-gt-replacement/

Follow us on Twitter:

@ssetransmission

Follow us on Facebook:

@ssencommunity

Your feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation booklet. In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our consultation, please complete this short feedback form.

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. (Please tick one box per question only)

Q1 Have we adequately explained the need for this project?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Q2 Do you feel sufficient information has been provided to enable you to understand what is being proposed and why?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Q3 Are you satisfied that our approach taken to select our preferred site has been adequately explained?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Q4 Do you agree with our preferred site, if not, why?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Q5 Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the preferred site selection process?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:



Q6 Do you have any particular concerns or queries on the proposed project?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Q7 Do you have any other comments (positive or negative) or concerns in relation to the need for the project, the transmission infrastructure requirements or about the preferred site?

Comments:

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the project please tick this box.

If you would like your comments to remain anonymous please tick this box.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.

Please submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

Post: Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission, 1 Waterloo St, Glasgow, G2 6AY

Email: ryan.davidson@sse.com

Online: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/glenmoriston-gt-replacement/

Download: Comments forms and all the information from today's event will also be available to download from the project website.

The feedback form and all information provided in this booklet can also be downloaded from the project websites.

Any information given on the feedback form can be used and published anonymously as part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks consultation report. By completing this feedback form you consent to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks using feedback for this purpose.

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