APPENDIX A: PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE & PLAN IDENTIFYING LAND

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Section 35B)
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Regulations 4 -7)

To be completed for all developments within the national or major categories of development

Name of Council	Aberdeenshire Council
Address	Viewmount Arduthie Road Stonehaven AB39 2DQ
Proposed development at [Note 1]	Land at, and in the vicinity of, Fetteresso Forest, in Aberdeenshire, AB39 3UX.
Description of proposal [Note 2]	Proposed Construction and Operation of a 400kV AC Substation, and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, the Formation of Platforms, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations (National Development)

Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to

[Note 3] Aberdeenshire Council Council by [Note 4] Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Of [Note 5]

200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ

In respect of [Note 6] Two in-person pre-application consultation events

To take place on [Note 7] 19 March 2024, and 11 June 2024 (2-7PM, Drumlithie Village Hall)

[Note 8] The following parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice

[See full list in covering letter] Mearns, Stonehaven and District, and neighbouring community councils; Mearns Ward and Stonehaven and Lower Deeside Ward, and neighbouring ward councillors; Scottish Government constituency MSPs, neighbouring constituency MSPs, and regional MSPs; Westminster MP.

[Note 9] For further details contact Robert Nairn of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

on telephone number 01738 351625

And/or at the following address robert.nairn@sse.com

[Note 10] I certify that I have attached a plan outlining the site

Signed

On behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Date 31 January 2024

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Fetteresso Forest

Brae of Glenbervie

Scale @ A3: 1:17,500

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 km

Legend

- Proposal of application notice red line boundary - 292.01 ha
- Existing Overhead Line

Project No:	LT000486
Project:	Fiddes 400kV Substation
Title:	Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) Fiddes (Hurlie) Substation
Drawn by:	BJR
Date:	25/01/2024
Drawing:	LT000486_ENV_002_PAN

APPENDIX B: PAN COVERING LETTER

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Aberdeenshire Council
Viewmount
Arduthie Road
Stonehaven
AB39 2DQ

Robert Nairn
Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ
e-mail – Robert.nairn@sse.com

Via email only.

31 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our ref: LT000486 Hurlie (previously Fiddes) Substation

Proposal of Application Notice: Proposed Construction and Operation of a 400kV AC Substation, and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, the Formation of Platforms, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations (National development) at Land at, and in the vicinity of, Fetteresso Forest, in Aberdeenshire AB39 3UX.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Prospective Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), is pleased to submit this Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) and location plan relating to the abovementioned development in the abovementioned location.

The Prospective Applicant has planned two in-person public consultation events. The first will be held at Drumlithie Village Hall on 19 March 2024 at 2-7PM. The last public event will be held at Drumlithie Village Hall on 11 June 2024 at 2-7PM.

Newspaper advertisements in respect of the public events will be placed in the Press and Journal at least seven days in advance of each event. A draft of the first notice is attached for your information.

Copies of this PAN with attachments will be sent to the parties identified in the list below.

Community Councils	**Email**
Stonehaven and District	[redacted]@stonehavencc.org.uk
Arbuthnott	[redacted]@gmail.com
Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar	[redacted]@ckdcc.org.uk
Crathes, Drumoak and Durris	[redacted]@gmail.com
Mearns	[redacted]@gmail.com
North Kincardine	[redacted]@nkrcc.org.uk

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Feughside	[redacted]@gmail.com
Ward Councillors (Mearns)	**Email**
Laurie Carnie	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
George Carr	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Alison Evison	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Kevin Stelfox	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Ward Councillors (Stonehaven and Lower Deeside)	**Email**
Wendy Agnew	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Dawn Black	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sarah Dickinson	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Alan Turner	[redacted]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Members of Scottish Parliament	**Email**
Tess White	[redacted]@Parliament.scot
Maurice Golden	[redacted]@parliament.scot
Liam Kerr	[redacted]@parliament.scot
Douglas Lumsden	[redacted]@Parliament.scot
Maggie Chapman	[redacted]@Parliament.scot
Michael Marra	[redacted]@Parliament.scot
Mercedes Villalba	[redacted]@parliament.scot
Mairi Gougeon	[redacted]@parliament.scot
Member of Parliament	**Email**
Andrew Bowie	[redacted]@parliament.uk

In terms of additional consultation and publicity, the Prospective Applicant proposes to carry out a leaflet drop of properties within 10km of the site in order to make the public aware of the consultation events. There is also a dedicated project website where project updates are provided at https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/.

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

In addition to the required statutory advertisement, coloured advertisements inviting public participation will also be placed in the general news sections of the Press and Journal.

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

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

Yours Faithfully,

Robert Nairn
Town Planning Specialist

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

APPENDIX C: NEWSPAPER NOTICES

Notice Board

Public Notices

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

NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), hereby submits notification of pre-application consultation for a proposed development at Land at, and in the vicinity of, Fetteresso Forest, in Aberdeenshire AB39 3UX.

The proposed development would be located in the vicinity of the existing Fetteresso substation, Aberdeenshire AB39 3UX.

The proposed development is for: Proposed Construction and Operation of a 400kV AC Substation, and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, the Formation of Platforms, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations (National development).

A proposal of application notice in respect of the proposed development was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 31 January 2024.

Members of the local community and interested members of the public are invited to attend the following consultation event (Public Event 1) relating to the proposal described above to be held on:

19 March 2024 at Drumlithie Village Hall, Station Rd, Drumlithie AB39 3YT, from 2PM-7PM.

Details of further consultation (Public Event 2) will be published in due course.

This event is an opportunity to view the proposals and to meet the Applicant and the project teams who will be available to answer questions.

Further information can be viewed on the project website at:

https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

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

You can submit comments on the proposals to the Applicant at this stage either at the event mentioned above, by email or in writing to:

Community Liaison Manager, Rhiannon Merritt, tkup@sse.com, SSEN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness IV11 SN

These comments must be received no later than 30 April 2024.

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

Robert Nairn

For and behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

Public Notices

Court Ref: ABE-L11-24

SHERIFFDOM OF GRAMPIAN HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS AT ABERDEEN

ABERDEENSHIRE LARDER LIMITED Registered Office Unit 3 Broomiesburn Road, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 9RD

Notice is hereby given that on 28 February 2024 a Petition was presented to the Sheriff at Aberdeen by Aberdeenshire Larder Limited craving the Court inter alia that Aberdeenshire Larder Limited, a Company incorporated under the Companies Acts with Company number SC365801 and having their Registered Office at Unit 3 Broomiesburn Road, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 9RD ("the Company") should be wound up by the Court and that an Interim Liquidator be appointed, following upon which Petition the Sheriff at Aberdeen by Interlocutor dated 29 February 2024 appointed all persons having an interest if they intend to show cause why the prayer of the petition should not be granted to lodge Answers in the hands of the Sheriff Clerk at Aberdeen within 8 days after intimation, service or advertisement; and in the meantime appointed Richard Bathgate, licensed insolvency practitioner of Johnston Carmichael, Bishop's Court, 29 Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YL to be the Provisional Liquidator of the said Company with the powers contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of part II of Schedule 4 of the insolvency Act 1986. All of which notice is hereby given.

Neil M Torrance,
Mackinnons Solicitors LLP
14 Carden Place,
Aberdeen
AB10 1UR
Petitioners Agent
TEL: 01224 632464
FAX: 01224 632184
NeilT@mackinnons.com

Public Notices

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

PAUL DUFF trading as AGD DUFF & PARTNERS LTD of 20 BROADFORD ROAD, BRIDGE OF DON, ABERDEEN, AB23 8EE

is applying to change an existing license as follows, to keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at 20 BROADFORD ROAD, BRIDGE OF DON, ABERDEEN, AB23 8EE. To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at 20 BROADFORD ROAD, BRIDGE OF DON, ABERDEEN, AB23 8EE. To change existing conditions or undertakings applying at the operating centre at 20 BROADFORD ROAD, BRIDGE OF DON, ABERDEEN, AB23 8EE to NO OPERATION OF AUTHORISED VEHICLES BETWEEN 4PM and 5PM. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Property

Residential Property

Commercial Property
Exchanges
Garages
General Property
Land and Farms
To Let/Lodging
New Homes
Property Wanted

Property Wanted

HOLIDAY LET WANTED

Couple in their 50s looking to purchase and take over a 2 bedroom holiday cottage with exiting license, from any retiring owners along the North East coast.

Tel: 07984 908905 (Evening)

Retail Shop

Retail Shop

Articles Wanted
Auction Sales
Babies and Children
Books, Toys and Hobbies
Christmas Trees and Decorations
Computers and Gaming
Domestic Appliances
Education and Tutoring
Fashion Retail
Food and Drink
Gardens and DIY
Health and Beauty
Heating
Home Furniture and Furnishings
Home Business
Home Interiors
Jumble, Car Boot, Garage Sale
Kitchens and Bathrooms
Mail Order
Miscellaneous
Mobility
Musical Instruments
Personal
Pets and Accessories
Personal Services
Retail General
Sports and Leisure
Sound, Vision and Communication
Ticket Sales and Wants
Weddings

Books

FREE books on end time events, prophecy, health and much more. Please email mmeztt777@gmail or Tel: 07485653431 to get copy/s.

Gardens and DIY

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

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

Home Furniture and Furnishings

BURGUNDY 3 seater stretch cover for settee, never been used, still in packaging, £35 Tel: 07555 059421

CHAIR recliner, bottle green and cream, can be used indoors or outdoors, folds for storage, £40. Tel: 07555 059421

UNIT corner tv unit,dark brown wood and glass, £25. Tel: 07555 059421

Help Wanted

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

Mobility

MOBILITY SCOOTER

4 big wheels, all round suspension, lights, indicators, 4 & 8mph, 30 mile radius on full charge and in excellent condition. Can Deliver.

£1350 o.n.o.
Tel: 07557 638929
ABERDEEN

Pets and Accessories

CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUP

We have 1 male ruby remaining, he will be ready in 2 weeks, will have 1st vaccination, microchip and health check.

£1500. Tel: 07871 707862

Notice Board

Public Notices

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

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), hereby submits notification of pre-application consultation for a proposed development at Land at, and in the vicinity of, Fetteresso Forest, in Aberdeenshire AB39 3UX.

The proposed development would be located in the vicinity of the existing Fetteresso substation, Aberdeenshire AB39 3UX.

The proposed development is for: Proposed Construction and Operation of a 400kV AC Substation, and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, the Formation of Platforms, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations (National development).

A proposal of application notice in respect of the proposed development was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 31 January 2024.

A consultation event on these proposals
(Public Event 1) was held on 19 March 2024
at Drumlithie Village Hall, Station Rd,
Drumlithie AB39 3YT.

Comments received at the first consultation event and online during the consultation period have been summarised. Feedback on these comments will be presented at the second public consultation event (Public Event 2), which will be held on:

11 June 2024, 2PM-7PM, at Drumlithie Village Hall, Station Rd, Drumlithie AB39 3YT.

Further information can be viewed on the project website at:
https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

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

You can submit comments on the proposals to the Applicant by email or in writing to:
Community Liaison Manager, Rhiannon Merritt, tkup@sse.com, SSEN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness IV11 SN

These comments must be received no later than 23 July 2024.

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

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

Robert Nairn
For and behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

Public Notices

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended) Regulation 7
NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION FOR FINAL PUBLIC EVENT

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), hereby submits notification of pre-application consultation for a proposed development at Knocknagael Substation, Essich Road, Inverness to support the proposed Loch na Cathrach grid connection works.

The development site is located on land at Knocknagael Substation approximately 4km south of Inverness.

The proposed development is for: **Erection and operation of extension to the Knocknagael Substation comprising new platform area, associated plant and infrastructure, ancillary facilities, laydown area(s), access roads and landscape works (National Development).**

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to The Highland Council (THC) for this proposed development on 27 March 2024. The PAN reference number is: 24/01335/PAN.

One previous consultation event was held (Public Event 1) on: Wednesday 17 April 2024, Green Drive Community Hall, 36 Green Dr, Inverness IV2 4EU, between 1400 hours and 1830 hours.

Members of the local community and interested members of the public are invited to attend the following consultation event (Public Event 2) relating to the proposal described above to be held on:

Wednesday 12 June 2024, Green Drive Community Hall, 36 Green Dr, Inverness IV2 4EU, between 1400 hours and 1830 hours.

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

Further information can be viewed on the project website at:
https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/red-john-pump-storage-scheme-275kv-connection/

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

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal, may do so at the above events or by email or in writing to: Community Liaison Manager, Ryan Davidson, 07901133919 / ryan.davidson@sse.com / SSEN Transmission, 1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY.

These comments must be received no later than 10 July 2024.

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

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

Keith Smith
For and on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

AM SHAKES LTD

On 06 May 2024, a petition was presented to Aberdeen Sheriff Court by the Advocate General for Scotland for and on behalf of the Commissioners for His Majesty's Revenue and Customs craving the Court inter alia to order that AM SHAKES LTD, 441 Great Northern Road, Aberdeen, AB24 4EH (registered office) (company registration number SC606782) be wound up by the Court and to appoint a liquidator. All parties claiming an interest must lodge Answers with Aberdeen Sheriff Court, Castle Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1WP within 8 days of intimation, service and advertisement.

A Gardner
Officer of Revenue
& Customs
HM Revenue & Customs
Solicitor's Office and
Legal Services
Queen Elizabeth House,
Edinburgh
for Petitioner
Ref: Scotland/1217798
/JKW

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE GREGORY DISTRIBUTION (HOLDINGS) LIMITED of NORTH PARK, NORTH TAWTON, DEVON, EX20 2EB

is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 1 goods vehicles and 1 trailers at the operating centre at WILLIAM COUTTS TRANSPORT (PHD) LTD, HOWEMUIR ROAD, BLACKMILLS, PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB42 3LJ. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Retail Shop

Books

FREE Christian books on current events. Please email mmezit 777@gmail or Tel: 07485 653431 to get copy/s.

HARDBACK David Baldacci's latest novel, The Edge, £5 Tel: 07860 241931 ABERDEEN

Fashion Retail

LADIES Echo shoes, beige, never worn, are no longer of use due to foot procedure, size 71 (7/8), cost over £90, selling for £20. Tel: 01358 723125.

LADIES Echo sandals, Flash, beige, cost over £90, are no longer of use due to foot procedure, still in box never worn, size 71 (7/8), £20. Tel: 01358 723125.

LADIES Echo Soft Lacing, beige, still in box, unworn, are no longer of use due to foot procedure, size 71 (7/8), cost over £90, £20.Tel: 01358 723125.

Gardens and DIY

GARDENLINE Leafblower with bag, £40. Tel: 07444 728355 no texts calls only MORAY

Home Furniture and Furnishings

DINING Table, light wood, 900mm x 800mm, extending to 1300mm to seat 6, excellent condition, £50. Tel: 07812 351980.

SINGLE Bed including mattress, light wood headboard and footboard, wooden slats, excellent condition, hardly used, £50, Tel: 07812 351908.

UP and over garage door. 89 inches wide, 77 inches high. £10. Tel: 01224 867705 CULTS

Homes - Interiors

NEXION H Steel metal heavy duty racking, £50, Tel: 07444 728355 no texts calls only MORAY

Jumble, Car Boot, Garage Sale

Danestone Congregational Church
Community Area,
Fairview Street,
AB22 8ZP
Summer Fayre
Saturday, 1st June,
at 10am – 12noon
Entry by donation
includes refreshments

Musical Instruments

DRUM KIT
Ludwig, 5 drums, pedal stands and symbols.
£200.
Tel: 01358 722191

YAMAHA portable keyboard, model PS20, £35 Tel: 01224 867705

Pets and Accessories

GORGEOUS KC REGISTERED BORDER TERRIER PUPS
Boys & Girls. 9 Weeks old. 1st Vaccination, Microchipped & Vet Checked. All our Border Terriers are Stem clear. Both parents can be seen.
£1250
Telephone Ian:
07825370121

LABRADOR PUPPIES
Working strain, make excellent pets.
Ready 9th June.
Assured breeder.
Tel: 07546 286951.

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CROSS KING CHARLES SPANIEL PUPS
We have 1 boy and 2 girls from this beautiful litter. They are due to leave on 5th June and will be microchipped, health checked and have a puppy pack.
£650 each.
Tel: 07871 707862

Sports and Leisure

LEFT handed mallet putter, very good condition £20 Tel: 07860 241931 ABERDEEN

YOUNG Person's mid-size irons, from 3 to pitching wedge and sand wedge, full set, excellent condition, £40. Tel: 07516 556330 ABERDEEN

YOUNG Person's golf bag, black with red trim. Also young person's fold up golf trolley, excellent condition, £20 each. Tel: 07516 556330 ABERDEEN

YOUNG persons 4 golf clubs, consisting of a 9 Iron, Sand Wedge, Putter and Rescue Club, excellent condition like new £20 Tel: 07516 556330 ABERDEEN

Services

Services

Home Decorating Services
Electricians/Joiners/Plumbers
Funeral Directors
Gardening Services
Genealogy
Home Improvement Services
Granite Memorials
Mobility
Roofing Services
General Services

Gardening Services

General Services

Roofing Services

NotePad

ITEM:
TEL:
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TEL:

Motors

Cars Under £2000

Mercedes 2 Door Coupe

2008 Petrol, Excellent condition, Low Mileage, MOT Feb 25, 4 seater, Excellent condition, **Now Only £8,750.** One of the Cheapest Available!

EAN EMSLIE
TEL: 01224 633300
07905 284242

Commercial Vehicles

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE
Ford Transit 3 Way Tipper 2015
Diesel, Immaculate, Low Mileage,
Now Only
£10,950 (NO VAT).
One of the Cheapest Available!

EAN EMSLIE
TEL: 07905 284242
01224 633300

Cars Wanted

We buy Cars, Vans & Motorhomes
Sell your car the safe way for instant payment and safe contactless collection
Just text or phone with your Reg number and mileage for a valuation.
Call Raymond on 07770 884499 or Jordan on 07833 174444

We Buy Cars, Vans & 4x4's
Finance Settled, Instant Payment
Tel: 01358 711213
www.overton-garage.co.uk
OVERTON GARAGE
Ellon, AB41 8EP

WANTED MOTORHOME OR CAMPERVAN
May consider caravan. Any year or size considered.
Tel: 07842 060916

Motoring Accessories

NEW Steel wheel 4 stud with Michelin tyre 175/65/R14, £60 Tel: 07444 728355 no texts calls only MORAY

Caravans, Motorhomes and Boats

WANTED TOURING CARAVAN
Any make or model considered. Must have cassette toilets.
Tel: 07881 746287

Cars Wanted

APPENDIX D: NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS, SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS, COMMUNITY COUNCIL EMAILS

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL
Monday, March 4, 2024

Plea to recognise Covid wall

BY SAMUEL MONTGOMERY

The lives lost to Covid-19 have been commemorated by a minute's silence on the first official National Day of Reflection.

Volunteers for the National Covid Memorial Wall on London's South Bank were joined at noon yesterday by the British public at the stretch of hand-painted hearts between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges.

A group of 10 volunteers relies on public donations to maintain the memorial, but fear that without government recognition it is under threat.

For the Day of Reflection, volunteers strung heart-shaped lights along the 500 metres of the wall and placed a bouquet of flowers at each of its 25 panels.

Lynn Jones, 71, from Stoke-on-Trent, is a volunteer who lost her husband to Covid and now travels 150 miles every Friday to maintain the wall.

"There is nobody else acknowledging the pain of Covid. Therefore when I come here there are other people who understand," she said, adding: "People just want to forget it and wash it away. We can never wash it away.

"For us, it is a place of comfort for each other. We just want the government to recognise it, acknowledge it, and protect it."

Lorelai King, 70, from central London, who also lost her husband to Covid, said: "Many families here have no grave, they weren't able to have a funeral."

The group collects dedications from social media and writes them on to hearts for the bereaved.

Fran Hall, 63, a volunteer from Buckinghamshire, who also lost her husband to Covid, praised private companies for supporting the wall, such as Valspar providing paint.

"We are deeply disappointed that this isn't being publicised properly. It has not been announced by the prime minister. It is not being led by leading public figures, like the royal family or high-profile politicians," she said.

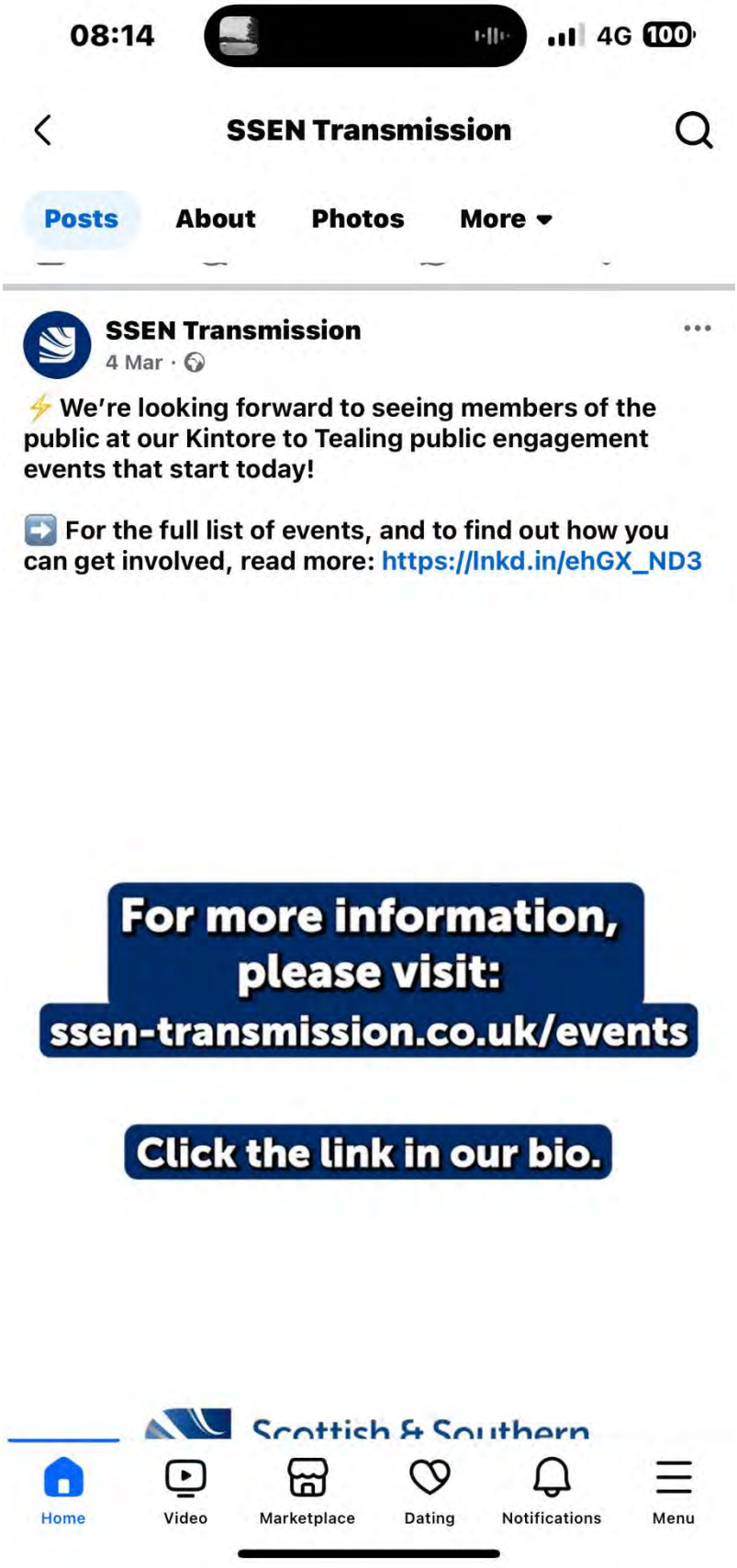
"As a society there is a natural urge to forget the horrors. But we can't forget.

"If we did not come every week, there would be no wall."

It was the fourth annual Day of Reflection but the first to fall on the date recommended by the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration – the first Sunday of March.

The group is also responsible for updating the number of Covid deaths, which read 237,114.

COMFORT: A woman writes the name of a victim on the Covid Memorial Wall yesterday.


08:14
4G
100
SSEN Transmission
Posts
About
Photos
More
SSEN Transmission
4 Mar ·
⚡ We're looking forward to seeing members of the public at our Kintore to Tealing public engagement events that start today!
➡️ For the full list of events, and to find out how you can get involved, read more: https://lnkd.in/ehGX_ND3
For more information, please visit:
ssen-transmission.co.uk/events
Click the link in our bio.
Scottish & Southern
Home
Video
Marketplace
Dating
Notifications
Menu

08:11 4G 100

SSENTRANSMISSION
Posts

ssentransmission

Liked by **sazzlemac77** and **others**

ssentransmission We're inviting members of the public to share their views on the next phase of development for four transmission infrastructure schemes across the north of Scotland that will help enable the connection and transportation of vast amounts of new renewable energy around Great Britain.

With over 40 public engagement events planned across the region, find out how you can get involved on our website which you can find through the link in our bio!

View all 2 comments

SSEN Transmission 's Post

SSEN Transmission
35,732 followers
8mo

We're inviting members of the public to share their views on the next phase of development for four transmission infrastructure schemes across the north of Scotland that will help enable the connection and transportation of vast amounts of new renewable energy around Great Britain.

With over 40 public engagement events planned across the region, find out how you can get involved
https://lnkd.in/ehGX_ND3

252 · 5 Comments

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From: [redacted] on behalf of TKUP
Bcc: [redacted]
Subject: SSEN Transmission Pathway to 2030 project update: Kintore - Tealing 400kV projects
Date: 14 February 2024 15:33:22
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Community Council,

We are pleased to announce that the next round of public events for the Kintore-Tealing 400kV projects will be held in March 2024.

These upcoming events consist of:

- The first round of consultation for the Alyth-Tealing and the Tealing-Westfield 400kV overhead lines (OHL), which will be upgraded from 275kV to 400kV.
- Consultations for the Tealing (Emmock) and Hurlie (Fetteresso Forest) substations. These events are the commencement of the formal pre-application process in terms of the Town and Country Planning process for national planning applications. At this stage feedback received during these events are not submissions to the Planning Authority. There will be a further opportunity to provide feedback to the Planning Authority directly, once applications have been submitted.
- Consultations for newly proposed OHL route options D4, D5, E2, E3 and F1.3:
  - D4 & D5 - Laurencekirk to the Proposed Hurlie Substation (at Fetteresso)
  - E2 & E3 - Proposed Hurlie Substation to Rickarton
  - F1.3 - River Dee to Coldstream, by Drumoak
- An update on all other OHL proposed routes, including refined routes following our consultations in May 2023.

If you are unable to attend any of the planned in-person events, all the material that will be on display can also be downloaded from the project documents section of the dedicated project websites at the start of the consultation period.
Please use the below URLs to access the individual project pages:

- Hurlie 400kV substation https://bit.ly/3HFQOw1
- Tealing (Emmock) 400kV substation https://bit.ly/48W3BX7
- Kintore-Tealing 400kV OHL https://bit.ly/3w8o9NB
- Tealing-Westfield 400kV upgrade https://bit.ly/48bATR1
- Alyth-Tealing 400kV upgrade https://bit.ly/42AUk4C

All events will run from 2-7pm.

Please find the full event list below:

Tealing-Westfield and Alyth-Tealing 400kV upgrade

4 March 2024 **Errol**, Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH
5 March 2024 **Newburgh**, Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA
6 March 2024 **Alyth,** Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX
7 March 2024 **Tealing**, Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW

Tealing (Emmock) substation

7 March 2024 **Tealing**, Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW

Kintore-Tealing 400kV OHL update events

5 March **Tannadice**, Memus Community Hall, Memus, DD8 3TY
6 March **Forfar**, Reid Hall, 163 Castle Street, Forfar, DD8 3HX
7 March **Tealing**, Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW
12 March **Brechin**, Brechin City Hall, 9 Swan Street, Brechin, DD9 6EE

13 March **Echt**, Echt Hall, Echt, Westhill, AB32 6UL

Hurlie substation

19 March **Drumlithie**, Drumlithie Village Hall, Station Road, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT

Kintore-Tealing 400kV new route consultation

14 March **Laurencekirk**, Dickson Memorial Hall, Station Road, Laurencekirk, AB30 1BE

19 March **Drumlithie**, Drumlithie Village Hall, Station Road, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT

20 March **Drumoak,** Drumoak, Durris & Crathes Bowling Club, Sunnyside Avenue, Drumaok, AB31 5EF

21 March **Auchenblae**, Auchenblae Village Hall, Monboddo Street, Auchenblae, AB30 1XQ

Following the events held in May 2023, many enquiries we received were about the need for the projects, the engagement process, environmental considerations, and what alternative technologies may be available. We have compiled 'Frequently Asked Questions' to address many of these points which can be viewed at the following URL https://bit.ly/3OulwMx.

I will be in touch ahead of the events commencing to arrange a pre-consultation call. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us via the dedicated project inbox, tkup@sse.com if you have any questions on the events or the project in general.

With kindest regards,

Rhiannon

Rhiannon Merritt | Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission

10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

ssen-transmission.co.uk

Runners in peak form to raise £7,500


ASCENT: Runners on Barra Hill at the Kayleigh's Wee Stars Barra 10k on Saturday.

BY JENNA SCOTT

Hundreds of participants raised £7,500 at a charity run in memory of a north-east toddler at the weekend.

Kayleigh's Wee Stars' flagship Barra 10k on Saturday was hailed as the "best yet" by organisers.

Scores of runners, families and supporters descended on Oldmeldrum's Meldrum Academy, which served as the race HQ for the event.

The youngsters were up first, as the penultimate event in the Active Schools Aberdeenshire Run4Fun cross-country series kicked off. A total of 150 primary school children took part, racing around the track at Meldrum Academy, to the deafening cheers and encouragement of the crowd.

