VOLUME 2: CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

Appendices (Volume 4 of this EIA Report)

There are no appendices associated with this Chapter.

Figures (Volume 3 of this EIA Report)

Figure 1.1: Location Plan

Figure 1.2: Supplementary Location Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Applicant

1.1.1 Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc ('the Applicant') is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SSE plc group of companies. Operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission ('SSEN Transmission'), it owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and remote islands.

1.1.2 SSEN Transmission has a statutory duty under section 9 of the *Electricity Act 1989*[1] to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical electrical transmission system in its licence area. Where there is a requirement to extend, upgrade or reinforce its transmission network, SSEN Transmission's aim is to provide an environmentally aware, technically feasible and economically viable solution which would cause the least disturbance to the environment and to people who use it.

1.1.3 The terms "Applicant" and "SSEN Transmission" are used interchangeably throughout this EIA Report.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO)[2], published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND)[3], setting out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore electricity transmission network infrastructure required to enable the forecasted growth in renewable electricity across Great Britain, including the UK and Scottish Government's 2030 offshore wind targets of 50 GW and 11 GW respectively.

1.2.2 The extensive studies completed to inform the ESO's Pathway to 2030 HND confirmed the requirement to increase the power transfer capacity of the onshore corridor from Kintore to Tealing. This requires a new 400 kV connection between these locations to enable the significant power transfer capability needed to take power from onshore and large scale offshore renewable generation which is proposed to connect at onshore locations on the East Coast of Scotland and transport it to areas of demand.

1.2.3 To achieve this, SSEN Transmission is proposing a new 400 kV overhead transmission line (OHL) between Kintore and Tealing. This new connection also requires two new 400 kV substations to be constructed near Tealing in Angus and in Fetteresso Forest in Aberdeenshire to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand. In addition, two of the existing 275kV OHLs from the existing substation at Tealing, and Alyth and Westfield substations require to be upgraded to 400 kV and connected to the new 400kV substation near Tealing. Additional short 275 kV connections between the new 400 kV and existing Tealing substation are also required.

1.2.4 Extensive studies, reported in Chapter 4 of this EIA Report, have led to the selection of a site at Balkemback Farm, Kirkton of Tealing, for the new 400 kV substation near Tealing.

1.3 The Planning Application

1.3.1 The Applicant is applying to Angus Council for full planning permission under the *Town and Country Planning Act (Scotland) 1997*[4], to install and operate a new 400 kV substation at Emmock, near Tealing in Angus, with associated earthworks, the formation of platforms, landscaping, means of access, means of enclosure, site drainage, and temporary construction compounds. (see Planning Application and accompanying drawings).

1.3.2 The aforementioned is referred to interchangeably in this EIA Report as the "Proposed Development" and "Emmock substation".

[1] Electricity Act 1989. Available [online]: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents
[2] The ESO was replaced by the National Energy System Operator in 2024.
[3] National Grid ESO (2022) Pathway to 2030: Holistic Network Design. Available [online]: https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/262681/download
[4] Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.Available [online]:

1.3.3 In accordance with the requirements of the *Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017*[5], this Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared by Land Use Consultants (LUC) on behalf of the Applicant, to accompany the Planning Application.

1.4 Associated SSEN Transmission Projects

1.4.1 In addition to the Proposed Development, the Applicant is bringing forward separate consent applications for the associated infrastructure referred to in paragraph 1.2.3 above and detailed as follows:

- Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL – application for consent to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of *the Electricity Act 1989*[6], for a new 400kV OHL from the existing Kintore substation in Aberdeenshire to Emmock substation, via a new substation (Hurlie substation (below)) 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* (as amended);
- 400 kV Hurlie Substation – application for planning permission to be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council under the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*, as amended;
- Alyth to Tealing Tie-in - application under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act 1989* for the installation of a new short (2 km approx.) section of 400kV OHL from the upgraded Alyth to Tealing OHL (see below) to Emmock substation and the removal of a short section of the existing OHL (approx. 2 km) to the existing Tealing Substation;
- Westfield to Tealing Tie-in – application under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act 1989* for the installation of a short span of 400kV from the upgraded Westfield to Tealing OHL to Emmock substation (see below) and the removal of a short span of existing OHL (approx.350 m); and
- Emmock to Tealing Tie-backs – application under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act 1989* to repurpose a short section of the existing Westfield to Tealing 275kV OHL from Emmock substation to the existing Tealing substation and to install a new short section of 275kV OHL from Emmock substation to the existing Tealing Substation[7].[8]

