

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Report

LT383 Alyth to Tealing Overhead Line (OHL)

400kV Upgrade

November 2024



VOLUME 4: APPENDIX 6.3 - GATE CHECK REPORT

Alyth to Tealing Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade

Gate Check Report

September 2024



CONTENTS

GLOSSARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	2
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Background to Project	2
2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	4
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Related Works	4
2.3 Decommissioning the Proposed Development	5
3. CONSULTATION	6
3.1 Scoping	6
3.2 Key Scoping Issues	6
3.3 Community Engagement	8
3.4 Community Councils	8
4. SUBMISSION INFORMATION	9
4.1 Submission	9
4.2 Advertisement	9
4.3 Public Viewing of EIA Report	9
4.4 Consultee Lists	9
APPENDIX A: FIGURES	11
APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF EIA SCOPING RESPONSES AND ACTION TAKEN	13

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line, along with location of key angle structures.
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A site-specific environmental management plan setting out the environmental management procedures, legislation and requirements for a particular project and site.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from structure to structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A formal process set down in The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 used to systematically identify, predict and assess the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP)	Developed by the Applicant to document general procedures, legislation and requirements for a variety of processes, typically during the construction phase of a project.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
Limit of Deviation (LOD)	The area either side of the alignment within which micro siting of structures may take place in accordance with the conditions of the Section 37 consent.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or reduction of adverse impacts.
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or poles.
Span	The section of overhead line between two supporting structures.
Species Protection Plan (SPP)	Developed by the Applicant to document general procedures, legislation and requirements for ensuring protection to a variety of species.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by The Applicant works.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in Great Britain.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
Wayleave	A voluntary agreement entered into between The Applicant and a landowner upon whose land an overhead line is to be upgraded for the installation and retention of the transmission equipment.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Gate Check Report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (herein referred to interchangeably as ‘SSEN Transmission’ or ‘the Applicant’) operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHE Transmission plc), which is part of the SSE plc group of companies. SSEN Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 (‘the 1989 Act’) to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant submits this report in advance of an application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the 1989 Act for consent to upgrade approximately 14 kilometres (km) of an existing 16 km 275 kilovolts (kV) overhead line (OHL) between Alyth Substation and Tower 685 north west of Tealing Substation to enable operation at 400 kV. There is also a request for a direction that planning permission be deemed to be granted under Section 57 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, (‘deemed planning consent’) for construction and operation of the OHL and carrying out of ancillary works.
- 1.1.3 The application for consent for the Proposed Development will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. A Scoping Report setting out the proposed scope of the EIA Report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers in June 2024 with a request for a formal Scoping Opinion¹. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers on 3rd September 2024.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this Gate Check Report is to ensure that the application is in keeping with the Energy Consent Unit’s (ECU’s) good practice guidance², namely, to aid in management of the administrative requirements of the submission by outlining consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report. This allows further dialogue between the ECU, the Applicant, and key consultees to seek feedback on departures from methodologies agreed at Scoping stage, the scope of assessment following any changes since Scoping stage or highlight any other key matters prior to submission of the application.

1.2 Background to Project

- 1.2.1 As the transmission network owner for the north of Scotland, the Applicant is responsible for the maintenance of the existing transmission network, and also ensuring that the current network can facilitate connection requests from developers when necessary.
- 1.2.2 The upgrade / reconductoring of the existing Alyth to Tealing OHL has been identified as part of the National Grid Electricity System Operator’s (ESO’s) Holistic Network Design (HND). This project will upgrade the line from its existing operational voltage of 275 kV to enable operation at 400 kV to facilitate the transition to Net Zero in line with the UK and Scottish Government targets of achieving net zero by 2050 and 2045 respectively.
- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development represents a long-term approach in relation to planning for future transmission infrastructure requirements, particularly having regard to the targets fixed by the Scottish and UK Governments to achieve net zero. Furthermore, as a result of an increase in renewable energy projects for which access to the electricity transmission network is being formally requested, there is a requirement to increase the capacity of the existing OHL.

¹ Under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

² Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Energy Consents Unit, February 2022)

1.2.4 SSEN Transmission has sought to maintain an open dialogue with local communities across the Proposed Development throughout the evolution of the project. This has included engaging with local elected members, Community Councils, landowners, residents and businesses that may be affected by the Proposed Development.

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Proposed Development consists of the upgrade of approximately 14 kilometres (km) of an existing 16 km 275 kV OHL between Alyth Substation and Tower 685 north west of Tealing Substation to enable operation at 400 kV.

