

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Alyth to Tealing Overhead Line (OHL) 400kV Upgrade

November 2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (herein referred to as “SSEN Transmission”, “the applicant”), operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHE Transmission plc), 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 license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.
- 1.1.2 SSEN Transmission seeks consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the proposed development which is 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.
- 1.1.3 There is no statutory requirement to undertake formal pre-application consultation (PAC) for applications made under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, however, for all section 37 applications that are EIA development, the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) recommends a voluntary approach to PAC that generally aligns with the compulsory process prescribed for national and major development applications under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 through its *Good Practice Guidance*.¹
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this document is to describe the PAC process SSEN Transmission has undertaken for the Proposed Development, with reference to the content requirements of PAC Reports as described in Table 1 of Section 3.2 of the ECU Good Practice Guidance. In doing so, we demonstrate that SSEN Transmission has met the expectations of the ECU in carrying out meaningful engagement at the earliest possible stage with communities and groups potentially affected by development proposals.

1.2 Structure of this Report

- 1.2.1 The PAC Report is comprised of six parts:
1. *Introduction*: sets out the purpose of the Pre-Application Consultation Report;
 2. *Proposed Development*: outlines the background to the project and provides a description of the key elements;
 3. *The Consultation Process*: describes the framework for consultation and methods which have been employed;
 4. *Pre application consultation Stage 1: Consultation Responses, Key Issues and How the Project Responded* –describes how the comments and issues raised during Stage 1 of the consultation were addressed by the project;
 5. *Pre application consultation Stage 2: Consultation Responses, Key Issues and How the Project Responded* describes how the comments and issues raised during Stage 2 of the consultation were addressed by the project; and
 6. *Conclusions*: provides a summary of the conclusions reached.
- 1.2.2 Appendices are attached to provide evidence of consultation carried out.

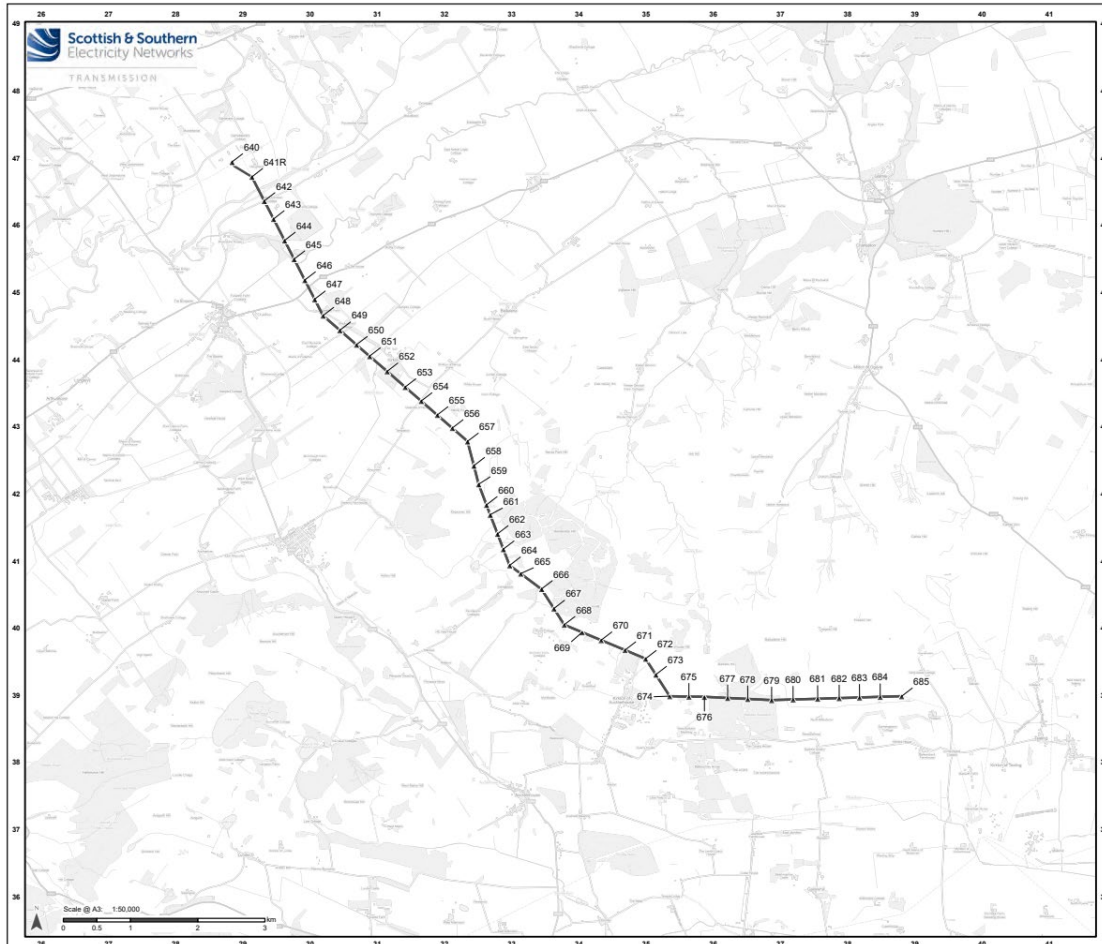
¹ See Section 3.2 of Scottish Government: [Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989](#). (updated July 2022)

2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 SSEN Transmission is applying for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the Proposed Development, as shown on **Plate 2.1**, below.

