

## **Report on Consultation**

### **Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Substations**

**- An Suidhe, Crarae, Craig Murrail and**

**Crossaig North**

**Ref: LT000155, LT000288 and LT000289**

**September 2021**



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Figure 2c: Preferred Site- Craig Murrail

Figure 2d: Preferred Site- Crossaig North

## GLOSSARY

275 kV	275 kilo-volt capacity electricity power line
ABC	Argyll & Bute Council
AIS	Air-insulated substation
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies, or programmes of action.
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GDL	Gardens and Designed Landscapes are defined within Historic Environment Scotland's Inventory of Designed Landscapes in Scotland (2012) as <i>"grounds that are consciously laid out for artistic effect"</i> .
GIS	Gas-insulated substation
ha	Hectares
HER	Historic Environment Record
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation, or alleviation of potential adverse impacts.
NatureScot	Formerly known as Scottish Natural Heritage, is the public body responsible for Scotland's natural heritage, especially its natural, genetic and scenic diversity. It advises the Scottish Government and acts as a government agent in the delivery of conservation designations, i.e. national nature reserves, local nature reserves, national parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and National Scenic Areas.
NSA	National Scenic Area - The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 gives a statutory basis to NSAs and defines them as "areas of outstanding scenic value in a national context".
Overhead Line (OHL)	An electricity line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or poles.
Planning application	An application for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. It should be noted that consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 usually carries with it deemed planning permission from the Scottish Ministers under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
Preferred Site Option	A site for the substation taken forward to stakeholder consultation following a comparative appraisal of Site Options.
RAG rating	Each topic within the environmental, technical and cost categories should be considered in terms of the potential for the development to be constrained and a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating applied as appropriate.
Site Selection Study	The study undertaken to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Site Options and to identify a preferred Site Option based upon the potential environmental impacts identified.
Section 37 (s37) application	An application for development consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989
SM	Scheduled Monument - monuments of national importance which have been afforded legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency

275 kV	275 kilo-volt capacity electricity power line
SPA	Special Protection Area – designated under Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive)
SSEN Transmission	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest – designated by SNH under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SSEN Transmission works.
Study Area	The Study Area for identification of Site Options for each proposed new substation was developed with reference to the location of the Inveraray – Crossaig 275 kV OHL as well as the existing substations at An Suidhe, Crarae and Crossaig (which will be retained).
Wild Land Areas (WLA)	Those areas comprising the greatest and most extensive areas of wild characteristics within Scotland, as classified by SNH (2014).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SSEN Transmission invited members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders to provide comment on the Preferred Site Options for 275 kV substations at four locations along the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (overhead line).

There are four locations at which a new substation is required, namely; An Suidhe, Crarae, Craig Murrail and Crossaig North.

This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process undertaken from June-July 2021. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with statutory and non-statutory organisations, in order to invite feedback on the study undertaken to identify the Preferred Site Options. Consultees were also invited to provide feedback on any factors or environmental features that may have been overlooked during the Preferred Site Option selection process.

The consultation process included the publication of a Consultation Document (10<sup>th</sup> June 2021) to describe the evaluation of the different Site Options and invite interested parties to provide their views. In addition, SSEN Transmission published a Consultation Brochure and Poster, and held three Virtual Consultation Events along with live chat sessions. This report presents a summary of the consultation undertaken by SSEN Transmission, the feedback received and SSEN Transmission's responses to the issues raised.

Key issues emerging from consultation responses include:

- potential impacts on designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets;
- potential impacts on ornithology and ecology,;
- potential impacts on landscape and visual amenity;
- potential impacts on hydrology and the water environment; and
- potential impacts on the surrounding road network.

This report also sets out the next steps in the project design process and identifies where specific issues raised in the consultation responses will be addressed by the scope of the Environmental Appraisals.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of Document

SSEN Transmission is proposing to construct and operate four (4) new 275 kV electricity substations at the following locations:

- in the vicinity of the existing An Suidhe substation;
- in the vicinity of the existing Crarae substation;
- in the vicinity of Craig Murrail, north of Lochgilphead; and
- in the vicinity of the existing Crossaig substation.

These locations are shown on Figures 1a-d (Appendix 1).

This Report on Consultation documents the consultation on the Preferred Site Options in each of the four locations under consideration by SSEN Transmission, which was undertaken during June-July 2021.

The programme of consultation was designed to engage with key stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the rationale for and approach to, the selection of the Preferred Site Options.

The Report on Consultation describes the key feedback received and details SSEN Transmission's responses to the issues raised.

### 1.2 Document Structure

This report is comprised of six sections as follows:

1. Introduction – sets out the purpose of the Report on Consultation;
2. The Proposals – 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. Consultation Feedback and Project Responses – summarises the range of responses and describes how the comments and issues raised during consultation will be addressed; and,
5. Conclusions and Next Steps – provides a summary of the conclusions reached and actions going forward.

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

## 2. THE PROPOSALS

### 2.1 Project Background

Due to the projected increase in renewable energy generation stations in Argyll and Kintyre, a need has been identified for the upgrade and reinforcement of the electricity transmission network on the Argyll and Kintyre peninsula to ensure supply and support the transition to net zero emissions. This includes the construction of four new 275 kV electricity substations located in the vicinity of the existing substations at An Suidhe, Crarae and Crossaig, as well as a further substation to the north of Lochgliphead at Craig Murrail. The existing substation at Crossaig would be retained, while the existing substations at An Suidhe and Crarae would be removed.

### 2.2 Proposal Overview

The proposals would comprise the construction of four new 275 kV substations, with the following characteristics:

- a maximum area of 8 hectares (ha) has been identified for each Site Option, to allow for the installation of either an air-insulated substation (AIS) or a gas-insulated substation (GIS) structure, as well as allowing space for ancillary works, construction laydown areas, access requirements and potential landscaping; and
- an estimated maximum gantry height of 15 m<sup>1</sup>.

The substations would resemble the existing substation shown in Photo 1.1.



**Photo 1.1: Typical Substation design**

### 2.3 Site Options Appraisal

To allow the identification of potential Site Options for the proposed new substations, a Study Area was defined with the following parameters:

- a distance of up to 1 km on either side of the Inveraray-Crossaig 275 kV OHL; and
- a distance of up to 3 km from the existing substations for An Suidhe and Crarae and 20 km to the north of the existing Crossaig substation.

Within the Study Area, five Site Options for An Suidhe, six Site Options for Crarae and seven Site Options for Crossaig North have been identified as illustrated on Figures 1a-d (Appendix 1).

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that, although this consultation was undertaken on the basis of an estimated maximum gantry height of 15 m, the estimated height of the proposed developments has since been revised to an estimated maximum height of 25 m (as detailed in the recent EIA Screening requests; see Chapter 5 of this report).

For Craig Murrail, a site selection exercise was undertaken in 2015. At that time, four substation Site Options were identified and compared. A preference for two of the four Site Options was identified, subject to further site investigation. Based on a civil engineering desk study, an amendment to one of the two preferred Site Options was made and this amended Site Option was ultimately selected as the Preferred Site Option. Some limited further design work was undertaken; however, no site surveys were completed as the project was then put on hold.

In order to ensure that the site selection process is completed in line with the current SSEN Transmission site selection guidance, an additional Site Selection Study has been undertaken in respect of the five substation Site Options considered in 2015.

The summary of the Site Options is as follows:

**An Suidhe**

Overall, Site Option AS1 is considered to be the Preferred Site Option on the basis of least potential for environmental, engineering and cost constraints.

**Crarae**

Overall, Site Option CE5 is considered to be the Preferred Site Option on the basis of least potential for environmental and engineering and cost constraints.

**Craig Murrail**

Overall, the Preferred Site identified in 2015 remains the preferred site on the basis of least potential for environmental, engineering and cost constraints.

**Crossaig North**

Overall, Site Option CG2 is considered to be the preferred site on the basis of least potential for environmental, engineering and cost constraints.

### 3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

#### 3.1 Consultation History

As part of the development of the Inveraray – Crossaig Project, in March 2016, SSEN Transmission consulted on the design and construction of Craig Murrail substation and comments were invited from stakeholders on the proposals. The substation was not progressed due to generation requirements at the time; however, increases in generation requests across the region have triggered the requirement for the substation.

The 2021 consultation process was the first consultation undertaken for the other three substation sites.

#### 3.2 Consultees

Comments were sought from a range of stakeholders both with statutory and non-statutory interest in the consenting process. The list of consultees invited to comment as part of the consultation on the Preferred Route is provided in Table 1.

<b>Table 1: List of Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees</b>	
<b>Statutory Consultees</b>	
Argyll and Bute Council (ABC)	Scottish Forestry (SF)
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Scottish Government (Energy Consents Unit)
NatureScot	Scottish Water
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Transport Scotland
<b>Non-Statutory Consultees</b>	
Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSF)	Argyll Fisheries Trust
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	ScotWays

#### 3.3 Methods of Consultation

##### 3.3.1 Consultation Document

SSEN Transmission published a Consultation Document (10<sup>th</sup> June 2021) to describe the different Site Options evaluated and invite interested parties to provide their views. The Consultation Document was sent to statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (as detailed in Table 1). Comments were requested by 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

##### 3.3.2 Booklet and Posters

In addition, SSEN Transmission published a Consultation Brochure and Poster (30<sup>th</sup> June 2021), both of which provided an overview of the project and consultation process, along with providing details of the virtual public consultation and live web-based chat sessions (see below).

##### 3.3.3 Virtual Consultation

Due to the restrictions in place around social gatherings because of Covid-19, the public consultation was held virtually. SSEN Transmission developed a bespoke platform which allowed stakeholders to visit a virtual consultation room and view the project information at their leisure.

The virtual platform enabled stakeholders to experience the full exhibition from home on a computer, tablet or mobile device. It was designed to look and feel like a face-to-face consultation in a community hall, with exhibition boards, maps, interactive videos and the opportunity to share views on the proposals. As an alternative to face-to-face events which SSEN Transmission would normally hold, a live chat function was available at advertised times to allow attendees to ask questions and get responses from the project team.

The virtual platforms could be accessed from the project website. The consultation document and brochure were also available to view.

The Virtual Consultation Exhibition launched on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and closed on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Live chat sessions were held at the following times:

- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 10am – 1pm & 5pm – 7pm;
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 10am – 1pm & 5pm – 7pm; and
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 10am – 1pm & 5pm – 7pm.

Participants were encouraged to complete a feedback form (via the project website). Phone and email contact details were provided for the Community Liaison Manager for any additional questions or feedback. <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations>.

### 3.3.4 Promotion of the Virtual Consultation

The virtual consultation was advertised using several methods, as summarised in Table 2.

<b>Method</b>	<b>Details</b>
Mail drop: Leaflets	Leaflets were sent out to over 5,000 properties in proximity of the proposals
Dedicated SSEN Transmission Project Website	<a href="https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations">https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations</a>
Consultation Brochure	Shared via Dedicated Project Website (above)
Email to stakeholders to advise of consultation	MSP, MP, Councillors, Community Councils
Press advert	Circulation Argyllshire Advertiser and The Oban Times.
Social media campaign	Promoted through SSEN Transmission LinkedIn page

### 3.3.5 Consultation Questions

SSEN Transmission asked participants in the consultation to consider the following 10 questions:

1. Has the requirement for the Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Substations been clearly explained?
2. Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (AS1) for An Suidhe? (Please explain your answer)
3. If you do not agree with our Preferred An Suidhe Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option? (Please explain your answer)
4. Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (CE5) for Crarae?
5. If you do not agree with our Preferred Crarae Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option? (Please explain your answer)

6. Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (Preferred Site 2015) for Craig Murrail? (Please explain your answer)
7. If you do not agree with our Preferred Craig Murrail Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option?
8. Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (CG2) for Crossaig North? (Please explain your answer)
9. If you do not agree with our Preferred Crossaig North Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option? (Please explain your answer)
10. Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the Preferred Site Option selection process?

## **4. STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK AND PROJECT RESPONSES**

In developing the 275 kV substations projects, technical, environmental, and economic constraints on the design and safe operation of assets have been considered, along with views expressed by stakeholders. Gathering views from a variety of stakeholders is vital to developing and shaping a balanced solution. To ensure transparency throughout the consultation process it is vital to provide the opportunity to share the feedback received from stakeholders.

### **4.1 Overview: Responses to the Consultation Document**

A total of eight (8) written consultation responses to the Consultation Document were received during the consultation period from June to July 2021.

Table 3 provides a summary of the responses to the Consultation Document provided by statutory and non-statutory consultees, along with a reply from SSEN Transmission regarding how the project will be developed to take account of the comments provided as the Proposed Developments move forward into the next phase of development.

Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document		
Organisation	Comment	SSEN Transmission Response
<b>Statutory Consultees</b>		
Argyll & Bute Council (ABC)	<p><b>An Suidhe</b></p> <p>During construction and operation there is potential for impact on the local landscape designation (West Loch Fyne Coastal APQ). The Proposed Development is more visible to receptors on the elevated areas of the East Loch Fyne APQ, from scattered properties along the eastern shore of Loch Fyne between Strachur Bay, to the northern stretches of the Loch Coastline by Clachan.</p> <p>There is theoretical intervisibility for a series of properties contained within Douglas Water Valley, in and around the A83 transport route, the Argyll Caravan Park and Kenmore Core Path (C199); however the existing coniferous forestry screens the visual impact. 8 ha of commercial forestry removal will be required for construction, and mitigation planting may be required to ensure that views remain screened following removal of coniferous forests both in respect of construction operations, but also scheduled felling of the commercial stands.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is within the plateau moor and forest landscape character type, which is one of the less sensitive landscape character types within the LWECs study.</p> <p>The development has potential to result in indirect impacts resulting from changes to the setting of listed buildings and designed landscapes which will have to be addressed in submissions. These include Category B listed Claonairigh House approximately 2 km to the south and the Inveraray Castle garden and designed landscape over 3 km to the north east. These matters will have to be considered carefully in any proposals and advice taken from HES.</p> <p>The Planning Authority at this time can identify no issues of significance which would render the proposed location to be</p>	<p>ABC's comments regarding landscape and visual impacts and potential impacts on the setting of cultural heritage assets and the need for careful mitigation is noted.</p> <p>In addition, ABC's comment regarding the greater loss of woodland, and potential consequences and mitigation in respect of GWDTEs is noted.</p> <p>Further consultation with ABC will be undertaken throughout the Environmental Assessment stage of the Projects, to ensure that potential impacts on landscape integration, design, landscaping, ecological, cultural heritage, flooding and traffic matters are understood and assessed, prior to a planning application being submitted.</p>

**Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document**

	<p>unsuitable for the proposed development on point of principle, subject to more detailed considerations in respect of landscape integration, design, landscaping, ecological, cultural heritage, flooding and traffic matters.</p> <p><b>Crarae</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development does not sit within a nationally designated landscape. The Proposed Development is approximately 1.6 km west of a locally designated landscape, West Loch Fyne (coast) Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ) and 4 km west of East Loch Fyne (coast) APQ. The closest residential receptors are over 500 m down slope.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is within commercial coniferous plantation of low ecological and conservation value though there is acknowledged potential for red squirrel dreys. There is also an area of marshy grassland within the site which has potential for Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) and further assessment will require to be undertaken to clarify this. Knapdale Loch SPA is over 17 km to the west. There are no sites within 5km designated for habitat.</p> <p>Crarae Garden and Designed Landscape is approximately 1.8 km to the east. Crarae Lodge scheduled monument is approximately 2.4 km to the south east. Brainport Bay scheduled monuments are approximately 2.5 km to the south. Minard Castle Category B listed building is approximately 3 km to the south.</p> <p>It is acknowledged in submissions that: <i>Assessment of the wider area indicates some potential for direct impacts to buried archaeological remains. A mitigation strategy will be developed in consultation with the council archaeologist. This will aim to minimise impacts through fieldwork and input into project design.</i></p> <p>The closest watercourse is Abhainn Bhaeg An Tunns, adjacent to the Proposed Development. The SEPA flood map indicates that the Proposed Development contains very small pockets of high-medium</p>	
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**Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document**

	<p>likelihood surface water flooding. Such matters will require to be addressed in any application.</p> <p>The nearest noise sensitive receptor is approximately 500 m from the Proposed Development. It is noted that submissions state: <i>The level of noise emitted during normal operation of the substation is not considered likely to be significant at the closest receptor. This will be confirmed through baseline survey and assessment as appropriate. This will be included in the environmental appraisal to be submitted with the Planning Application.</i></p> <p>The Planning Authority at this time can identify no issues of significance which would render the proposed location to be unsuitable for the proposed development on point of principle, subject to more detailed considerations in respect of landscape integration, design, landscaping, ecological, cultural heritage, flooding and traffic matters.</p> <p><b>Craig Murrail</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development does not sit within a nationally or locally designated landscape. It is approximately 1.8 km south east of the Knapdale National Scenic Area (NSA). The West Loch Fyne (Coast) Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ) is 3.3 km east. The closest residential receptors are located approximately 1.3 km away.</p> <p>The majority of the Proposed Development is commercial coniferous plantation of lower ecological and conservation value. This coniferous forestry limits visibility of the site from the Knapdale NSA, however details of felling schedules will be required to ensure this landscape mitigation remains, and/or landscaping proposals around the site should be brought forward as part of any application to ensure that such mitigation features are retained in perpetuity in reducing views from the Knapdale NSA.</p> <p>The Planning Authority at this time can identify no issues of significance which would render the proposed location to be unsuitable for the proposed development on point of principle, subject to more detailed considerations in respect of landscape</p>	
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**Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document**

	<p>integration, design, landscaping, ecological, cultural heritage, flooding and traffic matters.</p> <p><b>Crossaig North</b></p> <p>The general location of the substation is considered acceptable in principle being in an upland moorland area located within the Argyll Landscape Character Type (LCT). Plateau Moorland and Forest which is determined to be of lower relative sensitivity, subject to not being near transitional and more sensitive landscape areas.</p> <p>The landscape in this locality contains visible windfarms from near-long range views which, as larger and moving structures, tend to draw the eye in a manner which a substation would not. Officers consider that the distance involved from the NSA renders it unlikely that the proposals would have significant impacts, particularly if suitable design and landscaping mitigation is provided to break up any perceived “industrial scale” massing or compound scale.</p> <p>The Planning Authority at this time can identify no issues of significance which would render the proposed location unsuitable for the proposed development on point of principle, subject to more detailed considerations in respect of landscape integration, design, landscaping, ecological, cultural heritage, flooding and traffic matters.</p> <p><b>Concluding Comments</b></p> <p>The basic survey and evaluation approach, and RAG Matrix analysis evaluation provided for each substation, and the options associated with it, is accepted as a reasonable basis upon which to proceed with the project (s) by the Planning Authority. In respect of the preferred option(s), the Planning Authority would advise that on this type of project, cost should not be a substantive and defining matter if environmental impacts would be increased as a result of this weighting. It is accepted that cost can be a material planning consideration, however, unless this is substantially more than other options and unreasonable, the more environmentally acceptable solution should always be pursued even although this may be more expensive. This should be the default approach.</p>	
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**Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document**

