

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Bingally 400/132 kV Upgrade
November 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report is submitted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), as part of an application for full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) ('TCPA 1997') for the Bingally 400/132kV Substation Project, located southwest of Cannich, near Tomich, approximately 6km from the existing Fasnakyle 275kV substation.
- 1.1.2 The PAC Report is submitted as a requirement of S35C of the TCPA 1997 in accordance with requirements prescribed in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (The DMRs) and particularly with reference to Section 7B, which prescribes specific content for PAC Reports.
- 1.1.3 In general, the PAC Report provides an overview of the consultation programme and describes: the findings from the PAC process; the steps taken to meet statutory requirements; the feedback received during the PAC process, and how we responded.
- 1.1.4 The PAC Report is comprised of six parts:
- 1: Introduction;
 - 2: Project background – outlines the background to the project and provides a description of the key elements and non-statutory consultation undertaken;
 - 3: The consultation process – describes the submission of Proposal of Application Notice (PAN); the dates and venues for consultation events; the advertising process, any additional consultation required (or otherwise) by the local planning authority;
 - 4: How has the project responded to feedback – summarises the written responses to consultation and the views raised at public events, as well as the number of written responses received and attendees at events; how we took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process, and how members of the public were given feedback on our consideration of the views raised; and
 - 5: Conclusion.
- 1.1.5 Appendices are attached to provide evidence of consultation carried out, under the terms of the abovementioned Regulations.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1.1 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission, operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, owns, operates, and develops the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands and has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical electrical transmission system in its licence area.

2.2 Site Description

2.2.1 The site is on land located southwest of Cannich, near Tomich, approximately 6km from the existing Fasnakyle 275kV substation.

2.3 Proposed Development

2.3.1 The proposed development is a new 400/132kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation comprising; a substation platform approximately 376m x 290m (not including the earthworks required to create a level platform), space provision to allow connection of future renewable energy generation projects, areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement, permanent and temporary access roads, temporary construction welfare and laydown area(s) as required, OHL tie-in works comprising a new terminal tower adjacent to the substation.

2.4 Requirement for Pre-application Consultation

2.4.1 Regulation 4 of the DMRs requires that pre-application consultation is carried out for all national and major developments. National and major development types are defined by the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Development) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 ('the Hierarchy Regulations').

2.4.2 National developments are developments or classes described as such in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Development is major development if it meets the thresholds or criteria associated with different development types in the Schedule attached to the Hierarchy Regulations. All developments that are not national or major are classified as local developments and are not required to undergo pre-application consultation.

2.4.3 The proposal is classified within NPF4 as a 'National Development'.

2.5 Early Non-Statutory Consultation

2.5.1 An initial in-person Site Selection Consultation Event took place on Tuesday 5th September 2023 from 12 – 5:30pm at Cannich Hall, with a supplementary virtual consultation event on Thursday 7 September 2023 from 5:30 – 7pm, to present the approach to developing the project, the site selection process and the potential site option being considered. The events were advertised via maildrop to residents in a 10km radius of the site, via press release and social media. 67 people attended the in-person consultation event. The event was followed by a 6-week feedback period from 5th September to 17th October 2023 to gain views and feedback from the local community and interested parties on the site selection process and the 'best on balance' potential substation site, and to share local knowledge. 15 responses were received during this feedback period.

2.5.2 At the request of Strathglass Community Council, the project team attended a meeting with members of the community and representatives from the community council on Wednesday 22nd November 2023, to present project updates since the consultation event and provide an opportunity for questions. 7 members of the community attended this meeting.

2.6 Pre-application Consultation with Local Planning Authority

2.6.1 A Site Selection Major Pre-Application Meeting was held on Thursday 21st November 2023 hosted by The Highland Council. The issued response following the meeting highlighted key points to consider including:

- Potential Landscape and Visual impacts specifically from the public road through Tomich upland locations in the wider surrounding area, notably from Glen Affric National Scenic Area located to the west. The cumulative impacts of surrounding wind energy developments, including Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms, should also be taken into consideration.
- The potential impact on peat. It was noted NPF4 Policy 5 - Soils confirms proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and then minimising the amount of disturbance and in a manner that protects soil from damage including from compaction and erosion, and that minimises soil sealing. A full peat assessment will be required to be undertaken to assess the extent of its presence.
- How the site will be accessed during the construction and operational phases. Estimated quantities, vehicle types and patterns of construction-related traffic should be outlined. It was noted that construction traffic should not be routed through Tomich.
- The development's impact on core paths and public rights of way. The impact both during the construction and operational phases of the development should be assessed and mitigated and form the basis for an access management statement.

A Design Workshop Major Pre-Application Meeting was held on Thursday 25th July 2024 hosted by the Highland Council with relevant stakeholders, including SEPA and NatureScot, also in attendance. The issued response following the meeting highlighted key points to consider including:

- Further information to be provided on the comparison of excavated peat volumes between Site 9a and Site 9 to demonstrate the development is actively avoiding unnecessary impact on peat.
- Clarification of re-use and reinstatement options. The current proposed reinstatement to infill an on-site borrow pit to the depth of 3.5m is not considered acceptable by SEPA.
- Clarification on further methodologies to potentially minimise the impact on peat such as 'floating' temporary laydown areas on geotextile.
- Inclusion within the planning application of figures to showing a graphical indication of the proposed development and wireframe/blocks overlaid on photos give further context to the likely position of the proposed development and/or visibility from the viewpoint locations.
- Confirmation no construction traffic is to be routed through Tomich.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 This section describes the consultation process and demonstrates how statutory PAC requirements have been met. The PAC process is specified in Section 35B of the TCPA 1997, and in Regulation 7 of the DMRs.

3.2 Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)

3.2.1 A PAN must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), containing the information prescribed in 35B(4) of the TCPA 1997 and Regulation 6 of the DMRs, including an account of what consultation the applicant intends to undertake and information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

3.2.2 A PAN was submitted to The Highland Council on the 4th March 2024, triggering the beginning of the statutory consultation period. The PAN provided the Council with an outline of the application details, dates of public events, publicity arrangements, and confirmation of the site location.

3.2.3 Copies of the PAN, covering letter and location plan are provided in Appendix A.

3.2.4 In addition to the PAN and attachments being sent to the LPA, below is a list of other parties these were sent to via e-mail on the 4th March 2024:

- Fasnakyle Project Email Distribution List
- Strathglass Community Council
- Glenurquhart Community Council
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council
- Cllr Chris Balance
- Cllr Helen Crawford
- Cllr David Fraser
- Cllr Emma Knox
- Ian Blackford MP
- Kate Forbes MSP
- Ariane Burgess MSP
- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Edward Mountain MSP
- Douglas Ross MSP
- Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP
- Emma Roddick MSP
- Tim Eagle MSP

3.3 Newspaper Notices

3.3.1 Newspaper notices must be published in respect of public events, the form of which is described in Regulation 7 of the DMRs. Notice of these public events must be published at least 7 days in advance in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the proposed development. The second (or final) public event must be held at least 14 days after the first public event.

3.3.2 In respect of the first consultation event, a newspaper notice was published in the Inverness Courier on Wednesday 13th March. In respect of the final consultation event, a newspaper notice was published in the Inverness Courier on Friday 7th June.

3.3.3 Copies of the newspaper notices are provided in Appendix B.

The notices directed readers to the project website and Community Liaison Manager contact details for further information.

3.4 Advertising Public Events

3.4.1 In addition to the publication of the newspaper notices, the public events were advertised in the following ways:

- Quarter page public consultation adverts providing general introductory information on the proposals and advertising the planned public events were published in two newspapers, shown in Appendix C.
The Inverness Courier:
 - Event 1: 15th - 26th March 2024 (4 insertions)
 - Event 2: 4th – 14th June 2024 (4 insertions)The Press and Journal, Highland Edition:
 - Event 1: 14th – 26th March 2024 (9 insertions)
 - Event 2: 4th – 17th June 2024 (10 insertions)
- Public consultation posters were circulated to the Strathglass, Glenurquhart, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Councils for sharing with their communities.
- Maildrops were issued to all properties within a 10-kilometre radius of the substation, encompassing 236 residences and 11 commercial properties, shown in Appendix C.
- Emails to the elected Councillors and MSPs in the area.
- A Press Release issued to all relevant press and added to SSEN Transmission website (<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/news/news--views/2024/1/ssen-transmission-announces-next-phase-of-public-engagement-for-pathway-to-2030-infrastructure-in-the-north-of-scotland/>).
- Notification was made via social media, by means of the SSEN Transmission Facebook and X (Twitter) feed.
- The project website Beaully-Denny 400/132kV Upgrade Project (<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP>).

3.5 Public Consultation Events

3.5.1 The first public consultation event was held at Cannich Hall on Wednesday 27th March 2024 from 2 – 7:30pm.

3.5.2 The purpose of the first public event was to provide an opportunity for members of the public, local stakeholders, and statutory authorities to view information about the project, ask questions and provide feedback in person.

- The Applicant produced a number of consultation materials to explain the proposals, including information banners shown in Appendix D.
- Additional visual aids including 3D Visualisations were presented on a screen and size A0 maps of the project proposals.
- Consultation booklets available for attendants to take away, with contact details, key dates, and information on how to provide comments online shown in Appendix E, which were made available on the project website two weeks before the event, on Wednesday 13th March 2024.
- Feedback forms, including the closing date for feedback, a template for which is shown in pages 21 - 22 of Appendix E.

3.5.3 A selection of photos taken at the first public consultation event are shown in Appendix J. A sign-in register was used to understand the number of attendees. A total of 66 attendees over the duration of the event were recorded.

3.5.4 Following the consultation event, SSEN Transmission issued an update on the project website thanking members of the public for attending and advised all material that had been displayed was available for download (<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP>).

- 3.5.5 The feedback period for the first public consultation event was 6 weeks and closed on Wednesday 8th May 2024 which was communicated in the consultation materials. 11 responses were received during this feedback period.
- 3.5.6 The final public consultation event was held at Cannich Hall on Tuesday 18th June 2024 from 2 - 7pm.
- 3.5.7 The purpose of the final public event was to give feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received as regards the proposed development from earlier consultation, and to provide further opportunity to view information about the project, ask questions and provide feedback in person.
- 3.5.8 Consultation materials for the final event comprised information banners and consultation booklet shown in Appendix F and G, and were made available on the project website two weeks before the event, on Wednesday 13th March 2024. In line with PAC requirements, consultees at the final event were provided a summary of comments received at the first event. This was published in the consultation material for the final event, and can be seen on pages 8 - 11 of Appendix G.
- 3.5.9 Interested parties were informed via consultation materials in respect of all public events that the purpose of this consultation was to provide feedback to the prospective applicant only, and that an opportunity to comment on the proposals directly to the LPA would be provided at the planning application stages should the proposed development progress to that stage. This is evidenced in documents submitted in the Appendices, including the consultation booklets.
- 3.5.10 A selection of photos taken at the final public consultation event are shown in Appendix K. A sign-in register was used to understand the number of attendees. A total of 38 attendees over the duration of the event were recorded.
- 3.5.11 The feedback period for the final public consultation event was 6 weeks and closed on Tuesday 30th July 2024 which was communicated in the consultation materials. 7 responses were received during this feedback period.

3.6 Additional Steps Taken to Consultation

- 3.6.1 In addition to the in-person public events, a virtual consultation exhibition was accessible online, available from the project website during the consultation periods, from 27th March to 8th May 2024 for the first event, and from 18th June to 30th July 2024 for the second event, using the same consultation material as displayed at the events, shown in Appendix D, E, F and G. Respondents visiting the consultation room were made aware of the closing date for comments.
- 3.6.2 In respect of all virtual consultation, interested parties were advised that the purpose of the consultation was to provide feedback to the prospective applicant only, and that an opportunity to comment on the proposals directly to the LPA would be provided at the planning application stage should the proposed development progress to that stage.
- 3.6.3 Consultation was also undertaken with a variety of stakeholders, alongside the public consultation events. A list of stakeholders is given in Appendix H. A Consultation Document was prepared which described the site selection process followed, site options identified, the appraisal undertaken, the alternatives considered during the selection of options and the suggestion for a Proposed Site. The Consultation Document and Public Consultation Booklet were issued via e-mail to stakeholders on the 4th September 2023 in advance of the public event.
- 3.6.4 A list of the stakeholders is given in Appendix H. A copy of the Consultation Document is provided in Appendix I.

Further to this, a Site Selection Major Pre-Application Meeting and a Design Workshop Major Pre-Application Meeting were hosted by The Highland Council in November 2023 and July 2024, respectively. Relevant

stakeholders were invited by The Highland Council to attend the meetings and provide feedback on both the site selection process and the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development. Feedback from the relevant stakeholders was collated by The Highland Council and provided via a response pack after the events.

4. HOW HAS THE PROJECT RESPONDED TO FEEDBACK

- 4.1.1 This section documents how the project has responded to the themes raised by stakeholders through the consultation process. We address each theme in turn below. These responses to the feedback raised were detailed in the Consultation Booklet and Banners for the second public consultation event.
- 4.1.2 Table 1 below summarises how the project has responded to feedback received from the community and statutory stakeholders through the PAN and pre-application process.

Table 1: Summary Responses to Feedback from the First Public Event

Theme and Feedback	Response
<p>Landscape and visual amenity</p> <p>Concern about visual impact of substation in the wider Glen Affric area, potential light pollution and limited screening opportunities.</p>	<p>As part of the planning application, we are undertaking a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which will consider views of the Proposed Development from residential properties, other sensitive receptors and key local viewpoints with the aim of designing the proposed substation to minimise visual impacts.</p> <p>Design considerations will aim to reduce the platform level and building heights (reducing the potential for sky lining) and installing hard and soft landscaping to screen the site from key viewpoints. Building colours can have a significant role in reducing visual impact and will be agreed through the planning process.</p> <p>We will work with The Highland Council, the local Community Council and our Landscape Architects to ensure appropriate viewpoints are captured within the assessment and appropriate design mitigation is put forward in the planning application.</p> <p>During construction, lighting will be switched off when not in use and overnight.</p> <p>Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. During winter months when there is reduced daylight, lighting will be required to aid construction activity. A Light Management Plan will be adopted by our contractor to minimise any impacts associated with this.</p> <p>During operation, lighting would be installed at the substation but would only be used in the event of a fault during the hours of darkness, during the over-run of planned works, or when sensor activated as security lighting for nighttime access.</p>
<p>Access road</p> <p>Comments regarding the proposed access road location, length and width, and the environmental impact it will have; impact to public access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.</p>	<p>We are aware of the community concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed access road. The impact on core paths has also been highlighted by The Highland Council as part of this consultation.</p> <p>The environmental assessment will assess the impact on core paths and public rights of way and detail how access will be managed and maintained throughout construction and operation, including accommodating continued public access where possible. This assessment and reporting will be submitted as part of a planning application.</p>

Theme and Feedback	Response
<p>Noise</p> <p>Comments on noise during construction period and substation in operation. Request for more information on noise mitigation measures.</p>	<p>We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents.</p> <p>Potential noise impacts during construction and operation will be assessed within the environmental assessment. The proposed development would be required to meet noise limits set by The Highland Council. Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The environmental assessment (which will include details on the background noise monitoring) will be publicly available when the application is submitted to The Highland Council.</p>
<p>Local wildlife and habitats</p> <p>Concern for impact on Glen Affric wildlife and habitats including peat and bog habitats and red listed birds. Request for further information on how the project will enhance plant and animal life.</p>	<p>Environmental assessment survey work is currently underway to establish the full extent of all habitats and protected species present on site.</p> <p>Where sensitive habitats and species are present we will seek to avoid them wherever possible, but where unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures will be identified and agreed in consultation with the Planning Authority and NatureScot.</p> <p>Where mitigation measures are agreed, these will be passed onto the contractor in the form of a Commitments Register, supported by our own Species Protection Plans and General Environmental Management Plans, to ensure that the measures are implemented as required. These measures will also form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.</p>
<p>Traffic and construction</p> <p>Concerns raised about impact of construction traffic on the road network, including the A831 between Drumnadrochit and Cannich. Request for measures implemented to ensure traffic avoids Tomich.</p>	<p>We understand that with large construction projects, increased construction traffic and road condition will often cause concern. In developing the Bingally 400/132 kV substation proposals, traffic and road use is a primary consideration for us and our contractors.</p> <p>An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is currently in development and will be included in the planning application. This will detail expected traffic volumes and will be utilised during detailed design to optimise vehicle routes to and from the site.</p> <p>We will liaise with the Local Planning Authority to ensure any traffic management and traffic calming measures are implemented for the duration of the works, and all permanent works required are installed.</p>
<p>Water soils and drainage</p> <p>Concern for drainage from the development and potential impact on local water courses. Local knowledge shared regarding local rivers, lochs and areas of risk. Request for information on</p>	<p>Full Drainage Impact and Flood Risk Assessments (DIA/FRA) are currently being undertaken and will be supported by a Drainage Strategy for the site, which will ensure that surface water run-off is controlled to a level equivalent to the current run-off rate of the site to ensure no worsening of the current situation.</p> <p>The Drainage Strategy, DIA and FRA will form part of the planning application submission and will be assessed by the Planning Authority and SEPA.</p> <p>A full Private Water Supply (PWS) survey has been undertaken of potentially affected PWS in proximity to the site to understand the full impact of the</p>

Theme and Feedback	Response
<p>how water pollution will be negated.</p>	<p>development and any mitigation measures required to preserve residents' PWS provision.</p> <p>Please also see our 'Protecting Private Water Supplies' handout for more information, available from our project webpage or at our consultation events.</p>
<p>Holistic overview and connections</p> <p>Industrialisation of the area from current developments and future developments connecting into the substation.</p>	<p>A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: nationalgrideso.com/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register</p> <p>We recognise that other future projects may connect into the substation and we know that residents are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in the area. The environmental assessment will include cumulative assessments considering other development projects in the area.</p> <p>Applications to connect to the transmission network in our license area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments.</p> <p>We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain.</p>
<p>Information provision</p> <p>Feedback that information presented has not provided enough detail on project plans and impact on the community and environment.</p>	<p>At the first Pre-Application Consultation event held in March 2024, we presented a high-level design in order to gather initial feedback from stakeholders and the community. This consultation event is the second and final statutory event where we are presenting our final substation design.</p> <p>We understand we were not able to answer all of your questions throughout this process as we undertake surveys and progress design. Further project updates and refinement at this stage have been provided within this booklet, and all final information and detail on the project will be provided within the planning application.</p>
<p>Tourism</p> <p>Concern for impact on tourism and visitors to the area.</p>	<p>For each project we develop, we conduct a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. In this assessment, we consider the likely significant effects on visual amenity arising from the proposed development during construction and operation, including from tourism and recreation sites, and where possible mitigate any potential impacts.</p>
<p>Health</p> <p>Mental and physical health concerns for local community due to concern about the impact to the natural environment.</p>	<p>We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify proposed options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible in order to minimize the duration of uncertainty for affected communities.</p> <p>However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed.</p>

Theme and Feedback	Response
	<p>Our staff are cognisant of the impact and uncertainty that is being felt within communities and have taken a number of steps to minimise this for the people who may be affected. Some of the steps we have taken include working closely with communities at early stages, being transparent on decision making, having clear routes of communication with our stakeholders through multiple methods such as public exhibition events, community council meetings, website updates and via the Community Liaison Manager.</p> <p>Whilst we have committed to these steps, we understand that everyone may be impacted in different ways and would be interested in your views regarding any additional activities that would help to address your specific concerns.</p> <p>We remain committed to promoting developments that maintain or enhance economic opportunity and achieve the long-term ambitions to ensure a net zero future, while protecting and restoring the natural environment.</p>
<p>Community Benefit Opportunities</p> <p>Opportunities for Community Benefit Funding shared including provisions for cyclists and pedestrians in the area; re-purposing disused sites in the area; funding and compensation.</p>	<p>We'd like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area.</p> <p>While some of the suggestions are outside of the scope of the project to deliver, it is our intention to work with the community to further explore opportunities in this area. This feedback has been noted and when it is appropriate to do so, will be considered by our construction team, contractors and our community benefit fund team.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission is in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives across northern Scotland and help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy. We appreciate that as the fund is being developed the information we've been able to share has been limited. More information regarding the community benefit funding will be available later this year.</p> <p>In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, support local jobs and businesses. Recent studies show our Pathway to 2030 programme could contribute over £6 billion to the UK's economy, support 20,000 jobs across the UK and benefit Scotland by around £2.5 billion, supporting 9,000 Scottish jobs.</p>

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 This PAC Report documents the consultation which ran for 6 weeks from 27th March 2024 to 8th May 2024.
- 5.1.2 The PAN was submitted to the LPA on 4th March 2024. Following this, the first pre-application consultation event was held at Cannich Hall on 27th March 2024, and a final pre-application consultation event at Cannich Hall on 18th June 2024. Additional virtual consultation exhibitions were presented via an online consultation room from 27th March to 8th May 2024 for the first public event, and from 18th June to 30th July 2024 for the second public event.
- 5.1.3 The consultation was designed to facilitate engagement with the local community, community councils, statutory authorities and local leadership in order to invite feedback on the Proposed Development. The common themes from the feedback were:
- Landscape and visual amenity
 - Access road
 - Noise
 - Local wildlife and habitats
 - Traffic and construction
 - Water, soils and drainage
 - Holistic overview and connections
 - Information provision
 - Tourism
 - Health
 - Community benefit
- 5.1.4 The approach to public consultation has ensured that the relevant stakeholders have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This has enabled locally important issues and concerns to be identified and subsequently considered in the preparation of the Bingally 400/132 kV planning application.
- 5.1.5 This PAC process has been informed by the statutory process laid out in the TCPA 1997 and the DMRs as referenced above.

6. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:

BINGALLY 400KV UPGRADE PROJECT PROPOSAL OF
APPLICATION NOTICE, COVERING LETTER AND LOCATION PLAN

The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

Sarah Lashley
Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Inveralmond House,
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ
Telephone – 07467 650710
e-mail – sarah.lashley2@sse.com

4th March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our ref: LT521 Bingally 400kV Substation – PAN Submission

Proposal of Application Notice: Proposed new 400kV substation comprising new buildings, platform, plant and machinery, access, laydown/work compound area(s), drainage, landscaping, and other ancillary works (National Development) at land 3km south of Tomich, Beaulieu.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Prospective Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), is pleased to submit this Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) and attached location plan relating to the construction and operation of a new 400kV substation on land 3km south of Tomich, Beaulieu.

The Prospective Applicant has planned two in-person public events. The first public event will be held at Cannich Hall, Cannich, Beaulieu IV4 7LJ on 27th March 2024 between 1400 hours and 1930 hours. The last public event will be held at the same venue on 18th June 2024 between 1400 hours and 1900 hours.

Newspaper adverts in respect of the public events will be placed in the Press and Journal newspaper on or around 13th March 2024 in respect of the first event and the current aim is to advertise on or around 4th June 2024 but in any case, no less than seven days in advance of the final event.

Copies of this PAN with attachments will be sent to the parties, as identified in on the accompanying PAN.

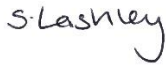
In terms of additional consultation and publicity, the Prospective Applicant proposes to carry out a leaflet drop to properties within 10km of the site to make the public aware of the public events. This is to take place circa. 10 days before the first event. There is also a dedicated project website where project updates are provided at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP>.

We trust that the approach as set out above and in the attached PAN is sufficient to meet the terms of the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation, without prejudice to the planning authority's obligations under the terms of Section 35(B) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (as amended).

I look forward to receiving confirmation of receipt and validation of this PAN, and any response The Highland Council may have within 21 days.

Should you have any queries or require further information please contact me directly.

Yours faithfully



Sarah Lashley
Assistant Consents and Environment Manager
Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2021

The Council will respond within 21 days of validation the Notice. It will advise whether the proposed Pre-application Consultation is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required.

Please note that a planning application for this proposed development cannot be submitted less than 12 weeks from the date the Proposal of Application Notice is received by the Council and without the statutory consultation requirements having been undertaken. The planning application must be accompanied by a Pre-application consultation report.

The Proposal of Application Notice will be valid for a period of 18 months from the date of validation of the notice by the Council.

Data Protection

Your personal data will be managed in compliance with the Data Protection legislation. You can read our privacy notice for planning related certificates on the Council's website at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1052173/planning_applications_consents_and_notice_of_review

I have read and understood the privacy notice.

