

# **Pre-Application Consultation Report**

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



**CONTENTS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Purpose of Document	1
1.2	Document Structure	1
<b>2.</b>	<b>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Project Background	2
<b>3.</b>	<b>THE CONSULTATION PROCESS</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Overview	3
3.2	Section 37 application	3
3.3	Discussion with Statutory Consultees	3
3.4	History of Public Consultation Events	3
3.5	Public Consultation Events	4
3.6	Additional Consultation	5
<b>4.</b>	<b>PUBLIC RESPONSES AND KEY ISSUES</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	Public Consultation Event	6
<b>5.</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Conclusions	11
5.2	Next Steps	11

**APPENDIX 1: ROUTEING AND ALIGNMENT PLATES**

**APPENDIX 2: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV PRESS ADVERT POSTER AND MAILDROP JULY 2021**

**APPENDIX 3: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL BROCHURE**

**APPENDIX 4: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL CONSULTATION BOARD JULY 2021**

**APPENDIX 5: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL CHANGE OF PREFERRED ROUTE POST CARD DROP**

**APPENDIX 6: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL WEBSITE**

**APPENDIX 7: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV PRESS ADVERT POSTER AND MAILDROP MAY 2022**

**APPENDIX 8: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL BROCHURE MAY 2022**

**APPENDIX 9: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL CONSULTATION BOARD MAY 2022**

**APPENDIX 10: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL EMAIL SENT TO STAKEHOLDERS APRIL 2022**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc who, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission ("SSEN Transmission"), own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands is proposing to submit an application for consent to construct and operate a new 275 kV double circuit OHL supported by lattice steel towers, between a proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh, and a connection point on the recently constructed Inveraray – Crossaig circuit, an alignment of approximately 9 km, along with associated connections (the 'Proposed Development'). An application for consent for the Proposed Development will be made to the Scottish Ministers under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989<sup>1</sup>, along with a request for a direction that planning permission be deemed to be granted under section 57 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997<sup>2</sup> as amended.
- 1.1.2 The Energy Consents Unit (ECU) Good Practice Guidance for Applications under section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989<sup>3</sup> outlines the Pre-Application consultation and engagement requirements. This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report documents the consultation process for the project which has been undertaken in accordance with the ECU Guidance, prior to submission of the application. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with Argyll and Bute Council (ABC), the ECU, statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners, and individual residents to invite feedback on the proposals.
- 1.1.3 The PAC Report describes the key responses received and details the actions taken in response to the issues raised.

### 1.2 Document Structure

- 1.2.1 This PAC Report is comprised of five parts as follows:
- 1: Introduction – sets out the purpose of the PAC Report.
  - 2: Proposed Development – outlines the background to the project and provides a description of the key elements.
  - 3: The Consultation Process – describes the framework for consultation and methods which have been employed.
  - 4: Public Responses and Key Issues – summarises the range of responses and key comments and issues arising through the consultation process.
  - 5: Conclusions and Next Steps – provides a summary of the conclusions reached and actions going forward.
- 1.2.2 The main body of this PAC Report is supported by a series of appendices and figures.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Electricity Act 1989, c29.

<sup>2</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, c8.

<sup>3</sup> The Energy Consents Unit (ECU) Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. (February 2022)  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/documents/>

## 2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 SSEN Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission.
- 2.1.2 SSEN Transmission is applying for consent to construct and operate 275 kV OHL between the proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh and a connection point on the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig OHL. The Proposed Development will replace the existing 132 kV OHL asset which will be dismantled between the proposed substation at Creag Dhubh and Inveraray and removed as part of the project works.
- 2.1.3 There is a requirement for SSEN Transmission to increase its network capability in Argyll and Kintyre, beyond that already under construction and development, to enable the connection of further renewable generation and to export to the wider national electricity transmission network. This group of works, designed to deliver the required increase in network capacity, has been named the 'Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Strategy'.
- 2.1.4 The Proposed Development is categorised as 'Schedule 2' development under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA regulations), however rather than seeking a Screening Opinion, SSEN Transmission are submitting an EIA Report to support an application for consent. A Scoping Opinion request was submitted to the Scottish Ministers under Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations in March 2022 and a Scoping Opinion was received in June 2022.
- 2.1.5 A Planning Statement has been prepared to accompany the application for consent, providing further detail on the planning history of the site and an assessment of the application against relevant planning policy.

## 3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

### 3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This section describes the methods employed during the consultation process and provides information on meetings and consultations held with stakeholders to obtain feedback on the Proposed Development prior to submission.

### 3.2 Section 37 application

- 3.2.1 A section 37 will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in October 2022. Information regarding this application can be found within our maildrop and newspaper advert (**Appendix 2 and Appendix 7**).

### 3.3 Discussion with Statutory Consultees

- 3.3.1 SSEN Transmission has undertaken discussions with ABC, prior to, and during the consultation periods. This has involved telephone and email communication to discuss the proposals and provide updates about submission timescales. Email communication was undertaken in advance of the public consultations to all relevant statutory consultees, containing information on our section 37 application for Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV OHL project (**Appendix 10**).

### 3.4 History of Public Consultation Events

The first public consultation events concerning Creag Dhubh to Inveraray OHL were held in July 2021 outlining the Preferred Route Option (as illustrated in **Appendix 1: Figure 1.1**). This consultation was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In May 2022 a further consultation was held with events organised both in person and virtually outlining the Preferred Alignment (as illustrated in **Appendix 1: Figure 4.1**). This gave local community members an opportunity to comment on proposals during the development process.

Due to the restrictions in place around social gatherings because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the public consultation in July 2021 was held virtually. A bespoke online consultation platform was developed, which allowed stakeholders to visit a virtual consultation room and view the project information. The virtual platform was designed to enable stakeholders to experience the full exhibition from home on a computer, tablet, or mobile device. It was designed to look and feel like a face-to-face consultation in a community hall, with exhibition boards, maps, interactive videos, and the opportunity to share views on the proposals. As an alternative to face-to-face events which we would normally hold, a live chat function was available at advertised times to allow attendees to ask questions and get responses from the project team (**Appendix 4**).

### 3.5 Public Consultation Events

3.5.1 There has been a total of two consultation events relating to the Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV OHL project. In July 2021 we consulted on the Preferred Route Option for the Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275 kV OHL project within the wider Argyll and Bute 275kV Strategy Public consultation which also included two additional Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV substations and the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally OHL. This approach was taken to avoid the need for local stakeholders who may be interested in more than one project having to attend multiple events in close succession. Within the virtual consultation room, the information for each of the three projects was contained with separate break out rooms to allow for clear differentiation between projects and so that stakeholders could engage specifically with the project they were interested in. During this five-week consultation period, the Creag Dhubh to Inveraray webpage was viewed 30 times (**Appendix 6**).

3.5.2 Following our consultation in 2021 and the feedback received, SSEN Transmission selected Route Option D/E as the Preferred Route Option. The project then moved into the Alignment stage where we determine the proposed location of the overhead line within the Preferred Route Option. During the Alignment stage, more detailed survey work and discussions with landowners and the Ministry of Defence revealed that Route Option D/E was not suitable as it passes through an area that posed a high risk from unexploded ordnance (UXO). Route Option B would therefore be taken forward as the Preferred Route Option (as illustrated in **Appendix 1: Figure 2.1**) as of all the original route options considered, this was the least constrained from an environmental, technical and cost perspective and avoids the area of high UXO risk. A post card was distributed to local residents, community councils and the statutory consultees. A copy of the post card can be found in **Appendix 5**.

3.5.3 The second public consultation event consulted on the Preferred Alignment and was held in conjunction with a consultation with Blarghour Wind Farm Connection Project. This consultation commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> May and finished on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and comprised two in-person events held in Inveraray on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May from 2pm till 7pm. The two virtual events were held on 24<sup>th</sup> May from 5pm till 7pm and on May 25<sup>th</sup> from 5pm till 7pm. These events gave the public an opportunity to speak with the project team if they were unable to make the in-person events. It also gave the SSEN team the opportunity to communicate relevant information to members of the public regarding our section 37 application and make them aware of how they can make their representations once our application has been submitted.

3.5.4 Both consultations were communicated in the following ways:

- The consultation events were advertised in the Argyllshire Advertiser and The Oban Times (**Appendix 2 and 7**).
- Leaflets were sent out to over 2,300 properties in proximity of the proposals notifying them of the consultation event for our June 2021 consultation and 156 properties for our May 2022 consultation. Our May to July 2021 consultation related to all projects within the Argyll 275 kV Strategy. (**Appendix 2 and 7**).
- A Consultation Brochure was produced providing information on the proposed development as part of the July 2021 Consultation, details relating specifically to Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275kV OHL can be found on pages 18-23 with the feedback form provided on page 22 (**Appendix 3**).

The Brochure from the May 2022 consultation is available here: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/6565/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy-consultation-cq.pdf](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/6565/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy-consultation-cq.pdf) with pages 5-14 relating specifically to Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV OHL (**Appendix 6 and 8**).

- The SSEN Transmission website [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line/) (**Appendix 6**) and <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations/>

- Advance notification ahead of the 2022 consultation events was provided to local elected officials including Community Councils but not local elected councillors as this was during the period of Purdah (**Appendix 10**).
- Copies of brochure were placed within local hotels in Inveraray so that they were easily accessible to the community in May 2022 (**Appendix 8**).
- Emails were issued to affected Landowners and statutory and non-statutory public consultees informing them of the consultation event (**Appendix 10**).

3.5.5 The virtual events provided an opportunity for members of the public, local stakeholders, and statutory authorities to view information about the project, ask questions (on the live chat function) and provide feedback (**Appendix 4**).

3.5.6 The display boards presented in the virtual exhibition relating specifically to Creag Dhubh to Inveraray OHL, are provided in **Appendix 4 and 9**.

3.5.7 A 3D model providing visualisations of the Proposed Development were available at the exhibition and can be viewed here : <https://3dwtech.co.uk/dashboard/ssen/north-argyll-to-inveraray-reinforcement/exhibition/> (**Appendix 4 and 9**).

3.5.8 Attendees were invited to ask questions and give comments at the event, as well as give feedback via comments forms and / or via the project website. They were also made aware of our virtual events if they wanted to come and ask further questions.

### **3.6 Additional Consultation**

3.6.1 Due to changing guidance by Scottish Government and the rising Covid levels in the Argyll area we held a series of webinars relating to the Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Strategy to ensure that key stakeholders are kept up to date with SSEN Transmission's strategy.

3.6.2 The first one of these was presented in March 2021 and the second one May 2022. The invite to these were sent to all community stakeholders and was extended to statutory stakeholders that had signed up for project updates. It allowed the team to present what was on going on our development projects and gave community stakeholders an opportunity to ask any specific questions to the relevant project teams. Both webinars are available to view on our Vimeo Page: [www.vimeo.com/ssen](http://www.vimeo.com/ssen) <https://vimeo.com/ssen>

## 4. PUBLIC RESPONSES AND KEY ISSUES

### 4.1 Public Consultation Event

4.1.1 Our public event consulting on the Routeing ran for five weeks from 12th July to 13th August 2021. Our consultation on the Alignment ran for five weeks from 9th May and finished on 6th June 2022. **Section 3.5.4** provides a summary of how these events were advertised to ensure stakeholders were aware it was taking place.

4.1.2 We asked stakeholders to respond to the following questions for our Routeing consultation:

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

Yes/No

If no, please provide information

Q2 Do you agree with our Preferred Route (DE)? Yes No If no, please provide information ROUTE A ROUTE B ROUTE C ROUTE D ROUTE E NOT APPLICABLE

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

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

Yes/No

If no, why not?