	<p>The LDP and LDP 2 contain policies which address landscape integration, biodiversity, ecology, historic environment, flooding, traffic and peat matters which will inform the determination of any application and the Planning Authority will also have regard to the views of both internal and external consultees, as well as public consultation responses provided in respect of PAN and subsequent PAC submissions in respect of any future planning applications.</p> <p>There are separate screening applications for all four substations which are at time of writing outstanding. Therefore, any commentary in this response should be taken as the informal views of planning officers which does not constrain the findings of the screening opinions, where a formal determination on whether an EIA for each substation is required will be issued.</p>	
<p>Historic Environment Scotland (HES)</p>	<p>HES notes that the proposed Crarae substation may have the potential to impact the setting of the Crarae Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL00118) and the proposed Craig Murrail substation may have the potential to affect the setting of Scheduled Monument SM173 Auchoish, long cairn 900 m NE of.</p> <p><b>Crarae IGDL (GDL00118)</b></p> <p>HES agrees with the assessment in the submitted Consultation Document that Options ‘CE2’ and ‘CE3’ would have the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the setting of the GDL. We note that the report states that Option CE5 is the preferred option. However, all options at Crarae should be carefully assessed in terms of their impact on the setting of the GDL, including views from the garden as well as views towards the garden across Loch Fyne.</p> <p><b>Auchoish, long cairn 900 m NE of (SM173)</b></p> <p>HES considers it unlikely that a substation within the options closest to the monument (‘2015 preferred site’ and ‘CM1’) would significantly impact the setting of the scheduled long cairn (SN173). However, we would recommend that any planning application for the above</p>	<p>Detailed cultural heritage surveys and assessment will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment process, prior to a planning application being submitted.</p> <p>Further consultation with HES will be undertaken throughout the Environmental Assessment stage of the Projects, to ensure that potential impacts on cultural heritage are understood and assessed. This will include detailed assessment of the potential for direct and indirect (setting) effects on heritage assets.</p>

**Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document**

	development is supported with visualisations depicting views of the proposed development to and from the designated asset (SM173).	
NatureScot	<p>None of the proposed substations are located within sites nationally or internationally designated for natural heritage features. In addition, they are not located in areas of national landscape significance (i.e. National Scenic Areas or Wild Land Areas).</p> <p>For all sites, there is potential for disturbance to sensitive habitats and woodland birds and animals, and once the candidate site has been confirmed they should be surveyed appropriately. Note the potential for black grouse, especially on forest tracks. Should semi-natural broadleaved woodland be required to be felled to accommodate the substations, there should be an allowance for compensatory planting. It is also noted that some of the sites may be located on peaty soils and, as such, a peat management plan may be required.</p> <p>Environmental information collected as part of the Inveraray – Crossaig OHL works (as well as other publicly available sources e.g. wind farm EIA Reports) should be reviewed to provide context for environmental sensitivities at each of the proposed substation locations.</p> <p><b>Site specific comments:</b></p> <p><b>An Suidhe – AS1 preferred option</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lies within golden eagle range LAE1B. Suggest consult with Argyll Raptor Study Group to ensure sites are not located close to known nest sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>Crarae – CE5 preferred option</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is potential for divers to breed on Loch Feorlin.</li> </ul> <p><b>Craig Murrail - Preferred site 2015</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific comments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Crossaig – CG2 preferred option</b></p>	<p>Further ornithology and ecology surveys and assessment will be undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process, prior to a planning application being submitted.</p> <p>The presence of the golden eagle ranges in proximity to the proposed substations at An Suidhe and at Crossaig North is noted and further survey, as well as consultation with Argyll Raptor Study Group, will be undertaken to understand and assess potential impacts.</p> <p>Further consultation with NatureScot will also be undertaken throughout the environmental assessment stage of the Projects, to ensure that potential impacts on ornithology and ecology and on landscape and visual amenity are understood and assessed.</p>

<b>Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We note the potential for visibility from North Arran WLA / NSA, however the substation would sit behind the existing Crossaig substation. There could be potential for screening of the substation to an extent by planting broadleaved shrubby trees.</li> <li>Lies within golden eagle range G/KM<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>	
SEPA	<p>SEPA welcomes that the preferred substation sites appear to avoid peat-heavy sites.</p> <p>More detailed comments will be made as and when proposals evolve.</p>	Further consultation with SEPA will be undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process, prior to a planning application being submitted.
Scottish Forestry	<p>All of the preferred sites will impact commercial woodland to some extent, with the potential for increasing operating costs for commercial woodlands and further fragmenting woodland. Integration of the sites into future forest design plans is a key part of the development process and should include forest landscape considerations.</p> <p>The only site on which we want to make specific comment is AS1. Scottish Forestry is concerned about the potential for removal or damage to semi-natural broadleaved woodland. In this case the woodland forms an important part of the riparian native woodland network.</p> <p>Within the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy, there is a strong presumption against woodland removal applied to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodland types listed in the EC Habitats Directive;</li> <li>UK BAP priority woodland types in areas mainly composed of ancient, semi-natural woodland (ASNW), ancient woodlands planted with native species, long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO) with significant biodiversity interest, or well [1] established semi-natural priority woodland types.</li> </ul>	<p>Further ecology surveys and assessment will be undertaken as part of the detailed site design and subsequent environmental assessment process, prior to a planning application being submitted. In this case, it is likely that, through micro-siting, any impact on the semi-natural broadleaved woodland on Site Option AS1 can be avoided or minimised. Site Options AS2 and AS3 are less preferred on the basis that they would require the construction of additional access tracks, and diversion of existing 33 kV distribution assets.</p> <p>Further consultation with SF will be undertaken throughout the environmental assessment stage of the Projects, to ensure that the Proposed Developments can be integrated into future forest design plans and that potential impacts on forestry and woodland are understood and assessed.</p>
Scottish Government (Energy Consents Unit)	The Energy Consents Unit can provide you with screening/ scoping opinions or accept an application at the appropriate time based on	Section 37 consents are required for the amendments needed to the Inveraray – Crossaig OHL, in order to connect An Suidhe, Crarae and Crossaig North. SSEN

<b>Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document</b>		
	<p>the input from consultees under these processes, but we have no comments unless those processes are engaged.</p>	<p>Transmission has recently submitted an EIA screening request in relation to the proposed Section 37 consent applications to the ECU, and further consultation with the ECU will also be undertaken throughout the environmental assessment stage of the Projects. Details of the OHL elements will be described and assessed within the substation Environmental Appraisal.</p>
<p>Scottish Water</p>	<p>With the exception of the Crarae Substation Plans, all other sites fall into Drinking Water Catchments and have various impact on our Scottish Water Assets. If you submit plans to our Asset Impact Team through our Customer Portal they should be able to advise on what precautions are required. Crarae substation still does have assets within the site boundary.</p> <p>Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at <a href="http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm">www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm</a>.</p>	<p>Detailed hydrology surveys and assessment will be undertaken as part of the detailed site design and subsequent environmental assessment process, prior to a planning application being submitted.</p> <p>Further consultation with Scottish Water will be undertaken throughout the environmental assessment stage of the Projects, to ensure that potential impacts on the water environment are understood and assessed. This will include a detailed assessment of the potential for effects on Scottish Water assets in proximity to the Proposed Developments.</p>
<p>Transport Scotland</p>	<p>The nearest trunk road to all four options is the A83(T).</p> <p>Having reviewed the options for the locations of the four substations, Transport Scotland (TS) notes that none of the locations for the four substations cross or run near to the trunk road. Consequently, TS is satisfied that, in terms of location, there will be no direct impact on the trunk road network. However, a threshold assessment of the potential impact of construction traffic will be required to see if there is a requirement for a detailed assessment of potential related environmental effects. TS envisage that a full EIA scoping exercise will be undertaken for the substation sites and Transport Scotland will be provided detailed comments on assessment requirements at that time.</p>	<p>Consideration has been given to traffic and transport as part of the EIA Screening and subsequent environmental assessment process, prior to a planning application being submitted.</p> <p>Further consultation with Transport Scotland will be undertaken throughout the environmental assessment stage of the Projects, to ensure that potential impacts on the trunk road network are understood and assessed.</p>

**Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document**

	<p><b>Abnormal Loads Assessment</b></p> <p>In the event that abnormal loaded are required to transport components via the trunk road network, TS will require to be satisfied that they can negotiate the selected route and that their transportation will not have any detrimental effect on structures within the trunk road route path. If abnormal loads are envisaged, then a full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided which identifies key pinch points on the trunk road network. Swept path analysis should be undertaken and details provided with regard to any required changes to street furniture or structures along the route.</p>	
<p><b>Non-Statutory Consultees</b></p>		
<p>Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSFB)</p>	<p>The ADSFB responded that they would not be providing a comment on the consultation.</p>	<p>No response required</p>
<p>RSPB</p>	<p><b>An Suidhe</b></p> <p>RSPB notes that AS1 is the preferred Site Option being put forward, however, we would recommend that AS2 or AS3 be taken forward. The footprints of AS2 and AS3 fall within commercial forestry whereas the footprint of AS1 contains an area of semi-natural woodland (as noted on Figure 2A). This type of habitat is of much higher biodiversity value than commercial forestry and should be protected from development.</p> <p>RSPB have no major concerns in relation to the preferred sites for Crarae (CE5), Craig Murrail (Preferred Site 2015) and Crossaig North (CG2), which fall within areas of commercial forestry highlighted as Class 5 peatland.</p> <p><b>Western Atlantic Rainforest</b></p> <p>RSPB would recommend that, for any area of woodland that is removed, native broadleaves such as oak, hazel and rowan are planted to compensate for this loss. The cumulative area of removed woodland should be planted at one site rather than different patches</p>	<p>Further ecology surveys and assessment will be undertaken as part of the detailed site design and subsequent environmental assessment process, prior to a planning application being submitted. In the case of An Suidhe, it is likely that, through micro-siting, potential impacts on the semi-natural broadleaved woodland on Site Option AS1 can be avoided or minimised. Site Options AS2 and AS3 are less preferred on the basis that they would require the construction of additional access tracks, and diversion of existing 33 kV distribution assets.</p> <p>Further consultation with RSPB will be undertaken throughout the environmental assessment stage of the Projects, to ensure that potential impacts on ecology and ornithology are understood and assessed.</p>

**Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents to Consultation Document**

	as this will provide the most habitat for wildlife and be of greatest benefit. This type of planting can deliver for species such as red squirrel and black grouse.	
Scotways	No response received to date.	No response required

## 4.2 Overview: Public Consultation Responses

### 4.2.1 Snapshot of the Virtual engagement

The consultation period opened on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and closed on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021 all responses received during this time were considered by the project team and included within this report. Any responses received outside of this time frame will be considered by the team however, they will not be included within this report. Stakeholders were able to view information about the project on the SSEN website, access to the virtual consultation room and complete the feedback form.

During the 5 week consultation period the Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Strategy web page was viewed 591 times. The project specific webpage for the Argyll and Kintyre substations was viewed 32 times during this period.

**Table 4: Visits to the virtual consultation portal stats from period 12<sup>th</sup> July - 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021:**

Page views	384
Unique page views	350
Average time on page	4 minutes 35 seconds

**Table 5: Conversations taking place in the Consultations**

14 <sup>th</sup> July	8 conversations
15 <sup>th</sup> July	1 conversation
29 <sup>th</sup> July	6 conversations

Most of these conversations appear to be general enquiries about all of the 275 kV Strategy projects with two (2) enquiries about the Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Substations, a further breakdown is shown in Table 6 below:

**Table 6: Breakdown of Conversations from Consultations**

General enquiries	6
Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kv Connection	5
Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Substations	2
Misc/Not specified	2

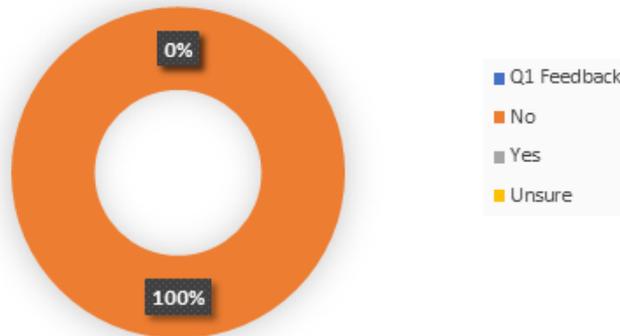
### 4.2.2 Consultation feedback

SSEN Transmission received five completed feedback forms from stakeholders and one written response, these have been included in the feedback analysis. Where sections of their feedback had

questions, these will be answered in the FAQ section on the project website <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations>. The following collates the information from the online feedback forms received.

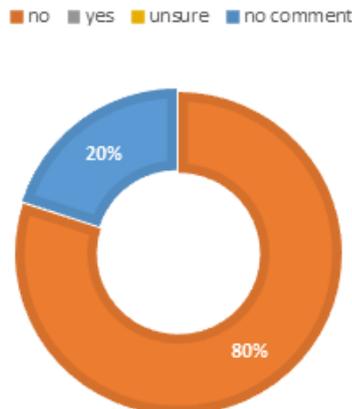
**Q1 Has the requirement for the Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Substations been clearly explained?**

100% (5) choose no for this section that the requirement hasn't been clearly explained.



**Q2 Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (AS1) for An Suidhe?**

Out of the 5 respondents of this question, 80% (4) choose no for this section and 20% left this section blank (1).

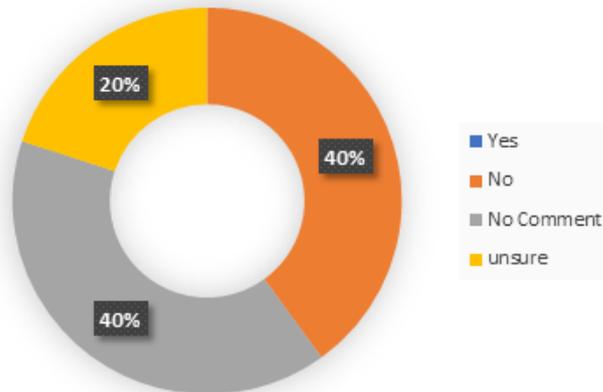


**Q3 If you do not agree with our Preferred An Suidhe Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option?**

This section was left blank by the five participants.

**Q4 Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (CE5) for Craae?**

Out of the 5 people that participated, 40% (2) choose no, 1 person choose unsure and 1 person chose no and unsure.

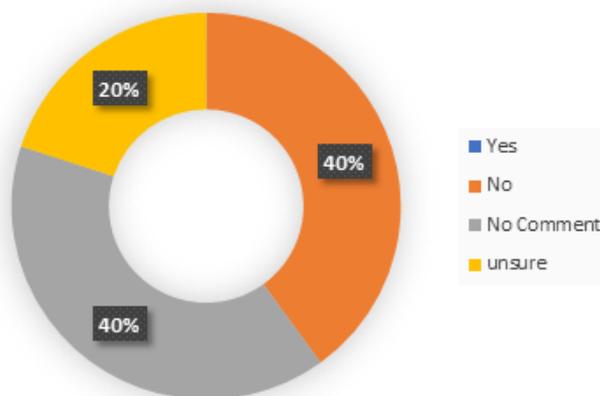


**Q5 If you do not agree with our Preferred Crarae Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option?**

All five participants choose to leave this section blank.

**Q6 Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (Preferred Site 2015) for Craig Murrail?**

Out of the 5 participants, 40% choose no (2), 20% (1) choose unsure and 40% (2) left this section blank.



**Q7 If you do not agree with our Preferred Craig Murrail Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option?**

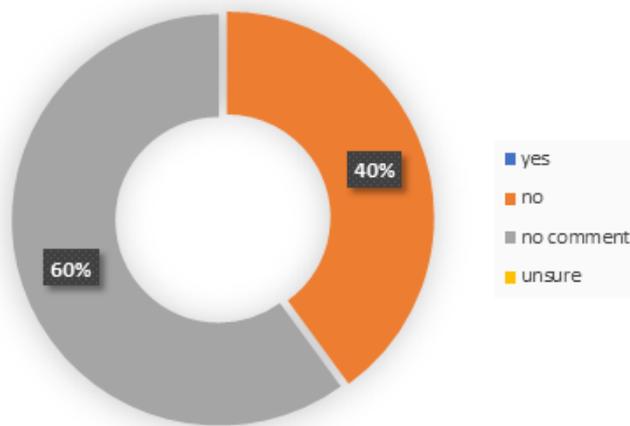
This section was left blank by participants.

**Q7 If you do not agree with our Preferred Craig Murrail Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option?**

This section was left blank by participants.

**Q8 Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (CG2) for Crossaig North?**

40% (2) of participants choose no and 60% (3) choose to leave this section blank.



**Q9 If you do not agree with our Preferred Crossaig North Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option?**

This section was left blank by participants

**Q 10 Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the Preferred Site Option selection process?**

Only two participants commented on this section;

- No information about what the sites will look like from various viewpoints
- The economic benefits of this go to the shareholders to the detriment of the local economy

**Further comments**

In the last section of the feedback forms SSEN Transmission gave the local community the opportunity to provide any further comments regarding the project or the consultation out of the five responses the comments were mixed:

- Project is good environmentally but not enough information.
- Not enough visuals presented.
- Not enough information on the effects and impact that it will have on the environment, local economy and the local community
- The virtual consultation didn't compare to it being a physical consultation.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This document sets out the project responses to consultations received during the stakeholder consultation process.

Key issues emerging from consultation responses include:

- potential impacts on designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets;
- potential impacts on ornithology and ecology;
- potential impacts on landscape and visual amenity;
- potential impacts on hydrology and the water environment; and
- potential impacts on the surrounding road network.