2.1.2 The Proposed Development would include the following elements, for which Section 37 consent and deemed planning consent is sought:

- replacement of conductors, insulators and fittings on the existing steel lattice towers;
- where required, tower condition works including steelwork and tower leg foundation work to strengthen the existing steel lattice towers;
- the sag of new proposed phase conductor will be matched with sag of existing Optical Ground Wire (OPGW); and
- subject to further engineering and design checks, some modifications to the existing towers may be required, such as the inverting of cross arms to improve clearances, and changes to the insulator set configurations.

2.1.3 The following elements or works would be required as part of the Proposed Development, or to facilitate its construction and operation, for which deemed consent will be sought under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 through the Section 37 consenting process:

- vegetation clearance;
- access track construction and track upgrades;
- temporary site compounds;
- laydown areas;
- crane pads;
- Equipotential Zones (EPZs) and temporary measures to protect road;
- rail and water crossings; and
- the increase in operating voltage of the OHL requires a wider wayleave corridor, therefore some tree felling will be required where there are infringements to this corridor

2.2 Related Works

2.2.1 The following related works would also be required:

Tealing Substation

2.2.2 The existing OHL will be upgraded from Alyth Substation to Tower 685, north-west of the existing Tealing Substation, to enable the operation of the OHL at 400kV. The reconducted OHL will be connected into the new 400 kV Tealing (Emmock) substation being developed. This will be achieved by the construction of a new OHL originating at some point from the existing line between Tower 680 and Tower 682. This will enable the removal of approximately 3.3 km of redundant OHL between Tower 682 and the existing Tealing Substation. A separate Section 37 consent for the new build tie-in will be submitted to the ECU (which will include dismantling of those existing towers noted above), and planning consent for the new Tealing (Emmock) substation will be sought from Angus Council. The application for the new substation, under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, is due to be submitted Q3 2024.

Alyth Substation

- 2.2.3 Alyth Substation is currently under construction and will be energised for operation at 400 kV in 2026. A Section 37 consent was granted in March 2020 for a new OHL configuration to connect the substation into the network for 2023. When the OHL is ready for energisation some additional works will be required within the substation, including the removal of the transformers, to enable operation at 400 kV.
- 2.2.4 Cumulative effects between these projects, and where details of other works are known or can reasonably be anticipated, and the Proposed Development will be considered in the EIA Report where appropriate.
- 2.2.5 The OHL route for the Proposed Development is shown in Figure 2-1, in Appendix A. The Applicant's Project Map³ shows the location of where the Proposed Development interfaces with the substation infrastructure detailed above.

2.3 Decommissioning the Proposed Development

- 2.3.1 The scope of the proposed Section 37 consent is limited to the upgrade and operation of the OHL. The Proposed Development would not have a fixed operational life; however, it is assumed that the Proposed Development would be operational for 50 years or more. Once the design life of the OHL has been reached, a decision would be taken on whether to decommission and remove the transmission infrastructure or potentially to replace or upgrade it. The EIA will focus on the construction and operational effects of the Proposed Development, although some commentary will also be provided on potential impacts predicted from decommissioning.

³ <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/>

3. CONSULTATION

3.1 Scoping

- 3.1.1 A Scoping Opinion was sought⁴ from Scottish Ministers on 28th June 2024 on the environmental information to be provided in the EIA Report. Appendix B: Summary of EIA Scoping Responses and Action Taken, of this report includes a matrix detailing the key issues that were raised in the Scoping Opinion and how and where they will be addressed in the EIA Report. The scoping matrix will be included in the EIA Report.

3.2 Key Scoping Issues

- 3.2.1 The Scoping Opinion made reference to site specific issues of interest to the Scottish Ministers, to be considered and addressed in addition to those laid out in responses from consultees. The issues raised were as follows:

Drinking Water and Scottish Water Assets

“Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water...and makes further enquires to confirm whether there any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.”

“Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.”

Aquatic Ecology

“In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.”

“[Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD)] also provide standing advice for onshore wind farm or overhead line development (which has been appended at Annex B) which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist, provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission.”

Peat Landslide Risk

“Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), published at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868>, should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such an assessment and details of mitigation measures. Where a PLHRA is not required clear justification for not carrying out such a risk assessment is required.”

⁴ In June 2024 under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

Visualisations and Viewpoints

“The scoping report states visualisations shall be included within Volume 4 of the EIA Report. The production of these visualisations to form part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment should follow discussions on agreed viewpoint locations with Perth and Kinross Council, Angus Council and NatureScot.”

Noise Assessment

“The noise assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 11 of the scoping report. As requested by Perth and Kinross Council Environmental Health, an indoor noise assessment should also be incorporated assuming a partially opened window using Noise Rating curve criteria. It is further expected that all noise from construction works would comply with Perth and Kinross Council and Angus Council area’s guidelines for construction noise.”