Contact Details

Applicant	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission PLC	Agent	N/A
Address	Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ	Address	
Phone	07467 650710	Phone	
Email	sarah.lashley2@sse.com	Email	

Address or Location of Proposed Development

Please state the postal address of the prospective development site. If there is no postal address, please describe its location. Please outline the site in red on a base plan to a recognised metric scale and attach it to this completed Notice.

On land approximately 3km south of Tomich, Beaully.

Description of Development

Please include detail where appropriate – e.g. the number of residential units; the

gross floorspace in m² of any buildings not for residential use; the capacity of any electricity generation or waste management facility; and the length of any infrastructure project. Please attach any additional supporting information.

Proposed new 400 kV substation comprising new buildings, platform, plant and machinery, access, laydown/work compound area(s), drainage, landscaping, and other ancillary works (National Development).

Pre-application Screening Notice

Has a Screening Opinion been issued on the need for a Proposal of Application notice by the Highland Council in respect of the proposed development?
If yes, please provide a copy of this Opinion.

Yes No

Community Consultation

State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice.

Community Council/s	Date Notice Served
Strathglass Community Council Community Council humphreyclarke@strathglasscc.org.uk	All notifications sent via email on 4 th March 2024
Glenurquhart Community Council chairglencc@gmail.com	
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council deirdre_x@hotmail.co.uk	
Local Elected Members (Ward 12)	Date Notice Served
Cllr Chris Balance Chris.Ballance.cllr@highland.gov.uk	All notifications sent via email on 4 th March 2024
Cllr Helen Crawford Helen.Crawford.cllr@highland.gov.uk	
Cllr David Fraser David.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk	
Cllr Emma Knox emma.knox.cllr@highland.gov.uk	
Members of Scottish Parliament and Members of Parliament	Date Notice Served
Ian Blackford MP ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk	All notifications sent via email on 4 th March 2024
Kate Forbes MSP Kate.Forbes.msp@parliament.scot	
Ariane Burgess MSP Ariane.Burgess.msp@parliament.scot	

Rhoda Grant MSP Rhoda.grant.msp@parliament.scot	
Edward Mountain MSP Edward.Mountain.msp@parliament.scot	
Douglas Ross MSP Douglas.Ross.msp@parliament.scot	
Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP Jamie.HalcroJohnston.msp@parliament.scot	
Emma Roddick MSP Emma.Roddick.msp@parliament.scot	
Tim Eagle MSP Tim.Eagle.msp@parliament.scot	
Names / details of other parties	Date Notice Served

Details of Proposed Consultation		
Proposed Public Event 1	Venue	Date and Time
	Cannich Hall Cannich Beauly IV4 7LJ	27 th March 2024, Between 1400 hours – 1930 hours.
Proposed Public Event 2 <i>(at least 14 days after Public Event 1)</i>	Venue	Date and Time
	Cannich Hall Cannich Beauly IV4 7LJ	18 th June 2024 Between 1400 hours – 1900 hours. The date/time of the second public event may be subject to change. Any changes will be notified and communicated to the Council in advance of undertaking it and the PAN form will be updated accordingly.

Publication of Event		
Newspaper Advert	Name of Newspaper	Advert Date

Newspaper advert for Public Event 1	Press and Journal	On or around 13 th March 2024, but no less than 7 days prior to the date of public event 1.
Newspaper advert for Public Event 2	Press and Journal	On or around 4 th June 2024, but no less than 7 days prior to the date of public event 2.

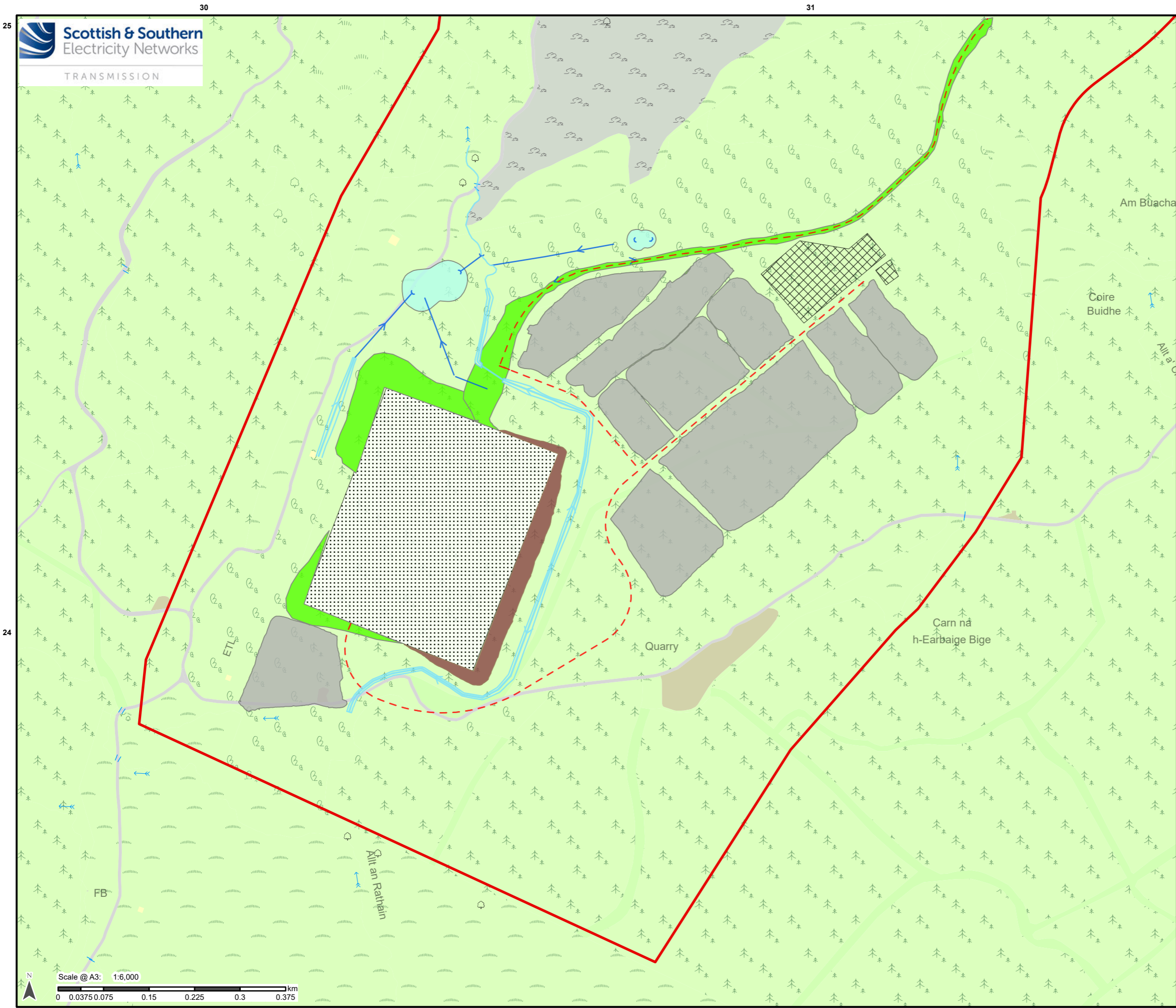
Details of any other consultation methods (date, time and with whom)

- Information postcards with invitation to attend the event sent within a 10km radius of the site, target issue circa 10 days prior to 1st event.
- Full details of the Public Event and details of how to submit comments are available on the project website:

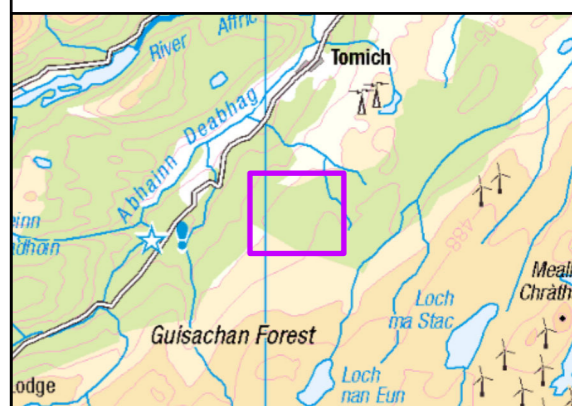
<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP>

- Information will be provided on SSEN Transmission Social Media outlets including SSEN Transmission Facebook, X (Twitter) and LinkedIn.
- Information can be obtained via telephone or email from: Community Liaison Manager, Rosie Hodgart, Tel: 07879 793652 Email: BDUP@sse.com

Signed	Sarah Lashley	Date	4 th March 2024
--------	---------------	------	----------------------------



- Legend**
- Proposal of Application Notice Red Line Boundary - 611.11ha
 - - - Access Track
 - Drainage
 - Watercourse
 - Cut Slope
 - Embankment Slope
 - Material Storage
 - Offices and Site Welfare
 - SUDS Feature
 - Substation Area



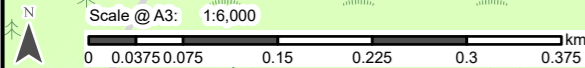
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Project No: LT000521
Project: Bingally

Title:
Bingally 400kV Substation
Site Layout

Drawn by: MM Date: 01/03/2024

Drawing: LT000521_ENV_006



APPENDIX B:

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NEWSPAPER NOTICES

The Press and Journal Classified

Email.	Phone.	Post.
<p>Email your advert to: advertising@dcthomson.co.uk</p> <p>Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and telephone number.</p>	<p>Aberdeen 01224 691212 Inverness 01463 272333</p> <p>Our lines are open: Mon. to Fri. 9am - 5pm</p>	<p>Aberdeen Journals Ltd., Classified, 1 Marischal Square, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1BL Stoneyfield Business Park, Stoneyfield, Inverness IV2 7PA</p>

Notice Board

Retail Shop

Public Notices

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 (AS AMENDED) REGULATION 7 NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), hereby submits notification of pre-application consultation for a proposed development near Tomich, Beaulieu.

The development site is located on land approximately 3km south of Tomich, Beaulieu.

The proposed development is for: Proposed new 400 kV substation comprising new buildings, platform, plant and machinery, access, laydown/work compound area(s), drainage, landscaping, and other ancillary works (National Development).

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to The Highland Council (THC) for this proposed development on 4th March 2024.

Members of the local community and interested members of the public are invited to attend the following consultation event (Public Event 1) relating to the proposal described above to be held on:
Wednesday 27th March 2024,
Cannich Hall, Cannich, Beaulieu, IV4 7LJ,
between the times of 1400 hours – 1930 hours.

Details of Public Event 2 will be published in due course.

These events are an opportunity to view the proposals and to meet the Applicant and the project team who will be available to answer questions about the projects.

Further information can be viewed on the project website at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP>

Further details can also be sought from the Community Liaison Manager whose details are listed below.

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal, may do so at the above events or by email or in writing to: Community Liaison Manager, Rosie Hodgart, 07879 793652 / BDUP@sse.com / SSEN Transmission, 1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY.

These comments must be received no later than 8th May 2024.

Please note that any comments made to the Applicant are not representations to The Highland Council.

There will be opportunity to make representations to the local planning authority following the submission of the planning application.

Sarah Lashley
For and on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

Books

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£500 a box

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LARGE building stone, ideal for home build/garden £50 Tel: 07444 728355 no texts calls only MORAY

Gardens and DIY

STORAGE Container with electrics 20 feet £50 Tel: 07444 728355 no texts calls only MORAY

Computers and Gaming

VARIETY of Xbox/ DVDs games, WWE, Mrs Brown ect. 10 boxes £50 for all. Tel: 01542 834674

Home Furniture and Furnishings

ADJUSTABLE BED

small double (4ft), Mi Bed Broncroft, 5 months old, new condition.

£800.

Tel: 01358 743247 or 07901 976733

Jumble, Car Boot, Garage Sale

TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday, March 16, 2024
10am - 12 noon.
Free Entry
Charity Number - SC001680

Mannofield Parish Church, Great Western Road, Aberdeen.
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HELLO I am looking to home any kind of small dog for company due to losing my own one. Miss the company, can you help. Must be free to a good home. Tel: 01224 699196.

To book your advert simply call
01224 691212

To insert your notice in
The Press and Journal
Call **01224 691212**
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Women who launch advise the ambitious

BY LEE HARROW

A pilot scheme to inspire female entrepreneurs has been hailed a success after more than 90% of participants said they now feel ready to start their own businesses.

E3f was a six-week pilot programme run by Elevator, a social enterprise which supports entrepreneurship and employability in Scotland.

The aim of the scheme is to help women turn their business aspirations into a reality.

It was funded by the Scottish Government's Pathways Fund. E3f gave participants "the chance to connect with like-minded women, share experiences and build connections".

The project targeted three distinct demographics under the headings of "rural", "socio-economic challenges" and "black and ethnic minority women".

E3f engaged with groups in Moray, Angus and south Glasgow who had business ideas to explore.

Interactive workshops helped participants "enhance skills, boost their confidence and equip them for success".

The free programme also has a digital platform to offer continued support and to help to consolidate connections.

An independent evaluation of the programme was carried out by Margaret Gibson OBE, the first woman in Scotland to receive the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion.

She concluded E3f was "a well-conceived thought-out pilot programme delivered to a high standard".

Nearly 60 women joined the cohort with 100% of respondents saying they would go on to start a business, with more than 90% feeling they are ready to do so now.

Organisers said some of the key takeaways were:
● The provision of women-only spaces was significant and successful in allowing participants the safe space to share personal experiences, vulnerabilities and challenges without judgment.

● Transport and childcare issues continue to generally cause more challenges for women than for men.

There were issues relating to levels of IT skills and literacy; however, the coordinators supported the women to overcome some



TIME TO TALK: The E3f event in Moray gave potential businesswomen confidence.

of these and find workable solutions.

The focus on women as individuals and concentration on "soft skills" was key to success.

Challenges often existed around a lack of family/partner support for their business ideas.

The use of locally-based female small business owners as facilitators was inspiring and reliable.

The programme was delivered by Lucy Steading, Cat Ward and Blessing Shamaki, who have backgrounds in business development and mentoring.

director, said: "The pilot feedback has been inspiring."

"So many participants have benefited from focusing on their own personal skills and the guidance given on how to overcome barriers that stop them from taking their business ideas to the next stage."

"Increased confidence, along with a new-found community of like-minded women providing a supportive network for each other, are major outcomes of the pilot."

"At Elevator, we are committed to providing opportunities to help women thrive in their entrepreneurial journey. Women in business, diversity and inclusion are critical to unlocking Scotland's economic potential and we are delighted to play our part in providing positive change."

The Pathways Fund was prompted by an independent review into women in business, by Ana Stewart and Mark Logan.

The report's recommendations sought to address the causes of female under-participation in entrepreneurship.

● To contact Recruitment, email jj.recruitment@ajj.co.uk

Recruitment

Recruitment

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Agriculture Vacancies

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A full driver's license is essential. A competitive remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate. Please send your CV to info.uk@ipmpotato.com
Closing Date: 28th June 2024

IT and Computing

HRI Munro
architecture

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AGED 66, in Huntly, seeking a similar, broad-minded, fun-loving lady, within a 20 mile radius of Huntly, in order to make regular time together more practical. Hoping to find a long term partner. So if you are a lady that is looking for love and affection, feel good about responding with confidence on: 07732-424143

Notice Board

Public Notices

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended) Regulation 7

NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION FOR FINAL PUBLIC EVENTS

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), hereby submits notification of pre-application consultation for a proposed development near Fannellan, Beaulieu, Inverness-shire. The development site is located on land at Fannellan, Kiltlilly, Beaulieu, IV4 7JP.

The proposed development is for: Proposed new 400kV substation and HVDC converter station comprising new buildings, platform, plant and machinery, access, laydown/work compound area(s), site drainage, landscaping and other ancillary works (National Development).

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to The Highland Council (THC) for this proposed development on 21st February 2024. The PAN reference number is: 24/01533/PAN.

Two previous consultation events were held (Public Events 1) on:

- Tuesday 26th March 2024, Kiltlilly Village Hall, IV4 7HH between 1230 hours to 1530 hours and 1800 hours to 2000 hours
- Thursday 28th March 2024, Phipps Hall, Beaulieu, IV4 7EH between 1400 hours and 1900 hours

Members of the local community and interested members of the public are invited to attend the following final public events (Public Events 2) relating to the proposed development to be held on:

- Wednesday 19th June 2024, Phipps Hall, Beaulieu, IV4 7EH between 1400 hours and 1900 hours**
- Thursday 20th June 2024, Kiltlilly Village Hall, IV4 7HH between 1400 hours to 1900 hours**

These events are an opportunity to view the proposals and to meet the Applicant and the project team who will be available to answer questions about the project. Comments received at the first consultation event have been summarised. Feedback on how these comments have informed the proposals will be delivered at this final public event.

Further information can be viewed on the project website at: www.fannellan400kv.co.uk

New Fannellan 400kV substation and Converter Station - SSEN Transmission (ssen-transmission.co.uk)

Further details can also be sought from the Community Liaison Manager whose details are listed below.

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal, may do so at the above events or by email or in writing to:

Community Liaison Manager, Sally Cooper, 07918470281 / fannellanengagement@sse.com / SSEN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN.

These comments must be received no later than 21st August 2024.

The Pre-application Consultation (PAC) process undertaken, and the feedback received will be summarised and presented in a PAC Report to be submitted with the future planning application.

Please note that any comments made to the Applicant are not representations to The Highland Council. There will be opportunity to make representations to the local planning authority following the submission of the planning application.

Stephanie Wade
For and on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

Public Notices

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE

PAUL RITCHIE trading as PLAZA EVENTS LTD of 36 MARKET STREET, STONEYWOOD, DYCE, ABERDEEN, AB21 9JH

is applying for a licence to use SE MARKET STREET, STONEYWOOD, DYCE, ABERDEEN, AB21 9JH, as an Operating Centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcourt House, 300 Harbottle Lane, Leuch, LS9 6WV, stating their reasons, within 21 days of the notice. Representations must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Personal

LOCAL MAN

Seeks casual relationship with open-minded lady in the South Aberdeenshire/Aberdeenshire areas.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISEMENTS

The Publishers retain full discretion as to the contents of "The Press and Journal" and reserve the full right to refuse to publish an advertisement or omit or suspend any advertisement for which an order has been accepted in every case without stating any reasons for doing so. While every effort will be made to insert an advertisement at the time specified, no guarantee can or will be given for such insertion. The Publishers shall not be liable for any error, omission or inaccuracy in a published advertisement, nor do they accept any liability for any loss which the Advertiser may allege to have been caused by any such error, omission or inaccuracy. No responsibility is taken for any mishap in handling box number replies.

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Public Notices

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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

A96 FOCHABERS NEW BRIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have determined that the project to undertake investigation works to determine the repairs required to the A96 Fochabers New Bridge, Moray is a relevant project within the meaning of section 55A of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (the 1984 Act) as the works fall within Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment, but that having regard to:

- the selection criteria contained in Annex III of that Directive;
- the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
- the protection of waste;
- pollution and nuisances;
- the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution);
- any areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EU;
- the results of the Environmental Screening Assessment under section 55A(2) of the 1984 Act and the Assessment under regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the 1994 Regulations) concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on the River Spey Special Area of Conservation, the Moray and Nairn Coast Special Protection Area and the Moray and Nairn Coast Ramsar;
- the information set out in the Record of Determination dated 14 May 2024, available at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/transport-network/roads/road-orders-and-records-of-determination/463527>, the project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The main reasons for the conclusion that no Environmental Impact Assessment is required are:
- the works will be confined to the existing carriageway boundary and will not require any land take and will not alter any local land uses;
- the Assessment undertaken by the 1994 Regulations concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on the River Spey Special Area of Conservation, the Moray and Nairn Coast Special Protection Area and the Moray and Nairn Coast Ramsar;
- any potential impacts of the works are expected to be temporary, short-term, non-significant, and limited to the construction phase. The features of the project which are envisaged to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects on the environment are:

- Mitigation measures and best practice will be implemented to ensure no short-term or long-term significant negative impacts on the environment;
- Containment measures of the working area will be in place to prevent debris or pollutants from entering the surrounding environment; and
- Measures will be in place to ensure appropriate removal and disposal of waste.

T. WALSER
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, George House
36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD

Public Notices

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APPENDIX C:

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ADVERTISING: NEWSPAPER ADVERTS AND MAILERS

HIGHLAND HEROES

Pupil overwhelms community with kindness

AN Inverness schoolboy who made it his mission 'to be nice' and spread kindness across his community won a Highland Heroes award for Primary Pupil of the Year.

Nine-year-old Mason Campbell's use of the phrase 'it's nice to be nice', is well known among his family and friends, and, in part, it's what led to him to glory.

After winning this accolade, Mason said: "I really didn't expect it, but it feels incredible.

"I'm so shocked and thankful to all the people that nominated me.

"It felt like a dream when my name was called out."

From helping the other children out in his class at school, to being friendly on the street, Mason is full of kindnesses.

His mum Jackie said: "I don't think Mason realises everything he does for everyone else around him.

"We have been through so much this past year and really it should be us checking in on him, but he's the one that checks in on us. "He has an old soul and we



Mason Campbell won the Primary Pupil Award sponsored by Inverness Flooring.

are incredibly proud of him."

The Ness Castle pupil, who has previously undergone surgery on his kidneys, is renowned for being polite, kind and helpful.

Jackie said: "Mason was blown away by the nomination. He's had a difficult year; his nana and papa's house burnt down and they lost everything, including his auntie's two pet chihuahuas. Mason was devastated but his kindness and helpfulness lives on.

"I'm constantly amazed at the way he takes everything in his stride."

Accolade for caring tandem

By Gregor White
gregor.white@inmedia.co.uk

KELLY Macrae and Savannah Kelly were delighted to be named carers of the year.

The mother and daughter jointly took the title at the Highland Heroes ceremony organised by Highland News and Media.

While mum Kelly was also nominated in the event's fundraiser of the year category she was keen that daughter Savannah (13) should take the lion's share of the glory on the night.

Kelly is also mum to nine-year-old Amelia who was born at 32 weeks weighing only 3lb.

She was diagnosed with global development delay and autism, is non verbal and has epilepsy.

Thanks to the support of Savannah, Kelly has raised more than £85,000 which



Kelly MacRae and Savannah Kelly won the carer of the year award sponsored by Parklands.

Pictures: James Mackenzie

to make sure they had a Christmas to remember."

Judges for the carer of the year category were told by Kelly and Savannah's nominee: "Savannah never moans about helping with her wee sister or having to spend so much time at the hospital.

"Recently Savannah noticed that Amelia, aged nine, was having a seizure; she stayed calm and was quick to raise the alarm which meant Amelia's seizure was treated quickly."

Kelly, mum to five children, added: "There is so much love between Savannah and Amelia. Savannah's needs often have to come after Amelia's but she is a carer hero. I wish neither of them had to experience illness or the knock-on effects.

"We're thrilled to have been nominated; kind words make the tough times a little easier."

has been put to good use by Drummond School, and the special care baby and renal units at Raigmore Hospital.

They've repeatedly raised funds for the children's ward at Raigmore Hospital, with Savannah raising £1200 to provide toys for patients - and their siblings - forced to spend time in hospital last Christmas.

Kelly insisted at the time

of her nomination: "The real hero isn't me. It's my daughter Amelia and her older sister Savannah (13). Savannah understands what it's like to be the sibling of a sick child so she has raised more than £1000 and bought toys for the children in hospital over Christmas and their siblings.

"She knows that the siblings are often forgotten about and she wanted

Fasnakyle (Bingally) 400kV substation

Beauldy-Denny 400kV Upgrade Project



Pre-Application Consultation Event

We are pleased to be holding a statutory Pre-Application Consultation to present our proposals for the new Fasnakyle 400kV substation, which forms part of the Beauldy-Denny 400kV Upgrade Project.

The pre-application process is a key first step in the Town and Country Planning process for National planning applications.

During our face to face drop-in event you will be able to view our project proposals, ask questions to the project team and share comments and feedback. All stakeholders are invited to provide feedback specific to the proposals at this stage until 8 May 2024.

Further details will be available on the project website.

The event will be held on:

Wednesday 27 March, 2-7.30pm
Cannich Hall, Cannich, Beauldy, IV4 7LJ

We encourage all members of the local community and all interested parties to attend the event.