Plate 2.1: The Proposed Development



2.1.2 The Proposed Development seeks consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 Act and deemed planning permission under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 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. The development falls within the administrative areas of Angus Council, and Perth and Kinross Council.

2.1.3 The Proposed Development also seeks deemed planning permission under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for ancillary development required to facilitate its construction and operation. The ancillary development will include installation of temporary access tracks, tower steelwork and foundation strengthening, insulator and conductor replacement etc.

2.2 Background to Proposed Development

2.2.1 In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO) ², published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND). This set out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that's required to support the forecasted growth in the UK's renewable electricity.

² The ESO was replaced by the National Energy System Operator in 2024.

- 2.2.2 The East of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The extensive studies that informed the ESO's Pathway to 2030 HND confirmed the requirement to increase the power transfer capacity of the onshore corridor from Kintore to Tealing.
- 2.2.3 This requires a 400kV connection between these sites to enable the significant capability needed to take power from onshore and large scale offshore renewable generation, connecting on the East Coast of Scotland before transporting power to areas of demand.
- 2.2.4 As part of these plans, SSEN Transmission are proposing to build a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing. This also requires two new 400 kV substations to be constructed in Fetteresso Forest and Tealing to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand.
- 2.2.5 In addition, two of the existing 275 kV OHLs, namely the Alyth to Tealing substation OHL and the Tealing to Westfield substation OHL require to be upgraded to 400 kV operation and to be connected to the proposed new Tealing (Emmock) 400 kV substation site. These projects are critical to enable the delivery of the UK and Scottish Government's targets.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This section describes the methods employed during the consultation process and provides information on meetings and exhibitions held with stakeholders to obtain feedback on the application prior to submission.
- 3.1.2 The Scottish Government's *Good Practice Guidance* states the expectation that applicants hold at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application, with the final public event taking place at least 14 days after the first. The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to the applicant regarding the proposed development, and, at the final public event, the applicant should provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the applicant regarding the proposed development.
- 3.1.3 In this report, the first and final events are described, respectively, as stage 1 and stage 2 consultation. The sections below detail the activities undertaken in respect of each stage.
- 3.1.4 It should be noted that each of the consultation events discussed within this PAC Report were used to display information and allow feedback relative to the Alyth- Tealing OHL 400 kV upgrade and the Tealing-Westfield OHL 400 kV upgrade projects. This approach was taken given the similar nature of the proposed developments, their relative proximity and their presence within some of the same local authority areas. The event locations chosen ensured that events would be held within each of the local authorities in which the projects are proposed namely Perth and Kinross, Angus and Fife. It should be further noted that the consultation event at Tealing Village Hall was a joint event with the proposed Tealing (Emmock) substation and the new Tealing to Kintore 400kV OHL. To avoid confusion, project-specific information was produced in respect of each prospective submission, and there was clear separation of project information at each event.

3.2 Pre-application Consultation Stage 1

- 3.2.1 To support initial stage 1 consultation events a Consultation Booklet, was prepared and published in February 2024 and uploaded to the project website. The Consultation Booklet provided project context and project details and sought comments from stakeholders and members of the public on the proposed development (See Appendix D).
- 3.2.2 The consultation events took place at the following venues and dates/times.

Table 3.1 Pre-application consultation Stage 1 events

<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date and Time</i>
Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH	4 March 2024, 2-7pm
Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA	5 March 2024, 2-7pm
Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX	6 March 2024, 2-7pm
Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW	7 March 2024, 2-7pm

- 3.2.3 At the entrance of each venue, project team staff were stationed to greet attendees and note numbers. Attendees were also invited to have their names and contact details recorded so that the project team could provide email updates on upcoming events.

- 3.2.4 A printed Consultation Booklet was also available at all consultation events, and information boards and maps were available for attendees to learn more about the project at that stage of development. Members from multiple disciplines within the project team were available to answer questions and attendees were invited to provide feedback to a set of defined questions via a printed consultation feedback form at the rear of the consultation booklet. In addition, feedback was sought via email to a dedicated inbox or by post to the Community Liaison Manager.
- 3.2.5 The feedback period in relation to the Pre-application stage 1 events was open for 6 weeks after the 1st event until 15 April 2024. In addition, local Community Councils including Alyth, Meigle and Ardler, Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff, Newtyle and Eassie, Auchterhouse, Tealing and Strathmartine were invited to a pre-consultation briefing call which was held via Microsoft Teams on 29 February 2024.

Stakeholder engagement

- 3.2.6 Engagement with stakeholders during the pre-application consultation stage was undertaken via statutory consultee update workshops hosted on Microsoft teams from December 2022, which included representatives of NatureScot, SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Forestry and local authorities. Attendees were invited to ask questions and make comments as well as submit written feedback or attend separate meetings with members of the project team if required.