Bird Surveys

“It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that decisions on bird surveys – species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds & duration - site specific & cumulative – should be made following discussion between the Company and NatureScot.”

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

“The assessment on archaeology and cultural heritage impacts should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 8 of the scoping report and should also include the recommendations by both HES and Perth and Kinross Council within their consultation responses (Annex A).”

Existing and/or Planned Infrastructure

“The Scottish Ministers request that the company assess the impact of the proposed development on existing and/or planned infrastructure. In particular, the company should carry out the necessary assessments to confirm if any part of the proposed development is within the consultation zone of any of the following:

- *a licenced explosives site;*
- *gas (or any other) pipeline;*
- *existing overhead electric lines;*
- *underground cables;*
- *water pipes;*
- *telecommunications links.”*

Hazardous Substances

“Scottish Ministers request the company to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in The Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.”

Mitigation Measures

“The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.”

3.2.2 Responses to the key scoping issues and how these will be addressed within the EIA Report are provided in Appendix B.

3.3 Community Engagement

3.3.1 SSEN Transmission has sought to maintain an open dialogue with local communities spread across the route of the Proposed Development throughout the evolution of the project. This has included engaging with local elected members and Community Councils and engaging with landowners, residents and businesses that may be affected by the Proposed Development.

3.3.2 A series of consultation events were held from the 4th to 7th March 2024, where local stakeholders could meet with the project team to discuss the proposals in more detail. These are detailed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Consultation Events

Date	Event
4 th March 2024	Errol, Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH
5 th March 2024	Newburgh, Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA
6 th March 2024	Alyth, Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX
7 th March 2024	Tealing, Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW

3.3.3 The consultation events were advertised using various platforms: local newspapers, SSEN Transmission's social media channels, and the dedicated project webpage. In addition, a letter was delivered to homes and businesses within the locale advertising the dates, times, and locations of the consultation events.

3.3.4 Comments received from stakeholders in response to the Consultation Booklet (February 2024) or following in person consultation events, were set out within the Consultation Booklet⁵, published 20th May 2024.

A second series of consultation events were held from the 3rd to 6th June 2024, where local stakeholders could meet with the project team to discuss the proposals and feedback in more detail. These are detailed in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Second Consultation Events

Date	Event
3 June 2024, 2-7pm	Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH
4 June 2024	Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA
5 June 2024	Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW
6 June 2024	Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX

3.3.5 Feedback received during the first and second consultations will be detailed within a Pre-Application Consultation Report which will be submitted in support of the s37 consent application.

3.4 Community Councils

3.4.1 Throughout the evolution of the project, SSEN Transmission has maintained dialogue with all community councils along the route and has sought to keep members up to date on project progress, and any upcoming consultation events.

⁵ Alyth – Tealing Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade Consultation Booklet ([Alyth - Tealing Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade - SSEN Transmission \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk))

4. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

4.1 Submission

4.1.1 It is the intention to submit a Section 37 application for the Proposed Development in October 2024

4.2 Advertisement

4.2.1 In accordance with the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, and Regulation 14(3) of the EIA Regulations, the application will be advertised on the project website and in the Edinburgh Gazette and relevant local newspapers (to be agreed in consultation with ECU as part of gate check stage 2).

4.2.2 In agreement with the ECU, the advert will:

- describe the application and the Proposed Development to which the EIA Report relates;
- state that the Proposed Development is subject to environmental impact assessment and, where relevant, state that it is likely to have significant effects on the environment;
- state that the EIA Report is available for inspection free of charge and the times and places at which, and the means by which, the EIA Report is available for inspection;
- state how copies of the EIA Report may be obtained;
- state the cost of a copy of the EIA Report;
- state how and by what date representations may be made (being a date not earlier than 30 days after the last date on which the notice is published);
- provide details of the arrangements for public participation in the decision-making procedure including a description of how notice will be given of the subsequent submission by the developer of any additional information and how representations in relation to that additional information may be made; and
- state the nature of possible decisions to be taken in relation to the application and provide details of the authority by which decisions are to be taken.

4.3 Public Viewing of EIA Report

4.3.1 The EIA Report will be made readily available in hard copy for public viewing at the following locations:

- Perth & Kinross Council - Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull St, Perth PH1 5GD
- Angus Council – Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Orchardbank, Forfar, DD8 1AN

4.3.2 The EIA Report, together with the notice of the application, will also be made available on the project website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/alyth---tealing-overhead-line-upgrade/>. A hard copy will be provided for the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh (EH6 6QQ) and statutory consultees as required. Further copies will be available from SSEN Transmission at a charge.

