APPENDIX 6.2: PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

CONTENTS

Appendices

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report is submitted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), as part of an application for full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) ('TCPA 1997') for the new Construction of a 400kV AC Substation and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, Formation of Platform, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations (National Development) at Land at Mains of Greens, Cuminestown, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, AB53 5YQ

1.1.2 The Proposed Development is classified as a National Development under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) Regulations 2009 (as amended) as the development is of a type that would fall within National Development 3 – Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure, in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and the proposed site is greater than 2 ha.

1.1.3 Consequently, this PAC Report is submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 35C of the TCPA 1997 and in accordance with the requirements prescribed in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (The DMRs) and with particular reference to Section 7B, which prescribes the specific content requirements for PAC Reports.

1.1.4 In general, the PAC Report provides an overview of the consultation programme and describes: the steps taken to meet statutory requirements; the feedback received during the PAC process, and how, where practical, we have responded to the comments and feedback received as part of the process.

1.1.5 The PAC Report is therefore comprised of six parts:

1: Introduction;

2: Project Background – outlines the background to the project and provides a description of the key elements and non-statutory consultation undertaken;

3: The Consultation Process – describes the submission of Proposal of Application Notices (PANs); the dates and venues for consultation events; any additional consultation required (or otherwise) by the local planning authority;

4: Responses and Key Issues – summarises the written responses to consultation and the views raised at public events, as well as the number of written responses received and attendees at events;

5: Project Responses to Consultations – describes how we took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process, and how members of the public were given feedback on our consideration of the views raised; and

6: Conclusion.

1.1.6 Appendices are attached which provide evidence of consultation carried out, under the terms of the abovementioned Regulations.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1.1 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, owns, operates and develops the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands and has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical electrical transmission system in its licence area.

2.2 Site Description

2.2.1 The Proposed Development would be located at Greens, Aberdeenshire, approximately 3 km to the south of Cuminestown & 8 km to the east of Turriff (National Grid Reference NJ 819 476). The Site covers an area of approximately 115 hectares (ha).

2.2.2 The Site is located on, and surrounded by, agricultural land that is primarily used for pasture and / or arable farming, with a predominantly rural character. There is an area of commercial forestry within the northwest of the Site. There are a number of neighbouring residential areas, private properties and farms within close proximity to the Site.

2.3 Proposed Development

2.3.1 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 between Beauly and Peterhead via Blackhillock and New Deer. To facilitate this, we are proposing to establish a new 400kV overhead line (OHL) between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead. This also requires four new 400kV substations to be constructed in Fanellan near Beauly, Coachford near Blackhillock, Greens near New Deer, Netherton near Peterhead to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand. These are being progressed as five separate projects but projects which are intrinsically linked. The proposed Greens 400kV Substation forms part of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) projects. The new substation is required to be built near the existing New Deer substation, near New Deer, Aberdeenshire.

2.3.2 The proposed Greens 2 400kV Substation project includes:

- Construction of a new outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), 400kV substation. The approximate
- maximum dimensions of the proposed substation platform are 700m x 375m, not including the groundworks required to create a level platform.
- 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.

2.3.3 Key tasks during construction of the substation are as follows:

- Enabling work (e.g. forestry clearance, public road improvements and establishment of temporary works
- such as construction drainage and site compound/welfare);
- Construction of cut/fill to provide a level platform;
- Construction of permanent access roads and drainage;
- Construction of civil engineering infrastructure;
- Installation of mechanical/electrical equipment;
- Inspections and commissioning; and
- Removal of temporary works, landscape design implementation (if required) and site reinstatement.

The programme for the Project is currently under development, an indicative programme is as follows:

- Construction Start: Early 2026.
- Operation: Summer 2030.

2.4 Requirement for Pre-application Consultation

2.4.1 Regulation 4 of the DMRs requires that pre-application consultation is carried out for all national and major developments. National and major development types are defined by the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Development) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 ('the Hierarchy Regulations').

2.4.2 National developments are developments or classes described as such in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Development is major development if it meets the thresholds or criteria associated with different development types in the Schedule attached to the Hierarchy Regulations. All developments that are not National or Major are classified as local developments and are not required to undergo pre-application consultation.

2.4.3 The Proposed Development is classified as a National Development under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) Regulations 2009 (as amended) as the development is of a type that would fall within National Development 3 – Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure, in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and the proposed site is greater than 2 ha.

2.5 Early Non-Statutory Consultation

2.5.1 The project team carried out early non-statutory consultation events on the Greens substation, focusing on site selection options. Consultation on the project included a face-to-face public engagement event. The purpose of this event was to provide information and to seek the views and comments of members of the public, local stakeholders and statutory consultees on the preferred site. The event was due to take place on Wednesday 8th March 2023. However, due to adverse weather warnings and subsequent snowstorms, the event was postponed and notification as sent out to stakeholders in the local area as well as Community Councils. The venue also put a notice on the door.

2.5.2 The event was rescheduled for two weeks later, on 22nd March 2023. This was to allow adequate time for postcard invites with the new date to be posted out to the community and all stakeholders to be notified. Postcards were re-sent for the event which were due to land on 16th March 2023.

2.5.3 The public consultation period was open from 22nd March until 5 May 2023. However, as some residents stated that they did not receive a postcard invite and were therefore unaware of the event, we included another substation consultation event in New Deer Public Hall on 18th April 2023 and subsequently extended the feedback period until 30 June 2023.

2.5.4 These events were well attended with 175 people attending the event on 22nd March and a further 137 attending the event on 18th April 2023.

2.5.5 We received 23 online feedback forms and 13 emails with feedback.

2.6 Pre-application Consultation with Key Stakeholders

2.6.1 In the weeks before, during and after the consultation events, various meetings were held with other key stakeholders such as landowners, statutory and non-statutory consultees and councillors to discuss the project proposals. These meetings are summarised in Table 2.1 below.

Date	Meeting Type	Stakeholder group in attendance
12 April 2023	Councillors Information Event (Microsoft Teams Meeting)	Local ward Councillors
12 April 2023	Virtual Statutory Consultee Meeting (Microsoft Teams Meeting)	Statutory Consultees including the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, The Highland Council, The Moray Council, Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot, SEPA and Scottish Forestry
04 September 2023	Virtual Statutory Consultee Meeting (Microsoft Teams Meeting)	Aberdeenshire Council
08 November 2023	Virtual Statutory Consultee Meeting (Microsoft Teams Meeting)	SEPA

2.6.2 A formal pre-application enquiry was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 30 January 2024, following which a pre-application consultation meeting was held with the Council in March 2024, providing the Applicant an opportunity to present the proposals to the Council, and seek advice on the acceptability of the Proposed Development, and likely requirements and expectations for a future application. Following this meeting, Aberdeenshire Council provided a formal pre-application response in April, detailing their understanding of the Proposed Development, and setting out relevant planning policy and environmental considerations that would need to be addressed as part of the application supporting documents

3. THE PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION (PAC) PROCESS

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 This section describes the consultation process and demonstrates how statutory PAC requirements have been met. The PAC process is specified in Section 35B of the TCPA 1997, and in Regulation 7 of the DMRs.

3.2 Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)

3.2.1 A PAN must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), containing the information prescribed in 35B(4) of the TCPA 1997 and Regulation 6 of the DMRs, including an account of what consultation the applicant intends to undertake and information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

3.2.2 A PAN was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 30th January 2024 (Ref ENQ/2024/0139), triggering the beginning of the statutory consultation period. The PAN provided the Council with an outline of the application details, dates of public events, publicity arrangements, and confirmation of the site location.

3.2.3 A copy of the PAN and attachments are provided in Appendix A.

3.2.4 No additional information or consultation was requested from Aberdeenshire Council in response to the PAN submission. An acknowledgement letter was received on the 01 February 2024 and the Council subsequently confirmed that the content of the PAN was acceptable on 16 February 2024.

3.2.5 In addition to the PAN and attachments being sent to the LPA, below is a list of other parties these were sent to via e-mail on 30th January 2024.

- Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council
- Deer Community Council
- Turriff & District Community Council
- Cllr A. Stirling
- Cllr I. Taylor
- Cllr G. Lang
- Cllr A. Forsyth
- Gillian Martin MSP
- David Duguid MSP
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Maurice Golden MSP
- Liam Kerr MSP
- Douglas Lumsden MSP
- Michael Marra MSP
- Mercedes Villalba MSP
- Tess White MSP

3.3 Newspaper Notices

3.3.1 Newspaper adverts must be published in respect of public events, the form of which is described in Regulation 7 of the DMRs. Notice of these public events must be published at least 7 days in advance in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the proposed development. The second (or final) public event must be held at least 14 days after the first public event.

3.3.2 In respect of the first consultation events held on 27th and 29th February 2024, a newspaper notice was first published in The Press and Journal on Saturday 17th February 2024.

3.3.3 In respect of the final consultation events held on 21st and 23rd May 2024, a newspaper notice was first published in The Press and Journal on Saturday 11th May 2024.

3.3.4 Copies of the newspaper notices are provided in Appendix B. The notices directed readers to the project website and Community Liaison Manager contact details for further information.

3.4 Advertising Public Events

3.4.1 In addition to the publication of the statutory newspaper notices, the public events were advertised in the following ways:

3.4.2 Press release providing general introductory information on the proposals and advertising the planned public events were published in multiple newspapers, shown in Appendix C.

- Event 1: The Ellon Times & Fraserburgh Herald on 15th and 22nd February 2024 and Press & Journal (Aberdeenshire Edition) running for 6 dates starting on 16th Feb. (Appendix C)
- Public consultation posters were circulated to the local Community Councils for sharing with their communities and on their media platforms.
- Maildrops were issued to all properties within a 10km radius around the substation, encompassing 4,685 properties, shown in Appendix D. These landed on doorsteps around 12th February 2024.
- Emails to the elected Councillors and MSPs in the area.
- Notification was made via social media, by means of the SSEN Transmission Facebook and X (Twitter) feed.
- The project website Greens 400kV Substation (ssen-transmission.co.uk/Greens)
- The Applicant produced a public consultation poster to provide some general introductory information on the proposals and for advertisement of the planned public events, attached in Appendix E. This was also put in notice boards at the venue and In other local public places.