Online and virtual consultation

- 3.2.7 The project website for the Alyth-Tealing upgrade³ contained links to all published materials as well as project updates, responses to FAQs, and notification of upcoming consultation events.
- 3.2.8 During the consultation and subsequent feedback period, an online exhibition room was hosted on a virtual platform designed to look and feel like a real consultation in a community hall, featuring the same information boards that were presented in the in-person events. The feedback form was provided on the portal and all visitors were invited to complete this.

Publicity

- 3.2.9 Pre-application consultation events were advertised in The Courier from 20 February to 2 March 2024 and Angus County Press on 22 and 29 February 2024 (See Appendix A).
- 3.2.10 Dates and venues of consultation events were also publicised on the project website, alongside a link to the online consultation portal. In addition, SSEN Transmission's social media channels - LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Instagram were also used to advertise the consultation events (See Appendix B).
- 3.2.11 Furthermore, a letter informing of the initial series of events was also delivered to 43,669 households within a 6km radius of the Proposed Development on 19 February 2024 (See Appendix B).

Advice on making comments to Applicant

- 3.2.12 Consultees were made aware that making a comment through the pre-application process was to the Applicant, and that an opportunity to provide feedback to the decision-maker would be available once the application was submitted. Examples of where this has been advised can be found in the stage 2 advertisements in Appendix D, and the stage 2 mailout in Appendix E.

³ Alyth-Tealing Upgrade project website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/alyth---tealing-overhead-line-upgrade/>

3.3 Pre-application Consultation Stage 2

3.3.1 The purpose of the second and final consultation events was to present a summary of feedback received via the pre-application consultation stage 1 process.

3.3.2 Comments received from members of the public and other stakeholders in response to the Stage 1 Consultation Booklet (February 2024) or following in person consultation events, were set out within the Consultation Booklet (See Appendix F), published 20th May 2024.

Table 3.2 Pre-application consultation Stage 2 events

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

3.3.3 At the entrance of each venue, project team staff were stationed to greet attendees and note numbers. Attendees were also invited to have their names and contact details recorded so that the project team could provide email updates on upcoming events

3.3.4 As with the stage 1 consultation process, the printed Consultation Booklet was also available at all stage 2 consultation events, and information boards and maps were available for attendees to learn more about the project at that stage of development. Members from multiple disciplines within the project team were available to answer questions and attendees were invited to provide feedback in writing via email to a dedicated inbox or by post to the Community Liaison Manager.

3.3.5 Local Community Councils were contacted by email ahead of the events providing them with the details of the events along with a poster to share on any online platforms they had access to as well as offering to take them through any aspect of the project they wished to further discuss.

3.3.6 Based on feedback received during the stage 1 consultations, information leaflets were produced on specific issues for attendees to read and take home, elaborating on the contents of the Consultation Booklet. These covered topics like, among other things:

- Applications under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989
- Electro Magnetic Fields
- Protecting Private Water Supplies
- Pathway to 2030: Why are these projects needed?
- Delivering legacy benefits through Pathway to 2030 Projects
- Biodiversity Net Gain

3.3.7 All of these were published in May 2024 and copies were available to members of the public at consultation events following.⁴ Other leaflets were produced at the same time (and since) of greater relevance to substations and Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act applications.

⁴ All of these and others can be downloaded as PDFs from: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs>

3.3.8 As mentioned above, the main purpose of the pre-application consultation stage 2 events was to present feedback on views obtained in response to the earlier round of consultation. However, the opportunity was given at the pre-application consultation stage 2 events to provide further feedback and a period allowing for additional feedback was open for 6 weeks after the 1st event until 18 July 2024.

Publicity

3.3.9 Pre-application consultation stage 2 events were advertised in The Courier from the 20 May to the 1 June 2024 and Angus County Press on 23 and 30 May 2024 (See Appendix A).

3.3.10 Dates and venues of consultation events were also publicised on the project website, alongside a link to the online consultation portal. In addition, SSEN Transmission's social media channels - LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Instagram were also used to advertise the consultation events.

3.3.11 A letter (see appendix C) informing local people of the Stage 2 consultation events was delivered to 17,467 households within the vicinity of the Proposed Development on 17 May 2024. The delivery area was reduced from that used at Stage 1 (43,669 households) following feedback from residents regarding unnecessary notification. The delivery area was also reduced because the stage 2 consultation event at the Tealing Village Hall did not include consultation regarding the new Kintore – Tealing 400kV OHL.

4. PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION STAGE 1 RESPONSES, KEY ISSUES AND HOW THE PROJECT RESPONDED

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 This section summarises the Pre-application consultation stage 1 responses, and how the project responded to them.
- 4.1.2 Table 4.1 sets out the consultation events and identifies the number of attendees at each event. In total there were 263 attendees across all of the events. A total of 4 individual responses and several responses received from statutory and non-statutory consultees during the consultation period, which ran from 19 February to 15 April 2024.

Table 4.1 Route consultation event attendees

Venue	Date	Number of attendees
Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH	4 March 2024	61
Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA	5 March 2024	36
Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX	6 March 2024	31
Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW ⁵	7 March 2024	135

4.2 Pre-application Consultation Stage 1 Responses

- 4.2.1 A summary of the feedback received from statutory and non-statutory consultees, the local community and general public following the consultation period which ran from 19 February to 15 April 2024, alongside SSEN Transmission project responses, is set out below.