4.4 Consultee Lists

4.4.1 The list of consultees to be sent a copy of the submitted EIA Report will be agreed with the ECU. It is anticipated to include those consultees consulted during the scoping process, and any other stakeholders the Applicant or ECU are aware of with a potential interest in the project or its potential effects, as noted in

4.4.2 Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 consultees to be Issued the EIA Report

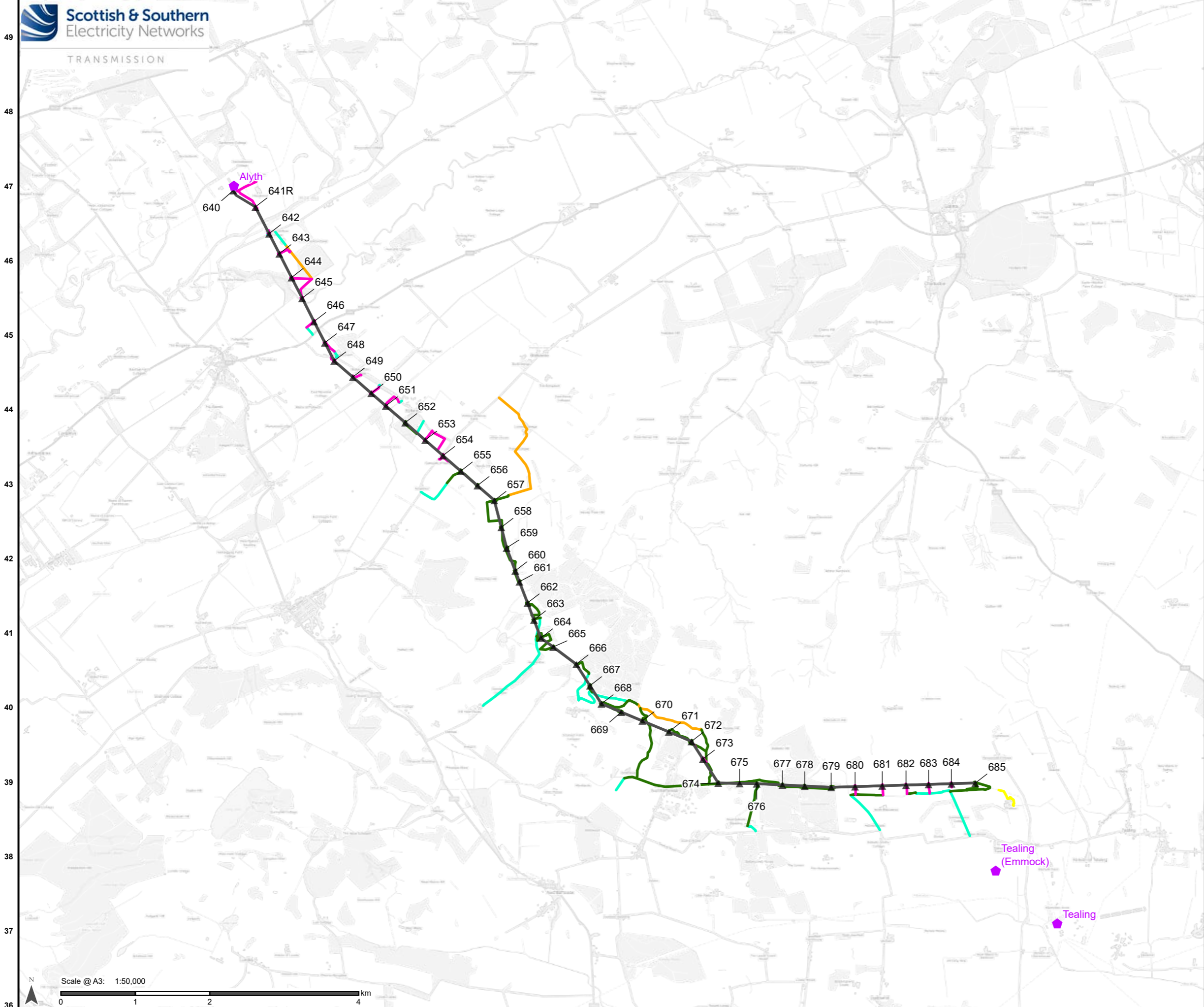
Statutory Consultees	
Perth and Kinross Council	Angus Council
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	NatureScot
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	
Internal Scottish Government Advisors	
Transport Scotland	Scottish Forestry
Non-Statutory Consultees	
British Horse Society Scotland	BT Group
Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace	Crown Estate Scotland
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Fisheries Management Scotland
Local District Salmon Fisheries	Fisheries Trust
John Muir Trust	Joint Radio Company
Mountaineering Scotland	NATS Safeguarding
Office for Nuclear Regulation	RSPB Scotland
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	Scottish Water
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
Visit Scotland	Woodland Trust
Community Councils	
Alyth Community Council	Newtyle and Eassie Community Council
Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council	Auchterhouse Community Council
Meigle and Ardler Community Council	Tealing Community Council
Others (If Required)	
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Scottish Gas Networks (SGN)
National Grid	Sustrans
Network Rail	National Farmers Union (Policy Advisor)
Scottish Canoe Association	

