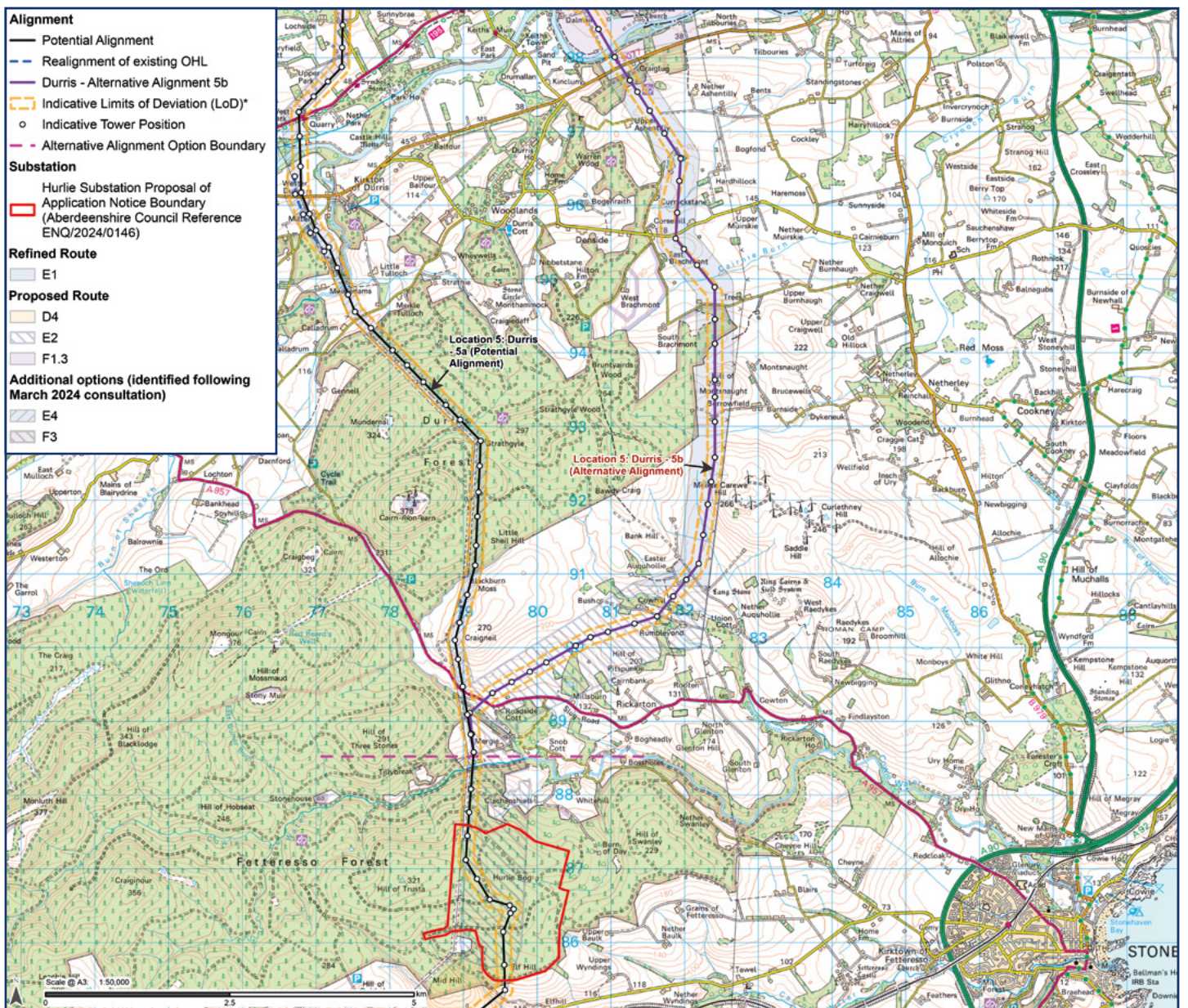


Section E – Hurlie substation to River Dee



This leaflet summarises the information provided in the Kintore to Tealing Alignment Consultation Document, which can be found here: ssen-transmission.co.uk/TKUP.