Theme	Response
Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) Concerns regarding people living close to the Overhead Lines (OHL) and the health risk associated with the increase in voltage.	SSEN Transmission develop, build and operate infrastructure to meet all health and safety legislation, and guidance set by relevant bodies - including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive and our regulator, Ofgem – including that associated with Electro Magnetic Fields (EMFs). In respect of EMFs, SSEN Transmission follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance. As well as setting exposure limits that protect against known, established effects of EMF, the UK Government's guidance also includes precautionary measures to protect against possible effects below the exposure limits that have not been established by science. In addition to this, the UK Health Security Agency and Department of Health have a remit to review new research in this area and ensure that current guidelines and policies are reflective of that research.

⁵ The Tealing Village Hall event was shared with public consultation events associated with other SSENT projects being forward within the local area.

Theme	Response
	<p>Furthermore, the UK Government's latest policy on EMF is set out in National Policy Statement EN-5, (NPS EN-5) which was reissued in November 2023 and came into force on 17 January 2024. This latest policy is reflective of that review process and in line with the NPS EN-5, the current UK Government guidance, informed by relevant international guidance, is therefore still considered appropriate by the UK Government and their public health experts. Whilst electricity consenting decisions are devolved to Scottish Ministers and the NPS EN-5 is therefore not all relevant in Scotland, we can confirm compliance with all EMF guidance as set out in the NPS EN-5.</p> <p>There have been over four decades of research looking into whether EMF can cause health effects and there are no established effects below the exposure limits. When SSEN Transmission design OHLs, substations and cables they are designed to ensure that they will not exceed those exposure limits, even when operating at 100% capacity.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission also ensure that precautionary measures are applied to the design where required, providing information on compliance as part of the consenting process, which will be publicly available through an EMF Report submitted as a separate report as part of the Section 37 application.</p> <p>In summary, the guidance followed, which remains subject to ongoing review as required, ensures that safety measures will be applied to the 400kV OHL infrastructure protecting all against EMF exposure, keeping the network safe for the public.</p>
<p>OHL noise OHL noise concerns regarding noise from operation of OHLs.</p>	<p>An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which includes a chapter on noise and vibration has been prepared and submitted as part of the S37 consent application.</p> <p>This identifies any adverse noise impacts that may result from construction activities and the operation of the OHL and proposes appropriate mitigation in response that will be finalised in agreement with the relevant Planning Authorities and the Energy Consents Unit (ECU).</p>
<p>Benefit to local population Queries regarding how the local population might benefit from the proposals i.e. cleaner, cheaper energy</p>	<p>The proposed development forms part of the Pathway to 2030, a series of projects to increase the capacity of the transmission network in northern Scotland. It is part of the national effort to upgrade OHLs across Great Britain to connect and transport renewable electricity to communities around Scotland and beyond, especially from offshore wind farms</p> <p>In terms of Community Benefit, SSEN Transmission have consulted on a Community Benefit Fund for projects until 2026, a first for a transmission operator in Scotland. This fund allows SSEN Transmission to work directly with local communities to support initiatives in northern Scotland. Applications</p>

Theme	Response
	<p>for a Regional Fund are now open. This is the first round of funding available, aimed at supporting projects that make a positive impact in communities.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission want to give back to the communities hosting their transmission network and to help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy in those areas. SSEN Transmission are encouraging the UK Government and Ofgem to recognise the crucial role the north of Scotland plays in energy targets in any upcoming guidance, ensuring that community benefits will reflect this significance. Additionally, the projects will boost the economy, supporting local jobs and businesses.</p> <p>Recent studies show SSEN Transmission's Pathway to 2030 programme could contribute over £6bn to the UK's economy, support 20,000 jobs across the UK, and benefit Scotland by around £2.5bn, supporting 9,000 jobs.</p>
<p>Consultation events</p> <p>It was raised that consultations should occur over a number of weeks to give more people the chance to attend.</p>	<p>In March 2024, a series of consultation events were held at four locations along the Alyth to Tealing OHL and Tealing to Westfield OHL project routes. Information was displayed at each of those events and staff were on hand to answer queries. All information is also available to view on the SSEN Transmission project webpage and the consultation period was open for six weeks after the first public event. Additional consultation took place in early June 2024 with an additional six-week consultation period open for people to view material and provide feedback.</p>
<p>Consultation with landowners</p> <p>Concern raised that there hasn't been direct communication with all those closely affected</p>	<p>In addition to the series of public consultation events in March and June 2024, SSEN Transmission's team of Land Managers have carried out an extensive engagement process, identifying and contacting all known potentially affected landowners. That process will continue throughout the project as required.</p>
<p>Energy at the point of need</p> <p>Concern raised that the work being carried out will ultimately not be for Scotland's benefit noting that projects should be located where energy is required</p>	<p>SSEN Transmission is responsible for where and how the high voltage transmission network operates in the north of Scotland. However, they don't determine where energy is generated – nor where it is needed.</p> <p>They have a legal obligation to provide electricity generators access to the network, so that the electricity generated can be transported across GB to meet the energy demand of homes and businesses.</p> <p>The north of Scotland is rich in renewable energy, especially wind, water, and marine sources meaning this region is vital for the UK and Scotland's climate goals. SSEN Transmission's area covers a quarter of the UK landmass and will be crucial in the move towards a low carbon future</p>
<p>Undergrounding of OHLs</p> <p>A query raised regarding the potential undergrounding of OHLs to reduce impact.</p>	<p>Whilst SSEN Transmission are committed to exploring the possibility of undergrounding at sensitive locations where there is clear evidence to justify it, this presents significant challenges due to a range of technical, operational, environmental and economic factors and may not always be the best option from an environmental perspective. In particular, it may not represent the best</p>