APPENDIX A: FIGURES

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

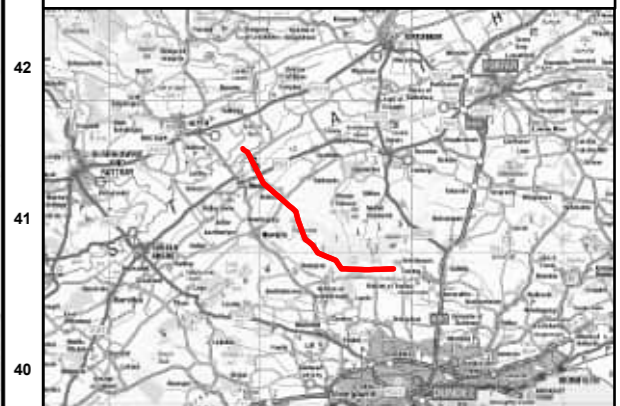


TRANSMISSION



Legend

- Route Alignment
- ▲ Tower
- ◆ Substation
- Trackway panels
- New temporary stone road
- Upgrade to existing road / track
- ATV Access
- Bespoke Track



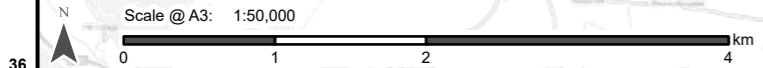
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 0100031673.

Project No: 60703541
Project: Alyth-Tealing Overhead Line (OHL) 400kV Upgrade

Title:
Overview of the Proposed Development

Drawn by: CD Date: 20/09/2024

Drawing: Figure 2.1



26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

APPENDIX B: Summary of EIA Scoping Responses and Action Taken

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
01	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers expect the EIA Report to consider in full all consultation responses included with the Scoping Opinion	ECU01	4	Throughout the EIA Report	All consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
02	Scottish Water Assets	<p>Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect.</p> <p>Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water and makes further enquiries to confirm whether there are any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development and includes details in the EIA Report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.</p>	ECU02	5	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – ‘Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils’	Scottish Water have been contacted directly to obtain information on Drinking Water Protected Areas and assets. The noted chapter will assess potential impacts on the water environment and will identify any relevant mitigation measures.
03	Private Water Supplies	<p>Scottish Ministers request the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development are investigated and included in the EIA if identified.</p> <p>If any supplies are identified, an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided should also be included.</p>	ECU03	6	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – ‘Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils’	Private Water Supply (PWS) data was obtained from Angus Council and Perth and Kinross Council to determine the presence of PWS within 1km of the Proposed Development. Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils, Volume 2 of the EIA Report will contain details of any assets and / or PWS identified, assess potential impacts arising from the Proposed Development, and set

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
						out suitable mitigation measures, where required.
04	Special Areas of Conservation	Developers should identify and consider any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.	ECU04	6	Volume 2: Chapter 7 – ‘Ecology’ and; Chapter 12 – ‘Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils’	Potential effects on SACs are considered primarily in the noted chapters. The potential effects of felling are also considered in these chapters, based on the felling requirements set out within the forestry chapter and associated appendices.
05	Marine Ecology	Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) also provide standing advice for onshore wind farm or overhead line development (which has been appended at Annex B) which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist, provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission.	ECU05	6	Volume 4: MD-SEDD Appendix	The checklist will be completed and included as an appendix.
06	Peat Landslide Risk	Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process. Best practice guidance (provided in Scoping Opinion) should be followed.	ECU06	6	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – ‘Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils’	As there are only localised peat deposits within the study area, the completion of a PLHRA has not been identified as a requirement for the Proposed Development. Potential impacts on peat and carbon rich soils will be addressed within the soils sections of the noted