Section E – Hurlie substation to River Dee



Potential Alignment

The Potential Alignment in Section E (within Route E2 and Route E4) begins at the proposed new Hurlie 400 kV substation site in Fetteresso Forest and passes in a northern direction through Fetteresso Forest and then over high ground at Craigneil Hill and Durriss Forest following the line of an existing 275 kV OHL to the immediate west of the alignment. The alignment then continues in a northern direction to the west of the village of Kirkton of Durriss before crossing the River Dee north of Wester Durriss. The Potential Alignment crosses the A93 Aberdeen to Banchory public road between West Park and Nether Park and to the west of Park House Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) before following a northerly course over gently rising ground adjacent to the Loch of Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (which would be avoided to the west of the alignment) and continuing through to Coldstream Plantation¹.

Alternative Alignment Options

There is one location where Alternative Alignments have been considered in Section E; at Location 5: Durriss (two alternatives). The key environmental, technical and cost considerations which differentiate between Alternative Alignment 5a (Potential Alignment) and Alternative Alignment 5b include:

Environmental

- Both alternative alignments are likely to have groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystem (GWDTE), however due to locations and extents, there is more flexibility to avoid these areas in Alternative Alignment 5b.
- The 480 metre wide floodplain extent of the River Dee cannot be spanned between adjacent OHL towers where Alternative Alignment 5a crosses the watercourse, which may compromise the quality and/or quantity of surface waters. In comparison, Alternative Alignment 5b is less likely to result in impacts to water flow pathways to surface and groundwater due to the shorter span required to cross the floodplain.
- Although the alternative alignments are considered to have similar constraints in relation to ornithology, there is a larger extent of suitable habitat for certain birds of conservation concern (BoCC), such as waders, in Alternative Alignment 5b in comparison to the Alternative Alignment 5a.
- Alternative Alignment 5a is located closer to Park House GDL than Alignment 5b, however it is further from Drum Castle

¹ The Potential Alignment described from the River Dee crossing to Coldstream Plantation is located in Section F of the Proposed Route for the OHL. It is included in this handout for Section E because the Alternative Alignments appraised in Section E both continue for approximately 4km into Section F before meeting at a common point northwest of Drumoak. The appraisal of these alternatives has been undertaken from their common points at Hurlie (in the south) and Coldstream Plantation (in the north) to facilitate an objective comparison and irrespective of the Route sections in which they are located. A separate handout is available for Section F at ssen-transmission.co.uk/TKUP.

GDL and the associated Category A Listed Building at Drum Castle, which are key constraints for Alternative Alignment 5b (see also separate handout on Section F available at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/TKUP).

- Alternative Alignment 5b is located closer to a larger number and density of residential properties, particularly at Drumoak (including a primary school), than Alternative Alignment 5a, and therefore is considered to be more constrained in relation to proximity to dwellings, sensitive receptors, views and visual amenity.

Technical

- Alternative Alignment 5b has a significantly higher interaction with high pressure gas pipelines in comparison to Alternative 5a and will require more mitigation to resolve interference through induced voltage. Both alternative alignments cross two A-roads and the River Dee, with similar constraints associated with these crossings. Alternative Alignment 5a would require realignment of the existing Kintore - Fetteresso OHL, which would include network outages.
- Alternative Alignment 5a passes through a wider area of surface and river flood risk, however it is expected that tower micro-siting and mitigation will sufficiently manage any risks associated with tower installation in these areas.
- Alternative Alignment 5b has a significantly higher number of angle structures (towers) overall, is a longer route and is close to a higher number of properties throughout the route than Alternative Alignment 5a.

Cost

- Alternative Alignment 5a has a marginally lower cost than Alternative Alignment 5b principally due to its shorter length.

Conclusion

Alternative Alignment 5a has been taken forward as the Potential Alignment over Alternative Alignment 5b as it is less constrained technically however it would involve realignment of the existing Kintore – Fetteresso OHL (currently being updated from 275 kV to 400 kV) which is technically complex. Alternative Alignment 5a is also the lower cost of the two alignment options considered. There is no clear overall preference across the various environmental criteria which have been appraised. Alternative Alignment 5a would be located close to fewer residential properties than Alternative Alignment 5b and is therefore less constrained in relation to proximity to dwellings, sensitive receptors, and visual amenity.