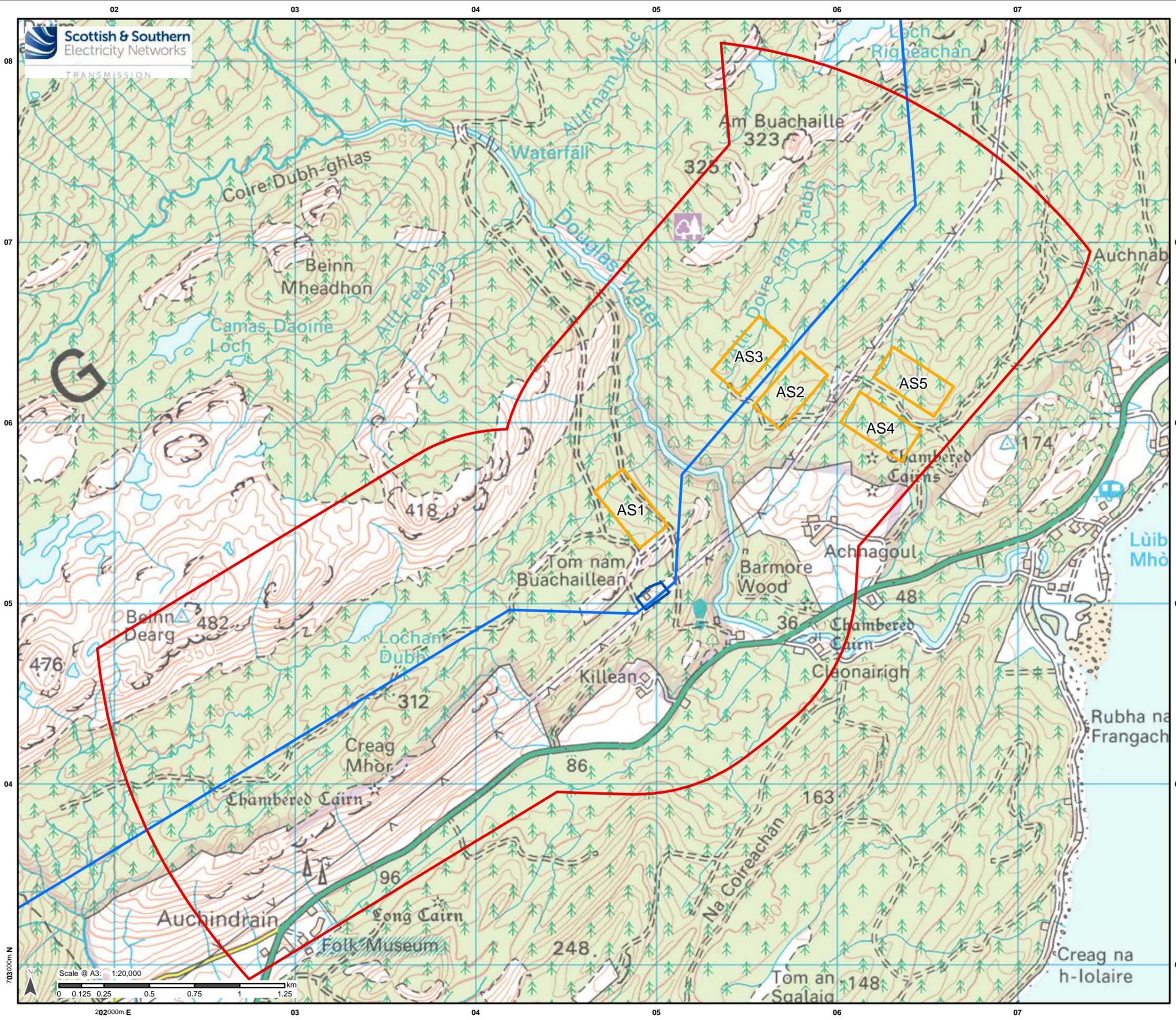
Having reviewed the comments and issues raised, SSEN Transmission is satisfied that these can be addressed at the next stage of the development process for the proposed substations. Therefore, the Preferred Site Options as set out in Chapter 2 of this report will now be adopted as the Proposed Sites. In the case of the Proposed Site for Crossaig North (CG2), it should be noted that the site boundary has been re-orientated, as shown on Figure 2d, following the receipt of landowner feedback and the results from peat probing survey.

The locations of the Proposed Sites are shown on Figures 2a -2d (Appendix 1).

The next stages of the Projects are as follows:

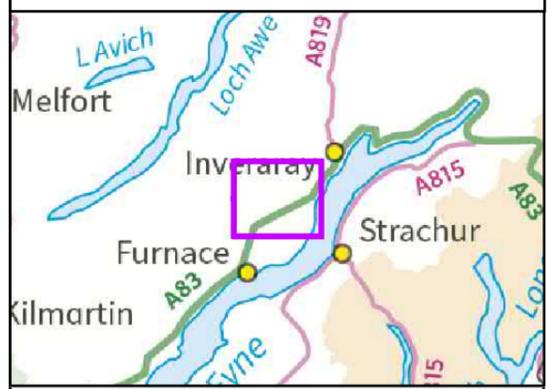
1. Detailed Site Design and EIA Screening – Following the identification of the Proposed Sites, SSEN Transmission will carry out detailed design work to identify a site layout for each proposed substation, taking account of the key environmental constraints and consultation feedback received. EIA Screening requests for the Proposed Developments have been made to ABC and the ECU on the basis of the detailed site layouts.
2. Environmental Appraisals – Once a detailed site layout is agreed for each substation, SSEN Transmission will continue to undertake further surveys and detailed Environmental Appraisals will be carried out as the Projects progress. Further consultation with statutory and other stakeholders is anticipated to take place in November 2021, which will be the final phase of pre-application consultation prior to submission of the planning applications.
3. Applications – Following the formal pre-application consultation stage, SSEN Transmission will consider the final details of its proposals before submitting applications to ABC for planning permission under the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*, as amended, for each proposed substation. Consents for the An Suidhe, Carare and Crossaig North OHL elements will also be sought under the *Electricity Act 1989*. There will be further opportunity for comments to be submitted in relation to the applications and accompanying Environmental Appraisals to ABC.
4. Further Information – Further information will also be posted on the project website, including the summary of the feedback/ questions and SSEN Transmission's responses from the Virtual Consultation events at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations>.

## **APPENDIX 1: FIGURES**



**Legend**

- Site Option
- Study Area
- Existing An Suidhe Substation (To be removed)
- Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



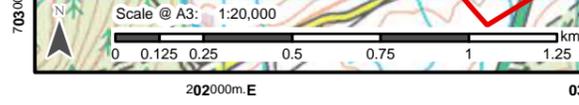
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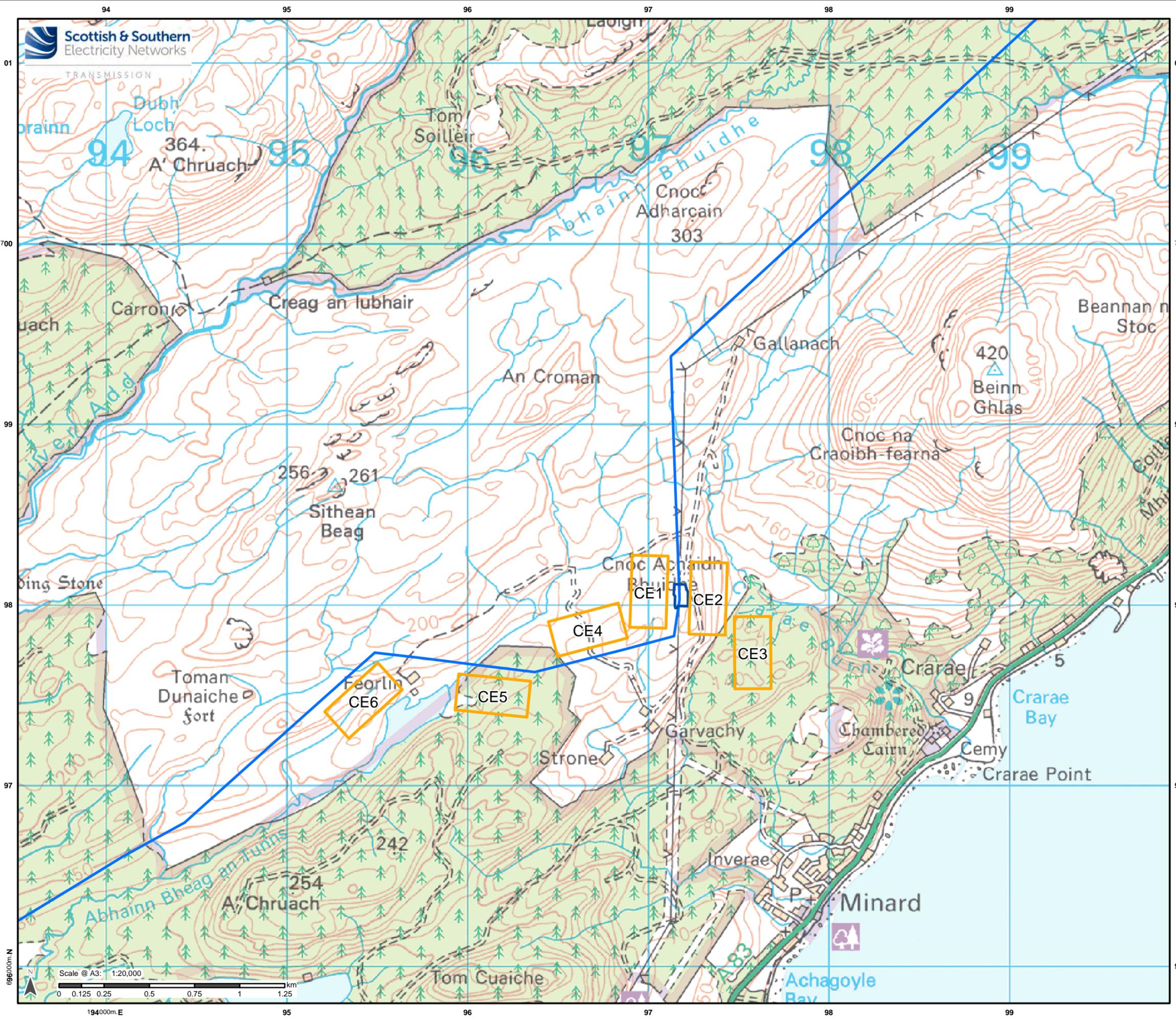
Project No: LT000288  
Project: 1620011091-002: Argyll substations

Title: North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: An Suidhe Substation  
Figure 1a: Site Options

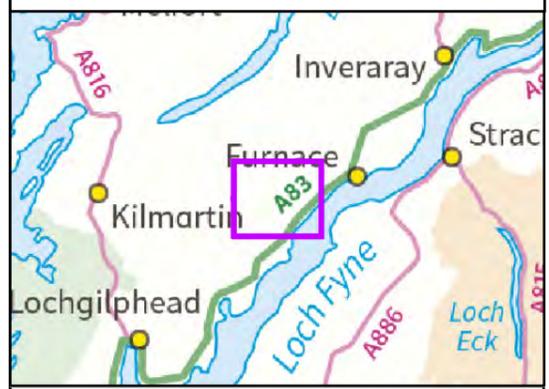
Drawn by: CF Date: 07/09/2021

Drawing: Fig1a\_SiteOptions\_AnSuidhe\_B





- Legend**
- Site Option
  - Existing Crarae Substation (To be removed)
  - Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



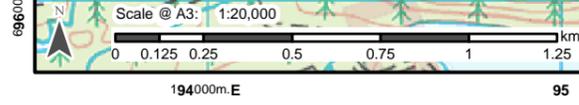
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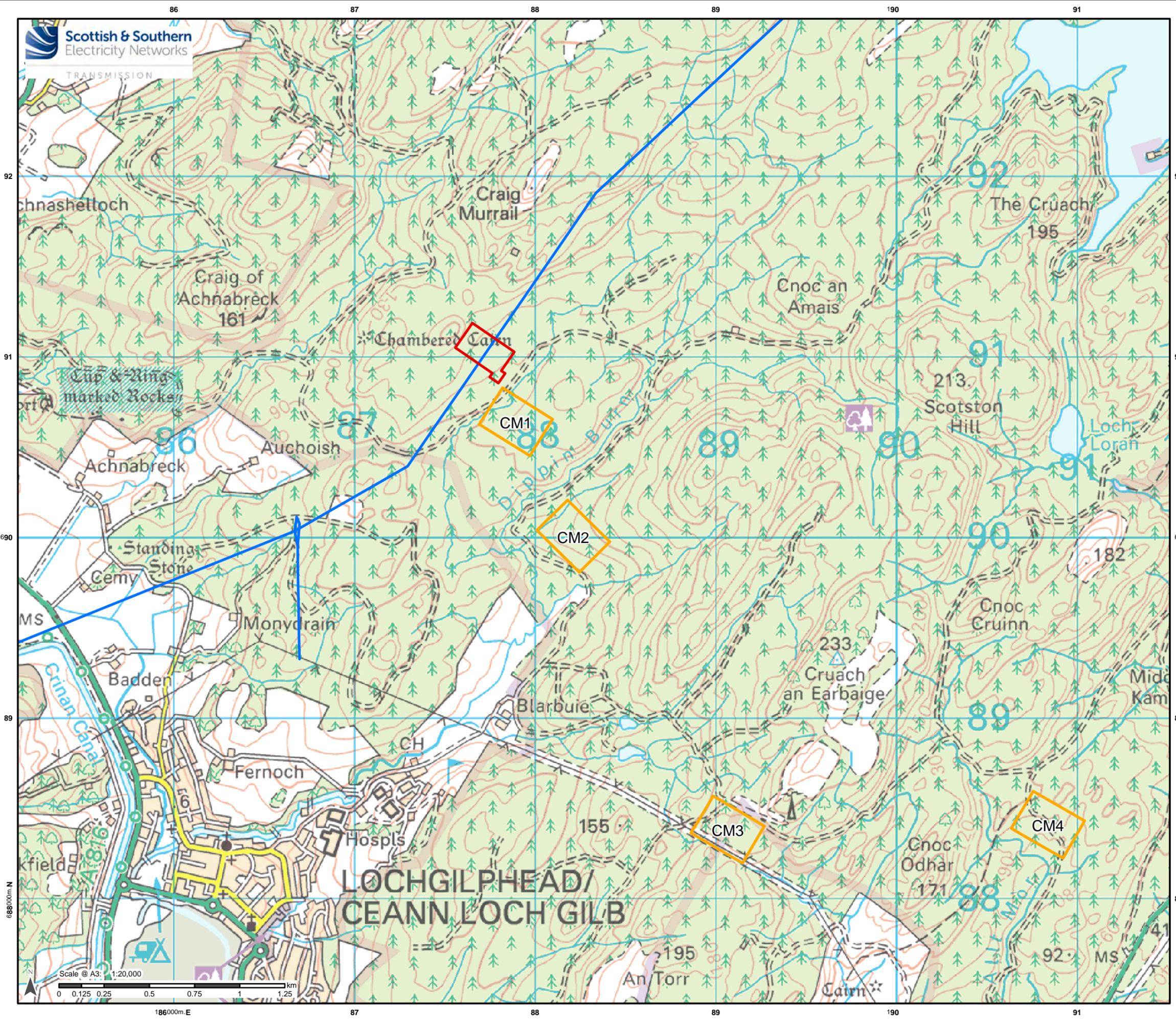
Project No: LT000288  
Project: 1620011091-002: Argyll substations

Title: North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: Crarae Substation  
Figure 1b: Site Options

Drawn by: CF Date: 07/09/2021

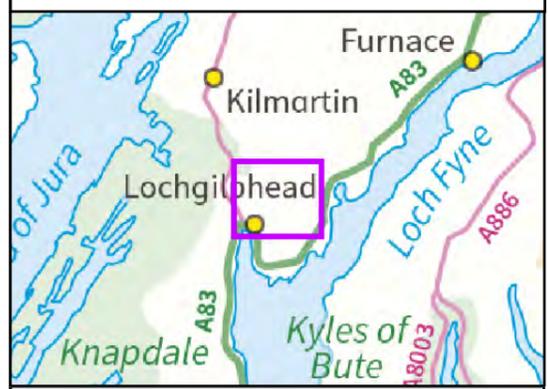
Drawing: Fig1b\_SiteOptions\_Crarae\_B





**Legend**

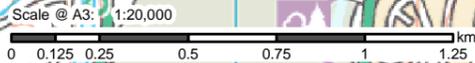
- Site Option
- Preferred Site 2015
- Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



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Project No:	LT000155
Project:	1620011091-002: Argyll substations
Title:	North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: Craigherris Substation Figure 1c: Site Options
Drawn by:	CF
Date:	03/09/2021
Drawing:	Fig1c_SiteOptions_Craigherris_A

688000m N



186000m E

**LOCHGILPHEAD/  
CEANN LOCH GILB**



**Legend**

- Site Option
- Existing Crossaig Substation (To be retained)
- Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



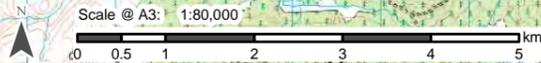
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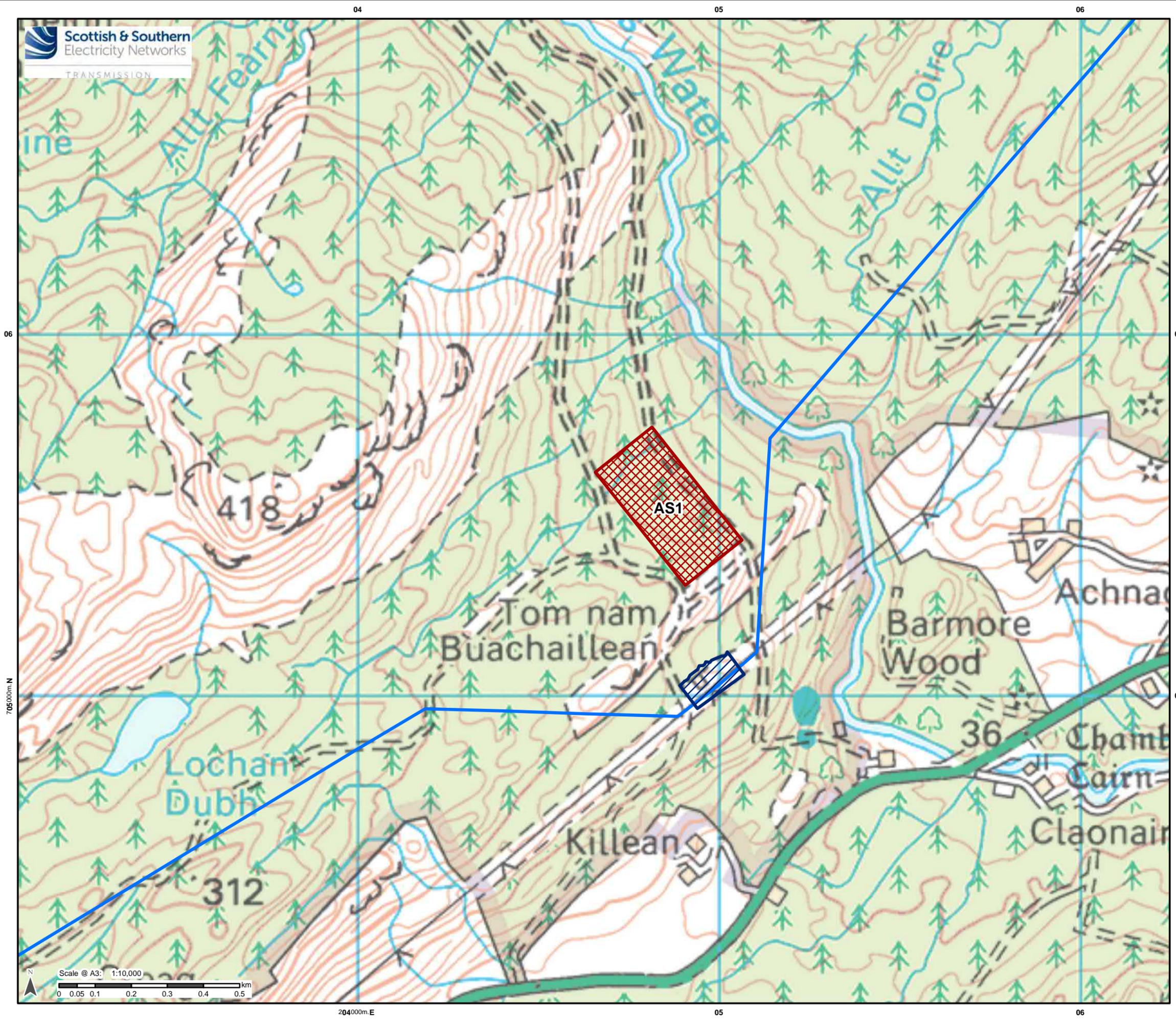
Project No: LT000289  
Project: 1620011091-002: Argyll substations

Title: North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: Crossaig North Substation  
Figure 1d - Site Options

Drawn by: CF Date: 03/09/2021

Drawing: Fig1d\_SiteOptions\_Crossaig\_B





**Legend**

-  Preferred Site Option - AS1
-  Existing An Suidhe Substation (To be removed)
-  Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