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

Rosie Hodgart
1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY
Tel: +44 7879 793 652
Email: BDUP@sse.com
@ssentransmission @SSETransmission

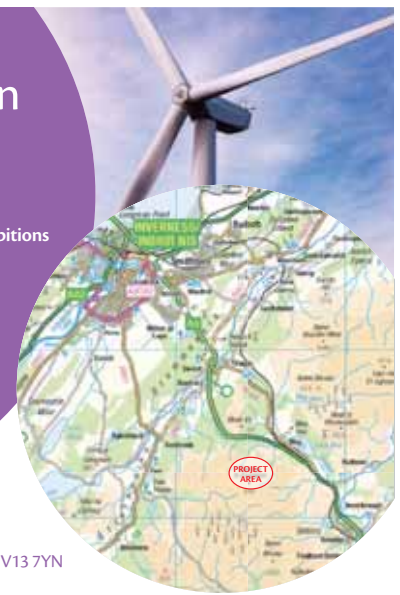


Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP

Invitation to Public Consultation on Lynemore Wind Farm proposal

Galileo invite you to face-to-face public exhibitions for the planned Lynemore Wind Farm

Galileo is proposing a development of up to 10 wind turbines and energy storage, located on land at Lynemore, situated approximately 2km Southwest of the A9 at Moy. If consented, the project will contribute to the Highlands and Scotland achieving Scotland's climate change target of net zero emissions by 2045.



EXHIBITION

The Strathdearn Hub, The Strathdearn, Tomatin, IV13 7YN
Tuesday 26 March 2024, 2.30pm - 7.30pm
Farr Community Hall, Farr, Inverness, IV2 6AX
Wednesday 27 March 2024, 10am - 2pm

ONLINE INFORMATION

Consultation will run until Tuesday 30 April 2024.
For information please contact: Neil Thomson, Galileo at: lynemore@galileoenergy.uk
Comprehensive information about the proposals and a feedback form is available on the project website: lynemorewindfarm.co.uk





COMPLAINTS: A Japanese Akita, like the one residents claim is attacking dogs in Torry.

Locals in fear of attacks by 'danger dog'

BY GRAHAM FLEMING

Torry residents claim they are living in fear of a "devil dog" that has repeatedly attacked other pooches.

Aberdeen City Council said it has taken "appropriate action" following several complaints about an "out of control" Japanese Akita.

However, concerned locals say nothing is being done about repeated attacks and it's only a matter of time before a child is seriously injured.

One, who chose not to be named, told how the powerful dog knocked them unconscious as they feared it would "rip their dog apart".

It was their second encounter with the animal, with both attacks reported to the dog warden.

They said: "It went straight for my dog. The owner wasn't in control at all.

"It also happened a second time, and the dog knocked me unconscious and I don't remember getting home that night.

"I saw the dog barrelling

towards mine and managed to get him on the lead - I was trying to protect him.

"That's when I was knocked over and banged my head, everything else is a blur.

"I came to in my kitchen and I reported the incident to the dog warden.

"But I had to hand over my dog to my grandson for six months because I was terrified to walk him after that. I thought it was going to rip my dog apart.

"I'm disabled and I don't walk very well, so I was scared that I couldn't do enough to help him.

"It's attacking animals, but next time it could be a kid - the owner has no control over it.

"It's a very serious problem in the area.

"A lot of people have complained to the dog warden and nothing is being done."

Resident Brenda Hunter also complained about the dog, which attacked her two-year-old Lhasa Apso and Chinese crested fox terrier mix Heidi last month.

Her pet has been left traumatised after being pinned down and bitten on Victoria Road.

She says nothing has changed despite her best efforts to ensure no other animal is targeted.

She said: "The dog is still roaming around free. If it was muzzled then it would be fine, but it's not.

"I had to take the long way to get back home last week because I saw (the animal) on the street.

"I'm scared to go down my normal route and I don't like walking down there on my own."

Aberdeen City Council claims sufficient action has been taken and said it could not discuss specific cases.

A council spokesperson said: "We can confirm that the dog warden service has investigated this matter and taken the appropriate action."

Police Scotland confirmed officers were made aware of the Victoria Road attack, which was passed on to the dog warden.

Mum fears pooch will be put down if blood tests reveal it's an XL Bully

An Oban mum fears a dog she recently rehomed may be put down if proven to be an XL Bully.

Veronica MacKenzie, 42, adopted nine-month-old Coast just before the first stage of banning the breed came into force in Scotland on February 23.

Currently, Scottish XL Bully owners must comply with strict rules or face up to six months in prison, or a £5,000 fine.

From July 31 it will be illegal to own an XL Bully without a £92.40 exemption certificate.

Veronica, who is against the ban, has arranged for Coast to have a blood test to prove his breed.

She said: "If those tests prove positive, I will need to apply for an exemption.

"If I don't get it - then Coast, who is a perfect dog with a lovely temperament - will have to be put down.

"It is devastating for me, and for my kids.

"We need to fight to get the law changed."



Veronica MacKenzie with her muzzled dog Coast.

Veronica, who runs Snax2Go in Oban, is Coast's third owner after his original owner died and the second owner was unable to keep him.

Coast is already muzzled and on a lead in public.

But Veronica says she gets "dirty looks" when out for walks.

She added: "Coast is such a good dog and eager to please.

"He goes out every day with a dog walker, and he says that Coast mixes well with other dogs.

"But some people are scared of him because of what they read in the media.

"Some people say 'keep your dog away from my dogs'.

"But Coast isn't a bad dog and I do not believe he would harm anyone."

Fasnakyle (Bingally) 400kV substation

Beauly-Denny 400kV Upgrade Project



TRANSMISSION

Pre-Application Consultation Event

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The event will be held on:

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Cannich Hall, Cannich, Beauly, IV4 7LJ

We encourage all members of the local community and all interested parties to attend the event.



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

Rosie Hodgart
1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY
Tel: +44 7879 793 652
Email: BDUP@sse.com

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Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
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publicnotices

Bingally 400kV Substation

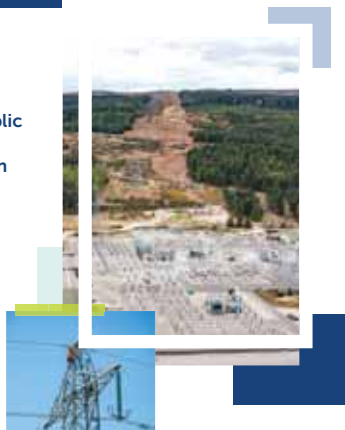


Feedback event

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Tel: +44 7879 793 652
Email: BDUP@sse.com

@ssentransmission @SSETransmission

The event will be held on:

Tuesday 18 June, 2–7pm
Cannich Hall,
Cannich, Beauly, IV4 7LJ



Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/bingally

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; or electronically by appointment at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/116/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
24/01882/FUL	Garden Ground Of Sunnyside Tradespark Road, Nairn	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days from the date of this notice
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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We are looking for an P/T administrator for our Inverness office.

This is a diverse and rewarding post in a creative environment. Initial part time position which will evolve to near full time for the right candidate.

For full job description email info@hri-architects.com / phone 01463 240066 call in to the office at 62 Academy St, Inverness.

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12 Noon Thursday

'Dialogue' call over festival's sponsor row

BY NEIL POORAN

John Swinney has said dialogue and respect for free speech are important after the Edinburgh International Book Festival ended its 20-year sponsorship with Baillie Gifford.

However, the first minister stressed the Scottish Government could not be expected to fund every cultural event.

The festival's organisers said they had come under "intolerable" pressure from climate campaigners, who criticised Baillie Gifford's

investments in fossil fuels. More than 50 authors and event chairmen and women at last year's festival signed an open letter demanding organisers find alternative sponsors if the investment management firm did not divest billions.

Last week another group of writers said the campaign against the festival was "deeply retrograde" and signed an open letter saying they are concerned about its future.

Speaking in Stirling, Mr Swinney said a "significant

difficulty" had been created for such events.

He said: "What I would encourage is dialogue between all the various interested parties.

"I would encourage a respect for the process of engagement and respect for free speech, so that we find a way through all of these issues which enable people to make their arguments, but also enables us to have important events such as the Edinburgh International Book Festival effectively supported."



NEW CHAPTER: The festival is at risk, says its chief executive, without a new sponsor.

Asked if the Scottish Government could help with the festival's funding, Mr Swinney said: "The public purse cannot stretch to meet every requirement that is put in front of it."

Last week, festival chief executive Jenny Niven, said the event is at risk because of the lack of a main sponsor.

She said: "Undermining

the future of charitable organisations such as book festivals is not the right way to bring about change. "It will be infinitely harder to build and sustain well-funded cultural institutions in future than it is to put them out of business today."

Nick Thomas, a partner with Baillie Gifford, said previously the firm is

stepping back "with the hope that the festival will thrive into the future".

He said: "We hold the activists squarely responsible for the inhibiting effect their action will have on funding for the arts." He added: "Only 2% of clients' money is invested in companies with some business related to fossil fuels."

Loch na Cathrach Pumped Storage Scheme 275kV Connection (formerly Red John)



Pre-application feedback event

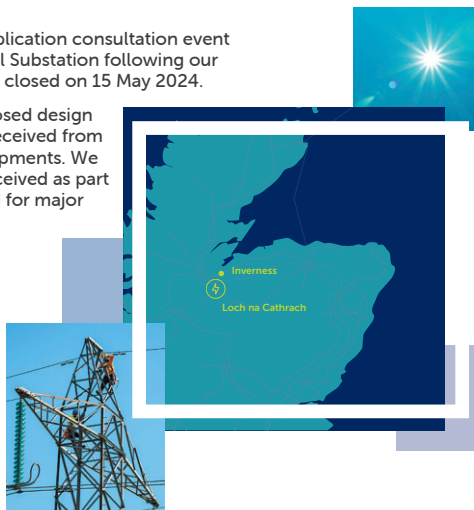
We are pleased to be holding a second pre-application consultation event for our proposed extension to the Knocknagael Substation following our initial event in April and feedback period which closed on 15 May 2024.

We are holding this event to present our proposed design for planning submission, following feedback received from the first PAC event and ongoing design developments. We will also present our responses to feedback received as part of the statutory consultation, which is required for major and national planning applications.

About the Project

SSEN Transmission are required to provide a connection to the Intelligent Land Investments Group's Loch na Cathrach Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) Scheme (450 Megawatts (MW)) near Dores, Highlands approximately 14km south-west of Inverness.

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



The event will be held at the following location:

Wednesday 12 June
2–6:30pm

Green Drive Hall
36 Green Dr, Inverness IV2 4EU

@sentransmission @SSETransmission

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

Ryan Davidson
1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY
Tel: +44 7901 133 919
Email: ryan.davidson@sse.com



Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
<https://shorturl.at/rtJQ3>

Bingally 400kV Substation



Feedback event

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The event will be held on:

Tuesday 18 June, 2–7pm
Cannich Hall,
Cannich, Beaulie, IV4 7LJ



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www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/bingally



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Glasgow, G2 6AY
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Fasnakyle (Bingally) 400kV substation

Beauly-Denny 400kV Upgrade Project

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More information overleaf.

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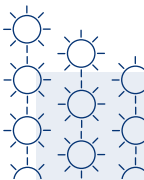
**Cannich Hall, Cannich,
Beauly, IV4 7LJ**

We encourage all members of the local community and all interested parties to attend the event.



Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP



This map shows the Beaulay–Denny overhead line with the required upgrades along the line, including new 400kV substations at Braco West, Fasnakyle and an upgrade to the existing substation at Fort Augustus.



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

Rosie Hodgart

1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY

Tel: +44 7879 793 652

Email: BDUP@sse.com



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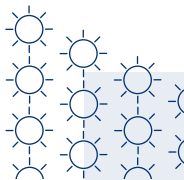
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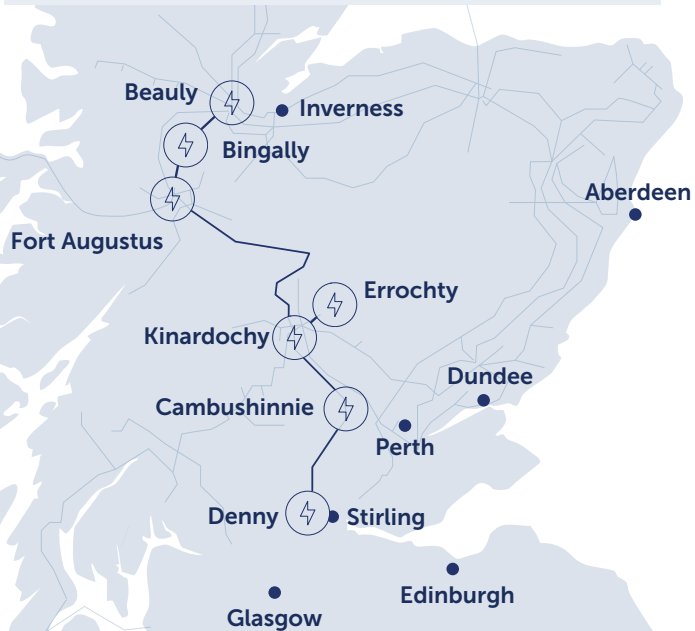
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Cannich, Beauly, IV4 7LJ



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This map shows the Beaulay–Denny overhead line with the required upgrades along the line, including new 400kV substations; Bingally, in the Fasnakyle area, and Cambushinnie, near Braco.



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1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY

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APPENDIX D:

CONSULTATION BANNERS - EVENT 1

Powering change together

The time has come to further enhance Scotland's energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It's about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish Governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we're playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with National Grid Electricity System Operator to connect vast renewable energy resources – harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation – to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two thirds of power generated in our network.

But there's more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We're investing £20 billion into our region's energy infrastructure this decade, powering more than ten million UK homes and 20,000 jobs, 9,000 of which will be here in Scotland.



Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.



Who we are

We're responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We're part of SSE plc, one of the world's leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of the country's most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be.

From underground subsea cables and overhead lines (OHL) to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on our host communities. So we're committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area.

We're regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours.

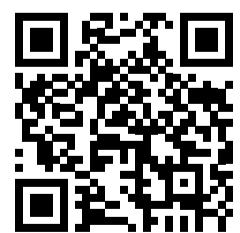
We want to hear people's views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at:

ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us



BDUP@sse.com

ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP



Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require delivery of significant infrastructure over the next few years. In partnership with the UK and Scottish governments, we're committed to meeting our obligation of connecting new, renewable energy to where it's needed by 2030.

Achieving net zero

By 2030, both the UK and Scottish governments are targeting a big expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 11GW respectively. The Scottish Government has also set ambitious targets for an additional 12GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland, there needs to be a significant increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver these 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero.

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices.

The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO), published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND). This set out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that's required to support the forecasted growth in the UK's renewable electricity. It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.

What does this mean for you?

Extensive studies informing the ESO's Pathway to the 2030 Holistic Network Design confirmed the need to upgrade the second circuit of the Beaulay – Denny OHL from 275kV to 400kV.

To do this, we require to construct two new 400kV substations at Braco West and in the Fasnakyle area. We'll also require modifications or extensions to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochoy and Tummel.

Connections to existing substations will also be required as part of the upgrade.

The upgrade of the Beaulay – Denny circuit will help deliver the significant increased capacity needed to transport energy from new large scale onshore and offshore renewable generation (mainly wind farms) to demand centres via onshore and HVDC subsea links.

These projects have been highlighted as critical to delivering the UK and Scottish Government's targets, with the development of them accelerated to meet the target dates of energisation by 2030.

Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

To achieve these targets, further investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required.

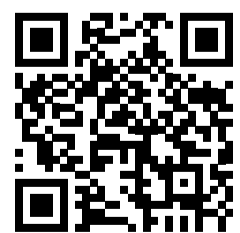
The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain is underway and we expect the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO, to publish details of this in March this year.

It is expected this will include a combination of new onshore and offshore network requirements.



BDUP@sse.com

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Project overview

Beauly - Denny Upgrade Project

The Beauly-Denny line was constructed for 400kV operation on each of its two circuits but put into service with one operating at the lower voltage of 275kV. This project will see the second circuit being uprated from 275kV to 400kV, to allow new renewable energy generation to be connected to the transmission network in the coming years. As the line was built to run at 400kV no alterations are required to the existing OHL.

However, existing 275kV connections along the OHL will need to be upgraded to allow them to continue to connect to the uprated circuit. This means the following will be required at sites along the route:

- A new 400kV substation in the Fasnakyle area.
- A new 400kV substation near Braco.
- Connections from the new substations to both the Beauly-Denny OHL (via small diversions) and the existing substations (via underground cable).
- In addition, modifications or extensions are required to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochoy and Tummel.

Fasnakyle area 400kV substation

This consultation is related to our proposed new substation located near Fasnakyle. The project will involve construction of a new outdoor, 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation located southeast of Cannich, near Tomich, approx. 6km from the existing Fasnakyle substation.

Following completion of site selection, the proposed substation has been renamed to **Bingally 400kV substation**, in reference to its location near Carn Bingally. This will be the name used for our pre-planning consultation and the planning application.



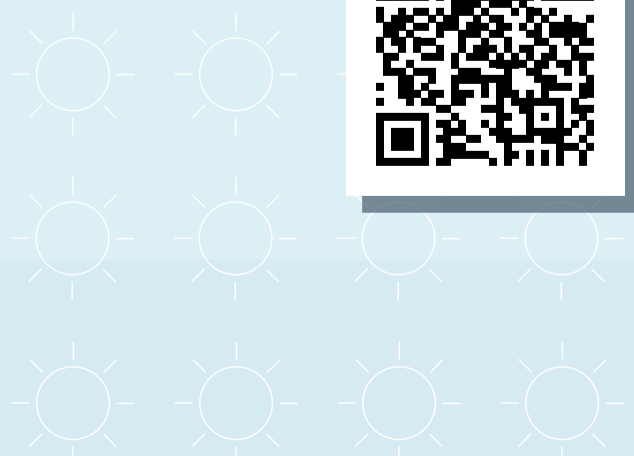
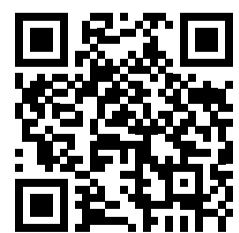
Proposed development description

- The approximate maximum dimensions of the proposed substation platform are 376m x 290m, not including the earthworks required to create a level platform.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
- Permanent and temporary access roads.
- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.
- The new substation will require OHL tie in works, comprising a new terminal tower adjacent to the substation. The new terminal tower will be of a similar height (up to 63m) and type to the existing towers. A temporary OHL diversion will also be required during the construction phase to allow the new tower to be built. The OHL tie in will not form part of the planning application for the proposed Bingally 400kV substation. Instead, an application will be made to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act.



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How we've selected the substation site

Our site selection process makes sure the design, consenting, construction and operation of our projects are undertaken in a manner which, on balance, causes the least disturbance to the environment and the local community, while ensuring the solution taken forward is economically and technically practicable.

To do this we follow an internal process supported by third party environmental and technical experts. This has many key stages, each increasing in detail and definition and bringing technical, environmental, people, and cost considerations together to find a balanced outcome.

Our proposed site: Bingally 400kV substation

Following our last consultation on the proposed Fasnakyle substation in September 2023, where we asked for your views regarding shortlisted sites, and in February 2024 we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was Site 9.

The Report on Consultation (ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP) documents the consultation process which was undertaken between 5 September and 17 October 2023 for the project.

What has changed since we last consulted?

There has been no overall change in the preference of site area, Site 9, since our last consultation.

However, to reduce the impact on high quality protected habitats and areas of deeper peat we are looking to microsite the site to the south, which became Site 9a.

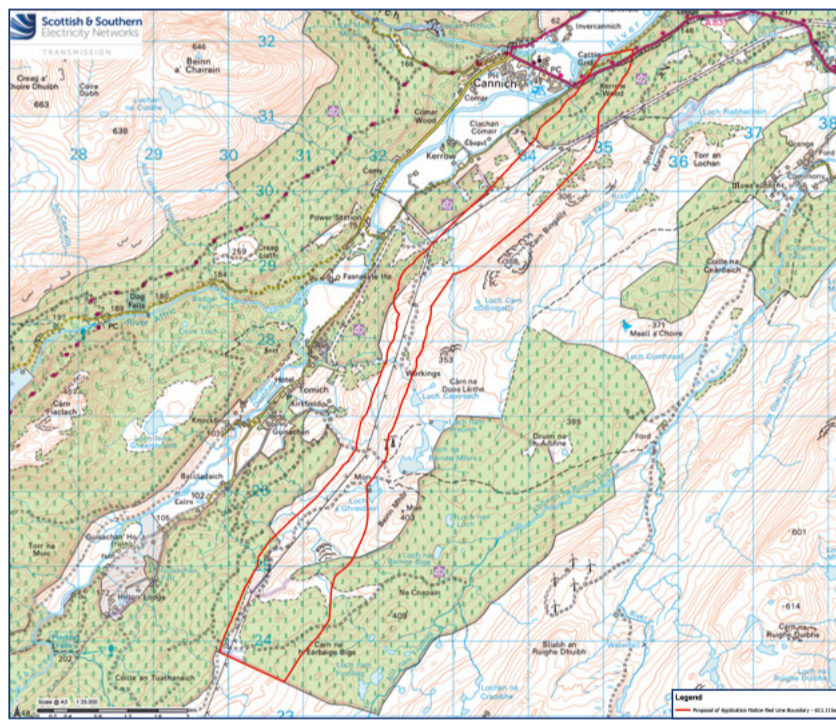
We recognise that feedback was provided from local residents during the consultation phase of the site selection process which prompted further review of areas to the northeast of the Study Area. This initially identified two new sites (Sites 15 and 16).

Both sites were selected to mitigate the constraints highlighted by feedback from local residents closer to the Site 9 area, however following further engineering and environmental investigations both sites were ruled out as viable options. We further reviewed this northeast area to identify any additional sites, but a number of constraints in the area have prevented any additional sites being taken forward.

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What next?

We are now at the 'pre-application' stage of our site selection process and following this consultation, we will engage again in June 2024, to share feedback from this consultation and any subsequent changes to design prior to submitting a planning application to the Local Authority.



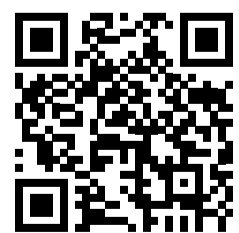
Why this site?

- Fewer environmental constraints.
- Sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.
- Connectivity for existing and proposed OHL infrastructure and local services.
- Sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure works.
- Supports the construction requirements (including laydown and compound) without the need to extend beyond the boundary.