Nine feedback forms were received following the July Routeing consultation. There were 15 conversations which took place within our virtual consultation, however most of these conversations appear to be general enquires about all the 275kV Strategy projects with no specific enquires about the Creag Dhubh to Inveraray project.

We asked stakeholders to respond to the following questions for our Alignment consultation:

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

Q2. Do you agree with the preferred alignment? (Deviation 1)

Q3. If no to Q3, please indicate your preferred alignment:

Baseline  Deviation 1  Deviation 2

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

Baseline  Deviation 1  Deviation 2

Q5. Do you have any comments to support the project?

No feedback forms were received following the May 2022 Preferred Alignment consultation events, despite various efforts to advertise these events. However, during the consultation period we had received nine articles of feedback from our in-person and virtual consultation events from the local community. 24 people attended the in-person consultation events to have conversations regarding the project and one of these community members followed up with an email which we have responded to. One person followed up with an email following our virtual consultation with questions which we have responded to. Feedback from the other seven community members came via two land agencies which are representing them and which we have detailed within this report; we responded to them by email.



4.1.3 **Table 4.1** summarises the comments received from our both our routeing and alignment consultation. Feedback can be grouped into the following four themes: Impact on Tourism and Local Industry, Health Implications, Visual Impacts and Consultation.

**Table 4.1:** Consultation Feedback

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Comments Raised</b>	<b>SSEN Transmission's Response</b>
Visual Impact	Community	Ruining the scenery and natural beauty	Landscape and visual effects are considered in detail during the alignment selection stage and the EIA stage. The EIA and alignment stage considered where to locate individual towers by making use of topography, minimising direction changes and addressing the visual interaction with existing infrastructure. These have been balanced alongside other cost, technical and other environmental considerations, which informed angle support structure locations and in turn the length, extent, cost and economic viability of the new infrastructure. It is important that integrated decision making and engagement from all SSEN Transmission disciplines takes place throughout the EIA and alignment process to ensure that appropriate weight is given to all factors informing the Preferred Alignment. Visualisations of the towers will be provided with the application for consent along with a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
Consultation	Community	Not enough visuals, models or in-depth environmental analysis	At our May 2022 consultation we had a 3D model that allowed community members to see visual impact from specific viewpoints. Banners with our environmental analysis of the Preferred Alignment were outlined and SSEN Transmission provided consultation brochures with this information that people could take away. The full LVIA will be provided within the EIA.
Local Industry/tourism	Community	The noise pollution that will be caused by the project will have a detrimental impact on the property both as a place to live and financially as a holiday destination	As part of EIA, background noise monitoring has been carried out to understand the "baseline" noise conditions – i.e., the current background noise levels. In addition, an Outline Construction Noise Management Plan will be provided with the consent application and will be updated prior to construction and managed by the chosen contractor.
Health Implications	Community	Concerns over private water supplies (PWSs) being impacted	Discussions have been held with landowners and surveys have been completed to locate PWSs and determine if they will be affected by the project. The outcome of these surveys

Topic	Who	Comments Raised	SSEN Transmission's Response
			<p>and subsequent assessment will be documented in the EIA Report.</p> <p>We undertake a thorough PWS Assessment which should identify any water sources and PWSs. We liaise closely with SEPA and with Argyll and Bute Council in relation to PWS.</p>
Visual Impact	Landowner	Concerns that this project will reduce the value of local properties and holiday businesses	The introduction of new infrastructure onto property has varied effects on the property value and each case is considered on its individual merits within the statutory framework of the Electricity Act 1989 and the Land Compensation Act 1961. That is, SSEN Transmission are obliged to follow a legal framework, therefore effects on value of property need to be dealt with on a case by case basis.
Traffic Management	Community	Concerns over the pollution and disruptions during construction in relation to certain access tracks	During the construction phase when a contractor is in place, they will be managing and updating the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which would include Pollution Prevention Plans and the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). In terms of individual mitigation in relation to dust/noise and traffic, this will be assessed on an ongoing basis as the project is progressed and appropriate mitigation will be implemented where required. i.e., water bowsers for dust suppression and silt fences to protect water courses.
Traffic Management	Community	Concerns over the road closures and diversions and the impact this will have on the emergency services and delays that a road ambulance would incur accessing properties could prove fatal	Consultation with the Roads Authority and swept path analysis will be carried out as part of the detailed design stage post-consent. The proposed access points have been assessed the most suitable and safe. A full Transport Assessment will be included in our EIA and a CTMP will be updated and agreed with Argyll and Bute Council prior to construction and a draft of this has been provided to landowners, where requested.
Traffic Management	Community	Concerns over access for clients of local agricultural businesses which are dependent on them being able to access the local towns/different areas of the farm	A full Traffic Assessment will be carried out as part of the EIA and a draft CTMP will be provided as part of the EIA. This will be updated post-consent and managed by the chosen contractor and shared with the local community. The CTMP will be agreed with Argyll and Bute Council.

Topic	Who	Comments Raised	SSEN Transmission's Response
Environmental	Community	There are concerns when the environmental survey was carried out there was no flora as it was February so the survey won't give a true representation of what will be destroyed	The surveys which were undertaken were carried out in line with best practise in terms of timings.
Environmental	Community	Concerns that the already poor Wi-Fi and radio reception will be further compromised	We have consulted with BT in terms of the Preferred Alignment and they have raised no issues in relation to connectivity.
Environmental	Community	There are concerns that some of the pylons would stand on a peat bed and significantly disturb the homeowner's land	A Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment is being undertaken as part of the EIA.
Consultation	Community	Concerns that this project hasn't been properly consulted on why this project is needed	This project had had two consultations both in July 2021 and May 2022. The project need has been communicated to the community via Project brochures, maildrops and in the consultation events.
Environmental	Community	The options for undergrounding the project doesn't seem to be fully explored	<p>When developing proposals for new transmission infrastructure we need to assess a range of factors to determine the most appropriate technical solution, the environmental impact, the constructability, the on-going maintenance and the cost to the GB consumer. We must balance these factors to ensure that the final proposal is the most appropriate solution for the operation and maintenance of the network and in the best interest of the consumer.</p> <p>Maintenance of the line in the future must be considered. In the event of a fault on the line, the fault can be detected and rectified in a matter of days. However, if the fault occurs in an underground cable the time needed to locate and rectifying the fault increases and could potentially take months to fix and cause ongoing disruption to the land on the cable route. This may result in the potential requirement for servitude on cable to ensure access. The servitude is usually 15 m wide. This area could effectively be sterilised in any case.</p> <p>Undergrounding the line would result in an increased impact to the surrounding ground as well as the overall footprint of the project. The installation of the cables would require a cable trench, a</p>

Topic	Who	Comments Raised	SSEN Transmission's Response
			<p>30 m construction zone with an approximately 6 m wide and 1.5 m deep trench to be dug. It is considered that this would increase the potential to damage to local environment during construction.</p> <p>The costs for undergrounding cables would also be approximately 4-6 times more expensive than an OHL option therefore not representing the best value for the consumer.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission Operations teams also require permanent access to be maintained to the sealing end compounds, which enable the transition between OHL and cable. In this case, these cannot be easily located adjacent to an existing access it may require a permanent access to be created through a private landowner's land causing further disruption.</p>

4.1.4 A further breakdown of Consultation Responses is available in the Routeing and Alignment Reports on Consultation which are available in the respective Report on the SSEN Transmission project website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line/#project-documentation>

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

### 5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 The section 37 application is due to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers in October 2022 and information regarding our application and how stakeholders can make representations will be advertised in the public notice section of local and national newspapers, on our website and sent out via email to those who have signed up for project updates. A hard copy of this application will also be made available locally.

5.1.2 This PAC Report documents the two consultations. The first the consultation on the Preferred Route Option which ran for seven weeks, starting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. And the second the Consultation on the Preferred Alignment which ran for five weeks, from Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 till Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

5.1.3 The consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders, primarily the local community, landowners, and individual residents, to invite feedback on the Proposed Development. The common themes from the feedback forms were:

- Impact on Tourism and Local Industry
- Visual Impacts
- Consultation
- Traffic Management

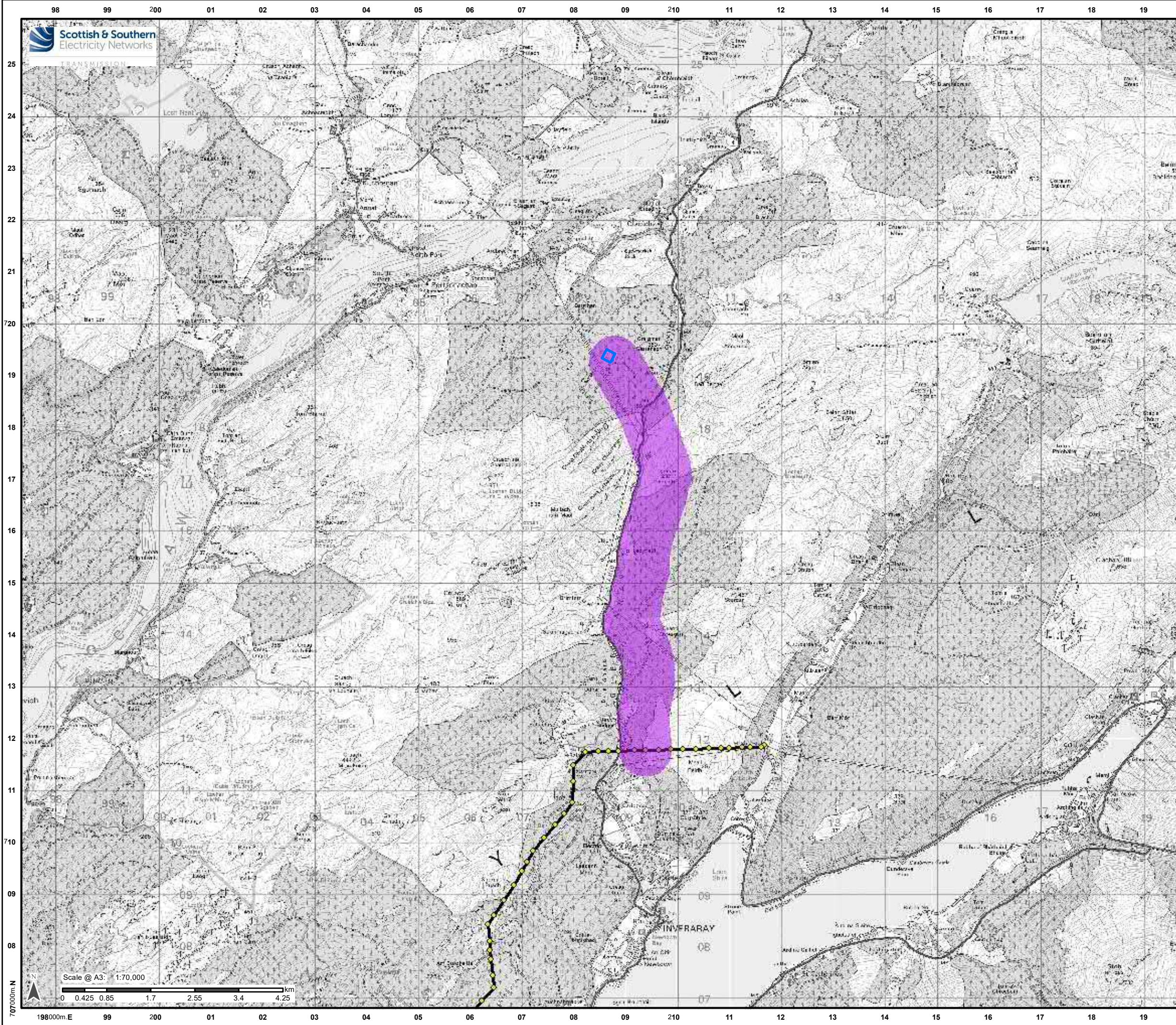
5.1.4 The approach to public consultation has ensured that the local community have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This has enabled locally important issues and concerns to be identified and subsequently considered in the preparation of the Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV OHL section 37 consent application.