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
						chapter of the EIA Report, which will also provide appropriate mitigation measures as required.
07	Visualisations	The production of visualisations to form part of the LVIA should follow discussions on agreed viewpoint locations with Perth and Kinross Council (PKC), Angus Council (AC) and NatureScot.	ECU07	6	N/A	The Scoping Report stated that visualisations would be prepared only if considered necessary. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was scoped out of the EIA Report due to the limited and temporary nature of potential change, with significant effects unlikely to occur as a result of the Proposed Development. Therefore, visualisations will not be prepared as part of the EIA Report.
08	Noise	The Noise Assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 11 of the scoping report.	ECU08	7	Volume 2: Chapter 13 – Noise	The noise assessment will be presented in the noted chapter and associated appendices.
09	Noise	As requested by PKC Environmental Health, an indoor noise assessment should also be incorporated assuming a partially opened window using Noise Rating curve criteria. It is further expected that noise from construction works would comply with PKC and AC area's guidelines for construction noise.	ECU09	7	Volume 2: Chapter 13 – 'Noise', and Relevant Appendices providing SPPs, GEMP and CEMP	A noise assessment will be completed and included as an appendix to Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration, Volume 2 of the EIA Report. An indoor noise assessment assuming a partially opened window using Noise Rating curve criteria will be incorporated and included as

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
						an appendix to the noise chapter.
10	Cumulative Assessment	It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that in order to assess the full environmental impact of the development, the Company include within the cumulative impact assessment not only approved EIA development, but also EIA and non EIA OHL or Substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission ASTI projects.	-		Volume 2: Chapter 14 – Cumulative Assessment	Cumulative effects following the suggested methodology will be assessed within each technical chapter in the EIA Report, as well as through Chapter 14: Cumulative Assessment, Volume 2.
11	Ornithology	Scottish Ministers recommend that decisions on bird surveys - species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds & duration - site specific & cumulative - should be made following discussions between the company and NatureScot.	ECU10	7	Volume 2: Chapter 8 – ‘Ornithology’	NatureScot were consulted by letter on the proposed survey scope on 08 March 2024. On 27 March 2024, NatureScot confirmed their agreement with the proposed ecology and ornithology survey scope and the surveys were conducted on this basis.
12	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	The assessment on archaeology and cultural heritage should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in Section 8 of the scoping report and should also include the recommendations by both HES and PKC within their consultation response.	ECU11	7	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – ‘Cultural Heritage’	Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage, Volume 2 of the EIA Report will be carried out in line with the relevant legislation and standards set out in the Scoping Report and will include the recommendations provided by HES and Perth and Kinross Council as required.
13	Existing and/or Planned Infrastructure	Scottish Ministers request that the company assess the impact of the proposed development on existing and/or planned infrastructure. In particular should carry out necessary assessments to confirm	ECU12	7	Volume 2: Chapter 5- ‘Cumulative Impact Assessment’	Pre-construction surveys will determine whether any elements of the Proposed