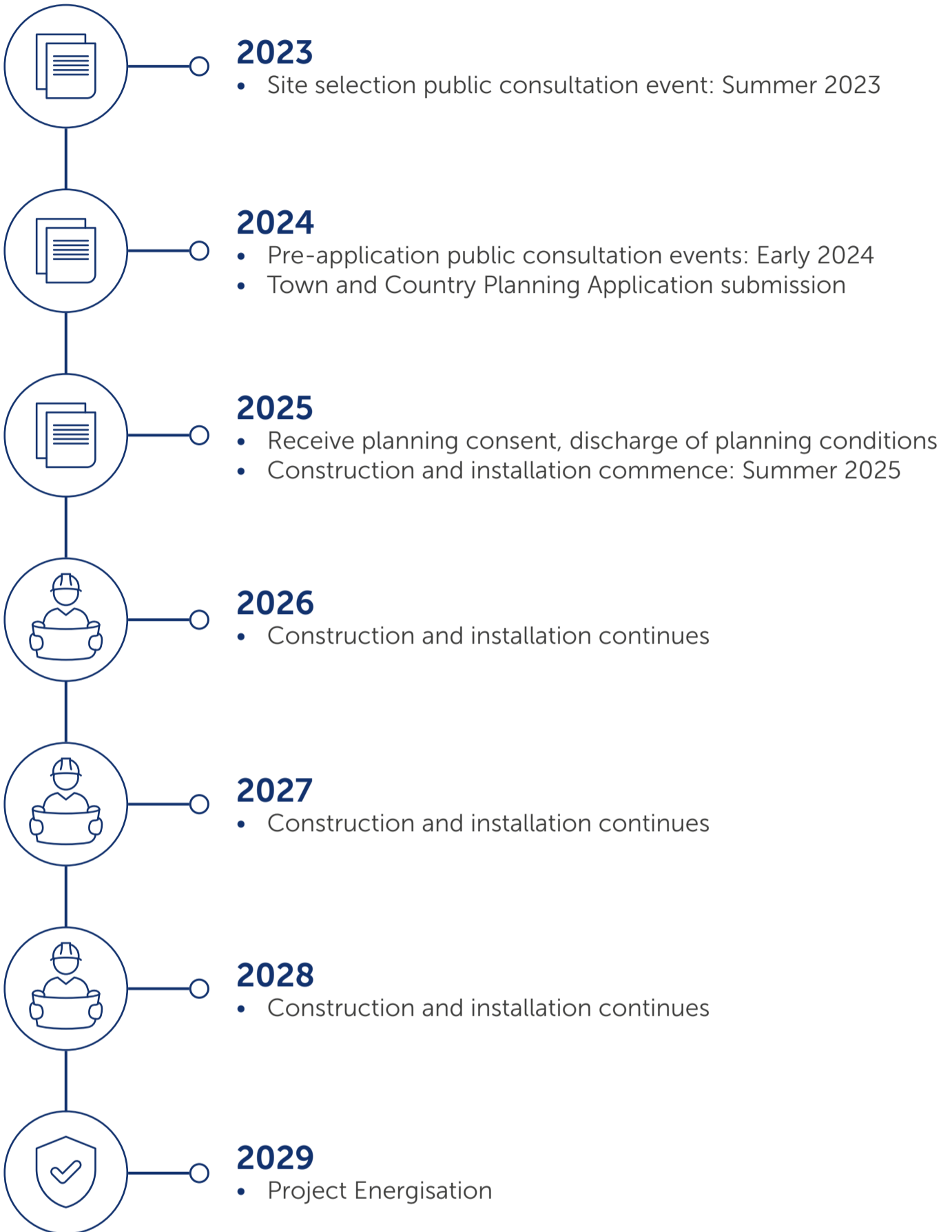


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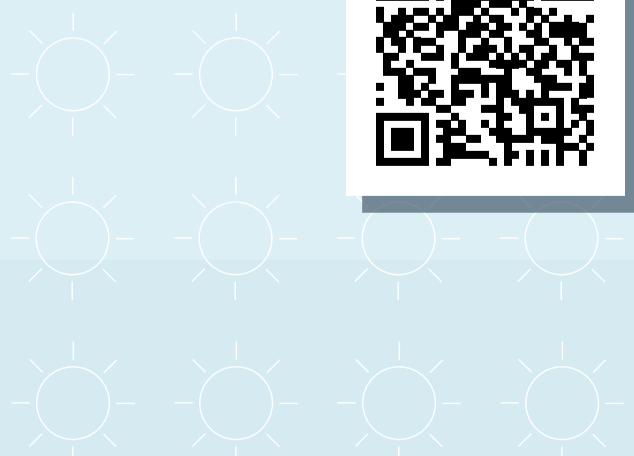
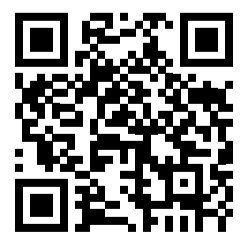


Project timeline



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APPENDIX E:

CONSULTATION BOOKLET - EVENT 1



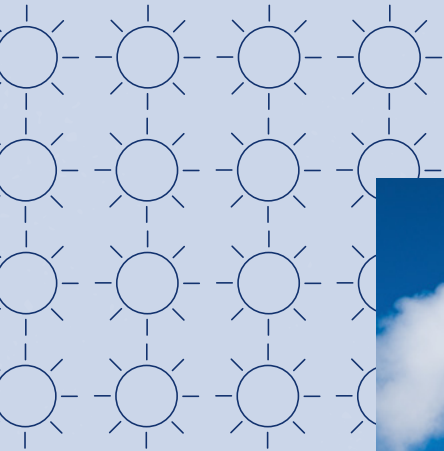
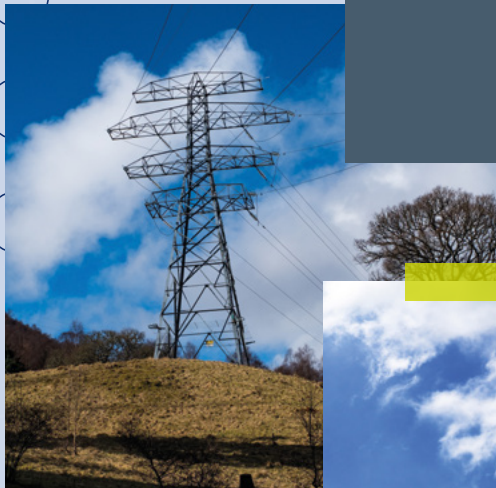
Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Fasnakyle (Bingally) 400kV Substation

Beauly Denny 400kV Upgrade
Pre-Application Consultation

March 2024

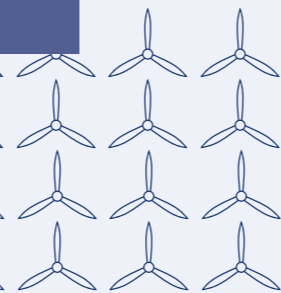


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The consultation event will be taking place on:

27 March 2024 - Cannich Hall, Cannich, Beauly, IV4 7LJ - 2pm - 7:30pm



Powering change together



The time has come to further enhance Scotland's energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It's about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish Governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we're playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with National Grid Electricity System Operator to connect vast renewable energy resources – harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation – to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two thirds of power generated in our network.

But there's more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We're investing £20 billion into our region's energy infrastructure this decade, powering more than ten million UK homes and 20,000 jobs, 9,000 of which will be here in Scotland.



Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.

Who we are

We're responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We're part of SSE plc, one of the world's leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of the country's most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground subsea cables and overhead lines (OHL) to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on our host communities. So we're committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area.

We're regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. We want to hear people's views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us

The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require delivery of significant infrastructure over the next few years. In partnership with the UK and Scottish governments, we're committed to meeting our obligation of connecting new, renewable energy to where it's needed by 2030.

Achieving net zero

By 2030, both the UK and Scottish governments are targeting a big expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 11GW respectively. The Scottish Government has also set ambitious targets for an additional 12GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland, there needs to be a significant increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver these 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero.

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices.

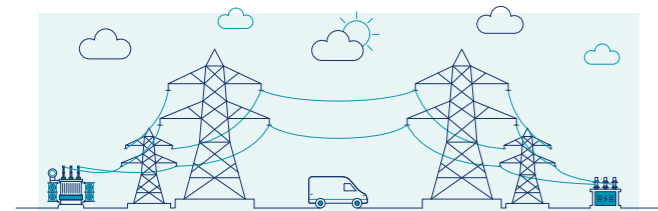
The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO), published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND).

This set out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that's required to support the forecasted growth in the UK's renewable electricity.

It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.



What does this mean for you?

Extensive studies informing the ESO's Pathway to the 2030 Holistic Network Design confirmed the need to upgrade the second circuit of the Beaulay – Denny OHL from 275kV to 400kV. To do this, we require to construct two new 400kV substations at Braco West and in the Fasnakyle area. We'll also require modifications or extensions to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochoy and Tummel. Connections to existing substations will also be required as part of the upgrade.

The upgrade of the Beaulay – Denny circuit will help deliver the significant increased capacity needed to transport energy from new large scale onshore and offshore renewable generation (mainly wind farms) to demand centres via onshore and HVDC subsea links.




These projects have been highlighted as critical to delivering the UK and Scottish Government's targets, with the development of them accelerated to meet the target dates of energisation by 2030.

Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

To achieve these targets, further investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required.

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain is underway and we expect the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO, to publish details of this in March this year. It is expected this will include a combination of new onshore and offshore network requirements.

-  New infrastructure
-  Upgrade/replacement of existing infrastructure
-  Existing network



Help shape our plans

The work we have planned is significant and has the potential to deliver massive benefits in your community, Scotland, and beyond. Yet we know that achieving our goals will require a lot of work that will impact your lives. That's why we want to work with you every step of the way throughout the planning and delivery stages of these essential and ambitious works.

We're committed to delivering a meaningful consultation process that actively seeks the views of everyone affected by our plans. That means making our plans clear and easily accessible, so that you can give us input throughout each stage of the development process.

Throughout the consultation, we'll present our approach to developing the project, including changes made since we last consulted with you.

We will also provide some visualisations and maps to show you where everything will be located.

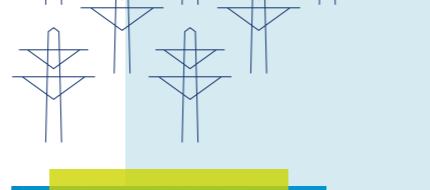
We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of any changes and refinements we've made.

By telling us what you think, you will help shape our proposals. We want to harness your local knowledge so that we spot any unforeseen challenges early and maximise the potential benefits and opportunities for your communities.

Because, ultimately, we want you to work with us to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.

Who we are consulting with

As well as communities, we are keen to hear feedback from a broad range of other stakeholders including but not limited to landowners, businesses, non-statutory consultees and statutory consultees such as local authorities, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Forestry.



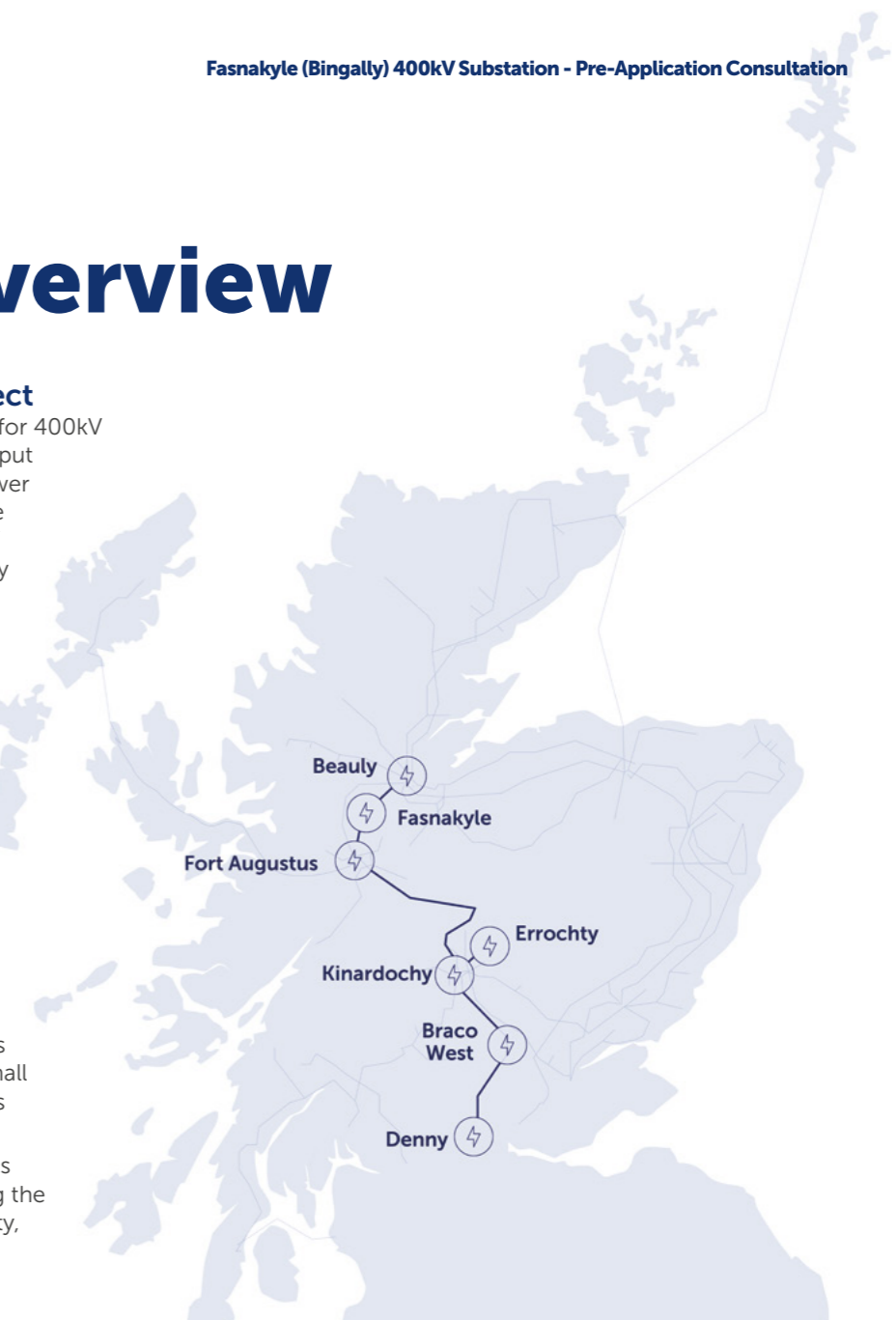
Project overview

Beauly - Denny Upgrade Project

The Beauly-Denny line was constructed for 400kV operation on each of its two circuits but put into service with one operating at the lower voltage of 275kV. This project will see the second circuit being upgraded from 275kV to 400kV, to allow new renewable energy generation to be connected to the transmission network in the coming years. As the line was built to run at 400kV no alterations are required to the existing OHL.

However, existing 275kV connections along the OHL will need to be upgraded to allow them to continue to connect to the upgraded circuit. This means the following will be required at sites along the route:

- A new 400kV substation in the Fasnakyle area.
- A new 400kV substation near Braco.
- Connections from the new substations to both the Beauly-Denny OHL (via small diversions) and the existing substations (via underground cable).
- In addition, modifications or extensions are required to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochoy and Tummel.



Fasnakyle area 400kV substation

This consultation is related to our proposed new substation located near Fasnakyle. The project will involve construction of a new outdoor, 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation located southeast of Cannich, near Tomich, approx. 6km from the existing Fasnakyle substation.

Following completion of site selection, the proposed substation has been renamed to **Bingally 400kV substation**, in reference to its location near Carn Bingally. This will be the name used for our pre-planning consultation and the planning application.

Proposed development description

- The approximate maximum dimensions of the proposed substation platform are 376m x 290m, not including the earthworks required to create a level platform.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
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- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.
- The new substation will require OHL tie in works, comprising a new terminal tower adjacent to the substation. The new terminal tower will be of a similar height (up to 63m) and type to the existing towers. A temporary OHL diversion will also be required during the construction phase to allow the new tower to be built. The OHL tie in will not form part of the planning application for the proposed Bingally 400kV substation. Instead, an application will be made to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act.

How we've selected the substation site

Our site selection process makes sure the design, consenting, construction and operation of our projects are undertaken in a manner which, on balance, causes the least disturbance to the environment and the local community, while ensuring the solution taken forward is economically and technically practicable.

To do this we follow an internal process supported by third party environmental and technical experts. This has many key stages, each increasing in detail and definition and bringing technical, environmental, people, and cost considerations together to find a balanced outcome.

Our proposed site: Bingally 400kV substation

Following our last consultation on the proposed Fasnakyle substation in September 2023, where we asked for your views regarding shortlisted sites, and in February 2024 we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was Site 9.

The Report on Consultation (ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP) documents the consultation process which was undertaken between 5 September and 17 October 2023 for the project.

What has changed since we last consulted?

There has been no overall change in the preference of site area, Site 9, since our last consultation. However, to reduce the impact on high quality protected habitats and areas of deeper peat we are looking to microsite the site to the south, which became Site 9a.

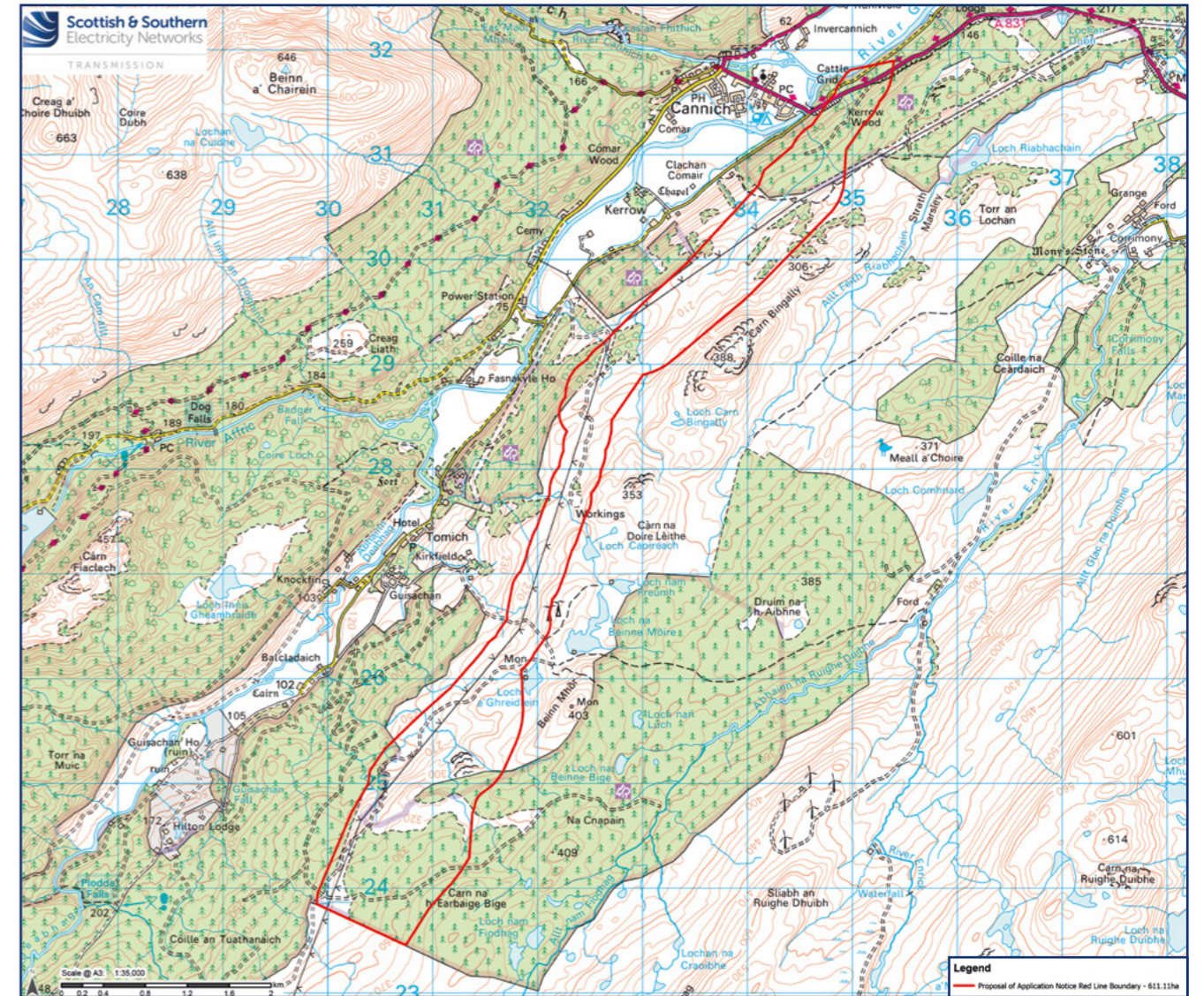
We recognise that feedback was provided from local residents during the consultation phase of the site selection process which prompted further review of areas to the northeast of the Study Area. This initially identified two new sites (Sites 15 and 16).

Both sites were selected to mitigate the constraints highlighted by feedback from local residents closer to the Site 9 area, however following further engineering and environmental investigations both sites were ruled out as viable options. We further reviewed this northeast area to identify any additional sites, but a number of constraints in the area have prevented any additional sites being taken forward.

We also acknowledge that feedback was provided from local residents and the Highland Council regarding construction access to the site impacting upon areas such as Tomich. As shown as part of this consultation, a new access road will be constructed to the site which will divert our construction traffic away from local residential areas and the single-track local public road network. We recognise that this is a large development, and that landscape design will play an important role in reducing the landscape and visual impact.

What next?

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Why this site?

- Fewer environmental constraints.
- Sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.
- Connectivity for existing and proposed OHL infrastructure and local services.
- Sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure works.
- Supports the construction requirements (including laydown and compound) without the need to extend beyond the boundary.



The planning process

The legislation that enables the planning of projects like the Bingally 400kV substation is the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Engaging the right people

Local Planning Authorities determine the outcome of any applications made under the Town and Country Planning Act and establish the planning pathway our substation projects must take, including which consents are required.

This involves confirming whether projects require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) under the relevant legislation. If our project is deemed non-EIA (due to its scale or potential environmental impacts), a voluntary Environmental Appraisal (EA) will be produced by us to support the consent application. These assessments would be made publicly available once submitted.

The Bingally 400kV substation project is classed as "National Development" under the Town and Country Planning process; therefore, pre-application consultation is required with the public and interested parties.

The pre-application process

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to the Highland Council on 4 March 2023. This is the first stage in the planning application process, and the beginning of a consultation period that must allow for at least 12 weeks between the start of the pre-application consultation and feedback, and submission of a planning application.

The plans we are consulting on at this event might change between now and the submission of a planning application.

The PAN boundary includes the proposed platform together with all other potential site requirements,

including site compounds, drainage, access, parking, laydown and storage areas and landscaping proposals.

Many of these requirements will be temporary and will be permanently removed upon completion. The PAN boundary does not represent the permanent footprint of the site but indicates a maximum construction area. This may be reduced as design progresses but will not increase in size.

There is a requirement to hold at least two events to provide the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposals. This public event is the first event. A second event will be held in June 2024 at which feedback will be given on the views obtained at the first event. There will also be a short opportunity for comment after this second event and comments will be included in a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report.

Submitting a planning application

The planning application is due to be submitted to the Highland Council in summer 2024. A Pre-application Consultation Report will accompany the planning application providing details of the consultation undertaken and communicating how the consultation process has influenced the proposed development. Where comments are received that cannot be addressed in the final proposal, an explanation will also be given why this is the case.

Comments made through the pre-application consultation process are not formal representations to the Highland Council. When the planning application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make formal representations to the Highland Council.



Finding common ground with landowners

We recognise that landowners and occupiers are key stakeholders in the development of our projects. At all levels, we will be transparent about our proposals and keep the conversation open and constructive when it comes to those affected and reaching effective compromise.

From the outset of the project, our land team have been identifying and contacting landowners and occupiers who may be affected by our proposals.

If you are a landowner who is affected by the proposals and have not yet had contact from us, please get in touch via the contact details for the dedicated project land managers found on the relevant webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP

We work with landowners and occupiers to mitigate the effects of our infrastructure on their properties and our team of Land Managers will be on hand to answer queries and address concerns throughout this process.

As part of this, we need to carry out various engineering and environmental surveys to inform what we design and how we build it. We will always seek consent from affected landowners and occupiers in advance for these surveys.

Once we have finalised the design, we will be required to secure the appropriate land rights from landowners and occupiers in order to secure planning consent.

Our land managers will endeavour to reach a voluntary agreement with landowners and occupiers, however, as a statutory undertaker, we might need to underpin voluntary discussions with an application to Scottish Ministers for a Necessary Wayleave or Compulsory Purchase Order.