1.4.2 The above projects are referred to in this EIA Report as Associated SSEN Transmission Projects. The Proposed Development is shown in **Figure 1: Location Plan** and **Figure 2: Supplementary Location Plan**.

1.4.3 In addition to the above, the Applicant is also seeking separate Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989, for the following;

- 400kV upgrade of the existing 275kV Alyth to Tealing OHL – application for consent to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act 1989*, 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 (as amended)*[9].
- 400kV upgrade of the existing 275kV Tealing to Westfield OHL – application for consent to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act 1989*, 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 (as amended*). The S37 consent will cover the upgrade of the OHL as far as the shared boundary with Scottish Power Energy Networks[10].

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[5] Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available [online]:

[6] The Electricity Act 1989, section 37. Available [online]: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/section/37

[7] Each of the Section 37 applications listed here includes the installation of new "terminal" towers on the Emmock substation platform. The terminal towers are not part of the Proposed Development.

[8] The three Tie-In applications listed here will be made under a single Section 37 consent application, accompanied by relevant environmental information. A Screening Opinion has been issued by the Energy Consents Unit on ??? confirming the applications do not constitute *EIA development*.

[9] The project involves upgrading the existing conductors to 400kV up to tower YT680, beyond which the works are defined as the Alyth to Tealing Tie-In, noted above.

[10] The project involves upgrading the existing conductors up to tower TW180, beyond which the works are defined as the Westfield to Tealing Tie-In, noted above.

1.4.4 The cumulative environmental effects of the Proposed Development with the Associated SSEN Transmission Projects, with the 400kV upgrade projects above and with other proposed projects identified for cumulative impact assessment are described in **Chapter 14**.

1.5 Legal and Policy Context

1.5.1 As referenced above, the legislative framework under which the Applicant is seeking planning permission includes the *Electricity Act 1989* Section 9, the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997* and the *Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations").*

1.5.2 The policy context is provided by the following:

- National Planning Framework (NPF4)[11]:
    1. Policies 1 & 2 ensure future developments minimise emissions and are built to reflect the future risks of climate change.
    2. Policies 3, 4, 5 and 6 ensure that natural assets are protected and enhanced by managing the effects of development on biodiversity and on natural places.
    3. Policy 11 supports opportunities for renewable energy development and the transition to net zero.
    4. Policy 13 ensures that the area's needs and characteristics are considered in assessing the transport impacts of development.
    5. Policy 23 ensures air and noise pollution are considered to protect health and wellbeing.
- Scottish Government Planning Advice Notes (PANs)[12]:
    1. PAN1/2011: Planning and Noise
    2. PAN1/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment
    3. PAN2/2011: Planning and Archaeology
    4. PAN51/2006 (revised): Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation
    5. PAN60/2000: Planning for Natural Heritage
    6. PAN79/2006: Water and Drainage
- Angus Council Local Development Plan:
    1. Policy PV8: Built and Cultural Heritage
    2. Policy PV12: Managing Flood Risk
    3. Supplementary Guidance (September 2016)
    4. Technical Guidance for Developers and Regulators: Flood Risk and Surface Water Drainage Requirements
    5. Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development Supplementary Guidance (June 2017)

An assessment of the Proposed Development against national and local policy is provided in a Planning Statement which accompanies the Planning Application.