### 5.2 Next Steps

5.2.1 SSEN will continue to engage with key stakeholders and the local community as the project progresses. Members of the public will also have opportunity to comment on the section 37 application once it has been submitted. Full instructions on how to make representations and the timescales for doing so will be advertised in the local and national press when the application is submitted. Information will be posted on the SSEN Transmission project website at: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-inveraray-275kv-overhead-line/) and we will also write to those who have signed up for project updates, community councils, local elected officials such as the local councillors, the MSP and MP for the area.

## **APPENDIX 1: ROUTEING AND ALIGNMENT PLATES**





### Legend

- Original Preferred Route
- Inveraray - Crossaig
- Inveraray - Crossaig OHL
- Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.  
Crown copyright and database right 2022 all rights reserved.  
Ordnance Survey Licence number EL273236.

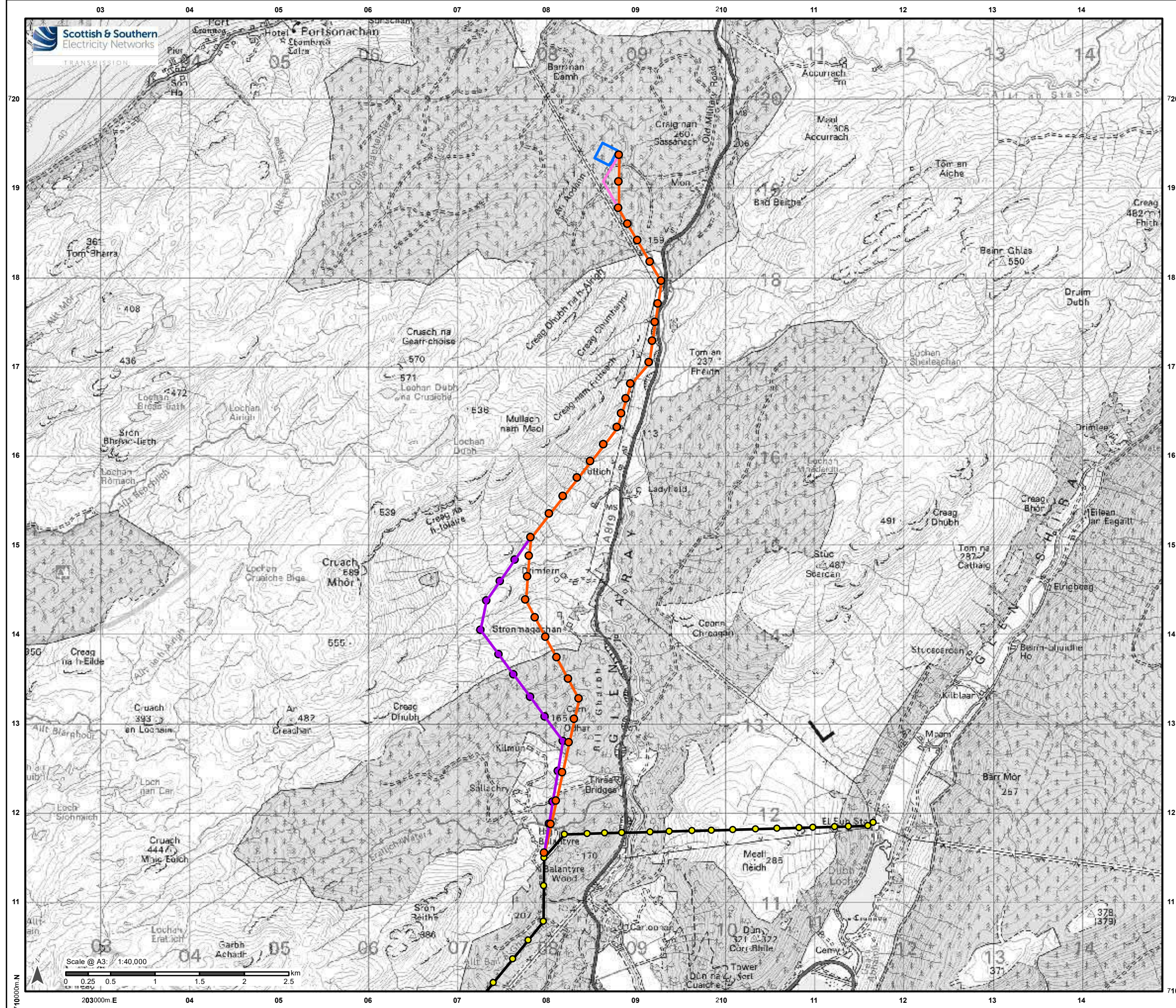
Project No: LT000194  
Project: 1620011091

Title: Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Overhead Line  
Figure 1.1: Original Preferred Route

Drawn by: NJ Date: 05/04/2022

Drawing: R162\_11091\_Fig1.1\_OriginalPreferredRoute\_1





### Legend

- Baseline Alignment
- Baseline Alignment
- Deviation 1 Towers
- Deviation 1
- Deviation 2
- Inveraray - Crossaig Towers
- Inveraray - Crossaig OHL
- Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.  
Crown copyright and database right 2022 all rights reserved.  
Ordnance Survey Licence number EL273236.

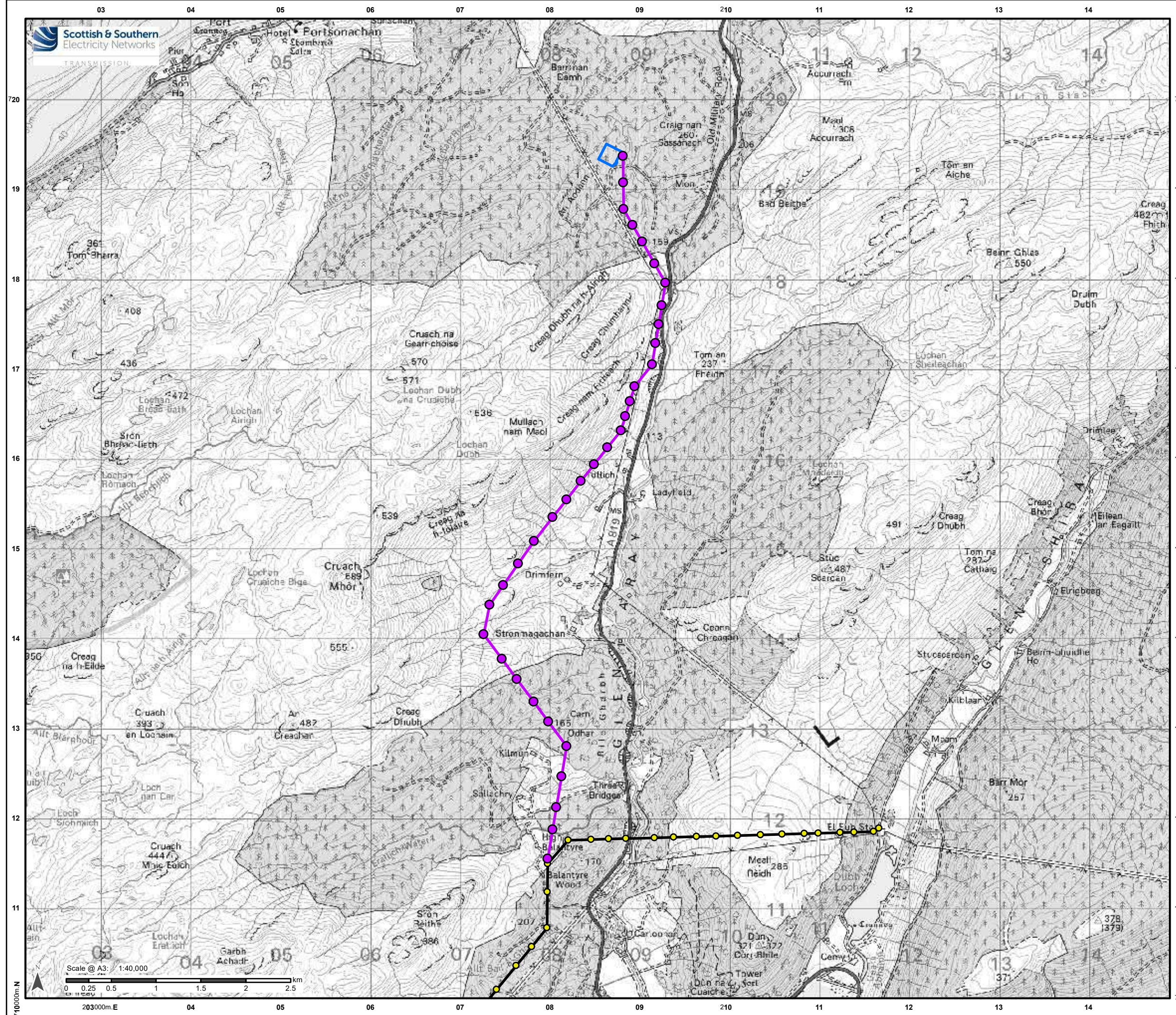
Project No: LT000194  
Project: 1620011091

Title: Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Overhead Line  
Figure 3.2: Baseline Alignment with Deviations