The temperature had risen considerably by the time the 211 runners lined up at the starting line to tackle the multi-terrain 10k race which unfolded across the Garioch countryside.

Just a couple of kilometres into the event, runners were faced with the challenge of climbing the 633ft Barra Hill.

Fortunately, the skirl of the pipes spurred them on, thanks to the musical talents of father-and-son piping duo Gavin and Lewis Cantlay at the hill's summit.

Jonathan Gamble crossed the line in 36 min 56 sec to take the title of fastest male.

Fastest woman on the day was Rebecca Easton, with a time of 44 min 28 sec.

Oldmeldrum-based charity Kayleigh's Wee Stars was set up by primary teachers Jonathan and Anna Cordiner after losing their 20-month-old daughter Kayleigh to terminal illness.

The charity's goal is to alleviate the financial burden for families caring for a terminally-ill child.

Over the past 12 years, it has raised over £1 million, and helped hundreds of families during the most harrowing of times.

Jonathan said: "The support we provide to the families through the charity is only possible with the incredible support we receive from the local community. Saturday's Barra 10k was a shining example of this.

"We are so grateful to all of our sponsors, corporate partners, volunteers, marshals, local businesses, fundraisers and of course the runners themselves, who helped us put on such a fantastic event.

"We are thrilled to have raised £7,500, with every penny raised from this year's entry fees going directly to families in need."

08:20 4G 99

SSEN Transmission

Posts About Photos More

SSEN Transmission
4 Jun ·

📝 We're once again inviting members of the public to come along and engage with us at our latest round of public engagement events. Next week, we're hosting #consultation events for the Hurlie 400kV Substation project and if you stay in the area and want to find out more, or have your voice heard, then please come along.

➡️ During our drop-in event you will be able to view further information about our proposed works, meet the team, ask questions and share feedback.

Find out more or register for project updates at: https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/?panel=panel-1

1

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Liked by **lauren.riach** and **others**

ssentransmission Last week we celebrated the official ground-breaking for Sumitomo Electric Industries' new cable manufacturing facility in Nigg - the first and... more

21 May

ssentransmission

Number/Area	Date	Time	Location	PAC Substation
1. Maud	Mon 20 May	3 - 7pm	Maud Village Hall	
2. Cumineslown	Tue 21 May	2 - 7pm	Cumineslown Community Hall	Greens
3. Longside	Wed 22 May	2 - 7pm	Longside Parish Church Hall	Netherton
4. New Deer	Thu 23 May	2 - 7pm	New Deer Public Hall	Greens
5. Turriff	Mon 27 May	3 - 7pm	Baden Powell Centre	
6. Cairnie	Tue 28 May	2 - 7pm	Cairnie Memorial Hall	Coachford
7. Huntly	Wed 29 May	2 - 7pm	Stewarts Hall	Coachford
8. Keith	Thu 30 May	2 - 7pm	Longmore Hall	Coachford
9. Hallkirk	Mon 3 Jun	2 - 7pm	Ross Institute	Bannskirk
10. Errol	Mon 3 Jun	2 - 7pm	Errol Village Hall	
11. Newburgh	Tue 4 Jun	2 - 7pm	Tayside Institute Community Centre	
12. Spittal	Tue 4 Jun	10am - 12pm	Spittal Village Hall	
13. Helmsdale	Tue 4 Jun	3 - 7pm	Helmsdale Community Centre	
14. Forrigsby	Tue 4 Jun	3 - 7pm	Forrigsby Hall	
15. Tealing	Wed 5 & Thu 6 Jun	2 - 7pm	Tealing Village Hall	Tealing
16. Dallas	Wed 5 Jun	3 - 7pm	Dallas Houldsworth Institute	
17. Dunbeath	Wed 5 Jun	3 - 7pm	Dunbeath Community Centre	
18. Alyth	Thu 6 Jun	2 - 7pm	Alyth Town Hall	
19. Inchbarry	Thu 6 Jun	3 - 7pm	Inchbarry Hall	
20. Rogart	Thu 6 Jun	11am - 2pm	Rogart Village Hall	
21. Brora	Thu 6 Jun	4 -7pm	Brora Scout and Guide Hall	
22. Bonar Bridge	Mon 10 Jun	3.30 - 8.30pm	Bonar Bridge Community Hall	Carnaig
23. Auchenblae	Mon 10 Jun	2 - 7pm	Auchenblae Village Hall	
24. Ardross	Tue 11 Jun	3 - 7pm	Ardross Community Hall	
25. Drumkilbo	Tue 11 Jun	2 - 7pm	Drumkilbo Village Hall	Hurlie
26. Contin	Wed 12 Jun	10am - 1pm	Contin Village Hall	
27. Marybank	Wed 12 Jun	3 - 7pm	Fairburn Memorial Hall	
28. Braco	Wed 12 Jun	3.30 - 7.30pm	Braco Village Hall	Cambushinnie
29. Stonehaven	Thu 13 Jun	2 - 7pm	Stonehaven Town Hall	
30. Garve	Thu 13 Jun	10am to 1pm	Garve Village Hall	
31. Strathpeffer	Thu 13 Jun	3-7pm	Strathpeffer Pavilion	
32. Cannich	Tue 18 Jun	2 - 7pm	Cannich Hall	Bingally
33. Culloden	Tue 18 Jun	10am - 1pm	Culloden Visitor Centre	
34. Inverness	Tue 18 Jun	3 - 7pm	Kingsmill Hotel	
35. Beauly	Wed 19 Jun	2 - 7pm	Phipps Hall	Fanellan
36. Kiltarlity	Thu 20 Jun	2 - 7pm	Kiltarlity Village Hall	Fanellan

For more information visit the project webpages: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/2030-projects

Liked by **obinnam44** and **others**

ssentransmission ⚡ Our public engagement events are underway, and we'd love to see you there!

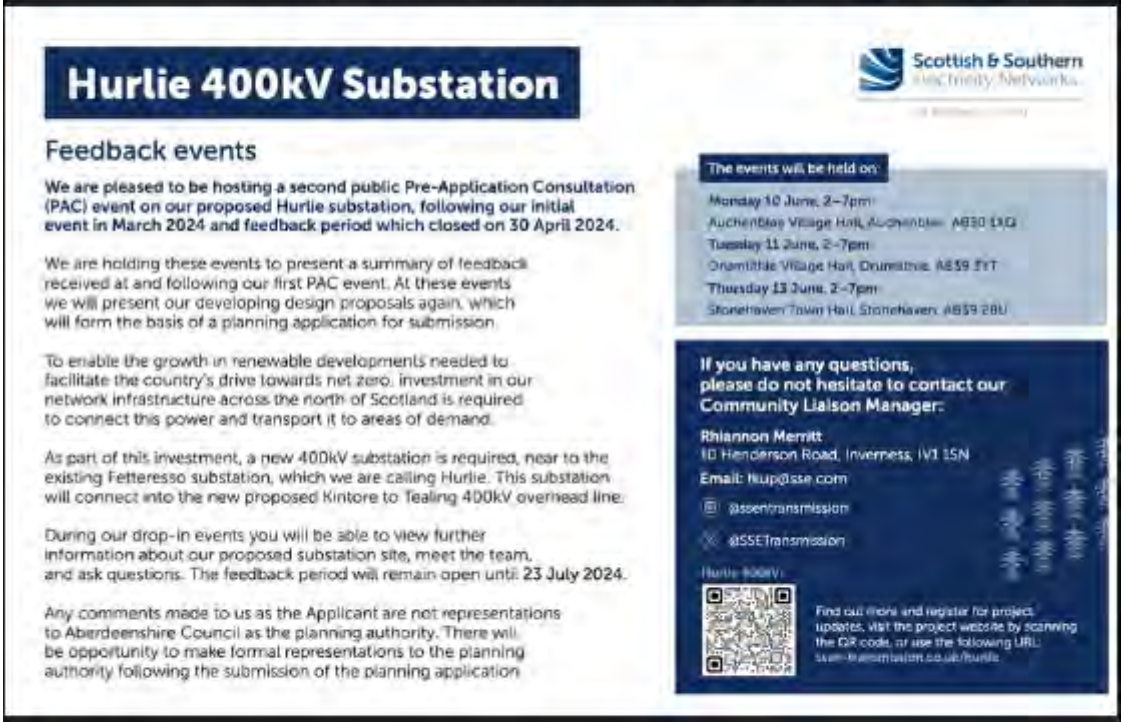
We're inviting members of the public to share their views on the next phase of development for four transmission infrastructure schemes across the north of Scotland that will help enable the connection and transportation of vast amounts of new renewable energy around Great Britain.

🤝 With 36 public engagement events planned across the region, find out how you can get involved on our website, link in our bio!

20 May

SSEN Transmission
37,325 followers
5mo • Edited •

We're once again inviting members of the public to come along and engage with us at our latest round of public engagement events. Next week, we're hosting #consultation events for the Hurlie 400kV Substation project and if you stay ...more



16

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Start Date	Title	Action	Status	Notes
30/05/2024	Hurlie 400kV Substation- Second Substation Pre-Application Consultation Events	Email Sent	Completed	From: TKUP Mailbox (tkup@sse.com) Sent: 30/05/2024 12:17:14 To: Hurlie CC Dist List (Email) Subject: Hurlie 400kV Substation- Second Substation Pre-Application Consultation Events Body: Good afternoon, I am emailing to advise of upcoming public engagement events for our Hurlie 400kV substation project. What we're engaging on We will be hosting a second series of public Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events on our proposed Hurlie 400kV substation, following our initial events in March 2024 and feedback period which closed on 30 April 2024.? ?? We are holding this event to present our proposed design for planning submission, following feedback received from the first PAC event and ongoing design developments. We will also present our responses to feedback received as part of the statutory consultation, which is required for planning applications.?? During our face-to-face drop-in events you will be able to view further information about our proposed substation site, meet the team, and ask questions. The feedback period will remain open until 23 July 2024.? The events will take place on: Monday 10 June - Auchenblae Village Hall - 2pm - 7pm Tuesday 11 June - Drumlithie Village Hall - 2pm - 7pm Thursday 13 June - Stonehaven Town Hall - 2pm - 7pm Please see our attached poster or visit our events page for more details. There will not be further information presented on the proposed Kintore – Tealing 400kV overhead line project at the upcoming June events whilst we explore stakeholder proposed alignments. Advertising the events

				We have issued a mailshot to local properties advising of the events, and we are also advertising in the Press & Journal. We will be sending out a notification to all stakeholders signed up for updates, advertising on our social media channels and distributing posters locally. We know local community Facebook pages are a great tool for sharing information regarding upcoming local events and therefore would warmly welcome Community Councillors to share copies of our poster (attached) online or locally. Finding out more Our public events are a great opportunity to find out more about our proposals by meeting the team in person, viewing our information materials, and asking any questions you may have. For those unable to attend the events, all of the information we'll be sharing at the events is available to download from the 'Project Documents' section of the project webpage. You will also find some additional information regarding our most frequently asked questions available from our 'Project FAQs' tab, with additional handouts also available to download from 'Project Documents' and available at the in-person events. Should you wish to discuss the scope of the consultation event or any of the materials available from the project further in advance of the consultation, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at tkup@sse.com Kind regards Louise Louise Anderson | Lead Community Liaison Manager SSEN Transmission 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH ssen-transmission.co.uk For information on how we collect and process your data, please see our privacy notice, www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy If you do not have access to our website or would like a hard copy sent, please contact us. You can unsubscribe at any time from receiving emails by clicking on the link unsubscribe

APPENDIX E: MAIL ADVERTISEMENTS AND LETTERS

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

19 February 2024

Dear Resident,

SSEN Transmission Kintore to Tealing 400kV Projects

SSEN Transmission are pleased to be hosting a series of public events regarding the Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects, which includes new 400kV substations in Fetteresso Forest (Hurlie) and at Tealing and a new 400kV overhead line (OHL) which will connect both sites to the existing 400kV substation at Kintore.

We previously consulted on these projects in May 2023 and these upcoming events commences the pre-application process in the Town and Country planning process for national planning applications for the substations.

I am contacting you as the substation sites identified and the potential routes to connect them, are within a 10km radius of your address and we wanted to invite you to attend the events to meet the project team and find out more about the proposals.

Please find the details of the in person drop-in public consultation events on the enclosed flyer.

If you are unable to attend any of the planned events all the material that will be on display will be available to be downloaded from the project documents section of the dedicated project websites, which you can access via the following URLs:

Hurlie 400kV substation https://bit.ly/3HFQOw1

Tealing 400kV substation https://bit.ly/48W3BX7

Following the May 2023 events many inquiries we received were about the need for the projects, the engagement process, environmental considerations, and what alternative technologies may be available. We have compiled 'Frequently Asked Questions' to address many of these points which can be viewed at the following URL https://bit.ly/3OulwMx

Please let us know if you require information in an adapted format such as paper copy, large print or braille and we will work with you to accommodate your preferences. We are happy to accommodate all reasonable requests for adapted communications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at TKUP@sse.com if you have any questions or queries pertaining to any of the above information or the project in general.

Yours faithfully,

Rhiannon Merritt

Rhiannon Merritt
Community Liaison Manager

Kintore to Tealing 400kV Projects

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Pre-application consultation events

We are holding statutory pre-application consultation events for our proposed substations; Hurlie in Fetteresso Forest and Tealing (Emmock). The pre-application process is a key first step in the Town and Country planning process for national planning applications.

To support the growth in renewable developments across the north of Scotland, which are supporting the country's drive towards net zero, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand.

As part of this investment, new 400kV substations are required at Fetteresso Forest and at Tealing, near to both the existing Fetteresso and Tealing substations. These substations will connect into the new proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV overhead line.

During our drop-in events you will be able to view further information about our proposed substation sites, meet the team, ask questions and share feedback ahead of our second public events.

We will also be consulting on new routes proposed following the publication of our Report on Consultation in December 2023 as well as the sections of existing overhead line that require to be upgraded between Alyth to Tealing and Tealing to Westfield.

More information overleaf.

Hurlie 400kV:

Tealing 400kV:

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

https://bit.ly/3HFQOw1

https://bit.ly/48W3BX7

This map shows the proposed Kintore - Tealing overhead line, including new 400kV substations at key locations and an upgrade to the existing Alyth - Tealing and Tealing - Wesfield overhead lines.

The overhead line reconductor events will be held on:

Monday 4 March, 2–7pm
Errol Village Hall, Errol

Tuesday 5 March, 2–7pm
Tayside Institute Community Centre, Newburgh

Wednesday 6 March, 2–7pm
Alyth Town Hall, Alyth

Thursday 7 March, 2–7pm
Tealing Village Hall, Tealing

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

Rhiannon Merritt
SSEN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

Email: tkup@sse.com

@ssentransmission

@SSETransmission

The substation and new overhead line events will be held on:

Tuesday 5 March, 2–7pm
Memus Community Hall, Memus

Wednesday 6 March, 2–7pm
Reid Hall, Forfar

Thursday 7 March, 2–7pm
Tealing Village Hall, Tealing

Tuesday 12 March, 2–7pm
Brechin City Hall, Brechin

Wednesday 13 March, 2–7pm
Echt Village Hall, Echt

Thursday 14 March, 2–7pm
Dickson Hall, Laurencekirk

Tuesday 19 March, 2–7pm
Drumlithie Village Hall, Drumlithie

Wednesday 20 March, 2–7pm
Drumoak Bowling Club, Drumoak

Thursday 21 March, 2–7pm
Auchenblae Village Hall, Auchenblae

07 May 2024

Dear Resident,

SSEN Transmission Kintore to Tealing 400kV Projects - – Substation and existing overhead line upgrade engagement events

Between 4 to 21 March 2024, we held the first of two statutory pre-application consultation (PAC) events for our proposed 400kV substations in Fetteresso Forest and at Tealing as well as holding the first of two series of public consultation events in relation to the Section 37 consent application for the upgrade of the Alyth to Tealing and Tealing to Westfield overhead line from 275kV to enable operation at 400kV.

I am contacting you to advise that SSEN Transmission will soon be hosting the next series of public consultation events throughout June 2024 for both Emmock and Hurlie substations and the Alyth to Tealing and Tealing to Westfield overhead line upgrade projects.

Please find the details of the in person drop-in public consultation events on the enclosed flyers.

If you are unable to attend any of the planned events all the material that will be on display will be available to be downloaded from the project documents section of the dedicated project websites, which you can access via the following URLs:

Hurlie 400kV substation ssen-transmission.co.uk/hurlie

Emmock substation ssen-transmission.co.uk/emmock

Alyth-Tealing upgrade ssen-transmission.co.uk/alyth-tealing

Tealing-Westfield upgrade ssen-transmission.co.uk/tealing-westfield

New Kintore – Tealing 400kV overhead line:

Following the consultations on the new proposed Kintore-Tealing overhead line 400kV project, we recently confirmed that we are actively considering overhead line alignments proposed by community representatives and landowners around Careston, Drumoak and Echt and as such to ensure all viable alignments are fully assessed, the new overhead line alignment consultation will now take place later in the year.

Our June 2024 consultation events will focus on our new substations and existing overhead line upgrade projects. There will not be further information presented on the Kintore – Tealing overhead line 400kV project at the upcoming June events whilst we explore stakeholder proposed alignments.

Please let us know if you require information in an adapted format such as paper copy, large print or braille and we will work with you to accommodate your preferences. We are happy to accommodate all reasonable requests for adapted communications.

Do not hesitate to contact me directly on tkup@sse.com if you have any questions or queries

pertaining to any of the above information or the projects in general.

Yours faithfully,

Rhiannon Merritt

Rhiannon Merritt
Community Liaison Manager

Hurlie 400kV Substation

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Feedback events

We are pleased to be hosting a second public Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) event on our proposed Hurlie substation, following our initial event in March 2024 and feedback period which closed on 30 April 2024.

We are holding these events to present a summary of feedback received at and following our first PAC event. At these events we will present our developing design proposals again, which will form the basis of a planning application for submission.

To enable the growth in renewable developments needed to facilitate the country's drive towards net zero, investment in our network infrastructure across the north of Scotland is required to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand.

As part of this investment, a new 400kV substation is required, near to the existing Fetteresso substation, which we are calling Hurlie. This substation will connect into the new proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV overhead line.

During our drop-in events you will be able to view further information about our proposed substation site, meet the team, and ask questions. The feedback period will remain open until 23 July 2024.

Any comments made to us as the Applicant are not representations to Aberdeenshire Council as the planning authority. There will be opportunity to make formal representations to the planning authority following the submission of the planning application.

The events will be held on:

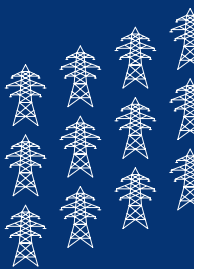
Monday 10 June, 2–7pm
Auchenblae Village Hall, Auchenblae, AB30 1XQ

Tuesday 11 June, 2–7pm
Drumlithie Village Hall, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT

Thursday 13 June, 2–7pm
Stonehaven Town Hall, Stonehaven, AB39 2BU

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

Rhiannon Merritt
10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN
Email: tkup@sse.com
@ssentransmission
@SSETransmission



Hurlie 400kV:

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

APPENDIX F: CONSULTATION BOOKLET MARCH 2024

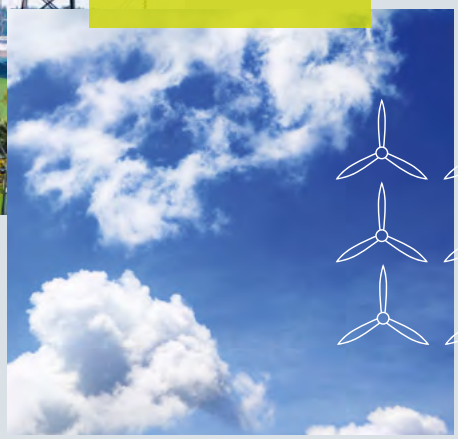
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Hurlie (previously Fiddes) 400kV Substation

Pre-Application Consultation

March 2024



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Finding common ground with landowners	21
Delivering a positive environmental legacy	22
Project timeline	23
Have your say	24
Your feedback	25

The consultation events will be taking place on:

19 March 2024 - Drumlithie, Drumlithie Village Hall - 2-7pm

11 June 2024 - Drumlithie, Drumlithie Village Hall - 2-7pm

Powering change together

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

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

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

We all have a part to play

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more

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

Who we are

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

What we do

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

Working with you

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

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

The Pathway to 2030

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

Achieving net zero

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

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

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices. The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence.

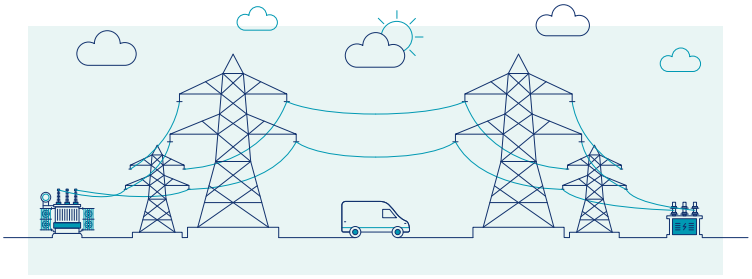
The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

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

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

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



What does this mean for you?

The East of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The extensive studies that informed the ESO's Pathway to 2030 HND confirmed the requirement to increase the power transfer capacity of the onshore corridor from Kintore to Tealing.

This requires a 400kV connection between these sites to enable the significant capability needed to take power from onshore and large scale offshore renewable generation, connecting on the East Coast of Scotland before transporting power to areas of demand.

As part of these plans, we're proposing to build a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing. This also requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed in Fetteresso Forest and at Tealing to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, two of the existing 275kV OHLs out of the existing Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield require upgrades to 400kV operation and to be connected to the proposed new Tealing 400kV site.

These five projects, collectively called Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects, are seen as critical to enable the delivery of the UK and Scottish Government's targets.

These five projects are:

- Kintore - Tealing 400kV OHL
- Hurlie 400kV substation
- Emmock 400kV substation
- Alyth - Tealing 400kV upgrade
- Tealing - Westfield 400kV upgrade


New infrastructure
Upgrade/replacement of existing infrastructure
Existing network
Orkney
Dounreay
Spittal
Western Isles
Loch Buidhe
Skye
Blackhillock
New Deer
Beauly
Peterhead
Fasnakyle
Kintore
Fiddes
Fort Augustus
Alyth
Glenlochy
Tealing
Creag Dhubh
Braco West
Inveraray
Denny
Westfield
Crossaig

Project overview

We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure, and quickly.

The new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing

Based on the requirements outlined in National Grid ESO's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design we have developed proposals to reinforce the transmission system. As part of this we are proposing to establish a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing.

This requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed to connect to this new OHL, one at Fetteresso Forest in Aberdeenshire and one near the village of Tealing in Angus to enable required future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, two existing OHLs out of Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield in Fife will be upgraded to operate at 400kV and connected into the new Emmock 400kV substation.

While they have been presented in combined consultation events in May last year, they are separate projects and will be progressed through separate consenting processes.

Hurlie 400kV substation (previously Fiddes)

This consultation is focused on the new 400kV substation which will be known as Hurlie, as part of the Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects.

Feedback to our previous consultation, which was held in May 2023, resulted in a review of our original proposed site at Fiddes. Following detailed assessment of environmental, technical and engineering/cost factors, a new location in Fetteresso Forest has been selected as the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process.

The new proposed substation will be an outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), 400kV substation with approximate dimensions of 760m x 300m with height up to 14.3m, not including the groundworks required to create a level platform.

The design covers a range of considerations, including:

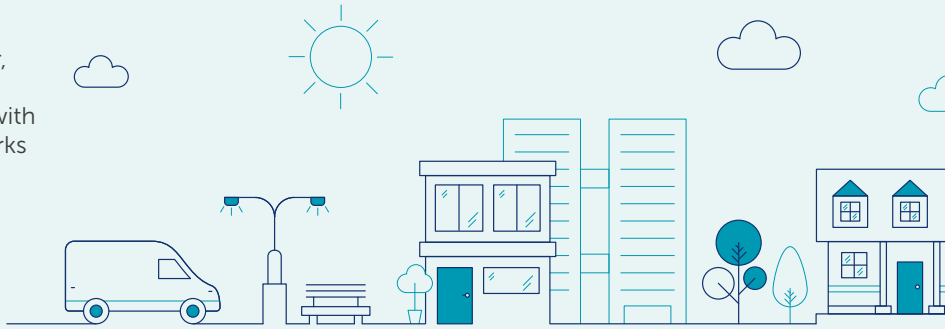
- Plant and equipment required for current network plans
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement
- Permanent and temporary access roads
- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.

Planned connections to Hurlie

The following proposed new transmission infrastructure will require a connection to the new substation:

- The proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL connection. This will comprise an OHL from the south, from Tealing and an OHL from the north, from Kintore.
- A connection by a Scotwind Offshore Wind Developer. The developer would provide an underground cable, from offshore, to its own substation which is likely to be located within the vicinity of Hurlie. It would then provide a further connection to the new Hurlie substation from its own substation.
- A connection to the Offshore Grids Projects. This is being developed by SSEN Tranmission's offshore team. This would require an underground cable, from offshore, to an HVDC converter station likely within the vicinity of Hurlie, and a connection between the converter station and Hurlie substation.
- A potential future connection to the existing Fiddes substation.

All of the above connections are subject to separate consultation and consenting processes.



Help shape our plans

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

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

Throughout the consultation, we'll present our approach to developing the project, including changes made since we last consulted with you. We will also provide some visualisations and maps to show you where everything will be located.

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

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

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

Who we are consulting with

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

How we've selected the substation site

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

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

Our proposed site: Hurlie 400kV substation

Following our last consultation on the proposed Fiddes substation in May 2023, where we asked for your views regarding several sites, in December 2023 we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was a new site in Fetteresso Forest.

What has changed since we last consulted?

During the previous consultation we presented a larger substation footprint of 700m x 700m to accommodate a new offshore cable connection, referred to at the time as the Offshore Integrated Network. This is now referred to as Offshore Grids. The technology choice and proposed locations of the Offshore Integrated Network is currently under review. As a result, the Offshore Grids projects is to follow a separate consenting and consultation timeline.

The requirements, in terms of footprint and technology solely associated with the offshore grids connection is not covered under the 400kV AC project. This has enabled a reduction in substation footprint from the previous consultation.

As a result of this, the decision was taken to revisit and extend the site selection exercise, widening the area of search with a view to seeking alternative site options to those presented in the Consultation Document published in May 2023. New candidate sites were identified and appraised, based on land area available and ownership, topography, gradient, proximity to properties, visibility, cultural heritage, ecology, flood risk and drainage, and access.

From this process, two further site options were identified, at Banff Hill, 4km north west of Inverbervie and an area of land east of the existing Fetterresso substation.

In terms of cultural heritage, Banff Hill is distant from the monument Hillhead Long Cairn to the north and avoids impacting properties and land having an association with Lewis Grassic Gibbon, although it lies close to Arbuthnott Garden and Designed Landscape, and to the A listed Alladyce Tower and Benholm Castle and Tower. Land Fetteresso is not constrained in cultural heritage terms.

The landscape character surrounding Banff Hill is modified by existing infrastructure. The landscape is smaller in scale and more enclosed compared to the other site options. The rolling topography and its relationship to the skyline provide visual interest, although there are no notable focal points.

The site at Banff Hill would be visible from properties to the north west and north east, south, and south west.

At Fetterresso, the landscape character is already modified by plantation. The importance of the Highland Fault as a landscape feature reduces towards Stonehaven. While development may be visible, there are no focal points or features which represent notable visual amenity. No properties are considered likely to lose visual amenity.

The Burn of Day runs west to east across the Fetteresso land in a heavily vegetated narrow channel; direct impacts on the burn can be largely avoided, although drainage would need to drain to the burn via a sustainable drainage system. Peat probing has confirmed that, with the exception of a small pocket which can be avoided, there is nothing that would be classed as peat.