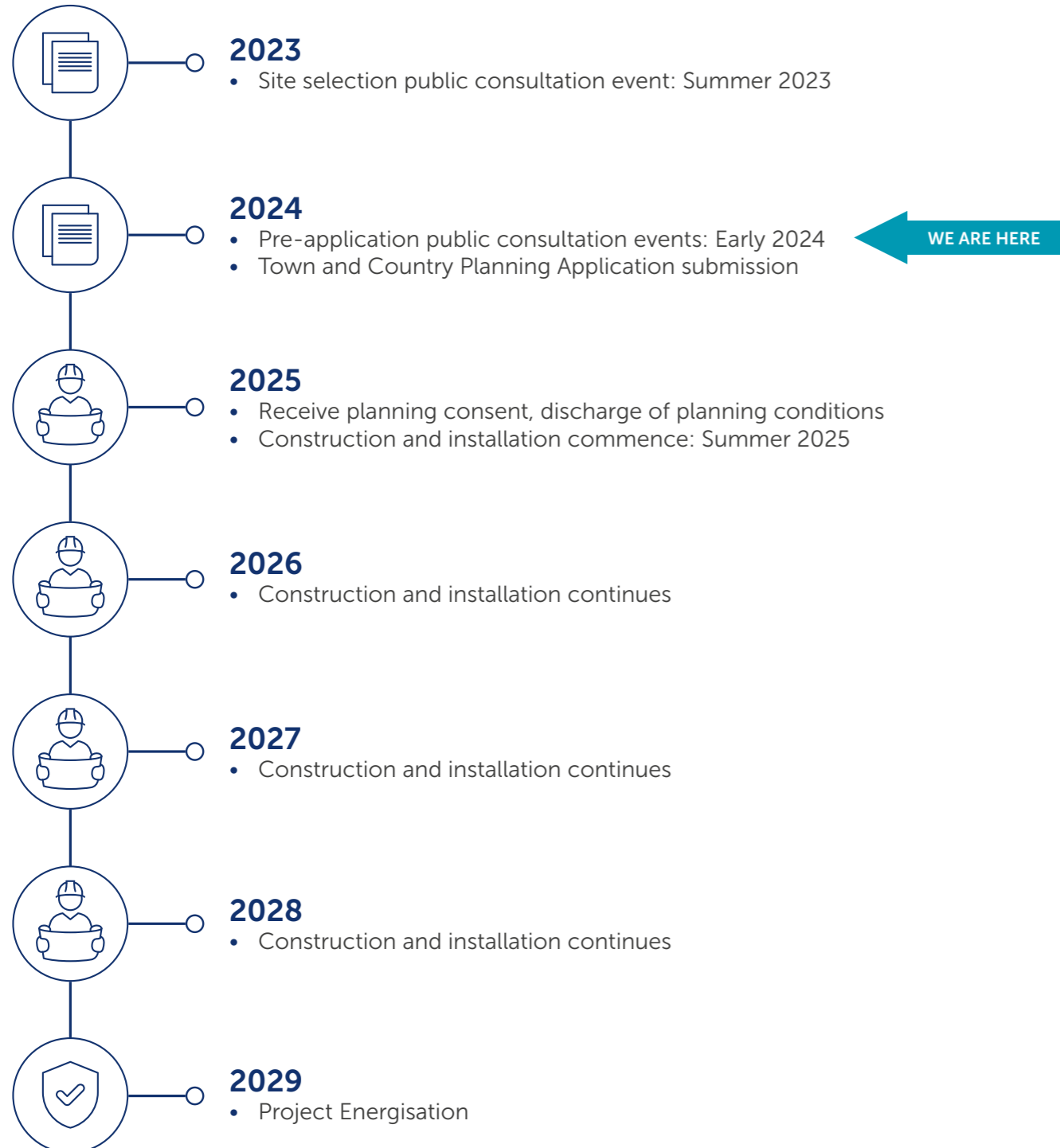
Ultimately this is to ensure nationally significant infrastructure projects are delivered on time and in line with our licence obligations. We also have a duty to protect the interests of the UK bill payer. Statutory powers are not used lightly as we aim to work with landowners and occupiers to secure the necessary land rights voluntarily.

All potentially affected landowners and occupiers have the opportunity to provide feedback at our in-person consultation events and by submitting a feedback form.

We would encourage all those with an interest to submit their views through this consultation.



Project timeline



Other projects in the local area

As the transmission operator in the Highlands of Scotland, we need to maintain and invest in the high voltage electricity transmission network in our area to provide a safe and reliable electricity supply to our communities.

We also need to offer terms for connections to the transmission network for new generation such as wind farms and pumped storage schemes and for new sources of electricity demand.

Our relevant Pathway to 2030 projects are also detailed on page 5 and includes information regarding our proposals for the other projects within the Beauly to Denny project.

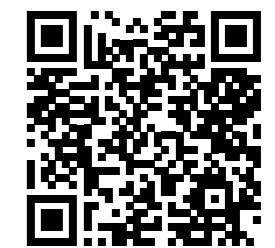
Local renewable developments

We know that local stakeholders are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in their local area.

Applications to connect to the transmission network in our licence area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments.

We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain.

A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: nationalgrideso.com/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register



Find out more
Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about our other projects.

Development considerations

During our last consultation, we outlined many of the engineering, environmental and social considerations that we take account of when establishing a practical site for the substation. Now that we have progressed with our proposed site, we are able to share further details regarding many of our development considerations.

Water soils and drainage

A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment will support the planning application. A site water management plan will be developed to manage potential risks to the water environment during construction.

Local wildlife and habitats

High level walkover surveys found the site has limited potential to support protected or notable species such as badger, otter and water vole due to its peaty soils and smaller watercourses. The open moorland habitat is suitable to host reptile species such as adder, slow worm and common lizard.

Black grouse are known to breed in the area and may occur within the vicinity of the site.

Due to the site's former use of commercial forestry plantation, the habitat has degraded into poor condition wet modified bog. Peat depth surveys and ground investigation data have been used in micro-siting the works to aid in avoiding impacts on deeper peat and higher quality habitats in the surrounding area.

Noise

The environmental assessment will include a noise assessment to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on nearby receptors. This assessment and reporting will be submitted as part of future applications. The assessment will identify any mitigation measures and commitments to be incorporated in the design, construction and/or operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Appropriate noise limits, both during construction and operation, will be agreed in consultation with the local authority and the proposed development will not be permitted to exceed these limits.

Size

The substation design has been developed since site selection, with the proposed platform size changing from around 380m x 315m, to 376m x 290m. The height of the control building will be no more than 8m in height, with OHL gantries forming the tallest constructed items at around 13m in height. The wider site layout shows areas for construction compounds, laydown areas, screening and drainage.

Traffic

The construction of the Proposed Development will require vehicles to deliver plant, machinery and workers to the site. A new access road is proposed from the A831 to divert traffic away from Cannich and Tomich and facilitate abnormal loads to the site.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed for suitable management of all abnormal loads and vehicle movements to ensure road safety for all other road users during the construction works.

Connections

The site is designed with space provision for new connections at the 400kV substation.



Landscape and visual amenity

The site is located approximately 3.6km southeast of the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch Special Landscape Area, 3.8km east of the Glen Affric National Scenic Area and 5.5km east of the Central Highlands Wild Land Area. Residential properties lie within 1km of the site with the village of Tomich situated to the northwest.

In developing the site further, the design will undertake a landscape and visual assessment which will assess the significance of any anticipated visual impacts and identify mitigation measures and commitments that are to be incorporated into the design, construction and/or operational phase of the development. This will be submitted as part of the future planning applications.



Cultural heritage

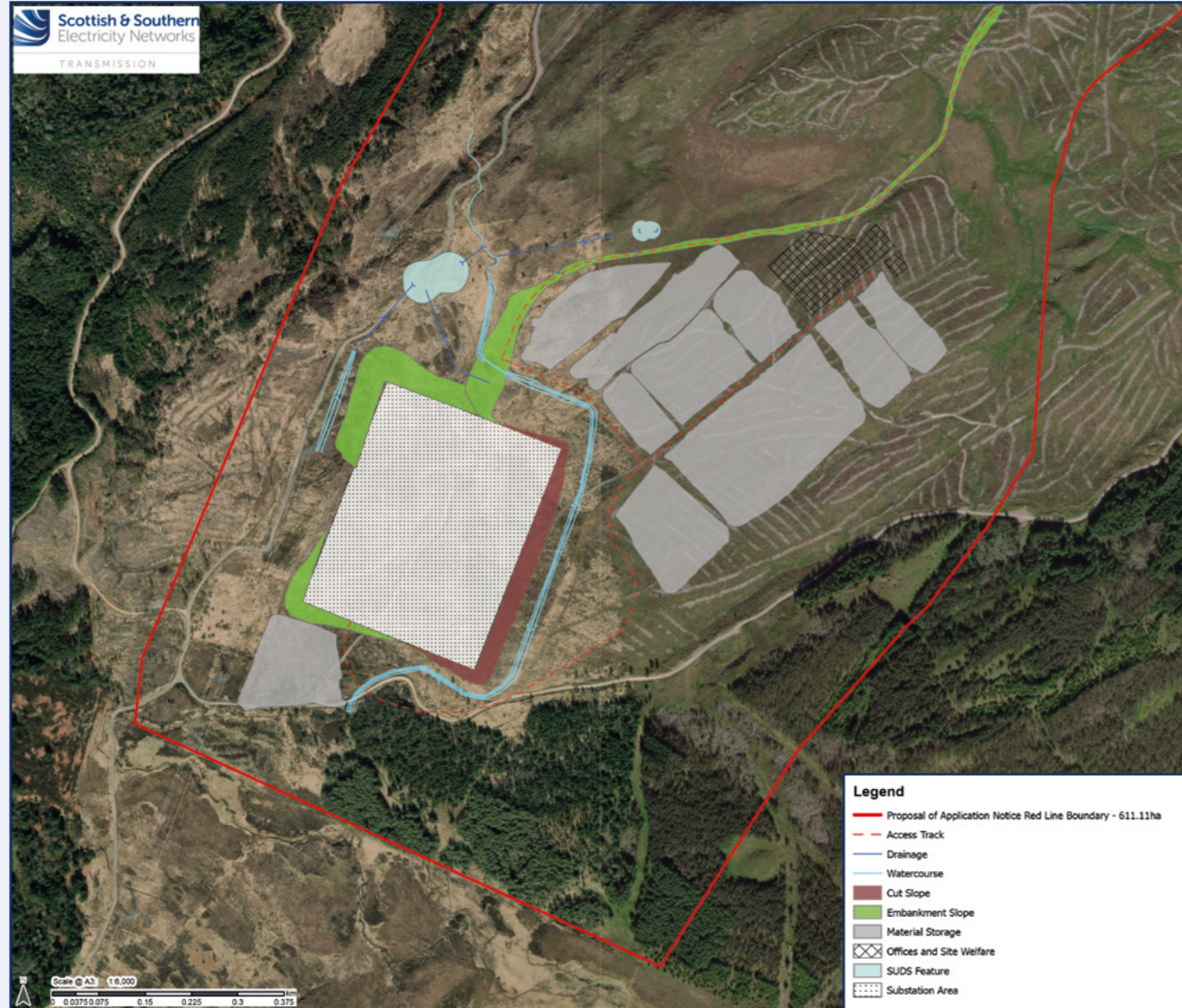
Few archaeological records exist within or in close proximity to the site, indicating low potential for the presence of unidentified archaeological/cultural heritage features during the development of the site.

Tomich Village Conservation Area is located approximately 2.3km northwest of the site. The Conservation Area and properties in the immediate vicinity contain multiple Category B and C Listed Buildings and, within the wider area, Fasnakyle Power Station and Fasnakyle Bridge Over River Glass are also classified as Listed buildings.

The environmental assessment will include a cultural heritage chapter assessing the potential effects of the development.

This assessment and reporting will be submitted as part of future planning applications and will identify any mitigation measures and commitments to be incorporated in the design, construction and/or operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Site layout



3D visualisations

We understand that local stakeholders need to be able to visualise what the development may look like in their local area.

The following are some images taken from the 3D model created for the Bingally 400kV substation.

A flythrough video is also available to view from the project webpage or via the QR code at the bottom of this page.

The layout and colour of our proposals may change based on feedback and further refinement of the design, if that happens, we'll update our model and video and share this on our webpage and with you at the next event.

Photomontages

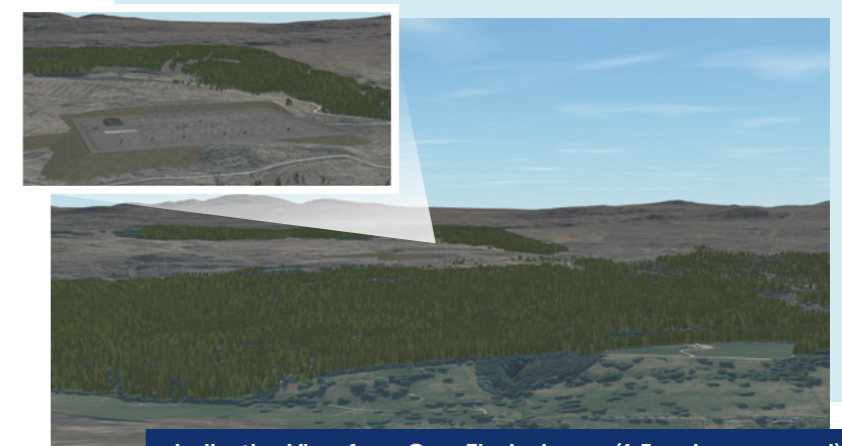
Photomontage visualisations will also be produced as part of the environmental assessment. Once completed, we'll ensure these photomontages are easily available to view.



Indicative Aerial View to North (285m above ground)



Indicative Aerial View to South (300m above ground)



Indicative View from Carn Fiaclach area (1.5m above ground)



Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to watch a flythrough video.

Delivering a positive environmental legacy

On every project we deliver, we always need to consider how we impact the environment in that area. As we enhance the transmission network in the north of Scotland, we have a responsibility to design and build our projects to protect and enhance the environment.

We will always look to minimise the potential impacts from our activities and achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). As the first developer to consult upon and implement an award-winning approach to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on all new sites, we're committed to delivering a "greener grid", focusing on habitat restoration and creating biodiversity growth as we invest in our network.

We are committed to delivering 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on all sites gaining consent going forward. This ensures that we don't just restore our natural habitats but actively improve them for the benefit of local communities, wildlife, flora and fauna. During the development, construction and operation of our projects, we will leave the environment in

a measurably better state than before development started, ensuring a positive environmental legacy at all our sites.

As this project progresses through the development process, we will actively seek ways to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity, through careful routeing and site design to avoid impacting areas of highest biodiversity value. Where avoidance is not possible, we will offset this by introducing new habitats along with restoration efforts. These can be achieved within the boundary of the development site, or by providing support to local groups involved with habitat restoration or creation projects, within the locale of the development site.

If there are biodiversity improvement projects in your local area that we could get involved with, please contact the Community Liaison Manager.

Example projects

Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)

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



Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)

Thurso South substation and The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

SSEN created approximately 10 hectares of bee-friendly habitat to support the pollination of the rare endemic great yellow bumblebee.

This contributed to wider conservation efforts for this bee species. A collaboration with The Bumblebee Conservation Trust facilitated research on food availability for bumblebees, identifying the need for a diverse seed mix containing key flowering species to enhance early, main and late food supply to support the full lifecycle of bumblebees.



Thurso South substation and The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Notes

Area with horizontal lines for taking notes.

Have your say

We value community and stakeholder feedback. Without this, we would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

The feedback period

We will accept feedback from now until 8 May 2024.

How to provide feedback :

Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage at ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP

Email the feedback form to the Community Liaison Manager or write to us enclosing the feedback form at the back of this booklet.

What we're seeking views on

During our last public consultation event in September 2023, we wanted to know your thoughts on the substation sites under consideration and if you agreed with the one we'd identified as best.

Now that we have taken forward a proposed site, we want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of any changes and refinements we've made.

We'll be actively looking to mitigate the impacts of the site as much as possible over the coming months, but it would be helpful to understand what you believe we should be doing to help minimise these impacts and if there are any opportunities to deliver a local community benefit you would like us to consider. We encourage all interested community members to fill in a feedback form when submitting feedback, however if you prefer, you can email us to provide your feedback or ask any questions.

Our Community Liaison Team

Each project has a dedicated Community Liaison Manager who works closely with community members to make sure they are well informed of our proposals and that their views, concerns, questions or suggestions are put to our project teams.

Throughout the life of our projects, you will hear from us regularly. We aim to establish strong working relationships by being accessible to key local stakeholders such as community councils, residents' associations and development trusts, and regularly engage with interested individuals.

Community Liaison Manager

Rosie Hodgart
Community Liaison Manager



SSEN Transmission,
1 Waterloo Steet,
Glasgow, G2 6AY

T: 07879 793652
E: BDUP@sse.com

Additional information

The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP



You can also follow us on social media



To support everyone online, we provide accessibility and language options on our website through 'Recite Me'. The accessibility and language support options provided by 'Recite Me' include text-to-speech functionality, fully customisable styling features, reading aids, and a translation tool with over 100 languages, including 35 text-to-speech.

Please select "Accessibility" on our website to try out our inclusive toolbar.

Your feedback

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

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Q1. Now that we have shared updated design plans for this site, is there anything you'd like to bring to our attention that you believe we may not have already considered during project development?

Comments:

Q2. Are there any environmental features that you consider important and should be brought to the attention of the project team?

Comments:

Q3. What suggestions for social or environmental community benefit opportunities do you have that you would like us to consider, or are there any local initiatives you would like us to support?

Comments:

Q4. Is there anything regarding the Bingally substation proposal that you feel you require more information about? If so, please detail below.

Comments:

Additional questions and information overleaf

Q5. Do you have any other comments?

Comments:

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

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

We would like to send you relevant communications via email such as invitations to stakeholder events, surveys, updates on projects, services and future developments from the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks group listed below. If you are happy to receive email updates please opt in by ticking the box below. You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting us at stakeholder.admin@sse.com or by clicking on the unsubscribe link that will be at the end of each of our emails.

For information on how we collect and process your data please see our privacy notice available at today's event. This can also be obtained online at ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy

If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the project 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: SSEN Transmission, 1 Waterloo Steet, Glasgow, G2 6AY **Email:** BDUP@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP

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

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

ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP

We intend to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist our experienced teams in the analysis of your feedback, so we can categorise key points raised more quickly. You can learn more about how we're utilising AI at ssen-transmission.co.uk/AIFAQ

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.

APPENDIX F:

CONSULTATION BANNERS - EVENT 2

Powering change together

The time has come to further enhance Scotland's energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It's about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish Governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we're playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with National Grid Electricity System Operator to connect vast renewable energy resources – harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation – to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two-thirds of power generated in our network.

But there's more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We're investing £20 billion into our region's energy infrastructure this decade, powering more than ten million UK homes and 20,000 jobs, 9,000 of which will be here in Scotland.



Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.

Who we are

We're responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We're part of SSE plc, one of the world's leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity transmission network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK's landmass, crossing some of the country's most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground subsea cables and Overhead Lines (OHL) to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on our host communities. So we're committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our local developments can bring to your area.

We're regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. We want to hear people's views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us



The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require delivery of significant infrastructure over the next few years. In partnership with the UK and Scottish governments, we're committed to meeting our obligation of connecting new, renewable energy to where it's needed by 2030.

Achieving net zero

By 2030, both the UK and Scottish governments are targeting a big expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 11GW respectively. The Scottish Government has also set ambitious targets for an additional 12GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland, there needs to be a significant increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver these 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero.

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices.

The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

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

It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.

What does this mean for you?

Extensive studies informing the ESO's Pathway to the 2030 Holistic Network Design confirmed the need to upgrade the second circuit of the Beaulay – Denny Overland Line (OHL) from 275kV to 400kV.

To do this, we require to construct two new 400kV substations at Braco West and in the Fasnakyle area. We'll also require modifications or extensions to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochoy and Tummel. Connections to existing substations will also be required as part of the upgrade.

- New infrastructure
- - - Upgrade/replacement of existing infrastructure
- Existing network

The upgrade of the Beaulay – Denny circuit will help deliver the significant increased capacity needed to transport energy from new large scale onshore and offshore renewable generation (mainly wind farms) to demand centres via onshore and HVDC subsea links.

These projects have been highlighted as critical to delivering the UK and Scottish Government's targets, with the development of them accelerated to meet the target dates of energisation by 2030.

Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

To achieve these targets, further investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required.

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO's, 'Beyond 2030' report, published in March this year. For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets. These projects, which will be subject to extensive public consultation, are at the very early stages of development and further details will be set out in due course.



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Project overview

Beauly - Denny Upgrade Project

The Beauly-Denny line was constructed for 400kV operation on each of its two circuits but put into service with one operating at the lower voltage of 275kV. This project will see the second circuit being upgraded from 275kV to 400kV, to allow new renewable energy generation to be connected to the transmission network in the coming years. As the line was built to run at 400kV, no alterations are required to the existing OHL.

However, existing 275kV connections along the OHL will need to be upgraded to allow them to continue to connect to the upgraded circuit. This means the following will be required at sites along the route:

- A new 400kV substation in the Fasnakyle area, named Bingally substation.
- A new 400kV substation near Braco, named Cambushinnie substation.
- Connections from the new substations to both the Beauly-Denny OHL (via small diversions) and the existing substations (via underground cable).
- In addition, modifications or extensions are required to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochoy and Tummel.

Bingally 400kV substation

This consultation is related to our proposed new substation located near Fasnakyle.

The project will involve construction of a new outdoor, 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation located southeast of Cannich, near Tomich, approximately 6km from the existing Fasnakyle 275kV substation.

Proposed development description

- The approximate maximum dimensions of the proposed substation platform are 376m x 290m, not including the earthworks required to create a level platform.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
- Permanent and temporary access roads.
- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.
- The new substation will require OHL tie in works, comprising a new terminal tower adjacent to the substation. The new terminal tower will be of a similar height (up to 63m) and type to the existing towers. A temporary OHL diversion will also be required during the construction phase to allow the new tower to be built. The OHL tie in will not form part of the planning application for the proposed Bingally 400kV substation. Instead, an application will be made to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act.



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The story so far

Sep '23



We introduced the project in September 2023 to show the three site options being considered as part of site selection.

Nov '23 - Jan '24



Ground Investigation works undertaken at site 9.

Mar '24



Report on Consultation published to confirm site 9 is the proposed site.

Mar '24



The first Pre-Application Consultation event was held in Cannich to confirm site 9 is the proposed site and present the design progress to date.

Help shape our plans

The work we have planned is significant and has the potential to deliver massive benefits in your community, Scotland, and beyond.

Yet we know that achieving our goals will require a lot of work that will impact your lives. That's why we want to work with you every step of the way throughout the planning and delivery stages of these essential and ambitious works.

We're committed to delivering a meaningful consultation process that actively seeks the views of everyone affected by our plans. That means making our plans clear and easily accessible, so that you can give us input throughout each stage of the development process.

Throughout the consultation, we'll present our approach to developing the project, including changes made since we last consulted with you. We will also provide some visualisations and maps to show you where everything will be located and to allow you to see what the proposed substation will look like. These will also be available to view and download from our project website.

What we are seeking views on

We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of the refinements or changes we've made.

This event is the second of two planned, sequential, public consultation events following the submission of the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN). The PAN submission triggered the initial formal Town and Country Planning (major application) consultation process for this site, including the 12-week (minimum) pre-application consultation period.

Following the initial consultation event, the project team has sought to ensure that comments or concerns raised have informed, where possible, the primary considerations for the designs as they have progressed.

This includes substation layout design, landscaping enhancement and screening. Outside of the formal consultation periods and events, we have continued to provide a dedicated webpage for the projects and liaise with a wide range of stakeholders to help inform the development and design.

We are therefore holding this feedback event to present our proposed substation extension design, which has been informed by stakeholder feedback, and have set out our responses to feedback received to date.

By telling us what you think, you will help shape our proposals. We want to harness your local knowledge so that we spot any unforeseen challenges early and maximise the potential benefits and opportunities for your communities. Because, ultimately, we want to work with you to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.



Who we are consulting with

As well as communities, we are keen to hear feedback from a broad range of other stakeholders including but not limited to landowners, businesses, non-statutory consultees, and statutory consultees such as local authorities, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Forestry.



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Feedback

Following submission of the PAN in March 2024, the first of two pre-application consultation events were held at Cannich Hall, Cannich, on 27 March 2024. There were a total of 66 attendees.

During the six week feedback period which closed on 8 May 2024, 11 responses were received specific to this project. Whilst this feedback is acknowledged, only tangible, direct feedback specific to the development of the proposals is summarised and responded to within the following table.

Some of the responses posed general questions covered in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page and additional handouts such as project need, sustainability considerations and compensation. More information regarding these topics and other FAQs can be accessed at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs

We have included both event feedback and statutory stakeholder feedback through the PAN and pre-application process, as well as design feedback, within the next three pages via themes.



Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to access our FAQs.