Drawn by: NJ Date: 24/03/2022

Drawing: R162\_11091\_Fig3.2\_BaselineAlignmentDeviations\_1





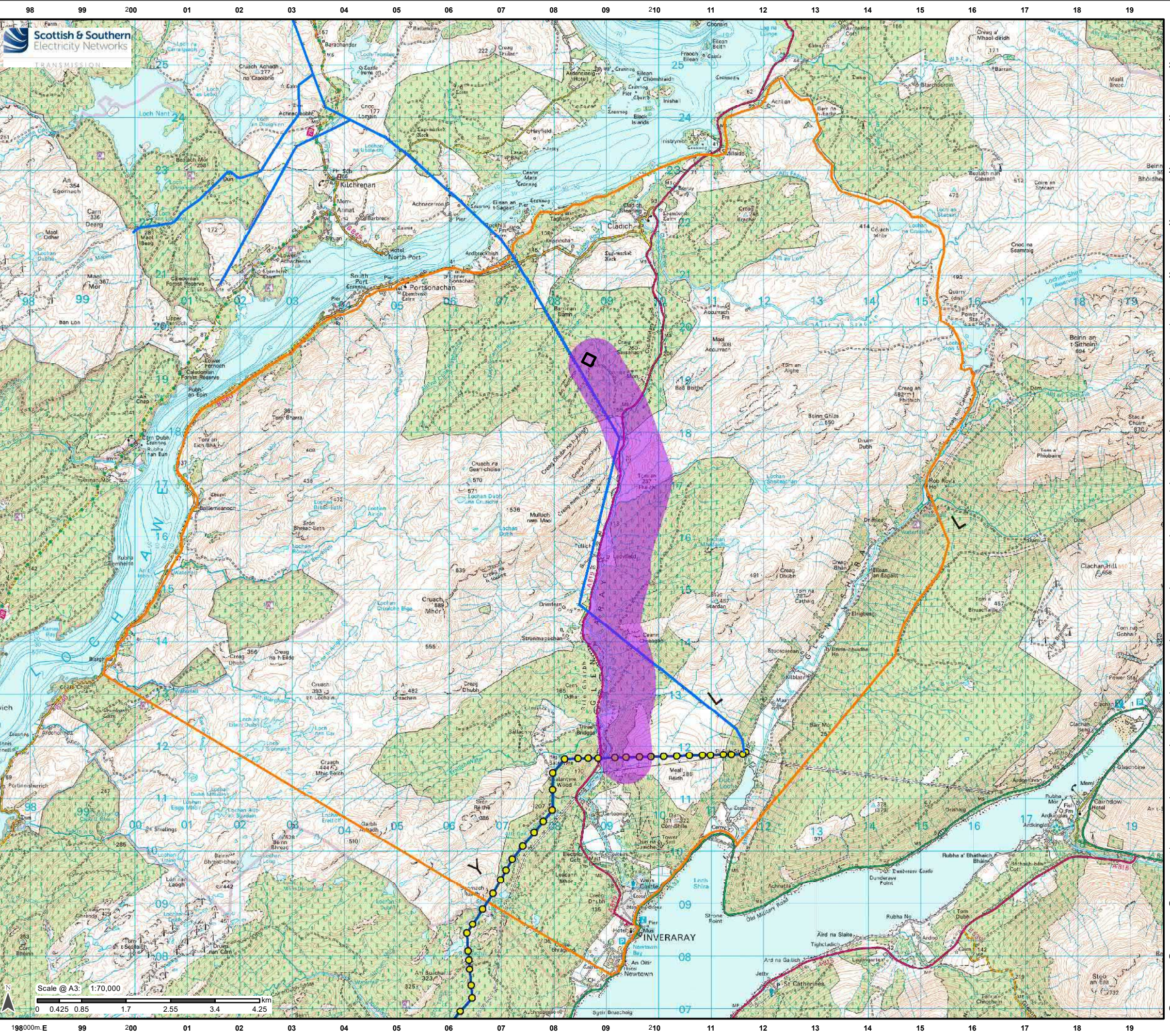
- ### Legend
- Preferred Alignment
  - Preferred Alignment Towers
  - Inveraray - Crossaig Towers
  - Inveraray - Crossaig OHL
  - Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation



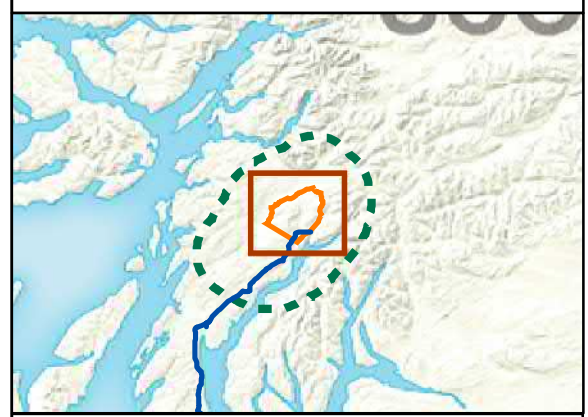
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.  
Crown copyright and database right 2022 all rights reserved.  
Ordnance Survey Licence number EL273236.

Project No: LT000194  
 Project: 1620011091  
 Title: Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Overhead Line  
 Figure 4.1: Preferred Alignment  
 Drawn by: NJ Date: 24/03/2022  
 Drawing: R162\_11091\_Fig4.1\_PreferredAlignment\_1





- ### Legend
- Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation
  - Inveraray – Crossaig Towers
  - Inveraray – Crossaig OHL
  - 132kV OHL from Inveraray to Taynuilt
  - Routing Study Area
  - 10 km Buffer
  - Figure Extent
  - Preferred Route Option DE Buffer (500 m)



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. Crown copyright and database right 2021 all rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number EL273236.

Project No: LT000194  
Project: 1620011091

Title: LT194 Inveraray to Creag Dhubh 275 kV Overhead Line  
Figure 6.3: Preferred Route Option DE

Drawn by: BM Date: 07/06/2021

Drawing: R162\_11091\_Fig6.3\_PREFERREDROUTEOPTION\_3



## **APPENDIX 2: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV PRESS ADVERT POSTER AND MAILDROP JULY 2021**



Virtual  
Event

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy Virtual Public Consultation

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

### What is being consulted on?

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

1

#### Creag Dhuhb to Dalmally 275kV Connection

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

2

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

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

3

#### Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

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

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

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

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

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

#### How can I get involved?

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

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

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

Helen Batey

Community Liaison Manager  
Scottish and Southern Electricity  
Networks, Inveralmond House, 200  
Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ

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

01925 800 833 / 07778 453 993

## APPENDIX 3: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL BROCHURE

# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy Consultation Booklet

July 2021

Share your views with us:



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

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

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

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



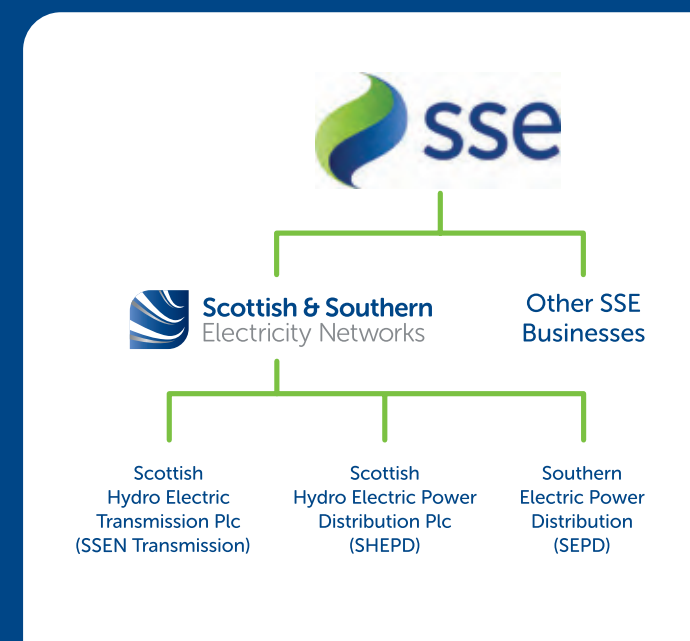
**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION



# Who We Are

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

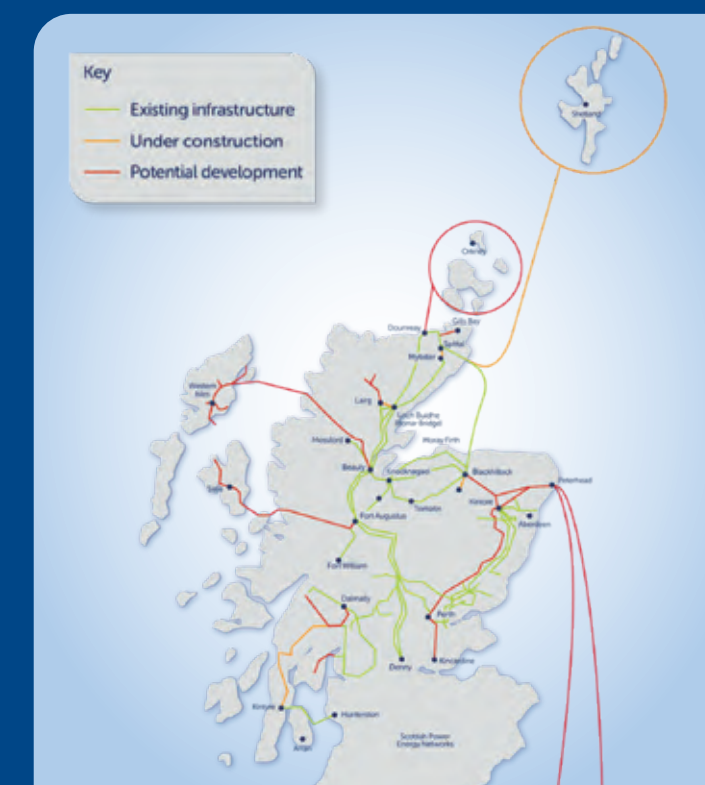


## What is the difference between Transmission and Distribution?

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

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

## Overview of Transmission Projects



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

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

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

## Our responsibilities

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

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

# The Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

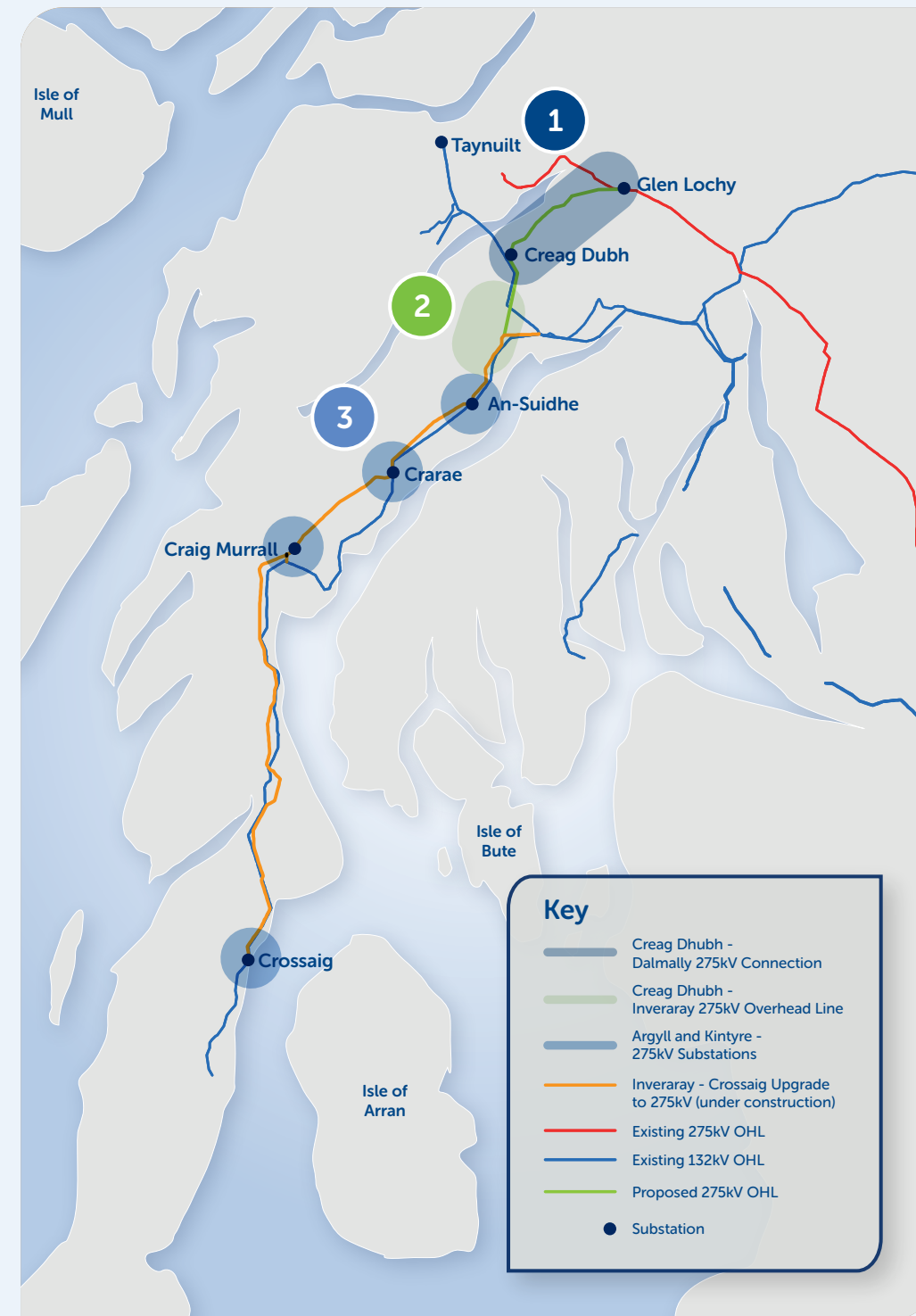
It will initially be operated at 132kV, but will be capable of 275kV operation, once associated transmission network connected substations to the south have been upgraded to 275kV capability.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 1. About the project