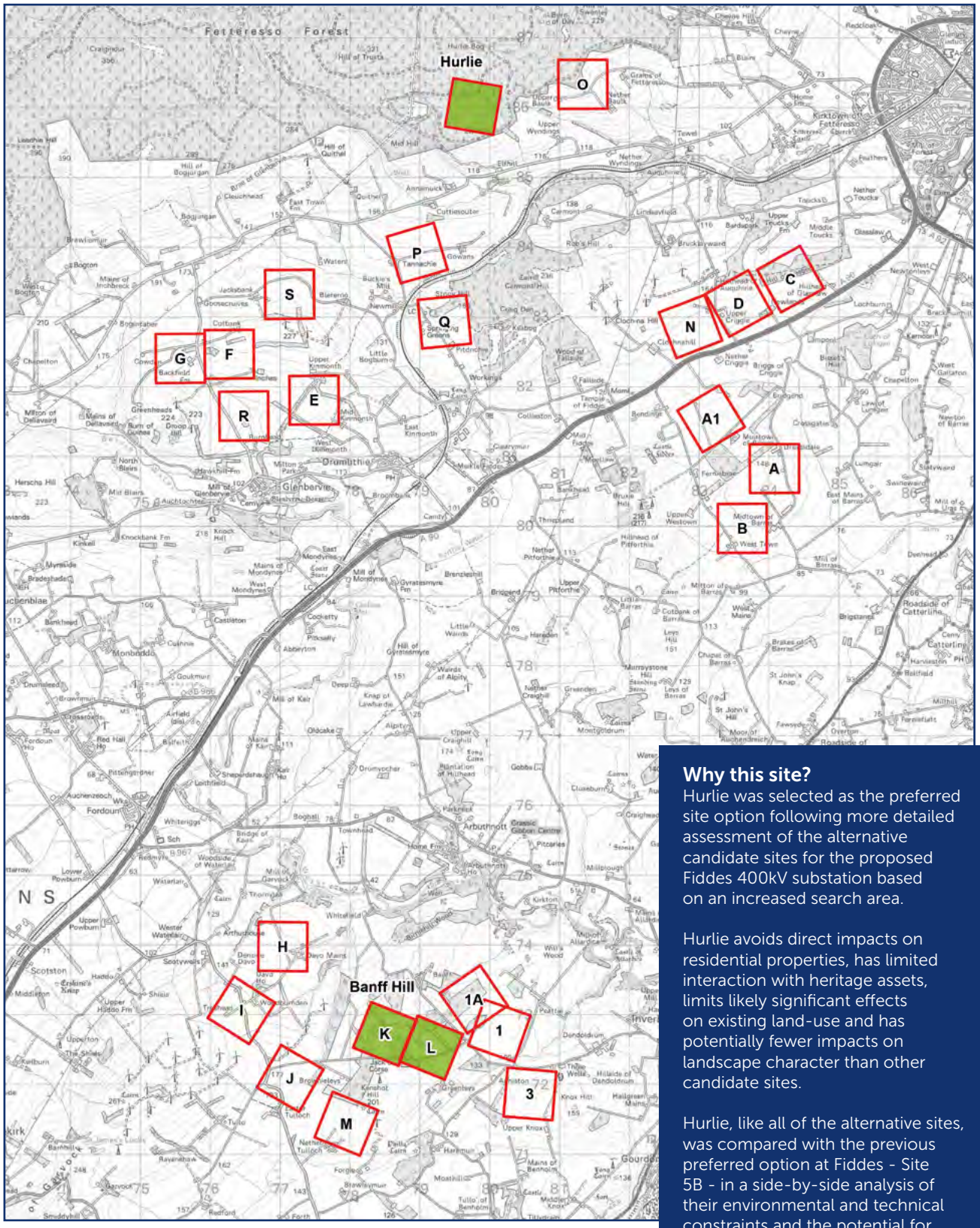
At Banff Hill, the Banff Burn drains the upper reaches of the hill, flowing west to east in a heavily vegetated channel before becoming more natural at the bottom of the hill. The Burn would likely require diversion in order to accommodate development however.

Balancing all of the factors, the site at Fetteresso (referred to as the "Hurlie" Site) has been identified as the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process. It avoids direct impacts on residential properties, has limited interaction with heritage assets, limits likely significant effects on existing land-use and has potentially fewer impacts on landscape character than other candidate sites.

Further environmental analysis will be undertaken as the development design progresses, to embed measures that avoid or reduce environmental impacts. Additional mitigation measures and controls will be developed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process and will be incorporated into the project as agreements and conditions which will form part of the subsequent consenting process.

The new location of Hurlie has therefore changed the proposed routeing of the Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL to allow the OHL to connect with Hurlie 400kV substation.

The proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL report on Consultation provides more information on the new OHL routes which are under consideration to take account of this change.



Why this site?

Hurlie was selected as the preferred site option following more detailed assessment of the alternative candidate sites for the proposed Fiddes 400kV substation based on an increased search area.

Hurlie avoids direct impacts on residential properties, has limited interaction with heritage assets, limits likely significant effects on existing land-use and has potentially fewer impacts on landscape character than other candidate sites.

Hurlie, like all of the alternative sites, was compared with the previous preferred option at Fiddes - Site 5B - in a side-by-side analysis of their environmental and technical constraints and the potential for adverse interactions with receptors and is considered to be the least environmentally constrained site of the shortlisted alternative candidate sites.

What next?

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

The Town and Country Planning process

There are two important laws that enable the planning of projects like Hurlie 400kV substation, these are the Electricity Act 1989 and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Engaging the right people

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

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

The Pre-Application Consultation process

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 31 January 2024. This is the first stage in the planning application process, and the beginning of a consultation period that must allow for at least 12 weeks between the start of the pre-application consultation and feedback, and submission of a planning application.

The plans we are consulting on at this event might change between now and the submission of a planning application. The red line boundary that has been submitted with the PAN represents the maximum extent of the land potentially included in the application site, but this area may be reduced or rationalised as the development proposal becomes finalised.

There is a requirement to hold at least two events to provide the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposals. This public event is the first event. A second event will be held on 11 June 2024, in Drumlithie Village Hall at which feedback will be given on the views obtained at the first event. There will also be a short opportunity for comment after this second event and comments will be included in a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report.

Submitting a planning application

The planning application is due to be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in late summer 2024.

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

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


Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION
Fetteresso Forest
Brae of Glenbervie
Legend
Proposal of application notice red line boundary - 292.01 ha
Existing Overhead Line
Scale @ A3: 1:17,500
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 km

Environmental considerations

The potential environmental impacts discussed below will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will be submitted in support of the planning application to Aberdeenshire Council in late Autumn 2024. The EIA Report will be available for members of the public to view and comment on as part of the planning application supporting information, following submission of the application.

Terrestrial ecology and ornithology

An initial walk over survey has been undertaken to identify habitats, protected species and birds. Further breeding birds and protected species surveys will be undertaken in the Spring. A Biodiversity Net Gain condition assessment will also be undertaken to inform the strategy for achieving a 10% net gain in biodiversity as part of the development project.

The site does not lie within any sites designated for nature conservation. There are four statutory designated sites of international importance, and three statutory designated sites of national importance within 10km of the Site; the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/SSSI approximately 5.4km northwest; Garron Point SAC/SSSI some 6km east, Fowlsheugh Special Protection Area (SPA) and SSSI some 7km east and Red Moss of Netherly SAC/SSSI almost 8km north east.

There are no statutory designated sites of local importance. None has any direct connection to the Site. There are three non-statutory designated sites of local importance identified up to 5km from the Proposed Development; Mergie Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) 6km north, Elfhill LCNS immediate south (and within the Proposal of Application Notice boundary) and Fetteresso LNCS 3.4km SE. Fowlsheugh is also a RSPB Nature Reserve and incorporates the inland portion of the Fowlsheugh SPA.

The Site is dominated by commercial forestry, comprised of coniferous species at various stages of maturity and rotation. Non-native Sitka spruce is the predominant species, although more limited stands of Scots pine, hybrid larch, Japanese larch and lodgepole pine are present. Some stands have been thinned and have an increased diversity of heathy ground flora, while others exhibit extensive windthrow and comprise fallen trees with extensive gorse and bramble scrub.

In areas of open ground, among young trees and in rides are areas of both dry and wet heath habitats, as well as damp acidic habitats. Within commercial forestry, small areas of dry heath, acid grassland and bracken occur.

Wet heath habitats are present in rides and unforested areas, with rush pasture habitats in wetter areas, such as along the Burn of Day. Some of these riparian habitats have been planted with native broadleaved trees. Further examples of rush pasture are presnet in the north of the Site associated with the upper tributaries of the Cowie Water.

There is evidence suggesting the presence of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs), which will be confirmed through further survey. Habitats presented are capable of supporting otter, bats, red squirrel, pine marten, water vole, badger, amphibians, reptiles and fish.

There are no records of Schedule 1 bird species or breeding waders within the RSPB desk record data set. Raptor Study Group and Forestry Land Scotland data are yet to be received. There are records of goshawk flight activity within 5km of the Site. A total of up to 8 nesting attempts were recorded during recent survey work for a proposed wind farm extension, suggesting that the area provided a number of suitable trees (age, spacing, height) and forestry blocks in the plantations at the time of survey. Other records indicate the presence of goshawk in the locale and the possibility of nesting to the south-east of the Site. The Natural Heritage Zone (NHZ) breeding population of goshawk is c. 25 breeding pairs (NHZ 12 North East glens 10) with the Fetteresso Forest area being an important habitat for nesting of this Schedule 1 species.

The EIA process will include detailed assessments of the potential for and significance of ecological and ornithological impacts, both from the proposed substation and in combination with OHL. In turn, these assessments will inform the requirement for impact mitigation.

As described on page 20, SSEN Transmission is committed to creating greater biodiversity than provided by the current Site. This will include new habitat creation and species rich planting proposals though the landscape and drainage design. Other mitigation measures may also be necessary, such as avoiding certain construction activities at sensitive periods. Habitat and Species Management Plans will be implemented during construction and operations.

Woodland and forestry

The Site is located in one of three major plantation areas, Fetteresso Forest, which lies within an extensive area of commercial forestry, known as the Mearns Forest.

The land is part of Scotland's National Forest Estate, owned by Scottish Ministers on behalf of the nation, and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). It is a predominately upland area with poorer soils which have been planted with commercial conifers in the past. The woodlands are composed primarily of commercial conifers, principally Sitka spruce, with areas of diverse conifers and small areas of mixed broadleaf woodland. The Forest Development Plan (FDP), implemented by FLS, indicates the retention of the woodlands as commercial forest. The woodlands within the Site boundary have a diverse age class due to the ongoing felling and replanting programmes over many years.

None of the woodlands is recorded in the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) Scotland. Small areas are recorded as native woodland in the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland. However, the Mearns FDP and the National Forest Estate – Sub-compartments identifies that the areas classed as native woodland are in fact commercial conifers or open ground.

SSEN Transmission will compensate for any loss of woodland, including commercial forestry, and will engage with FLS and other landowners to identify land suitable for forestry and improvement. Compensation is not limited to replacing like for like, and opportunities for mixed broadleaf planting would be sought, in consultation with FLS and other stakeholders where appropriate.

Land use and recreation

As described, the forest is managed as commercial forest, and as such proposals to develop within the Forest will respect the need to ensure commercial forestry can continue.

This means for example facilitating the harvesting of any commercial timber prior to site development and the maintenance or reinstatement/replacement of access tracks necessary to forest operations.

The wider Forest estate provides a range of recreational facilities, notably walking and cycling trails and hides and interpretation facilities for bird/wildlife watching although there are none within the proposed Site area or likely to be directly impacted by the intended development.

Environmental considerations

Cultural heritage

There is one scheduled monument that lies partly within the area anticipated for Proposed Development: Clochanshiels Cairns, House and Field System which comprises the remains of a prehistoric settlement located in an area of rough pasture on a north facing slope, overlooking the Cowie Water, and surrounded by commercial forestry plantation. It has a localised setting within a river valley that is currently dominated by commercial forestry.

There are a further 15 scheduled monuments within 5km of the Site. These include prehistoric settlement and funerary monuments, a Roman Temporary Camp, ecclesiastical monuments, and remnants of WW2 defences. The majority are located to the northeast of the Proposed Development Site and none are likely to be visible from the substation site.

There are some 30 Listed Buildings within 5km; the closest Category A Listed Buildings, Fetteresso Castle Dovecot being some 4.1km and the Castle of Fiddes 5km respectively to the southeast. The majority of the Listed Buildings are either small residential properties (i.e. farmhouses, cottages, etc), bridges, or agricultural features (i.e. dovecots), all of which have generally localised settings, where long distance views, or prominent visibility, are not important aspects of their settings.

There is one Conservation Area within 5km of the Proposed Development: Kirkton of Fetteresso.

The setting of the Conservation Area is largely constrained to, and defined by its association with the Carron Water valley at its confluence with the Cheyne Burn.

There are no World Heritage Sites, Inventory Gardens and Designed landscapes or Inventory Battlefields within 5km of the Proposed Development.

There are four undesignated heritage assets within, or partly within, the Site. Of these, two are identified by the Historic Environmental Records (HER) as being prehistoric settlement sites comprised of hut platforms, hut circles and clearance cairns of regional significance:. Both are located in the commercial forestry plantation. The others are a possible standing stone) and a farmstead again located in the commercial plantation.

Consultation will be carried out with Aberdeenshire Council as part of the planning application process to identify any on-site archaeological investigation that would be required before construction works commence. If required a Written Scheme of Investigation would be prepared which would set out a strategy for archaeological mitigation in advance of the construction works.

A full assessment of the potential impact on cultural heritage assets will be undertaken as part of the subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which will consider both impacts associated with the substation and in combination with the new overhead transmission line and propose measures to avoid or reduce cultural heritage impacts If necessary.

Water environment and soils

The Site lies within the catchment of two larger watercourses: the Cowie Water to the north and the Carron Water to the south, and the sub-catchments of a number of tributaries, notably, the Burn of Day, which flows easterly through the centre of the Site area before turning north to flow into the Cowie Water.

There are several small unnamed watercourses within the northern part of the Site that flow into the Cowie Water. The southern part of the Site sits within the Clerkenwell Burn and Burn of Baulks catchments, both flowing into the Carron Water.

Water quality is generally good. While the Burn of Day is too small to be formally classified, SEPA classifies water quality in the Cowie Water and Carron Water as High and Moderate respectively. Surface water flooding is a possibility within parts of the Site concentrated around the smaller watercourses within the site.

The Site is underlain by a low productivity aquifer. There are no records of wells or groundwater springs. There is one Private Water Supply source within the Site area and another to the south of the Site, which supplies the existing Fetteresso substation and four other properties. The Site is not within a Groundwater or Surface Water Drinking Water Protected Area.

A hydrological assessment has been undertaken to determine the parameters of the drainage requirements shown on page 18.

Runoff from the developed platform (including the construction compound) will be managed through surface water drainage on the platform conveyed to a detention basin that will be located downslope of the platform. The detention basin will drain to the Burn of Day via an outfall pipe at a location to be determined in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA.

The drainage design will be refined as the platform and wider site design evolves. This will be informed too by a more detailed Flood Risk Assessment and hydrology assessment which will form part of the EIA.

A Site Water Management Plan will be developed to manage potential risks to the water environment during construction.

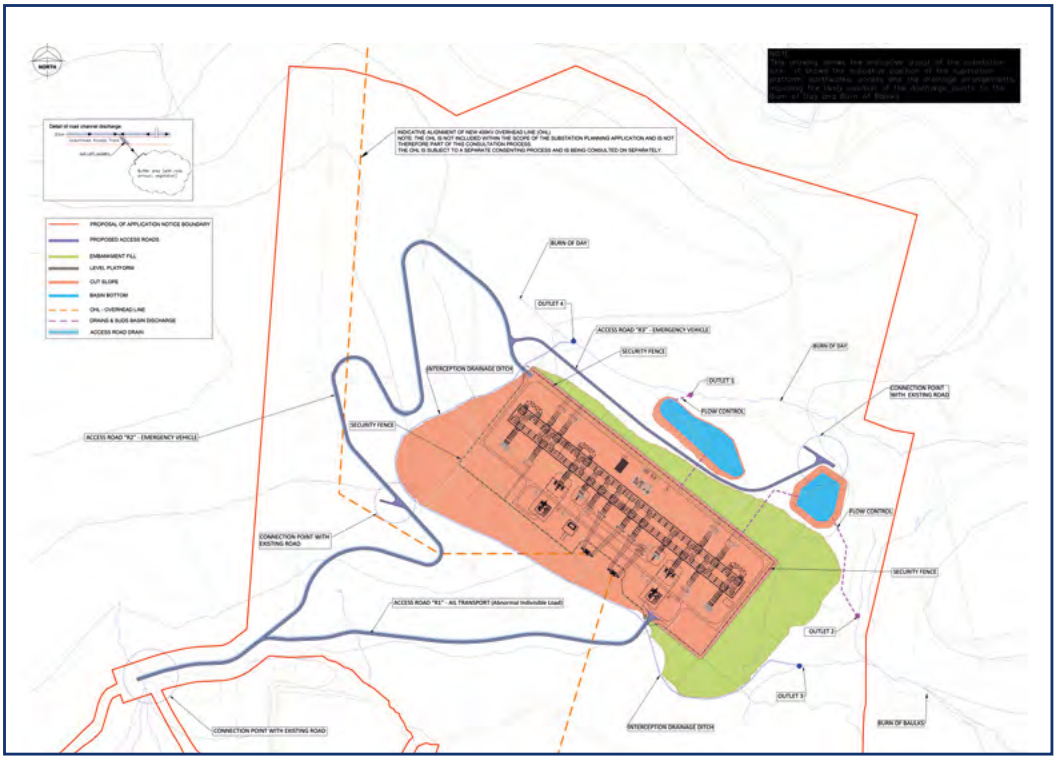
Traffic

As shown on page 19, primary access to the Site is anticipated via the A957 Slug Road to the north of the Site; with secondary access from the minor unclassified road to the south, running east west through Elfhill.

A detailed haul route assessment will be undertaken, as part of the EIA, to define route options with least impact, and will include determining how the amenity of properties close to the roads can be protected and what road improvements or modifications would be required.

A detailed Transport Impact Assessment, which will also include consideration of road safety, impacts to other road users and community impacts will be submitted as part of the planning application and a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed describing how abnormal loads and vehicle movements will be managed to ensure road safety for all other road users during construction works.

Proposed substation layout



The substation footprint has been positioned in a north west-south east orientation locating the site on north side of a shallow valley drained by the west-east flowing Burn of Day, taking advantage of the screening provided by the landform to the south and north and avoiding the higher ground to the north.

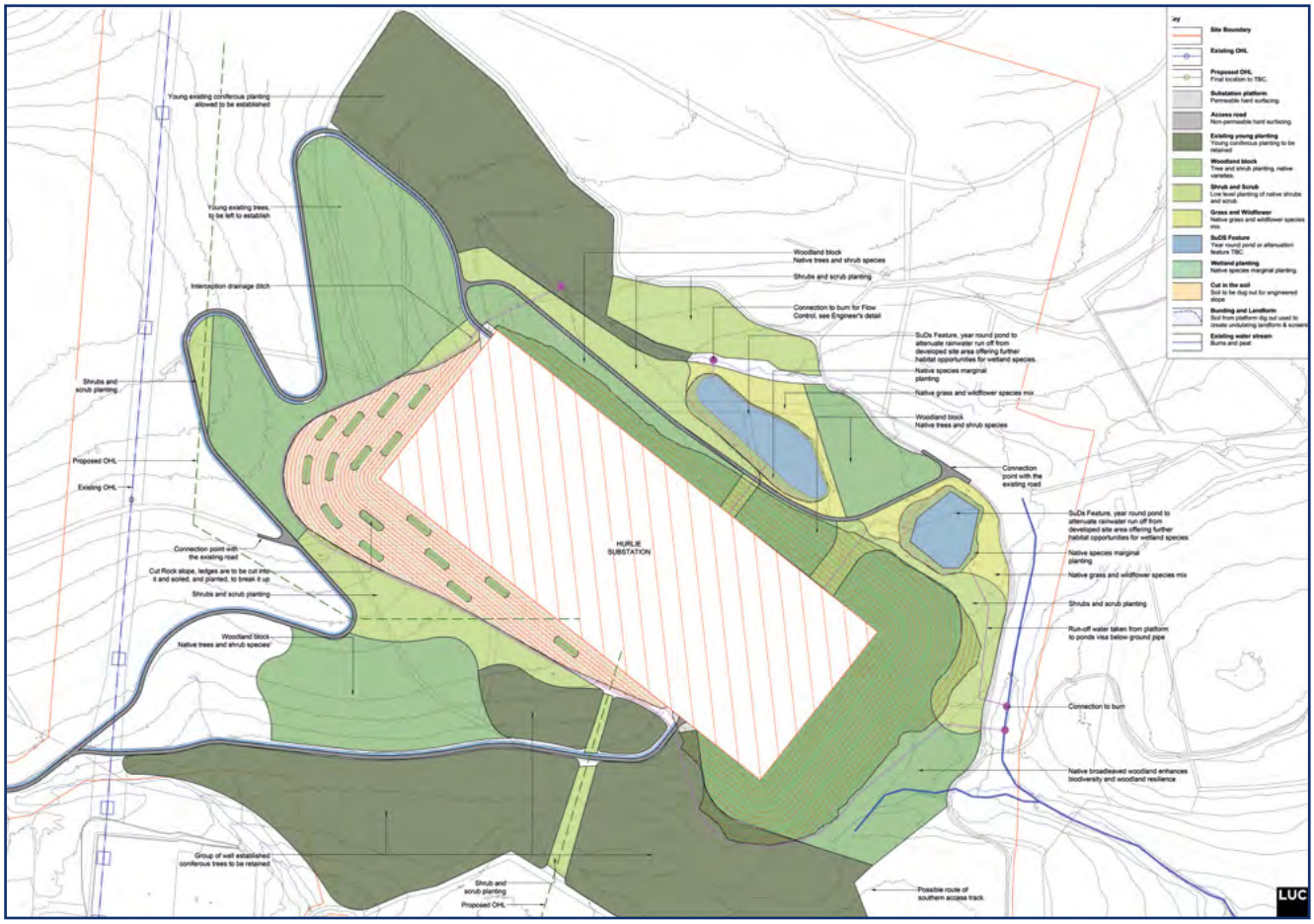
The location optimises the amount of cut and fill needed to create a level development platform and resolves the challenges of accessing the substation site. The depth of cut affords screening from the south of the western half of the substation platform. Additional screening from the south is achieved by current immature plantation which will develop into a more substantial screen.

The toe of the platform, created by the fill, will be softened and the platform screened by new woodland block planting. Access will be from the existing forestry track to the south west of the substation which currently provides access to the plantation across the substation site and to the north. This access will be split, and two new permanent access routes created, one following rising land to access the platform in the NW corner; the other following the gradient east and entering the platform mid way along the southern perimeter.

Surface drainage will be conveyed to two retention/ detention ponds to the north of the platform one draining to the Burn of Day, the other to the Burn of Baulk. The new 400kV OHL will enter and leave the substation from the south, with two terminal towers located above the southern cut face.

A security fence will be erected around the perimeter of the substation platform. While the lighting strategy has not yet been defined, it will adopt the following broad principles recognising the absence of artificial light in the Forest: lighting will be kept to the minimum to ensure safe operations and security; individual light clusters will be low level, narrow beam, and directed downwards to minimize glare and light spill; different lighting configurations and designs will be adopted for different parts of the site and will be appropriate to use; landscape bund design and positioning will support the reduction of glare and light spill.

Proposed designs - landscape design



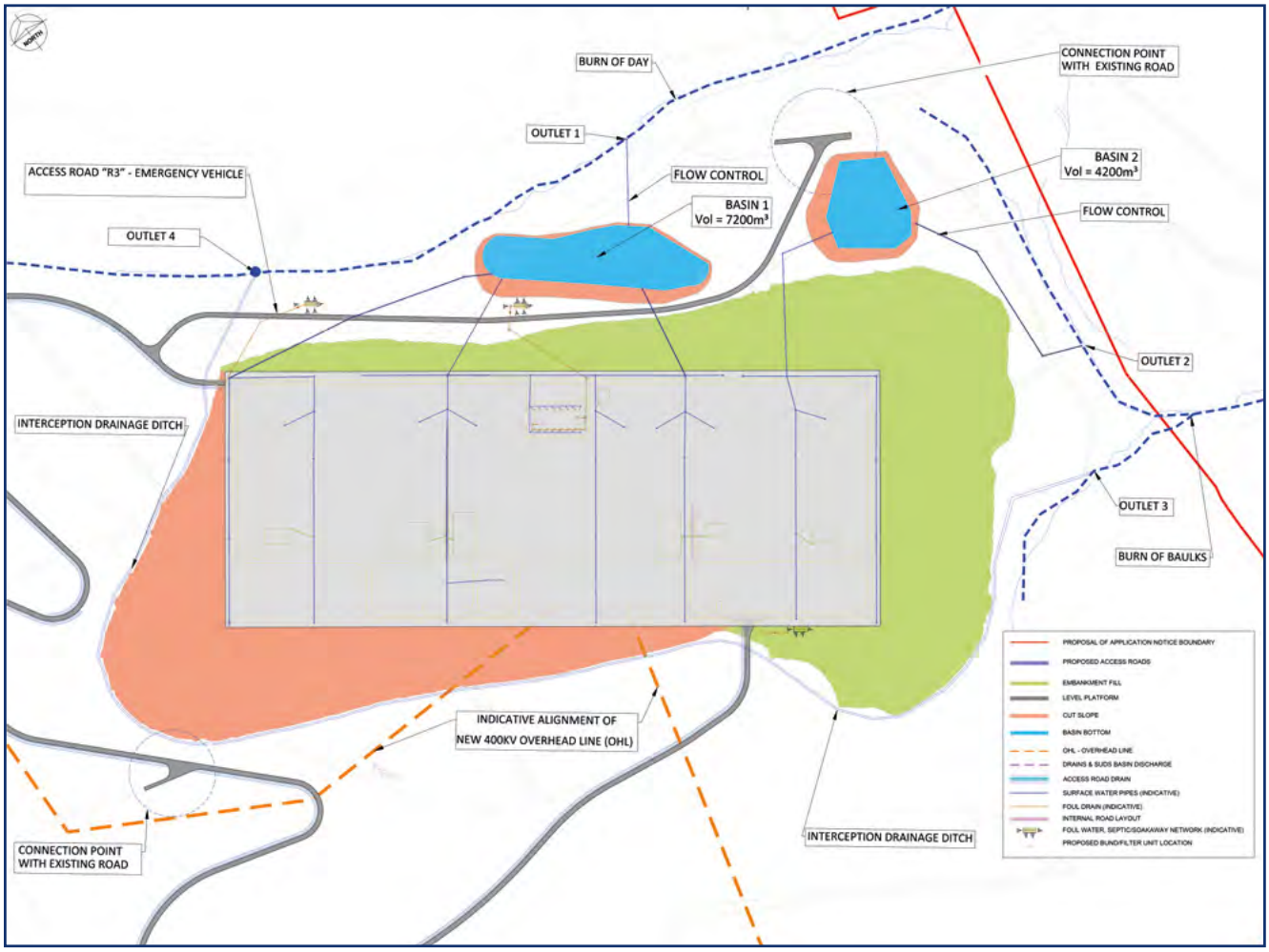
The indicative Landscape Zonal Plan illustrates the principal components of the landscape design.

The site benefits in being principally planation forest, with limited views of the site from surrounding areas, a small number of properties close to the site, and screening provided by mature and maturing plantation on all sides of the site. The cut screens the western half of the platform.

The eastern portion will be screened by woodland block planting around the eastern toe of the platform.

Along the northern boundary, the slopes of the fill will be planted as woodland block, transitioning to a mosaic of shrub and scrub and grass/wildflower habitat as the gradient flattens. The SUDS ponds to the north of the platform will be strengthened with wetland planting, adding further biodiversity.

Proposed designs - drainage design



Following the principles of sustainable urban drainage, the drainage network will comprise a network of grass lined swales (channels) which will collect drainage from the substation platform.

A cut off swale will intercept field run off from the higher parts of the site to the north of the platform.

The existing field drainage network will be reinstated following the earthworks and convey drainage to the cut off drain.

Run off will drain to a network of ponds to slow, hold and treat (by settlement) drainage water before being released to the Fithie Burn ensuring that the volume, rate and quality of surface water discharge will be no greater than the level of run off currently.

A network of interceptors will capture grit and contaminants from internal roadways and hardstanding.

Proposed designs - access design

The main access to the substation site is likely to be from the north, off the A957 Slug Road ; with secondary access from the minor unclassified road to the south, running east west through Elfhill.

While these accesses are primary forestry tracks and serve existing forest activities, some upgrading may be required, particularly for major construction equipment.

New construction and permanent access will be established, off existing tracks, to serve the substation.

While not part of the substation, an existing forestry track running along the southern edge of Elfhill will also be upgraded and extended to allow forestry access to the north of the substation location.

Development considerations

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

Summary of engineering considerations

The fundamental engineering considerations when selecting a preferred site location for a new 400kV substation include access, connectivity, footprint requirements, ground and environmental conditions and avoiding hazards.

Site selection criteria for Hurlie

- OHL access and connectivity
- Proximity to the existing Fetteresso substation
- Substation footprint requirements
- Ground and enviromental conditions
- Logistical access for equipment delivery
- Hazards.

Site assessment

The site offers good OHL connectivity and flexibility with connecting to new and existing assets on the transmission network including future external developer connections. There is good existing access to the site off the A90, which will facilitate the delivery of large substation equipment and provide ease of access for future operational needs.

The main access to site is proposed to be from the A90 and A957 (Slug road) via an existing slip road with Survey and design works on going to determine any improvements required to facilitate this access.

There will also be the requirement to establish a new bell mouth and new access tracks for the new substation site to allow for delivery and vehicle access during and post construction. Extensive ground and site investigation works are to take place on the preferred site which will be used to inform the civil design.

The platform level is designed to optimise the overall cut fill balance of the site to minimise the amount of material import required.

Site layout

The layout of the substation has been developed as an Air Insulated Substation (AIS) after an optioneering exercise was carried out to determine the most suitable design for the preferred site. The AIS equipment will be outdoors and consists of busbars and switchgear which is used to marshal and control the electricity supply.

The substation size has been developed based on the number of bays to facilitate the initial connections at the site and allowance made for future connections and is 761m x 300m and the tallest point of the site will be up to 14.3m in height.

Building size

A control building will be required on site which contains ancillary equipment required to operate the substation including control panels and low voltage AC and DC systems.

The size of this building is determined by the number of ancillary system equipment required which is determined by the number of bays within the substation. There are 21 bays at Hurlie. The building will be single story with an approximate overall height of 7m.

As well as the control building, Hurlie substation will also have two Synchronous Compensators which are required to manage power quality or power factor of the substation and network. Each Synchronous Compensator will be located inside a building with an approximate height of 14.5m.

3D visualisations

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

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

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

Photomontages

Photomontage visualisations will also be produced as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Once the EIA is completed, we'll ensure these photomontages are easily available to view.

Drone Shot

Slug Road A957 near Millsburn

Minor road west of Kirktown of Fetteresso

Other projects in the local area

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

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

Therefore, as well as the Hurlie 400kV substation project, we have a number of other projects within the local area we are currently developing, described below.

Local renewable developments

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

Applications from the likes of wind farms to connect to the transmission network are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process before we begin to develop a network connection for developments applying in our license area.