Theme	Response
<p>Landscape and visual amenity Concern about visual impact of substation in the wider Glen Affric area, potential light pollution and limited screening opportunities.</p>	<p>As part of the planning application, we are undertaking a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which will consider views of the Proposed Development from residential properties, other sensitive receptors and key local viewpoints with the aim of designing the proposed substation to minimise visual impacts.</p> <p>Design considerations will aim to reduce the platform level and building heights (reducing the potential for sky lining) and installing hard and soft landscaping to screen the site from key viewpoints. Building colours can have a significant role in reducing visual impact and will be agreed through the planning process.</p> <p>We will work with The Highland Council, the local Community Council and our Landscape Architects to ensure appropriate viewpoints are captured within the assessment and appropriate design mitigation is put forward in the planning application.</p> <p>During construction, lighting will be switched off when not in use and overnight.</p> <p>Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. During winter months when there is reduced daylight, lighting will be required to aid construction activity. A Light Management Plan will be adopted by our contractor to minimise any impacts associated with this.</p> <p>During operation, lighting would be installed at the substation but would only be used in the event of a fault during the hours of darkness, during the over-run of planned works, or when sensor activated as security lighting for nighttime access.</p>
<p>Access road Comments regarding the proposed access road location, length and width, and the environmental impact it will have; impact to public access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.</p>	<p>We are aware of the community concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed access road. The impact on core paths has also been highlighted by The Highland Council as part of this consultation.</p> <p>The environmental assessment will assess the impact on core paths and public rights of way and detail how access will be managed and maintained throughout construction and operation, including accommodating continued public access where possible. This assessment and reporting will be submitted as part of a planning application.</p>



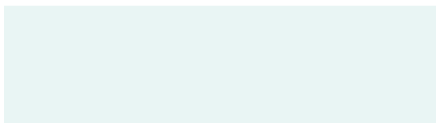
Feedback

Theme	Response
<p>Noise Comments on noise during construction period and substation in operation.</p> <p>Request for more information on noise mitigation measures.</p>	<p>We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents.</p> <p>Potential noise impacts during construction and operation will be assessed within the environmental assessment. The proposed development would be required to meet noise limits set by The Highland Council. Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The environmental assessment (which will include details on the background noise monitoring) will be publicly available when the application is submitted to The Highland Council.</p>
<p>Local wildlife and habitats Concern for impact on Glen Affric wildlife and habitats including peat and bog habitats and red listed birds. Request for further information on how the project will enhance plant and animal life.</p>	<p>Environmental assessment survey work is currently underway to establish the full extent of all habitats and protected species present on site.</p> <p>Where sensitive habitats and species are present we will seek to avoid them wherever possible, but where unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures will be identified and agreed in consultation with the Planning Authority and NatureScot.</p> <p>Where mitigation measures are agreed, these will be passed onto the contractor in the form of a Commitments Register, supported by our own Species Protection Plans and General Environmental Management Plans, to ensure that the measures are implemented as required. These measures will also form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.</p>
<p>Traffic and construction Concerns raised about impact of construction traffic on the road network, including the A831 between Drumnadrochit and Cannich. Request for measures implemented to ensure traffic avoids Tomich.</p>	<p>We understand that with large construction projects, increased construction traffic and road condition will often cause concern. In developing the Bingally 400kV substation proposals, traffic and road use is a primary consideration for us and our contractors.</p> <p>An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is currently in development and will be included in the planning application. This will detail expected traffic volumes and will be utilised during detailed design to optimise vehicle routes to and from the site.</p> <p>We will liaise with the Local Planning Authority to ensure any traffic management and traffic calming measures are implemented for the duration of the works, and all permanent works required are installed.</p>
<p>Water soils and drainage Concern for drainage from the development and potential impact on local water courses. Local knowledge shared regarding local rivers, lochs and areas of risk. Request for information on how water pollution will be negated.</p>	<p>Full Drainage Impact and Flood Risk Assessments (DIA/FRA) are currently being undertaken and will be supported by a Drainage Strategy for the site, which will ensure that surface water run-off is controlled to a level equivalent to the current run-off rate of the site to ensure no worsening of the current situation.</p> <p>The Drainage Strategy, DIA and FRA will form part of the planning application submission and will be assessed by the Planning Authority and SEPA.</p> <p>A full Private Water Supply (PWS) survey has been undertaken of potentially affected PWS in proximity to the site to understand the full impact of the development and any mitigation measures required to preserve residents' PWS provision.</p> <p>Please also see our 'Protecting Private Water Supplies' handout for more information, available from our project webpage or at our consultation events.</p>



Feedback

Theme	Response
<p>Holistic overview and connections Industrialisation of the area from current developments and future developments connecting into the substation.</p>	<p>A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: nationalgrideso.com/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register</p> <p>We recognise that other future projects may connect into the substation and we know that residents are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in the area. The environmental assessment will include cumulative assessments considering other development projects in the area.</p> <p>Applications to connect to the transmission network in our license area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments.</p> <p>We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain.</p>
<p>Information provision Feedback that information presented has not provided enough detail on project plans and impact on the community and environment.</p>	<p>At the first Pre-Application Consultation event held in March 2024, we presented a high-level design in order to gather initial feedback from stakeholders and the community. This consultation event is the second and final statutory event where we are presenting our final substation design.</p> <p>We understand we were not able to answer all of your questions throughout this process as we undertake surveys and progress design. Further project updates and refinement at this stage have been provided within the booklet, and all final information and detail on the project will be provided within the planning application.</p>
<p>Tourism Concern for impact on tourism and visitors to the area.</p>	<p>For each project we develop, we conduct a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. In this assessment, we consider the likely significant effects on visual amenity arising from the proposed development during construction and operation, including from tourism and recreation sites, and where possible mitigate any potential impacts.</p>



Feedback

Theme	Response
<p>Health Mental and physical health concerns for local community due to concern about the impact to the natural environment.</p>	<p>We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify proposed options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible in order to minimize the duration of uncertainty for affected communities.</p> <p>However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed.</p> <p>Our staff are cognisant of the impact and uncertainty that is being felt within communities and have taken a number of steps to minimise this for the people who may be affected. Some of the steps we have taken include working closely with communities at early stages, being transparent on decision making, having clear routes of communication with our stakeholders through multiple methods such as public exhibition events, community council meetings, website updates and via the Community Liaison Manager.</p> <p>Whilst we have committed to these steps, we understand that everyone may be impacted in different ways and would be interested in your views regarding any additional activities that would help to address your specific concerns.</p> <p>We remain committed to promoting developments that maintain or enhance economic opportunity and achieve the long-term ambitions to ensure a net zero future, while protecting and restoring the natural environment.</p>
<p>Community Benefit Opportunities Opportunities for Community Benefit Funding shared including provisions for cyclists and pedestrians in the area; re-purposing disused sites in the area; funding and compensation.</p>	<p>We'd like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area.</p> <p>While some of the suggestions are outside of the scope of the project to deliver, it is our intention to work with the community to further explore opportunities in this area. This feedback has been noted and when it is appropriate to do so, will be considered by our construction team, contractors and our community benefit fund team.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission is in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives across northern Scotland and help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy. We appreciate that as the fund is being developed the information we've been able to share has been limited. More information regarding the community benefit funding will be available later this year.</p> <p>In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, support local jobs and businesses. Recent studies show our Pathway to 2030 programme could contribute over £6 billion to the UK's economy, support 20,000 jobs across the UK and benefit Scotland by around £2.5 billion, supporting 9,000 Scottish jobs.</p>



The substation site

About the site

Following site selection consultation in September 2023, we advised within our Report on Consultation that Site 9 had been selected as our proposed site for the proposed Bingally 400kV substation ahead of our first Pre-Application Consultation event earlier this year.

The site is located to the south of Tomich and is considered best on balance due to having fewer environmental constraints, including the limited impact on protected habitats and species and being situated further away from watercourses, natural and cultural designations, and listed buildings than other options.

The site has sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure and construction requirements and is well situated for connecting into existing overhead line infrastructure. The wider site area has sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.

What size is the site?

The substation footprint will be approximately 376m x 290m and will consist of Air Insulated Switchgear, associated equipment, control building, access tracks and fencing.

What else will the development consist of?

Drainage

Drainage arrangements as part of the substation works will extend out with the existing substation boundary and will be included in the planning application. This includes a drainage basin for the substation and access track, leading to associated outfall locations to the north-east and west of the site.

Temporary compounds

Temporary construction compounds and laydown areas will be located in the vicinity of the substation to support the construction phase. Additional temporary construction compound and laydown areas, if needed, will be identified by the construction contractor prior to commencement of works.

Lighting

During construction, lighting will be managed by the construction contractor through a previously prepared Lighting Management Plan. Once operational it is anticipated that the site will run on a dark site basis. An operational lighting strategy will be prepared during the project refinement phase.

Landscaping and screening

A Landscape Strategy will be prepared to support the planning application and inform the landscaping and screening for the site. Indicative landscaping and screening are illustrated in drawings that support this consultation process.

Connections

The substation will connect into the existing Beauly to Denny Overhead Line (ssen-transmission.co.uk/bdup), which will require one new permanent 'junction' tower located adjacent to the substation platform to connect the overhead line into the substation, an additional permanent tower to support the new alignment of the overhead line into the substation, and two temporary towers to allow the circuits to be diverted and remain live during the construction of the aforementioned permanent towers. Each tower noted here will have a dedicated access track leading to it. The towers will be about 63m high and will be submitted for approval as part of a separate Section 37 application.

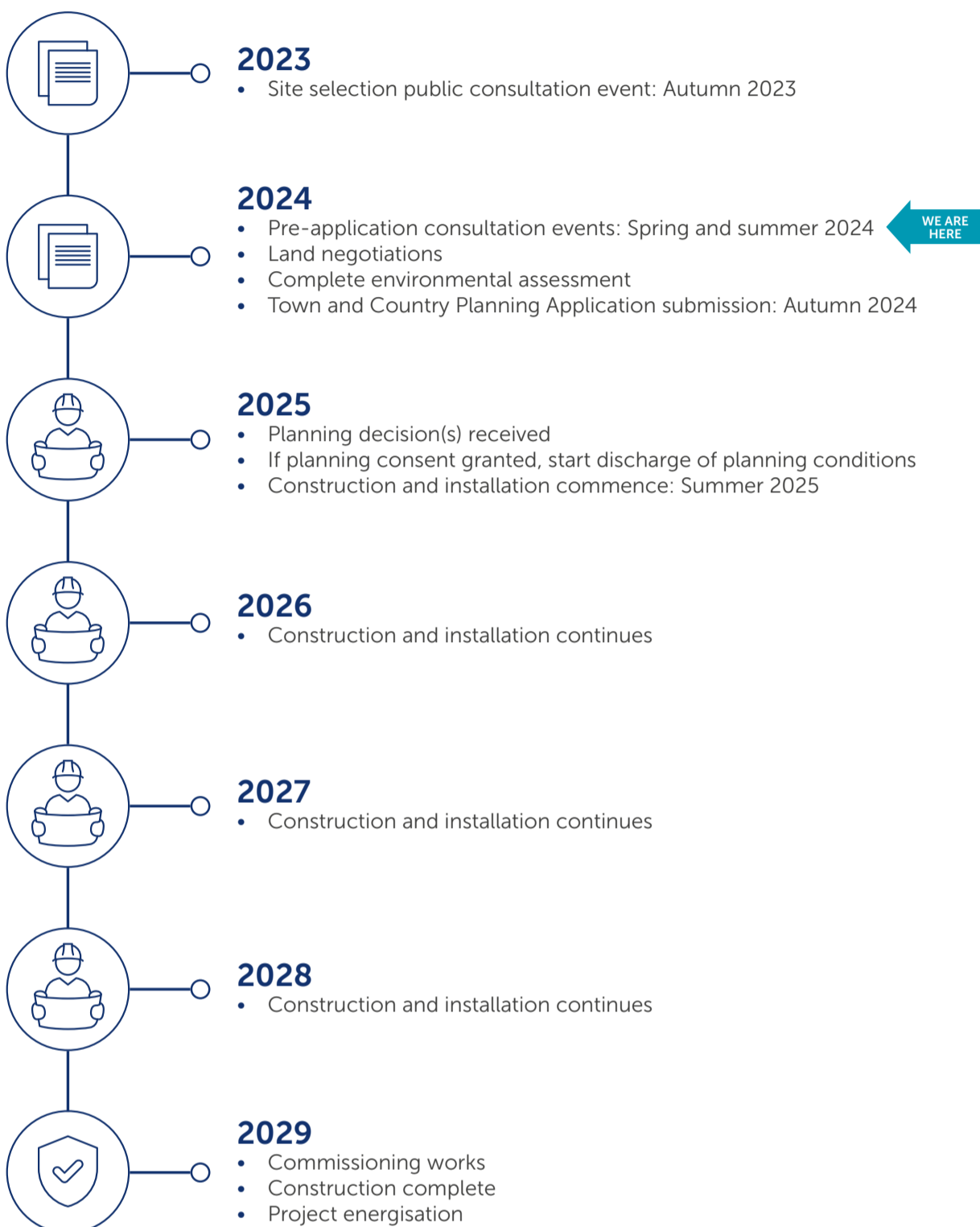


ssen-transmission.co.uk/bingally



BDUP@sse.com

Project timeline



APPENDIX G:

CONSULTATION BOOKLET - EVENT 2



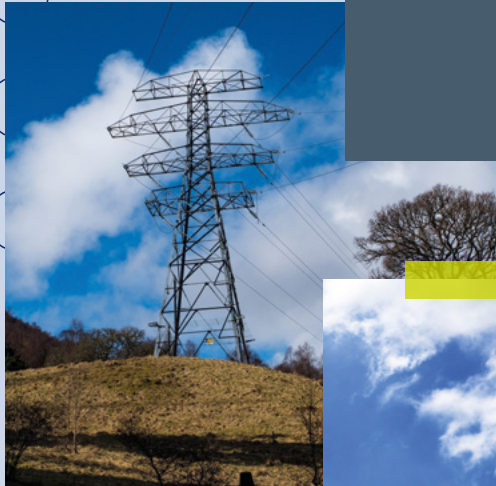
Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Bingally 400kV substation

Beauly Denny 400kV Upgrade
Pre-application consultation
feedback event

June 2024



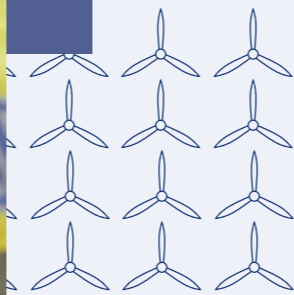
ssen-transmission.co.uk/bingally

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The Pathway to 2030	2	The substation site	12
Project overview	4	Project timeline	14
3D visualisations	5	Have your say	15
The story so far	6	Notes	16

The consultation event will be taking place on:

Tuesday 18 June, 2 – 7pm
Cannich Hall, Cannich, Beauly, IV4 7LJ



Powering change together



The time has come to further enhance Scotland’s energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It’s about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we’re playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with National Grid Electricity System Operator to connect vast renewable energy resources – harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation – to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two-thirds of power generated in our network.

But there’s more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50Giga Watts (GW) of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We’re investing £20 billion into our region’s energy infrastructure this decade, powering more than ten million UK homes and 20,000 jobs, 9,000 of which will be here in Scotland.



Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.

Who we are

We’re responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We’re part of SSE plc, one of the world’s leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining, and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK’s landmass, crossing some of the country’s most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground subsea cables and overhead lines to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on our host communities. So, we’re committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area.

We’re regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. We want to hear people’s views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us

The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require delivery of significant infrastructure over the next few years. In partnership with the UK and Scottish governments, we're committed to meeting our obligation of connecting new, renewable energy to where it's needed by 2030.

Achieving net zero

By 2030, both the UK and Scottish governments are targeting a big expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 11GW respectively. The Scottish Government has also set ambitious targets for an additional 12GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland, there needs to be a significant increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver these 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero.

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices.

The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

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

It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.

What does this mean for you?

Extensive studies informing the ESO's Pathway to the 2030 Holistic Network Design confirmed the need to upgrade the second circuit of the Beaulay – Denny Overland Line (OHL) from 275kV to 400kV. To do this, we require to construct two new 400kV substations at Braco West and in the Fasnakyle area. We'll also require

modifications or extensions to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochy and Tummel. Connections to existing substations will also be required as part of the upgrade.

The upgrade of the Beaulay – Denny circuit will help deliver the significant increased capacity needed to transport energy from new large scale onshore and offshore renewable generation (mainly wind farms) to demand centres via onshore and HVDC subsea links.

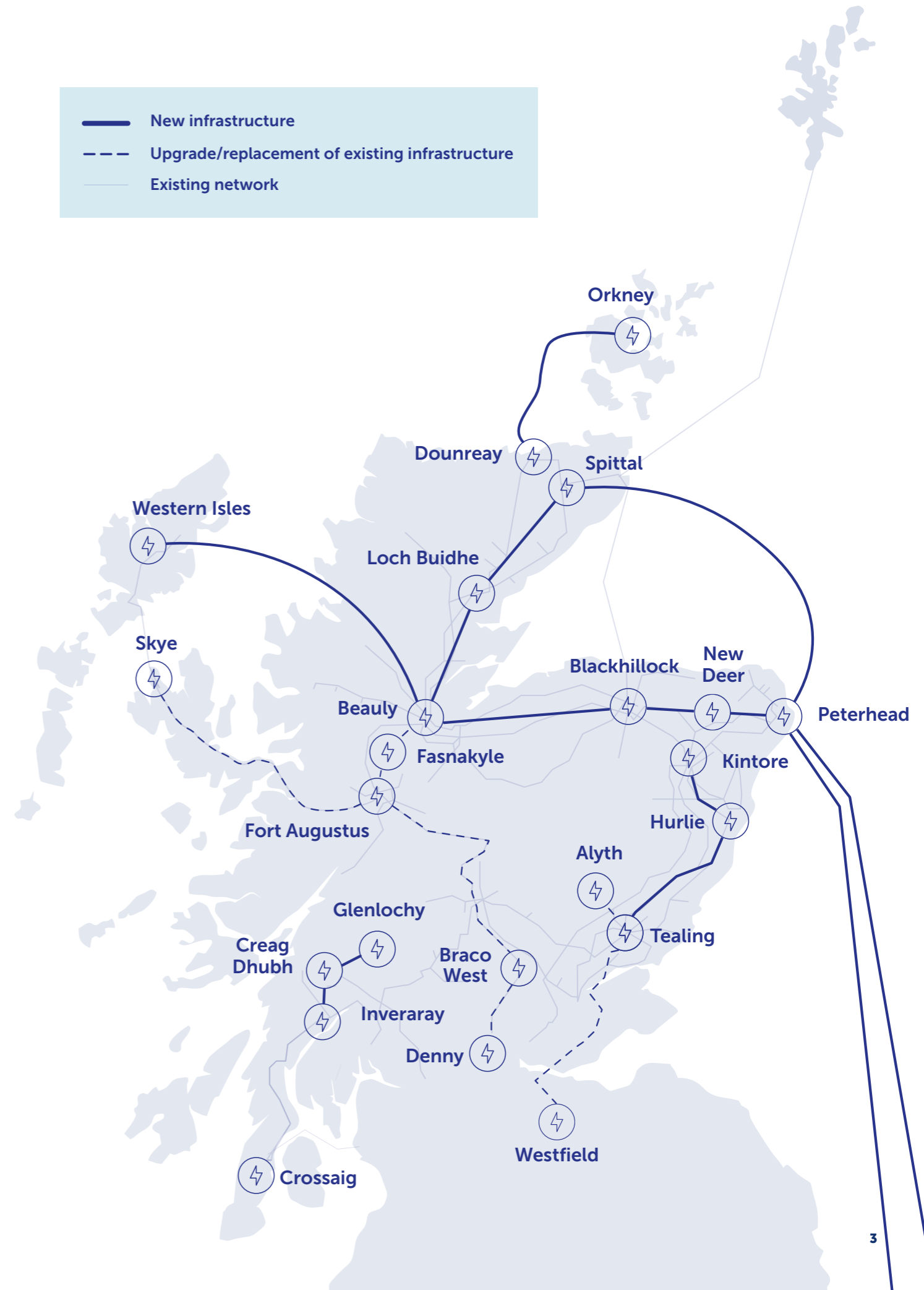
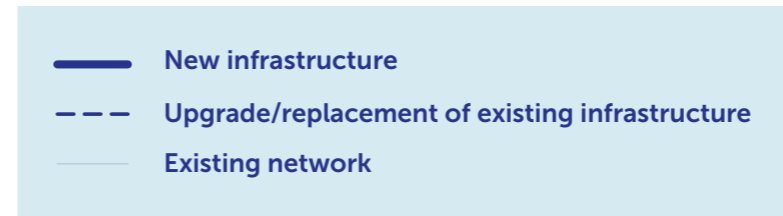
These projects have been highlighted as critical to delivering the UK and Scottish Government's targets, with the development of them accelerated to meet the target dates of energisation by 2030.

Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

To achieve these targets, further investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required.

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO's, 'Beyond 2030' report, published in March this year. For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets. These projects, which will be subject to extensive public consultation, are at the very early stages of development and further details will be set out in due course.



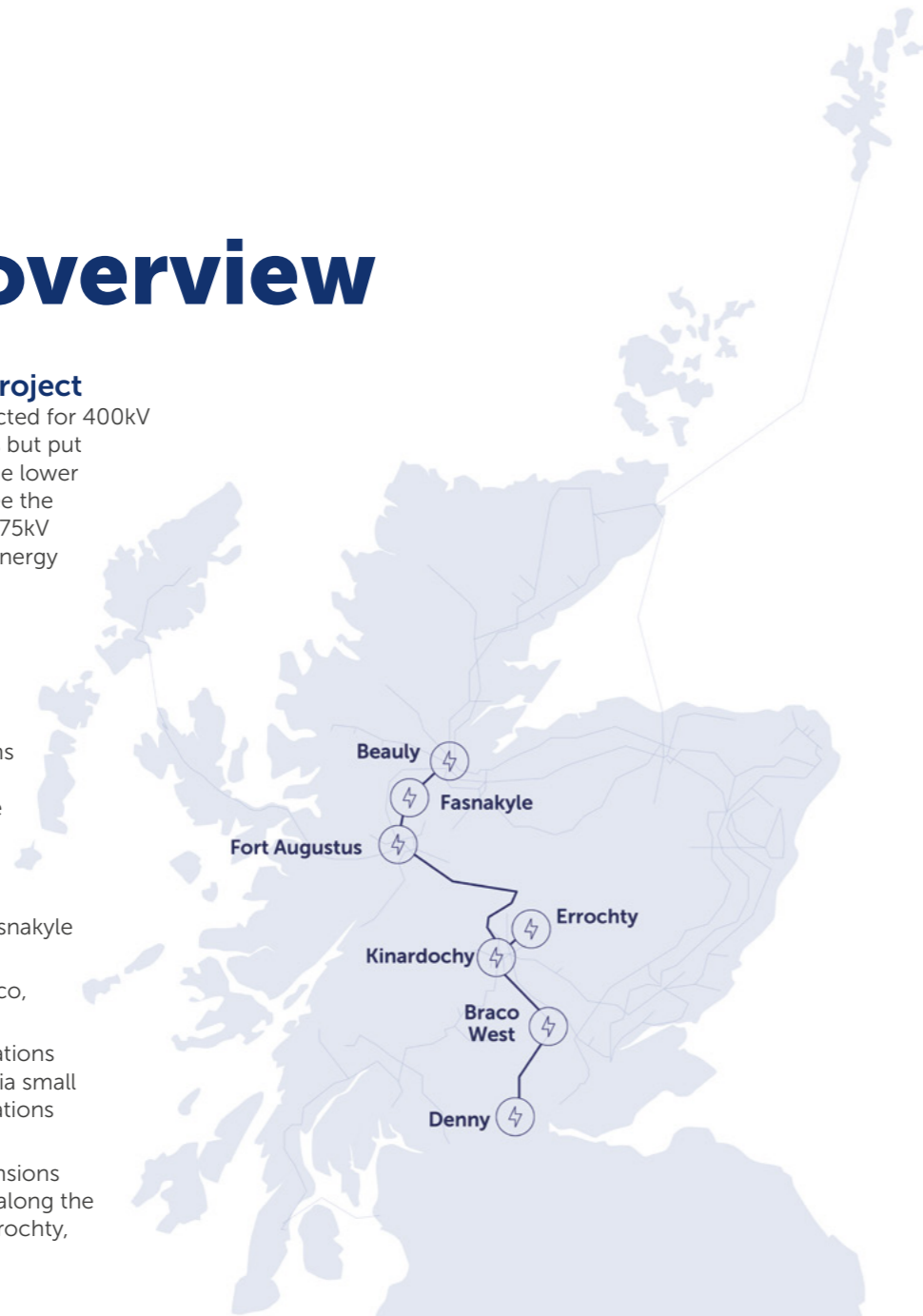
Project overview

Beauly - Denny Upgrade Project

The Beauly-Denny line was constructed for 400kV operation on each of its two circuits but put into service with one operating at the lower voltage of 275kV. This project will see the second circuit being upgraded from 275kV to 400kV, to allow new renewable energy generation to be connected to the transmission network in the coming years. As the line was built to run at 400kV, no alterations are required to the existing OHL.