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

### Previous consultation

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

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

### This consultation

We are seeking your views on:

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

### Project elements

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

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

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

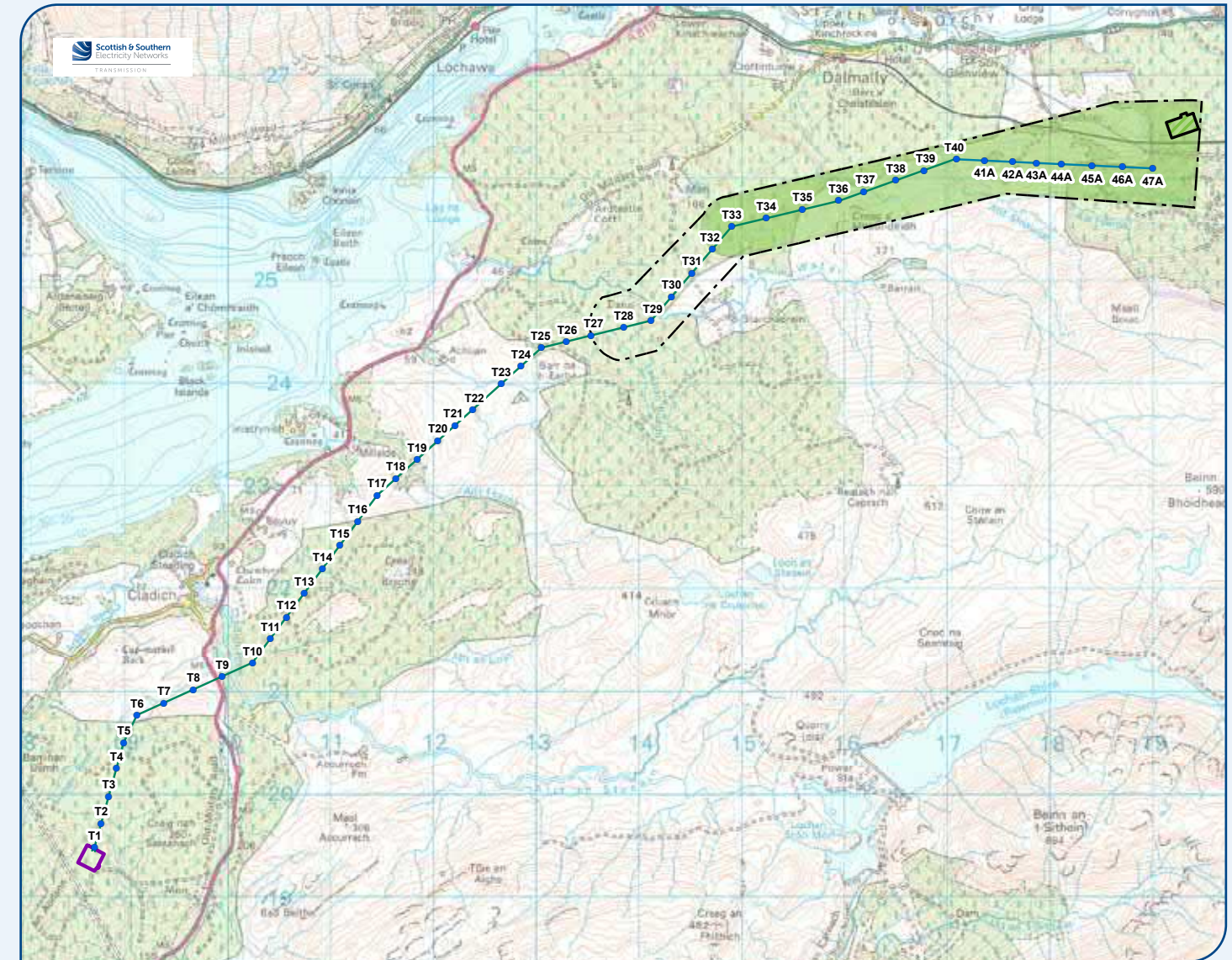
### Key dates

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

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

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

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



### Key

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



# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 2. Project history



## 3. Route Alignment Selection Process

Following consultation in September 2020 and consideration of feedback received, we confirmed our preferred option as an alternative overhead line connection location between Tower 28 (on the preferred 2018 alignment) and new Glen Lochy Switching Station, avoiding the need to connect to the existing Dalmally substation.

Presented in the consultation materials, a 1km wide Preferred Route (Option B1) was highlighted to accommodate this alternative connection. Considering consultation responses, this assessment remains unchanged and Option B1 has been considered in further detail. Since then, we have been working to identify an optimal alignment within this route which is technically feasible, economically viable and causes the least disturbance to the environment; and to those who live, work, visit or use the area for recreation.

**Baseline Alignment**  
The next step in the process was to identify a Baseline Alignment within the Preferred Route, which was produced by our engineering design contractors through desktop surveys, Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data and on-site walkover surveys to investigate key features such as buildings, public footpaths, water bodies and existing infrastructure.

**Baseline Alignment Deviations**  
Once the engineering Baseline Alignment was identified, a workshop took place between SSEN Transmission and our environmental consultant. The workshop considered deviations to the Baseline Alignment that would offer localised improvements to sensitive receptors. This included cultural heritage receptors (e.g. Duncan Ban Monument), landscape and visual receptors, ornithological receptors (e.g. black grouse) and designated habitats, such as Ancient Woodland and blanket bog. The deviations are assessed alongside the Baseline Alignment to arrive at a Preferred Alignment.

**Five deviations (GL1-GL5) were identified for further assessment, and reviewed in terms of cost, engineering and environment. These deviations can be viewed in the figure below.**

**1**  
**Deviation GL1** was proposed to reduce the impact on Class 2 peatland habitat, including areas of blanket bog as well as reducing potential setting impacts on the Scheduled Monument. It also moves north from the Baseline Alignment into the plantation woodland, which offers some screening.

**3**  
**Deviation GL3** was proposed to reduce potential visual and setting impacts, would also result in a smaller area of woodland fragmentation and would be a lower cost option compared to the Baseline Alignment.

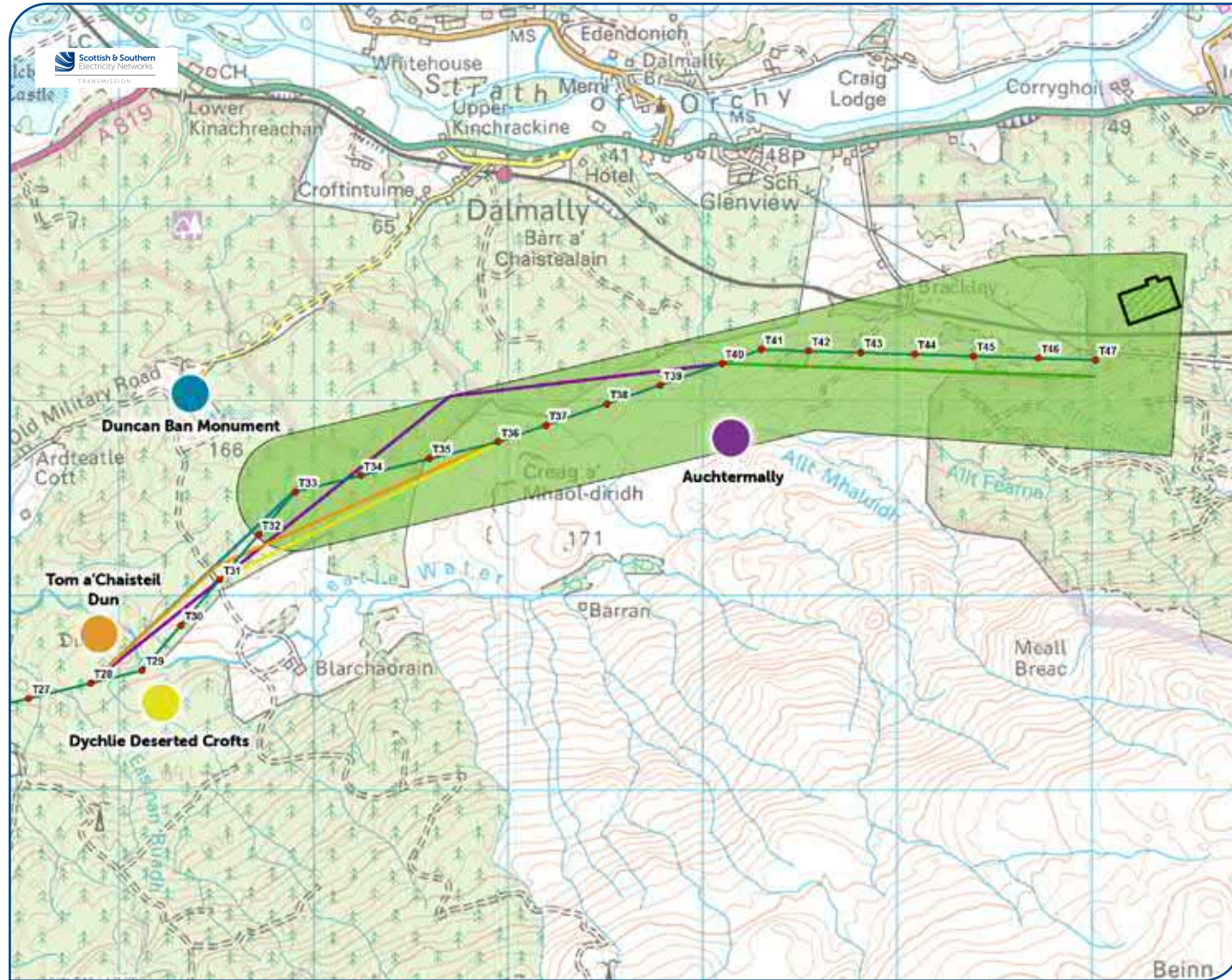
**2**  
**Deviation GL2** was proposed to reduce potential setting impacts on the Scheduled Monument as well as reducing any visual impacts from residential property. GL2 is also set further back than the Baseline Alignment, which provides further woodland screening.

**4**  
**Deviation GL4** was proposed to straighten up the Baseline Alignment and bring it closer to the edge of the woodland, reducing the loss of commercial woodland and fragmentation. It would also be a lower cost option compared to the Baseline Alignment.

**5**  
**Deviation GL5** was proposed to reduce the loss of Ancient Woodland, reduce the loss of blanket bog and slightly reduce impacts on heritage features. GL5 also provides a slight improvement to visual receptors to local properties.



# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection



## Red Amber Green (RAG) Charts

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

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

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

## Alignment options - Environmental

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

## Alignment options - Engineering

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

## Alignment options - Cost

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



# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 4. Preferred Route Alignment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### About the Overhead Line

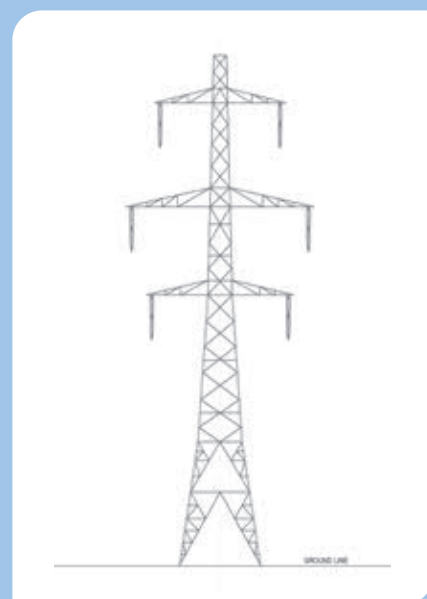
Approx 13km Long

Will operate at 275kV voltage

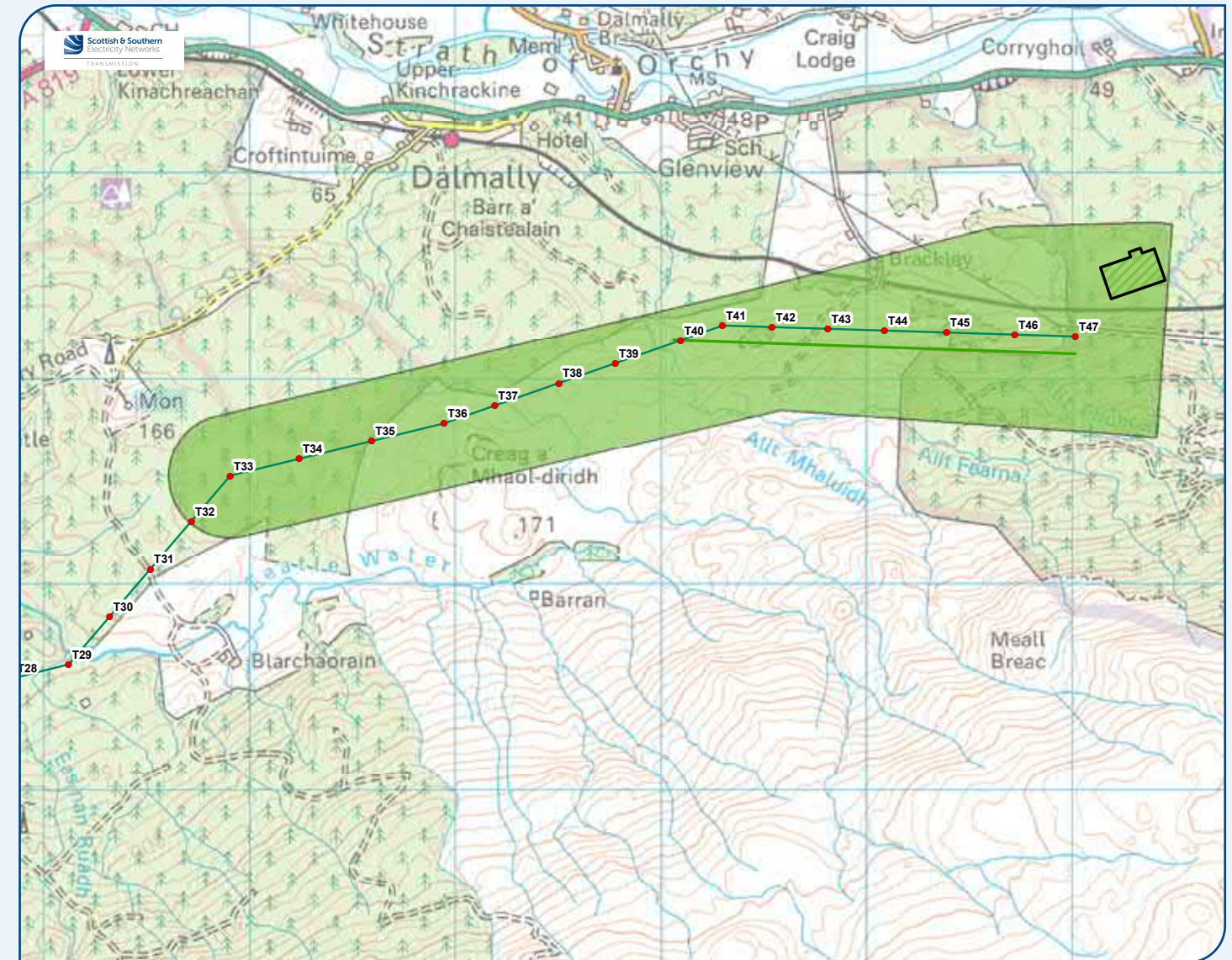
50 metres average tower height\*

47 towers

Span length between 175-350 metres



\*Height likely to vary between 40 and 55 metres



### Key

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



# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## 5. Glen Lochy Switching Station

### What is a switching station?

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

### Preferred location

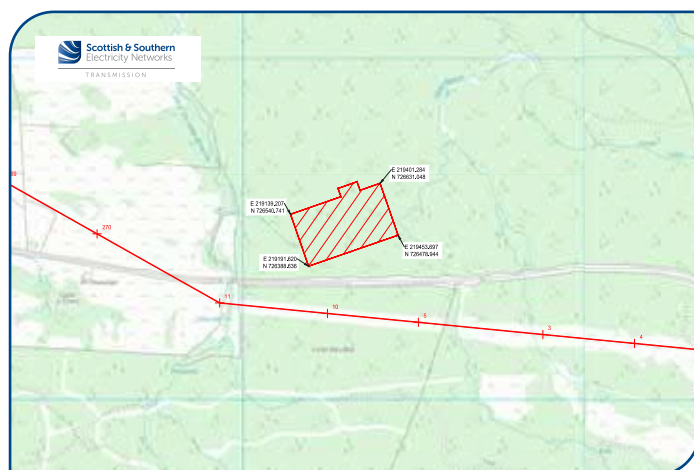
In September 2020, we shared potential locations for the Glen Lochy Switching Station site, from around 2km east of Dalmally.

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

### Next Steps

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

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



### Design updates

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

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

## 6. Creag Dhubh Substation

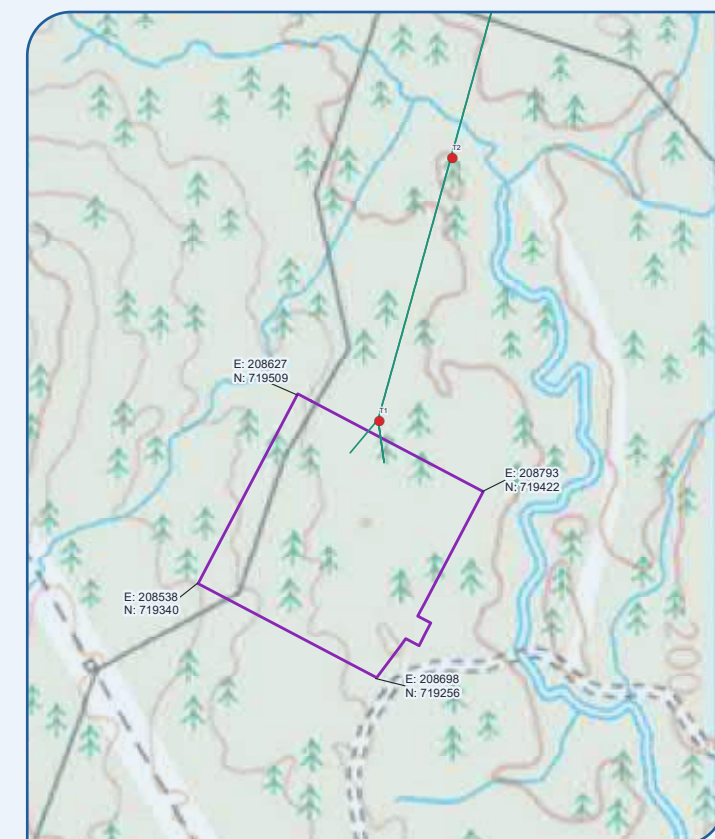
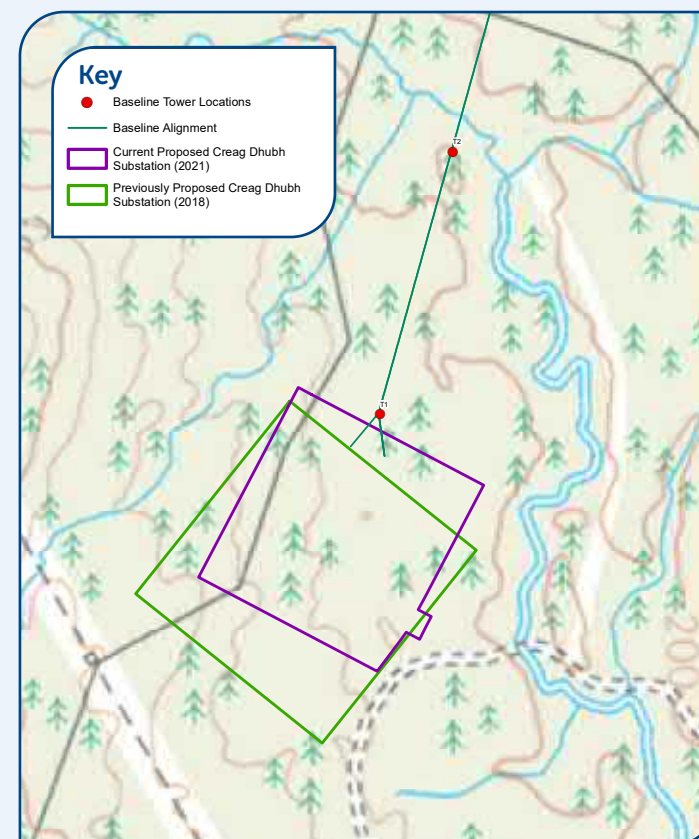
**The Creag Dhubh substation is required for the connection of the proposed overhead line to the existing network. The substation will connect onto the existing 132kV network between Inveraray and Taynuilt and will also connect to the proposed Glen Lochy Switching Station via a new overhead line, to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