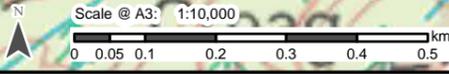
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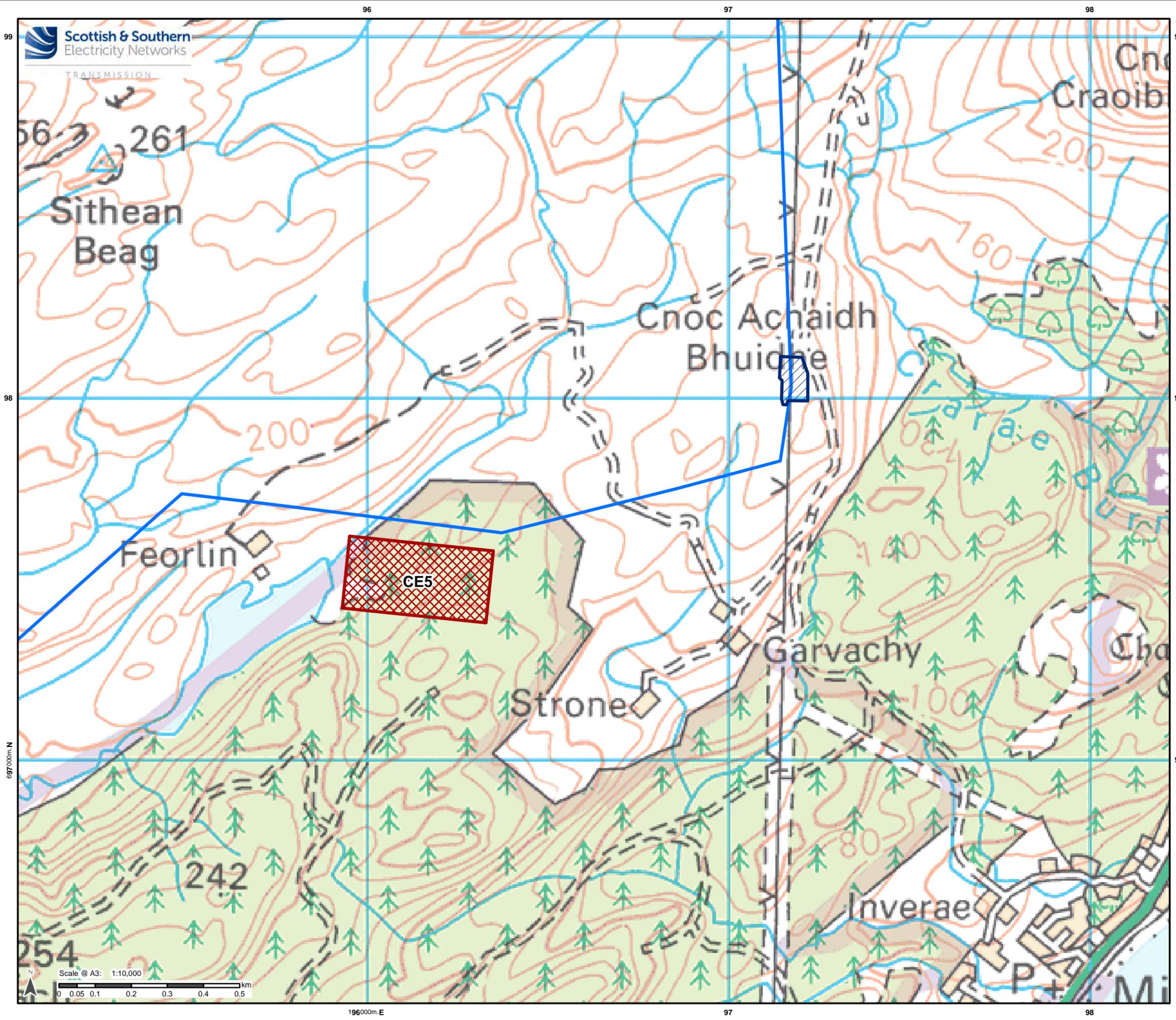
Project No: LT000288  
Project: 1620011091-002: Argyll substations

Title: North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: An Suidhe Substation  
Figure 2a: Preferred Site - An Suidhe

Drawn by: CF Date: 07/09/2021

Drawing: Fig2a\_PREFERREDSITE\_AnSuidhe\_B





**Legend**

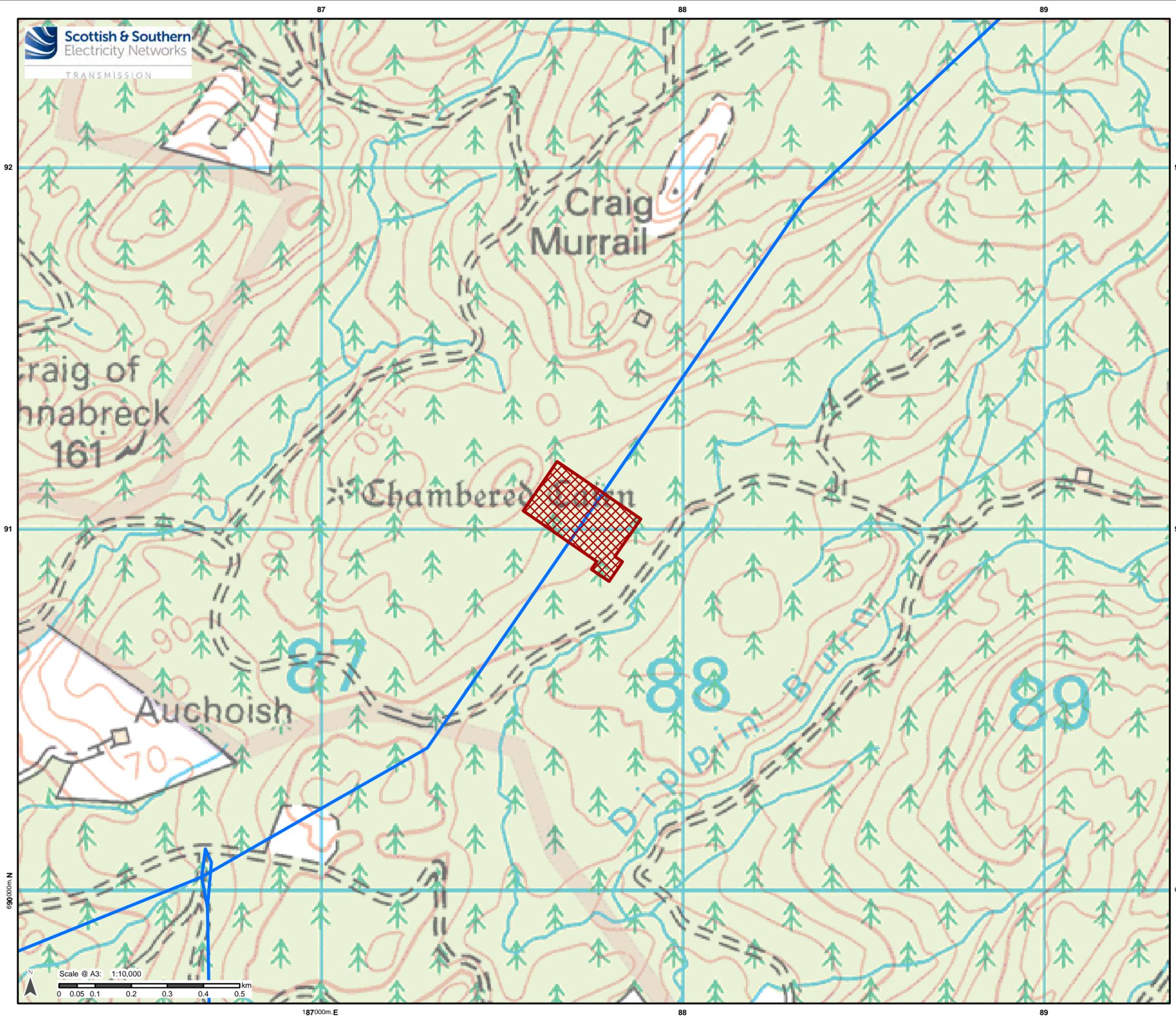
-  Preferred Site Option - CE5
-  Existing Crarae Substation (To be removed)
-  Inveraray to Crossraig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



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Project No:	LT000288
Project:	1620011091-002: Argyll substations
Title:	North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: Crarae Substation Figure 2b: Preferred Site - Crarae
Drawn by:	CF
Date:	07/09/2021
Drawing:	Fig2b_PreferredSite_Crarae_A





**Legend**

-  Preferred Site 2015
-  Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



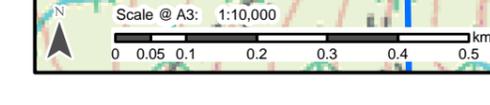
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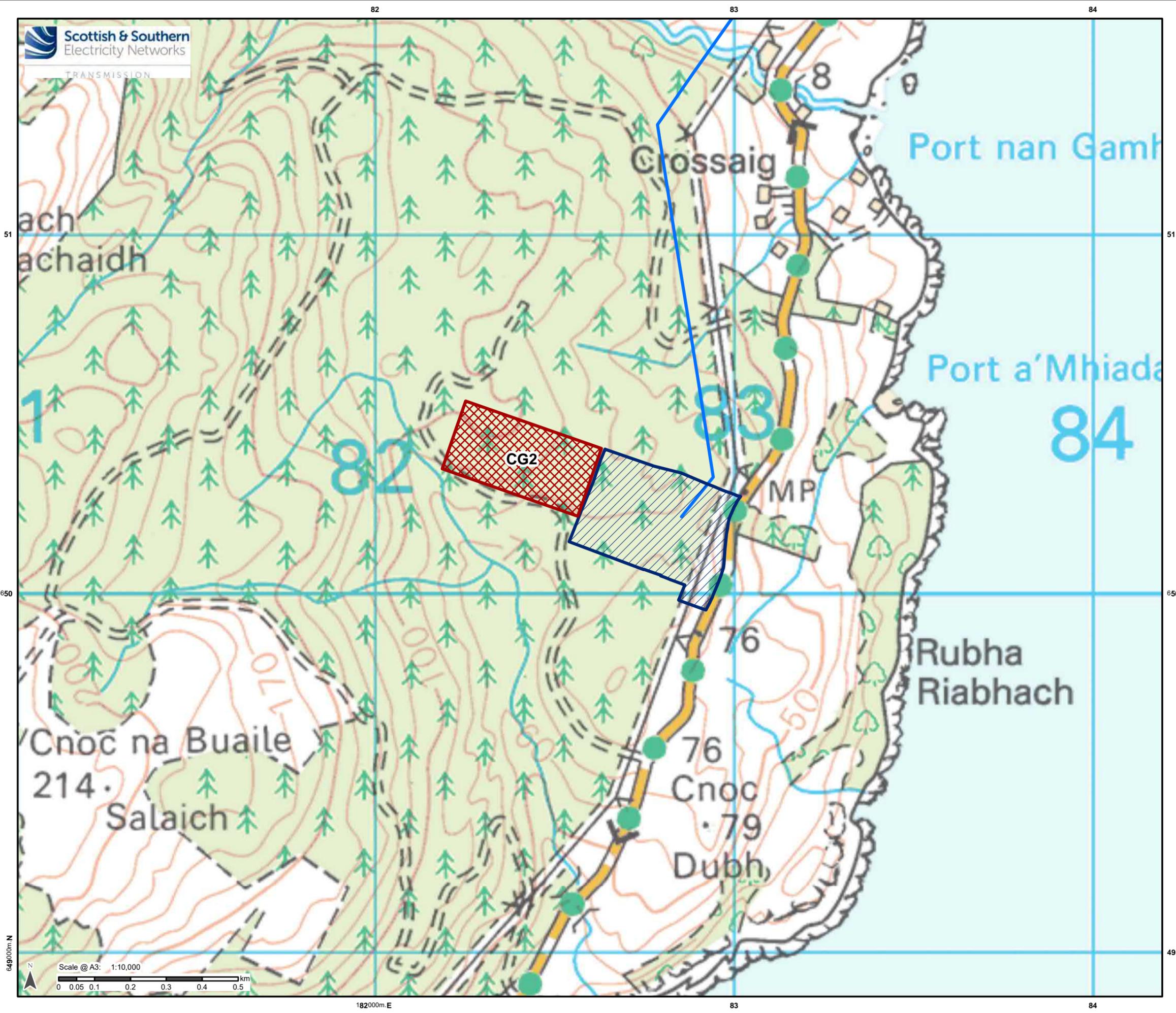
Project No: LT000155  
 Project: 1620011091-002: Argyll substations

Title: North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: Craig Murrail Substation  
 Figure 2c: Preferred Site - Craig Murrail

Drawn by: CF Date: 03/09/2021

Drawing: Fig2c\_PreferredSite\_CraigMurrail\_A





**Legend**

-  Preferred Site Option – CG2 (re-aligned)
-  Existing Crossaig Substation (To be retained)
-  Inveraray to Crossaig 275 kV OHL (under construction)



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Project No:	LT000289
Project:	1620011091-002: Argyll substations
Title:	North Argyll 275 kV Upgrade: Crossaig Substation
	Figure 2d - Preferred Site - Crossaig North
Drawn by:	CF
Date:	03/09/2021
Drawing:	Fig2d_PreferredSite_Crossaig_C



649000m N

182000m E

## **APPENDIX 2: CONSULTATION BROCHURE**

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy Consultation Booklet

July 2021

Share your views with us:



We are launching a virtual consultation exhibition to gain views and feedback on our proposals for our Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy. This strategy includes our plans for the previously consulted upon Creag Dhubh - Dalmally 275kV Connection project, alongside two new projects; Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line and Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations.

Information on our proposals is available within this consultation booklet, and we also invite you to view our virtual consultation portal where we will hold live IM chat sessions at the following dates and times:

- Wednesday 14th July - 10am-1pm & 5-7pm
- Thursday 15th July - 10am-1pm & 5-7pm
- Thursday 29th July - 10am-1pm & 5-7pm

For more information, please visit:  
[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/)

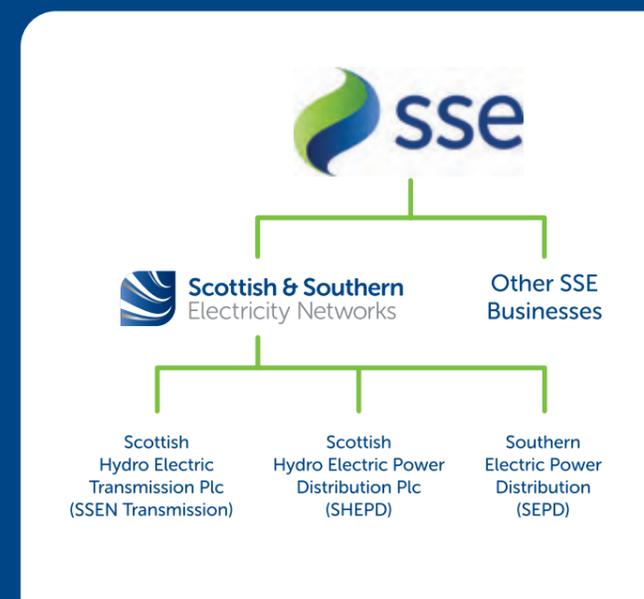


**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

# Who We Are

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

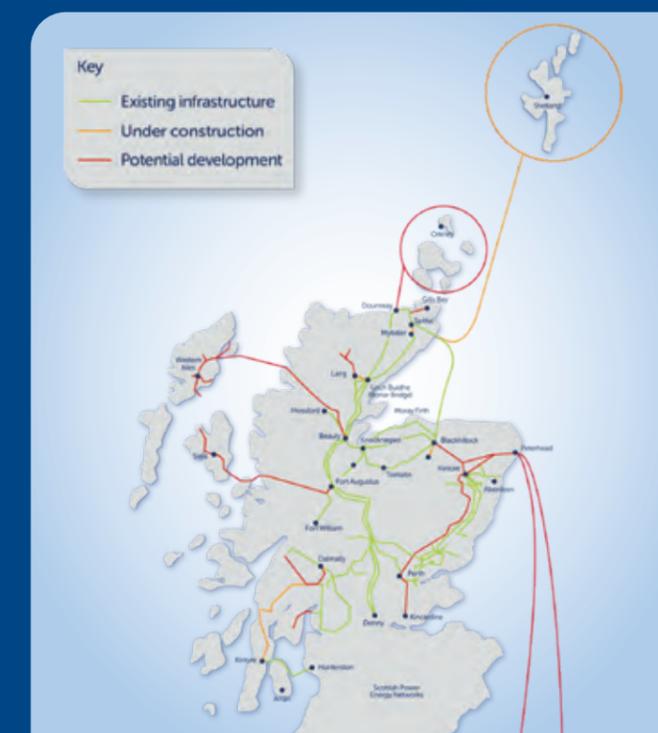


## What is the difference between Transmission and Distribution?

Electricity Transmission is the transportation of electricity from generating plants to where it is required at centres of demand. The Electricity Transmission network, or grid, transports electricity at very high voltages through overhead lines (OHL), underground cables (UCG) and subsea cables. Our transmission network connects large scale generation, primarily renewables, to central and southern Scotland and the rest of Great Britain. It also helps secure supply by providing reliable connection to the wider network of generation plans.

The Electricity Distribution network is connected into the Transmission network but the voltage is lowered by transformers at electricity substations, and the power is then distributed to homes and businesses through overhead lines or underground cables.

## Overview of Transmission Projects



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

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

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

## Our responsibilities

We have a licence for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland and we are closely regulated by the energy regulator the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem).

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

# The Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy

The original transmission network in Argyll and Bute was constructed over 60 years ago and designed to transmit electricity to consumers in rural areas of low-density population.

As the UK strives for Net Zero (achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out), SSEN Transmission has seen a significant increase in generator connection applications in Argyll and Kintyre in the last 18 months, predominantly in renewable generation.

In terms of this renewable generation (i.e. windfarms), there are infrastructure requirements needed to connect generators to our Transmission network. More information on the windfarms requiring connection and upcoming consultation is listed on Page 34.

There is therefore a requirement for us to increase our network capability in Argyll and Kintyre, beyond that already under current construction and public development, to enable the connection of further renewable generation and to export to the wider GB network. We have called this group of works designed to deliver the required increase in network capacity our 'Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy'.

Our Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy consists of 3 projects, one of which has previously been consulted on publicly since 2016, and another two which are in early development and the initial consultation stage. They are as follows:

## 1 Creag Dhubh - Dalmally 275kV Connection (pages 06 - 16)

Stakeholders in Dalmally will already be familiar with this project which we have consulted on and subsequently adapted our plans in response to stakeholder feedback.

The project involves establishing a new substation at Creag Dhubh and new switching station at Glen Lochy, connected by approximately 13km of new overhead line.

In this consultation, we are seeking your views on our Preferred Alignment for the overhead line.

In addition, to minimise separate events, we are also using this virtual consultation as the first formal public consultation for the Creag Dhubh substation Pre-Application Notice (PAN) event. The consultation on Creag Dhubh is therefore a statutory consultation event (within the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act regulations) seeking views on the proposed substation and associated works.

A separate Creag Dhubh feedback form is available on Page 37 and we welcome comments as part of this formal engagement process.