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

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

Offshore Grids Project

The Offshore Grid Projects will connect clean energy generation from the North Sea to the UK mainland. We expect the Offshore Grid Projects to consist of:

- Onshore HVDC converter station, which will connect to the AC Hurlie substation via underground cable
- Underground cables onshore and subsea cables
- An offshore platform hub to provide a grid connection for two Offshore Windfarms, this shall negate the need for these windfarms to connect to the onshore Grid network on an individual basis, thus reducing onshore infrastructure
- Subsea cable from the offshore hub to England.

The Offshore Grids Projects is at an early stage of development and we expect to consult communities throughout 2024 on our proposals. The consenting off all associated infrastructure will be under separate processes and applications to the Hurlie 400kV site.

Find out more

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

Finding common ground with landowners

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

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

If you are a landowner who is affected by the proposals and have not yet had contact from us, please get in touch via the contact details for the dedicated project land managers found on the relevant webpages: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

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

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

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

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

Ultimately this is to ensure nationally significant infrastructure projects are delivered on time and in line with our licence obligations. We also have a duty to protect the interests of the UK bill payer.

Statutory powers are not used lightly as we aim to work with landowners and occupiers to secure the necessary land rights voluntarily.

All potentially affected landowners and occupiers have the opportunity to provide feedback at our in-person consultation events and by submitting a feedback form. We would encourage all those with an interest to submit their views through this consultation.

Delivering a positive environmental legacy

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

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

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

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

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

Example projects

Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)

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

Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)

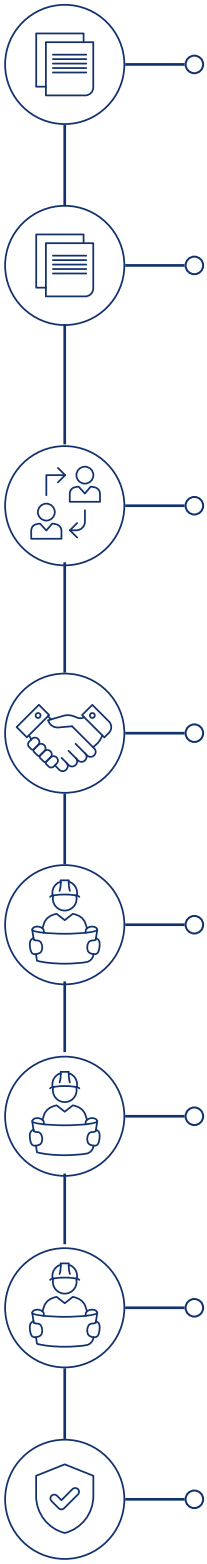
Thurso South substation and The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

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

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

Thurso South substation and The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Project timeline



2022
- Project need and scope confirmed
- Site selection for substation started

2023
- Consultation 1 – substation site selection – May 2023
- Environmental and engineering surveys
- Report on Consultation – November 2023
- Substation detailed design commences – July 2023

2024
- Pre-Application Consultation – first consultation – March 2024
- Environmental impact assessment scoping – March 2024
- Environmental and engineering assessment continues
- Pre-Application Consultation – second consultation – June 2024
- Environmental Impact Assessment – April- July 2024
- Planning application submitted – late Autumn 2024

2025
- Receive consents decisions
- Agree discharge of conditions if successful planning received

2026
- Proposed construction start – 400kv substation
- Proposed construction start – Kintore to Tealing 400kv OHL

2027
- Construction works ongoing

2028
- Construction works ongoing

2029
- Energisation – Tealing 400kv substation

Have your say

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

The feedback period

Previous consultation highlighted the need for an extended feedback period. In response to this, we will extend our usual 28 days feedback period.

We will accept feedback from now until 30 April 2024.

How to provide feedback

Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

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

What we're seeking views on

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

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

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

We encourage all interested community members to fill in a feedback form when submitting feedback, however if you prefer, you can email us to provide your feedback or ask any questions.

Our Community Liaison Team

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

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

Community Liaison Manager

Rhiannon Merritt
Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission,
10 Henderson Road,
Inverness, IV1 1SN

E: TKUP@sse.com

Additional information

The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

You can also follow us on social media

SSEN-Transmission

SSETransmission

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

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

Your feedback

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

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS.

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

Comments:

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

Comments:

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

Comments:

Q4. **Is there anything regarding the Hurlie 400kV substation proposal that you feel you require more information about? If so, please detail below.**

Comments:

Q5. **Do you have any other comments?**

Comments:

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

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

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

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

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

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form. Please submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

Post: Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

Email: TKUP@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

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

The feedback form and all information provided in this booklet can also be downloaded from the dedicated website: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/**

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.

APPENDIX G: INFORMATION BANNERS EVENT 1

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Powering change together

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

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

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

We all have a part to play

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more

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

Who we are

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

What we do

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

Working with you

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

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

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

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Pathway to 2030

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

Achieving net zero

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

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

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices. The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence.

The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

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

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

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

What does this mean for you?

The East of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The extensive studies that informed the ESO's Pathway to 2030 HND confirmed the requirement to increase the power transfer capacity of the onshore corridor from Kintore to Tealing.

This requires a 400kV connection between these sites to enable the significant capability needed to take power from onshore and large scale offshore renewable generation, connecting on the East Coast of Scotland before transporting power to areas of demand.

As part of these plans, we're proposing to build a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing. This also requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed in Fetteresso Forest and at Tealing to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, two of the existing 275kV OHLs out of the existing Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield require upgrades to 400kV operation and to be connected to the proposed new Tealing 400kV site.

These five projects, collectively called Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects, are seen as critical to enable the delivery of the UK and Scottish Government's targets.

These five projects are:

- Kintore - Tealing 400kV OHL
- Hurlie 400kV substation
- Emmock 400kV substation
- Alyth - Tealing 400kV upgrade
- Tealing - Westfield 400kV upgrade

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Project overview

We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure, and quickly.

The new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing

Based on the requirements outlined in National Grid ESO's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design we have developed proposals to reinforce the transmission system. As part of this we are proposing to establish a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing.

This requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed to connect to this new OHL, one at Fetteresso Forest in Aberdeenshire and one near the village of Tealing in Angus to enable required future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, two existing OHLs out of Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield in Fife will be upgraded to operate at 400kV and connected into the new Emmock 400kV substation.

While they have been presented in combined consultation events in May last year, they are separate projects and will be progressed through separate consenting processes.

Hurlie 400kV substation (previously Fiddes)

This consultation is focused on the new 400kV substation which will be known as Hurlie, as part of the Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects.

Feedback to our previous consultation, which was held in May 2023, resulted in a review of our original proposed site at Fiddes. Following detailed assessment of environmental, technical and engineering/cost factors, a new location in Fetteresso Forest has been selected as the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process.

The new proposed substation will be an outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), 400kV substation with approximate dimensions of 760m x 300m with height up to 14.3m, not including the groundworks required to create a level platform. The design covers a range of considerations, including:

- Plant and equipment required for current network plans
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement
- Permanent and temporary access roads
- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.

Planned connections to Hurlie

The following proposed new transmission infrastructure will require a connection to the new substation:

- The proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL connection. This will comprise an OHL from the south, from Tealing and an OHL from the north, from Kintore.
- A connection by a Scotwind Offshore Wind Developer. The developer would provide an underground cable, from offshore, to its own substation which is likely to be located within the vicinity of Hurlie. It would then provide a further connection to the new Hurlie substation from its own substation.
- A connection to the Offshore Grids Projects. This is being developed by SSEN Tranmission's offshore team. This would require an underground cable, from offshore, to an HVDC converter station likely within the vicinity of Hurlie, and a connection between the converter station and Hurlie substation.
- A potential future connection to the existing Fiddes substation.

All of the above connections are subject to separate consultation and consenting processes.

tkup@sse.com

bit.ly/3HFQOw1

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

How we've selected the substation site

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

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

Our proposed site: Hurlie 400kV substation

Following our last consultation on the proposed Fiddes substation in May 2023, where we asked for your views regarding several sites, in December 2023 we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was a new site in Fetteresso Forest.

What has changed since we last consulted?

During the previous consultation we presented a larger substation footprint of 700m x 700m to accommodate a new offshore cable connection, referred to at the time as the Offshore Integrated Network. This is now referred to as Offshore Grids. The technology choice and proposed locations of the Offshore Integrated Network is currently under review. As a result, the Offshore Grids projects is to follow a separate consenting and consultation timeline.

The requirements, in terms of footprint and technology solely associated with the offshore grids connection is not covered under the 400kV AC project. This has enabled a reduction in substation footprint from the previous consultation.

As a result of this, the decision was taken to revisit and extend the site selection exercise, widening the area of search with a view to seeking alternative site options to those presented in the Consultation Document published in May 2023. New candidate sites were identified and appraised, based on land area available and ownership, topography, gradient, proximity to properties, visibility, cultural heritage, ecology, flood risk and drainage, and access.

From this process, two further site options were identified, at Banff Hill, 4km north west of Inverbervie and an area of land east of the existing Fetterresso substation.

In terms of cultural heritage, Banff Hill is distant from the monument Hillhead Long Cairn to the north and avoids impacting properties and land having an association with Lewis Grassic Gibbon, although it lies close to Arbuthnott Garden and Designed Landscape, and to the A listed Alladyce Tower and Benholm Castle and Tower. Land Fetteresso is not constrained in cultural heritage terms.

The landscape character surrounding Banff Hill is modified by existing infrastructure. The landscape is smaller in scale and more enclosed compared to the other site options. The rolling topography and its relationship to the skyline provide visual interest, although there are no notable focal points.

The site at Banff Hill would be visible from properties to the north west and north east, south, and south west.

At Fetterresso, the landscape character is already modified by plantation. The importance of the Highland Fault as a landscape feature reduces towards Stonehaven.

While development may be visible, there are no focal points or features which represent notable visual amenity.

No properties are considered likely to lose visual amenity.

The Burn of Day runs west to east across the Fetteresso land in a heavily vegetated narrow channel; direct impacts on the burn can be largely avoided, although drainage would need to drain to the burn via a sustainable drainage system. Peat probing has confirmed that, with the exception of a small pocket which can be avoided, there is nothing that would be classed as peat.

At Banff Hill, the Banff Burn drains the upper reaches of the hill, flowing west to east in a heavily vegetated channel before becoming more natural at the bottom of the hill. The Burn would likely require diversion in order to accommodate development however.

Balancing all of the factors, the site at Fetteresso (referred to as the "Hurlie" Site) has been identified as the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process. It avoids direct impacts on residential properties, has limited interaction with heritage assets, limits likely significant effects on existing land-use and has potentially fewer impacts on landscape character than other candidate sites.

Further environmental analysis will be undertaken as the development design progresses, to embed measures that avoid or reduce environmental impacts. Additional mitigation measures and controls will be developed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process and will be incorporated into the project as agreements and conditions which will form part of the subsequent consenting process.

The new location of Hurlie has therefore changed the proposed routeing of the Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL to allow the OHL to connect with Hurlie 400kV substation. The proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL report on Consultation provides more information on the new OHL routes which are under consideration to take account of this change.

Why this site?

Hurlie was selected as the preferred site option following more detailed assessment of the alternative candidate sites for the proposed Fiddes 400kV substation based on an increased search area.

Hurlie avoids direct impacts on residential properties, has limited interaction with heritage assets, limits likely significant effects on existing land-use and has potentially fewer impacts on landscape character than other candidate sites.

Hurlie, like all of the alternative sites, was compared with the previous preferred option at Fiddes - Site 5B - in a side-by-side analysis of their environmental and technical constraints and the potential for adverse interactions with receptors and is considered to be the least environmentally constrained site of the shortlisted alternative candidate sites.

What next?

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

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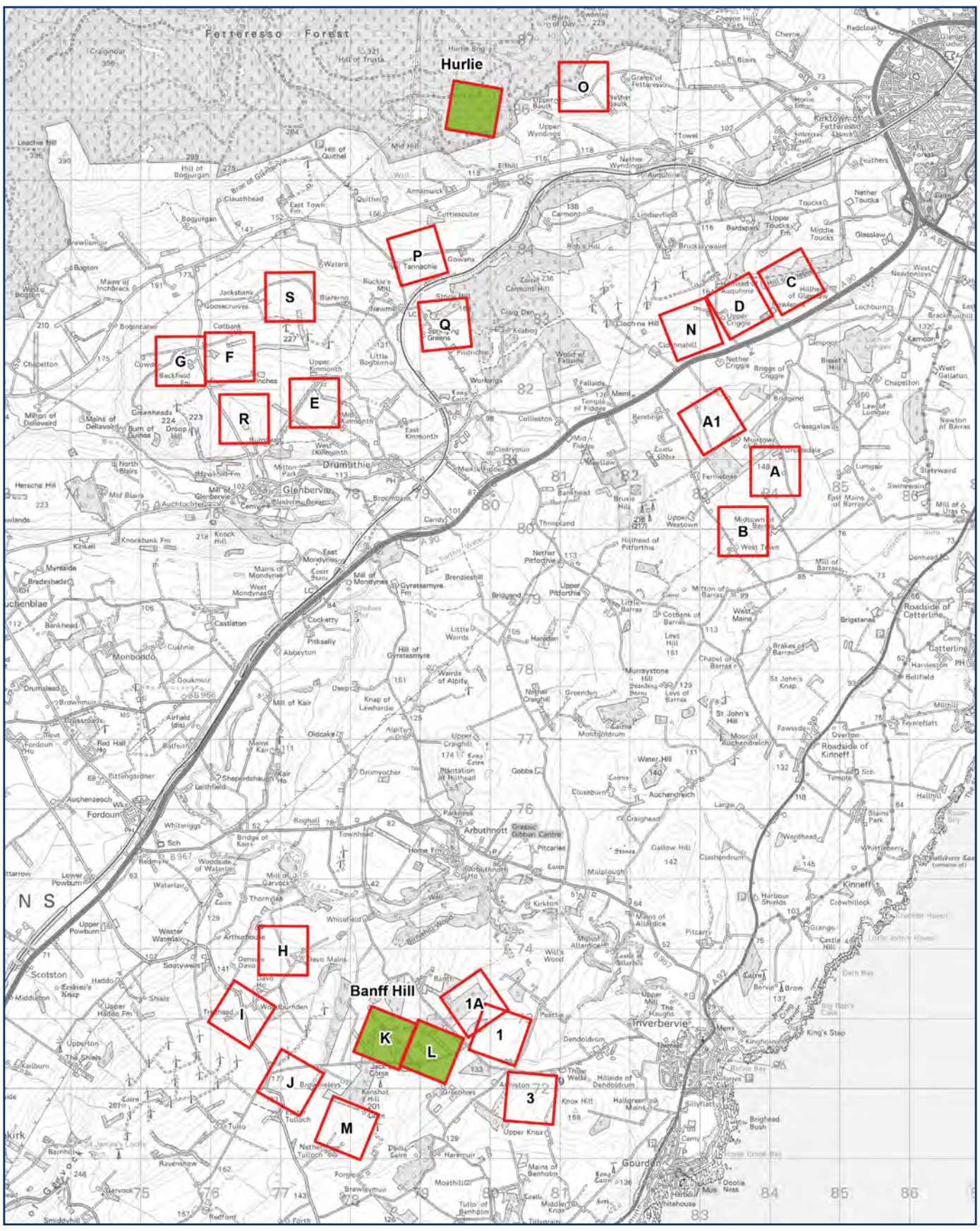
bit.ly/3HFQOw1

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

How we've selected the substation site



tkup@sse.com

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Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Environmental considerations

The potential environmental impacts discussed below will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will be submitted in support of the planning application to Aberdeenshire Council in late Autumn 2024. The EIA Report will be available for members of the public to view and comment on as part of the planning application supporting information, following submission of the application.

Terrestrial ecology and ornithology

An initial walk over survey has been undertaken to identify habitats, protected species and birds. Further breeding birds and protected species surveys will be undertaken in the Spring. A Biodiversity Net Gain condition assessment will also be undertaken to inform the strategy for achieving a 10% net gain in biodiversity as part of the development project.

The site does not lie within any sites designated for nature conservation. There are four statutory designated sites of international importance, and three statutory designated sites of national importance within 10km of the Site; the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/SSSI approximately 5.4km northwest; Garron Point SAC/SSSI some 6km east, Fowlsheugh Special Protection Area (SPA) and SSSI some 7km east and Red Moss of Netherly SAC/SSSI almost 8km north east.

There are no statutory designated sites of local importance. None has any direct connection to the Site. There are three non-statutory designated sites of local importance identified up to 5km from the Proposed Development; Mergie Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) 6km north, Elfhill LCNS immediate south (and within the Proposal of Application Notice boundary) and Fetteresso LNCS 3.4km SE. Fowlsheugh is also a RSPB Nature Reserve and incorporates the inland portion of the Fowlsheugh SPA.

The Site is dominated by commercial forestry, comprised of coniferous species at various stages of maturity and rotation. Non-native Sitka spruce is the predominant species, although more limited stands of Scots pine, hybrid larch, Japanese larch and lodgepole pine are present. Some stands have been thinned and have an increased diversity of heathy ground flora, while others exhibit extensive windthrow and comprise fallen trees with extensive gorse and bramble scrub.

In areas of open ground, among young trees and in rides are areas of both dry and wet heath habitats, as well as damp acidic habitats. Within commercial forestry, small areas of dry heath, acid grassland and bracken occur.

Wet heath habitats are present in rides and unforested areas, with rush pasture habitats in wetter areas, such as along the Burn of Day. Some of these riparian habitats have been planted with native broadleaved trees. Further examples of rush pasture are presnet in the north of the Site associated with the upper tributaries of the Cowie Water.

There is evidence suggesting the presence of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs), which will be confirmed through further survey. Habitats presented are capable of supporting otter, bats, red squirrel, pine marten, water vole, badger, amphibians, reptiles and fish.

There are no records of Schedule 1 bird species or breeding waders within the RSPB desk record data set. Raptor Study Group and Forestry Land Scotland data are yet to be received. There are records of goshawk flight activity within 5km of the Site. A total of up to 8 nesting attempts were recorded during recent survey work for a proposed wind farm extension, suggesting that the area provided a number of suitable trees (age, spacing, height) and forestry blocks in the plantations at the time of survey.

Other records indicate the presence of goshawk in the locale and the possibility of nesting to the south-east of the Site.

The Natural Heritage Zone (NHZ) breeding population of goshawk is c. 25 breeding pairs (NHZ 12 North East glens 10) with the Fetteresso Forest area being an important habitat for nesting of this Schedule 1 species.

The EIA process will include detailed assessments of the potential for and significance of ecological and ornithological impacts, both from the proposed substation and in combination with OHL. In turn, these assessments will inform the requirement for impact mitigation.

As described on page 20, SSEN Transmission is committed to creating greater biodiversity than provided by the current Site. This will include new habitat creation and species rich planting proposals though the landscape and drainage design. Other mitigation measures may also be necessary, such as avoiding certain construction activities at sensitive periods. Habitat and Species Management Plans will be implemented during construction and operations.

Woodland and forestry

The Site is located in one of three major plantation areas, Fetteresso Forest, which lies within an extensive area of commercial forestry, known as the Mearns Forest.

The land is part of Scotland's National Forest Estate, owned by Scottish Ministers on behalf of the nation, and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). It is a predominately upland area with poorer soils which have been planted with commercial conifers in the past.

The woodlands are composed primarily of commercial conifers, principally Sitka spruce, with areas of diverse conifers and small areas of mixed broadleaf woodland.

The Forest Development Plan (FDP), implemented by FLS, indicates the retention of the woodlands as commercial forest. The woodlands within the Site boundary have a diverse age class due to the ongoing felling and replanting programmes over many years.

None of the woodlands is recorded in the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) Scotland. Small areas are recorded as native woodland in the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland. However, the Mearns FDP and the National Forest Estate – Sub-compartments identifies that the areas classed as native woodland are in fact commercial conifers or open ground.

SSEN Transmission will compensate for any loss of woodland, including commercial forestry, and will engage with FLS and other landowners to identify land suitable for forestry and improvement. Compensation is not limited to replacing like for like, and opportunities for mixed broadleaf planting would be sought, in consultation with FLS and other stakeholders where appropriate.

Land use and recreation

As described, the forest is managed as commercial forest, and as such proposals to develop within the Forest will respect the need to ensure commercial forestry can continue.

This means for example facilitating the harvesting of any commercial timber prior to site development and the maintenance or reinstatement/replacement of access tracks necessary to forest operations.

The wider Forest estate provides a range of recreational facilities, notably walking and cycling trails and hides and interpretation facilities for bird/wildlife watching although there are none within the proposed Site area or likely to be directly impacted by the intended development.

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Environmental considerations

Cultural heritage

There is one scheduled monument that lies partly within the area anticipated for Proposed Development: Clochanshiels Cairns, House and Field System which comprises the remains of a prehistoric settlement located in an area of rough pasture on a north facing slope, overlooking the Cowie Water, and surrounded by commercial forestry plantation. It has a localised setting within a river valley that is currently dominated by commercial forestry.

There are a further 15 scheduled monuments within 5km of the Site. These include prehistoric settlement and funerary monuments, a Roman Temporary Camp, ecclesiastical monuments, and remnants of WW2 defences. The majority are located to the northeast of the Proposed Development Site and none are likely to be visible from the substation site.

There are some 30 Listed Buildings within 5km; the closest Category A Listed Buildings, Fetteresso Castle Dovecot being some 4.1km and the Castle of Fiddes 5km respectively to the southeast. The majority of the Listed Buildings are either small residential properties (i.e. farmhouses, cottages, etc), bridges, or agricultural features (i.e. dovecots), all of which have generally localised settings, where long distance views, or prominent visibility, are not important aspects of their settings.

There is one Conservation Area within 5km of the Proposed Development: Kirkton of Fetteresso.

The setting of the Conservation Area is largely constrained to, and defined by its association with the Carron Water valley at its confluence with the Cheyne Burn.

There are no World Heritage Sites, Inventory Gardens and Designed landscapes or Inventory Battlefields within 5km of the Proposed Development.

There are four undesignated heritage assets within, or partly within, the Site. Of these, two are identified by the Historic Environmental Records (HER) as being prehistoric settlement sites comprised of hut platforms, hut circles and clearance cairns of regional significance. Both are located in the commercial forestry plantation. The others are a possible standing stone) and a farmstead again located in the commercial plantation.

Consultation will be carried out with Aberdeenshire Council as part of the planning application process to identify any on-site archaeological investigation that would be required before construction works commence. If required a Written Scheme of Investigation would be prepared which would set out a strategy for archaeological mitigation in advance of the construction works.

A full assessment of the potential impact on cultural heritage assets will be undertaken as part of the subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which will consider both impacts associated with the substation and in combination with the new overhead transmission line and propose measures to avoid or reduce cultural heritage impacts If necessary.

Water environment and soils

The Site lies within the catchment of two larger watercourses: the Cowie Water to the north and the Carron Water to the south, and the sub-catchments of a number of tributaries, notably, the Burn of Day, which flows easterly through the centre of the Site area before turning north to flow into the Cowie Water.

There are several small unnamed watercourses within the northern part of the Site that flow into the Cowie Water. The southern part of the Site sits within the Clerkenwell Burn and Burn of Baulks catchments, both flowing into the Carron Water.

Water quality is generally good. While the Burn of Day is too small to be formally classified, SEPA classifies water quality in the Cowie Water and Carron Water as High and Moderate respectively. Surface water flooding is a possibility within parts of the Site concentrated around the smaller watercourses within the site.

The Site is underlain by a low productivity aquifer. There are no records of wells or groundwater springs. There is one Private Water Supply source within the Site area and another to the south of the Site, which supplies the existing Fetteresso substation and four other properties. The Site is not within a Groundwater or Surface Water Drinking Water Protected Area.

A hydrological assessment has been undertaken to determine the parameters of the drainage requirements shown on page 18 of the consultation booklet.

Runoff from the developed platform (including the construction compound) will be managed through surface water drainage on the platform conveyed to a detention basin that will be located downslope of the platform. The detention basin will drain to the Burn of Day via an outfall pipe at a location to be determined in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA.

The drainage design will be refined as the platform and wider site design evolves. This will be informed too by a more detailed Flood Risk Assessment and hydrology assessment which will form part of the EIA.

A Site Water Management Plan will be developed to manage potential risks to the water environment during construction.

Traffic

As shown on page 19, primary access to the Site is anticipated via the A957 Slug Road to the north of the Site; with secondary access from the minor unclassified road to the south, running east west through Elfhill.

A detailed haul route assessment will be undertaken, as part of the EIA, to define route options with least impact, and will include determining how the amenity of properties close to the roads can be protected and what road improvements or modifications would be required.

A detailed Transport Impact Assessment, which will also include consideration of road safety, impacts to other road users and community impacts will be submitted as part of the planning application and a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed describing how abnormal loads and vehicle movements will be managed to ensure road safety for all other road users during construction works.

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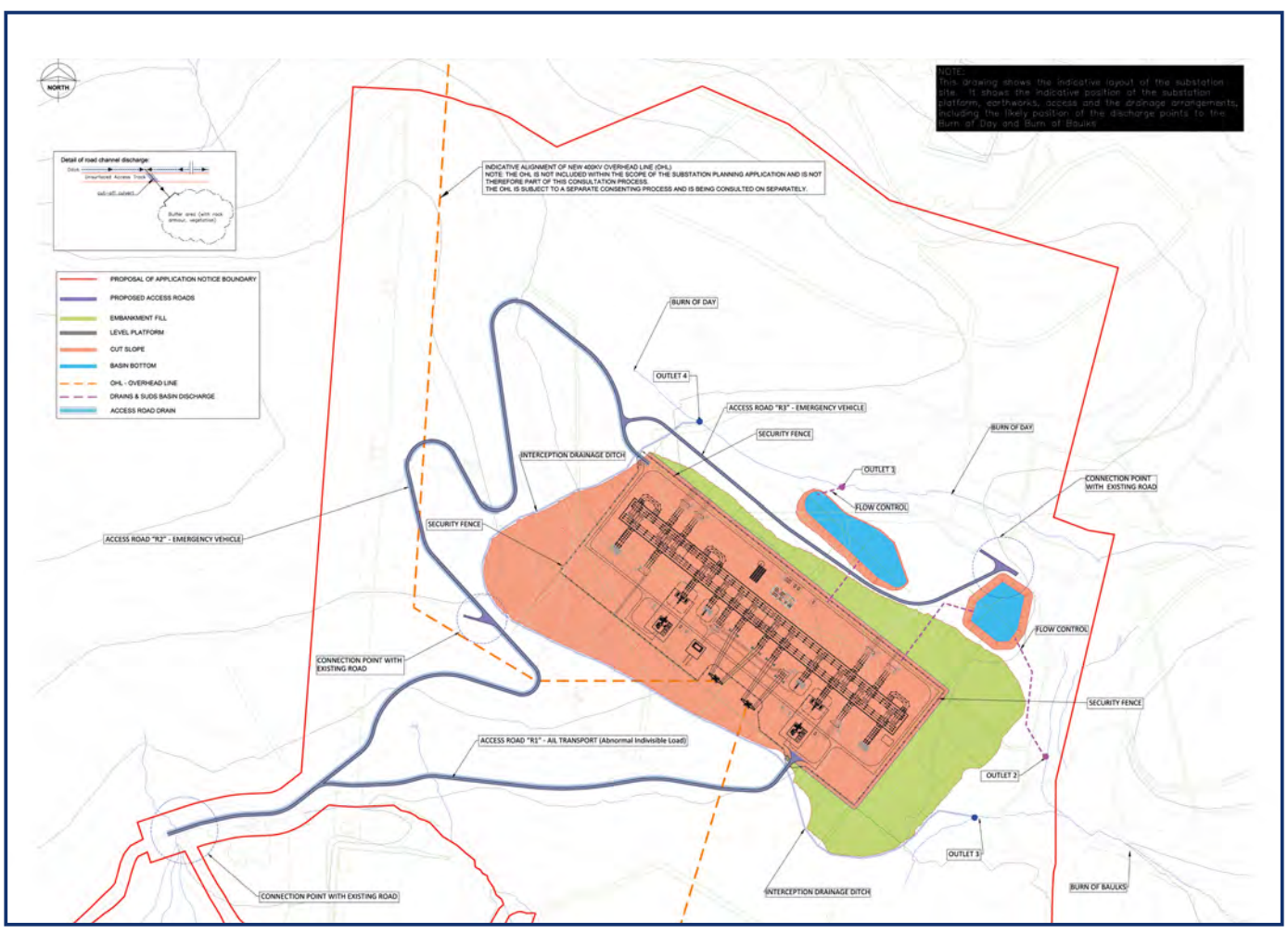
Proposed substation layout



The substation footprint has been positioned in a north west-south east orientation locating the site on north side of a shallow valley drained by the west-east flowing Burn of Day, taking advantage of the screening provided by the landform to the south and north and avoiding the higher ground to the north.

The location optimises the amount of cut and fill needed to create a level development platform and resolves the challenges of accessing the substation site. The depth of cut affords screening from the south of the western half of the substation platform. Additional screening from the south is achieved by current immature plantation which will develop into a more substantial screen.

The toe of the platform, created by the fill, will be softened and the platform screened by new woodland block planting. Access will be from the existing forestry track to the south west of the substation which currently provides access to the plantation across the substation site and to the north.

This access will be split, and two new permanent access routes created, one following rising land to access the platform in the NW corner; the other following the gradient east and entering the platform mid way along the southern perimeter.

Surface drainage will be conveyed to two retention/ detention ponds to the north of the platform one draining to the Burn of Day, the other to the Burn of Baulk. The new 400kV OHL will enter and leave the substation from the south, with two terminal towers located above the southern cut face.

A security fence will be erected around the perimeter of the substation platform. While the lighting strategy has not yet been defined, it will adopt the following broad principles recognising the absence of artificial light in the Forest: lighting will be kept to the minimum to ensure safe operations and security; individual light clusters will be low level, narrow beam, and directed downwards to minimize glare and light spill; different lighting configurations and designs will be adopted for different parts of the site and will be appropriate to use; landscape bund design and positioning will support the reduction of glare and light spill.