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

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

### Design Updates

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



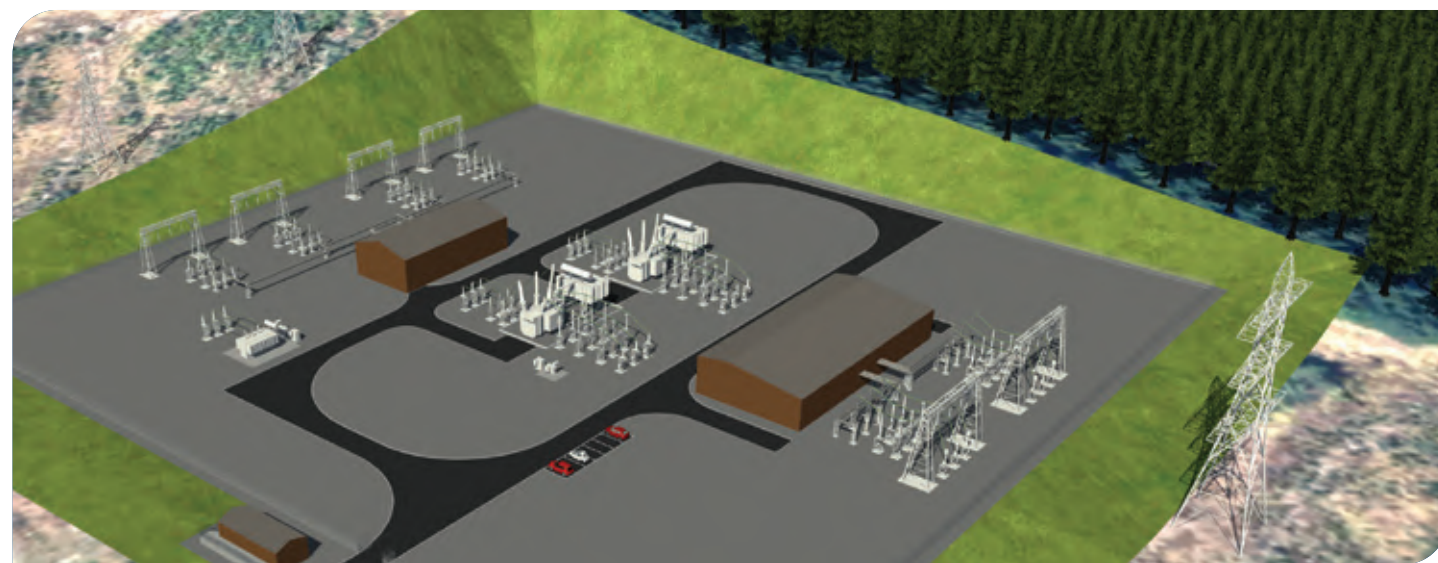


# Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## Substation Details

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

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



Visualisation of the proposed Creag Dhubh substation

## Planning Application

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

## Next Steps

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

# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 1. About the project

### Project Need

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

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

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

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

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

### Consultation on the Preferred Route

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

## Project Timeline

### July 2021

- Preferred Route Public Consultation

### Autumn 2021

- Preferred Alignment Public Consultation

### Summer 2022

- Development Consents Applications

### Winter 2023

- Anticipated Construction Start

### Spring 2025

- Anticipated Construction Completion

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



# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 2. Preferred Technology

### Overhead Line

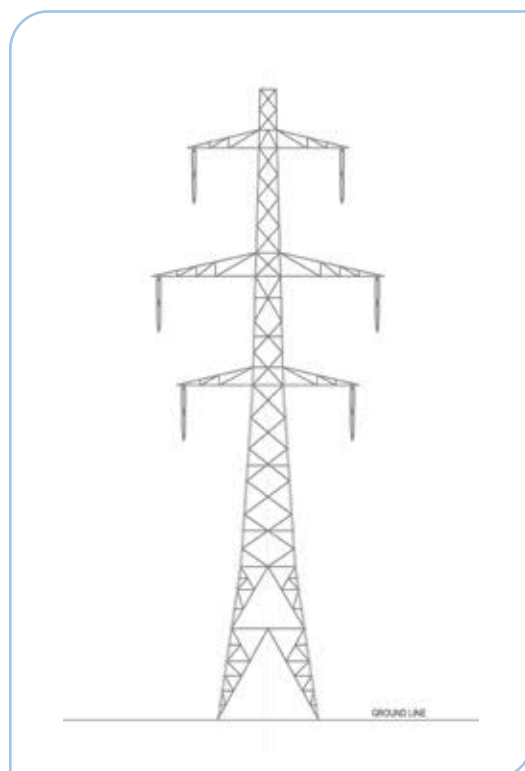
The proposed new 275kV overhead line will replace the existing 132kV overhead line between Inveraray switching station and the proposed Creag Dhubh substation, connecting at Creag Dhubh. The existing line will be decommissioned and removed upon completion of the new line. The remaining 132kV overhead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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

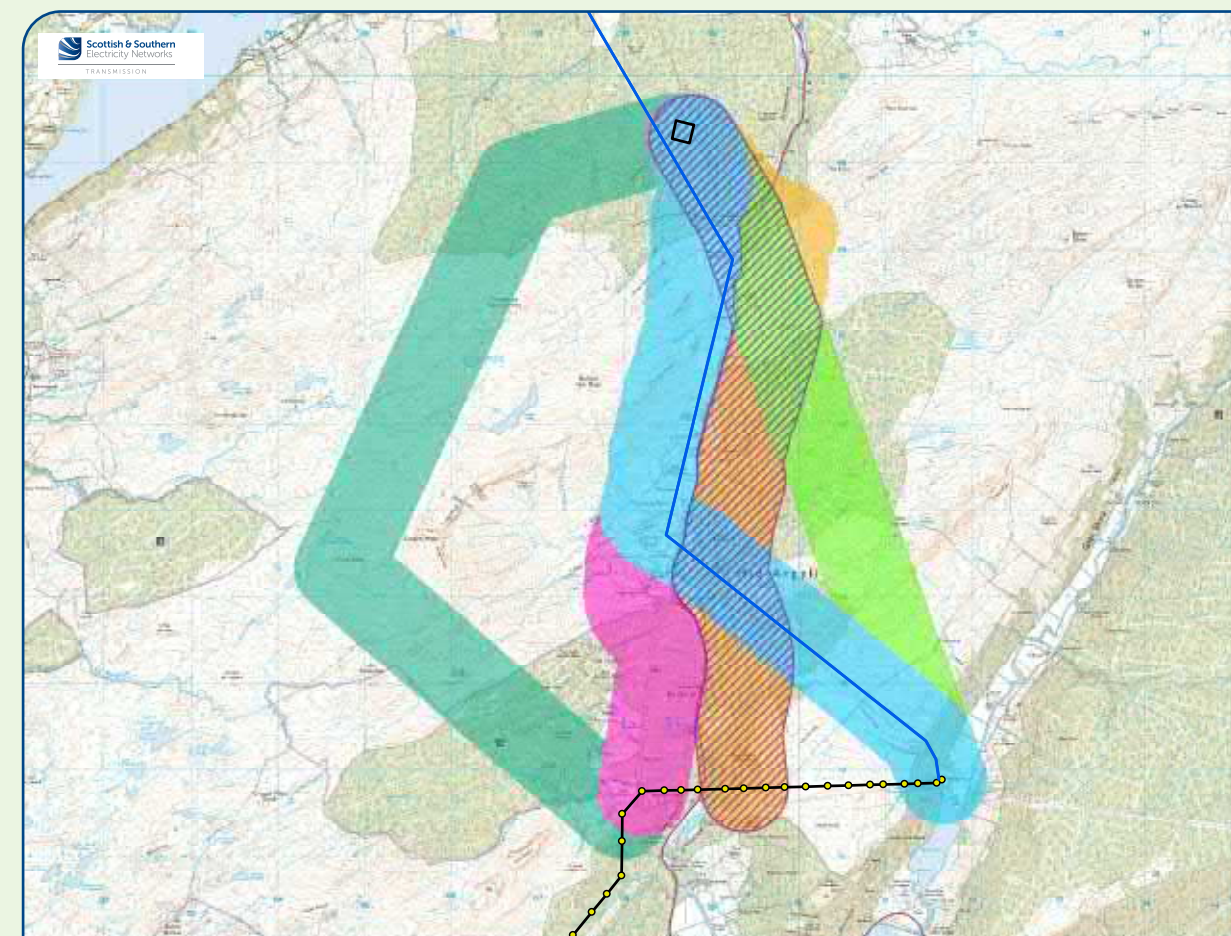
## 3. Routing Options Map

### Study Area

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

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

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



**Key**

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

# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 4. Routing Options Analysis

### Route Option A:

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

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

### Route Option B:

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

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

## 4. Routing Options Analysis

### Route Option C:

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

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

### Route Option D:

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

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

### Route Option E:

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

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



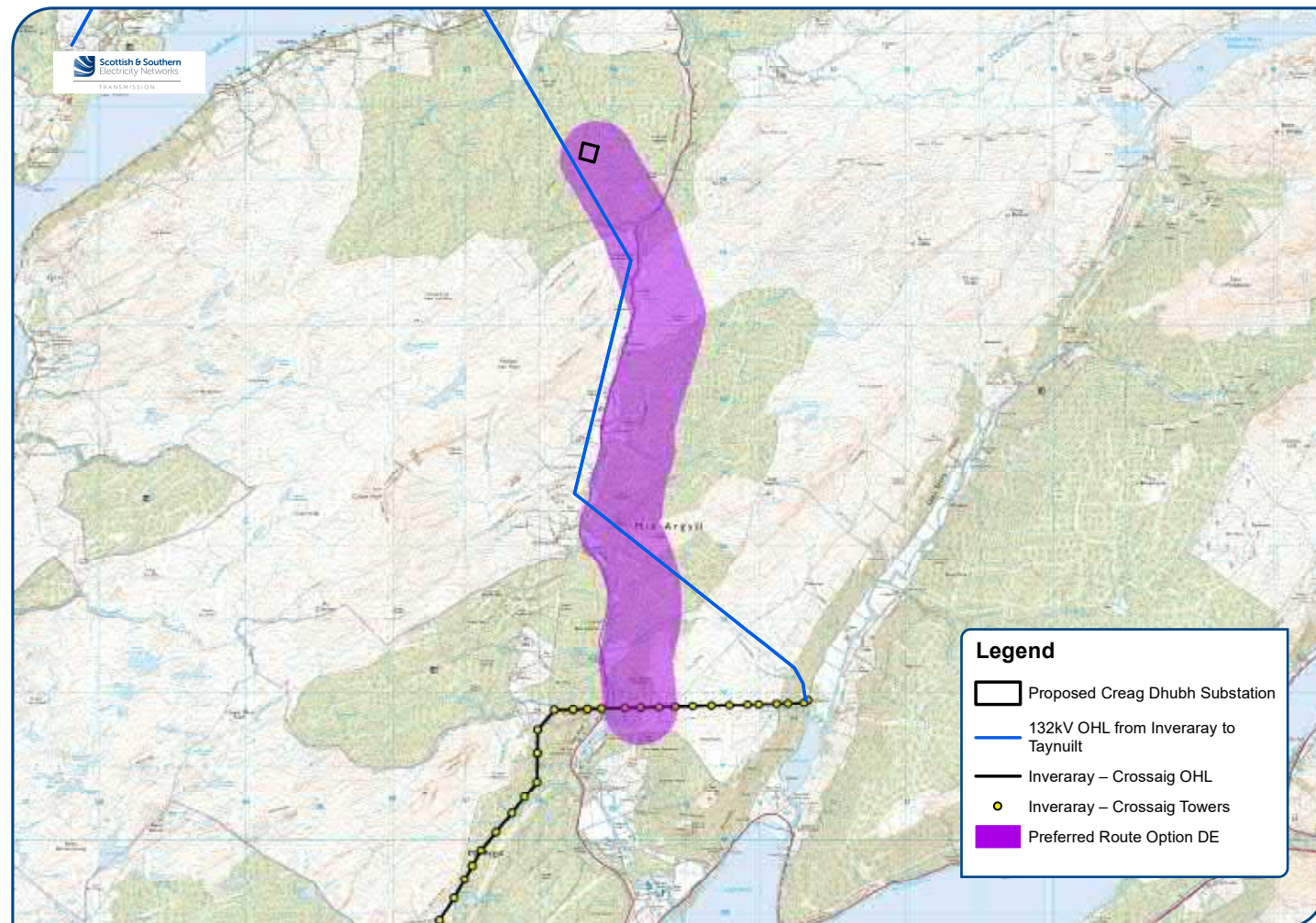
# Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

## 5. Our Preferred Route Option

### Route Option DE (Preferred):

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

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



## 6. Red Amber Green (RAG) Charts

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

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

### RAG Impact Rating- Environmental

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

### RAG Impact Rating- Engineering

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

### RAG Impact Rating- Cost

Cost	Route Option					
	A	B	C	D	E	DE
<b>Capital</b>	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Capital	Red	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green
Diversions	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red
Public Road Improvement	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Tree Felling	Red	Amber	Red	Red	Green	Red
Land Assembly	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Consent Mitigations	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Inspections	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Maintenance	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
<b>Total Cost</b>	A	B	C	D	E	DE
Total Cost	Red	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green



# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 1. About the project

### Project Need

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

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

### Project overview:

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

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

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

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

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



### What we are consulting on:

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

### Previous Consultation:

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

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

## 2. Site Option Selection Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

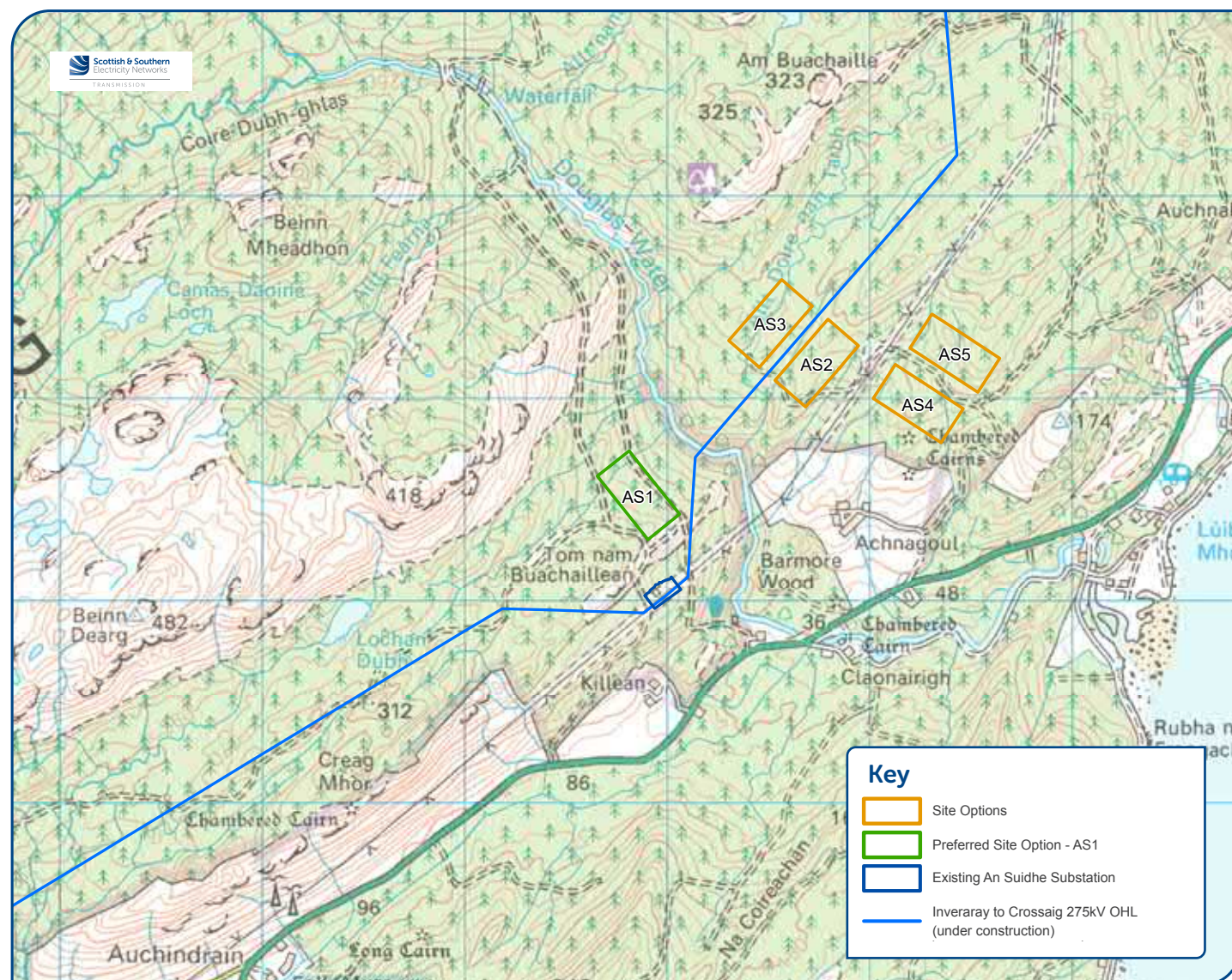
A Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating was then applied to each, with RED indicating a high potential for constraint, amber indicating intermediate potential for constraint and GREEN indicating low potential for constraint. Please note that a RED or AMBER rating does not necessarily mean that the Site Option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





# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 3. An Suidhe Map



## 4. An Suidhe Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

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

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

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

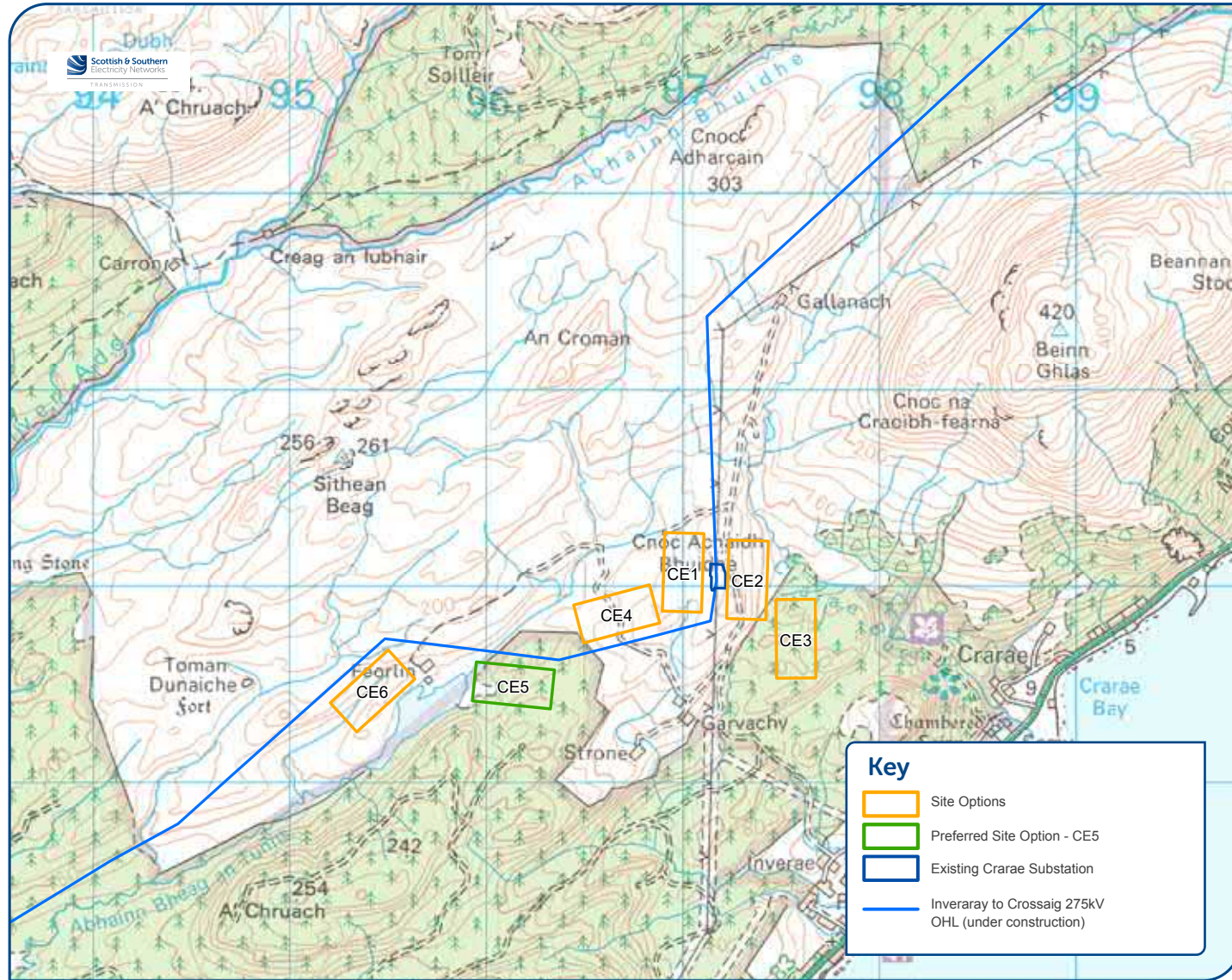
### Preferred Option:

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



# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 5. Crarae Map



## 6. Crarae Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

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

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

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

### Preferred Option:

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



# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 7. Craig Murrail Map



## 8. Craig Murrail Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

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

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

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

#### Location:

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

#### History:

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

#### Site Options:

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

#### Preferred Option:

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



# Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

## 9. Crossaig North Map



## 10. Crossaig North Assessment

### RAG Impact Rating - Environmental

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

### RAG Impact Rating - Engineering

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

### Preferred Option:

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



## What else is happening in Argyll?

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

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

### Windfarm Connection Projects

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Sloy Power Station Substation Rebuild

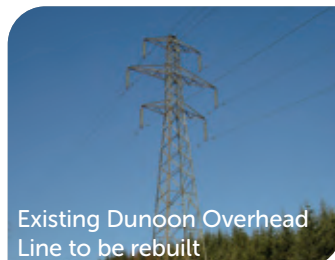
Transmission assets at Sloy Power Station Substation are reaching the end of their working life and need to be replaced. This project includes a new substation near the existing one at the power station, tower and gantry works for connection to the existing overhead line, 11kV cables to be installed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

### Inveraray – Crossaig Reinforcement

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



Carradale Substation



Existing Dunoon Overhead Line to be rebuilt

### Carradale Substation

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

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

### Dunoon Overhead Line Rebuild

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

### Glen Falloch and Sloy VISTA

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

[ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/vista-glen-falloch-sloy](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/vista-glen-falloch-sloy)

## How do I have my say?

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

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

### Creag Dhubh - Dalmally 275kV Connection

1

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

### Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line

2

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

### Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

3

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

### Creag Dhubh Substation – PAN

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

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

### Comments

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

# How do I have my say?

## Join our virtual consultation

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Keep in touch

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



**Helen Batey**

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

**01925 800 833 / 07778 453 993**

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



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

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

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

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

## Feedback

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

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

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

# Your feedback - Creag Dhubh Substation PAN

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

**Q1 Have we adequately explained the approach taken to select the preferred site for the Creag Dhubh substation?**

Yes  No  If no, please tell us how we could provide further explanation

**Q2 Do you have any concerns about our preferred site for the Creag Dhubh Substation?**

Yes  No  If no, please provide information

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





# Your Feedback - Creag Dhubh – Dalmally 275kV Connection

## Overhead Line Alignment and Glen Lochy Switching Station Location

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

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

Yes  No  Unsure

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

Baseline  GL1  GL2  GL3  GL4

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

Baseline  GL1  GL2  GL3  GL4  GL5  None are preferred

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

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

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

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

Yes  No  If no, please provide information

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

Yes  No  If no, please provide information

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

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

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

Yes  No  If no, why not?

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

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

## Your feedback - Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes  No  Unsure

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

CM1  CM2  CM3  CM4

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

Yes  No  Unsure

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

CG1  CG3  CG4  CG5  CG6  CG7

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

## Your feedback

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

---

TRANSMISSION



SSEN Community



@ssencommunity

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



## **APPENDIX 4: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL CONSULTATION BOARD JULY 2021**



## **APPENDIX 5: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL CHANGE OF PREFERRED ROUTE POST CARD DROP**

## APPENDIX 6: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL WEBSITE



## **APPENDIX 7: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV PRESS ADVERT POSTER AND MAILDROP MAY 2022**

## **APPENDIX 8: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL BROCHURE MAY 2022**



## **APPENDIX 9: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL CONSULTATION BOARD MAY 2022**

## **APPENDIX 10: CREAG DHUBH TO INVERARAY 275 KV OHL EMAIL SENT TO STAKEHOLDERS APRIL 2022**