Theme	Response
	<p>solution for landowners due to the greater footprint and associated impact on agricultural land as well as the requirement for additional above ground infrastructure to manage system requirements. Further information on the challenges and costs involved can be found in our undergrounding briefing note: 2030 challenges⁶.</p>
<p>Wildlife and biodiversity Concerns that there will be a detrimental impact on wildlife and biodiversity</p>	<p>SSEN Transmission prioritise environmental protection in our infrastructure projects, strictly adhering to environmental policies and regulations. We follow a mitigation hierarchy strategy of “avoid, minimise, mitigate and restore” to safeguard local, national and internationally designated environmentally protected areas.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission also acknowledge that minimising impacts is not enough on its own, and therefore have committed to delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on all projects; as well as compensatory planting for any trees felled during the construction phase, where possible with native species.</p> <p>During assessments, comprehensive surveys identify potentially affected wildlife, guiding mitigation efforts.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission also assess habitats and other species along our routes. Our consultation process to date has highlighted sensitive areas, and we continue to work with environmental experts and seek community feedback to refine our approach.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage Concern regarding impact on Scheduled Monuments.</p>	<p>When planning OHL projects, SSEN Transmission consider environmental, cultural, and built heritage impact.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission make use of national archives and data sources as well as gathering data from Local Authorities and detailed site surveys to identify and assess the potential impact on archaeological sites, listed buildings, and other heritage assets.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) detail these findings and recommend ways to lessen any potential adverse effects. We’ve received feedback about sensitive archaeological and cultural sites from a range of stakeholders all of which our environmental experts have considered. Where there is the potential for direct impact on a Scheduled Monument, we will discuss this with Historic Environment Scotland and seek Scheduled Monument Consent where required.</p>
<p>Construction Concerns about impact on the local area.</p>	<p>Construction working hours will typically be restricted to 0700 hours to 1900 hours Monday to Friday and 0700 hours to 1300 hours on Saturday, with only some continuous activities carried out by exception.</p>

⁶ https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/2030-projects/2030-project-documents/the_challenges_with_undergrounding_at_400kv_v8.pdf

Theme	Response
	<p>The Contractor will prepare and adopt a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to minimise any potential impacts during construction. These documents will be approved by the Planning Authority and ECU in advance of construction starting and will include contact details for the Construction Site Manager, who will be the main point of contact with the local community during construction.</p> <p>In addition, the Contractor will prepare and adopt a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to ensure that appropriate mitigation and management strategies are identified and implemented. This will include the identification of any road widening, junction improvements or repairs that will be required. Condition surveys of the public highway will be carried out before works start on site, and again upon completion, with any defects repaired to ensure the public highway is left in no worse state once the works are complete.</p>
<p>Additional Feedback from Other statutory and non-statutory consultees</p>	<p>Additional detailed feedback from statutory and non-statutory consultees was received also which will be taken into account as the projects progress. Discussion with consultees and others will continue as required.</p>

5. PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION 2 RESPONSES, KEY ISSUES AND HOW THE PROJECT RESPONDED

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 This section summarises the pre-application consultation stage 2 responses, and how the project responded to them.
- 5.1.2 Table 5.1 sets out the consultation events and identifies the number of attendees at each event. In total there were 106 attendees across all of the events.

Table 5.1 Pre-application consultation stage 2 events and attendee numbers

<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of attendees</i>
Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH	3 June 2024	18
Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA	4 June 2024	5
Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW	5 June 2024	65
Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX	6 June 2024	18