## 2 Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line (pages 17-23)

This is a new project which would involve between 8-12 km of new 275kV overhead line constructed between the proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh, and a connection point on the Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line.

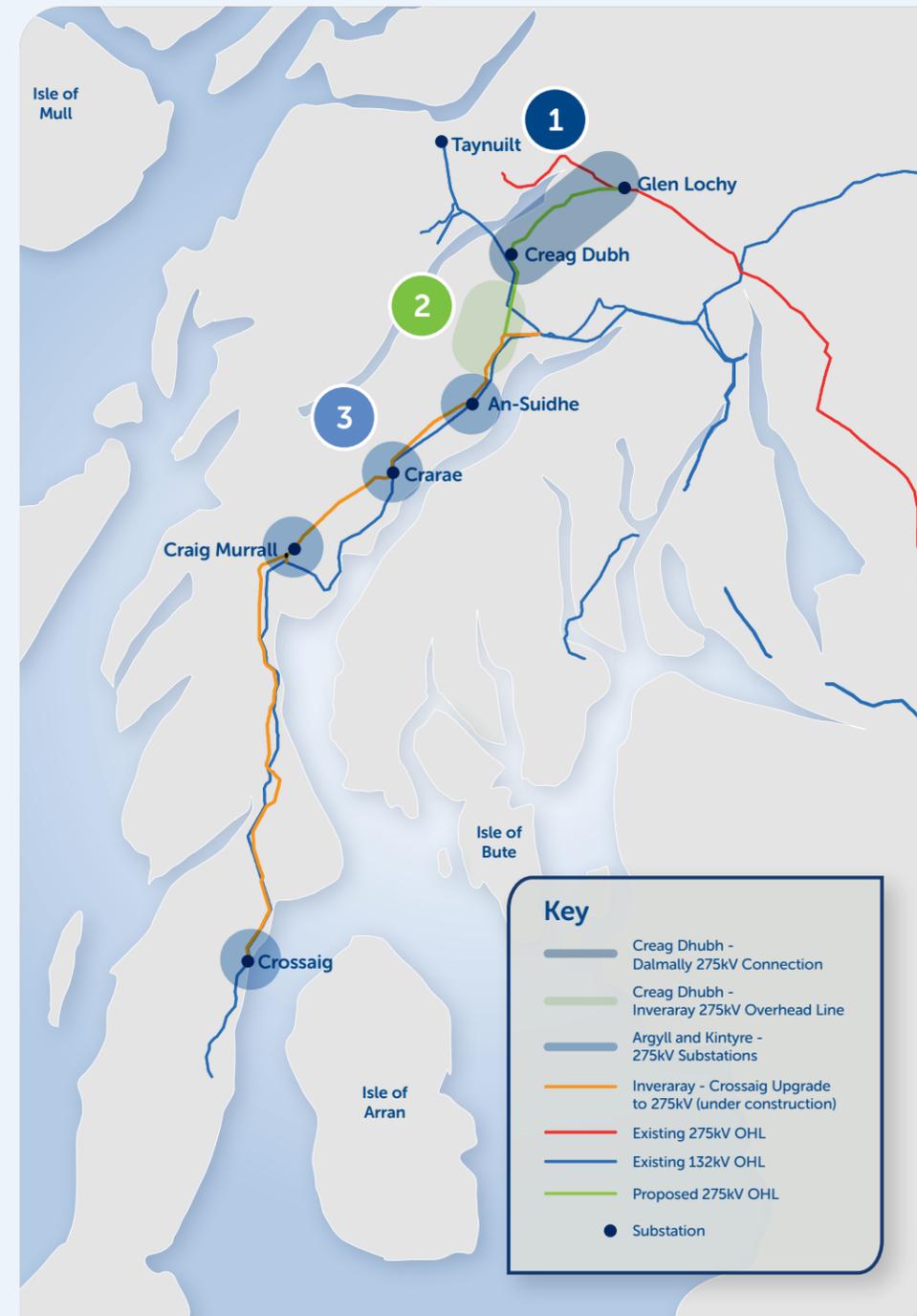
It will initially be operated at 132kV, but will be capable of 275kV operation, once associated transmission network connected substations to the south have been upgraded to 275kV capability.

The existing 132kV overhead line between Inveraray and the proposed new Creag Dhubh substation will be removed. We are inviting views as to our Preferred Route Option, within which the replacement overhead line will be located.

## 3 Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations (pages 24-33)

To complete the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy, all of the connected substations require upgrade to 275kV capability. As a result we are progressing with a new project which would involve construction and operation of four new 275kV electricity substations, south of Inveraray.

We are inviting views regarding preferred Site Options identified for each of these substations.



In the interest of transparency, we're presenting this package of works as a whole to our stakeholders across the region, to ensure all local community members are aware of the full extent of our proposals and invited to comment on the development of each.

We recognise that as the proposed works span across the region, not all of the three projects will be of direct interest to all stakeholders and members of the public.

During this consultation we therefore invite stakeholders to comment on as many or as little of the projects listed as desired and have provided separate feedback forms for ease.

To find out more about the Strategy as a whole, and sign up for updates, please visit: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/)

# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 1. About the project

The overall aim of the project is to reinforce the existing transmission network connections in the Argyll region, to enable renewable energy projects to connect to the GB transmission network and to ensure security of supply.

### Previous consultation

We have been consulting on this project since March 2016. In recognition of feedback regarding the previous preferred alignment to Dalmally substation, we committed to explore alternative options to avoid crossing the Strath of Orchy. These were presented in September 2020, and following consideration of feedback received, we confirmed our Preferred Option in the Report on Consultation, published in November 2020. The Preferred Option is an alternative overhead line connection location east of Dalmally and new switching station, avoiding the need to connect to the existing Dalmally substation.

The Preferred Option addresses concerns about the visual and cumulative impacts of connecting to the existing network infrastructure in the Strath of Orchy and avoids environmental challenges concerning flooding and pollution risk, associated with the undergrounding option.

### This consultation

We are seeking your views on:

- The proposed Creag Dhubh substation (note this element is subject to the formal PAN process as prescribed for major planning applications). This event forms the main pre-application consultation event for this site and is subject to statutory procedures.\*
- The minor location changes to the Proposed Glen Lochy Switching Station site.
- Our proposed overhead line route alignment between Tower 28 (on the preferred 2018 alignment) and the Proposed Glen Lochy switching station.

### Project elements

A new 275/132kV substation adjacent to the existing Inveraray to Tainuilt 132kV overhead line (Creag Dhubh Substation)

A new 275kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and a switching station in Glen Lochy

A new Glen Lochy switching station, to connect the new 275kV overhead line with the existing Scottish Power 275kV overhead line between Dalmally and Inverarnan Substation

### Key dates

- Planning application submissions **Autumn 2021**
- Anticipated Construction Start Date **Spring 2023**
- Project Completion **Spring 2025**

### \*Creag Dhubh Substation Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)

As part of the consultation event we are formally consulting on Creag Dhubh Substation. This element of the consultation is a statutory requirement of the pre-application consultations process for this future planning application.

This PAN event has been co-joined with the wider consultation to set the proposals within the wider project context and to minimise the number of separate consultation events we are hosting. Separate information boards (Pages 15-16), and a separate feedback form (Page 37) for the Creag Dhubh Substation are provided and we encourage feedback and comments to inform the design and final proposals. A formal planning application is due to be submitted to Argyll & Bute Council in Autumn 2021 for Creag Dhubh substation.



### Key

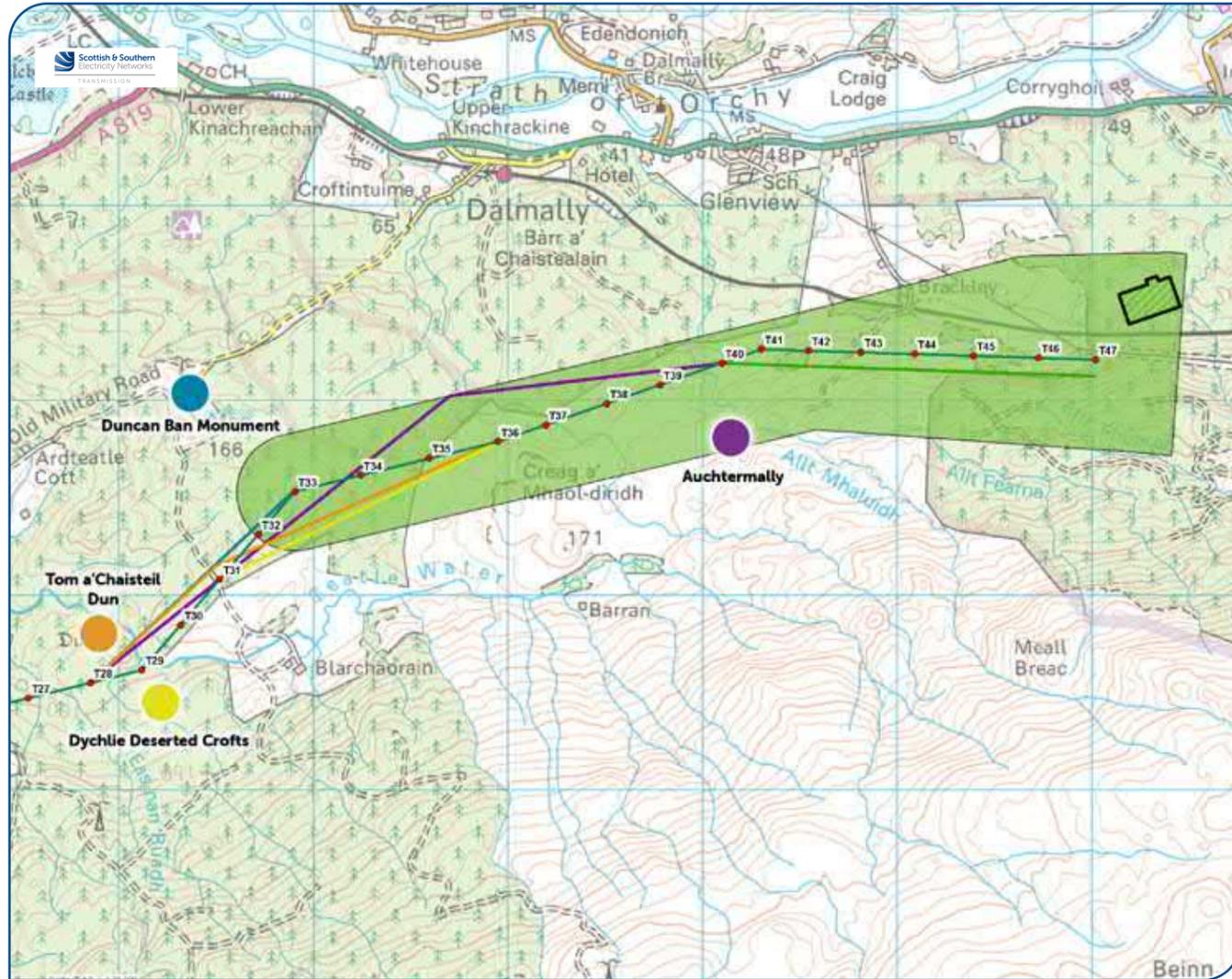
- Preferred Tower Locations
- Preferred Alignment
- ▭ Study Area
- ▨ Preferred Switching Station, Site 6, 2020 Consultation
- ▭ Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation
- ▨ Preferred Route, Option 3, 2020 Consultation

# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 2. Project history



# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection



**Key**

- Baseline Tower Locations
- Baseline Alignment
- Deviation Option**
- GL1
- GL2
- GL3
- GL4
- GL4 (preferred)
- ▨ Preferred Switching Station, Site 6, 2020 Consultation
- ▨ Preferred Route, Option 3, 2020 Consultation
- Duncan Ban Monument
- Tom a'Chaisteil
- Dychlie Deserted Croft
- Aughtermally

## Red Amber Green (RAG) Charts

To demonstrate the full extent of analysis undertaken on alignment options identified, we created Red Amber Green (RAG) table's which illustrate the level of associated risk to each consideration.

A high risk is shown as red, a medium risk is shown as amber and a low risk is shown as green.

For further information on the alignment options analysis, please refer to the Consultation Document available from the project webpage or on request.

## Alignment options - Environmental

Environmental	Alignment options					
	Baseline	GL1	GL2	GL3	GL4	GL5
<b>Natural Heritage</b>						
Designations						
Ornithology						
Protected Species						
Habitats						
Hydrology / Geology						
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>						
Designations						
Non-designated Assets						
<b>People</b>						
Proximity to Dwellings						
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>						
Designations						
Character						
Visual						
<b>Land Use</b>						
Agriculture						
Forestry						
Recreation						
<b>Planning</b>						
Policy						
Proposals						

## Alignment options - Engineering

Engineering	Alignment options					
	Baseline	GL1	GL2	GL3	GL4	GL5
<b>Infrastructure crossings</b>						
Major Crossings						
Road Crossings						
<b>Ground Condition</b>						
Terrain						
Peat						
<b>Construction and Maintenance</b>						
Angle Towers						
<b>Proximity</b>						
Clearance Distance						

**Alignment options - Cost**

From a cost perspective the differences were marginal resulting in all options receiving a green rating.

# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 4. Preferred Route Alignment

To select a Preferred Alignment, a comparative appraisal of the environmental, engineering, and cost sensitivities and risks was undertaken for each option in accordance with the methodology set out in SSEN Transmission guidance. Details of the appraisal can be viewed in full detail within the Consultation Report.

Through consideration of all sensitivities and risks identified, the preferred route alignment selected is deviation alignment GL5.

**Environment:** On balance, GL5 would be the preference as it would greatly reduce the loss of Ancient Woodland in comparison to the Baseline Alignment, has the lowest impact on blanket bog habitat, as well as providing a slight improvement to visual receptors.

The preferred alignment is closer to the black grouse lek compared with GL1; however mitigation could be put in place to reduce disturbance to the black grouse lek during construction.

**Engineering:** In terms of engineering, the number of angle towers and location of peat are the main criteria that differentiate each alignment.

However, the RAG assessment included in the Consultation Document concludes that the lower number of angle towers for the Baseline Alignment and GL5 is not of any significance. Regarding avoiding peated areas, GL1 could have the same risk as the other alignment options, as it runs through existing forestry with unknown ground conditions, but anticipated to be planted over some areas of peat. Accordingly, there is no clear preference between all options.

**Cost:** GL3 and GL4 have the lowest cost for all criteria, albeit marginal.

### About the Overhead Line

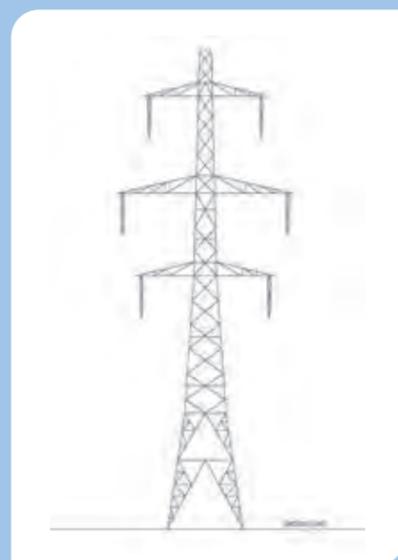
Approx 13km Long

Will operate at 275kV voltage

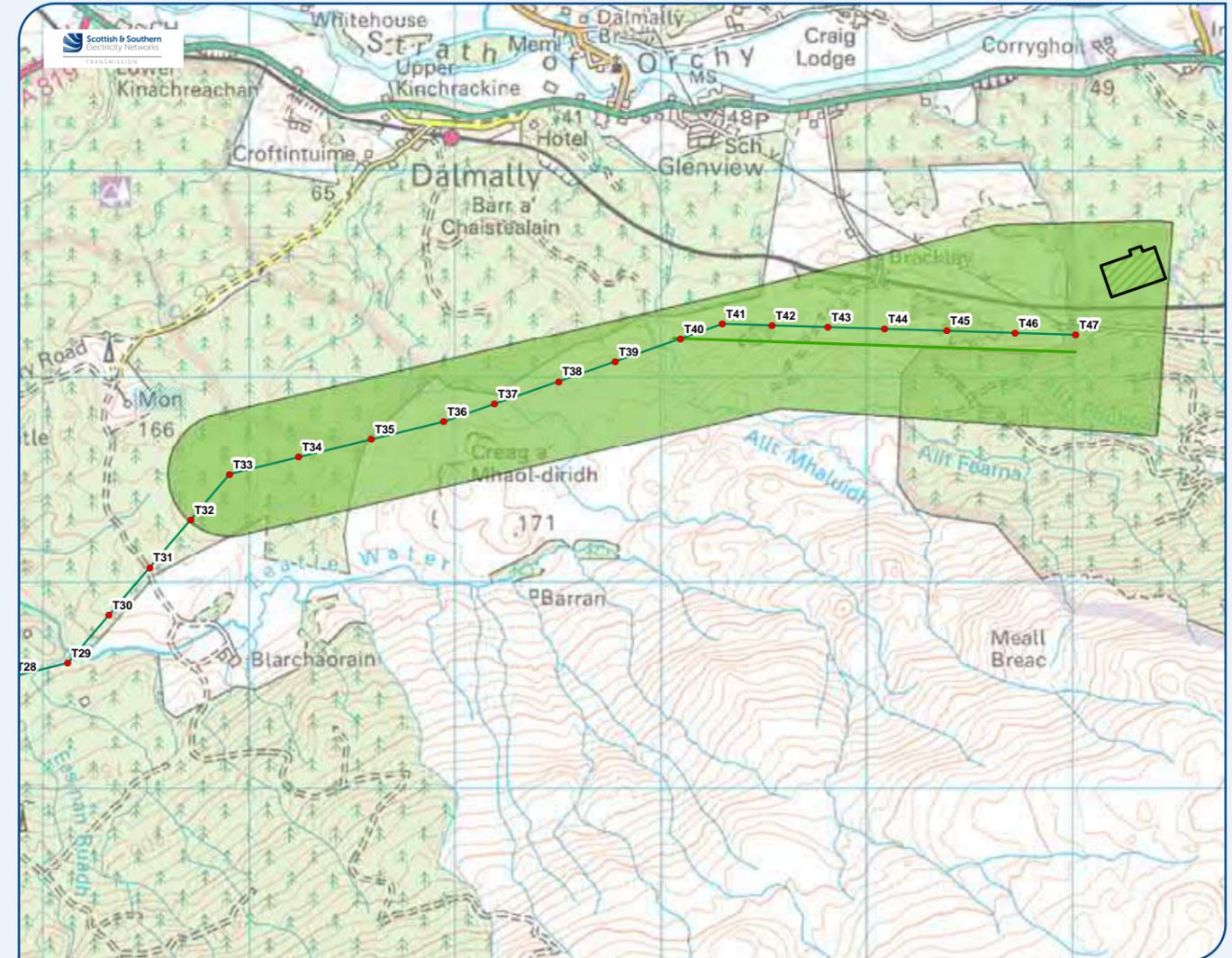
50 metres average tower height\*

47 towers

Span length between 175-350 metres



\*Height likely to vary between 40 and 55 metres



### Key

- Baseline Tower Locations
- Baseline Alignment
- Deviation Option
- GL5 (preferred)
- Preferred Switching Station, 2020 Consultation
- Preferred Route, Option 3, Consultation

# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 5. Glen Lochy Switching Station

### What is a switching station?

A switching station essentially creates a central node on the network where multiple lines of the same voltage can connect. Switches at this location allow each line in and out to be controlled without affecting the other lines. In this instance, the Glen Lochy switching station is required to connect the proposed overhead line from Creag Dhubh Substation to Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN's) existing 275kV overhead line and subsequently to the UK electricity network. Consultation with SPEN has been continuing since the initial Consultation in September 2020, to determine the most appropriate design for the connection to the existing overhead line from Dalmally to Inverarnan, owned by SPEN.