3.5 Public Consultation Events

First Consultation Event - PAC 1

3.5.1 The first public consultation events were held at the following locations

Pre-Application Consultation Event 1			
	Date	**Location**	**Time**
Cuminestown	27 February 2024	Cuminestown Community Hall, Main St, Cuminestown, AB53 5YJ	1400 and 1900
New Deer	29 February 2024	New Deer Public Hall, Fordyce Terrace, New Deer, AB53 6WE	1400 and 1900

3.5.2 The consultation feedback period ran for six weeks from 13th February until 11th April 2024.

3.5.3 The purpose of the first public event was to provide an opportunity for members of the public, local stakeholders and statutory authorities to view information about the project, ask questions and provide feedback in person.

- The Applicant produced a number of consultation materials to explain the proposals, including information banners shown in Appendix F.
- Additional visual aids including a 3D model were available to view at the events. Still Images from the 3D model were available on the project web page.
- Consultation booklets available for attendants to take away, with contact details, key dates, and information on how to provide comments online shown in Appendix G.
- Feedback forms, including the closing date for feedback, a template for which is shown in pages 21-22 of Appendix G.

3.5.4 A sign-in register was used to understand the number of attendees. A total of 275 attendees were recorded across both PAC 1 events.

3.5.5 Following the consultation event, SSEN Transmission issued an update on the project website thanking members of the public for attending and advised all material that had been displayed was available for download (ssen-transmission.co.uk/Greens).

3.5.6 SSEN Transmission received 70 formal feedback forms through the online system and 15 written responses by email throughout the consultation period. Verbal feedback from the event was also captured and responded to in the final event materials.

Final Consultation Event PAC 2

3.5.7 The final public consultation events were held at the following times and locations:

Pre-Application Consultation Event 2			
	Date	**Location**	**Time**
Cuminestown	21 May 2024	Cuminestown Community Hall, Main St, Cuminestown, AB53 5YJ	1400 and 1900
New Deer	23 May 2024	New Deer Public Hall, Fordyce Terrace, New Deer, AB53 6WE	1400 and 1900

3.5.8 The purpose of the final public event was to give feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received as regards the proposed development from earlier consultation, and to provide further opportunity to view information about the project, ask questions and provide feedback in person.

3.5.9 Consultation materials comprised the same as that used for the first public event with the addition of materials attached as Appendix K and Appendix L. In line with PAC requirements, consultees at the final event were provided a summary of comments received at the first event. This was published in the consultation material for the final event, and can be seen at pages 14-18 in Appendix K.

3.5.10 Interested parties were informed via consultation materials in respect of all public events that the purpose of this consultation was to provide feedback to the prospective applicant only, and that an opportunity to comment on the proposals directly to the LPA would be provided at the planning application stages should the proposed development progress to that stage. This is evidenced in documents submitted in the Appendices, including the consultation booklet.

3.5.11 The feedback period for the final public consultation event was just over 6 weeks and closed on Thursday 4th July 2024 at 5pm. Information on this was contained within the consultation booklet and on the project web page.

3.5.12 A sign-in register was used to capture the number of attendees. A total 216 attendees were recorded.

3.5.13 SSEN Transmission received 10 written responses by email throughout the consultation period. Verbal feedback from the event was also captured and responded to in the final event materials. Ongoing correspondence and engagement with local community is continuing throughout the development period.

3.6 Additional Steps Taken to Consultation

3.6.1 There were no further steps, such as virtual consultation events, undertaken as part of the consultation process on this project.

4. HOW HAS THE PROJECT RESPONDED TO FEEDBACK

4.1 First Public Consultation Event

4.1.1 This section documents how the project has responded to the themes raised by stakeholders through the consultation process. We address each theme in turn below. These responses to the feedback raised were detailed in the Consultation Booklet and Banners for the second PAC event

4.1.2 Table 4.1 below summarises the comments received. Feedback has been grouped into the following themes: Screening, impact on wildlife, noise, undergrounding, access road, flooding, fire risk, cumulative impact, construction management, maps, local jobs and community benefit.

Table 4.1: Summary Feedback from First Public Event

Theme	*Response*
Lighting Concerns over the extent of lighting required during construction and operation were raised, and the potential for it to disrupt residents.	During construction, lighting will be switched off when not in use and overnight. Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. During winter months when there is reduced daylight, lighting will be required to aid construction activity. A Construction Light Management Plan will be adopted by our contractor to minimise any impacts associated with this. During operation lighting would be installed at the substation but would only be used in the event of a fault during the hours of darkness; during the over-run of planned works; or when sensor activated as security lighting for nighttime access.
Holistic Overview Requests were received for information on all developments connecting into the substation on one map indicating the full extent of developer proposals in the area.	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. We know that residents are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in the area. Applications to connect to the transmission network in our license area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments. 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.
Noise and dust From construction/ road traffic was raised as a concern.	We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents. A Noise Impact Assessment is currently being prepared to support our planning application, which will assess the potential impact from construction and operational noise and, where necessary propose appropriate mitigation measures that will be agreed with the Planning Authority. The Proposed Development would be required to meet noise limits set by the Planning Authority.

Theme	*Response*
	Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors. Noise emitting equipment such as Synchronous Compensators will be housed to ensure that noise emissions are at a minimum. The environmental impact assessment (which will include details on the background noise monitoring) will be publicly available when the application is submitted to the Planning Authority. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced that will detail the mitigation and management measures required to minimise environmental impact from the construction phase of the development. The CEMP forms a framework within which the measures will be implemented throughout the project.
Traffic impacts to residents Concerns with traffic safety, the robustness of existing roads and maintenance were raised alongside questions regarding our traffic management/ improvement plans.	We understand that with large construction projects, increased construction traffic and road condition will often cause concern. In developing the Greens 400kV substation proposals, traffic and road use is a primary consideration for us and our contractors. An initial construction traffic routing assessment has been undertaken to establish the most appropriate routes for construction traffic travelling to and from the site. To support this, an Abnormal Loads Assessment report will also be undertaken for larger equipment being delivered to the site. A package of Public Road Improvements will also be delivered prior to construction to ensure the local roads are suitable for the construction traffic. Our Contractor will prepare and adopt a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to ensure that appropriate mitigation and management strategies are identified and implemented. This will include the identification of road widening, junction improvements or repairs that will be required. It will also ensure a defined route is agreed with the council. Condition surveys of the public highway will be carried out before works start on site, and again upon completion, with any defects repaired to ensure the public highway is left in no worse state once the works are complete. In addition, we recognise the importance of separating construction traffic from the single-track road which is located at the south of the site. Therefore, a substation specific access road has been proposed for construction traffic and will be constructed prior to the main substation construction works commencing.
Wildlife Migrating birds/loss of habitats	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) survey work is currently underway to establish the full extent of all habitats and protected species present on site. Where sensitive habitats and species are present, we will seek to avoid them wherever possible, but where unavoidable suitable mitigation measures will be identified and agreed in consultation with the Planning Authority and NatureScot. Where mitigation measures are agreed, these will be passed onto the contractor in the form of a Commitments Register, supported by our own

Theme	*Response*
	Species Protection Plans and General Environmental Protection Plans, to ensure that the measures are implemented as required. These measures will also form part of the CEMP for the project.
Water/Flooding Concerns were raised with level of water runoff from Mains of Greens, concerns regarding flooding and questions raised regarding how Private Water Supplies (PWS) will be protected.	We recognise there is a known issue with the Burn of Greens, which is susceptible to flooding, however the majority of the site does not suffer from flood risk. Full Drainage Impact and Flood Risk Assessments (DIA/FRA) are currently being undertaken and will be supported by a Drainage Strategy for the site, which will ensure that surface water run-off is controlled to a level equivalent to the current run-off rate of the site to ensure no worsening of the current situation. The Drainage Strategy, DIA and FRA will form part of the planning application submission and will be assessed by the Planning Authority and SEPA. A full PWS survey has been undertaken of potentially affected PWS in proximity to site to understand the full impact of the development and any mitigation measures required to preserve residents PWS provision. Residents within proximity of the site will either have already received a survey or will receive a letter in due course regarding water supplies. Anyone with further information on private water supplies should respond to the questionnaires previously issued or email the Community Liaison Manager (rob.whytock@sse.com) with details of their PWS. Please also see our 'Protecting Private Water Supplies' handout for more information, available from our project webpage or at our consultation events.
Construction logistics Questions raised regarded working hours and proposals for the workers who will be living/travelling to site.	Our appointed contractor for the construction of the Greens 400kV Substation is Siemens BAM, who we will be working closely with in the lead up to and throughout anticipated construction. Construction working hours will typically be restricted to 0700 to 1900 Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1300 on Saturday, with only some continuous activities carried out by exception. Siemens BAM will prepare and adopt a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to minimise any potential impacts on the environment during construction. These documents will be approved by the Planning Authority in advance of construction starting and will include contact details for the Construction Site Manager, who alongside the Community Liaison Manager will be the main point of contact with the local community during construction. As part of a wider strategy for worker accommodation that will require approval from the Planning Authority. We are developing standards for worker accommodation that will ensure the wellbeing of workers and ensure that facilities are put in place to cater for their needs and those of our host communities.