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		if the proposed development is within the following consultation zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed explosives site; • gas (or any other) pipeline; • existing overhead electric lines; • underground cables; water pipes; and • telecommunication links. 				Development would interfere with any pipelines or cables.
14	Hazardous Substances	Scottish Ministers request the company to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in the Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under Section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.	ECU13	7	N/A	No flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals are expected to be stored on site. Hazardous Substances Consent is therefore not considered to be a requirement of the Proposed Development.
15	Mitigation Measures	The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where the mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.	ECU14	7	Throughout the EIA Report	Mitigation measures, where required, will be set out within each technical chapter and summarised in tabular form within a Schedule of Mitigation as part of the EIA Report.
16	EIAR Advice	Applicants are asked to provide a summary, in tabular form, of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.	ECU15	8	Scoping Matrix	This scoping matrix will address the noted request and will be included as part of the EIA Report.
17	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	The proposed scoping for heritage assets is acceptable. However, the EIA should include the Category C listed Drumkilbo Mains Farm, which is not identified on the heritage assets maps or within the Scoping Report.	Perth and Kinross Council	A1	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – ‘Cultural Heritage’	Drumkilbo Mains Farm will be included within the noted chapter of the EIA Report.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		The EIA for heritage impact assets should be undertaken on the "Worst Case Access Strategy" map.				The assessment of heritage asset impacts will be based on the "Worst Case Access Strategy".
18	Agricultural Land	The EIA scoping report omits prime agricultural land but some on/under the proposed development is Class 2 or Class 3.1. It is appreciated that the proposed development may be expected to have little direct effect on soils however, it is important that this is given consideration as the agricultural soil under the line may or may not be indirectly affected as it may become unavailable for use while the line is being upgrades or in use.	Perth and Kinross Council	A2, A3	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils'	Noted. Potential impacts on soils will be addressed within the noted chapter, and mitigation measures will be provided as required.
19	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	PK Heritage Trust recommend that a data extract is requested from Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record as the most detailed and dynamic record available for undesignated historic assets.	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust	A3	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Noted. Perth and Kinross Historic and Environment Record will be used to identify undesignated historic assets
20	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	PKHT are in broad agreement with 8.4 regarding potential impacts. However, it is advised that consideration is given for potential impacts on unknown buried archaeology that are sensitive through geography or indeed blind spots in the record. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested that the EIA considers this with regards to where works look to have physical impacts, such as new access tracks. Requested that compounds and lay down areas are sited in areas without archaeological potential. 	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust	A3	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Noted and consideration will be given to unknown buried archaeology, in regard to where works look to have physical impacts. Compounds and laydown areas required for the Proposed Development are not included within this application and therefore will not be assessed as part of the EIA.
21	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Content that most adverse impacts to archaeology from the proposal are mitigated against. However, pre and post	Perth and Kinross	A3, A4	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Noted.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		conditions survey is requested for non-invasive tracks, in areas of known archaeological sensitivity.	Heritage Trust			Pre and post condition surveys will be undertaken as best practice in areas of known archaeological sensitivity.
22	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	For new access tracks requiring excavation PKHT would be expecting any archaeological requirements to be targeted via proximity to other monuments or as outlined above potential for unknown buried remains to survive (geography etc).	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust	A4	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Noted. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIA Report will include mitigation measures to address potential impacts arising from excavations in areas where archaeological remains have been recorded or in areas where previously unrecorded archaeological potential is high.
23	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Full assessment of the boundaries of SMs and the limitations of these is required due to recent discoveries at Haughend (continuation of timber frame building out with red line boundary). Protective fencing and buffers should also be considered as measures to avoid accidental damage during works to both designated and undesignated monuments.	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust	A4	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Noted. The boundaries of Scheduled Monuments will be detailed within the noted chapter. Mitigation measures, including temporary fencing and buffers, will be included within the noted chapter as required.
24	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	As final details have not yet been agreed, PKHT would still require consultation in advance of any works and may recommend further programmes of works to those addressed in the EIA report.	PKC: Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust	A4	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Noted. PKHT will be consulted prior to work commencing once final details have been agreed.
25	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	It's likely PKHT would propose that a condition for a programme of archaeological works would need attached to any future application and potentially a requirement for an Archaeological Clerk of Works to manage the impacts on unknown	PKC: Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust	A4	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Noted.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		archaeological remains and protect known archaeology along the route.				
26	Traffic and Transport	It is proposed that the A90(T) Emmock Road and local roads are included in the EIA, in addition to local roads.	Transport Scotland	A29	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – ‘Traffic and Transport’	Will be noted and considered within the noted chapter
27	Traffic and Transport	<p>It is requested that 'estimated' data from the Department of Transport is not used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatively: Traffic Scotland's National Traffic Data Systems is suggested. Base traffic data will need to be factored to construction year flows, using National Road Traffic Forecasts (NRTF) Low Growth. 	Transport Scotland	A29	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – ‘Traffic and Transport’	The traffic and transport assessment will use estimated construction traffic data provided by the appointed Contractor.