### Preferred location

In September 2020, we shared potential locations for the Glen Lochy Switching Station site, from around 2km east of Dalmally.

Six different sites were initially identified, (although Site 5 was discounted due to technical and environmental constraints). Through analysis of the environmental and engineering constraints Site 6 was identified as the preferred option.

### Next Steps

The new Site 6 location will be taken forward to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening in Summer 2021, parallel to this consultation process. We will then commence formal consultation and submit an application for consent under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

The preferred location for the Glen Lochy Switching Station will be reviewed considering comments received during this consultation process, as well as further surveys and site configuration design work.



### Design updates

Following the consultation process in 2020, where Site 6 remained the Preferred Site, the location of Site 6 has been shifted by approximately 30m to the north and rotated by approximately 10 degrees. This is to accommodate the electrical equipment and provide the optimal orientation to align the towers with the existing SPEN overhead line. The change in orientation also reduces the risk of disturbance to local wildlife, by moving it further from habitats.

Technology options are being developed that will refine the area and size of the switching station with key considerations including environmental impact during both construction and operation. However at present, the current footprint stands at roughly 280m by 165m plus an extra area of roughly 60m by 30m for the control building. This gives a switching station size of 4.8 hectares. Additional land take will be required for cut and fill to tie the platform into the existing ground levels, the overhead line towers, an access track to enter the site and any landscaping. Some land take will also be required during construction for laydown, welfare and processing of material during earthworks.

## 6. Creag Dhubh Substation

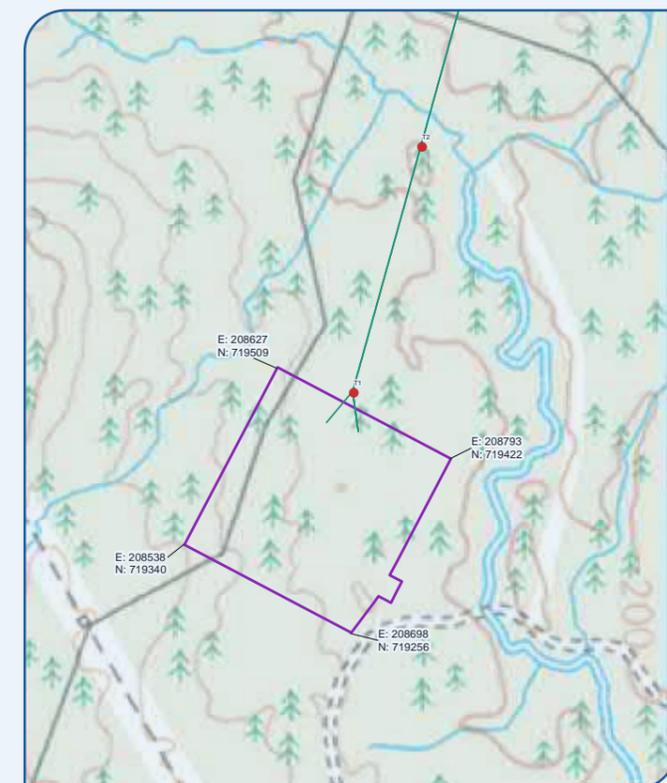
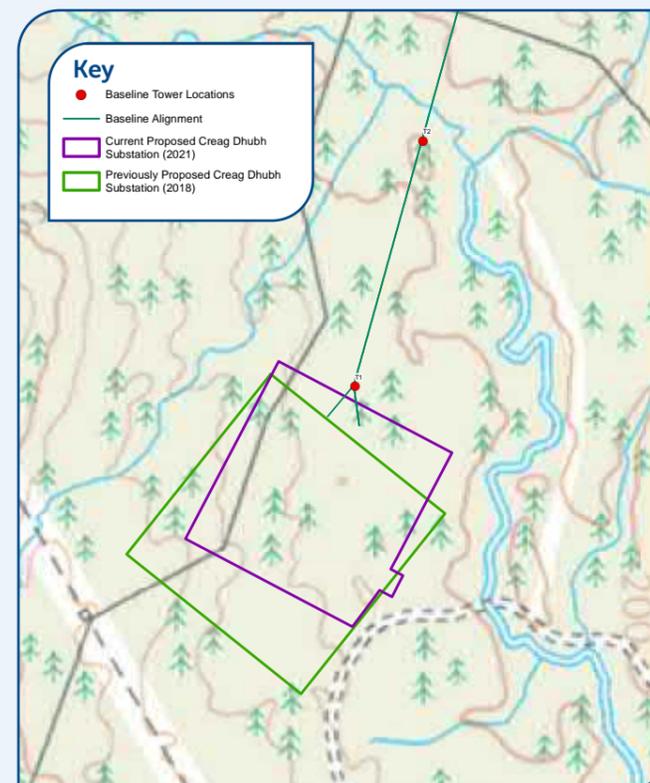
**The Creag Dhubh substation is required for the connection of the proposed overhead line to the existing network. The substation will connect onto the existing 132kV network between Inveraray and Taynuilt and will also connect to the proposed Glen Lochy Switching Station via a new overhead line, to allow connection to the wider electricity network.**

We've been consulting on the Creag Dhubh substation location since 2016, where the preferred substation search area was provided during Consultation Events held in March of that year.

Following the site selection process two sites were initially identified for further survey and presented during consultation events in October 2016. However site investigations identified significant volumes of environmentally sensitive and technically challenging peatland, meaning further site selection within the search area would be required to arrive at the preferred site. The selection of the preferred site was undertaken as a combination of the environment, engineering and cost assessment scoring and the preferred option selected was taken forward for consultation and detailed design in March 2018.

### Design Updates

Since the consultation events in 2018, the preferred site location has undergone further assessment resulting in minor changes taking into consideration key constraints. As such, the site has moved approximately 30m to the north:



# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## Substation Details

- To allow for a reduced substation surface area, gas insulated switchgear (GIS) has been chosen rather than air insulated switchgear (AIS).
- One side of the substation will consist of a 275kV double busbar GIS, housed in the larger of the two main buildings and will include connection of two 275kV overhead line bays. The other side will consist of 132kV double busbar GIS, housed in the smaller of the two main buildings and will include four 132kV overhead line bays and a possible grid transformer bay.
- Sufficient space has been allowed within the current design to allow the phased connection of the new 275kV overhead line between Creag Dhubh and Inveraray with the aim of minimising impact to customers.
- Both sets of GIS will have two bays to connect to the centrally located supergrid transformers which sit between the two buildings. The 275/132kV supergrid transformers (SGT) will be rated at 480 MVA.

**At present, the current footprint stands at roughly 190m by 200m.** This gives a substation size of 3.8 hectares. Additional land take will be required for cut and fill to tie the platform into the existing ground levels, the adjacent overhead line towers, an access track to enter the site and any landscaping. Some land take will also be required during construction for laydown, welfare and processing of material during earthworks.



Visualisation of the proposed Creag Dhubh substation

## Planning Application

This site is now subject to formal pre-application consultation as part of the PAN process. The PAN was submitted to Argyll and Bute Council on 10th June. As part of the pre-application process we are required to hold a main public consultation event. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, the Government have directed that all such events must be held virtually until further notice. We have co-joined this PAN event with the stakeholder engagement for the wider project. It should be noted that the Creag Dhubh PAN consultation is a statutory event and feedback on the proposals for this element should be provided on the appropriate form (see Page 37).

## Next Steps

We encourage you to make comment and provide feedback on the proposals for the new Creag Dhubh substation by Friday 13th August via the feedback form, which can be found on Page 37, via the project webpage, or via email to the Community Liaison Manager. The comments received will be reviewed and responded to and where appropriate changes to the proposed development will be made prior to submission of the formal planning application to Argyll & Bute Council in Autumn 2021. At that time, comments of support or objection can be made directly to the council as part of the statutory application process. At this time all comments should be directed to SSEN Transmission and not to the Council.

# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 1. About the project

### Project Need

SSEN Transmission has seen a significant increase in generator connection applications in Argyll and Kintyre, with over 600MW total generation having applied for a connection to the network in the region in the last 18 months.

This increase in new renewable generation, led predominantly by onshore wind, has triggered the requirement for further reinforcement of the transmission network in the region beyond that already under construction which collectively make up our Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy.

Part of this strategy involves the newly proposed Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line project, which would see between 8-12 km of new 275kV overhead line constructed between the proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh, and a connection point on to the Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line. It will initially be operated at 132kV, but will be capable of 275kV operation, once the associated transmission network connected substations to the south have been upgraded to 275kV capability.

The existing 132kV overhead line between Inveraray and the proposed new Creag Dhubh substation will be removed following installation of the replacement line.

During the construction of the replacement overhead line, we will need to maintain the local electricity supply, and therefore are required to build new towers at alternative locations to the existing towers.

### Consultation on the Preferred Route

To facilitate the overhead line connection between Creag Dhubh substation and Inveraray we have identified six potential Route Options for the overhead line. As part of this consultation exercise, we are seeking stakeholder comments on our Preferred Route Option prior to carrying out further project design.

## Project Timeline

### July 2021

- Preferred Route Public Consultation

### Autumn 2021

- Preferred Alignment Public Consultation

### Summer 2022

- Development Consents Applications

### Winter 2023

- Anticipated Construction Start

### Spring 2025

- Anticipated Construction Completion

\*Please note that dates are indicative and subject to change dependent on outcomes of consultation

# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 2. Preferred Technology

### Overhead Line

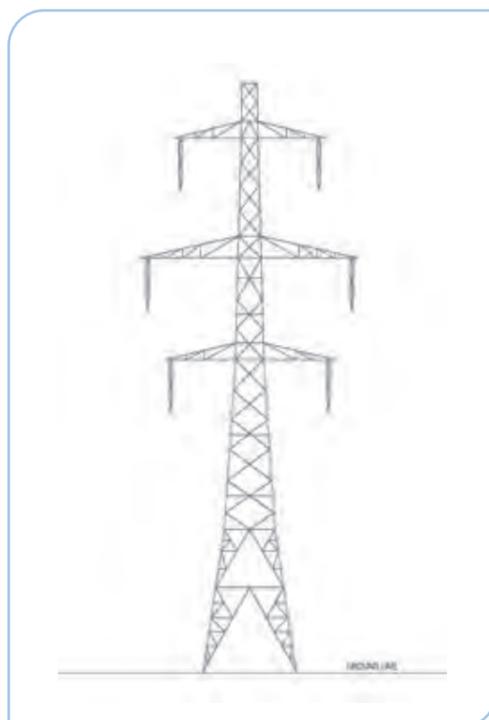
The proposed new 275kV overhead line will replace the existing 132kV overhead line between Inveraray switching station and the proposed Creag Dhubh substation, connecting at Creag Dhubh. The existing line will be decommissioned and removed upon completion of the new line. The remaining 132kV overhead line from Creag Dhubh substation to Taynuilt will not be altered during this project.

The proposed overhead line will consist of towers which are typical for the UK; lattice steel structures with six arms. Each of these arms will carry two electrical wires using an insulated unit. To provide protection from lightning, a single earthwire is attached to the top of the tower. This traditional arrangement is often described as a double circuit arrangement, because each side of the tower carries a single electrical circuit.

In order to accommodate future increases of renewable generation, it is necessary to increase the operating voltage from 132kV to 275kV. As a result of this, the new towers need to be taller which means an increase in span (the distance between each tower). This also means that alternative technologies such as wooden pole or composite pole structures, that are sometimes considered at 132kV, would not be feasible at 275kV.

The spacing between towers would vary depending on topography, altitude, and land use but would likely be between 300m to 350m. Permanent access tracks are required to any angle and terminal tower locations, with temporary access tracks required to access all other towers. At this stage, it has been assumed that towers would be a maximum of 60 m above ground level, with a typical average tower height of 50m above ground level.

The project is still however at the early design stage and any approximations regarding heights, span and tower numbers will be clarified during the next stage of design.



Existing tower height: **Approx. 27m**  
 New tower height: **Approx. 50m**

Existing tower span: **Approx. 255m**  
 New tower span: **Approx. 300-350m**

Existing number of towers to be removed: **35**  
 Number of replacement towers: **Approx. 30**

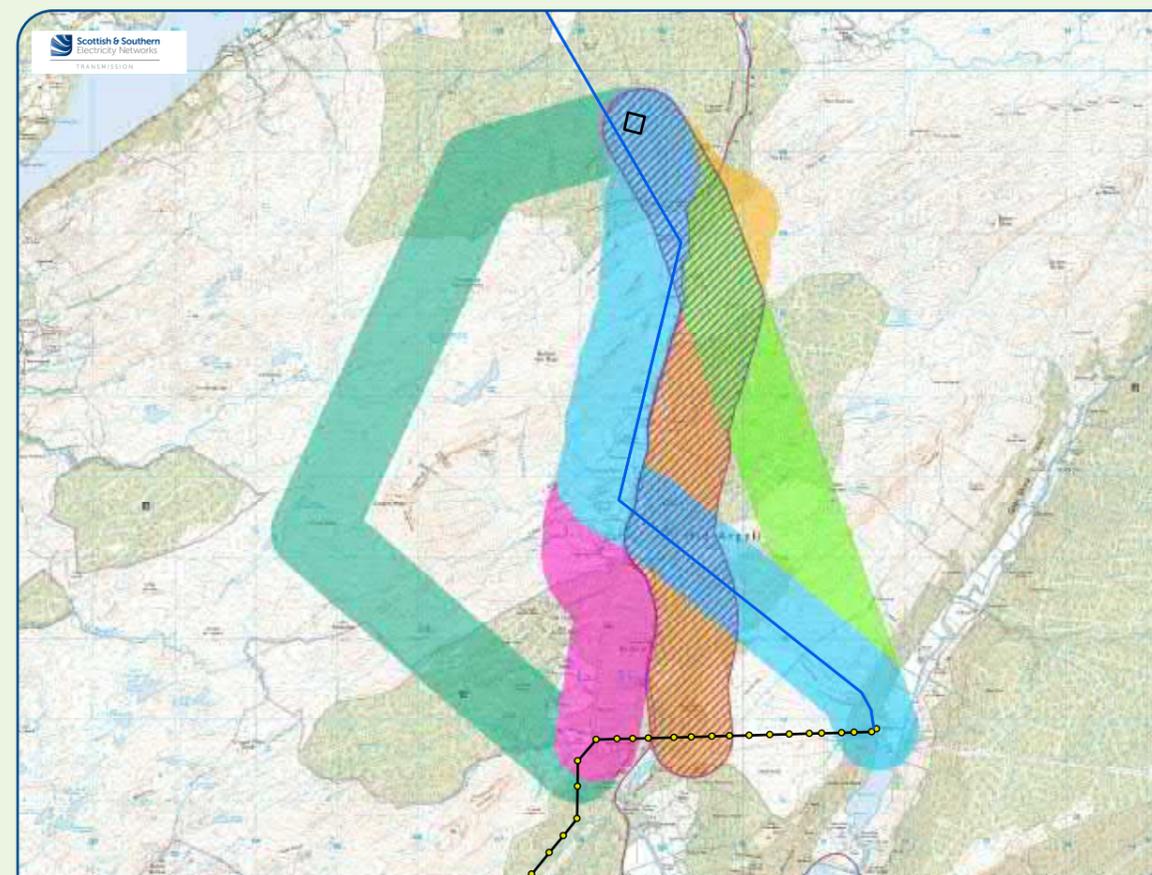
## 3. Routing Options Map

### Study Area

A Study Area was defined by the existing 132kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and a connection point on the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line to the north of Inveraray.

The north western boundary of the Study Area follows the southern shore of Loch Awe to the north of Cladich while the south eastern boundary roughly runs along the southern edge of Glen Shira to Inveraray. This allowed a range of Route Options and tie-in locations to be analysed.

Following on from this, six potential Route Options to connect the Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line with the proposed Creag Dhubh substation were developed, taking into account the physical, environmental and amenity constraints. These are shown on the map below.



**Key**

- Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation
- 132kV OHL from Inveraray to Taynuilt
- Inveraray – Crossaig OHL
- Inveraray – Crossaig Towers
- Route Option Buffer (500 m)**
- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- Preferred Route Option DE Buffer (500 m)

# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 4. Routing Options Analysis

### Route Option A:

#### Overhead Line from Balantyre Wood to the Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation

- Requires crossing the existing 132kV overhead line and proposed Blarghour Wind Farm site, but does not cross the A819.
- Properties/buildings within Route are sparsely laid out.
- Avoids intersecting with the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area (SPA).
- Likely to be highly constrained by extensive priority peatland habitat and high potential to impact on Schedule 1 birds.
- Impacts on visual amenity likely to be more extensive, and potentially impact on some higher sensitivity areas such as the western shore of Loch Awe.
- Longest Route Option at approximately 12km.
- Has the highest elevations with a maximum elevation of 538m.
- Highest cost Route Option.

### Route Option B:

#### Overhead Line from Balantyre Wood to the Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation

- Would cross existing overhead line once and proposed Blarghour Wind Farm access track, doesn't cross A819 and has the least minor crossings.
- Between 2-5% of the Route Option within the 1 in 200-year flood zone.
- Substantially more properties within Route Option than other options.
- Space for tower Alignments limited due to very steep, rocky terrain, proximity of residences and the proximity of the existing line, therefore, mitigating other effects could be difficult.
- Lowest number of recorded golden eagle flights.
- Would avoid likely significant effects during construction through avoiding interactions with the water environment and majority of peatland.
- High potential to interact with Private Water Supplies which could require micrositing or further mitigation.
- Potential to result in the loss of 21.6 ha of Ancient Woodland (larger than any other option).
- Passes through well-preserved pre-Improvement townships at 'Drimfern' and 'South Tullich', that would be difficult to avoid.
- Second lowest cost of the five Route Options.

## 4. Routing Options Analysis

### Route Option C:

#### Overhead Line from Inveraray Substation to the Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation

- Crosses existing overhead line, the A819 and Ladyfield plantation woodland, an area with potential to contain unexploded ordnance (UXO) associated with historic use as a firing range.
- Has between 2-5% of the Route Option within the 1 in 200-year flood zone.
- Second highest number of properties within Route Option.
- Space for tower Alignments limited due to very steep, rocky terrain, proximity of residences and the proximity of the existing line. Therefore, mitigating other effects could be difficult.
- Smallest loss of Ancient Woodland and long-established woodland (depending on Alignment) as well as second lowest area of commercial forestry lost.
- Second lowest number of recorded golden eagle flights.
- High potential for Route to interact with Private Water Supplies.
- Would require crossing the River Aray and passes through well-preserved pre-Improvement townships at 'Drimfern' and 'South Tullich', that would be difficult to avoid.
- Second highest total cost of the five Route Options.