However, existing 275kV connections along the OHL will need to be upgraded to allow them to continue to connect to the uprated circuit. This means the following will be required at sites along the route:

- A new 400kV substation in the Fasnakyle area, named Bingally substation.
- A new 400kV substation near Braco, named Cambushinnie substation.
- Connections from the new substations to both the Beauly-Denny OHL (via small diversions) and the existing substations (via underground cable).
- In addition, modifications or extensions are required to other substations along the route, including Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochoy and Tummel.



Bingally 400kV substation

This consultation is related to our proposed new substation located near Fasnakyle.

The project will involve construction of a new outdoor, 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation located southeast of Cannich, near Tomich, approximately 6km from the existing Fasnakyle 275kV substation.

Proposed development description

- The approximate maximum dimensions of the proposed substation platform are 376m x 290m, not including the earthworks required to create a level platform.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
- Permanent and temporary access roads.
- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.
- The new substation will require OHL tie in works, comprising a new terminal tower adjacent to the substation. The new terminal tower will be of a similar height (up to 63m) and type to the existing towers. A temporary OHL diversion will also be required during the construction phase to allow the new tower to be built. The OHL tie in will not form part of the planning application for the proposed Bingally 400kV substation. Instead, an application will be made to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act.

3D visualisations

We understand that local stakeholders need to be able to visualise what the development may look like in their local area.

We've commissioned 3D visualisations which model the proposed substation into the local landscape to help the understanding of the proposals in terms of the visual impact, distance, and height.

The following are some images taken from the 3D model created for the Bingally substation from a range of different topographies.

To get a better sense of the proposals in full, a visualisation portal including flythrough video is also available to view from the project webpage and our consultants, 3D Webtech, will be assisting us at our consultation event with copies of the model that attendees can interact with during the event.

The layout and colour of our proposals may change based on feedback and further refinement of the design, if that happens, we'll update our model and video and share this on our webpage.

Photomontages

Photomontage visualisations will also be produced as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Once the EIA is completed and submitted as part of our planning application, we'll ensure these photomontages are available to view.

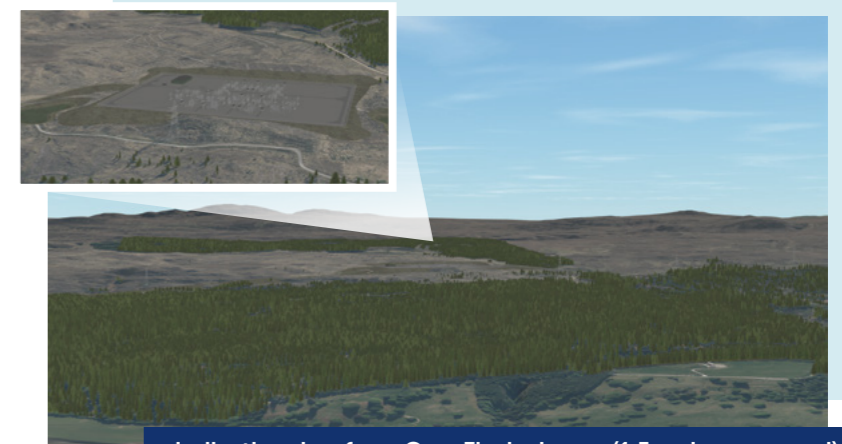
Find out more
Scan the QR code to watch a flythrough video.



Indicative aerial view to North (285m above ground)



Indicative aerial view to South (300m above ground)



Indicative view from Carn Fiaclach area (1.5m above ground)

The story so far

Sep '23



We introduced the project in September 2023 to show the three site options being considered as part of site selection.

Nov '23 - Jan'24



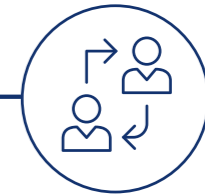
Ground Investigation works undertaken at site 9.

Mar '24



Report on Consultation published to confirm site 9 is the proposed site.

Mar '24



The first Pre-Application Consultation event was held in Cannich to confirm site 9 is the proposed site and present the design progress to date.

Help shape our plans

The work we have planned is significant and has the potential to deliver massive benefits in your community, Scotland, and beyond. Yet we know that achieving our goals will require a lot of work that will impact your lives. That's why we want to work with you every step of the way throughout the planning and delivery stages of these essential and ambitious works.

We're committed to delivering a meaningful consultation process that actively seeks the views of everyone affected by our plans. That means making our plans clear and easily accessible, so that you can give us input throughout each stage of the development process.

Throughout the consultation, we'll present our approach to developing the project, including changes made since we last consulted with you. We will also provide some visualisations and maps to show you where everything will be located and to allow you to see what the proposed substation will look like. These will also be available to view and download from our project website.

Who we are consulting with

As well as communities, we are keen to hear feedback from a broad range of other stakeholders including but not limited to landowners, businesses, non-statutory consultees, and statutory consultees such as local authorities, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Forestry.



What we are seeking views on

We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of the refinements or changes we've made.

This event is the second of two planned, sequential, public consultation events following the submission of the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN). The PAN submission triggered the initial formal Town and Country Planning (major application) consultation process for this site, including the 12-week (minimum) pre-application consultation period.

Following the initial consultation event, the project team has sought to ensure that comments or concerns raised have informed, where possible, the primary considerations for the designs as they have progressed. This includes substation layout design, landscaping enhancement and screening. Outside of the formal consultation periods and events, we have continued to provide a dedicated webpage for the projects and liaise with a wide range of stakeholders to help inform the development and design.

We are therefore holding this feedback event to present our proposed substation extension design, which has been informed by stakeholder feedback, and have set out our responses to feedback received to date.

By telling us what you think, you will help shape our proposals. We want to harness your local knowledge so that we spot any unforeseen challenges early and maximise the potential benefits and opportunities for your communities. Because, ultimately, we want to work with you to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.



Feedback

Following submission of the PAN in March 2024, the first of two pre-application consultation events were held at Cannich Hall, Cannich, on 27 March 2024. There were a total of 66 attendees.

During the six week feedback period which closed on 8 May 2024, 11 responses were received specific to this project. Whilst this feedback is acknowledged, only tangible, direct feedback specific to the development of the proposals is summarised and responded to within the following table.

Some of the responses posed general questions covered in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page and additional handouts such as project need, sustainability considerations and compensation. More information regarding these topics and other FAQs can be accessed at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs

We have included both event feedback and statutory stakeholder feedback through the PAN and pre-application process, as well as design feedback, within the next three pages via themes.



Find out more
Scan the QR code with your smartphone to access our FAQs.

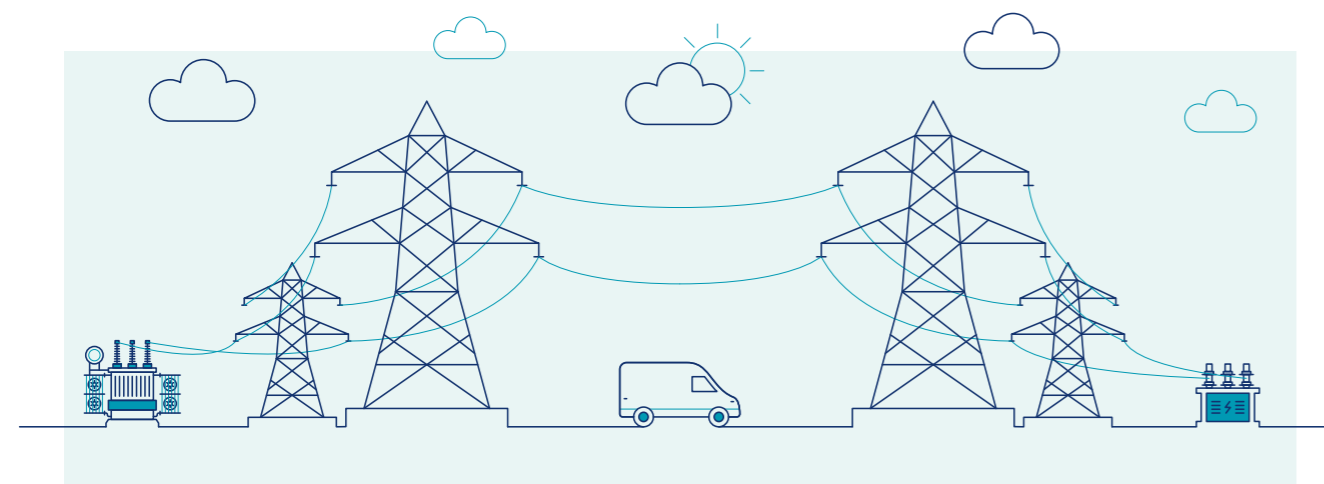
Theme	Response
<p>Landscape and visual amenity Concern about visual impact of substation in the wider Glen Affric area, potential light pollution and limited screening opportunities.</p>	<p>As part of the planning application, we are undertaking a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which will consider views of the Proposed Development from residential properties, other sensitive receptors and key local viewpoints with the aim of designing the proposed substation to minimise visual impacts.</p> <p>Design considerations will aim to reduce the platform level and building heights (reducing the potential for sky lining) and installing hard and soft landscaping to screen the site from key viewpoints. Building colours can have a significant role in reducing visual impact and will be agreed through the planning process.</p> <p>We will work with The Highland Council, the local Community Council and our Landscape Architects to ensure appropriate viewpoints are captured within the assessment and appropriate design mitigation is put forward in the planning application.</p> <p>During construction, lighting will be switched off when not in use and overnight.</p> <p>Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. During winter months when there is reduced daylight, lighting will be required to aid construction activity. A Light Management Plan will be adopted by our contractor to minimise any impacts associated with this.</p> <p>During operation, lighting would be installed at the substation but would only be used in the event of a fault during the hours of darkness, during the over-run of planned works, or when sensor activated as security lighting for nighttime access.</p>
<p>Access road Comments regarding the proposed access road location, length and width, and the environmental impact it will have; impact to public access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.</p>	<p>We are aware of the community concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed access road. The impact on core paths has also been highlighted by The Highland Council as part of this consultation.</p> <p>The environmental assessment will assess the impact on core paths and public rights of way and detail how access will be managed and maintained throughout construction and operation, including accommodating continued public access where possible. This assessment and reporting will be submitted as part of a planning application.</p>

Theme	Response
<p>Noise Comments on noise during construction period and substation in operation. Request for more information on noise mitigation measures.</p>	<p>We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents.</p> <p>Potential noise impacts during construction and operation will be assessed within the environmental assessment. The proposed development would be required to meet noise limits set by The Highland Council. Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The environmental assessment (which will include details on the background noise monitoring) will be publicly available when the application is submitted to The Highland Council.</p>
<p>Local wildlife and habitats Concern for impact on Glen Affric wildlife and habitats including peat and bog habitats and red listed birds. Request for further information on how the project will enhance plant and animal life.</p>	<p>Environmental assessment survey work is currently underway to establish the full extent of all habitats and protected species present on site.</p> <p>Where sensitive habitats and species are present we will seek to avoid them wherever possible, but where unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures will be identified and agreed in consultation with the Planning Authority and NatureScot.</p> <p>Where mitigation measures are agreed, these will be passed onto the contractor in the form of a Commitments Register, supported by our own Species Protection Plans and General Environmental Management Plans, to ensure that the measures are implemented as required. These measures will also form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.</p>
<p>Traffic and construction Concerns raised about impact of construction traffic on the road network, including the A831 between Drumnadrochit and Cannich. Request for measures implemented to ensure traffic avoids Tomich.</p>	<p>We understand that with large construction projects, increased construction traffic and road condition will often cause concern. In developing the Bingally 400kV substation proposals, traffic and road use is a primary consideration for us and our contractors.</p> <p>An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is currently in development and will be included in the planning application. This will detail expected traffic volumes and will be utilised during detailed design to optimise vehicle routes to and from the site.</p> <p>We will liaise with the Local Planning Authority to ensure any traffic management and traffic calming measures are implemented for the duration of the works, and all permanent works required are installed.</p>
<p>Water soils and drainage Concern for drainage from the development and potential impact on local water courses. Local knowledge shared regarding local rivers, lochs and areas of risk. Request for information on how water pollution will be negated.</p>	<p>Full Drainage Impact and Flood Risk Assessments (DIA/FRA) are currently being undertaken and will be supported by a Drainage Strategy for the site, which will ensure that surface water run-off is controlled to a level equivalent to the current run-off rate of the site to ensure no worsening of the current situation.</p> <p>The Drainage Strategy, DIA and FRA will form part of the planning application submission and will be assessed by the Planning Authority and SEPA.</p> <p>A full Private Water Supply (PWS) survey has been undertaken of potentially affected PWS in proximity to the site to understand the full impact of the development and any mitigation measures required to preserve residents' PWS provision.</p> <p>Please also see our 'Protecting Private Water Supplies' handout for more information, available from our project webpage or at our consultation events.</p>

Feedback

Theme	Response
<p>Holistic overview and connections Industrialisation of the area from current developments and future developments connecting into the substation.</p>	<p>A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: nationalgrideso.com/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register</p> <p>We recognise that other future projects may connect into the substation and we know that residents are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in the area. The environmental assessment will include cumulative assessments considering other development projects in the area.</p> <p>Applications to connect to the transmission network in our license area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments.</p> <p>We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain.</p>
<p>Information provision Feedback that information presented has not provided enough detail on project plans and impact on the community and environment.</p>	<p>At the first Pre-Application Consultation event held in March 2024, we presented a high-level design in order to gather initial feedback from stakeholders and the community. This consultation event is the second and final statutory event where we are presenting our final substation design.</p> <p>We understand we were not able to answer all of your questions throughout this process as we undertake surveys and progress design. Further project updates and refinement at this stage have been provided within this booklet, and all final information and detail on the project will be provided within the planning application.</p>
<p>Tourism Concern for impact on tourism and visitors to the area.</p>	<p>For each project we develop, we conduct a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. In this assessment, we consider the likely significant effects on visual amenity arising from the proposed development during construction and operation, including from tourism and recreation sites, and where possible mitigate any potential impacts.</p>

Theme	Response
<p>Health Mental and physical health concerns for local community due to concern about the impact to the natural environment.</p>	<p>We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify proposed options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible in order to minimize the duration of uncertainty for affected communities.</p> <p>However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed.</p> <p>Our staff are cognisant of the impact and uncertainty that is being felt within communities and have taken a number of steps to minimise this for the people who may be affected. Some of the steps we have taken include working closely with communities at early stages, being transparent on decision making, having clear routes of communication with our stakeholders through multiple methods such as public exhibition events, community council meetings, website updates and via the Community Liaison Manager.</p> <p>Whilst we have committed to these steps, we understand that everyone may be impacted in different ways and would be interested in your views regarding any additional activities that would help to address your specific concerns.</p> <p>We remain committed to promoting developments that maintain or enhance economic opportunity and achieve the long-term ambitions to ensure a net zero future, while protecting and restoring the natural environment.</p>
<p>Community Benefit Opportunities Opportunities for Community Benefit Funding shared including provisions for cyclists and pedestrians in the area; re-purposing disused sites in the area; funding and compensation.</p>	<p>We'd like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area.</p> <p>While some of the suggestions are outside of the scope of the project to deliver, it is our intention to work with the community to further explore opportunities in this area. This feedback has been noted and when it is appropriate to do so, will be considered by our construction team, contractors and our community benefit fund team.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission is in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives across northern Scotland and help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy. We appreciate that as the fund is being developed the information we've been able to share has been limited. More information regarding the community benefit funding will be available later this year.</p> <p>In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, support local jobs and businesses. Recent studies show our Pathway to 2030 programme could contribute over £6 billion to the UK's economy, support 20,000 jobs across the UK and benefit Scotland by around £2.5 billion, supporting 9,000 Scottish jobs.</p>



The substation site

About the site

Following site selection consultation in September 2023, we advised within our Report on Consultation that Site 9 had been selected as our proposed site for the proposed Bingally 400kV substation ahead of our first Pre-Application Consultation event earlier this year.

The site is located to the south of Tomich and is considered best on balance due to having fewer environmental constraints, including the limited impact on protected habitats and species and being situated further away from watercourses, natural and cultural designations, and listed buildings than other options.

The site has sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure and construction requirements and is well situated for connecting into existing overhead line infrastructure. The wider site area has sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.

What size is the site?

The substation footprint will be approximately 376m x 290m and will consist of Air Insulated Switchgear, associated equipment, control building, access tracks and fencing.

What else will the development consist of?

Drainage

Drainage arrangements as part of the substation works will extend out with the existing substation boundary and will be included in the planning application. This includes a drainage basin for the substation and access track, leading to associated outfall locations to the north-east and west of the site.

Temporary compounds

Temporary construction compounds and laydown areas will be located in the vicinity of the substation to support the construction phase. Additional temporary construction compound and laydown areas, if needed, will be identified by the construction contractor prior to commencement of works.

Lighting

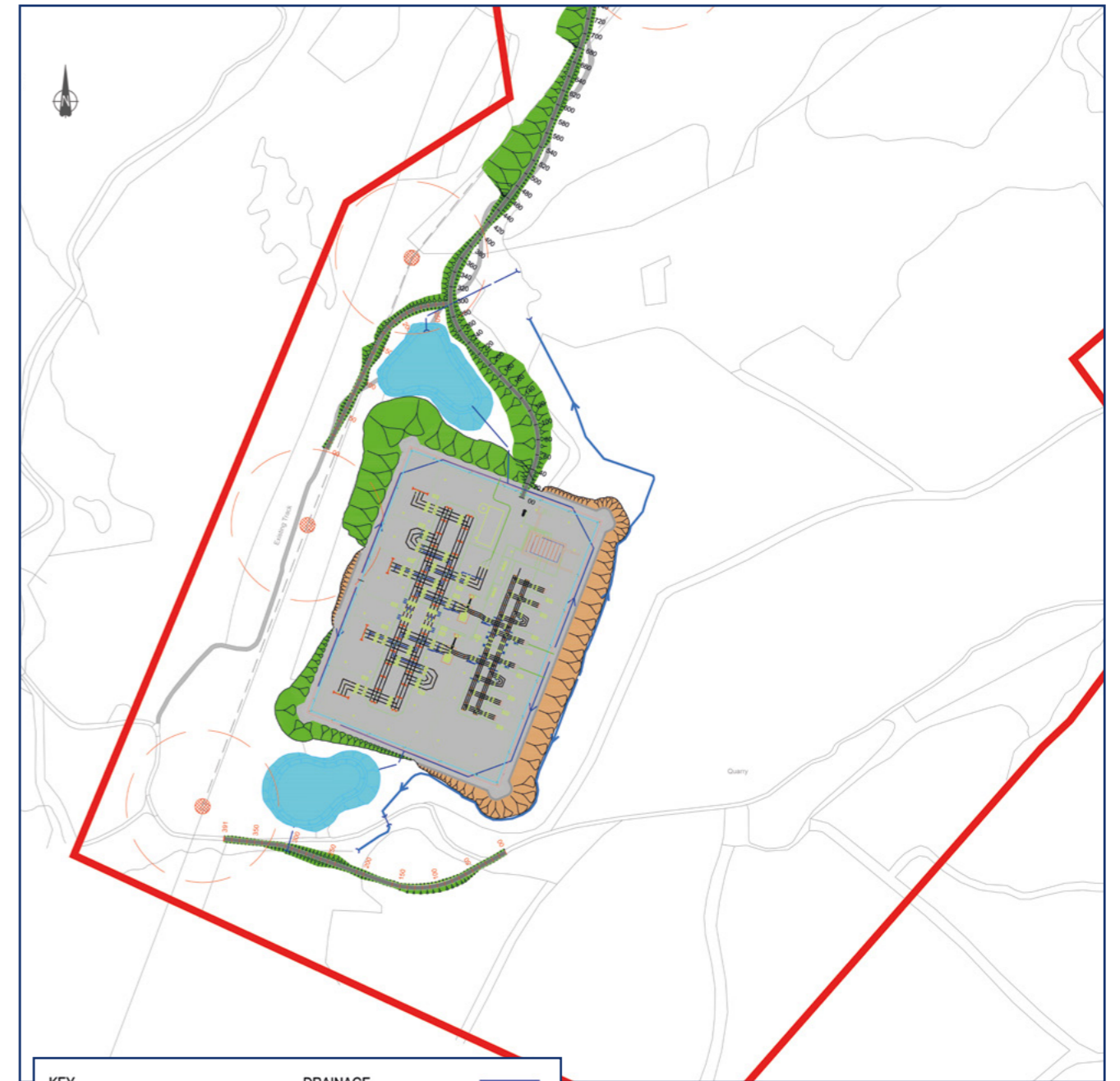
During construction, lighting will be managed by the construction contractor through a previously prepared Lighting Management Plan. Once operational it is anticipated that the site will run on a dark site basis. An operational lighting strategy will be prepared during the project refinement phase.

Landscaping and screening

A Landscape Strategy will be prepared to support the planning application and inform the landscaping and screening for the site. Indicative landscaping and screening are illustrated in drawings that support this consultation process.

Connections

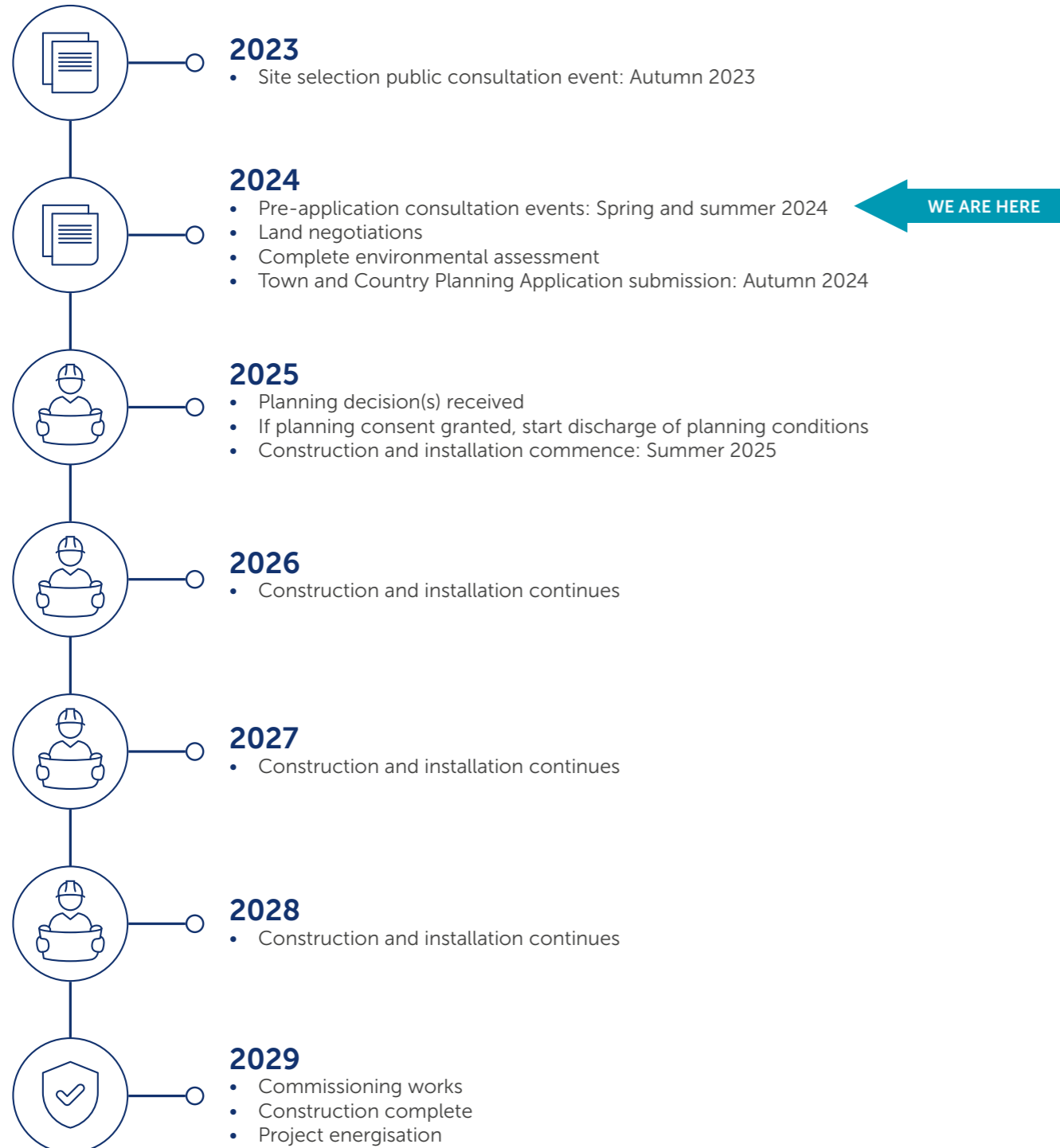
The substation will connect into the existing Bealy to Denny Overhead Line (ssen-transmission.co.uk/bdup), which will require one new permanent 'junction' tower located adjacent to the substation platform to connect the overhead line into the substation, an additional permanent tower to support the new alignment of the overhead line into the substation, and two temporary towers to allow the circuits to be diverted and remain live during the construction of the aforementioned permanent towers. Each tower noted here will have a dedicated access track leading to it. The towers will be about 63m high and will be submitted for approval as part of a separate Section 37 application.