Theme	*Response*
Safety A concern was raised regarding risk of fire.	Safety is our number one priority and forms the core of how we operate our electricity network across the north of Scotland. There will be a comprehensive fire risk assessment conducted by our contractor as part of their CEMP. The substation will be made up of established technologies with no lithium batteries on site.
Environmental screening Requests were received for more information regarding how the site will be screened form peoples' views.	The landscape strategy for the development is currently being finalised and will be informed by the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) undertaken as part of the EIA. The current proposals deliver boundary screening in the form of landscape bunds and mature landscape planting that seeks to mitigate the visual impact of the development and soften its appearance within the local environment. In addition, the colour of buildings located within the development has been selected to mitigate visual impact. Our Indicative Landscape Strategy plan is also now available to view which shows the screening plans currently being proposed.
Community benefit Suggestions included: • Fibre broadband for Cuminestown • Equipment for local schools • Upgrades to Cuminestown Hall and playing fields • Providing more green spaces for community in Cuminestown • Active travel corridors • Cycle lanes Feedback included that there was not enough detail currently available on this and how the funds will be administered.	We would like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area. We will work with the community to further explore the suggestions being made and would seek to work with the Community Council to review suggestions and better understand local needs, identifying initiatives that could be developed during construction. We are in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives and help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy. We appreciate that as the fund is being developed the information we've been able to share has been limited. More information will be available later this year. In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, 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 9000 Scottish jobs.

Table 2: Summary Feedback from Pre-app meeting with Aberdeenshire Council and Stakeholders.

Theme	*Summary*
Woodlands and trees Presumption in favour of protecting existing woodland on site.	Any forestry loss will be compensated both on-site and off-site within the local authority area. Compensatory Planting Plans and a Woodland Management Plan will be prepared which will show how areas of woodland yet to be removed are to be replaced and areas of landscape screening required.
Natural heritage The project will need to offset any habitat loss.	The project will deliver 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). A Landscape and Habitat Management Plan and BNG report will be produced, which will demonstrate how an enhancement in biodiversity will be achieved. Protected species surveys have been carried out and any impact on protected species will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and where necessary appropriate mitigation measures identified.
Traffic and transport Request for assessment of abnormal loads and consideration of construction traffic Impacts.	An Abnormal Loads Assessment report and Swept Path Analysis will be undertaken for larger equipment being delivered to site. Construction traffic routing studies to date have confirmed that both construction traffic and abnormal loads will access the site via the minor public road leading from the B9170 from the north. A scheme of public road improvements (road widening) will be implemented on the affected section of the minor road between the site access and junction with the B9170. Residual impacts are considered to be low. These studies are captured in the Traffic and Transport chapter within the Environmental Impact Assessment which will support the planning application.
Noise Recognition of importance of construction noise Impacts, operational noise limits and construction working hours.	A Construction and Operational Noise Assessment will be prepared which will demonstrate that the project will not breach operational noise limits at the nearest properties. There will be compliance monitoring post completion of the works to ensure adherence to the Noise Impact Assessment.
Water Environment Consider potential for impacts to existing watercourses, Private Water Supplies and Drinking Water Protected Areas.	Impacts to the water environment will be considered within the Environmental Impact Assessment as part of the planning application, with any mitigation measures outlined in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Impact Assessment. (DIA) will be provided with the planning application.
Landscape and Visual Cumulative visual effects and effects on landscape character should be considered in the design and detailed assessment of the proposal.	A Landscape and Visual Assessment will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment will consider effects on landscape and visual receptors within the study area during construction and operation. An assessment of cumulative effects with nearby development projects will also be completed.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 This PAC Report documents the consultation which ran between 13th February and 11th April & 7th May until 4th July 2024.

5.1.2 The PAN was submitted to the LPA on 30th January 2024. Following this, a first series of statutory public consultation event was held at venues in Cuminestown & New Deer on 27th and 29th February and second PAC 2 events were hosted in the same locations on 21st and 23th May 2024.

5.1.3 The consultation was designed to facilitate engagement with the local community, community councils, statutory authorities and local leadership in order to invite feedback on the Proposed Development. The common themes from the feedback were: Screening, impact on wildlife, noise, undergrounding, access road, flooding, fire risk, cumulative impact, construction management, maps, local jobs and community benefit.

5.1.4 The approach to public consultation has ensured that the relevant stakeholders have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This has enabled locally important issues and concerns to be identified and subsequently considered in the preparation of the Greens 400kV Substation planning application.

5.1.5 This PAC process has been informed by the statutory process laid out in the TCPA 1997 and the DMRs as referenced above.

Appendices

Appendix A: Greens 400kV Substation January 2024 Proposal of Application Notice(s)

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Aberdeenshire Council
Strategic Development Delivery Team
Planning and Economy
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30 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our ref: LT000379 Greens

Proposal of Application Notice: Construction of a 400kV AC Substation and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, Formation of Platform, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations (National Development) at Land at Mains of Greens, Cuminestown, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, AB53 5YQ

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 attached PAN Redline Boundary Plan relating to the proposed Construction of a 400kV AC Substation and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, Formation of Platform, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations (National Development) at Land at Mains of Greens, Cuminestown, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, AB53 5YQ.

Two sets of in-person public consultation events have been planned as set out in the Pre-Application Consultation Event Timetable enclosed with this letter.

The first events will be held at Cuminestown Community Hall, Cuminestown, AB53 5YJ on 27 February 2024 between 1400 and 1900 and at New Deer Public Hall, Fordyce Terrace, New Deer, AB53 6WE on 29 February 2024 between 1400 and 1900. The second, final public events will be held at Cuminestown Community Hall on 21 May 2024 between 1400 and 1900 and at New Deer Public Hall on 23 May 2024 between 1400 and 1900.

Newspaper adverts in respect of the public events will be placed in the Press & Journal on 17 February 2024 in respect of the first event and on 11 May 2024 in respect of the final event.

Copies of this PAN with attachments have been sent to the relevant parties, as listed below:

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Local Community Council:

Fyvie, Rorthienorman & Monqutter - frmccsec@gmail.com

Neighbouring Community Councils:

Deer - secretary.deercc@gmail.com

Turriff & District Ward Cllrs:

Cllr Alastair Forsyth - cllr.a.forsyth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Cllr Gordon Lang - cllr.g.lang@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Cllr Iain Taylor - cllr.i.taylor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Cllr Anne Stirling - cllr.a.stirling@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Hollyrood MSP:

Constituency MSP Gillian Martin MSP - Gillian.Martin.msp@parliament.scot

Regional MSPs:

Maggie Chapman- Maggie.Chapman.msp@parliament.scot

Maurice Golden- Maurice.Golden.msp@parliament.scot

Liam Kerr- Liam.Kerr.msp@parliament.scot

Douglas Lumsden- Douglas.Lumsden.msp@parliament.scot

Michael Marra- Michael.Marra.msp@parliament.scot

Mercedes Villalba- Mercedes.Villalba.msp@parliament.scot

Tess White- Tess.White.msp@parliament.scot

Westminster MP:

David Duguid - david.duguid.mp@parliament.uk

In terms of additional consultation and publicity, the Prospective Applicant proposes to publish this PAN along with a Consultation Booklet outlining the proposed development on the project website - www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/new-deer-2-400kv-substation.

An information mail / leaflet drop will also be undertaken within a 10km of the prospective application site.

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).

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	Strategic Development Delivery Team Planning and Economy, Aberdeenshire Council Viewmount, Arduthie Road Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ
Proposed development at [Note 1]	Land at Mains of Greens Cuminestown, Turriff Aberdeenshire, AB53 5YQ
Description of proposal [Note 2]	Construction of a 400kV AC Substation and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, Formation of Platform, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds and Other Associated Operations.

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]
Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ

In respect of [Note 6] Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Events

To take place on [Note 7] Please refer to PAN Covering letter and enclosed PAC Event Timetable

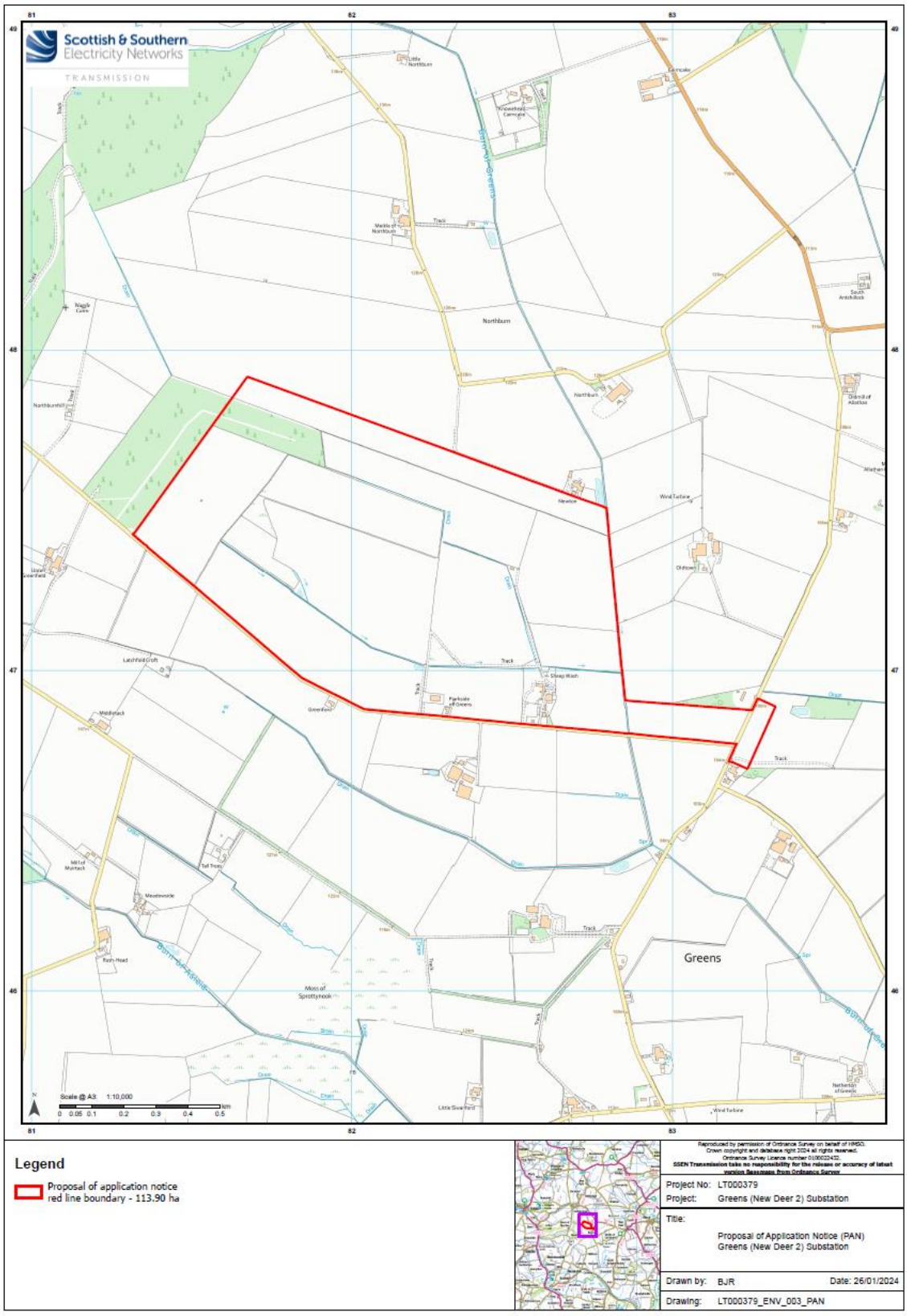
[Note 8] The following parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice

Community Councils - Fyvie, Rorthienorman & Monqutter and Deer
Turriff & District Ward Councillors - Alastair Forsyth, Gordon Lang, Iain Taylor & Anne Stirling
MSP - Gillian Martin (Aberdeenshire East)
MP - David Duguid (Banff & Buchan)

[Note 9] For further details contact	Chris Gardner - Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
on telephone number	07850 655937 or by email at chris.gardner@sse.com
And/or at the following address	Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ

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

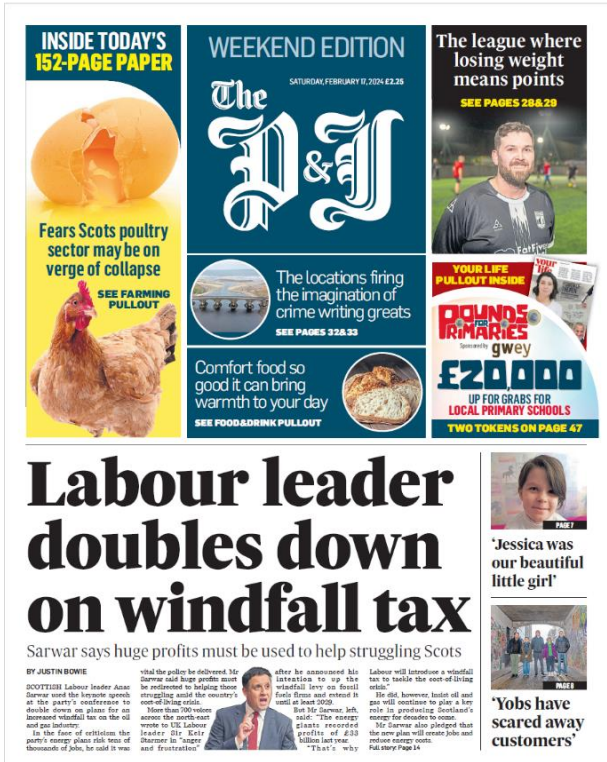
Signed	Chris Gardner
On behalf of	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Date	30 January 2024


Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION
Greens
Northburn
Scale @ A3: 1:10,000
Legend
Proposal of application notice red line boundary - 113.90 ha
Project No: LT000379
Project: Greens (New Deer 2) Substation
Title: Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) Greens (New Deer 2) Substation
Drawn by: BJR
Date: 26/01/2024
Drawing: LT000379_ENV_003_PAN

Appendix B: Greens 400kV Substation PAC Notices for Newspaper February & May 2024

INSIDE TODAY'S 160-PAGE PAPER
From Portlethen to the Premier League
WEEKEND EDITION
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 £2.25
The P&J
Aberdeen PR guru makes Big decision
Zoe steps back as she sells stake in firm
Driving instructors on being tested to limit
SEE YOUR LIFE MAGAZINE
'Minimal risk' as BSE is detected at Scots farm
SEE PAGE 17
Showstopping food at cosy hotel
Restaurant ideally placed for music fans
FOOD & DRINK
FAI blasts police over death in cell
Sheriff says 'institutional failures' contributed to custody tragedy
BY BRYAN RUTHERFORD
Union Street closures irk businesses
Page 6
Graham, 74, set to Brave the catwalk
Jamieson&Carry SALE
Discover unbelievable Sale prices with up to 70% off diamond rings, jewellery, gifts & watches
Now on in-store and online – for one week only!
jamieson-carry.com/sale

58 CLASSIFIED
THE PRESS AND JOURNAL
Saturday, May 11, 2024
The Press and Journal Classified
Email.
Phone.
Post.
Notice Board
Property
House for sale?
Contact the Property Team on 01224 690222
NotePad
EVERY WEDNESDAY
To advertise in
The Press and Journal YOURCAR
call or email
Aberdeen 01224 693211
Email yourads@ajl.co.uk
Aberdeen 01224 691212
Inverness 01463 272333
Elgin 01343 554207
To book your advert call 01224 691212



INSIDE TODAY'S 152-PAGE PAPER
Fears Scots poultry sector may be on verge of collapse
SEE FARMING PULLOUT
WEEKEND EDITION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 £2.25
The P&J
The league where losing weight means points
SEE PAGES 28&29
The locations firing the imagination of crime writing greats
SEE PAGES 32&33
Comfort food so good it can bring warmth to your day
SEE FOOD&DRINK PULLOUT
YOUR LIFE PULLOUT INSIDE
POUNDS FOR PRIMARIES
Sponsored by gwey
£20000
UP FOR GRABS FOR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS
TWO TOKENS ON PAGE 47
Labour leader doubles down on windfall tax
Sarwar says huge profits must be used to help struggling Scots
BY JUSTIN BOWIE
'Jessica was our beautiful little girl'
'Jobs have scared away customers'

54 CLASSIFIED
THE PRESS AND JOURNAL
Saturday, February 17, 2024
Notice Board
Retail Shop
Commissioning of our new Rector
Thank you
JOHN MATTHEWS
(Midmar)
Rise and shine with the P&J
To get your P&J home delivered or sent to your workplace, contact
ABERDEEN 0800 0275040
INVERNESS 0808 2022092
Rural employees forced to quit jobs over lack of buses
WANTED MEDALS
ANY GOLD JEWELLERY (rings, bracelets, brooches earrings, watches) purchased for top prices
ANY COIN COLLECTIONS (Guild, Silver, Royal Mint)
Appraisals given, cash paid
Antiques/collections purchased
Tel: 07766 556464
Email: grayser1974@yahoo.com
MIRRORED TALLBOY UNIT
ROYAL DOULTON DINNER SET
SOLID PINE SINGLE BED
BEAUTIFUL CAVAPOO PUPPIES
RECORDS/ CASSETTES FOR SALE
TABLE TOP SALE
SHOPRIDER CARDOBA
Services
DOWNSIZING HOUSE

Appendix C: Greens 400kV Substation February 2024 Public Consultation PAC 1 Newspaper Adverts

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) 400kV Substation

Pre-application consultation events

We are holding statutory pre-application consultation events for our proposed New Deer 2 (Greens) 400kV substation project. The pre-application process is a key first step in the Town and Country Planning process for national planning applications.

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.

This consultation is related to our New Deer 2 Substation. The project will involve construction of a new outdoor, 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation located at Greens, East of Turriff and South of Cuminestown, 3km from the existing New Deer Substation. The proposed Beauly-Blackhillock-New Deer-Peterhead overhead line will connect into the 400kV Substation at Greens.

During our consultation event you will be able to view information about our proposed plans for the Greens Substation, meet the project team, ask questions and share feedback ahead of our second public event in late May.

You are invited to attend our drop-in consultation events:

Tuesday 27 February, 2–7pm
Cuminestown Community Hall, Main St,
Cuminestown, AB53 5YJ

Thursday 29 February, 2–7pm
New Deer Public Hall, Fordyce Terrace,
New Deer, AB53 6WE

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

Rob Whytock
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3GH
Tel: +44 7721 404 576
Email: rob.whytock@sse.com
@ssentransmission
@SSETransmission

Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
http://bit.ly/3Gck64u

Appendix D: Greens 400kV Substation February 2024 Public Consultation PAC 1 Maildrop Postcard

New Deer 2 (Greens) 400kV Substation

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Pre-application consultation events

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During our consultation event you will be able to view information about our proposed plans for the New Deer 2 Substation, meet the project team, ask questions and share feedback ahead of our second public events in late May.