### Route Option D:

#### Overhead Line from Carloanan to the Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation

- Crosses the existing 132kV overhead line once and the A819, passes through Ladyfield plantation woodland.
- Between 2-5% within the 1 in 200-year flood zone and runs through the second lowest area of peatland.
- Properties/buildings are sparsely laid out.
- High potential to be constrained as it intersects the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA.
- Potential to compromise conservation status of Schedule 1 birds, however, area of the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA intersected by this option has comparatively low levels of golden eagle activity.
- Least impact on visual receptors as could be accommodated within the enclosed glen landscape.
- Passes through fewer areas of open habitat so may have fewer interactions with watercourses.
- Second greatest loss of Ancient Woodland and commercial plantation, potential implications to downstream hydrology.

### Route Option E:

#### Overhead Line from Inveraray Substation to the Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation

- Wouldn't cross existing overhead line but would cross A819 and Ladyfield plantation woodland.
- No properties within this Route Option.
- Runs through second largest area of peatland.
- Second highest elevation, after Route Option A.
- Has high potential to be constrained as intersects the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area.
- Considered likely to compromise the conservation status of Schedule 1 birds, however, passes through fewer areas of open habitat so may have fewer interactions with watercourses.
- Has the lowest total cost of the five Route Options.

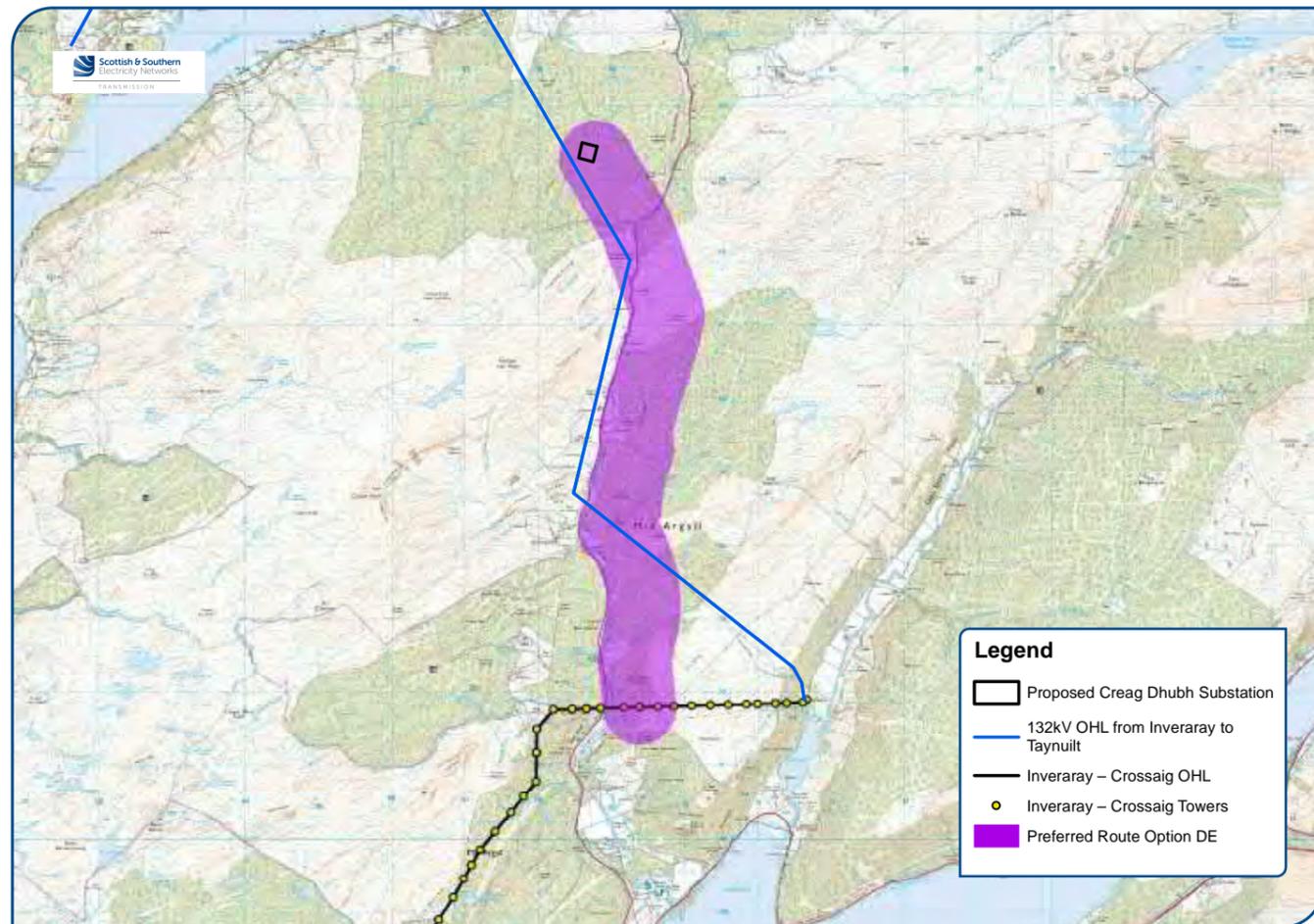
# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 5. Our Preferred Route Option

### Route Option DE (Preferred):

The aim of our routing guideline process is to provide a balanced assessment of cost engineering and environmental factors in order to select the Preferred Route for the new overhead line. Through analysis of the five Route Options, taking account of the factors listed above, a combination of Route Options D and E was considered the optimum solution. This Route Option DE follows Route Option D in the south from Inveraray to where it intersects Route Option E, then follows Route E to the Creag Dhubh substation. Therefore, Route Option DE has been identified as our Preferred Route.

This option intersects the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area in the north but avoids the areas within the Study Area with the highest density of protected bird flight activity. It also appears to pass through fewer areas of open habitat so may have fewer interactions with wetlands. This does however mean a greater area of forestry felling may be required, which has potential implications to downstream hydrology. It will have the second greatest loss of Ancient Woodland and commercial plantation, however, would have the least impact on visual receptors as the Route could be within the enclosed glen landscape, therefore, forestry and woodland would provide a high degree of screening of the central and southern sections.



## 6. Red Amber Green (RAG) Charts

To demonstrate the full extent of analysis undertaken on the six Route Options identified, we created Red Amber Green (RAG) table's which illustrate the level of associated risk to each consideration. A high risk is shown as red, a medium risk is shown as amber and a low risk is shown as green.

For further information on the Route Options analysis, please refer to the Consultation Document available from the project webpage or on request.

### RAG Impact Rating- Environmental

Environmental	Route Option					
	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Natural Heritage						
European Designated Sites-Ornithology						
Designated Sites-Ancient Woodland						
Regional Designations						
Protected Species						
Habitats						
Schedule 1 Birds						
Birds of Conservation Concern						
Hydrology / Geology						
Cultural Heritage	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Designations						
Cultural Heritage Assets						
People	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Proximity to Dwellings						
Landscape and Visual	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Designations						
Character						
Visual						
Land Use	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Agriculture						
Forestry						
Recreation						
Planning	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Policy						
Proposals						

### RAG Impact Rating- Engineering

Engineering	Route Option					
	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Infrastructure crossings						
Major Crossings						
Minor Roads						
Environmental Design	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Elevation						
Contaminated Land						
Flooding						
Ground Condition	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Terrain						
Carbon & Peatland						
Proximity	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Clearance						
Windfarms						
Communication Masts						
Additional Consideration	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Route length						
Unexploded rounds						

### RAG Impact Rating- Cost

Cost	Route Option					
	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Capital						
Diversions						
Public Road Improvement						
Tree Felling						
Land Assembly						
Consent Mitigations						
Inspections						
Maintenance						
Total Cost						

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 1. About the project

### Project Need

Due to the projected increase in renewable energy generation in Argyll, a need has been identified for the upgrade and reinforcement of the electricity transmission network on the Argyll peninsula to ensure supply and support the transition to net zero emissions.

As described during the development process for the Inveraray – Crossaig overhead line rebuild, the replacement overhead line is being built at a higher 275kV voltage, initially operating at 132kV between Inveraray and Crossaig. As future renewable generation requirements connect to the electricity network and the operating voltage is required to increase to 275kV, substations along the route will also require to be replaced in order to accommodate this increase.

**Project overview:**

We are therefore proposing to construct and operate four (4) new 275kV electricity substations at the following locations:

- in the vicinity of the existing An Suidhe substation;
- in the vicinity of the existing Crarae substation;
- in the vicinity of Craig Murrail, north of Lochgilphead; and
- in the vicinity of the existing Crossaig substation.

Once the 275kV substations are constructed, the existing 132kV An Suidhe, Crarae and Crossaig substations will be decommissioned.

A maximum area of 8 hectares (ha) has been identified for each site option, to allow for the installation of either an air-insulated substation (AIS) or a gas-insulated substation (GIS) structure, as well as allowing space for ancillary works, construction laydown areas, access requirements and potential landscaping; and an estimated maximum gantry height of 15m.

The substations would resemble the existing substations as shown in the image to the right.



### What we are consulting on:

For each substation, we have identified different Site Options alongside a Preferred Site Option, for where we believe each new substation is best situated. We are seeking comments on the Preferred Site Options and any additional local knowledge of the area which may assist with further refinement.

### Previous Consultation:

As part of the development of the Inveraray – Crossaig Project, in March 2016, we consulted on the design and construction of Craig Murrail substation and comments were invited from stakeholders on the proposals. The substation was not progressed due to generation requirements at the time, however increases in generation requests across the region have triggered the requirement for the substation.

This will be the first consultations undertaken for the other three substation sites.

## 2. Site Option Selection Process

To begin to identify potential site options for the proposed new substations, a Study Area was defined with the following parameters:

- a distance of up to 1km on either side of the Inveraray – Crossaig 275kV overhead line; and
- a distance of up to 3km from the existing substations for An Suidhe and Crarae and 20km to the north of the existing Crossaig substation.

The smaller Study Area for An Suidhe and Crarae is to reduce the extent of movement of the existing wind farm connection. For Crossaig North, a Study Area extending to south of Tarbert was considered, due to the locations of existing and potential future wind farms north of Crossaig but south of Tarbert.

Following the identification of Study Areas, a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) process was undertaken which used Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to analyse available digital datasets on environmental and technical constraints.

Performance	Comparative Appraisal
Most Preferred	Low potential for the development to be constrained = Green
↓	Intermediate potential for the development to be constrained = Amber
Least Preferred	High potential for the development to be constrained = Red

You can read the full Site Option analysis within our Consultation Document, but for ease, we've included maps indicating the locations of each Substation Site Option (highlighting our Preferred Site Option) along with subsequent RAG tables in the following pages.

The outputs of the MCA are heat maps which indicate the least constrained locations for the Site Options.

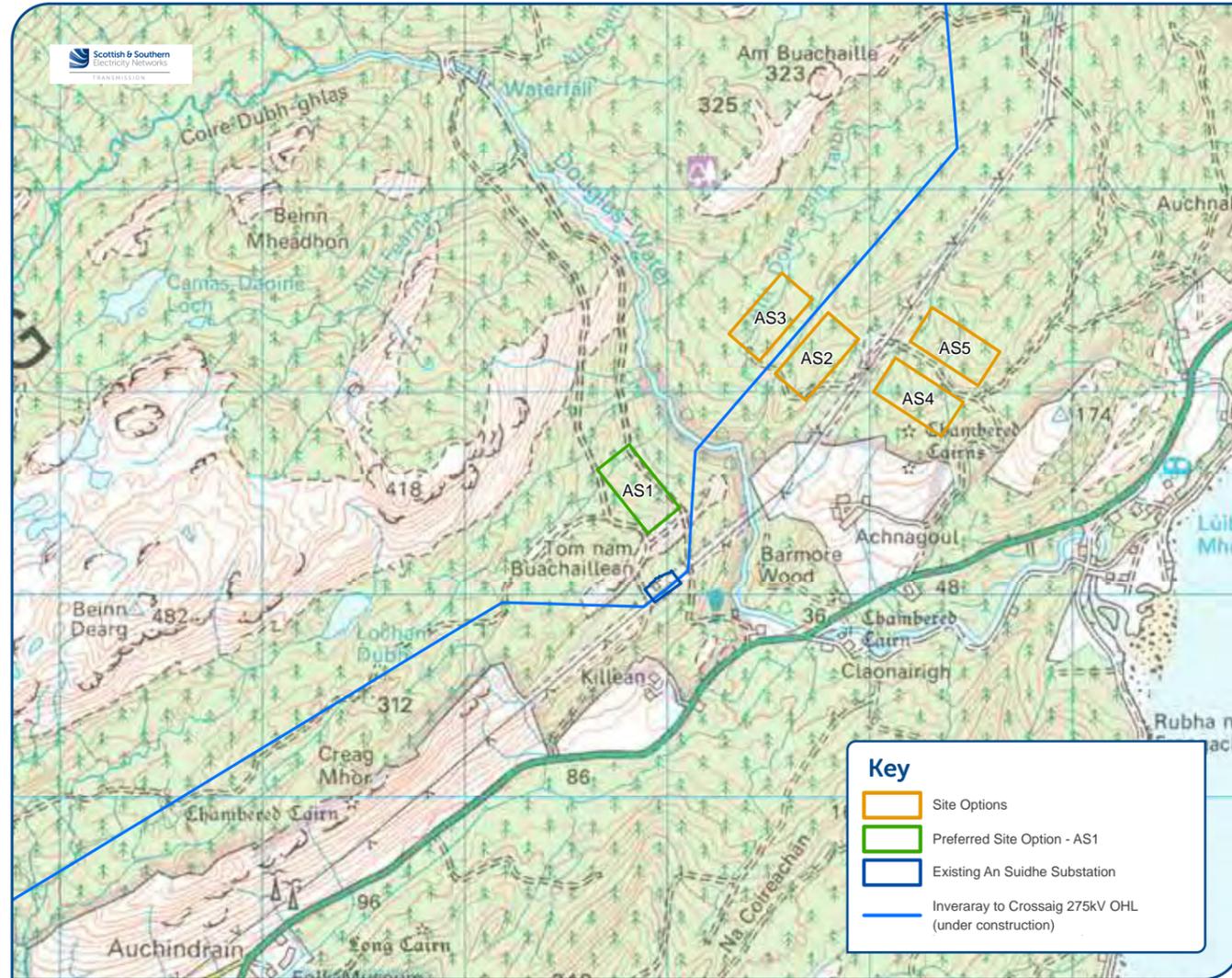
The aim was to include sites adjacent to the existing substations to allow for extension; where this has not occurred, it is because there is insufficient unconstrained area for an extension. Within the Study Area, five Site Options for An Suidhe, six Site Options for Crarae and seven Site Options for Crossaig North have been identified.

A Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating was then applied to each, with RED indicating a high potential for constraint, amber indicating intermediate potential for constraint and GREEN indicating low potential for constraint. Please note that a RED or AMBER rating does not necessarily mean that the Site Option would be unacceptable in planning terms but indicates the need for further consideration of the potential to mitigate potentially adverse effects.



# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 3. An Suidhe Map



## 4. An Suidhe Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

Environmental	Site options				
	AS1	AS2	AS3	AS4	AS5
<b>Natural Heritage</b>					
Designations					
Protected Species					
Habitats					
Ornithology					
Hydrology					
Geology					
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>					
Designated Heritage Assets					
Non-designated Heritage Assets					
<b>People</b>					
Proximity to Dwellings					
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>					
Designations					
Character					
Visual					
<b>Land Use</b>					
Agriculture					
Forestry					
Recreation					
<b>Planning</b>					
Policy					
Proposals					

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

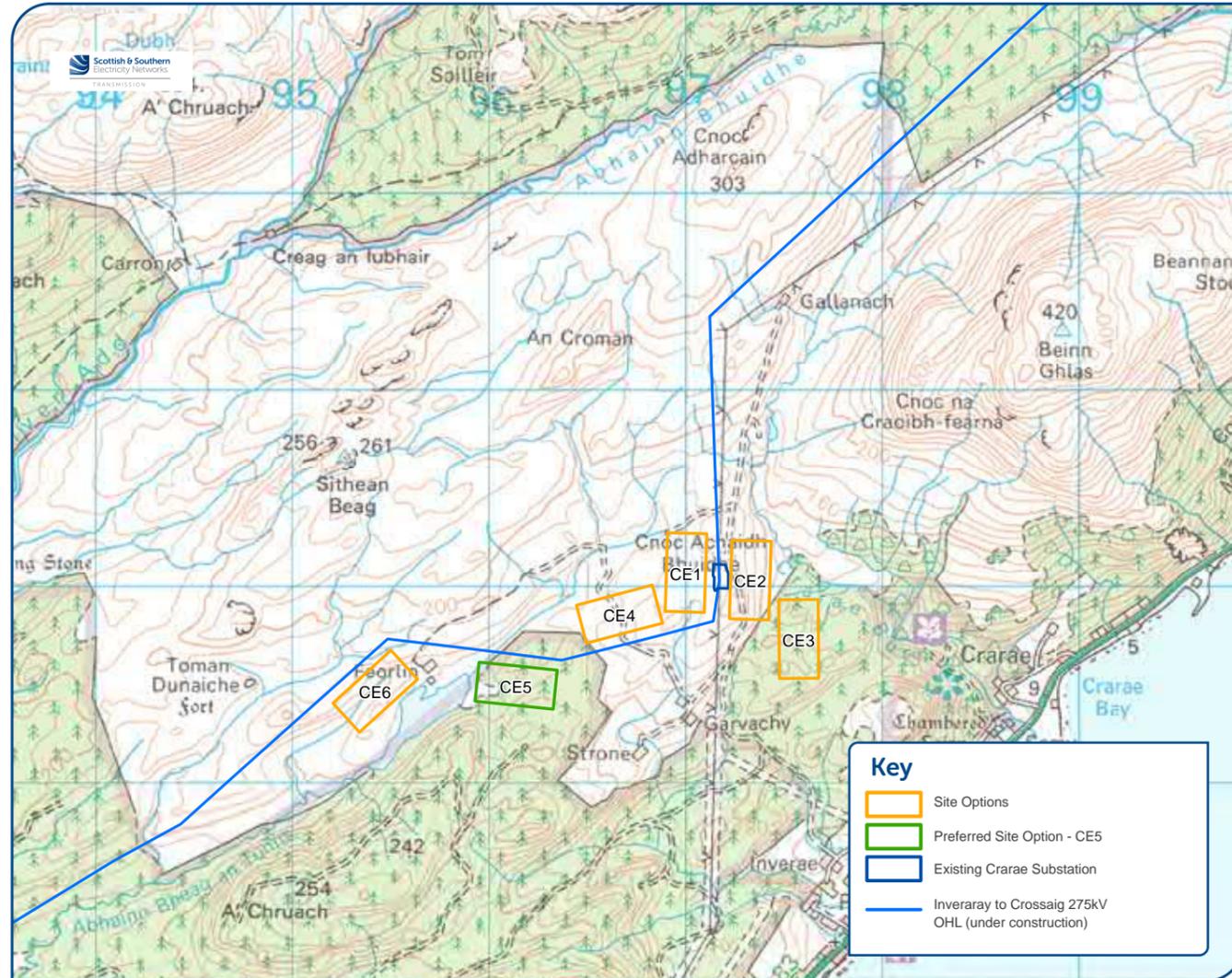
Engineering	Site options				
	AS1	AS2	AS3	AS4	AS5
<b>Access &amp; Connectivity</b>					
Construction Access					
Operation & Maintenance					
Existing Circuits/Networks					
Future Development Possibilities					
Interface with SSEN Distribution					
DNO Connection					
<b>Footprint Requirements</b>					
Technology					
Adjacent Land Use					
Space Availability					
<b>Hazards</b>					
Unique Hazards					
Existing Utilities					
<b>Ground Conditions</b>					
Topography					
Geology					
<b>Environmental Conditions</b>					
Elevation					
Salt Pollution					
Flooding					
Carbon Footprint					
SF6					
Contaminated Land					
Noise (proximity to properties)					

### Preferred Option:

Overall, Site Option AS1 is considered to be the preferred site on the basis of least potential for environmental, technical and cost constraints.