KEY		DRAINAGE	
PROPOSED RED LINE BOUNDARY		SUDS FEATURE	
EMBANKMENT SLOPE		OVERHEAD LINES	
CUT SLOPE		WATERCOURSES	
ACCESS TRACK			



Project timeline



Have your say

We value community and stakeholder feedback. Without this, we would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

The feedback period

We intend to submit our planning application in September 2024. Our formal feedback period will close on **30 July 2024**, however we will welcome final comments from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders regarding our proposals until we submit our planning application.

How to provide feedback

Submit your comments and feedback by emailing or writing to your Community Liaison Manager.

What we're seeking views on

During our last public consultation event in March 2024, we wanted to know your thoughts on our project plans, where you thought we could make improvements, and any changes and refinements we'd made.

We are now asking for any final comments or feedback ahead of submitting planning applications for the Bingally 400kV substation project.

We'll be actively looking to mitigate the impacts of the site as much as possible over the coming months, but it would be helpful to understand what you believe we should be doing to help minimise these impacts and if there are any opportunities to deliver a local community benefit you would like us to consider.

Our Community Liaison Team

Each project has a dedicated Community Liaison Manager who works closely with community members to make sure they are well informed of our proposals and that their views, concerns, questions, or suggestions are put to our project teams.

Throughout the life of our projects, you will hear from us regularly. We aim to establish strong working relationships by being accessible to key local stakeholders such as community councils, residents' associations, and development trusts, and regularly engage with interested individuals.

Community Liaison Manager

Rosie Hodgart
Community Liaison Manager

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Additional information

The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage:
ssen-transmission.co.uk/bingally

You can also register for updates at our consultation events, just ask our staff at the welcome desk.

You can also follow us on social media:

[SSEN-Transmission](#)

[SSETransmission](#)



Recite me

To support everyone online, we provide accessibility and language options on our website through 'Recite Me'. The accessibility and language support options provided by 'Recite Me' include text-to-speech functionality, fully customisable styling features, reading aids, and a translation tool with over 100 languages, including 35 text-to-speech.

Please select "Accessibility" on our website to try out our inclusive toolbar.



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

APPENDIX H:

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Number	Consultee
1	SEPA, Planning North
2	NatureScot
3	Scottish Water
4	Transport Scotland
5	Highland Council
6	Forestry and Land Scotland
7	Scottish Forestry
8	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
9	Ness District Salmon Fishery Board
10	Beaully District Salmon Fishery Board
11	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
12	Sustrans Scotland
13	BT
14	Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace
15	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
16	Joint Radio Company
17	John Muir Trust
18	Mountaineering Scotland
19	NATS Safeguarding
20	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
21	Scottish Wildlife Trust
22	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
23	Visit Scotland
24	Visit Scotland
25	Scottish Raptor Study Group
26	British Horse Society
27	Woodland Trust
28	National Grid
29	Highlands and Islands Airport
30	National Gas
31	Woodland Trust
32	National Grid
33	Highlands and Islands Airport
34	National Gas

APPENDIX I:

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Bingally 400/132 kV Upgrade
November 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report is submitted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), as part of an application for full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) ('TCPA 1997') for the Bingally 400/132kV Substation Project, located southwest of Cannich, near Tomich, approximately 6km from the existing Fasnakyle 275kV substation.
- 1.1.2 The PAC Report is submitted as a requirement of S35C of the TCPA 1997 in accordance with requirements prescribed in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (The DMRs) and particularly with reference to Section 7B, which prescribes specific content for PAC Reports.
- 1.1.3 In general, the PAC Report provides an overview of the consultation programme and describes: the findings from the PAC process; the steps taken to meet statutory requirements; the feedback received during the PAC process, and how we responded.
- 1.1.4 The PAC Report is comprised of six parts:
- 1: Introduction;
 - 2: Project background – outlines the background to the project and provides a description of the key elements and non-statutory consultation undertaken;
 - 3: The consultation process – describes the submission of Proposal of Application Notice (PAN); the dates and venues for consultation events; the advertising process, any additional consultation required (or otherwise) by the local planning authority;
 - 4: How has the project responded to feedback – summarises the written responses to consultation and the views raised at public events, as well as the number of written responses received and attendees at events; how we took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process, and how members of the public were given feedback on our consideration of the views raised; and
 - 5: Conclusion.
- 1.1.5 Appendices are attached to provide evidence of consultation carried out, under the terms of the abovementioned Regulations.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1.1 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission, operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, owns, operates, and develops the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands and has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical electrical transmission system in its licence area.

2.2 Site Description

2.2.1 The site is on land located southwest of Cannich, near Tomich, approximately 6km from the existing Fasnakyle 275kV substation.

2.3 Proposed Development

2.3.1 The proposed development is a new 400/132kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation comprising; a substation platform approximately 376m x 290m (not including the earthworks required to create a level platform), space provision to allow connection of future renewable energy generation projects, areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement, permanent and temporary access roads, temporary construction welfare and laydown area(s) as required, OHL tie-in works comprising a new terminal tower adjacent to the substation.

2.4 Requirement for Pre-application Consultation

2.4.1 Regulation 4 of the DMRs requires that pre-application consultation is carried out for all national and major developments. National and major development types are defined by the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Development) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 ('the Hierarchy Regulations').

2.4.2 National developments are developments or classes described as such in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Development is major development if it meets the thresholds or criteria associated with different development types in the Schedule attached to the Hierarchy Regulations. All developments that are not national or major are classified as local developments and are not required to undergo pre-application consultation.

2.4.3 The proposal is classified within NPF4 as a 'National Development'.

2.5 Early Non-Statutory Consultation

2.5.1 An initial in-person Site Selection Consultation Event took place on Tuesday 5th September 2023 from 12 – 5:30pm at Cannich Hall, with a supplementary virtual consultation event on Thursday 7 September 2023 from 5:30 – 7pm, to present the approach to developing the project, the site selection process and the potential site option being considered. The events were advertised via maildrop to residents in a 10km radius of the site, via press release and social media. 67 people attended the in-person consultation event. The event was followed by a 6-week feedback period from 5th September to 17th October 2023 to gain views and feedback from the local community and interested parties on the site selection process and the 'best on balance' potential substation site, and to share local knowledge. 15 responses were received during this feedback period.

2.5.2 At the request of Strathglass Community Council, the project team attended a meeting with members of the community and representatives from the community council on Wednesday 22nd November 2023, to present project updates since the consultation event and provide an opportunity for questions. 7 members of the community attended this meeting.

2.6 Pre-application Consultation with Local Planning Authority

2.6.1 A Site Selection Major Pre-Application Meeting was held on Thursday 21st November 2023 hosted by The Highland Council. The issued response following the meeting highlighted key points to consider including:

- Potential Landscape and Visual impacts specifically from the public road through Tomich upland locations in the wider surrounding area, notably from Glen Affric National Scenic Area located to the west. The cumulative impacts of surrounding wind energy developments, including Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms, should also be taken into consideration.
- The potential impact on peat. It was noted NPF4 Policy 5 - Soils confirms proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and then minimising the amount of disturbance and in a manner that protects soil from damage including from compaction and erosion, and that minimises soil sealing. A full peat assessment will be required to be undertaken to assess the extent of its presence.
- How the site will be accessed during the construction and operational phases. Estimated quantities, vehicle types and patterns of construction-related traffic should be outlined. It was noted that construction traffic should not be routed through Tomich.
- The development's impact on core paths and public rights of way. The impact both during the construction and operational phases of the development should be assessed and mitigated and form the basis for an access management statement.

A Design Workshop Major Pre-Application Meeting was held on Thursday 25th July 2024 hosted by the Highland Council with relevant stakeholders, including SEPA and NatureScot, also in attendance. The issued response following the meeting highlighted key points to consider including:

- Further information to be provided on the comparison of excavated peat volumes between Site 9a and Site 9 to demonstrate the development is actively avoiding unnecessary impact on peat.
- Clarification of re-use and reinstatement options. The current proposed reinstatement to infill an on-site borrow pit to the depth of 3.5m is not considered acceptable by SEPA.
- Clarification on further methodologies to potentially minimise the impact on peat such as 'floating' temporary laydown areas on geotextile.
- Inclusion within the planning application of figures to showing a graphical indication of the proposed development and wireframe/blocks overlaid on photos give further context to the likely position of the proposed development and/or visibility from the viewpoint locations.
- Confirmation no construction traffic is to be routed through Tomich.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 This section describes the consultation process and demonstrates how statutory PAC requirements have been met. The PAC process is specified in Section 35B of the TCPA 1997, and in Regulation 7 of the DMRs.

3.2 Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)

3.2.1 A PAN must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), containing the information prescribed in 35B(4) of the TCPA 1997 and Regulation 6 of the DMRs, including an account of what consultation the applicant intends to undertake and information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

3.2.2 A PAN was submitted to The Highland Council on the 4th March 2024, triggering the beginning of the statutory consultation period. The PAN provided the Council with an outline of the application details, dates of public events, publicity arrangements, and confirmation of the site location.

3.2.3 Copies of the PAN, covering letter and location plan are provided in Appendix A.

3.2.4 In addition to the PAN and attachments being sent to the LPA, below is a list of other parties these were sent to via e-mail on the 4th March 2024:

- Fasnakyle Project Email Distribution List
- Strathglass Community Council
- Glenurquhart Community Council
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council
- Cllr Chris Balance
- Cllr Helen Crawford
- Cllr David Fraser
- Cllr Emma Knox
- Ian Blackford MP
- Kate Forbes MSP
- Ariane Burgess MSP
- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Edward Mountain MSP
- Douglas Ross MSP
- Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP
- Emma Roddick MSP
- Tim Eagle MSP

3.3 Newspaper Notices

3.3.1 Newspaper notices must be published in respect of public events, the form of which is described in Regulation 7 of the DMRs. Notice of these public events must be published at least 7 days in advance in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the proposed development. The second (or final) public event must be held at least 14 days after the first public event.

3.3.2 In respect of the first consultation event, a newspaper notice was published in the Inverness Courier on Wednesday 13th March. In respect of the final consultation event, a newspaper notice was published in the Inverness Courier on Friday 7th June.

3.3.3 Copies of the newspaper notices are provided in Appendix B.

The notices directed readers to the project website and Community Liaison Manager contact details for further information.

3.4 Advertising Public Events

3.4.1 In addition to the publication of the newspaper notices, the public events were advertised in the following ways:

- Quarter page public consultation adverts providing general introductory information on the proposals and advertising the planned public events were published in two newspapers, shown in Appendix C.
The Inverness Courier:
 - Event 1: 15th - 26th March 2024 (4 insertions)
 - Event 2: 4th – 14th June 2024 (4 insertions)The Press and Journal, Highland Edition:
 - Event 1: 14th – 26th March 2024 (9 insertions)
 - Event 2: 4th – 17th June 2024 (10 insertions)
- Public consultation posters were circulated to the Strathglass, Glenurquhart, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Councils for sharing with their communities.
- Maildrops were issued to all properties within a 10-kilometre radius of the substation, encompassing 236 residences and 11 commercial properties, shown in Appendix C.
- Emails to the elected Councillors and MSPs in the area.
- A Press Release issued to all relevant press and added to SSEN Transmission website (<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/news/news--views/2024/1/ssen-transmission-announces-next-phase-of-public-engagement-for-pathway-to-2030-infrastructure-in-the-north-of-scotland/>).
- Notification was made via social media, by means of the SSEN Transmission Facebook and X (Twitter) feed.
- The project website Beaulay-Denny 400/132kV Upgrade Project (<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP>).

3.5 Public Consultation Events

3.5.1 The first public consultation event was held at Cannich Hall on Wednesday 27th March 2024 from 2 – 7:30pm.

3.5.2 The purpose of the first public event was to provide an opportunity for members of the public, local stakeholders, and statutory authorities to view information about the project, ask questions and provide feedback in person.

- The Applicant produced a number of consultation materials to explain the proposals, including information banners shown in Appendix D.
- Additional visual aids including 3D Visualisations were presented on a screen and size A0 maps of the project proposals.
- Consultation booklets available for attendants to take away, with contact details, key dates, and information on how to provide comments online shown in Appendix E, which were made available on the project website two weeks before the event, on Wednesday 13th March 2024.
- Feedback forms, including the closing date for feedback, a template for which is shown in pages 21 - 22 of Appendix E.

3.5.3 A selection of photos taken at the first public consultation event are shown in Appendix J. A sign-in register was used to understand the number of attendees. A total of 66 attendees over the duration of the event were recorded.

3.5.4 Following the consultation event, SSEN Transmission issued an update on the project website thanking members of the public for attending and advised all material that had been displayed was available for download (<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/BDUP>).

- 3.5.5 The feedback period for the first public consultation event was 6 weeks and closed on Wednesday 8th May 2024 which was communicated in the consultation materials. 11 responses were received during this feedback period.
- 3.5.6 The final public consultation event was held at Cannich Hall on Tuesday 18th June 2024 from 2 - 7pm.
- 3.5.7 The purpose of the final public event was to give feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received as regards the proposed development from earlier consultation, and to provide further opportunity to view information about the project, ask questions and provide feedback in person.
- 3.5.8 Consultation materials for the final event comprised information banners and consultation booklet shown in Appendix F and G, and were made available on the project website two weeks before the event, on Wednesday 13th March 2024. In line with PAC requirements, consultees at the final event were provided a summary of comments received at the first event. This was published in the consultation material for the final event, and can be seen on pages 8 - 11 of Appendix G.
- 3.5.9 Interested parties were informed via consultation materials in respect of all public events that the purpose of this consultation was to provide feedback to the prospective applicant only, and that an opportunity to comment on the proposals directly to the LPA would be provided at the planning application stages should the proposed development progress to that stage. This is evidenced in documents submitted in the Appendices, including the consultation booklets.
- 3.5.10 A selection of photos taken at the final public consultation event are shown in Appendix K. A sign-in register was used to understand the number of attendees. A total of 38 attendees over the duration of the event were recorded.
- 3.5.11 The feedback period for the final public consultation event was 6 weeks and closed on Tuesday 30th July 2024 which was communicated in the consultation materials. 7 responses were received during this feedback period.

3.6 Additional Steps Taken to Consultation

- 3.6.1 In addition to the in-person public events, a virtual consultation exhibition was accessible online, available from the project website during the consultation periods, from 27th March to 8th May 2024 for the first event, and from 18th June to 30th July 2024 for the second event, using the same consultation material as displayed at the events, shown in Appendix D, E, F and G. Respondents visiting the consultation room were made aware of the closing date for comments.
- 3.6.2 In respect of all virtual consultation, interested parties were advised that the purpose of the consultation was to provide feedback to the prospective applicant only, and that an opportunity to comment on the proposals directly to the LPA would be provided at the planning application stage should the proposed development progress to that stage.
- 3.6.3 Consultation was also undertaken with a variety of stakeholders, alongside the public consultation events. A list of stakeholders is given in Appendix H. A Consultation Document was prepared which described the site selection process followed, site options identified, the appraisal undertaken, the alternatives considered during the selection of options and the suggestion for a Proposed Site. The Consultation Document and Public Consultation Booklet were issued via e-mail to stakeholders on the 4th September 2023 in advance of the public event.
- 3.6.4 A list of the stakeholders is given in Appendix H. A copy of the Consultation Document is provided in Appendix I.

Further to this, a Site Selection Major Pre-Application Meeting and a Design Workshop Major Pre-Application Meeting were hosted by The Highland Council in November 2023 and July 2024, respectively. Relevant

stakeholders were invited by The Highland Council to attend the meetings and provide feedback on both the site selection process and the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development. Feedback from the relevant stakeholders was collated by The Highland Council and provided via a response pack after the events.

4. HOW HAS THE PROJECT RESPONDED TO FEEDBACK

- 4.1.1 This section documents how the project has responded to the themes raised by stakeholders through the consultation process. We address each theme in turn below. These responses to the feedback raised were detailed in the Consultation Booklet and Banners for the second public consultation event.
- 4.1.2 Table 1 below summarises how the project has responded to feedback received from the community and statutory stakeholders through the PAN and pre-application process.

Table 1: Summary Responses to Feedback from the First Public Event

Theme and Feedback	Response
<p>Landscape and visual amenity</p> <p>Concern about visual impact of substation in the wider Glen Affric area, potential light pollution and limited screening opportunities.</p>	<p>As part of the planning application, we are undertaking a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which will consider views of the Proposed Development from residential properties, other sensitive receptors and key local viewpoints with the aim of designing the proposed substation to minimise visual impacts.</p> <p>Design considerations will aim to reduce the platform level and building heights (reducing the potential for sky lining) and installing hard and soft landscaping to screen the site from key viewpoints. Building colours can have a significant role in reducing visual impact and will be agreed through the planning process.</p> <p>We will work with The Highland Council, the local Community Council and our Landscape Architects to ensure appropriate viewpoints are captured within the assessment and appropriate design mitigation is put forward in the planning application.</p> <p>During construction, lighting will be switched off when not in use and overnight.</p> <p>Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. During winter months when there is reduced daylight, lighting will be required to aid construction activity. A Light Management Plan will be adopted by our contractor to minimise any impacts associated with this.</p> <p>During operation, lighting would be installed at the substation but would only be used in the event of a fault during the hours of darkness, during the over-run of planned works, or when sensor activated as security lighting for nighttime access.</p>
<p>Access road</p> <p>Comments regarding the proposed access road location, length and width, and the environmental impact it will have; impact to public access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.</p>	<p>We are aware of the community concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed access road. The impact on core paths has also been highlighted by The Highland Council as part of this consultation.</p> <p>The environmental assessment will assess the impact on core paths and public rights of way and detail how access will be managed and maintained throughout construction and operation, including accommodating continued public access where possible. This assessment and reporting will be submitted as part of a planning application.</p>

Theme and Feedback	Response
<p>Noise</p> <p>Comments on noise during construction period and substation in operation. Request for more information on noise mitigation measures.</p>	<p>We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents.</p> <p>Potential noise impacts during construction and operation will be assessed within the environmental assessment. The proposed development would be required to meet noise limits set by The Highland Council. Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The environmental assessment (which will include details on the background noise monitoring) will be publicly available when the application is submitted to The Highland Council.</p>
<p>Local wildlife and habitats</p> <p>Concern for impact on Glen Affric wildlife and habitats including peat and bog habitats and red listed birds. Request for further information on how the project will enhance plant and animal life.</p>	<p>Environmental assessment survey work is currently underway to establish the full extent of all habitats and protected species present on site.</p> <p>Where sensitive habitats and species are present we will seek to avoid them wherever possible, but where unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures will be identified and agreed in consultation with the Planning Authority and NatureScot.</p> <p>Where mitigation measures are agreed, these will be passed onto the contractor in the form of a Commitments Register, supported by our own Species Protection Plans and General Environmental Management Plans, to ensure that the measures are implemented as required. These measures will also form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.</p>
<p>Traffic and construction</p> <p>Concerns raised about impact of construction traffic on the road network, including the A831 between Drumnadrochit and Cannich. Request for measures implemented to ensure traffic avoids Tomich.</p>	<p>We understand that with large construction projects, increased construction traffic and road condition will often cause concern. In developing the Bingally 400/132 kV substation proposals, traffic and road use is a primary consideration for us and our contractors.</p> <p>An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is currently in development and will be included in the planning application. This will detail expected traffic volumes and will be utilised during detailed design to optimise vehicle routes to and from the site.</p> <p>We will liaise with the Local Planning Authority to ensure any traffic management and traffic calming measures are implemented for the duration of the works, and all permanent works required are installed.</p>
<p>Water soils and drainage</p> <p>Concern for drainage from the development and potential impact on local water courses. Local knowledge shared regarding local rivers, lochs and areas of risk. Request for information on</p>	<p>Full Drainage Impact and Flood Risk Assessments (DIA/FRA) are currently being undertaken and will be supported by a Drainage Strategy for the site, which will ensure that surface water run-off is controlled to a level equivalent to the current run-off rate of the site to ensure no worsening of the current situation.</p> <p>The Drainage Strategy, DIA and FRA will form part of the planning application submission and will be assessed by the Planning Authority and SEPA.</p> <p>A full Private Water Supply (PWS) survey has been undertaken of potentially affected PWS in proximity to the site to understand the full impact of the</p>

Theme and Feedback	Response
<p>how water pollution will be negated.</p>	<p>development and any mitigation measures required to preserve residents' PWS provision.</p> <p>Please also see our 'Protecting Private Water Supplies' handout for more information, available from our project webpage or at our consultation events.</p>
<p>Holistic overview and connections</p> <p>Industrialisation of the area from current developments and future developments connecting into the substation.</p>	<p>A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: nationalgrideso.com/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register</p> <p>We recognise that other future projects may connect into the substation and we know that residents are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in the area. The environmental assessment will include cumulative assessments considering other development projects in the area.</p> <p>Applications to connect to the transmission network in our license area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments.</p> <p>We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain.</p>
<p>Information provision</p> <p>Feedback that information presented has not provided enough detail on project plans and impact on the community and environment.</p>	<p>At the first Pre-Application Consultation event held in March 2024, we presented a high-level design in order to gather initial feedback from stakeholders and the community. This consultation event is the second and final statutory event where we are presenting our final substation design.</p> <p>We understand we were not able to answer all of your questions throughout this process as we undertake surveys and progress design. Further project updates and refinement at this stage have been provided within this booklet, and all final information and detail on the project will be provided within the planning application.</p>
<p>Tourism</p> <p>Concern for impact on tourism and visitors to the area.</p>	<p>For each project we develop, we conduct a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. In this assessment, we consider the likely significant effects on visual amenity arising from the proposed development during construction and operation, including from tourism and recreation sites, and where possible mitigate any potential impacts.</p>
<p>Health</p> <p>Mental and physical health concerns for local community due to concern about the impact to the natural environment.</p>	<p>We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify proposed options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible in order to minimize the duration of uncertainty for affected communities.</p> <p>However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed.</p>

Theme and Feedback	Response
	<p>Our staff are cognisant of the impact and uncertainty that is being felt within communities and have taken a number of steps to minimise this for the people who may be affected. Some of the steps we have taken include working closely with communities at early stages, being transparent on decision making, having clear routes of communication with our stakeholders through multiple methods such as public exhibition events, community council meetings, website updates and via the Community Liaison Manager.</p> <p>Whilst we have committed to these steps, we understand that everyone may be impacted in different ways and would be interested in your views regarding any additional activities that would help to address your specific concerns.</p> <p>We remain committed to promoting developments that maintain or enhance economic opportunity and achieve the long-term ambitions to ensure a net zero future, while protecting and restoring the natural environment.</p>
<p>Community Benefit Opportunities</p> <p>Opportunities for Community Benefit Funding shared including provisions for cyclists and pedestrians in the area; re-purposing disused sites in the area; funding and compensation.</p>	<p>We'd like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area.</p> <p>While some of the suggestions are outside of the scope of the project to deliver, it is our intention to work with the community to further explore opportunities in this area. This feedback has been noted and when it is appropriate to do so, will be considered by our construction team, contractors and our community benefit fund team.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission is in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives across northern Scotland and help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy. We appreciate that as the fund is being developed the information we've been able to share has been limited. More information regarding the community benefit funding will be available later this year.</p> <p>In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, support local jobs and businesses. Recent studies show our Pathway to 2030 programme could contribute over £6 billion to the UK's economy, support 20,000 jobs across the UK and benefit Scotland by around £2.5 billion, supporting 9,000 Scottish jobs.</p>

APPENDIX J:

PHOTO – EVENT 1



APPENDIX K:

PHOTO - EVENT 2