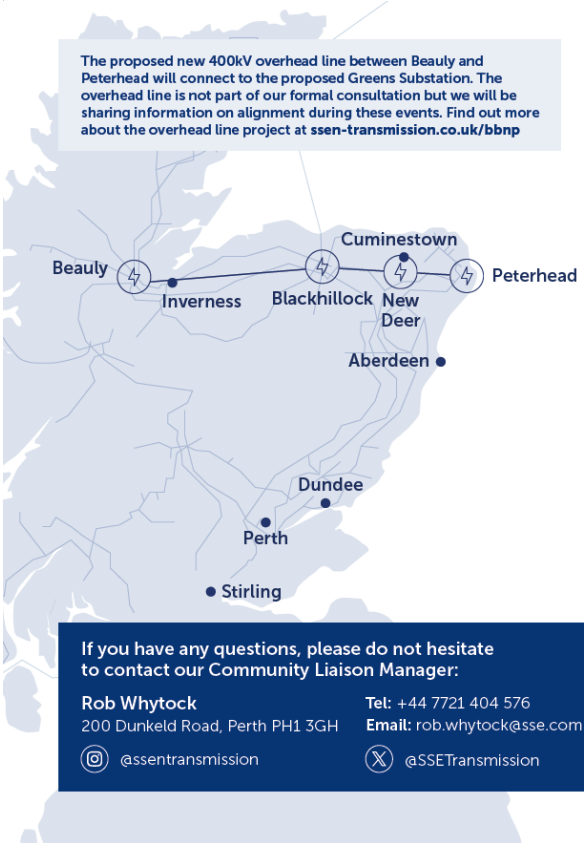
More information overleaf.

You are invited to attend our drop-in consultation events:

Tuesday 27 February, 2–7pm
Cuminestown Community Hall, Main St, Cuminestown, AB53 5YJ

Thursday 29 February, 2–7pm
New Deer Public Hall, Fordyce Terrace, New Deer, AB53 6WE

The proposed new 400kV overhead line between Beauly and Peterhead will connect to the proposed Greens Substation. The overhead line is not part of our formal consultation but we will be sharing information on alignment during these events. Find out more about the overhead line project at ssen-transmission.co.uk/bbnp



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

Rob Whytock
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3GH
Tel: +44 7721 404 576
Email: rob.whytock@sse.com
@ssentransmission
@SSETransmission

Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
http://bit.ly/3Gck64u

Appendix E: Greens 400kV Substation February 2024 Public Consultation PAC 1 Poster

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) 400kV Substation

Pre-application consultation events

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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.

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During our consultation event you will be able to view information about our proposed plans for the Greens Substation, meet the project team, ask questions and share feedback ahead of our second public event in late May.

You are invited to attend our drop-in consultation events:

Tuesday 27 February, 2–7pm
Cuminestown Community Hall, Main St,
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200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3GH
Tel: +44 7721 404 576
Email: rob.whytock@sse.com
@ssentransmission
@SSETransmission

Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
http://bit.ly/3Gck64u

Appendix F: Greens 400kV Substation February 2024 Public Consultation PAC 1 Banners

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

How we've selected the substation site

Our site selection process makes sure 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: Site 13 - Greens

Following our last consultation on the proposed New Deer 2 substation in March 2023, where we asked for your views regarding shortlisted sites, in December 2023 we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was site 13.

The Report on Consultation (ssen-transmission.co.uk/new-deer-2-roc) documents the consultation process which was undertaken between 22 March 2023 and 10 November 2023 for the project.

This report describes the consultation events, summarises the key consultation responses received and provides detail on our responses to the point raised. Site 13 was the only option to have no 'Red' RAG (Red; Amber; Green) ratings against our Site Selection criterion, with 'Red' representing least preferred.

Having reviewed and considered the stakeholder feedback, in conjunction with the results from our detailed site selection process, there have been no issues raised that we believe would be of such a scale to reconsider the preferred site for the proposed Greens (New Deer 2) substation.

What next?

We are now at the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) stage of our site selection process and following this consultation, we will engage again in May 2024, to share feedback from this consultation event and any subsequent changes to design prior to submitting a planning application to the Local Planning Authority.

Why this site?

- Fewer environmental constraints.
- Sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.
- Locality in relation to main access routes.
- Connectivity for existing and proposed OHL infrastructure and local services.
- Sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure works.
- Supports the construction requirements (including laydown and compound) without the need to extend beyond the boundary.

rob.whytock@sse.com

ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

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 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 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

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

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 the substation. Now that we have identified a proposed site, we are able to share further details regarding many of our development considerations.

Size

The layout of the substation has been developed as an Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation. The AIS equipment will be outdoors and consists of busbars and switchgear which is used to marshal and control the electricity supply.

The substation platform size is approximately 700m x 375m and has been developed based on the number of bays required for the initial connections at the site and allowance made for future connections.

A control building will be required on site which contains equipment required to operate the substation including control panels. The building will be single story with an approximate overall height of 14.5m.

Landscape and Visual

There are no National Parks, National Scenic Areas or Wildland Areas in proximity to the Site. The nearest Garden and Designed Landscape is Hatton Castle, which lies approximately 4km to the west.

The site is located on the eastern slopes of Waggle Hill, facing southeast towards a broad open agricultural valley, and contained to the west by rising ground and forestry.

It would be visible for the residential receptors across the valley to the east. Due to distance from the existing substation, the development is likely to extend the presence of infrastructure in the local landscape, where this type of infrastructure is not currently one of the key characteristics.

A detailed landscape and visual assessment will be carried out as part of the EIA to understand how the proposed development will be viewed within the surrounding area, to identify any significant effects and propose mitigation measures in response to these effects.

Indicative landscape and visual mitigation measures such as landscape bunds and planting are shown on the layout plan and 3D visualisations that form part of this consultation process.

Traffic

The overall access to the site is proposed to be from the B1970, with survey and design works ongoing to determine any Public Road improvement works required to facilitate this.

The construction of the proposed development will require vehicles to deliver plant, machinery and workers to the site.

An appropriate Construction Traffic Management Plan would be developed to ensure road safety for all other road users during the construction works for suitable management of all abnormal loads and vehicle movements.

Connections

Greens 400kV substation allows future offshore and onshore renewable generation to connect to the reinforced electricity network.

The location of Greens 400kV substation enables connections into the substation via the north, with the Beauly to Peterhead overhead connection into the substation via OHL. Greens 400kV substation will connect to the existing New Deer substation via Underground Cable and exit the site via the south.

Noise

Construction noise is considered to be short term and intermittent and can be controlled through the implementation of a noise management plan, which would include working hours agreed with Aberdeenshire Council.

Baseline noise monitoring surveys will be undertaken at noise sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the site to inform an operational noise assessment.

Appropriate mitigation measures will be considered dependent on the results of the assessment.

Cultural heritage

There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields or Conservation Areas within 3km of the Site.

An appraisal including a walkover survey of the site and its surrounding area has been undertaken to understand the potential effects on the historic environment. Within the site there is a single recorded undesignated asset – rig and furrow earthworks.

This feature is a continuation from the field adjacent. The feature survives in nearly unrecognisable condition, likely due to the significant ploughing of the field. The fields are a mixture of arable/pasture with evidence of intensive ploughing, reducing the potential for any surviving subsurface archaeology.

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.

rob.whytock@sse.com
ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

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 the 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).

rob.whytock@sse.com
ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

Project overview

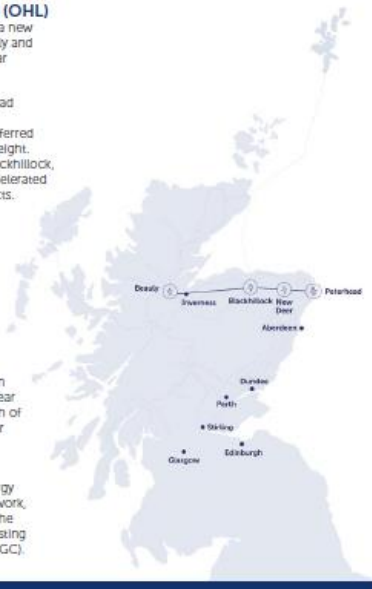
We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure.

Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line (OHL)

Extensive studies have confirmed the need for a new 400kV transmission connection between Beauly and Peterhead, connecting into substation sites near Blackhillock and New Deer.

This connection will be provided via an Overhead Line OHL approximately 180km in length and consisting of steel lattice towers (commonly referred to as pylons) likely to average around 56m in height. The proposed 400kV OHL between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead forms part of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) projects.

The new 400kV OHL, will connect into the proposed new 400kV substations at Beauly, in the Highlands, Blackhillock in Moray, New Deer 2 and Netherton, near Peterhead in Aberdeenshire. Each substation will connect to the existing 400kV substations in each of the areas.



New Deer 2 400kV substation

This consultation is related to our New Deer 2 substation. The project will involve construction of a new outdoor, 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation located East of Turriff and South of Cuminestown, 3km from the existing New Deer substation. The current proposed substation footprint is approximately 700m by 375m.

With provision to enable future renewable energy generation to connect to the transmission network, New Deer 2 400kV substation will connect to the Beauly to Peterhead 400kV OHL and to the existing New Deer substation via underground cable (UGC).

Naming the substation

Feedback from our consultation indicated that stakeholders felt the name of the substation should be more relevant to the area in which it is located. Now that a proposed site has been selected, we are changing the name of New Deer 2 substation to Greens substation.

Going forward within this booklet, for the next consultation and submission of our planning application, the name will be formally changed to Greens substation.

rob.whytock@sse.com
ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

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 Greens substation.

A flythrough video is also available to view from the project webpage or via the QR code at the bottom of this page.

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.

3D image of Greens Substation and access road crossing the Burns of Green

3D image looking north east at ground level over Greens Substation

3D image of Greens Substation looking southwest from Middlehill

Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view on the project website

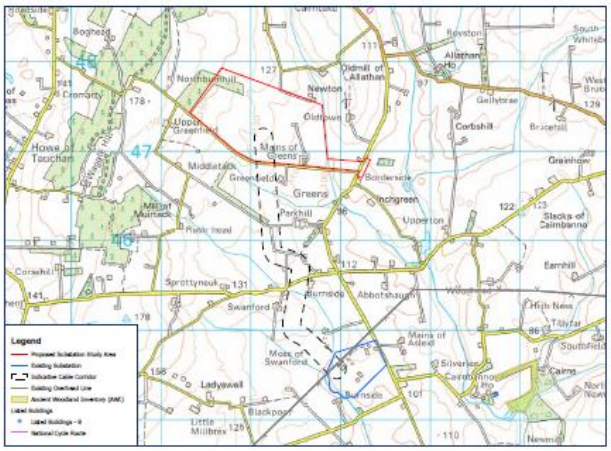
rob.whytock@sse.com

ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

Underground Cable (UGC) connection



Associated with the delivery of the new 400kV substation is the installation of a new 400kV underground cable (UGC) connection between the proposed New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation and the existing New Deer Substation, approximately 2.5km to the south of the new substation site.