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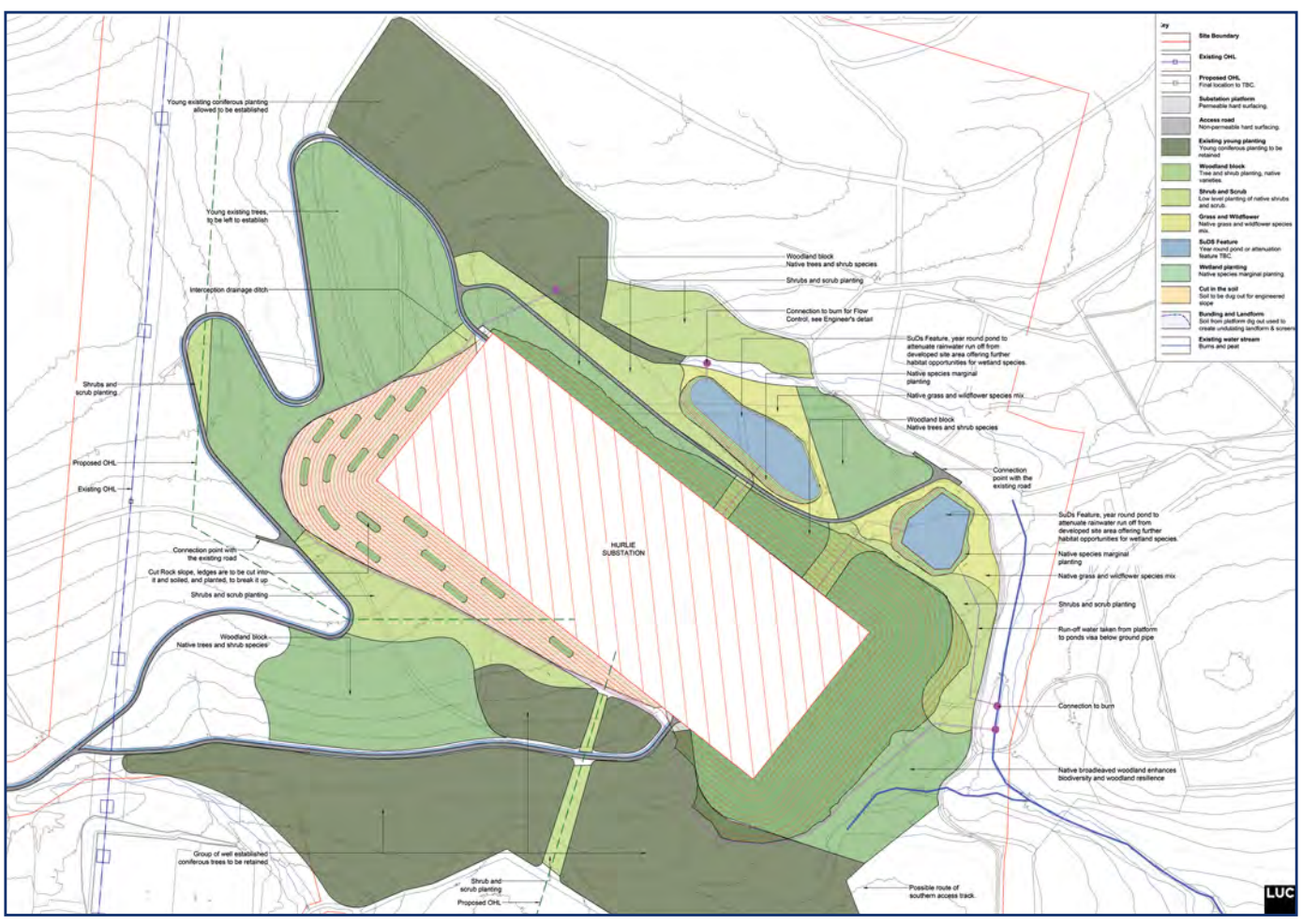
Proposed designs - landscape design



The indicative Landscape Zonal Plan illustrates the principal components of the landscape design.

The site benefits in being principally planation forest, with limited views of the site from surrounding areas, a small number of properties close to the site, and screening provided by mature and maturing plantation on all sides of the site. The cut screens the western half of the platform.

The eastern portion will be screened by woodland block planting around the eastern toe of the platform.

Along the northern boundary, the slopes of the fill will be planted as woodland block, transitioning to a mosaic of shrub and scrub and grass/wildflower habitat as the gradient flattens. The SUDS ponds to the north of the platform will be strengthened with wetland planting, adding further biodiversity.

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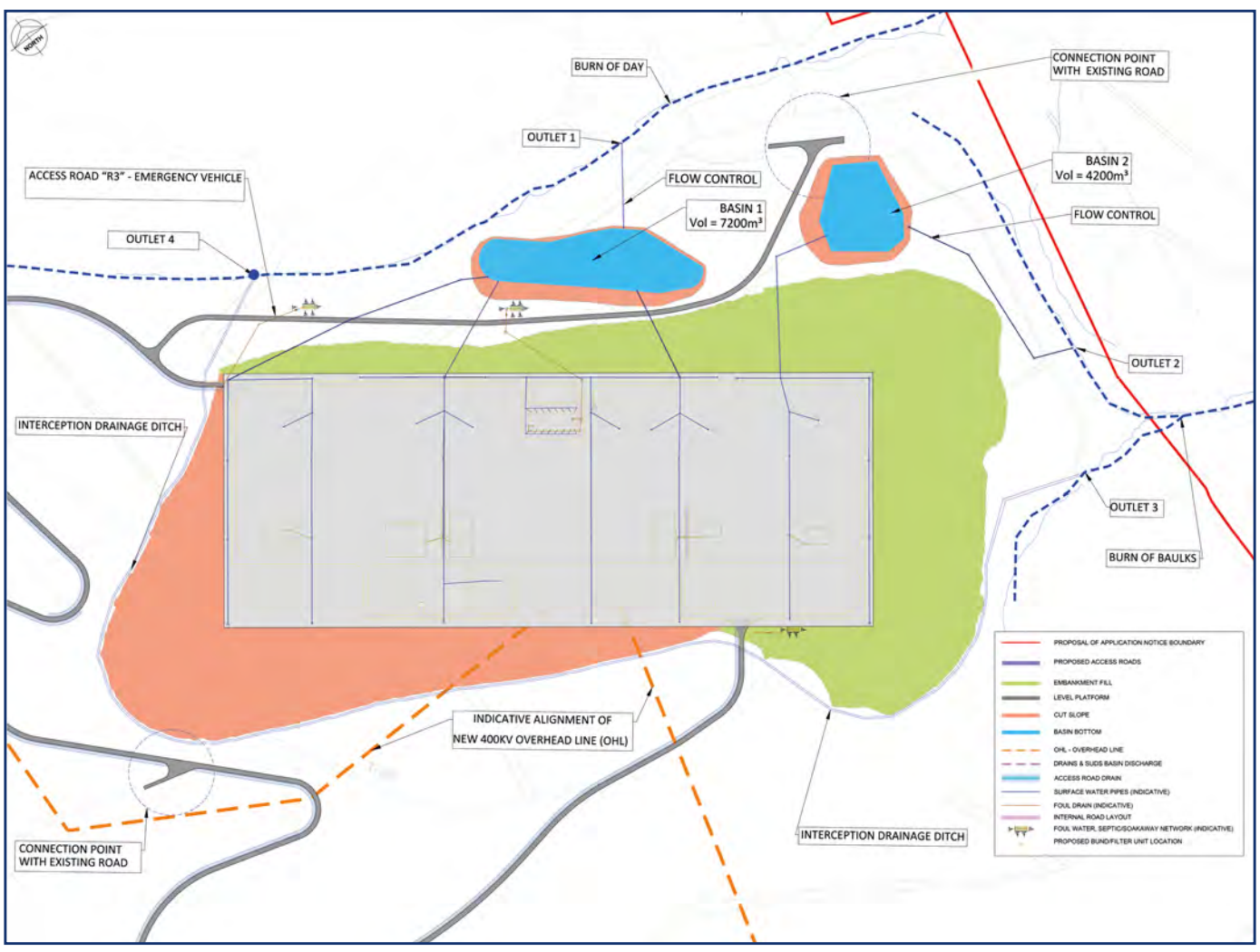
Proposed designs - drainage design



Following the principles of sustainable urban drainage, the drainage network will comprise a network of grass lined swales (channels) which will collect drainage from the substation platform.

A cut off swale will intercept field run off from the higher parts of the site to the north of the platform.

The existing field drainage network will be reinstated following the earthworks and convey drainage to the cut off drain.

Run off will drain to a network of ponds to slow, hold and treat (by settlement) drainage water before being released to the Fithie Burn ensuring that the volume, rate and quality of surface water discharge will be no greater than the level of run off currently.

A network of interceptors will capture grit and contaminants from internal roadways and hardstanding.

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Proposed designs - access design

The main access to the substation site is likely to be from the north, off the A957 Slug Road; with secondary access from the minor unclassified road to the south, running east west through Elfhill.

While these accesses are primary forestry tracks and serve existing forest activities, some upgrading may be required, particularly for major construction equipment.

New construction and permanent access will be established, off existing tracks, to serve the substation.

While not part of the substation, an existing forestry track running along the southern edge of Elfhill will also be upgraded and extended to allow forestry access to the north of the substation location.

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Development considerations

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

Summary of engineering considerations

The fundamental engineering considerations when selecting a preferred site location for a new 400kV substation include access, connectivity, footprint requirements, ground and environmental conditions and avoiding hazards.

Site selection criteria for Hurlie

- OHL access and connectivity
- Proximity to the existing Fetteresso substation
- Substation footprint requirements
- Ground and environmental conditions
- Logistical access for equipment delivery
- Hazards.

Site assessment

The site offers good OHL connectivity and flexibility with connecting to new and existing assets on the transmission network including future external developer connections. There is good existing access to the site off the A90, which will facilitate the delivery of large substation equipment and provide ease of access for future operational needs.

The main access to site is proposed to be from the A90 and A957 (Slug road) via an existing slip road with Survey and design works on going to determine any improvements required to facilitate this access.

There will also be the requirement to establish a new bell mouth and new access tracks for the new substation site to allow for delivery and vehicle access during and post construction. Extensive ground and site investigation works are to take place on the preferred site which will be used to inform the civil design.

The platform level is designed to optimise the overall cut fill balance of the site to minimise the amount of material import required.

Site layout

The layout of the substation has been developed as an Air Insulated Substation (AIS) after an optioneering exercise was carried out to determine the most suitable design for the preferred site. The AIS equipment will be outdoors and consists of busbars and switchgear which is used to marshal and control the electricity supply.

The substation size has been developed based on the number of bays to facilitate the initial connections at the site and allowance made for future connections and is 761m x 300m and the tallest point of the site will be up to 14.3m in height.

Building size

A control building will be required on site which contains ancillary equipment required to operate the substation including control panels and low voltage AC and DC systems.

The size of this building is determined by the number of ancillary system equipment required which is determined by the number of bays within the substation. There are 21 bays at Hurlie.

The building will be single story with an approximate overall height of 7m.

As well as the control building, Hurlie substation will also have two Synchronous Compensators which are required to manage power quality or power factor of the substation and network. Each Synchronous Compensator will be located inside a building with an approximate height of 14.5m.

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Project timeline

2022
- Project need and scope confirmed
- Site selection for substation started

2023
- Consultation 1 – substation site selection – May 2023
- Environmental and engineering surveys
- Report on Consultation – November 2023
- Substation detailed design commences – July 2023

2024
- Pre-Application Consultation – first consultation – March 2024
- Environmental impact assessment scoping – March 2024
- Environmental and engineering assessment continues
- Pre-Application Consultation – second consultation – June 2024
- Environmental Impact Assessment – April- July 2024
- Planning application submitted – late Autumn 2024

2025
- Receive consents decisions
- Agree discharge of conditions if successful planning received

2026
- Proposed construction start – 400kV substation
- Proposed construction start – Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL

2027
- Construction works ongoing

2028
- Construction works ongoing

2029
- Energisation – Tealing 400kV substation

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Have your say

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

The feedback period

Previous consultation highlighted the need for an extended feedback period. In response to this, we will extend our usual 28 days feedback period.

We will accept feedback from now until 30 April 2024.

How to provide feedback

Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this banner or via the form on our project webpage at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

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

What we're seeking views on

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

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

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

We encourage all interested community members to fill in a feedback form when submitting feedback, however if you prefer, you can email us to provide your feedback or ask any questions.

Our Community Liaison Team

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

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

Community Liaison Manager

Rhiannon Merritt
Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission,
10 Henderson Road,
Inverness, IV1 1SN

E: TKUP@sse.com

Additional information

The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/

You can also follow us on social media

SSEN-Transmission

SSETransmission

Recite me

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

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

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APPENDIX H: CONSULTATION BOOKLET JUNE 2024 & FUTURE CONNECTIONS BOOKLET

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Hurlie 400kV Substation

Pre-application consultation feedback event

June 2024

ssen-transmission.co.uk/hurlie

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The consultation events will be taking place on:

Monday 10 June, 2–7pm, Auchenblae Village Hall, Auchenblae

Tuesday 11 June, 2–7pm, Drumlithie Village Hall, Drumlithie

Thursday 13 June, 2–7pm, Stonehaven Town Hall, Stonehaven

Powering change together

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

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

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

We all have a part to play

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more

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

Who we are

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

What we do

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

Working with you

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

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

The Pathway to 2030

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

Achieving net zero

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

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

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices. The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

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

This sets out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that's required to support the forecasted growth in the UK's renewable electricity. It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.

What does this mean for you?

The East of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The extensive studies that informed the ESO's Pathway to 2030 HND confirmed the requirement to increase the power transfer capacity of the onshore corridor from Kintore to Tealing.

As part of these plans, we're proposing to build a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing. This also requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed in Fetteresso Forest and at Tealing to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, two of the existing 275kV OHLs out of the existing Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield require upgrades to 400kV operation and to be connected to the proposed new Emmock 400kV site near Tealing.

These five projects, collectively called Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects, are seen as critical to enable the delivery of the UK and Scottish Government's targets.

These five projects are:

- Kintore - Tealing 400kV OHL
- Hurlie 400kV substation
- Emmock 400kV substation
- Alyth - Tealing 400kV upgrade
- Tealing - Westfield 400kV upgrade

Future network investment requirements

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

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

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO's, 'Beyond 2030' report, published in March this year. For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets.

These projects, which will be subject to extensive public consultation, are at the very early stages of development and further details will be set out in due course.

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

The story so far

May ‘23

We introduced the project, consulting on eight potential sites for the new substation, with events in May.

June ‘23

The consultation feedback period closed on 30 June.

Mid ‘23

Throughout the summer and autumn we carried out a range of stakeholder meetings, listening to localised concerns and ideas and answering any further questions.

Dec ‘23

We published a Report on Consultation, confirming our proposed site selection and showing how the option taken forward to the next stage had been informed by this process.

Early ‘24

We submitted our Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) on 30 January to Aberdeenshire Councils and notified elected members, Councillors and Community Councils.

Mar ‘24

The first of three public consultation events trigged by the submission of the PAN were held in Stonehaven, Drumlithie and Auchenblae.

Help shape our plans

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

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

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

Who we are consulting with

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

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

What we are seeking views on

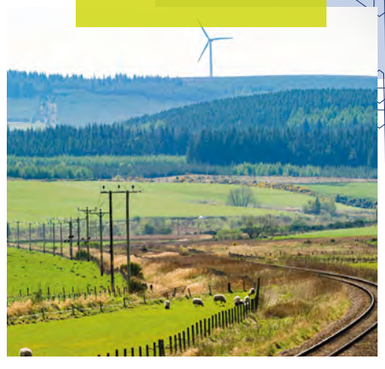
We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of the refinements or changes we’ve made.

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

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

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

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



Project overview

We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure, and quickly.

The new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing

Based on the requirements outlined in National Grid ESO's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design we have developed proposals to reinforce the transmission system. As part of this we are proposing to establish a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing.
ssen-transmission.co.uk/tkup

This requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed to connect to this new OHL, one at Fetteresso Forest in Aberdeenshire and one near the village of Tealing in Angus to enable required future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, two existing OHLs out of Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield in Fife will be upgraded to operate at 400kV and connected into the new proposed Emmock 400kV substation.

While they have been presented in combined consultation events in May last year, they are separate projects and will be progressed through separate consenting processes

Hurlie 400kV substation

This consultation is focused on the new 400kV substation in Aberdeenshire which will be known as Hurlie, as part of the Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects.

Feedback to our previous consultation, which was held in May 2023, resulted in a review of our original proposed site at Fiddes. Following detailed assessment of environmental, technical and engineering/cost factors, a new location in Fetteresso Forest has been selected as the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process.

The new proposed Hurlie substation will be an outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), 400kV substation with approximate dimensions of 685m x 300m with height up to 14.3m, not including the groundworks required to create a level platform.

A single storey control building (maximum height 7m) which contains ancillary equipment will be required to operate the substation including control panels and low voltage AC and DC systems.

Currently, the tallest equipment in the substation will be the busbar at approximately 14.5m. There may be a requirement in the future that the proposed reactors are replaced with larger network stability equipment which can be up to 18m tall with a footprint of approximately 95m x 45m

The design covers a range of considerations, including:

- Plant and equipment required for current network plans.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
- Permanent and temporary access roads.
- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.

Planned connections to Hurlie

The following proposed new electricity transmission infrastructure will require a connection to the new Hurlie substation:

- The proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL connection. This will comprise an OHL from the south, from Tealing and an OHL from the north, from Kintore.
- A connection by Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm. The Developer is expected to locate its own, separate substation in the vicinity of the proposed Hurlie substation. It is likely that an underground cable will connect the Developers' substation with Hurlie substation.
- A connection to the Offshore Grids Projects. This is an SSEN Transmission project. Please refer to Other SSEN Transmission projects in the local area section of this booklet.

All of the above connections are subject to separate consultation and consenting processes.

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

Project timeline

2022
- Project need and scope confirmed
- Site selection for substation started

2023
- Consultation 1 – substation site selection – May 2023
- Environmental and engineering surveys
- Report on Consultation – December 2023
- Substation detailed design commences – July 2023

2024
- Pre-Application Consultation – first consultation – March 2024
- Environmental Impact Assessment scoping – June 2024
- Environmental and engineering assessment continues
- Pre-Application Consultation – second consultation – June 2024 **WE ARE HERE**
- Environmental Impact Assessment – April- July 2024
- Planning application submitted – late Autumn 2024

2025
- Receive consent decisions
- Agree discharge of conditions if successful planning received

2026
- Proposed construction start

2027
- Construction works ongoing

2028
- Construction works ongoing

2029
- Construction works ongoing

2030
- Full energisation

Feedback

Following submission of our Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) in January 2024, notifying our intentions to apply for planning permission for the new proposed Hurlie substation, the first of two formal pre-application consultation (PAC) events was held at Drumlithie Village Hall on 19 March 2024. A total of 118 members of the public attended.

Events were also held at Stonehaven Bowling Club on 11 March 2024 and Auchenblae Village Hall on 21 March 2024 where we presented information on our proposed substation with 175 and 107 attending respectively. While not advertised as formal PAC events, these were a response to requests from the local communities to extend our consultation.

The feedback from all three events has been included in the analysis and our responses presented here. While the feedback period for Hurlie closed on 30 April 2024, we have continued to receive responses via direct email and through our on-line link. At the time of finalising this booklet, we have received 1,958 responses. While the majority of these relate, and set out clear objections to the Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL, we received 280 community responses which explicitly referred to the proposed substation.

The chart below shows the frequency of issues raised by broad theme, with most responses raising issues relating to environmental and community impacts. The second chart shows the frequency specific issues were raised. 54% raised concerns relating to wider environmental impacts, 53% referred specifically to visual impacts, and 49% concerning effects on health. The need to address undergrounding was referred to in 28% of the responses although this is likely to refer to the proposed overhead line rather than the proposed substation. 27% of respondents challenged the cost benefit assumptions of the Project and 26% commented on our consultation and communication processes.

No responses supported the proposed substation, although several attendees at the consultation event did say they supported the transition to net zero, but not the approach to enabling it.

Figure 1: Hurlie 400kV substation points raised by category

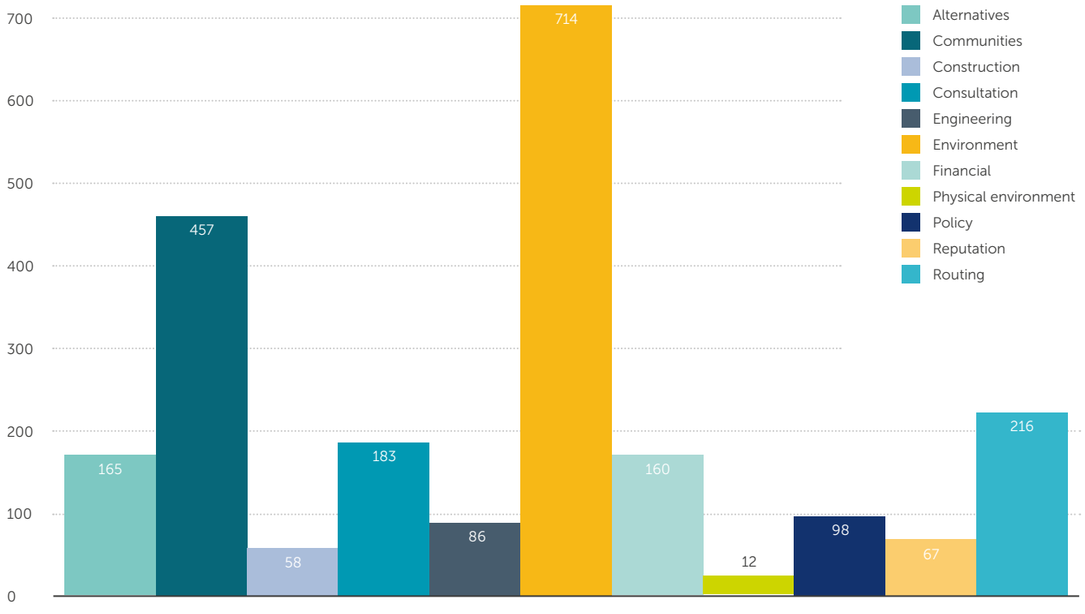
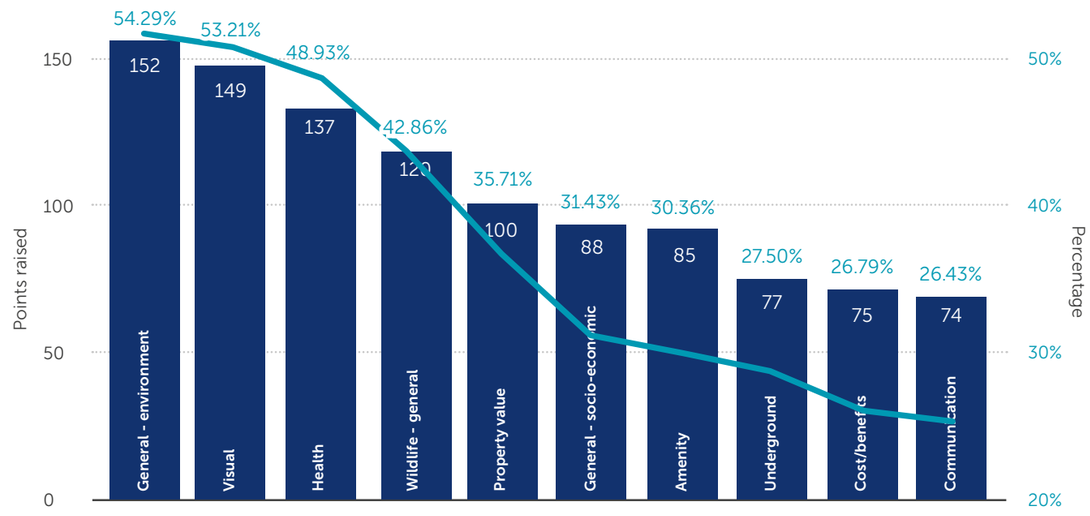


Figure 2: Hurlie 400kV substation most frequently raised points



The community feedback and our responses are set out below.

In addition to community feedback we also received responses from statutory and non-statutory consultees which we also summarise in the section below.

In addition, in the following pages, we also show updates to the substation design, and explain how those have aimed to address the feedback. We also present new information to explain how the construction and development of the substation would likely be progressed and how controls to reduce impacts on the community and environment will be put in place.

Feedback

Feedback from statutory and non-statutory consultees

Our consultation booklet published in April 2024 to support our formal consultation events, was issued to Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Community Councils and various non-statutory consultees.

HES welcomed the fact that the EIA will include an assessment of the impact of the project on designated heritage assets and the inclusion of a cumulative impact assessment. It noted specific heritage assets in the area and pointed to the need for an assessment on the setting of key assets. NatureScot noted the presence of schedule 1 birds in the area and the need to address how disturbance during breeding would be avoided.

In relation to biodiversity enhancement and NPF4 Policy 3, NatureScot encouraged that biodiversity enhancement should be a integral part of the project from the outset.

SEPA welcomed the work undertaken to demonstrate the absence of peat across the site and the objectives in the drainage design to avoid impacts on the Burn of Day, Burn of Baulks and Cowie Water and to avoid introducing a flood risk into the catchment.

No responses were received from Aberdeenshire Council, although it has provided regular feedback in response to the regular engagement we hold with all the statutory consultees. National Gas Transmission advised of the need to ensure we engage with them as the proposals develop to ensure no conflicts with national infrastructure.

That engagement has been ongoing since 2022 and will continue throughout the design and planning processes. Scottish Water confirmed the absence of major assets in the area. Scotways highlighted the presence of the Scottish Hills and Heritage Paths network.

Responses were received from Mearns Community Council (MCC), Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council (CDDCC) and Stonehaven and District Community Council (SDCC), the second and third including specific responses on the proposed substation.

The former raised comments regarding the consultation process and that the views of the community were not being taken into account and expressed its objection to the wider project. CDDCC's comments regarding the proposed substation addressed the potential for future connections to the substation, the impact on woodlands and wildlife and the consultation process. It included the results of a community survey, much of which addressed matters relating to the overhead line, but which demonstrated strong community interest and engagement and opposition to the wider project. SDCC's representations, which included responses to our feedback form, and a separate submission, set out several areas of concern: the consultation process and the need to clarify and consult on possible later projects identified by ESO and other future connections such as battery storage; project need; and concerns about wider environmental impacts relating to noise, construction, impacts on amenity and on wildlife.

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

Feedback and Responses

Event feedback	Response
General environmental impact The potential impact on the wider environment was referred to in over half of the responses.	This is a broad category and many of the specific concerns relating to landscape and visual impact, impacts on wildlife, noise, flooding and construction traffic are addressed separately on this and the following pages. Minimising the environmental impact of the substation has been a key objective from the outset, and a major driver in the site selection process and in the eventual selection of Hurlie, following feedback to our May 2023 consultation on our original preference near Fiddes and as a result of further analysis. Compared to other options that were considered, Hurlie is favoured as having no direct impact on cultural heritage features. It is well screened with very limited visibility from nearby properties, and contained within the landscape. While impacting commercial plantation, it avoids the loss of agricultural land. The forest provides habitat for red squirrel and other species, but the loss of habitat is not extensive and unlikely to impact the health of local bird and mammal communities. It is separated from properties so that noise is very unlikely to be noticeable. Additionally, the risks of flooding to the Stonehaven community will be avoided through the drainage design. While not referenced specifically in the feedback, several attendees at the consultation events raised concerns about the combined impacts of the project with other projects proposed in the area and asked that we share information on other SSEN Transmission projects, even if at much earlier stages. Planned connections to Hurlie substation are listed on page 6. As well as assessing the cumulative impacts of the substation and the proposed 400kV overhead line, the Environmental Impact Assessment will also consider the potential for cumulative impacts arising in combination with other planned connections, where impacts are anticipated. The same is true of other projects in the local area which are summarised on pages 21-23, and the cumulative impact assessment will consider the effects of the substation in combination with other planned developments where they may be combined impacts on receptors over time, and subject to sufficient information on those projects at the time the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is prepared.
Noise While many responses highlighted concerns about the general environmental impact of the proposed substation, several attendees and respondents raised the specific issue of noise, from both the proposed substation and in combination with the proposed overhead line.	The site is already well screened with limited potential for direct lines of sight where noise could be greatest. The nature of the groundcover in the area and its undulating topography will significantly reduce noise exposure to nearly properties. Nevertheless, we are committed to making sure that noise levels experienced by local residents will be no greater than they are today. Specialist acoustic consultants have been appointed to carry out a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment which will predict the levels of noise during construction and once the proposed substation is commissioned and under load, and which will also take into account noise from the proposed overhead line which can be audible in certain weather conditions. Should the assessment suggest that noise will be noticeable at nearby properties, the source of noise will be enclosed and if necessary other measures such as barriers and screens will be incorporated into the design to attenuate noise.

