

Lochay 132/11kV Transformer Replacement

Frequently Asked Questions

January 2020

Who are Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks?

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is the trading name of Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution Limited, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc and Southern Electric Power Distribution plc.

What is the transmission network?

It's the highest voltage electricity network in the UK – the 'motorway network' of the energy world. It transmits large quantities of electricity over long distances via wires carried on a system of mainly metal towers (pylons) and large substations. Transmission voltages in Scotland are 132kV, 275kV and 400kV. Larger generation schemes usually connect to the Transmission system.

The lower voltage parts of the system are called distribution networks. In Scotland, these local networks operate below 132kV whereas in England the distribution network includes 132kV.

How are Transmission network upgrades paid for?

Investments in projects are made by SHE Transmission plc. Electricity transmission companies are authorised to recover the costs of such investments through 'use of system' charges which are levied by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc on generators and suppliers of electricity. Suppliers recover their costs from all electricity customers. In order to protect the interests of customers, the transmission companies have to demonstrate to the energy regulator, Ofgem (Office for Gas and Electricity Markets) that proposed investments are necessary, are efficient and are economical so that the charges which are ultimately levied on all electricity customers are justified.

This means SHE Transmission is subject to a funding mechanism established by Parliament and regulated by Ofgem. Cross subsidies between different businesses in the SSE group is not permitted.



How and to what extent are electricity consumers' interests considered?

SHE Transmission are regulated by the Office for Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), the regulator responsible for representing consumers' interests. Electricity consumer interests are therefore one of our key drivers and this is enshrined in our statutory duties under the Electricity Act.

In particular we have a statutory duty to develop, maintain and operate an efficient, economic and co-ordinated transmission system. Since the costs of these projects will ultimately be paid for by electricity consumers, we have a responsibility to take cost into account with due weighting in a comparison against other important factors.

Environmental Impact Plan - Should native woodland /habitat / wildlife be adversely affected by any construction work / changes / activity what will be SSE's mitigation?

SHE Transmission is undertaking an Environmental Appraisal with input from specialist consultants covering topics such as ecology, hydrology and landscape and visual (not limited to), to ensure minimal impact as a result of the development. Working hours will be agreed with the local authority as part of the planning permission, in addition to a traffic management plan.

After construction will the local roads up to the substation be reinstated to repair damage from the construction traffic to site?

Yes, SHE Transmission will assess the condition of the road before the commencement of works and after completion. Reinstatement will be carried out to repair any damage caused due to SHE Transmission.



The use of the site to the west of the power station (whichever type of transformer is used) may involve some tree loss to facilitate the new access route and/or rerouting the cables from the existing last pylon to the revised transformer siting. Will replanting occur to mitigate the loss of the trees that have to be removed?

Minimal tree removal is anticipated but can't be confirmed until detail design stage which will be later in 2020.

The access walkway to the outflow of the salmon lift is currently blocked by a locked gate (presumably it is in disrepair) this lift is fairly unique and public access to it should be maintained. Will the walkway be repaired and re-opened as part of these project works?

No, changes to the walkway and salmon lift / fish pass and it's access are not part of this project.

Can assurance be given that the electricity supply to Murlaganmore Cottage will not be affected by these project works?

The power supply to Murlaganmore Cottage does not originate from the power station. The cable route starts at a pole-mount transformer further uphill from the proposed works and takes a route further west of the planned site extension. Hence it is not anticipated that the construction work will affect the power supply.

Have beaver surveys been carried out?

There have been no specific beaver surveys carried out to date, however pre-construction surveys will be carried out and specialist beaver surveys will be undertaken if a potential impact is highlighted.

Will additional tree planting be carried out over and above the minimum that is deemed a requirement in order to improve the area surrounding the power station to benefit both the local landscape and local wildlife?

A landscaping plan will be put in place as per agreement with Stirling Council once we have a final layout and liaised further with the statutory authorities.

Will access be safely maintained to Moirlanich Longhouse for visitor movements during its open season?

Yes access will be maintained along the Glen Lochay Road South throughout the duration of the works. A Traffic Management Plan will be developed with Stirling Council to manage traffic volume, peak activity times and vehicle type along this road.

What sort of disruption is to be expected during construction, and how will it be managed?

There is potential for travel disruption during construction, when we take delivery of key plant items or because of increased volumes of traffic on the local road network. Disruption will be minimised and typically controlled through an agreed Traffic Management Plan with Stirling Council as part of any consent conditions. SHE Transmission aims to ensure that construction traffic uses the roads safely and that any inconvenience to the public is kept to a minimum whilst maintaining a safe environment for the workforce and other road users.

As part of the Environmental Assessments, potential impact from construction noise will be evaluated and mitigation measures instigated where necessary. These are controlled through Consented conditions.

How do I have my say?

SHE Transmission expect to submit their application for planning consent under the Electricity Act to Stirling Council in quarter 2 of 2020. The application will be advertised and opportunities for submission of representations will be available at that time. SHE Transmission will continue consulting with the Scottish Government Local Energy and Consents Unit, Stirling Council and other key statutory bodies as well as the local community prior to submitting a formal application.