5.2 Pre-application Consultation Stage 2 Responses

- 5.2.1 No individual responses were received during the consultation period, which ran from 20 May to 18 July 2024, but several responses were received from statutory and non statutory consultees. Responses from statutory consultees for the second event were largely the same as for the first event with additional feedback received with respect to forestry only.
- 5.2.2 There was a request to provide further information on forestry (types and areas to be felled, restocking and compensation) within future consultation material. SSEN Transmission response is that at the pre application consultation event stage detailed information regarding forestry felling, restocking and compensation was not yet available. The expected forestry impact and approach to addressing such impacts however has been set out within the Forestry Chapter of the EIA which is being submitted in support of the s37 consent application.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 This PAC Report documents the consultation undertaken with statutory and non-statutory consultees as well as the public across the two consultation event stages of the Alyth to Tealing Overhead Line 400 kV upgrade, now submitted to the Scottish Government as part of an application under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.
- 6.1.2 Pre-application consultation was planned with reference to the expectations of pre-application consultation described in the Scottish Government's *Good Practice Guidance*.
- 6.1.3 The first stage of consultation was carried out at four locations in early March 2024, and via an online platform, following extensive publicity in local press, social media, direct email communications, mailouts, and the project website. A feedback period was then open for six weeks, following which, feedback was collated and analysed in the lead up to the second and final consultation stage, which took place in early June 2024 at the same locations.
- 6.1.4 Information in respect of both events was published by the project team and made available at the events themselves and online via the project website, including two consultation booklets, information boards, large format plans, 3D visualisations, and information leaflets on various topics.
- 6.1.5 The consultation was designed to facilitate engagement with the local community, community councils, statutory authorities and local leadership to invite feedback on the proposals, and latterly to provide summaries of feedback with a response from SSEN Transmission. A feedback period of six weeks was open following the second stage of consultation, to capture any additional feedback.
- 6.1.6 The approach to public consultation has ensured that stakeholders and consultees have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals and understand how feedback has been taken on. This has enabled locally important issues and concerns to be identified and subsequently considered in the preparation of the Alyth-Tealing Upgrade Section 37 application.

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC CONSULTATION NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Public Consultation Newspaper Advertisements Event 1

Dame Esther's caviar wish

BY JAMEL SMITH

Dame Esther Rantzen has revealed she would like a final dinner of caviar and Champagne before her death after she signed up for an assisted dying clinic.

Since being diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2023, Dame Esther has campaigned for a parliamentary debate and a free vote to legalise assisted dying with "built-in precautions to protect the interests of the person".

The 83-year-old founder of Childline joined the Swiss-assisted dying company Dignitas as a precautionary measure "if the law does not change in time".

Speaking to LBC yesterday, Dame Esther outlined her preparations for her death should she go ahead with Dignitas.

She said: "I'd like to fly

off to Zurich with my nearest and dearest. Have a fantastic dinner the night before.

"I'd love caviar, if possible, and the fact that it doesn't always agree with me doesn't matter, does it?"

"I could even have Champagne, which I'm deeply allergic to. Then the next day, go to this rather unappealing place where they do it.

"Listen to a favourite piece of music, say goodbye to everybody. Tell them to cheer up. I'm meeting my late husband, my departed dog and my mother at the pearly gates.

"Hold up my hand for an injection or open my mouth for a rather disgusting medication.

"I've got an amazing family and a group of friends and colleagues. So I'd like to say goodbye fairly gracefully, as much as I can

muster and then go, that's what I'd like."

Dame Esther, from Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, said the laws surrounding assisted dying are a "mess at the moment" as her family could be accused of murder if they travelled with her to Dignitas.

The former presenter emphasised the importance of "individual choice" if her suffering from cancer becomes "too great".

"The intentions are good... to protect people in the last days of their life, from being coerced into something by greedy relatives, or other crimes of that kind," she said.

"As I have terminal cancer, it is a possibility that my life will become too painful, that my suffering will be too great.

"Even with the great palliative care skills that

exist in this country and in my local hospice, they won't be able to help me and I want to die.

"What we need is for people to have individual choice, at that moment, which is literally life and death."

Dame Esther, along with the Daily Express and the campaign group Dignity in Dying, launched a petition demanding a parliamentary vote on the subject, which amassed 120,000 signatures in about three weeks.

Sarah Wootton, chief executive of Dignity in Dying, said: "Dame Esther Rantzen speaks for countless families up and down the country, from all walks of life, who are demanding change.

"From countries that have already legalised like Australia and New Zealand, we know that there is a better, kinder, safer way."



DIAGNOSIS: Dame Esther Rantzen has terminal cancer.

Kintore to Tealing 400kV Projects

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Auchenblae Village Hall, Auchenblae

NEWS

Insight into support charity

Mark Dowie
mark.dowie@nationalworld.com

Angus South MSP Graeme Dey recently paid a visit to Tayside 4x4 – a vital charity which aims to support emergency services and vulnerable people during harsh weather conditions.

The organisation also provides support to the efforts of local authorities, NHS and utility companies at such times of need. Amid the recent challenges posed by severe winter weather across Angus, Mr Dey met with charity head Andrew Bryce to gain further insight into the organisation's efforts.

With his visit, Mr Dey sought to raise awareness of the pivotal role Tayside 4x4



Graeme Dey with Tayside 4x4 volunteers during his visit.

plays with their fleet of vehicles. From remote areas of Angus to the wider Tayside region, the charity assists in

transportation, prescription delivery and even the provision of warm meals – ensuring that those in need receive

timely assistance.

During their meeting, Mr Dey and Mr Bryce discussed Tayside 4x4's additional logistical support for key service workers in times of need, providing transport to social care staff and district nurses, among others, when they are needed in remote areas that would be otherwise inaccessible.

Mr Dey said: "It goes to show the power that local voluntary organising can have on the most vulnerable, and I hope to see how the charity grows in future to expand the services they offer and the areas they cover."