Feedback

Event feedback	Response
Flooding Several attendees at the event highlighted the issue of flooding in Stonehaven and were concerned that the proposed substation would increase the risk.	The proposed substation site sits in the upper catchment of the Cowie Burn, in between the Burn of Day and the head of the Burn of Baulks. It will be a condition of any planning consent that a drainage system is established which will intercept and slow drainage from the substation site. Run off will be reduced at source by the outset by ensuring a permeable substation platform and establishing large areas of natural vegetation which will intercept run off. The drainage design will ensure that the rate and volume of surface drainage across the site is no greater than it is at present. An initial Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken and established that there are no material flood risks associated with the burns in the vicinity of the site. This work will continue and a full Flood Risk Assessment will be presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment together with any mitigation should it be required.
Construction traffic Several attendees and respondents raised concerns about the level of construction traffic coming through west Stonehaven and the impact on pedestrians and other road users. Several attendees pointed out the constraints on Slug Road.	We recognise that construction traffic can be a significant concern to other road users and the wider community, in terms of safety, noise and dust. While we are yet to finalise our assessment, we are examining the feasibility of routing construction traffic from both north and south via the A90 AWPR (Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route), the B9077 Peterculter to Crathes, and from Crathes, via the A957; the intention being to avoid or substantially minimise traffic through west Stonehaven. Peak movements will occur during site establishment when the Contractor is bringing plant and equipment to site. This phase is likely to continue for 12 months. Some deliveries of hardcore will be required at the start to surface the construction compound. A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be one of the many requirements of any planning permission. This will prescribe the routes to be taken by contractors and may restrict the use of some local roads in addition to when deliveries can be made. It would also likely define requirements to undertake repairs in the event of damage to road surfaces, culverts, ditches and verges. A Community Liaison Group would be established by the Contractor to provide a forum to ensure traffic impacts are minimised.

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

Event feedback	Response
Visual impact Many attendees and respondents are concerned about the impact the proposed substation will have on views from their properties. Concerns about visual impact accounted for 53% of all the issues raised by respondents.	Since our last consultation event, together with our engineering and environmental consultants, we have been examining how we can reduce the scale of the proposed substation platform (which would house the new electrical infrastructure). As a result of detailed assessments, we now plan to reduce the platform length from 760m to 685m; the width is likely to remain the same currently at 300m, although further design work is on-going and will continue after the submission of the planning application to reduce the scale of the project further. Apart from the terminal connection towers which will be between 40m and 60m in height, the overall height of the electrical infrastructure will be approximately 14m; with the possibility that a single plant component may be 18m tall, although the need has not been determined. The benefit of the Hurlie site is that it is well screened. The indicative landscape design shown on page 18 provides further detail on the nature and extent of new woodland planting which will aim to screen visibility further. It is expected that the landscape plan will be secured as a condition of the planning consent and the site development will be phased to retain existing trees around the perimeter of the site and to enhance visual screens as material is excavated. The potential impacts of the project on the wider landscape and on visual amenity will be assessed fully in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that will accompany the planning application.
Health and wellbeing The impact of the substation and of the wider overall project on health and mental wellbeing was raised by several attendees at the consultation events and in just under half of all responses received.	We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible to minimise the duration of uncertainly for affected communities. However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed. We understand that everyone may be impacted in different ways and would be interested in residents' views regarding any additional activities that would help to address their specific concerns. Our responses to these topics can be found at **ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs** Our statement on Electric Magnetic Fields (EMFs) can also be found here **ssen-transmission.co.uk/emf**

Feedback

Event feedback	Response
Wildlife A number of respondents questioned the impact the proposed development would have on wildlife.	A key driver in the site selection process was to avoid sites which could impact legally protected and locally designated wildlife sites, and avoid land with a rich biodiversity. While the site is currently commercial plantation, there are pockets of natural habitat. We are aware that there are frequent sightings of red squirrel in Fetteresso forest. Extensive ecological and ornithological surveys of the site and surroundings have been completed to characterise habitats present and to assess and record the likely presence of key species. These will inform the detailed mitigation plans and impact assessments which will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. In addition to the mitigation requirements determined through the impact assessments, we have a company wide commitment to deliver a 10% gain in biodiversity across our major projects. This will be integrated into the proposed development, specifying a diverse range of new wildflower, shrub and tree planting as part of the landscape design. In addition, we are required to compensate for any woodland removal, including of commercial plantation, by securing opportunities for compensatory new planting to ensure no net reduction of woodland.
Property values Several attendees at the event expressed concern about the effect of the proposed substation on the values of their homes and their ability to sell, should they wish to.	We understand that there are concerns about the potential impact of our proposed developments on properties within the vicinity of our proposed overhead line alignments and substations sites. Throughout the development of our proposals at Hurlie, we have engaged with property owners and listened to their concerns on this issue. We will look to mitigate impacts on residential properties as far as possible and these impacts will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. We have carried out extensive surveys at identified receptors, including selected residential properties so that we are able to model potential impacts on the wider area. Concerns in relation to impacts on property are being noted by our team. However, as a regulated business, we are obliged to follow a statutory legal framework under the Electricity Act 1989 and Land Compensation Act 1961. For those entitled to compensation under the legal framework, we will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework. Further information is available here **ssen-transmission.co.uk/landowners-and-occupiers**
Socio-economic impacts Several respondents raised the potential impact of the proposed development on the community and local economy, with the issue referenced in 31% of all responses. As part of wider concerns, specific mention was made to the impact on local tourism businesses.	We are in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives across northern and eastern Scotland. We want to give back to the communities hosting our transmission network and to help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy in those areas. In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, and support local jobs and businesses. Recent studies show our Pathway to 2030 programme could contribute over £6 billion to the UK's economy, support 20,000 jobs across the UK and benefit Scotland by around £2.5 billion, supporting 9,000 Scottish jobs. We typically hold 'Meet the Buyer' events prior to the construction phase to connect our Principal Contractors with local businesses and this has proven to be an effective means of sharing the economic benefits of our projects with local communities. We are also actively seeking opportunities to accommodate our workers in a way that provides a range of local benefits. We have prepared an information pamphlet which describes the benefits we anticipate from our projects and our thinking on how community benefit funding might work. Further information on our proposals is available here: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/legacy-benefits**

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

Event feedback	Response
Amenity Respondents raised concerns about the impact of the project on amenity, citing specific concerns on the project's impact on the network of footpaths and cycle routes through the Forest, and the communities enjoyment of them for recreation and health.	In selecting the best site for the substation, we have sought to balance a range of engineering and technical considerations alongside environmental issues, including landscape and visual, ecology and hydrology together with amenity. While disruption to a number of existing forest tracks which are also used for recreation will occur during the construction phase, the construction access routes created will be retained after construction and will be connected to the existing network of tracks, increasing the availability and choice of cycle and walking routes once construction is complete. It may be necessary to temporarily close or divert some tracks during the construction, in much the same way as forestry operations do at present. Where this is the case, these will be advertised and sign-posted. The Contractor will establish a Community Liaison Group which will be a vehicle to inform and discuss track and road interruptions so that impacts to the community are minimised.
Cost and benefits The issue of costs was mentioned in 27% of the responses received. In most of these cases, attendees and respondents challenged the cost-benefit analysis of the project arguing that project decisions have been based on the cheapest options.	The cost of improving the electricity network is covered by GB consumers. As with the two other Transmission license holders, we have a legal duty to balance cost with environmental, technical and societal factors. We carry out cost-benefit analysis on all projects, and the lowest cost is not always selected. Minimising environmental impact or ensuring technical viability may sometimes outweigh cost factors. At Hurlie for example, the engineering challenges are larger than those at other sites considered, but the environmental and community issues are less constraining. As a regulated business, SSEN Transmission's return on investment is determined by Ofgem's regulations, irrespective of technology choices made.
Consultation process The consultation process adopted was raised in 26% of the responses, a common point being that insufficient information was provided and insufficient time given to communities to respond. Many respondents questioned their ability to influence the project, expressing the opinion that the decision to proceed was already made. Concerns were raised at the absence of consultation by the ESO in defining future energy needs, and how they should be met and the rationale for the wider project.	We are committed to meaningful and constructive engagement with local communities and residents throughout the development process to seek input and feedback into our proposals. As we consult and develop our projects, we aim to be open and transparent with communities, engaging as early as possible to seek input into our early plans. We share our plans in different formats and through different channels and are continuing seeking ways to improve how we share information and seek inputs. We aim to engage as early as possible with the communities where we may have an impact. Our initial engagement in May 2023 aimed to introduce the need for and suggested location of the substation and wider project and explain the rationale for selecting the site. Our Report on Consultation in December 2023 presented our analysis of the feedback to that consultation, specifically the suggestion of Hurlie as an alternative in direct response to consultation feedback. Our formal consultation event in March this year summarised the process followed to select Hurlie and presented our proposals at that stage. We have continued to progress our design and resolve areas of community and environmental impact in the process. Our aims at this point are to share our latest designs, show how they have aimed to address feedback and highlight where design work may continue as we prepare for our planning application. It will be for Aberdeenshire Council to determine how the substation project will proceed. We have prepared a separate handout which explains how the need for the Project has been determined and the role of the ESO which is available here: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030-need**
Future connections While not a widespread concern in written responses, many attending the consultation events sought clarity on other developments connecting into the proposed substation.	Further information is provided on pages 22 and 23 where we set out possible future connection requirements, based on known development proposals, noting that all will be subject to separate consenting processes.

The substation site

About the site

Following our last consultation on the proposed Fiddes substation in May 2023, where we asked for your views regarding several sites, in December 2023, responding to that feedback, we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was a new site in Fetteresso Forest.

Following an assessment of environmental, engineering and cost considerations, the site at Fetteresso (referred to as the "Hurlie" site) was identified as the best balance of all factors, and the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process. It avoids direct impacts on residential properties, has limited interaction with heritage assets, limits likely significant effects on existing land-use and has potentially fewer impacts on landscape character than other candidate sites.

What size is the site

The substation platform as currently proposed would be 685m x 300m. In addition, the proposed development will include the establishment of new landscaping, land for biodiversity enhancement, sustainable urban drainage, construction compound and set-down/equipment and materials storage areas. It will also include upgrades to the existing forestry roads to allow constriction access. While the total site area is yet to be determined, the total area contained within the Proposal of Application Notice boundary is 292 hectares.

What else will the development consist of?

Drainage

Drainage arrangements as part of the substation works will extend out with the existing substation boundary and will be included in the planning application.

Temporary compounds

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

Felling and re-planting

An existing compartment of mainly exotic (non-native), conifer woodland, to the south of the switching station up to the B852 public road will require to be felled for resilience (to remove risk of toppling onto the new development) and re-planted with native broadleaved species. To allow establishment, deer fencing surrounding this compartment will be installed for a duration of approximately 10 years.

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

Overview of key design changes

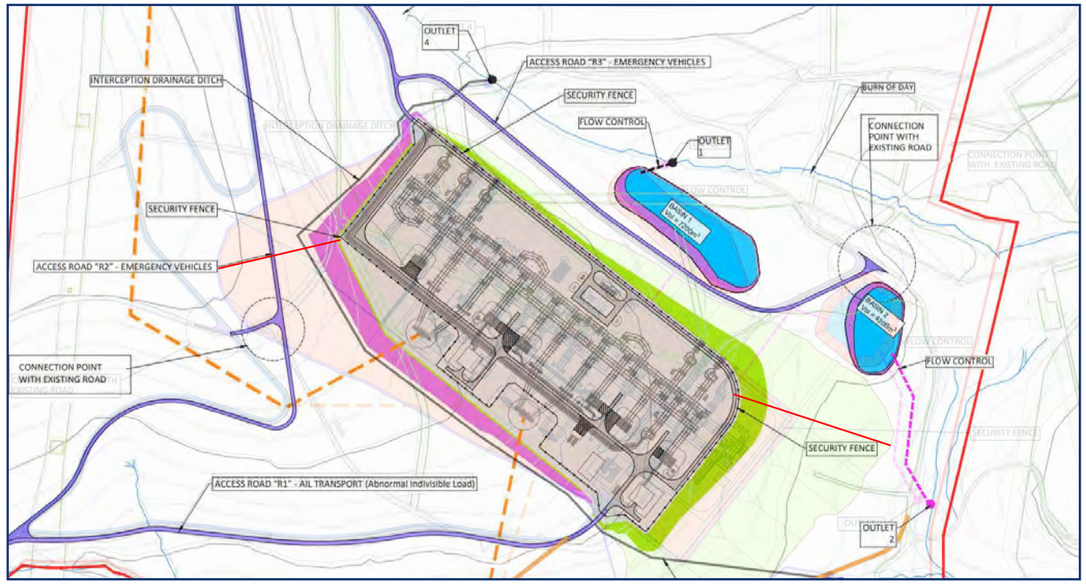


Figure 3: Substation site general arrangement

Substation design

Since our last consultation, we have refined the substation design by reducing its length from 760m to 685m, narrowing the western edge, and rounding the north east corner.
We have substantially reduced the cut at the south western end, which has allowed the eastern toe of the platform to be significantly reduced in extent. As a result we have been able to reduce the overall footprint of the works area from approx. 45ha to just under 24.5ha, a reduction of some 58%. This has allowed us to increase new planting by an equivalent extent.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to test different platform elevations, and orientations, as we seek to optimise the extent of cut, the requirement for fill, the overall footprint and the degree of visibility.

We have rationalised and shortened the internal access tracks, removing the "hairpin" from the westernmost track, and added a new section of track which skirts around the south east corner of the platform before it joins the existing forestry track east of the platform.

No changes to the proposed access arrangements from the A957 are proposed at this stage. Our thinking on access to the site has evolved however, and is described in the construction section on page 19.

Overview of key design changes

Figure 4: Landscape design

Landscape and drainage design

The reduction of the platform toe has allowed the SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage) ponds to be repositioned and reprofiled to a more naturalistic shape more sympathetic to the landscape design. Modifying the site access road west of the platform enables the areas of new woodland block and shrub/scrub planting to be extended. The shrub/scrub planting would now extend further south and along the southern edge of the substation.

The shrub/scrub planting corridor beneath the proposed overhead line connections has been widened in both cases, due to the requirement to limit tree planting beneath the overhead lines. A key change, which results from shortening the platform and the toe, is that it significantly extends the area of new planting eastwards. Of note, the western, north and eastern edges of the platform would now be wrapped in woodland block planting, comprising a mix of deciduous and evergreen species, which will add both biodiversity and strengthen visual screening to what is already a well screened platform as a result of the topography of the site.

The wildflower meadow and wetland habitat around the SuDS ponds would be largely unchanged.

As indicated above, SSEN Transmission has a policy commitment to deliver 10% more biodiversity compared to the baseline condition. At Hurlie, while the site is predominantly immature and mature plantation, there are some pockets of semi natural and natural habitat.

Our biodiversity net gain (BNG) proposals are being developed, but the principal delivery will be through the landscape plan and the diversity of habitat and species mixes that will be delivered as part of the Plan.

Separate and in addition, we are committed to replace all woodland removed as part of our projects. We will therefore ensure that we provide compensatory planting, i.e., at least the equivalent extent of woodland removed. Our proposals for this will be agreed with the landowner.

The construction process

Construction programme and activities

The overall construction programme is three years, with a fourth year required for commissioning and testing. The broad programme and main construction Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) requirements are illustrated below.

Figure 5: Indicative high level construction programme

Activity	Estimated HGV movements/ activity duration	2026				2027				2028				2029			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Mobilisation	20																
Form access road, temporary compound, clear site	220																
Install drainage, form compound	40																
Cut and fill earthworks	60																
Install 75mm whin chip and 225 type one layer over platform	6100																
Permanent Drainage	332																
Services	37																
Substation Roads	270																
Security fencing	15																
Mobilisation	50																
Concrete and Rebar delivery	920																
Delivery of primary equipment and structures	220																
Delivery and installation of transformers	50																
Building steel work and cladding	60																
Installation of secondary equipment and cabling	35																
Commissioning	10																

Construction access

Since our last event, we have examined options for principal construction access which avoid the A957 Slug Road and the residential parts of west Stonehaven.

The likely principal route, which Contractors would be required to follow, from both north and south, would be the A90 AWPR, exiting at the Peterculter Junction, and joining the B9077, then joining the Slug Road at Crathes, and arriving at the principal access to the site from the north. The same route would be proposed to be used for two way construction vehicle movements.

Smaller deliveries may arrive via the Slug Road from the south. It is possible that personnel may access the site (independently or by Contractor arranged transport) from the unclassified Elfhill Road, to the south of the site.

The construction process

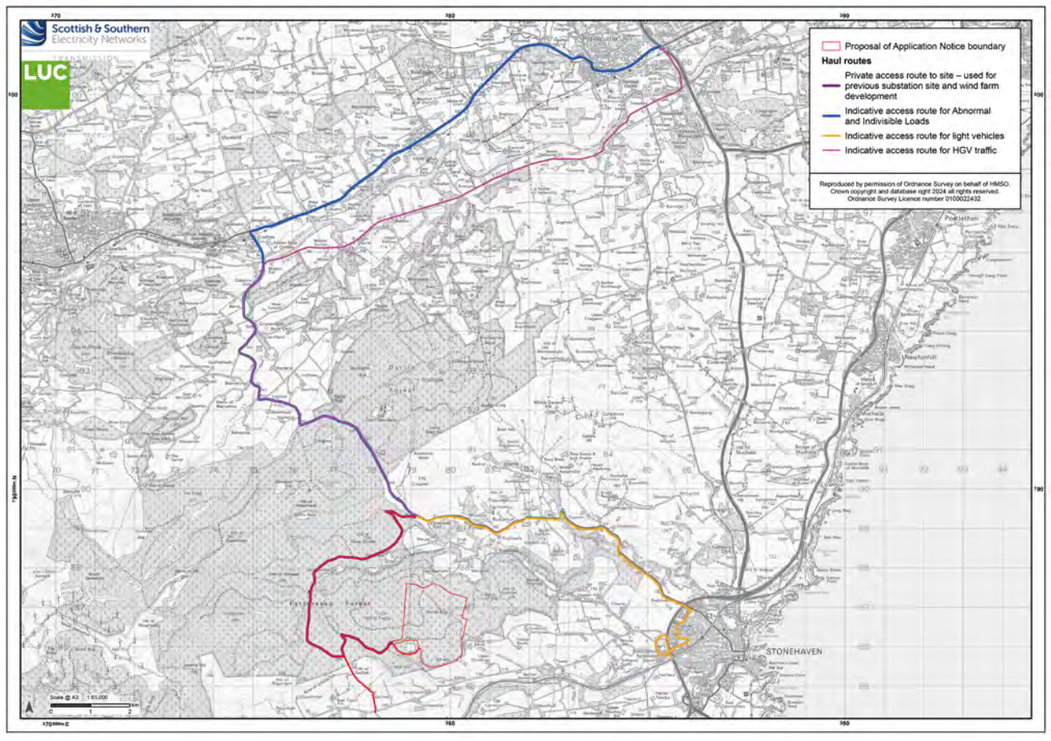


Figure 6: Indicative construction access

Managing impacts during construction

Over several years, we have developed and implemented management plans aimed at avoiding and managing construction environmental impacts. These include an overarching Construction Environmental Management Plan, individual plans to control specific aspects such as noise, dust, construction waste, working near water courses, working in different habitats, and Construction Traffic Management Plans. These will be implemented as a condition of the Principal Construction Contract. In addition, the Contractor will be required to prepare additional plans to cover specific requirements that arise through the EIA process, including a Community Engagement Plan. Effective implementation of all of these will be assured through an independent auditor that we will appoint but which will report to statutory consultees, including the local Community Councils. In that way, the community will have a direct route to ensure we and our Contractors address any issues that adversely affect the community.

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

3D visualisations

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

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

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

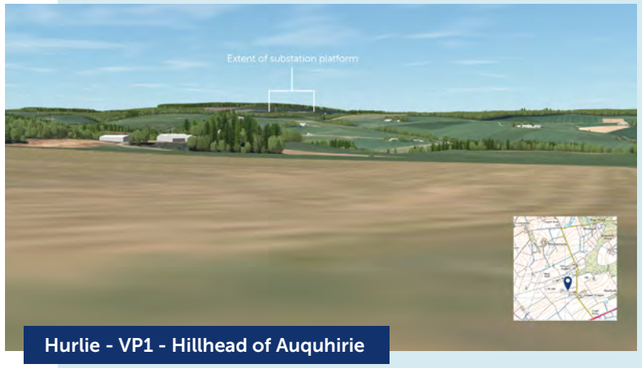
To get a better sense of the proposals in full our consultants, 3D Webtech, will be assisting us at our consultation events with copies of the model that attendees can interact with during the events.

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

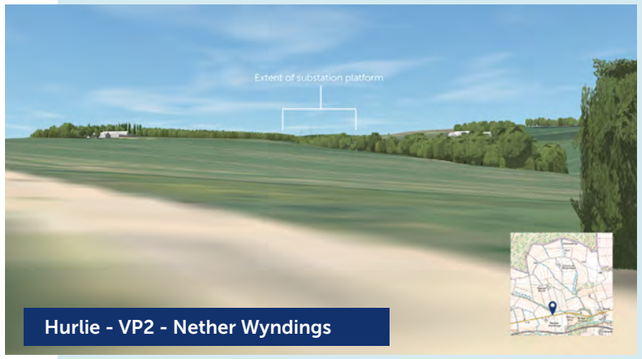
Photomontages

Photomontage visualisations will also be produced as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Once the EIA is completed, we'll ensure these photomontages are easily available to view.



Hurlie - VP1 - Hillhead of Auquhirie



Hurlie - VP2 - Nether Wyndings

Hurlie - VP5 - Minor road west of Kirktown of Fetteresso

Other projects in the local area

Summary of projects

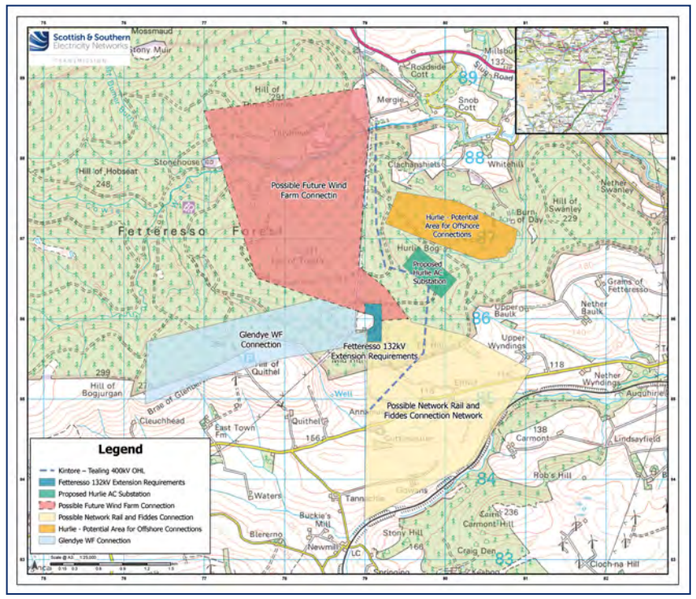
We know that local stakeholders are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in their local area.

Applications from the likes of wind farms to connect to the transmission network are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process before we begin to develop a network connection for developments applying in our license area.

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

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

Figure 7: Other Projects in the area



We have noted the proposals by Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, which is likely to connect to the proposed Hurlie substation. At this time, we are not aware of other third party projects likely to connect to Hurlie.

The area highlighted as potential for offshore connections to Hurlie is indicative only. Both planned offshore connections are at a much earlier stage of development. The area identified in orange is intended to provide an indication of a possible location. This is not a commitment that either of these connections will progress using this area of land.

We are aware of the application to the Energy Consents Unit by Hill of Fare Wind Farm.

While the wind farm connection is yet to be determined, it is likely that SSEN Transmission will provide a connection to the transmission grid via the existing Fetteresso substation or Kintore substation. This has yet to be determined along with a date of connection.

Other SSEN Transmission projects in the local area

Glendye wind farm OHL connection

The Glendye wind farm has received section 36 consent, and we are required to connect the development to the transmission network.

To facilitate this, we are proposing to construct a new steel trident 132kV overhead line from the substation at the wind farm approximately 8km North West of Fettercairn, to the existing Fetteresso substation, 6.5km west of Stonehaven.

The contracted generation of Glendye Wind Farm is c156MW. Route consultations were held in March 2024 with alignment consultations planned for later this year. If consents are awarded, it is anticipated that this project will commence construction in the second half of 2026 with a completion date of late 2028.

You can find out more at the dedicated project website: ssen-transmission.co.uk/glendye

East Coast 400kV upgrade and Fetteressoo 400kV upgrade

The east coast 400kV upgrade project is the second part of the phased onshore reinforcement on the east coast.

The works comprise of re-insulation and re-conductoring of overhead lines between Kintore, Fetteresso, Alyth and Kincardine (in Scottish Power Transmission's area) to 400kV. These works are programmed to complete in 2026.

Part of these works includes the Fetteresso substation 400kV upgrade project. This project is upgrading the current operating voltage of the substation from 275kV to 400kV.

The project consists of upgrading existing equipment, installing new equipment, such as a larger Super Grid Transformer and associated protection and control upgrades to facilitate the increase in voltage. This project is due to commence summer of 2024 and be energised for 2026 along with the 400kV OHL upgrade.

The project is crucial in enabling larger power transmission from north to south Scotland.

You can find out more at the dedicated project websites: ssen-transmission.co.uk/fetteresso-upgrade and ssen-transmission.co.uk/ec400-upgrade

Fetteresso extension and future connections

Due to various upcoming connections, in the area there is a requirement to extend and secure the current Fetteresso 132kV substation. The project consists of a platform extension, earthworks, upgrading equipment, installing transformers including supergrids, additional bays to facilitate all required connections and all associated protection and control upgrades. We are aiming to commence work in summer 2026 and targetting the majority of substation works completed for 2028 with works following depending on the connection requirements.

This extension has a number of drivers including:

- Connection for Network Rail as part the east coast electrification strategy. (Commence in summer 2027 and energised for early 2029).
- Reinforcements and upgrades required on the transmission network to enable contracted connections on the distribution network. (Commence in summer 2026 and conclude for summer 2028)
- Connections back to the existing Fiddes substation as part of asset management and capacity requirements. (Still subject to OFGEM approval. Targetting completion by 2031)
- Potential incoming onshore wind farm. (Subject to accepting a connection agreement. Connection date likely to be post 2030)

These projects are in the early phases of design and development. More information will be available in the near future on the dedicated project website. ssen-transmission.co.uk/fetteressoextension

An overview of the planned works in Fetteresso Forest can be viewed in Figure 7. Please note, all these projects are in various stages of development. The figure shows very indicative corridors based on broad geographical locations that is subject to change through the development process. The ultimate land requirements will be based on the eventual solution but likely a much narrower corridor depending on the number of circuits, capacity and technology used. This is also subject to change depending on the developer activity in the area. All projects will be subject to separate consenting processes when they reached an appropriate stage of development. Further information on these projects can be found in a separate handout, "Future Works - Hurlie and Fetteresso Substations".

Other SSEN Transmission projects in the local area

Offshore grid projects

This project is being developed by SSEN Transmission. The aim of this project is to create an offshore grid network that allows offshore windfarms to connect to the electricity grid network where they generate power i.e. at sea, as opposed to each offshore windfarm having to connect, on an individual basis, back to the onshore electricity grid network.

Technically, the offshore electrical infrastructure is a first for the UK and mirrors similar cutting-edge developments being led by European Transmission Operators. We have been working with subject matter experts, supply chain, developers and the ESO on how this can be achieved. We want to make sure that what we get this right before we consult on the location of this offshore infrastructure.

At this point in time, we expect the offshore grid projects, to consist of:

- An onshore HVDC converter station, which may connect to the proposed Hurlie substation via underground cables.
- Underground cables onshore and subsea cables.
- Offshore electrical transmission infrastructure to provide a grid connection for offshore windfarms.
- Subsea cable from the offshore electrical transmission infrastructure to England.

Onshore electrical transmission infrastructure, which includes a HVDC converter station and underground cables, is required to connect the offshore electrical transmission infrastructure to the onshore electricity grid network.

A HVDC converter station is a site which converts Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC) or DC to AC. AC is how our houses and businesses use electricity from the grid. High Voltage DC (HVDC) is a technology that allows the efficient transmission of large quantities of electricity across long distances, with reduced electrical losses compared to AC.

A HVDC converter station, typically has a footprint of 360 x 290m and the main building could be up to 29m in height.

Most of the equipment would be housed in buildings similar to those depicted in the image below.

The onshore electrical infrastructure required for this project is more defined than the offshore electrical infrastructure at this time. However, we want to share what we do know about our future project, at the earliest opportunity.

Please note that this project is in the early stages of development, and that we will be holding public consultation events, dedicated to the offshore grids projects in Autumn 2024 and early 2025.

At these events, we will provide further information about this project and we will be seeking your thoughts and opinions on our plans. If you have any comments or questions please contact **OffshoreGridProjects@sse.com.**

The 320kV DC 1200MW Blackhillock HVDC converter station

Hurlie 400kV substation pre-application consultation feedback event

Have your say

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

The feedback period

We intend to submit our planning application in late Autumn 2024. Our formal feedback period will close on 23 July 2024, however we will welcome final comments and from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders regarding our proposals until we submit our planning application.

How to provide feedback

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

What we're seeking views on

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

We are now asking for any final comments or feedback ahead of submitting planning applications for the Hurlie 400kV substation project. It would be helpful to share any opportunities to deliver a local community benefit you would like us to consider.

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

Our Community Liaison Team

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

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

Community Liaison Manager

Rhiannon Merritt
Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission,
10 Henderson Road,
Inverness, IV1 1SN

E: TKUP@sse.com

Additional information

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

You can also follow us on social media

SSEN-Transmission

SSETransmission

Recite me

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

Please select "Accessibility" on our website to try out our inclusive toolbar.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Future works: Hurlie and Fetteresso substations

Supplementary hand out

June 2024

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

Applications from the likes of wind farms to connect to the transmission network are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process before we begin to develop a network connection for developments applying in our license area.

We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain. A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: **nationalgrideso.com/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register**

SSEN Transmission and commercial developer projects (the latter over which SSEN Transmission has no influence) are at various stages of feasibility testing and development. Figure 1 shows indicative corridors reflecting the wide areas of study within which these possible projects may be routed or located. These areas of study will be subject to refinement through individual project development processes. The ultimate land requirements will be determined through an iterative process of environmental and technical analysis taking into account factors such as proximity to properties, the potential for impacting views and amenity, wider landscape character, habitats and species, and the presence of features of historic interest, and the eventual project requirements such as the number of circuits, capacity and technology, which could be subject to change depending on individual developer activity in the area. In all cases, the development process will include—and in some cases is already including—consultation with the community and other stakeholders. Each project would be subject to separate consentingb processes at the appropriate stage.