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 5. Crarae Map



## 6. Crarae Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

Environmental	Site options					
	CE1	CE2	CE3	CE4	CE5	CE6
<b>Natural Heritage</b>						
Designations						
Protected Species						
Habitats	Red					
Ornithology						
Hydrology						Red
Geology						
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>						
Designated Heritage Assets			Red			
Non-designated Heritage Assets						Red
<b>People</b>						
Proximity to Dwellings						
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>						
Designations						
Character				Red		
Visual						
<b>Land Use</b>						
Agriculture						
Forestry						
Recreation						
<b>Planning</b>						
Policy						
Proposals						

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

Engineering	Site options					
	CE1	CE2	CE3	CE4	CE5	CE6
<b>Access &amp; Connectivity</b>						
Construction Access						
Operation & Maintenance						
Existing Circuits/Networks						
Future Development Possibilities						
Interface with SSEN Distribution					Red	Red
DNO Connection						
<b>Footprint Requirements</b>						
Technology						
Adjacent Land Use						
Space Availability						
<b>Hazards</b>						
Unique Hazards						
Existing Utilities						
<b>Ground Conditions</b>						
Topography						
Geology						
<b>Environmental Conditions</b>						
Elevation						
Salt Pollution						
Flooding						
Carbon Footprint						
SF6						
Contaminated Land						
Noise (proximity to properties)						

### Preferred Option:

Overall, Site Option CE5 is considered to be the preferred site on the basis of least potential for environmental and technical constraints.

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 7. Craig Murrail Map



## 8. Craig Murrail Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

Environmental	Site options				
	preferred Site 2015	CM1	CM2	CM3	CM4
<b>Natural Heritage</b>					
Designations					
Protected Species					
Habitats					
Ornithology					
Hydrology					
Geology					
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>					
Designated Heritage Assets					
Non-designated Heritage Assets					
<b>People</b>					
Proximity to Dwellings					
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>					
Designations					
Character					
Visual					
<b>Land Use</b>					
Agriculture					
Forestry					
Recreation					
<b>Planning</b>					
Policy					
Proposals					

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

Engineering	Site options				
	PS 2015	CM1	CM2	CM3	CM4
Health and Safety					
Construction timescales					
Access and connectivity					
Availability					
Maintenance Requirements					
Flexibility					

**Location:**  
Unlike the other substations being consulted on, there is not an existing Craig Murrail substation. Site Options considered for this substation are north of Lochgilphead, close to the new Inveraray – Crossaig overhead line.

**History:**  
A site selection exercise was undertaken in 2015 for the proposed Craig Murrail substation. At that time, four substation Site Options were identified and compared. A preference for two of the four sites was identified, subject to further site investigation. Based on a civil engineering desk study, an amendment to one of the two preferred sites was made and this amended site was ultimately selected as the preferred site. Some limited further design work was undertaken; however, no site surveys were completed as the project was then put on hold.

**Site Options:**  
In order to ensure the site selection process is completed in line with current SSEN Transmission site selection guidance, an additional Site Selection Study has been undertaken in respect of the five substation Site Options considered in 2015. Again, a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating was then applied to each criteria, as demonstrated above.

### Preferred Option:

Overall, the Preferred Site identified in 2015 remains the preferred site on the basis of least potential for environmental, technical and cost constraints.

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 9. Crossaig North Map



## 10. Crossaig North Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

Environmental	Site options						
	CG1	CG2	CG3	CG4	CG5	CG6	CG7
<b>Natural Heritage</b>							
Designations							
Protected Species							
Habitats							
Ornithology							
Hydrology							
Geology							
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>							
Designated Heritage Assets							
Non-designated Heritage Assets							
<b>People</b>							
Proximity to Dwellings							
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>							
Designations							
Character							
Visual							
<b>Land Use</b>							
Agriculture							
Forestry							
Recreation							
<b>Planning</b>							
Policy							
Proposals							

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

Engineering	Site options						
	CG1	CG2	CG3	CG4	CG5	CG6	CG7
<b>Access &amp; Connectivity</b>							
Construction Access							
Operation & Maintenance							
Existing Circuits/ Networks							
Future Development Possibilities							
Interface with SSEN Distribution							
DNO Connection							
<b>Footprint Requirements</b>							
Technology							
Adjacent Land Use							
Space Availability							
<b>Hazards</b>							
Unique Hazards							
Existing Utilities							
<b>Ground Conditions</b>							
Topography							
Geology							
<b>Environmental Conditions</b>							
Elevation							
Salt Pollution							
Flooding							
Carbon Footprint							
SF6							
Contaminated Land							
Noise (proximity to properties)							

### Preferred Option:

Overall, Site Option CG2 (immediately adjacent to the existing Crossaig Substation) is considered to be the preferred site on the basis of least potential for environmental, technical and cost constraints.

# What else is happening in Argyll?

Alongside the Argyll 275kV Strategy, SSEN Transmission are currently developing and constructing additional reinforcement, generation connection and VISTA projects across Argyll.

We've provided a list of our SSEN Transmission projects in the region below, alongside a short description and links to where you can access further information.

## Windfarm Connection Projects

As mentioned, the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy is required for the facilitation of renewable generation in Argyll. We also have a requirement to connect this renewable generation to our upgraded infrastructure. We plan to begin consulting on the options for the following windfarm connection projects as follows, where further information will be shared:

**Sheirdrim Wind Farm Connection:** This project aims to connect the proposed Sheirdrim Wind Farm to the existing Crossaig Substation via approximately 10km of overhead line by Spring 2025. Public consultation on the preferred route for the Overhead Line (OHL) is targeted for Winter 2021.

**Blarghour Wind Farm Connection:** This project aims to connect the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm to the new Creag Dhubh Substation via approximately 10km of overhead line by

Autumn/Winter 2025. Consultation on the preferred route for the OHL is targeted for Winter 2021.

**Earraghail Wind Farm:** The project aims to connect the Earraghail Wind Farm development via c3km of 275kV Double Circuit Overhead Line onto the existing Craig Murrail – Crossaig Overhead Line for October 2025. Consultation on the preferred route for the Overhead Line will be undertaken in Spring 2022.

**Tangy 4 Wind Farm:** The project aims to connect the Tangy 4 Wind Farm development via c22km of 132kV Single Circuit Overhead Line onto the existing Crossaig – Carradale Overhead Line for October 2026. Consultation on the preferred corridor for the Overhead Line will be undertaken in Spring 2022.

**High Constellation Wind Farm Connection:** This project aims to connect High Constellation Wind Farm to the existing Crossaig Substation via approximately 400m of underground cable by Spring 2025.

## Sloy Power Station Substation Rebuild

Transmission assets at Sloy Power Station Substation are reaching the end of their working life and need to be replaced. This project includes a new substation near the existing one at the power station, tower and gantry works for connection to the existing overhead line, 11kV cables to be installed to connect back to the power station from the new substation location and removal of existing equipment at the existing substation. The project team are currently identifying potential locations and further information is expected to be shared later this year.

## Inveraray – Crossaig Reinforcement

This project involves the rebuild of the existing overhead line between Inveraray and Crossaig and has been in construction since late 2019. Construction on Phase 1 of the project (Inveraray – Port Ann) is drawing to completion whilst construction on Phase 2 commenced in May 2021. Find out more: [ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/inveraray-crossaig](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/inveraray-crossaig)



Carradale Substation



Existing Dunoon Overhead Line to be rebuilt

## Carradale Substation

The aim of this project is to reinforce Carradale Substation in order to enable renewable generation connection requests. This involves the replacement of four existing transformers with higher capacity units to enable this upgraded connection. Work is ongoing and due to be completed by the end of 2022. Find out more:

[ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/carradale-substation](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/carradale-substation)

## Dunoon Overhead Line Rebuild

The aim of this project is to replace the existing overhead transmission network line which connects Dunoon to the wider national grid. The existing overhead line is supported by an old design suite of metal lattice towers (often referred to as pylons) which are coming toward the end of their operational life. The project is currently in development and consultation on the preferred route alignment is taking place this year. Find out more: [ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/dunoon/](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/dunoon/)

## Glen Falloch and Sloy VISTA

As part of the SSEN Transmission's VISTA (Visual Impact of Scottish Transmission Assets) initiative, we are installing a 132kV twin cable section of the existing 132kV double overhead line circuit at Sloy and Glen Falloch. Construction commenced earlier this year and 26 steel towers are scheduled to be removed by the end of 2021. Find out more: [ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/vista-glen-falloch-sloy](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/vista-glen-falloch-sloy)

# How do I have my say?

We understand and recognise the value of the feedback provided by members of the public during all engagements, consultations and events. Without this valuable feedback, the Project Development team would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal to submit for planning.

We are keen to receive your views and comments with regards to the following elements of our projects and will be seeking feedback from members of the public on this exhibition until **Friday 13th August 2021**. You will find the appropriate feedback forms at the end of this booklet:

## Creag Dhubh - Dalmally 275kV Connection

1

- We're inviting your comments regarding our proposed overhead line route alignment between Tower 28 (on the preferred 2018 alignment) and the Proposed Glen Lochy switching station.
- We'd also welcome your views regarding the minor location changes to the preferred Glen Lochy Switching Station site.
- For Creag Dhubh Substation, we shall shortly be submitting a Town and Country Planning Application and are seeking formal comments ahead of submitting an application to Argyll and Bute Council. Please find more information below.

## Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

2

- We are seeking stakeholder comments on our Preferred Route Option for the replacement Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275kV overhead line, prior to carrying out further project design.

## Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

3

- We're inviting your views regarding our preferred options for each of the 4 substations and are seeking any additional local knowledge of the area which may assist with further refinement.

## Creag Dhubh Substation – PAN

In regard to the Creag Dhubh Substation (Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection), general comments on the proposals can be made throughout the 12-week period to 02 September 2021. To provide feedback on the proposal or to gain further information on the project, please fill in a Creag Dhubh Substation feedback form, visit our virtual consultation events or contact our Community Liaison Manager.

Once planning applications have been submitted there will be an opportunity for the public to make formal representations to Argyll and Bute Council for the proposed Creag Dhubh Substation before a decision is made on our application.

## Comments

Your views and comments can be provided to the project team by completing the feedback forms within this booklet, via the project webpage, or by writing to our Community Liaison Manager. All received feedback will be assessed and the proposed options adapted where necessary.

# How do I have my say?

## Join our virtual consultation

Our virtual consultation room will launch on the week commencing 12th July, where information regarding our proposals will be available alongside opportunities to join the project team for interactive text chat sessions. A link to view the virtual consultation platform will be available on the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy project webpage:  
[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/)

Our live chat sessions will be held at the following times:

- **Wednesday 14th July: 10am-1pm & 5pm-7pm**
- **Thursday 15th July: 10am-1pm & 5pm-7pm**
- **Thursday 29th July: 10am-1pm & 5pm -7pm**

During these sessions you will be able to send us your questions using a text chat function and they will be answered by the project team.

The feedback forms in this booklet can be detached and sent back, or you can fill them in online using the form on the project webpage. We do request that any feedback that you wish to be included in the Report on Consultation is received in written format (feedback received via phone calls will be circulated to the project team but would not be included in the Report on Consultation).

All feedback received will be collated, reviewed and included in the Report on Consultation, along with SSEN Transmission's responses to the topics raised. The report will be published later this year and will be available to view on the project webpage.

## Keep in touch

If you have any questions or require further information regarding SSEN Transmission's Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy, please do not hesitate to contact the project Community Liaison Manger:



**Helen Batey**

[Helen.Batey@sse.com](mailto:Helen.Batey@sse.com)

**01925 800 833 / 07778 453 993**

Helen Batey, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ



If you are unable to join the live chat sessions, there are still plenty of ways to engage with our team:

You can contact us by **email, phone** or **post**, please see details for the Community Liaison Manager.

We are happy to arrange **(virtual) meetings** for individuals or small groups to discuss any areas of interest and if this is something you would like us to facilitate please contact us as soon as possible

We are happy to **post out copies of this brochure**, please contact the Community Liaison Manager to arrange this.

## Feedback

As part of the consultation exercise, we are seeking comments from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders.

We kindly request that all comments are received by **Friday 13th August 2021**. Further information, should you require it, is available on the project webpage or can be made available in printed format by contacting the Community Liaison Manager. The feedback forms in this booklet can be detached and sent back, or you can fill them in online using the form on the project webpages. We do request that any feedback that you wish to be included in the Report on Consultation is received in written format (feedback received via phone calls will be circulated to the project team but would not be included in the Report on Consultation).

All feedback received will be collated, reviewed and included in our subsequent Report on Consultation, along with SSEN Transmission's responses to the topics raised. The report will be published later this year and will be available to view on the project webpage.

# Your feedback - Creag Dhubh Substation PAN

If you prefer, the same form is available to complete online and can be found on the project webpage: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection)  
 Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. (Please tick one box per question only).

**Q1 Have we adequately explained the approach taken to select the preferred site for the Creag Dhubh substation?**  
 Yes  No  If no, please tell us how we could provide further explanation

**Q2 Do you have any concerns about our preferred site for the Creag Dhubh Substation?**  
 Yes  No  If no, please provide information

**Q3 Are there any factors, or important points that should be brought to the attention of the Project Development Team regarding the Creag Dhubh substation site?**



# Your Feedback - Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## Overhead Line Alignment and Glen Lochy Switching Station Location

**Q1** Do the alignment options presented at this consultation respond to any concerns you had over the project? Please provide an explanation of your answer.

**Q2** Do you agree with the preferred overhead line route alignment? (GL5)

Yes  No  Unsure

**Q3** If no to Q2, please indicate your preferred overhead line route alignment:

Baseline  GL1  GL2  GL3  GL4

**Q4** Which of the route alignment options presented would you consider the least preferable option for SSEN Transmission to develop? Please provide an explanation of your answer.

Baseline  GL1  GL2  GL3  GL4  GL5  None are preferred

**Q5** Do you have any comments regarding the design update to the Glen Lochy Switching Station?

# Your feedback - Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

If you prefer, the same form is available to complete online and can be found on the project webpage: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line/) Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. (Please tick one box per question only).

**Q1** Has the requirement for the Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line been clearly explained?

Yes  No  If no, please provide information

**Q2** Do you agree with our Preferred Route (DE)?

Yes  No  If no, please provide information

**Q3** If you do not agree with our Preferred Route, which Route do you prefer?

ROUTE A  ROUTE B  ROUTE C  ROUTE D  ROUTE E  NOT APPLICABLE

**Q4** Has the rationale on the preferred technology been clearly explained (Steel Lattice Tower)?

Yes  No  If no, why not?

**Q5** Do you have any comments regarding the preferred technology?  
 Yes  No  If no, why not?

**Q6** Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the Preferred Route selection process?  
 Yes  No  If no, why not?

## Your feedback - Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

If you prefer, the same form is available to complete online and can be found on the project webpage: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations>  
Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. (Please tick one box per question only)

**Q1** Has the requirement for the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations been clearly explained?  
 Yes  No  Unsure

**Q2** Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (AS1) for An Suidhe? (Please explain your answer)  
 Yes  No  Unsure

**Q3** If you do not agree with our Preferred An Suidhe Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option? (Please explain your answer)  
 AS2  AS3  AS4  AS5

**Q4** Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (CE5) for Crarae?  
 Yes  No  Unsure

**Q5** If you do not agree with our Preferred Crarae Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option? (Please explain your answer)  
 CE1  CE2  CE3  CE4  CE6

**Q6** Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (Preferred Site 2015) for Craig Murrail?  
(Please explain your answer)

Yes  No  Unsure

**Q7** If you do not agree with our Preferred Craig Murrail Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option?

CM1  CM2  CM3  CM4

**Q8** Do you agree with our Preferred Site Option (CG2) for Crossaig North?  
(Please explain your answer)

Yes  No  Unsure

**Q9** If you do not agree with our Preferred Crossaig North Site Option, what is your preferred alternative Site Option? (Please explain your answer)

CG1  CG3  CG4  CG5  CG6  CG7

**Q10** Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the Preferred Site Option selection process?  
Please use this space to provide any further comments regarding the project or the consultation:

## Your feedback

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

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

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

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

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

**Post:** Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ

**Email:** helen.batey@sse.com

The feedback forms and all information provided in this booklet can also be downloaded from the dedicated website:

[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection)

[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line)

[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/)

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

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is a trading name of: Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution Limited Registered in Scotland No.SC213459; Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213461; Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213460; (all having their Registered Offices at Inveralmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ); and Southern Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in England & Wales No. 04094290 having its Registered Office at Number One Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading Berkshire, RG1 3JH which are members of the SSE Group



**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

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TRANSMISSION

 SSEN Community

 @ssencommunity

[ssen-transmission.co.uk](http://ssen-transmission.co.uk)



## **APPENDIX 3: CONSULTATION POSTER**



Virtual  
Event

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy Virtual Public Consultation

## SSEN Transmission invites you to share your views with us

### What is being consulted on?

We would like to invite you to join our virtual consultation exhibitions to share your views and feedback on our proposals for our Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy which aims to enable the connection of new renewable generation to support the transition to net zero emissions. This strategy is comprised of three elements:

1

#### Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection

Following previous rounds of consultation on this project, we are now looking to hear your views on our Preferred Alignment for the overhead line within the selected route (Route Option 3). This event will also be the first formal public consultation for the Creag Dhubh substation Pre-application Notice (PAN).

2

#### Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

This is a new project which would involve between 8-12 km of new 275kV overhead line constructed between the proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh, and a connection point on the Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line. We are inviting views as to our Preferred Route Option, within which the replacement overhead line will be located.

3

#### Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

To complete the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy all the connected substations require upgrade to 275kV capability, as a result we are progressing with a new project which would involve construction and operation of four new 275kV electricity substations, south of Inveraray. We are inviting views regarding preferred Site Options identified for each of these substations.

The team will be available for live instant message chat sessions on:

**Wednesday 14th July 2021**  
10am-1pm & 5-7pm

**Thursday 15th July 2021**  
10am-1pm & 5-7pm

**Thursday 29th July 2021**  
10am-1pm & 5-7pm

### How can I get involved?

The virtual consultation exhibitions are part of a 5 week long consultation and have been designed to be fully interactive, allowing for presentation of key project information and plans, as well as providing an opportunity to engage directly with the project team via the chat sessions. The virtual consultation portal, the consultation brochure, other supporting documents and feedback forms can be accessed on the project webpage: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/)

Consultation starts on Monday 12th July 2021 and closes on Friday 13th August 2021. We kindly request that feedback forms are submitted by 13th August.

If you have any questions about the project or are unable to join the virtual consultations and you would like a paper copy of the consultation brochure please contact the Community Liaison Manager by email, phone or post:

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