"Andrew Bryce and the entire Tayside 4x4 team are doing a real service to the local community – helping out from the Angus Glens to the hills of Perthshire."

Aim to encourage recycling

President Ann Frith welcomed members of St Vigeans SWI to their recent meeting and went on to introduce Abbey Craig from Arbroath and Angus Community Alliance to explain the purpose of the group.

The aim of the Alliance is to encourage people to reuse, recycle and reduce waste going into landfill.

They have encouraged supermarkets in town to allow members to collect leftover food at the end of the day to distribute to needy households. They also encourage folk to donate unwanted items that could be useful to someone else.

There is always a need for such exchanges. Abbey was invited to judge the competitions: A Valentine card – 1 Karen Coates, 2 Ann Frith, 3 Ann Hamilton; A Child's scarf – 1 Ann Frith, 2 Ella Sinclair, 3 Joyce Lynn.

There were a good number of other scarves donated and these were given to Ab-

bey to pass on to needy children in the area.

As she closed the meeting, Ann reminded the ladies that next month The Basin Belles from Montrose will be paying a welcome visit. The competitions next month are for a slice of Victoria sponge and a single spring flower.

Kingsmuir SRI
The president welcomed members and visitors, where Matthew Steel delivered an inspiring presentation on his involvement in the Pick Up for Peace initiative, started by Mark Laird from Memus and supported by a number of local people to initially deliver 26 vehicles to support the war in Ukraine. This has now grown with over 270 vehicles and 2.4 million donated.

Competitions: Two squares of Salted Caramel Fudge – 1 Jennifer Simpson; Heart-shaped pin cushion – 1 Mabel Taylor, 2 Jean Cook.

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NEWS

MP backs vape ban welcome

Mark Dowie
mark.dowie@nationalworld.com

Angus MP Dave Doogan has joined the RSPCA and the Marine Conservation Society in welcoming the UK Government's announcement of a forthcoming ban on disposable vapes.

The devices are single-use and create an enormous amount of plastic waste.

Every week, over five million are thrown away, many ending up as litter in rivers, the sea and other natural areas where they can harm wildlife.

Disposable vapes are increasingly found discarded in the environment, contributing to an increase in plastic pollution and leakage of toxic



Dave Doogan MP has welcomed the ban.

chemicals.

Microplastics have been found in the stomachs of seabirds, turtles, cetaceans,

plankton and fish, including seafood for human consumption.

The RSPCA says the an-

ouncement will help "create a better world for every animal."

RSPCA Public Affairs Manager Harriet Main said: "We're really pleased that Dave attended our event to pledge support about how he can help make a ban on disposable vapes a reality."

Mr Doogan added: "I am absolutely appalled at how many of these single-use e-cigarettes end up as litter on land as well as in rivers and the ocean. However, it's also heartening to know that there is such strong support for banning these dangerous and polluting vapes amongst the public.

"I'm extremely proud to support this important campaign, and I will be doing my bit to help secure a ban on disposable vapes."

Fun evening at Northmuir WRI

Northmuir WRI's February meeting was organised by Dorothy Allan and Isobel Watson.

Members first enjoyed a quiz about famous women and then a fun game trying to clip pegs on a clothes screen - holding your handful of pegs in one hand and trying to clip them on using that hand! A game of Beetle followed - all good fun.

Competition Winners: Two Empire Biscuits - 1 Elma Dickens; Flower of the Month - 1 Elma Dickens, 2 Eileen Cramond

MEMUS AND FERN SWI

The president welcomed members visitors and our speaker to our February meeting.

Lisa Webster spoke about the Citizen Advocacy Project, which was set up in 2012. Lisa is the Senior Development Worker to the organisation, which has five people in the team based in Arbroath.

The organisation aims to match a trained volunteer to help those who have difficulties in life in having their opinions and wishes heard. Anyone can be referred for an advocacy worker for a variety of difficulties. They are carefully matched on mutually agreed terms. The organisation is always keen to have volunteers and new referrals.

Rosemary MacKenzie gave the vote of thanks for Lisa's enlightening talk.

Competitions: Flower of the month - 1 Mairi Alexander, 2 Ella Grant, 3 Kathleen Melville; Two Tattie scones - 1 Kathleen Melville, 2 Mairi Alexander, 3 Davina Farquharson; A decorated jar - 1 Mairi Alexander, 2 Davina Farquharson.

The next meeting is on March 12 at 2pm - A musical afternoon with Davina Farquharson and Nancy Davidson. Visitors welcome, £4 entry including tea and cake.

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Public Consultation Newspaper Advertisements Event 2

Bridge repairs at key stage

BY GRAHAM BROWN

The painstaking operation to save an ancient Angus bridge battered by Storm Babet has reached a crucial stage.

And drone footage shows the work which has already been done by engineers to repair the 240-year-old Bridge of Dun near Montrose.

The force of the River South Esk caused a partial collapse of the bridge when the storm struck seven months ago.

The road between Barnhead and Bridge of Dun station has been closed since then.

But experts have been hard at work carrying out preparatory work at the site.

And Angus Council is preparing plans to restore the three-span structure to its original condition.