The area highlighted orange in Figure 1 as a Potential Area for Offshore Connections is very much indicative. The two possible offshore connection projects, offshore grids which would be taken forward by SSEN Transmission and Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm which is a commercial development, are at very early stages of development. The area highlighted is intended to show where future infrastructure could be located, but this is subject to further development activities. Connection route and site selection studies are on-going and unlikely to be concluded before we submit our planning application. Both offshore projects would require connections from the coast. It is likely that these will be underground, but the possible routes they may follow are yet to be determined and will be subject to separate route selection processes, on which the offshore grids project team and Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Project will consult in the future.

We are aware, as a result of our relationship in the area, of a number of possible projects being promoted by commercial developers, although we are not aware of any connection applications. Communities should note that land rights, development consent and a connection agreement are not inter-dependant. A developer can have one or all three, depending on the stage of their project. In addition, SSEN Transmission, as the high voltage (132kV and above) operator, is not automatically notified of potential developments seeking connections at the lower distribution voltage (33kV or below and/or less than 50MW).

Works in construction: east coast 400kV upgrade and Fetteresso 400kV upgrade

The east coast 400kV upgrade project is the second part of the phased onshore reinforcement on the east coast.

This project involves installing uprated conductors between Kintore, Fetteresso, Alyth and Kincardine (in Scottish Power Transmission's area) increasing the voltages these existing overhead lines are carrying from 275kV to 400kV. These works are programmed to complete in 2026.

Part of these works includes the Fetteresso substation 400kV upgrade project. The work consists of upgrading existing equipment, installing new equipment, such as a larger Super Grid Transformer and installing associated protection and control upgrades to facilitate the increase in voltage from 275kV to 400kV.

This project is due to commence in the summer of 2024 and be completed by 2026.

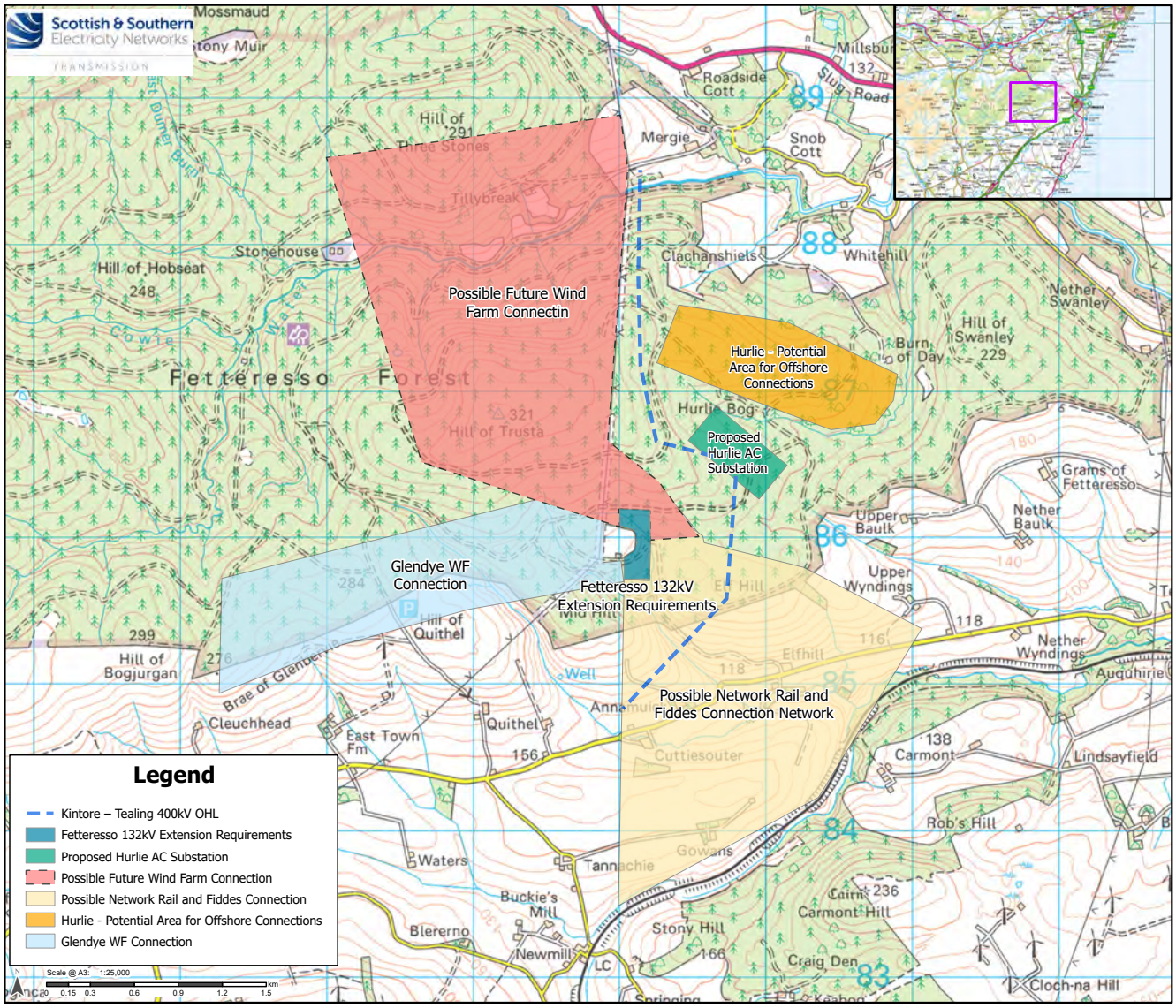
In addition, both these projects will require the creation of new access tracks and upgrade of existing accesses to facilitate the works.

You can find out more at the dedicated project websites:

ssen-transmission.co.uk/fetteresso-upgrade

ssen-transmission.co.uk/ec400-upgrade

Figure 1. Future possible projects in Fetteresso Forest



Scope and key dates

Project name	Scope	Driver	Key dates
Glendye wind farm connection	In order to meet the connection requirements of the commercial wind farm, SSEN Transmission is seeking to develop a new 132kV overhead line. The new line, which is approximately 20km and would comprise a new 132kV single circuit supported by steel trident poles would connect into the existing Fetteresso substation from the south west. The final 1km would be installed underground to avoid existing infrastructure. The line and cable route would require the permanent removal of an 80m wide strip of existing woodland along its length. The transition from OHL to underground cable will require a cable sealing end which is a multipole structure of similar height to the trident poles, 14–18m, in an area of hardstanding.	Developer connection for 156MW wind farm	Consent submission: Q4 2024/Q1 2025 Construction start: Q3/4 2026 Construction finish: Q4 2028
Fetteresso 132kV substation extension	The project involves extending the eastern end of the existing substation platform to the north and/or south, by approximately 45m, to accommodate a new 132kV double busbar. The project will involve earthworks to form the platform extension, new 400kV and 132kV transformers, additional bays to facilitate all required connections and all associated protection and control upgrades.	Network reinforcements due to an increased number of developer connections including Glendye, Network Rail and possible local connections triggering transmission upgrades. Also required to provide security to the Network Rail connection to ensure secure, reliable supply for the electrified train network.	Consent submission: Q4 2024/Q1 2025 Construction start: Q3/4 2026 Construction finish: Q4 2028 Some works ongoing to 2029
Network Rail Drumlithie	The project involves installing two new transformers on the newly extended platform at Fetteresso substation, which would be dedicated to Network Rail. It also requires two cable connections to rail feeder stations near the railway line. Likely connection will go towards the railway in a south east direction. It may require a small building to be erected within the substation compound to house the protection equipment.	Developer connection. Part of the Network Rail east coast main line electrification. This is a demand connection and draws power from the grid.	Consent submission: Q4 2025/Q1 2026 Construction start: Q3/4 2027 Construction finish: Q1 2029

Project name	Scope	Driver	Key dates
Future wind farm connection	We are aware of a new proposed wind farm to the north of Fetteresso. If this results in a connection agreement to Fetteresso, it is likely that the connection would be similar to Glendye, comprising a single circuit 132KV overhead line with a short section of underground cable at the approach to the substation. This connection is not contracted, however.	Developer connection	TBC
Fiddes 132kV replacement	There is a possible requirement to install a new double circuit 132KV connection from the existing Fiddes substation to the existing/ upgraded Fetteresso substation. This would also require new higher capacity transformers to be installed, possibly at or near the existing Fiddes substation. This would also result in the partial decommissioning and removal of some equipment at the existing Fiddes substation.	This project is still subject to OFGEM approval and is one of several potential options to provide a replacement for the existing Fiddes substation which is at capacity and approaching the end of its operating capabilities.	TBC
SSEN Transmission offshore grids project	The aim of this project is to create an offshore grid network. At present, the onshore element of electrical infrastructure, is likely to include: • An onshore HVDC converter station, which may connect to the proposed Hurlie substation via underground cables to be situated within the vicinity of Hurlie substation • Approximate converter dimensions - 360m x 290m x 29m (LxWxH) • Underground cables from the coast to the HVDC Converter station	Wider 2030 ASTI upgrades	TBC

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Visit our project webpages:

Fetteresso 400kV upgrade

ssen-transmission.co.uk/fetteresso-upgrade

Hurlie 400kV substation

ssen-transmission.co.uk/ec400-upgrade

ssen-transmission.co.uk @ssentransmission @SSETransmission

APPENDIX I: INFORMATION BANNERS EVENT 2

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

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Powering change together

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

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

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

We all have a part to play

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more

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

Who we are

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

What we do

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

Working with you

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

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

ssen-transmission.co.uk/hurlie

TKUP@sse.com

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The Pathway to 2030

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

Achieving net zero

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

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

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices. The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

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

This sets out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that's required to support the forecasted growth in the UK's renewable electricity. It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.

What does this mean for you?

The East of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The extensive studies that informed the ESO's Pathway to 2030 HND confirmed the requirement to increase the power transfer capacity of the onshore corridor from Kintore to Tealing.

As part of these plans, we're proposing to build a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing. This also requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed in Fetteresso Forest and at Tealing to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand. In addition, two of the existing 275kV OHLs out of the existing Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield require upgrades to 400kV operation and to be connected to the proposed new Emmock 400kV site near Tealing.

These five projects, collectively called Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects, are seen as critical to enable the delivery of the UK and Scottish Government's targets.

These five projects are:

- Kintore - Tealing 400kV OHL
- Hurlie 400kV substation
- Emmock 400kV substation
- Alyth - Tealing 400kV upgrade
- Tealing - Westfield 400kV upgrade

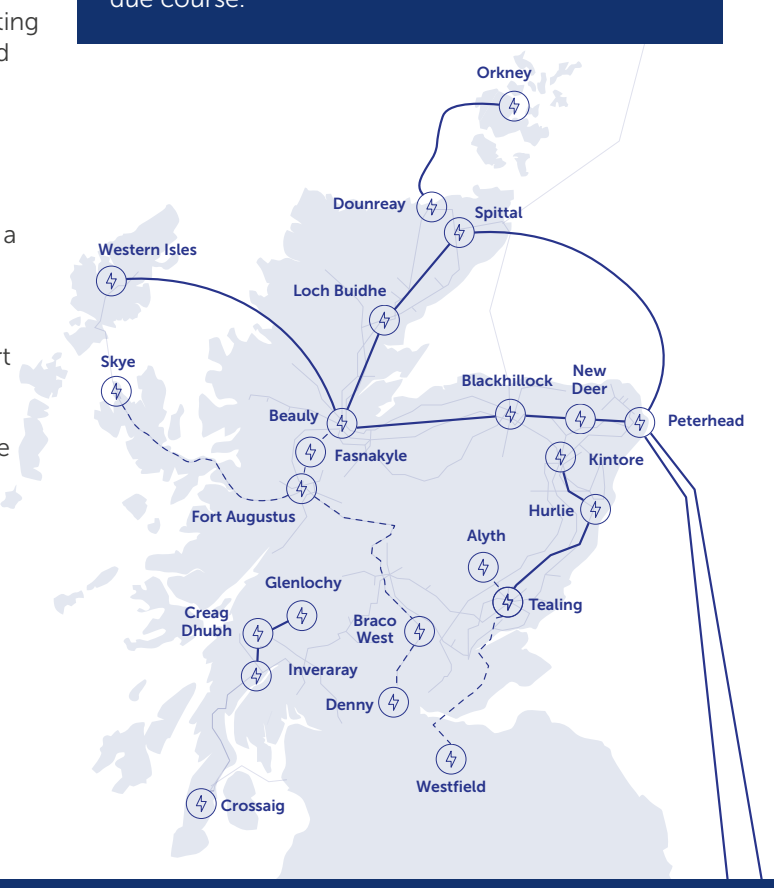
Future network investment requirements

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

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

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO's, 'Beyond 2030' report, published in March this year. For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets.

These projects, which will be subject to extensive public consultation, are at the very early stages of development and further details will be set out in due course.



ssen-transmission.co.uk/hurlie

TKUP@sse.com

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

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Project overview

We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure, and quickly.

The new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing

Based on the requirements outlined in National Grid ESO's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design we have developed proposals to reinforce the transmission system. As part of this we are proposing to establish a new 400kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing. ssen-transmission.co.uk/tkup

This requires two new 400kV substations to be constructed to connect to this new OHL, one at Fetteresso Forest in Aberdeenshire and one near the village of Tealing in Angus to enable required future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, two existing OHLs out of Tealing substation to Alyth and Westfield in Fife will be upgraded to operate at 400kV and connected into the new proposed Emmock 400kV substation.

While they have been presented in combined consultation events in May last year, they are separate projects and will be progressed through separate consenting processes

Hurlie 400kV substation

This consultation is focused on the new 400kV substation in Aberdeenshire which will be known as Hurlie, as part of the Kintore to Tealing 400kV projects.

Feedback to our previous consultation, which was held in May 2023, resulted in a review of our original proposed site at Fiddes. Following detailed assessment of environmental, technical and engineering/cost factors, a new location in Fetteresso Forest has been selected as the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process.

The new proposed Hurlie substation will be an outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), 400kV substation with approximate dimensions of 685m x 300m with height up to 14.3m, not including the groundworks required to create a level platform.

A single storey control building (maximum height 7m) which contains ancillary equipment will be required to operate the substation including control panels and low voltage AC and DC systems.

Currently, the tallest equipment in the substation will be the busbar at approximately 14.5m.

There may be a requirement in the future that the proposed reactors are replaced with larger network stability equipment which can be up to 18m tall with a footprint of approximately 95m x 45m

The design covers a range of considerations, including:

- Plant and equipment required for current network plans.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
- Permanent and temporary access roads.
- Temporary areas required during construction for laydown and welfare.

Planned connections to Hurlie

The following proposed new electricity transmission infrastructure will require a connection to the new Hurlie substation:

- The proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL connection. This will comprise an OHL from the south, from Tealing and an OHL from the north, from Kintore.
- A connection by Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm. The Developer is expected to locate its own, separate substation in the vicinity of the proposed Hurlie substation. It is likely that an underground cable will connect the Developers' substation with Hurlie substation.
- A connection to the Offshore Grids Projects. This is an SSEN Transmission project. Please refer to Other SSEN Transmission projects in the local area section of this booklet.

All of the above connections are subject to separate consultation and consenting processes.

ssen-transmission.co.uk/hurlie

TKUP@sse.com

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Project timeline

2022
- Project need and scope confirmed
- Site selection for substation started

2023
- Consultation 1 – substation site selection – May 2023
- Environmental and engineering surveys
- Report on Consultation – December 2023
- Substation detailed design commences – July 2023

2024
- Pre-Application Consultation – first consultation – March 2024
- Environmental Impact Assessment scoping – June 2024
- Environmental and engineering assessment continues
- Pre-Application Consultation – second consultation – June 2024
- Environmental Impact Assessment – April- July 2024
- Planning application submitted – late Autumn 2024

WE ARE HERE

2025
- Receive consent decisions
- Agree discharge of conditions if successful planning received

2026
- Proposed construction start

2027
- Construction works ongoing

2028
- Construction works ongoing

2029
- Construction works ongoing

2030
- Full energisation

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Feedback

Following submission of our Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) in January 2024, notifying our intentions to apply for planning permission for the new proposed Hurlie substation, the first of two formal pre-application consultation (PAC) events was held at Drumlithie Village Hall on 19 March 2024. A total of 118 members of the public attended.

Events were also held at Stonehaven Bowling Club on 11 March 2024 and Auchenblae Village Hall on 21 March 2024 where we presented information on our proposed substation with 175 and 107 attending respectively. While not advertised as formal PAC events, these were a response to requests from the local communities to extend our consultation.

The feedback from all three events has been included in the analysis and our responses presented here. While the feedback period for Hurlie closed on 30 April 2024, we have continued to receive responses via direct email and through our on-line link. At the time of finalising this booklet, we have received 1,958 responses. While the majority of these relate, and set out clear objections to the Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL, we received 280 community responses which explicitly referred to the proposed substation.

The chart below shows the frequency of issues raised by broad theme, with most responses raising issues relating to environmental and community impacts. The second chart shows the frequency specific issues were raised. 54% raised concerns relating to wider environmental impacts, 53% referred specifically to visual impacts, and 49% concerning effects on health. The need to address undergrounding was referred to in 28% of the responses although this is likely to refer to the proposed overhead line rather than the proposed substation. 27% of respondents challenged the cost benefit assumptions of the Project and 26% commented on our consultation and communication processes.

No responses supported the proposed substation, although several attendees at the consultation event did say they supported the transition to net zero, but not the approach to enabling it.

Figure 1: Hurlie 400kV substation points raised by category

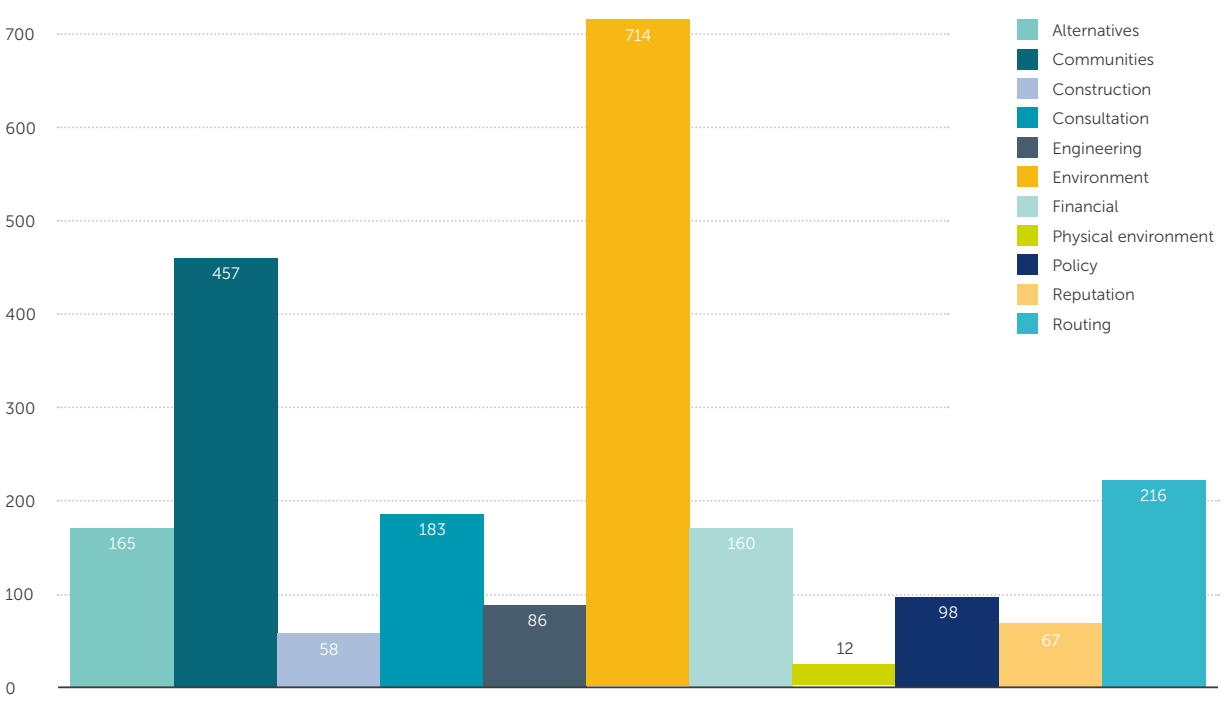
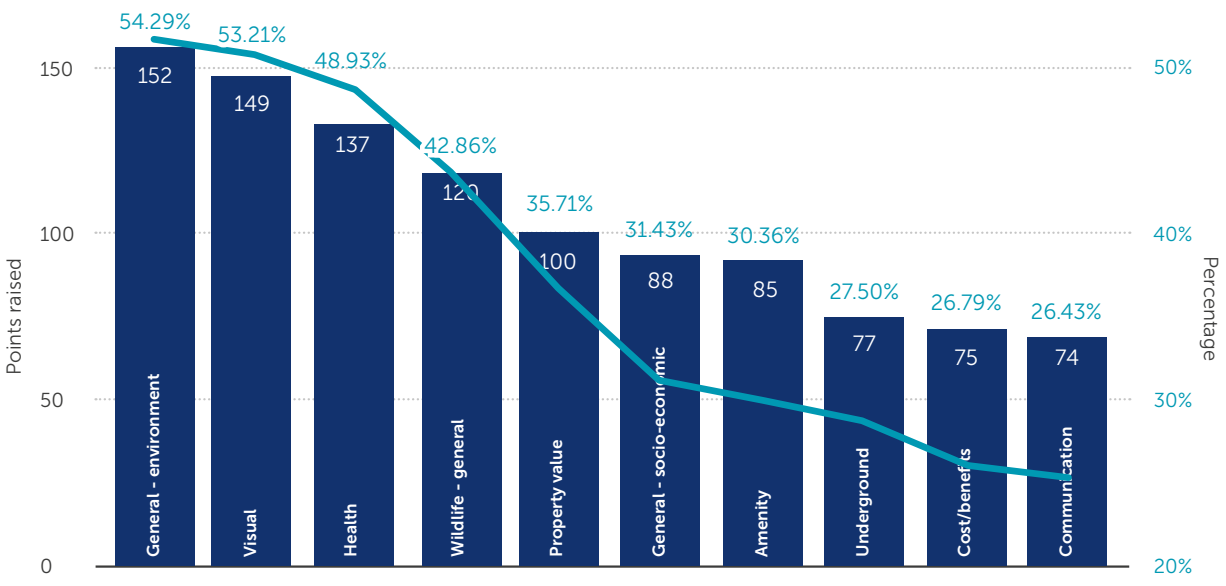


Figure 2: Hurlie 400kV substation most frequently raised points



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Feedback

The community feedback and our responses are set out below.

In addition to community feedback we also received responses from statutory and non-statutory consultees which we also summarise in the section below.

In addition, in the following pages, we also show updates to the substation design, and explain how those have aimed to address the feedback. We also present new information to explain how the construction and development of the substation would likely be progressed and how controls to reduce impacts on the community and environment will be put in place.

Feedback from statutory and non-statutory consultees

Our consultation booklet published in April 2024 to support our formal consultation events, was issued to Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Community Councils and various non-statutory consultees.

HES welcomed the fact that the EIA will include an assessment of the impact of the project on designated heritage assets and the inclusion of a cumulative impact assessment. It noted specific heritage assets in the area and pointed to the need for an assessment on the setting of key assets. NatureScot noted the presence of schedule 1 birds in the area and the need to address how disturbance during breeding would be avoided.

In relation to biodiversity enhancement and NPF4 Policy 3, NatureScot encouraged that biodiversity enhancement should be a integral part of the project from the outset.

SEPA welcomed the work undertaken to demonstrate the absence of peat across the site and the objectives in the drainage design to avoid impacts on the Burn of Day, Burn of Baulks and Cowie Water and to avoid introducing a flood risk into the catchment.

No responses were received from Aberdeenshire Council, although it has provided regular feedback in response to the regular engagement we hold with all the statutory consultees. National Gas Transmission advised of the need to ensure we engage with them as the proposals develop to ensure no conflicts with national infrastructure.

That engagement has been ongoing since 2022 and will continue throughout the design and planning processes. Scottish Water confirmed the absence of major assets in the area. Scotways highlighted the presence of the Scottish Hills and Heritage Paths network.

Responses were received from Mearns Community Council (MCC), Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council (CDDCC) and Stonehaven and District Community Council (SDCC), the second and third including specific responses on the proposed substation.

The former raised comments regarding the consultation process and that the views of the community were not being taken into account and expressed its objection to the wider project. CDDCC's comments regarding the proposed substation addressed the potential for future connections to the substation, the impact on woodlands and wildlife and the consultation process.

It included the results of a community survey, much of which addressed matters relating to the overhead line, but which demonstrated strong community interest and engagement and opposition to the wider project.

SDCC's representations, which included responses to our feeback form, and a separate submission, set out several areas of concern: the consultation process and the need to clarify and consult on possible later projects identified by ESO and other future connections such as battery storage; project need; and concerns about wider environmental impacts relating to noise, construction, impacts on amenity and on wildlife.

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Feedback

Event feedback	Response
General environmental impact The potential impact on the wider environment was referred to in over half of the responses.	This is a broad category and many of the specific concerns relating to landscape and visual impact, impacts on wildlife, noise, flooding and construction traffic are addressed separately on this and the following pages. Minimising the environmental impact of the substation has been a key objective from the outset, and a major driver in the site selection process and in the eventual selection of Hurlie, following feedback to our May 2023 consultation on our original preference near Fiddes and as a result of further analysis. Compared to other options that were considered, Hurlie is favoured as having no direct impact on cultural heritage features. It is well screened with very limited visibility from nearby properties, and contained within the landscape. While impacting commercial plantation, it avoids the loss of agricultural land. The forest provides habitat for red squirrel and other species, but the loss of habitat is not extensive and unlikely to impact the health of local bird and mammal communities. It is separated from properties so that noise is very unlikely to be noticeable. Additionally, the risks of flooding to the Stonehaven community will be avoided through the drainage design. While not referenced specifically in the feedback, several attendees at the consultation events raised concerns about the combined impacts of the project with other projects proposed in the area and asked that we share information on other SSEN Transmission projects, even if at much earlier stages. Planned connections to Hurlie substation are listed on page 6. As well as assessing the cumulative impacts of the substation and the proposed 400kV overhead line, the Environmental Impact Assessment will also consider the potential for cumulative impacts arising in combination with other planned connections, where impacts are anticipated. The same is true of other projects in the local area which are summarised on pages 21-23, and the cumulative impact assessment will consider the effects of the substation in combination with other planned developments where they may be combined impacts on receptors over time, and subject to sufficient information on those projects at the time the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is prepared.
Noise While many responses highlighted concerns about the general environmental impact of the proposed substation, several attendees and respondents raised the specific issue of noise, from both the proposed substation and in combination with the proposed overhead line.	The site is already well screened with limited potential for direct lines of sight where noise could be greatest. The nature of the groundcover in the area and its undulating topography will significantly reduce noise exposure to nearly properties. Nevertheless, we are committed to making sure that noise levels experienced by local residents will be no greater than they are today. Specialist acoustic consultants have been appointed to carry out a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment which will predict the levels of noise during construction and once the proposed substation is commissioned and under load, and which will also take into account noise from the proposed overhead line which can be audible in certain weather conditions. Should the assessment suggest that noise will be noticeable at nearby properties, the source of noise will be enclosed and if necessary other measures such as barriers and screens will be incorporated into the design to attenuate noise.

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Feedback

Event feedback	Response
Flooding Several attendees at the event highlighted the issue of flooding in Stonehaven and were concerned that the proposed substation would increase the risk.	The proposed substation site sits in the upper catchment of the Cowie Burn, in between the Burn of Day and the head of the Burn of Baulks. It will be a condition of any planning consent that a drainage system is established which will intercept and slow drainage from the substation site. Run off will be reduced at source by the outset by ensuring a permeable substation platform and establishing large areas of natural vegetation which will intercept run off. The drainage design will ensure that the rate and volume of surface drainage across the site is no greater than it is at present. An initial Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken and established that there are no material flood risks associated with the burns in the vicinity of the site. This work will continue and a full Flood Risk Assessment will be presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment together with any mitigation should it be required.
Construction traffic Several attendees and respondents raised concerns about the level of construction traffic coming through west Stonehaven and the impact on pedestrians and other road users. Several attendees pointed out the constraints on Slug Road.	We recognise that construction traffic can be a significant concern to other road users and the wider community, in terms of safety, noise and dust. While we are yet to finalise our assessment, we are examining the feasibility of routing construction traffic from both north and south via the A90 AWPR (Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route), the B9077 Peterculter to Crathes, and from Crathes, via the A957; the intention being to avoid or substantially minimise traffic through west Stonehaven. Peak movements will occur during site establishment when the Contractor is bringing plant and equipment to site. This phase is likely to continue for 12 months. Some deliveries of hardcore will be required at the start to surface the construction compound. A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be one of the many requirements of any planning permission. This will prescribe the routes to be taken by contractors and may restrict the use of some local roads in addition to when deliveries can be made. It would also likely define requirements to undertake repairs in the event of damage to road surfaces, culverts, ditches and verges. A Community Liaison Group would be established by the Contractor to provide a forum to ensure traffic impacts are minimised.
Visual impact Many attendees and respondents are concerned about the impact the proposed substation will have on views from their properties. Concerns about visual impact accounted for 53% of all the issues raised by respondents.	Since our last consultation event, together with our engineering and environmental consultants, we have been examining how we can reduce the scale of the proposed substation platform (which would house the new electrical infrastructure). As a result of detailed assessments, we now plan to reduce the platform length from 760m to 685m; the width is likely to remain the same currently at 300m, although further design work is on-going and will continue after the submission of the planning application to reduce the scale of the project further. Apart from the terminal connection towers which will be between 40m and 60m in height, the overall height of the electrical infrastructure will be approximately 14m; with the possibility that a single plant component may be 18m tall, although the need has not been determined. The benefit of the Hurlie site is that it is well screened. The indicative landscape design shown on page 18 provides further detail on the nature and extent of new woodland planting which will aim to screen visibility further. It is expected that the landscape plan will be secured as a condition of the planning consent and the site development will be phased to retain existing trees around the perimeter of the site and to enhance visual screens as material is excavated. The potential impacts of the project on the wider landscape and on visual amenity will be assessed fully in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that will accompany the planning application.