28	Response to the questions asked in Section 18.2 of the Scoping Report	<p>What environmental information do you hold or are aware of that will assist in the EIA described here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> most of our data is available directly from the SEPA website. Where any data cannot be found please submit a data request via our online form. <p>Are there any key issues or possible effects which have been omitted?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No <p>Do you agree with the list of issues to be scoped out, and the rationale behind the decision?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. And provided watercourse crossings are designed to accommodate the 1 in 200-year event plus climate change and other infrastructure is located well away from watercourses we do not foresee from current information a need for detailed information on flood risk. However, should any of the track upgrades and new temporary tracks require land raising within a flood 	SEPA	A12	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – ‘Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils’	The assessment as detailed in the noted chapter of the Scoping Report will be undertaken as proposed.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		extent then a detailed flood risk assessment and appropriate mitigation maybe required.				
29	Regulatory advice	Details of regulatory requirements and good practice advice, for example in relation to engineering works in the water environment and waste management, can be found on the regulations section of our website. If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the local compliance team at: fad@sepa.org.uk.	SEPA	A12, A13	N/A	Noted.
30	Advice on key issues	<p>It is envisaged that significant adverse effects on protected areas can be avoided through the implementation of standard mitigation measures during the construction work, including compliance with both project wide and site-specific environmental management procedures, with reference to SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs).</p> <p>A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed for the project and adopted by the Principal Contractor during the construction phase. The implementation of the CEMP would be managed on site by a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW), with support from other environmental professionals as required.</p>	NatureScot	A14, A15	<p>Volume 2: Chapter 7- 'Ecology' and Chapter 8: 'Ornithology',</p> <p>Relevant Appendices providing SPPs, GEMP and CEMP.</p>	As referenced, these will be provided where relevant within the EIA Report.
31	Scottish Water	<p>Scottish has no objection to the proposal.</p> <p>They advise that the development is within proximity to live infrastructure, therefore it is required that any potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets are identified, and contact Scottish Water Asset Impact Team</p>	Scottish Water	A25, A26	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils'	Noted
32	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	HES recommend that archaeological mitigation measures should be incorporated within the proposed Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure they are not accidentally overlooked; this is a particular risk if excavation or	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	A7	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Archaeological mitigation measures identified within the</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		monitoring by an archaeological contractor is required as responsibilities on site can become confused.				noted chapter will be incorporated within the CEMP.
33	Cultural Heritage	HES note that the creation and use of the main site compound is not included in the EIA process as it is the responsibility of the main contractor. That contractor should be made aware of the mitigation requirements for cultural heritage assets and ensure they are followed.	HES	A7	N/A	The Contractor will be contacted and made aware of mitigation requirements for cultural heritage assets and will ensure that they are followed.
34	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<p>HES state that on large-scale projects such as this there is always a small risk of accidental damage. The EIAR should detail the embedded mitigation measures that will be used to minimise or remove the risk.</p> <p>This could range from 'toolbox talks' to ensure employee awareness, to Site Protection Plans to avoid accidental damage to assets identified as being at particular risk.</p> <p>These mitigation measures should form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p>	HES	A8	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Embedded mitigation measures that will minimise/reduce the risk of accidental damage to assets will be included in the CEMP.
35	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	HES note the commitment to biodiversity enhancement as part of the project. While this is welcome, any such schemes should be designed to ensure they do not create inadvertent adverse impacts on cultural heritage assets.	HES	A8	Volume 2: Chapter 7 – 'Ecology'	Noted.
36	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<p>HES noted the proposed works have the potential to result in direct physical impacts on Cardean Roman Camp and prehistoric barrow (SM4337):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any works requiring a physical intervention to the monument, including preliminary groundworks, would require Scheduled Monument Consent. A detailed assessment of the potential impacts, from works to towers 643 and 644, and the mitigation measures proposed to minimise them should be included in the EIAR. 	HES	A8, A9	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – 'Cultural Heritage'	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The assessment of works and mitigation measures in relation to Towers 643 and 644 will be included in the noted chapter.</p> <p>Contractors will be made aware of the extent of the Cardean Roman Camp Scheduled Monument area.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All contractors working at the site should be made aware of the extent of the legally protected scheduled area of the monument. A Site Protection Plan should be prepared that includes information on access, ground protection and temporary barriers. 				Mitigation measures, including temporary fencing and buffers, will be included within the noted chapter as required. Works to be agreed pre-construction with the relevant Local Planning Authority Archaeological Advisor, and approved via a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI).
37	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<p>HES noted the proposed works have the potential to result in direct physical impacts on Drumkilbo Designed Landscape (GDL00142).</p> <p>To enable a fully informed decision on the proposal the EIAR should address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access: describe clearly what physical and visual impacts on tree-lined east drive and any mitigation measures needed to avoid/reduce effects. Tower/foundation strengthening: should make clear what towers this applies to, what will be involved and mitigating measures. Reprofiling: clarification is requested within the EIAR regarding if/where earthmoving is proposed and how any potential impacts will be mitigated. Tree Felling: for example, associated with creating 400kV operational corridor. 	HES	A9, A10	Volume 2: Chapter 10 – ‘Cultural Heritage’	Access, tower/foundation strengthening, reprofiling and tree felling in relation to Drumkilbo Designed Landscape will be addressed within the noted chapter.
38	Core Paths and Construction Traffic	BHS noted several core paths, likely used by equestrians, intersect the OHL and access tracks. BHS are willing to provide guidance on suitable surfaces and infrastructure.	British Horse Society (BHS)	A16, A18	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – ‘Traffic and Transport’	Noted Drivers of construction vehicles will be made aware of potential

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		Advised that construction traffic will likely encounter equestrians on roads. Drivers should be made aware of this risk (BESS "Guidance to drivers of large vehicles document").				to encounter equestrians on roads.
39	No Concerns	The MOD has no concerns but should be consulted at all future stages for this proposed development to complete a full detailed safeguarding assessment.	Ministry of Defence (MOD)	A20	N/A	Noted
40	No Concerns	ONR makes no comment on this proposed development as it does not lie within a consultation zone around a GB nuclear site.	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)	A24	N/A	Noted
41	No Concerns	Provided that the pylons are not moving (and that existing pylons are being re-used), JRC has no comment to make.	Joint Radio Company (JRC)	A21	N/A	Noted
42	No Concerns	Network Rail considered that it will have no impact on railway infrastructure and therefore has no comments / objections.	Network Rail	A23	N/A	Noted