Repairs to the A-listed

bridge will include reusing as much of the original stone as possible.

Alexander Steven designed the bridge, which was completed in 1787 at a cost of £3,128.

His engineering skills played a part in saving Bridge of Dun from being completely destroyed by Storm Babet.

Steven's design featured relief arches built in to withstand flooding. It was one of those which bore the brunt of last October's

storm, leading to part of the roadway collapsing.

The aerial footage reveals the repair operation focused on the southern end of the bridge.

An Angus Council spokesperson said: "We have carefully removed the damaged sections of the structure and ground investigation reports have taken place.

"Working with partner agencies, we have now begun to work on the detailed designs required to repair the bridge."

A listed-building consent application will then be submitted.

"We recognise the historic importance of the Bridge of Dun and intend to re-construct the damaged bridge arch to visually replicate the original structure and use as much of the original stone as possible."

“Ground investigation reports have taken place



AERIAL VIEW: Drone footage of the repair work being carried out at Bridge of Dun, near Montrose, after it was damaged during Storm Babet. Picture by Kim Cessford.

Alyth–Tealing and Tealing –Westfield 400kV OHL Upgrade

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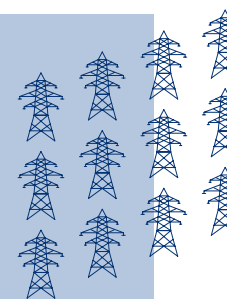
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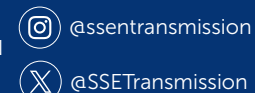
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Alyth-Tealing:



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NEWS

Young achievers in spotlight

Mark Dowie
mark.dowie@nationalworld.com

Exceptional youngsters from across Angus have been honoured at a special event shining a spotlight on the incredible achievements of Angus care experienced young people.

The Promise Awards 2024 took place recently at The Webster Memorial Theatre in Arbroath, celebrating the successes of care experienced young people from across the county.

The event saw over 160 care experienced young people nominated for awards, with all nominees taking home a certificate.

Awards were given for eight categories: Resilience



The evening was hosted by Neil Lowden from Angus Council.

Award, Academic Excellence Award, Creative Genius Award, Community Engagement Award, Sports Achieve-

ment Award, Inspirational Leader Award, Personal Development Award and Friendship Award.

Councillor Lynne Devine, Angus Council's Family, Education and Justice convener, said the awards send out a positive message.

She said: "It's truly inspiring to see so many people and young people from across Angus gather to recognise the achievements of care experienced young people, and to see young people with similar experiences celebrate each other's successes."

"It sends a resounding message to all children and young people in care or who have been in care that regardless of your circumstances you can achieve anything you set your mind to."

The awards were supported by the local community and small businesses and organisations through sponsorship and donations.

Musical recital to finish AGM

President Ann Frith welcomed members to St Vigeans SWI's recent AGM.

Reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer indicated a successful year, with new members joining in competitions and a variety of interesting speakers.

Voting for the new committee took place. The new office-bearers will be announced at the June meeting. A raffle to raise funds for St Vigeans' 100th birthday in January was drawn. There were many prizes and the hampers were won by Sylvia Tasker and Ruth Sinclair.

Competitions: Individual quiche - 1 Lesley Masson, 2 Joyce Lynn; A favourite necklace - 1 Lesley Masson, 2 Ann Wujec, 3 Audrey Hancock.

Linda Ramsey gave a vote of thanks to everyone who had helped in any way, including Erin Frith who had made up picture puzzles for

all the ladies to stretch their minds throughout the evening.

INVERKEILOR WRI

Vice-president Diane Parry welcomed members to the AGM, and after business trophies were presented by Ruth Crichton: Housewives - Diane Parry; Handicrafts - Mary Ogilvie; Overall - Mary Ogilvie, Runner-up Lorna Keillor; Flower of the Month - Mary Ogilvie; Bulb Trophy - Diane Parry; Most Points Housewives - Federation Show - Diane Parry; Most Points Seniors - Federation Show - Mary Ogilvie and May Herron.

Diane introduced the Friends Choir who entertained with a variety of songs. May Herron proposed the vote of thanks. Competitions: Raspberry & Chocolate Blondies - 1 Lorna Keillor, 2 Lesley Ferguson; Flower of the month - 1 Diane Parry, 2 Lorna Keillor.

Alyth-Tealing and Tealing - Westfield 400kV OHL Upgrade



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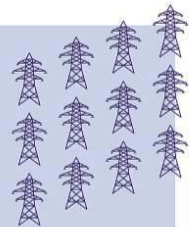
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NEWS

Music Fest weekend



Members of The Evolution Dance Company go through their routine.



Audiokicks performed upstairs in The Starbar.



Youngest performer Ben Hunter (13) with gran Cat (left) and mum Mel.



Liam Andrew James performing on the High Street stage.



A few punters enjoying Montrose Fest in The Market Arms.



The Elaine Stewart Band performing in The Picture House.

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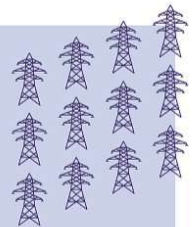
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