[11] Scottish Government (February 2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available [online]: https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/
[12] Scottish Government (2024) Planning Advice Notes (PANs) Available [online]: https://www.gov.scot/collections/planning-advice-notes-pans/

1.6 The EIA Regulations

1.6.1 The Proposed Development is not defined as Schedule 1 Development or Schedule 2 Development in the EIA Regulations')[13]. However, as set out in Part 2, Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations, if an Applicant submits an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (EIAR) within its planning application to the Local Planning Authority, then the Proposed Development is considered an EIA development.

1.6.2 As part of the EIA process a Scoping Report[14] was prepared to seek input from statutory and non-statutory consultees to determine and describe the factors specified in Schedule 4 of The Regulations which are likely to be significantly affected by the development. A Scoping Opinion was sought from Angus Council under Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations in June 2024. A Scoping Opinion from the Council was received in September 2024 confirming the scope of the EIA Report.

1.7 EIA Report Structure

1.7.1 The EIA Report is structured as follows:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary;
- Volume 2: Main Report;
- Volume 3: Figures and Visualizations; and
- Volume 4: Appendices

1.7.2 **Volume 1** of the EIA is a non-technical summary that provides an overview and description of the Proposed Development, sets out the project need, describes the site selection, consultation process and design considerations for development of the project, and outlines the EIA assessment process and report structure according to the Regulations.

1.7.3 **Volume 2: Chapters 1-6** provides the main text of the EIA Report. **Chapter 1** introduces the project and explains the project need, strategic planning considerations for delivering the Proposed Development, and structure of the EIA Report. **Chapter 2** lists the team preparing the EIA Report and their respective disciplines and qualifications. **Chapter 3** describes the Proposed Development in detail. **Chapter 4** describes the site selection process, the assessment of alternatives, and how the final Site was chosen. **Chapter 5** describes the EIA process and methodology used for the EIA Report. **Chapter 6** discusses the consultations that have been undertaken to define the scope of the EIA. **Volume 2** also includes a series of technical topic-based reports (**Chapters 7-13**) that assess the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on receptors of relevance to the topic, as well as cumulative in-combination effects of the Proposed Development with other developments; and cumulative interactive effects on key receptors for different impact types for the Proposed Development, and a description of the proposed mitigation measures relevant to the above assessments. The Volume concludes with a Cumulative Effects Assessment (**Chapter 14**), and Schedule of Environmental Mitigation (**Chapter 15**) to address the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

1.7.4 **Volume 3** contains supporting figures referred to in Volume 2 of the EIA Report and photomontage visualisations of the Proposed Development from a series of viewpoints that have been prepared in accordance with the relevant guidance from Angus Council.

1.7.5 **Volume 4** comprises supporting appendices to Volume 2 of the EIA Report. Appendices include further detailed reporting or information to support the EIA Report and technical assessments contained therein.

1.8 Other Plans and Reports Accompanying the Planning Application

1.8.1 The following drawings and reports will be submitted with the Planning Application.

[13] HM Government (2017) Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 Available [online]: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/schedule/2

[14] SSEN Transmission (July 2024). Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report. Emmock 400 kV Substation. Available [online]: https://planning.angus.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SG5OONCF07200

1.8.2 These drawings and reports do not form part of the EIA Report. Cross references to drawings and reports are made in the Chapters of the EIA Report where relevant. All drawings intended to form part of the EIA Report are provided in **Volume 3**.

Table 1.1: Reports

Reports	Source
Pre-Application Consultation Report	The Applicant
Planning Statement	David Bell Planning
Design and Access Statement	David Bell Planning
Socio-Economic Assessment	Biggar Economics

1.9 Notifications

1.9.1 In accordance with the *Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations")*, the submission of this EIA Report will be publicised in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the Proposed Development and in the Edinburgh Gazette.

1.9.2 This EIA Report and associated documents and figures, will be available for viewing at the following public locations during normal opening hours.

- Forfar Library, 50-56 W High St, Forfar, DD8 1BA

1.9.3 An electronic version is available online at Emmock 400kV Substation - SSEN Transmission

1.9.4 This EIA Report is available in other formats if required. For details, including costs, please email tkup@sse.com.