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Feedback

Event feedback	Response
Health and wellbeing The impact of the substation and of the wider overall project on health and mental wellbeing was raised by several attendees at the consultation events and in just under half of all responses received.	We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible to minimise the duration of uncertainly for affected communities. However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed. We understand that everyone may be impacted in different ways and would be interested in residents' views regarding any additional activities that would help to address their specific concerns. Our responses to these topics can be found at **ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs** Our statement on Electric Magnetic Fields (EMFs) can also be found here **ssen-transmission.co.uk/emf**
Wildlife A number of respondents questioned the impact the proposed development would have on wildlife.	A key driver in the site selection process was to avoid sites which could impact legally protected and locally designated wildlife sites, and avoid land with a rich biodiversity. While the site is currently commercial plantation, there are pockets of natural habitat. We are aware that there are frequent sightings of red squirrel in Fetteresso forest. Extensive ecological and ornithological surveys of the site and surroundings have been completed to characterise habitats present and to assess and record the likely presence of key species. These will inform the detailed mitigation plans and impact assessments which will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. In addition to the mitigation requirements determined through the impact assessments, we have a company wide commitment to deliver a 10% gain in biodiversity across our major projects. This will be integrated into the proposed development, specifying a diverse range of new wildflower, shrub and tree planting as part of the landscape design. In addition, we are required to compensate for any woodland removal, including of commercial plantation, by securing opportunities for compensatory new planting to ensure no net reduction of woodland.
Property values Several attendees at the event expressed concern about the effect of the proposed substation on the values of their homes and their ability to sell, should they wish to.	We understand that there are concerns about the potential impact of our proposed developments on properties within the vicinity of our proposed overhead line alignments and substations sites. Throughout the development of our proposals at Hurlie, we have engaged with property owners and listened to their concerns on this issue. We will look to mitigate impacts on residential properties as far as possible and these impacts will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. We have carried out extensive surveys at identified receptors, including selected residential properties so that we are able to model potential impacts on the wider area. Concerns in relation to impacts on property are being noted by our team. However, as a regulated business, we are obliged to follow a statutory legal framework under the Electricity Act 1989 and Land Compensation Act 1961. For those entitled to compensation under the legal framework, we will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework. Further information is available here ssen-transmission.co.uk/landowners-and-occupiers

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Feedback

Event feedback	Response
Socio-economic impacts Several respondents raised the potential impact of the proposed development on the community and local economy, with the issue referenced in 31% of all responses. As part of wider concerns, specific mention was made to the impact on local tourism businesses.	We are in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives across northern and eastern Scotland. We want to give back to the communities hosting our transmission network and to help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy in those areas. In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, and support local jobs and businesses. Recent studies show our Pathway to 2030 programme could contribute over £6 billion to the UK's economy, support 20,000 jobs across the UK and benefit Scotland by around £2.5 billion, supporting 9,000 Scottish jobs. We typically hold 'Meet the Buyer' events prior to the construction phase to connect our Principal Contractors with local businesses and this has proven to be an effective means of sharing the economic benefits of our projects with local communities. We are also actively seeking opportunities to accommodate our workers in a way that provides a range of local benefits. We have prepared an information pamphlet which describes the benefits we anticipate from our projects and our thinking on how community benefit funding might work. Further information on our proposals is available here: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/legacy-benefits**
Amenity Respondents raised concerns about the impact of the project on amenity, citing specific concerns on the project's impact on the network of footpaths and cycle routes through the Forest, and the communities enjoyment of them for recreation and health.	In selecting the best site for the substation, we have sought to balance a range of engineering and technical considerations alongside environmental issues, including landscape and visual, ecology and hydrology together with amenity. While disruption to a number of existing forest tracks which are also used for recreation will occur during the construction phase, the construction access routes created will be retained after construction and will be connected to the existing network of tracks, increasing the availability and choice of cycle and walking routes once construction is complete. It may be necessary to temporarily close or divert some tracks during the construction, in much the same way as forestry operations do at present. Where this is the case, these will be advertised and sign-posted. The Contractor will establish a Community Liaison Group which will be a vehicle to inform and discuss track and road interruptions so that impacts to the community are minimised.
Cost and benefits The issue of costs was mentioned in 27% of the responses received. In most of these cases, attendees and respondents challenged the cost-benefit analysis of the project arguing that project decisions have been based on the cheapest options.	The cost of improving the electricity network is covered by GB consumers. As with the two other Transmission license holders, we have a legal duty to balance cost with environmental, technical and societal factors. We carry out cost-benefit analysis on all projects, and the lowest cost is not always selected. Minimising environmental impact or ensuring technical viability may sometimes outweigh cost factors. At Hurlie for example, the engineering challenges are larger than those at other sites considered, but the environmental and community issues are less constraining. As a regulated business, SSEN Transmission's return on investment is determined by Ofgem's regulations, irrespective of technology choices made.

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Feedback

Event feedback	Response
Consultation process The consultation process adopted was raised in 26% of the responses, a common point being that insufficient information was provided and insufficient time given to communities to respond. Many respondents questioned their ability to influence the project, expressing the opinion that the decision to proceed was already made. Concerns were raised at the absence of consultation by the ESO in defining future energy needs, and how they should be met and the rationale for the wider project.	We are committed to meaningful and constructive engagement with local communities and residents throughout the development process to seek input and feedback into our proposals. As we consult and develop our projects, we aim to be open and transparent with communities, engaging as early as possible to seek input into our early plans. We share our plans in different formats and through different channels and are continuing seeking ways to improve how we share information and seek inputs. We aim to engage as early as possible with the communities where we may have an impact. Our initial engagement in May 2023 aimed to introduce the need for and suggested location of the substation and wider project and explain the rationale for selecting the site. Our Report on Consultation in December 2023 presented our analysis of the feedback to that consultation, specifically the suggestion of Hurlie as an alternative in direct response to consultation feedback. Our formal consultation event in March this year summarised the process followed to select Hurlie and presented our proposals at that stage. We have continued to progress our design and resolve areas of community and environmental impact in the process. Our aims at this point are to share our latest designs, show how they have aimed to address feedback and highlight where design work may continue as we prepare for our planning application. It will be for Aberdeenshire Council to determine how the substation project will proceed. We have prepared a separate handout which explains how the need for the Project has been determined and the role of the ESO which is available here: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030-need**
Future connections While not a widespread concern in written responses, many attending the consultation events sought clarity on other developments connecting into the proposed substation.	Further information is provided on pages 22 and 23 where we set out possible future connection requirements, based on known development proposals, noting that all will be subject to separate consenting processes.

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The substation site

About the site

Following our last consultation on the proposed Fiddes substation in May 2023, where we asked for your views regarding several sites, in December 2023, responding to that feedback, we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was a new site in Fetteresso Forest.

Following an assessment of environmental, engineering and cost considerations, the site at Fetteresso (referred to as the "Hurlie" site) was identified as the best balance of all factors, and the proposed site option to be taken forward into the design and consenting process. It avoids direct impacts on residential properties, has limited interaction with heritage assets, limits likely significant effects on existing land-use and has potentially fewer impacts on landscape character than other candidate sites.

What size is the site

The substation platform as currently proposed would be 685m x 300m. In addition, the proposed development will include the establishment of new landscaping, land for biodiversity enhancement, sustainable urban drainage, construction compound and set-down/equipment and materials storage areas. It will also include upgrades to the existing forestry roads to allow constriction access. While the total site area is yet to be determined, the total area contained within the Proposal of Application Notice boundary is 292 hectares.

What else will the development consist of?

Drainage

Drainage arrangements as part of the substation works will extend out with the existing substation boundary and will be included in the planning application.

Temporary compounds

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

Felling and re-planting

An existing compartment of mainly exotic (non-native), conifer woodland, to the south of the switching station up to the B852 public road will require to be felled for resilience (to remove risk of toppling onto the new development) and re-planted with native broadleaved species.

To allow establishment, deer fencing surrounding this compartment will be installed for a duration of approximately 10 years.

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Overview of key design changes

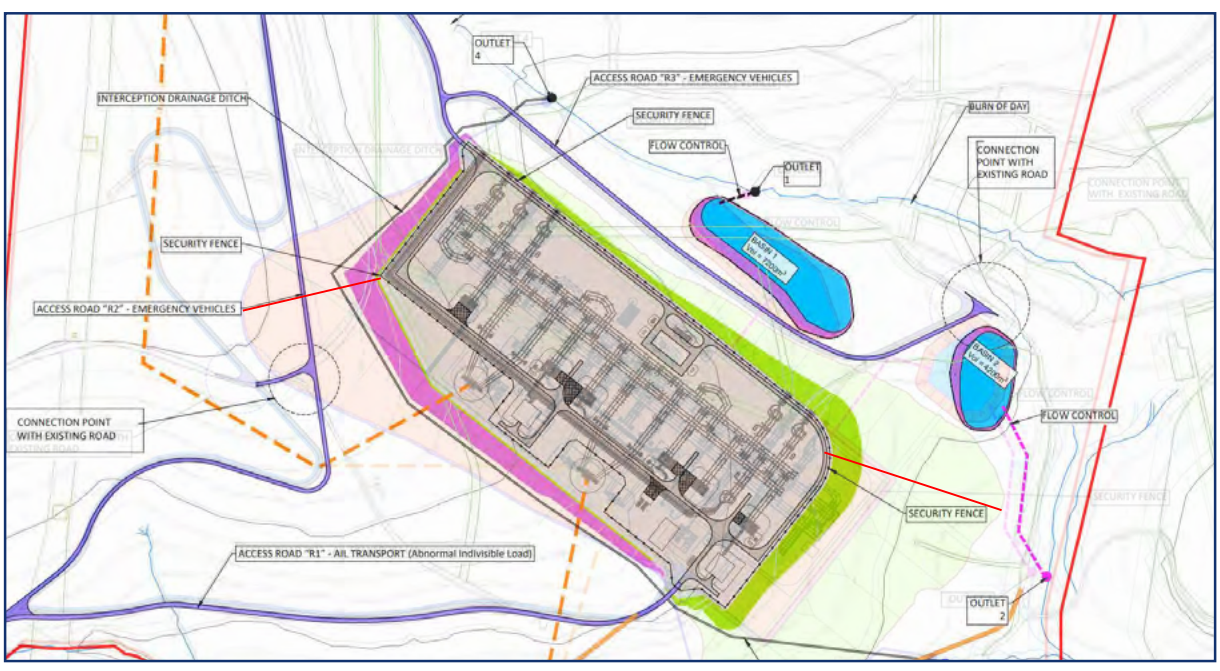

Figure 3: Substation site general arrangement

Substation design

Since our last consultation, we have refined the substation design by reducing its length from 760m to 685m, narrowing the western edge, and rounding the north east corner.

We have substantially reduced the cut at the south western end, which has allowed the eastern toe of the platform to be significantly reduced in extent. As a result we have been able to reduce the overall footprint of the works area from approx. 45ha to just under 24.5ha, a reduction of some 58%.

This has allowed us to increase new planting by an equivalent extent.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to test different platform elevations, and orientations, as we seek to optimise the extent of cut, the requirement for fill, the overall footprint and the degree of visibility.

We have rationalised and shortened the internal access tracks, removing the "hairpin" from the westernmost track, and added a new section of track which skirts around the south east corner of the platform before it joins the existing forestry track east of the platform.

No changes to the proposed access arrangements from the A957 are proposed at this stage.

Our thinking on access to the site has evolved however, and is described in the construction section on page 19.

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Overview of key design changes

Figure 4: Landscape design

Landscape and drainage design

The reduction of the platform toe has allowed the SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage) ponds to be repositioned and reprofiled to a more naturalistic shape more sympathetic to the landscape design. Modifying the site access road west of the platform enables the areas of new woodland block and shrub/scrub planting to be extended. The shrub/scrub planting would now extend further south and along the southern edge of the substation.

The shrub/scrub planting corridor beneath the proposed overhead line connections has been widened in both cases, due to the requirement to limit tree planting beneath the overhead lines. A key change, which results from shortening the platform and the toe, is that it significantly extends the area of new planting eastwards.

Of note, the western, north and eastern edges of the platform would now be wrapped in woodland block planting, comprising a mix of deciduous and evergreen species, which will add both biodiversity and strengthen visual screening to what is already a well screened platform as a result of the topography of the site.

The wildflower meadow and wetland habitat around the SuDS ponds would be largely unchanged.

As indicated above, SSEN Transmission has a policy commitment to deliver 10% more biodiversity compared to the baseline condition. At Hurlie, while the site is predominantly immature and mature plantation, there are some pockets of semi natural and natural habitat.

Our biodiversity net gain (BNG) proposals are being developed, but the principal delivery will be through the landscape plan and the diversity of habitat and species mixes that will be delivered as part of the Plan.

Separate and in addition, we are committed to replace all woodland removed as part of our projects. We will therefore ensure that we provide compensatory planting, i.e., at least the equivalent extent of woodland removed.

Our proposals for this will be agreed with the landowner.

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The construction process

Construction programme and activities

The overall construction programme is three years, with a fourth year required for commissioning and testing. The broad programme and main construction Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) requirements are illustrated below.

Figure 5: Indicative high level construction programme

Activity	Estimated HGV movements/ activity duration	2026				2027				2028				2029			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Mobilisation	20		■														
Form access road, temporary compound, clear site	220		■	■													
Install drainage, form compound	40			■													
Cut and fill earthworks	60			■	■	■	■	■									
Install 75mm whin chip and 225 type one layer over platform	6100								■	■	■						
Permanent Drainage	332						■	■									
Services	37					■	■										
Substation Roads	270										■	■					
Security fencing	15						■	■									
Mobilisation	50					■											
Concrete and Rebar delivery	920						■	■	■	■							
Delivery of primary equipment and structures	220							■	■	■	■						
Delivery and installation of transformers	50									■	■	■					
Building steel work and cladding	60						■	■	■	■							
Installation of secondary equipment and cabling	35									■	■	■	■	■			
Commissioning	10											■	■	■	■	■	

Construction access

Since our last event, we have examined options for principal construction access which avoid the A957 Slug Road and the residential parts of west Stonehaven.

The likely principal route, which Contractors would be required to follow, from both north and south, would be the A90 AWPR, exiting at the Peterculter Junction, and joining the B9077, then joining the Slug Road at Crathes, and arriving at the principal access to the site from the north. The same route would be proposed to be used for two way construction vehicle movements.

Smaller deliveries may arrive via the Slug Road from the south. It is possible that personnel may access the site (independently or by Contractor arranged transport) from the unclassified Elfhill Road, to the south of the site.

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The construction process

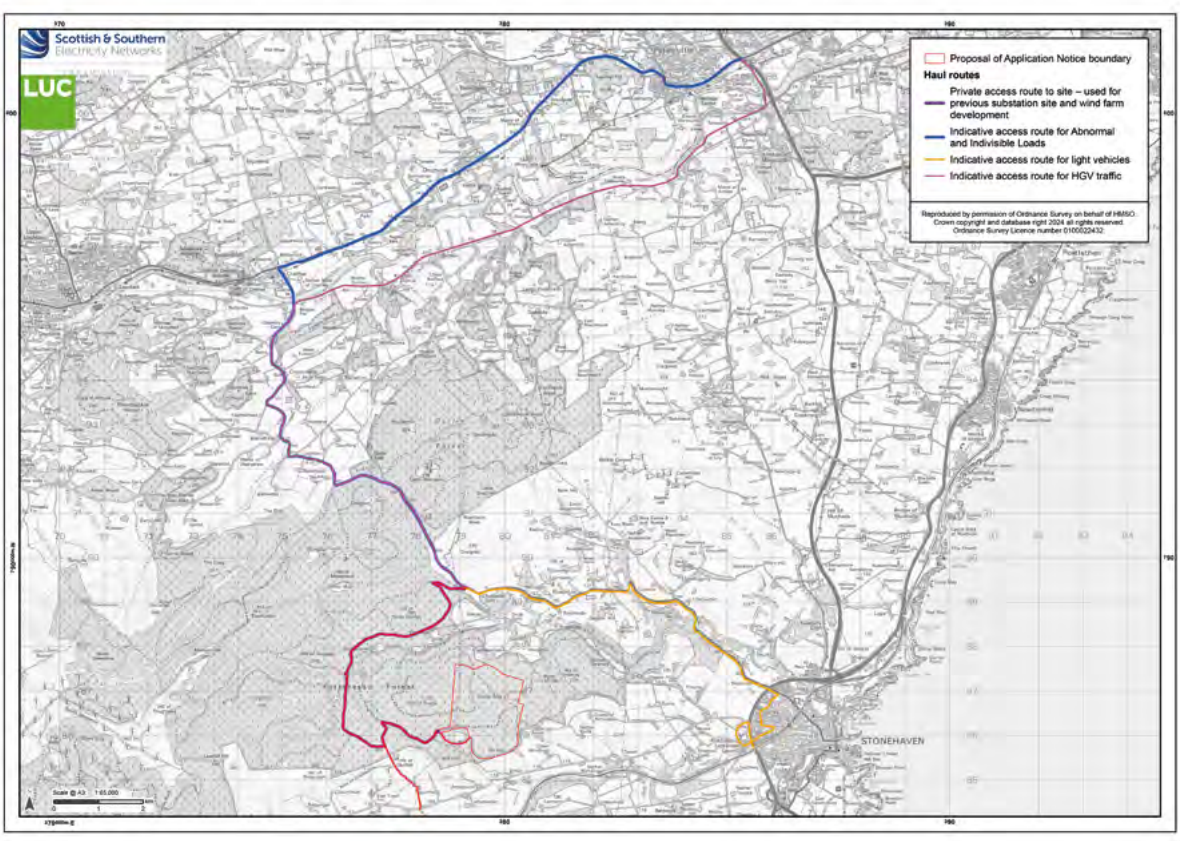

Figure 6: Indicative construction access

Managing impacts during construction

Over several years, we have developed and implemented management plans aimed at avoiding and managing construction environmental impacts. These include an overarching Construction Environmental Management Plan, individual plans to control specific aspects such as noise, dust, construction waste, working near water courses, working in different habitats, and Construction Traffic Management Plans. These will be implemented as a condition of the Principal Construction Contract. In addition, the Contractor will be required to prepare additional plans to cover specific requirements that arise through the EIA process, including a Community Engagement Plan.

Effective implementation of all of these will be assured through an independent auditor that we will appoint but which will report to statutory consultees, including the local Community Councils. In that way, the community will have a direct route to ensure we and our Contractors address any issues that adversely affect the community.

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Other projects in the local area

Summary of projects

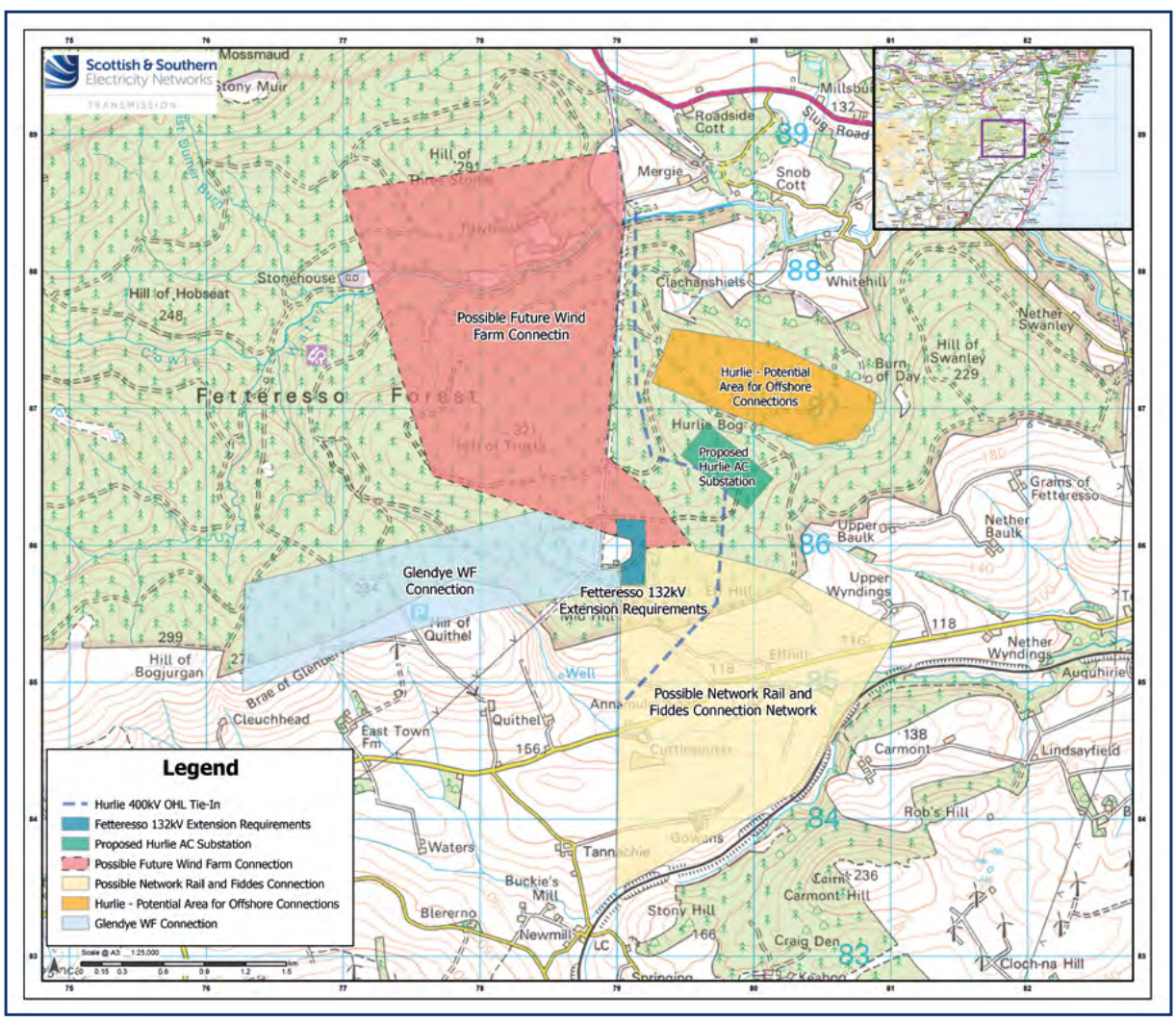
We know that local stakeholders are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in their local area.

Applications from the likes of wind farms to connect to the transmission network are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process before we begin to develop a network connection for developments applying in our license area.

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

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

Figure 7: Other Projects in the area



We have noted the proposals by Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, which is likely to connect to the proposed Hurlie substation. At this time, we are not aware of other third party projects likely to connect to Hurlie.

The area highlighted as potential for offshore connections to Hurlie is indicative only. Both planned offshore connections are at a much earlier stage of development. The area identified in orange is intended to provide an indication of a possible location. This is not a commitment that either of these connections will progress using this area of land.

We are aware of the application to the Energy Consents Unit by Hill of Fare Wind Farm.

While the wind farm connection is yet to be determined, it is likely that SSEN Transmission will provide a connection to the transmission grid via the existing Fetteresso substation or Kintore substation. This has yet to be determined along with a date of connection.

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Other SSEN Transmission projects in the local area

Glendye wind farm OHL connection

The Glendye wind farm has received section 36 consent, and we are required to connect the development to the transmission network.

To facilitate this, we are proposing to construct a new steel trident 132kV overhead line from the substation at the wind farm approximately 8km North West of Fettercairn, to the existing Fetteresso substation, 6.5km west of Stonehaven.

The contracted generation of Glendye Wind Farm is c156MW. Route consultations were held in March 2024 with alignment consultations planned for later this year. If consents are awarded, it is anticipated that this project will commence construction in the second half of 2026 with a completion date of late 2028.

You can find out more at the dedicated project website: ssen-transmission.co.uk/glendye

East Coast 400kV upgrade and Fetteressoo 400kV upgrade

The east coast 400kV upgrade project is the second part of the phased onshore reinforcement on the east coast. The works comprise of re-insulation and re-conductoring of overhead lines between Kintore, Fetteresso, Alyth and Kincardine (in Scottish Power Transmission's area) to 400kV. These works are programmed to complete in 2026.

Part of these works includes the Fetteresso substation 400kV upgrade project. This project is upgrading the current operating voltage of the substation from 275kV to 400kV.

The project consists of upgrading existing equipment, installing new equipment, such as a larger Super Grid Transformer and associated protection and control upgrades to facilitate the increase in voltage. This project is due to commence summer of 2024 and be energised for 2026 along with the 400kV OHL upgrade.

The project is crucial in enabling larger power transmission from north to south Scotland.

You can find out more at the dedicated project websites: ssen-transmission.co.uk/fetteresso-upgrade and ssen-transmission.co.uk/ec400-upgrade

Fetteresso extension and future connections

Due to various upcoming connections, in the area there is a requirement to extend and secure the current Fetteresso 132kV substation. The project consists of a platform extension, earthworks, upgrading equipment, installing transformers including supergrids, additional bays to facilitate all required connections and all associated protection and control upgrades. We are aiming to commence work in summer 2026 and targetting the majority of substation works completed for 2028 with works following depending on the connection requirements.

This extension has a number of drivers including:

- Connection for Network Rail as part the east coast electrification strategy. (Commence in summer 2027 and energised for early 2029).
- Reinforcements and upgrades required on the transmission network to enable contracted connections on the distribution network. (Commence in summer 2026 and conclude for summer 2028)
- Connections back to the existing Fiddes substation as part of asset management and capacity requirements. (Still subject to OFGEM approval. Targetting completion by 2031)
- Potential incoming onshore wind farm. (Subject to accepting a connection agreement. Connection date likely to be post 2030)

These projects are in the early phases of design and development. More information will be available in the near future on the dedicated project website. ssen-transmission.co.uk/fetteressoextension

An overview of the planned works in Fetteresso Forest can be viewed in Figure 7. Please note, all these projects are in various stages of development. The figure shows very indicative corridors based on broad geographical locations that is subject to change through the development process. The ultimate land requirements will be based on the eventual solution but likely a much narrower corridor depending on the number of circuits, capacity and technology used. This is also subject to change depending on the developer activity in the area. All projects will be subject to separate consenting processes when they reached an appropriate stage of development. Further information on these projects can be found in a separate handout, "Future Works - Hurlie and Fetteresso Substations".

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Other SSEN Transmission projects in the local area

Offshore grid projects

This project is being developed by SSEN Transmission. The aim of this project is to create an offshore grid network that allows offshore windfarms to connect to the electricity grid network where they generate power i.e. at sea, as opposed to each offshore windfarm having to connect, on an individual basis, back to the onshore electricity grid network.

Technically, the offshore electrical infrastructure is a first for the UK and mirrors similar cutting-edge developments being led by European Transmission Operators. We have been working with subject matter experts, supply chain, developers and the ESO on how this can be achieved. We want to make sure that what we commit to delivering, is technically feasible and that we get this right before we consult on the location of this offshore infrastructure.

At this point in time, we expect the offshore grid projects, to consist of:

- An onshore HVDC converter station, which may connect to the proposed Hurlie substation via underground cables.
- Underground cables onshore and subsea cables.
- Offshore electrical transmission infrastructure to provide a grid connection for offshore windfarms.
- Subsea cable from the offshore electrical transmission infrastructure to England.

Onshore electrical transmission infrastructure, which includes a HVDC converter station and underground cables, is required to connect the offshore electrical transmission infrastructure to the onshore electricity grid network.

A HVDC converter station is a site which converts Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC) or DC to AC. AC is how our houses and businesses use electricity from the grid. High Voltage DC (HVDC) is a technology that allows the efficient transmission of large quantities of electricity across long distances, with reduced electrical losses compared to AC.

A HVDC converter station, typically has a footprint of 360 x 290m and the main building could be up to 29m in height. Most of the equipment would be housed in buildings similar to those depicted in the image below.

The onshore electrical infrastructure required for this project is more defined than the offshore electrical infrastructure at this time. However, we want to share what we do know about our future project, at the earliest opportunity.

Please note that this project is in the early stages of development, and that we will be holding public consultation events, dedicated to the offshore grids projects in Autumn 2024 and early 2025. At these events, we will provide further information about this project and we will be seeking your thoughts and opinions on our plans. If you have any comments or questions please contact **OffshoreGridProjects@sse.com.**

The 320kV DC 1200MW Blackhillock HVDC converter station

ssen-transmission.co.uk/hurlie

TKUP@sse.com

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Have your say

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

The feedback period

We intend to submit our planning application in late Autumn 2024. Our formal feedback period will close on 23 July 2024, however we will welcome final comments and from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders regarding our proposals until we submit our planning application.

How to provide feedback

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

What we're seeking views on

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

We are now asking for any final comments or feedback ahead of submitting planning applications for the Hurlie 400kV substation project. It would be helpful to share any opportunities to deliver a local community benefit you would like us to consider.

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

Our Community Liaison Team

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

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

Community Liaison Manager

Rhiannon Merritt
Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission
10 Henderson Road,
Inverness, IV1 1SN

E: tkup@sse.com

Additional information

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

You can also follow us on social media

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Recite me

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

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

APPENDIX J: PHOTOS EVENT 1

Source: SSEN Transmission

Source: SSEN Transmission

APPENDIX K: PHOTOS EVENT 2

Source: SSEN Transmission

Source: SSEN Transmission