The proposed Cable Connection Corridor Plan shows the indicative corridor which starts at Mains of Greens and travels south until Burnside. It then travels east of Swanford and along the eastern extent of the Moss of Swanford, to the existing New Deer Substation.

The new connection will be a double circuit UGC connection and will have an anticipated construction corridor of approximately 80m.

The Corridor is based upon a 100m zone of deviation either side of an indicative centre line. The Plan therefore shows an indicative 200m corridor, not the 80m constriction corridor.

The proposed alignment has been designed to minimise environmental impacts and avoid residential properties and other built form as much as possible, whilst providing the most direct route and most cost-effective delivery solution.

It is anticipated that construction of the UGC would take place over a 3-year period, although a detailed programming of works would be the responsibility of the Principal Contractor in agreement with SSEN Transmission.

Underground cabling is classed as permitted development under Class 40 of Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development (Scotland) Order 1992 and as a result there is no requirement to provide formal notification to the Local Planning Authority or secure planning consent for these works.

Consequently, the proposed UGC connection corridor is being shown for information purposes only and does not form part of the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) proposals and will not form part of the formal planning application for the substation.

We would welcome comments on the proposed indicative UGC corridor and will taker these on board, but they will not be formally recorded as part of the formal PAC process for the main substation proposals.

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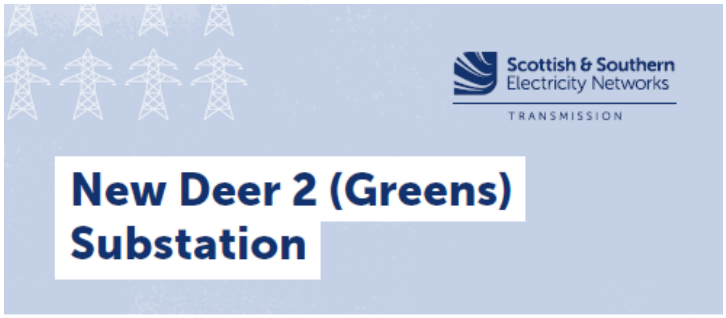

Project timeline

2022
- Substation options assessment: Autumn 2022
- Undertake Environmental Surveys to inform the Site Selection Report.

2023
- Substation options refinement: Early 2023
- Public consultation event: Spring 2023
- Initiate Environmental Impact Assessment.

2024
- Public consultation: Spring and Summer 2024
- Land negotiations
- Complete Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping
- Town and Country Planning Application submission Autumn 2024

2025
- Planning Decision(s) Received
- If Planning Consent granted start discharge of Planning Conditions

2026
- Complete discharge of Planning Conditions: Spring 2026
- Commence Construction

2027
- Construction works ongoing.

2028
- Construction works ongoing.

2029
- Construction complete: Early 2029
- Commissioning works: Complete Stage 1 and 2

2030
- Complete final OHL commissioning works.

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

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 East 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.

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.

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
We 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

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TRANSMISSION

New Deer 2 (Greens) Substation

Summary of environmental considerations

Summary of water environment and soils

The site is located to the west of Burn of Greens and Little Water/Black Burn. There are numerous Private Water Supplies (PWS) within 1km of the site, with some located within the site itself.

Where PWS' are identified, further investigation of potentially impacted PWS will be undertaken and appropriate protection/mitigation measures implemented. The site lies within a Drinking Water Protected Area for groundwater.

A heavily modified ditch is present centrally within the site and discussions have taken place with SEPA regarding the diversion of this feature to accommodate the development.

Detailed design of this diversion will be identified as part of the application proposals however, an indicative diversion route is shown on the layout plan which supports this consultation process.

A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment will be prepared to support the planning application and inform the detailed design of the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) drainage strategy for the site however, an indicative SuDS strategy has been identified and is illustrated in the drainage layout drawings that support this consultation process. A Site Water Management Plan will be developed to manage potential risks to the water environment during construction.

Summary of terrestrial ecology and ornithology

The site has been surveyed to identify habitats, protected species and birds. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) condition assessment was also undertaken concurrently with the habitat survey which allows the biodiversity units of the site to be calculated.

The site which allows for the current biodiversity units does not lie within or close to any sites designated for nature conservation.

Field signs of badger foraging and commuting activity such as prints, latrines and snuffle holes were recorded within the site and subsequent ecological monitoring and survey has identified the presence of active badger setts. No conclusive signs of other protected and/or notable species were recorded.

Breeding bird surveys indicated that the site and surrounding area support numerous breeding bird species. The low-lying agricultural land represents potentially suitable foraging habitat for overwintering waterfowl.

A Landscape and Habitat Management Plan (or equivalent) will be prepared to support the planning application and the project will also target the delivery of a minimum of 10% BNG across the application site (see separate BNG sections for more details on SSEN Transmission's commitment to the delivery of BNG).

Summary of forestry

The site does not lie within or close to any areas of Ancient Woodland and is not affected by any commercially viable plantations. The northern and western boundaries of the site are bounded by spruce woodland areas whilst sections of linear hedgerow are present within the site.

It is anticipated that some of these features will be lost as part of the development, and further detailed investigation will be required establish the extent of any removal, with any loss appropriately compensated for by equivalent (or greater) areas of new tree/hedgerow planting.

A Woodland Management Plan will be prepared and issued to support the planning application.

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Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
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New Deer 2 (Greens) 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

We will accept feedback from now until 11 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/greens**

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 March 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.

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.

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

Rob Whytock
Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission,
200 Dunkeld Road,
Perth, PH1 3GH

T: 07721 404576
E: rob.whytock@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/greens

You can also follow us on social media

SSEN-Transmission

SSETransmission

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ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require 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?

Based on the requirements outlined in the ESO's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design, we have developed proposals to reinforce the onshore corridor between Beauly and Peterhead, via Blackhillock and New Deer.

To facilitate this connection, and others as part of the wider strategy, new additional 400kV substations and associated infrastructure is required at these four locations.

The 400kV substation project forms part of the ScotWind enabling Transmission Owner Reinforcement Instructions (TORIs), enabling renewable energy generation in the North-East to connect to the Transmission network.

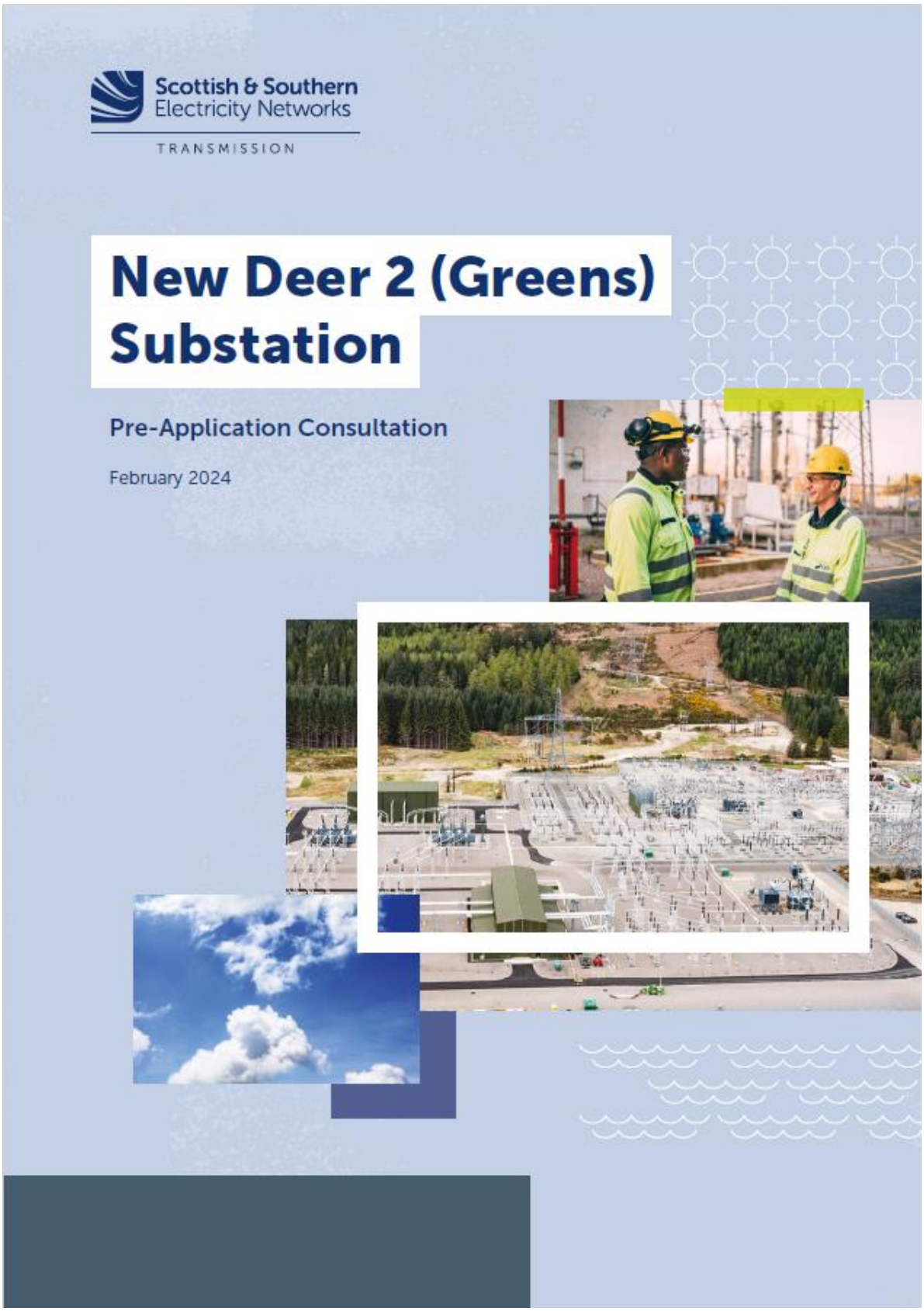
Future network investment requirements

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 zerofive 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 is underway and we expect the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO, to publish details of this in March this year. It is expected this will include a combination of new onshore and offshore network requirements.

Appendix G: Greens 400kV Substation February 2024 Public Consultation PAC 1 Booklet



Contents

The consultation events will be taking place on:

27 February 2024 - Cuminestown Community Hall - 2pm-7pm

29 February 2024 - New Deer Public Hall - 2pm-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 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 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 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?

Extensive studies informing the ESO's Pathway to the 2030 HND confirmed the need to reinforce the onshore corridors between Spittal and Beauly, Beauly to Peterhead and the subsea connection between Spittal and Peterhead.

Providing new higher voltage connections between these sites will deliver the significant increased capacity needed to transport energy from new large scale onshore and offshore renewable generation (mainly wind farms) to demand centres via onshore and HVDC subsea links.

To enable these new connections, new 400kV substations are required at key locations as shown on the adjacent map. At Spittal, Beauly and Peterhead, converter stations are required to convert electricity from the subsea cables that transport electricity from the Western Isles, between Spittal and Peterhead and Peterhead south.

These key locations will also allow offshore and onshore renewable generation to connect to the reinforced electricity network.

These projects have been highlighted as critical to delivering the UK and Scottish Government's targets, with the development of them accelerated to meet the target dates of Energisation by 2030.

Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets will only get us so far 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 is underway and we expect the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO, to publish details of this in March this year. It is expected this will include a combination of new onshore and offshore network requirements.

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 the 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).

Project overview

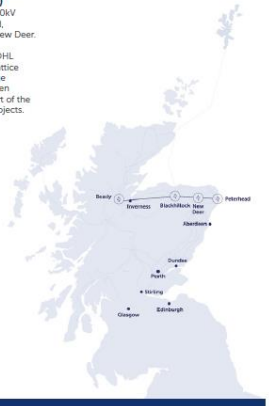
We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure.

Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line (OHL)

Extensive studies have confirmed the need for a new 400kV transmission connection between Beauly and Peterhead, connecting into substation sites near Blackhillock and New Deer.

This connection will be provided via an Overhead Line OHL approximately 180km in length and consisting of steel lattice towers (commonly referred to as pylons) likely to average around 56m in height. The proposed 400kV OHL between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead forms part of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (AST1) projects.

The new 400kV OHL, will connect into the proposed new 400kV substations at Beauly, in the Highlands, Blackhillock in Moray, New Deer 2 and Netherton, near Peterhead in Aberdeenshire. Each substation will connect to the existing 400kV substations in each of the areas.



New Deer 2 400kV substation

This consultation is related to our New Deer 2 substation. The project will involve construction of a new outdoor, 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation located East of Turriff and South of Cuminestown, 3km from the existing New Deer substation. The current proposed substation footprint is approximately 700m by 375m.

With provision to enable future renewable energy generation to connect to the transmission network, New Deer 2 400kV substation will connect to the Beauly to Peterhead 400kV OHL and to the existing New Deer substation via underground cable (UGC).

Naming the substation

Feedback from our consultation indicated that stakeholders felt the name of the substation should be more relevant to the area in which it is located. Now that a proposed site has been selected, we are changing the name of New Deer 2 substation to Greens substation.

Going forward within this booklet, for the next consultation and submission of our planning application, the name will be formally changed to Greens substation.

How we've selected the substation site

Our site selection process makes sure 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.

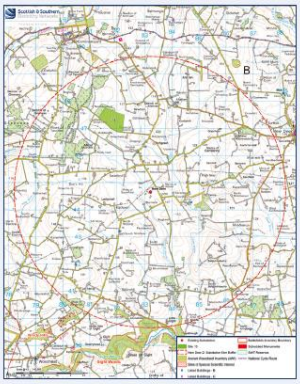
Our proposed site: Site 13 - Greens

Following our last consultation on the proposed New Deer 2 substation in March 2023, where we asked for your views regarding shortlisted sites, in December 2023 we confirmed that the site we were proposing to progress with was site 13.

The Report on Consultation (ssen-transmission.co.uk/new-deer-2-roc) documents the consultation process which was undertaken between 22 March 2023 and 10 November 2023 for the project.

This report describes the consultation events, summarises the key consultation responses received and provides detail on our responses to the point raised. Site 13 was the only option to have no 'Red' RAG (Red; Amber; Green) ratings against our Site Selection criterion, with 'Red' representing least preferred.

Having reviewed and considered the stakeholder feedback, in conjunction with the results from our detailed site selection process, there have been no issues raised that we believe would be of such a scale to reconsider the preferred site for the proposed Greens (New Deer 2) substation.

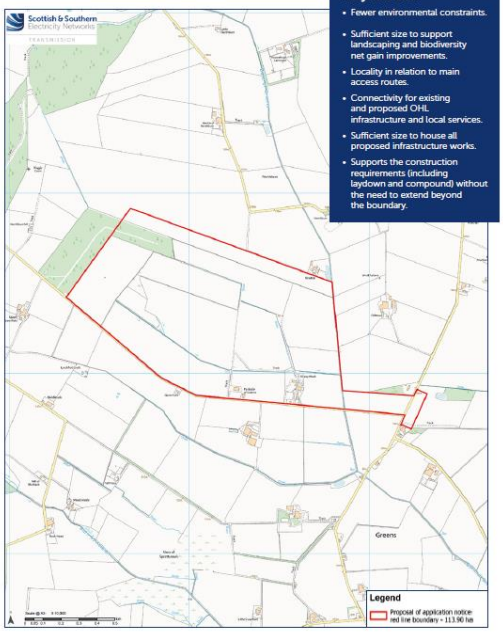


What next?

We are now at the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) stage of our site selection process and following this consultation, we will engage again in May 2024, to share feedback from this consultation event and any subsequent changes to design prior to submitting a planning application to the Local Planning Authority.

Why this site?

- Fewer environmental constraints.
- Sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.
- Locality in relation to main access routes.
- Connectivity for existing and proposed OHL infrastructure and local services.
- Sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure works.
- Supports the construction requirements (including laydown and compound) without the need to extend beyond the boundary.



The Town and Country Planning process

The legislation that enables the planning of projects like Greens 400kV substation, is the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Engaging the right people

We will be applying for planning permission for the Greens 400kV Substation through an application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

The proposed substation project is categorised as 'National Development' under the terms of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, meaning pre-application consultation is required in the manner prescribed in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended).

The application would also need to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. We will be submitting an EIA Scoping Report to Angus Council soon, which, in collaboration with statutory and non-statutory consultees, will determine the scope of issues that must be considered in the EIA Report.

The pre-application consultation process

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 30 January 2024, notifying the Council of the dates and venues of the first and second public pre-application consultation events.

With the PAN, we also submitted a plan identifying the potential land to be developed. The red line boundary shown on this plan represents the maximum extent of the land included in the application site, but this area may be reduced or rationalised as the development proposal becomes finalised. The PAN also provided details of relevant parties the PAN was sent to in accordance with the statutory requirements, and highlighted our plans for publicity for the events and the project website.

There is a requirement to hold two events to provide the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposals. This booklet relates to the first public events. A second set of events will be held in May 2024 at which feedback will be given on the views obtained at the first events. There will also be a further opportunity for comment during this second event.

Submitting the planning application

The current project programme anticipates that the planning application will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in Autumn 2024. This will include the EIA Report, other standalone reports, forms, and drawings.

Summaries of representations will also be included in a Pre-application Consultation Report, alongside the details required by Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended).

Note that 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.

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/greens**

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.

Project timeline

2022
- Substation options assessment: Autumn 2022
- Undertake Environmental Surveys to inform the Site Selection Report.

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- Substation options refinement: Early 2023
- Public consultation event: Spring 2023
- Initiate Environmental Impact Assessment.

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- Construction works ongoing.

2028
- Construction works ongoing.

2029
- Construction complete: Early 2029
- Commissioning works: Complete Stage 1 and 2

2030
- Complete final OHL commissioning works.

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 Greens substation, we have a number of other projects within the local area we are currently progressing, described below.

Our relevant Pathway to 2030 projects are also detailed on page 13 and includes information regarding our proposals for the Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL.

Netherton Hub (Peterhead)

Extensive studies have confirmed the need to develop a second 400kV and 132kV substation at Peterhead, which is being developed at Netherton Hub near Longside. A further high voltage direct current (HVDC) link is required between Peterhead and South Humber, which will double the export capacity of the existing scheme already in development between Peterhead and Yorkshire.

This additional HVDC link is interconnected with the HVDC link between Spittal and Peterhead, resulting in a direct current (DC) network to allow for the high capacity of onshore and offshore connections required to deliver UK and Scottish Government targets.

An area of approximately 120 hectares is required to facilitate the project, with the aim to keep all elements of the project within the one site to help minimise the impact to the local community.

Rothienorman 400kV substation

We have constructed a new 400/275kV substation adjacent to an existing transmission OHL, west of the Wood of Middleton, approximately two miles west of the village of Rothienorman. Construction commenced in 2019 and is expected to conclude in spring 2024.

The substation is required to allow increased generation capacity access to the transmission system, while keeping the network fully operable and compliant with all necessary technical standards. Without these necessary reinforcements, the network cannot facilitate all generation connections.

Establishing a substation at Rothienorman addresses this issue and in effect increases the networks efficiency and capability. Power sharing across these circuits becomes more important as generation load increases on the system.

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 to connect to the transmission network in our license area, are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments.

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**

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 the substation. Now that we have identified a proposed site, we are able to share further details regarding many of our development considerations.

Size
The layout of the substation has been developed as an Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation. The AIS equipment will be outdoors and consists of busbars and switchgear which is used to marshal and control the electricity supply.

The substation platform size is approximately 700m x 375m and has been developed based on the number of bays required for the initial connections at the site and allowance made for future connections.

A control building will be required on site which contains equipment required to operate the substation including control panels. The building will be single story with an approximate overall height of 14.5m.

Landscape and Visual
There are no National Parks, National Scenic Areas or Wildland Areas in proximity to the Site. The nearest Garden and Designed Landscape is Hatton Castle, which lies approximately 4km to the west.

The site is located on the eastern slopes of Waggle Hill, facing southeast towards a broad open agricultural valley, and contained to the west by rising ground and forestry.

It would be visible for the residential receptors across the valley to the east. Due to distance from the existing substation, the development is likely to extend the presence of infrastructure in the local landscape, where this type of infrastructure is not currently one of the key characteristics.

A detailed landscape and visual assessment will be carried out as part of the EIA to understand how the proposed development will be viewed within the surrounding area, to identify any significant effects and propose mitigation measures in response to these effects.

Indicative landscape and visual mitigation measures such as landscape bunds and planting are shown on the layout plan and 3D visualisations that form part of this consultation process.

Traffic
The overall access to the site is proposed to be from the B1970, with survey and design works ongoing to determine any Public Road Improvement works required to facilitate this.

The construction of the proposed development will require vehicles to deliver plant, machinery and workers to the site.

An appropriate Construction Traffic Management Plan would be developed to ensure road safety for all other road users during the construction works for suitable management of all abnormal loads and vehicle movements.

Connections
Greens 400kV substation allows future offshore and onshore renewable generation to connect to the reinforced electricity network.

The location of Greens 400kV substation enables connections into the substation via the north, with the Beauly to Peterhead overhead connection into the substation via OHL. Greens 400kV substation will connect to the existing New Deer substation via Underground Cable and exit the site via the south.

Noise
Construction noise is considered to be short term and intermittent and can be controlled through the implementation of a noise management plan, which would include working hours agreed with Aberdeenshire Council.

Baseline noise monitoring surveys will be undertaken at noise sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the site to inform an operational noise assessment.

Appropriate mitigation measures will be considered dependent on the results of the assessment.

Cultural heritage
There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields or Conservation Areas within 3km of the Site.

An appraisal including a walkover survey of the site and its surrounding area has been undertaken to understand the potential effects on the historic environment. Within the site there is a single recorded undesignated asset – rig and furrow earthworks.

This feature is a continuation from the field adjacent. The feature survives in nearly unrecognisable condition, likely due to the significant ploughing of the field. The fields are a mixture of arable/pasture with evidence of intensive ploughing, reducing the potential for any surviving subsurface archaeology.

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.

Summary of environmental considerations

Summary of water environment and soils
The site is located to the west of Burn of Greens and Little Water/Black Burn. There are numerous Private Water Supplies (PWS) within 1km of the site, with some located within the site itself.

Where PWS' are identified, further investigation of potentially impacted PWS will be undertaken and appropriate protection/mitigation measures implemented.

The site lies within a Drinking Water Protected Area for groundwater.

A heavily modified ditch is present centrally within the site and discussions have taken place with SEPA regarding the diversion of this feature to accommodate the development.

Detailed design of this diversion will be identified as part of the application proposals however, an indicative diversion route is shown on the layout plan which supports this consultation process.

A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment will be prepared to support the planning application and inform the detailed design of the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) drainage strategy for the site however, an indicative SuDS strategy has been identified and is illustrated in the drainage layout drawings that support this consultation process.

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

Summary of terrestrial ecology and ornithology
The site has been surveyed to identify habitats, protected species and birds. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) condition assessment was also undertaken concurrently with the habitat survey which allows the biodiversity units of the site to be calculated. The site which allows for the current biodiversity units does not lie within or close to any sites designated for nature conservation.

Field signs of badger foraging and commuting activity such as prints, latrines and snuffle holes were recorded within the site and subsequent ecological monitoring and survey has identified the presence of active badger setts. No conclusive signs of other protected and/or notable species were recorded.

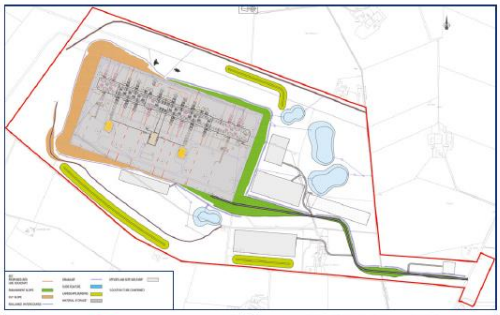
Breeding bird surveys indicated that the site and surrounding area support numerous breeding bird species. The low-lying agricultural land represents potentially suitable foraging habitat for overwintering waterfowl.

A Landscape and Habitat Management Plan (or equivalent) will be prepared to support the planning application and the project will also target the delivery of a minimum of 10% BNG across the application site (see separate BNG sections for more details on SSEN Transmission's commitment to the delivery of BNG).

Summary of forestry
The site does not lie within or close to any areas of Ancient Woodland and is not affected by any commercially viable plantations. The northern and western boundaries of the site are bounded by spruce woodland areas whilst sections of linear hedgerow are present within the site.

It is anticipated that some of these features will be lost as part of the development, and further detailed investigation will be required establish the extent of any removal, with any loss appropriately compensated for by equivalent (or greater) areas of new tree/hedgerow planting.

A Woodland Management Plan will be prepared and issued to support the planning application.



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 Greens substation.

A flythrough video is also available to view from the project webpage or via the QR code at the bottom of this page.

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.

Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view on the project website.

3D image of Greens Substation and access road crossing the Burns of Green

3D Image looking north east at ground level over Greens Substation

3D image of Greens Substation looking southwest from Middlehill

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 East 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.

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.

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

We 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

Notes

Notes

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 will accept feedback from now until 11 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/greens**

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 March 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.

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.

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

Rob Whytock
Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission,
200 Dunkeld Road,
Perth, PH1 3GH

T: 07721 404576
E: rob.whytock@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/greens**

You can also follow us on social media

SSEN-Transmission

SSETransmission

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. (Please tick one box per question only)

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 Greens substation project that you feel you require more information about? If so, please detail below.

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 **stakeholder.admin@sse.com** 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 **ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy**

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: SSEN Transmission, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH **Email:** rob.whytock@sse.com
Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens
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/greens

We intend to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist our experienced teams in the analysis of your feedback, so we can categorise key points raised more quickly. You can learn more about how we're utilising AI at **ssen-transmission.co.uk/AIFAQ**

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 H: Greens 400kV Substation May 2024 Public Consultation PAC 2 Newspaper Advert

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Greens 400kV Substation

Feedback event

We are pleased to be hosting a second public Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) event on our proposed Greens 400kV substation (previously known as New Deer 2), following our initial event in February 2024 and feedback period which closed on 11 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 major and national planning applications.

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 New Deer 275kV substation. This new substation will connect into the new proposed Beauly - Blackhillock - New Deer - Peterhead overhead line.

During our face-to-face drop-in events you will be able to view our proposals and submit questions and comments to the project team. Further details will be available on the project website.

The events will be held in the following dates, times and locations:

Tuesday 21 May, 2–7pm
Cuminestown Community Hall, Main St,
Cuminestown, AB53 5YJ

Thursday 23 May, 2–7pm
New Deer Public Hall, Fordyce Terrace,
New Deer, AB53 6WE

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

Rob Whytock
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3GH
Tel: +44 7721 404 576
Email: rob.whytock@sse.com
@ssentransmission
@SSETransmission

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/greens

Appendix I: Greens 400kV Substation May 2024 Public Consultation PAC 2 Maildrop Postcard

Greens 400kV Substation

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

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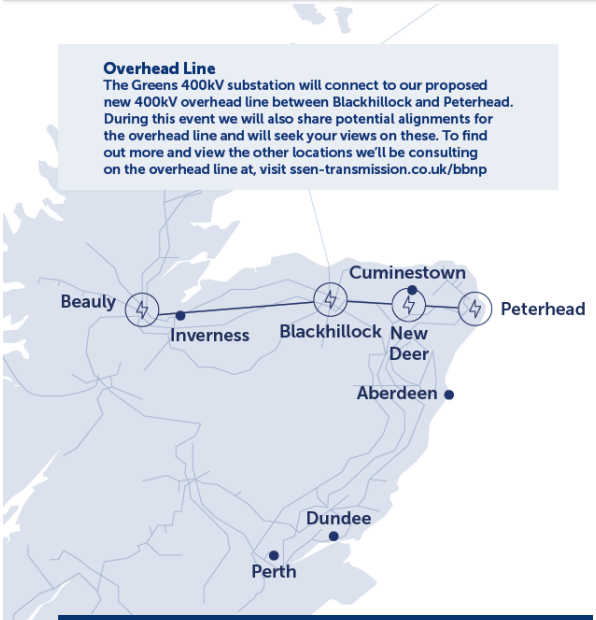
More information overleaf.

Overhead Line
The Greens 400kV substation will connect to our proposed new 400kV overhead line between Blackhillock and Peterhead. During this event we will also share potential alignments for the overhead line and will seek your views on these. To find out more and view the other locations we'll be consulting on the overhead line at, visit ssen-transmission.co.uk/bbnp



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@SSETransmission

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Appendix J: Greens 400kV Substation May 2024 Public Consultation PAC 2 Poster

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Greens 400kV Substation

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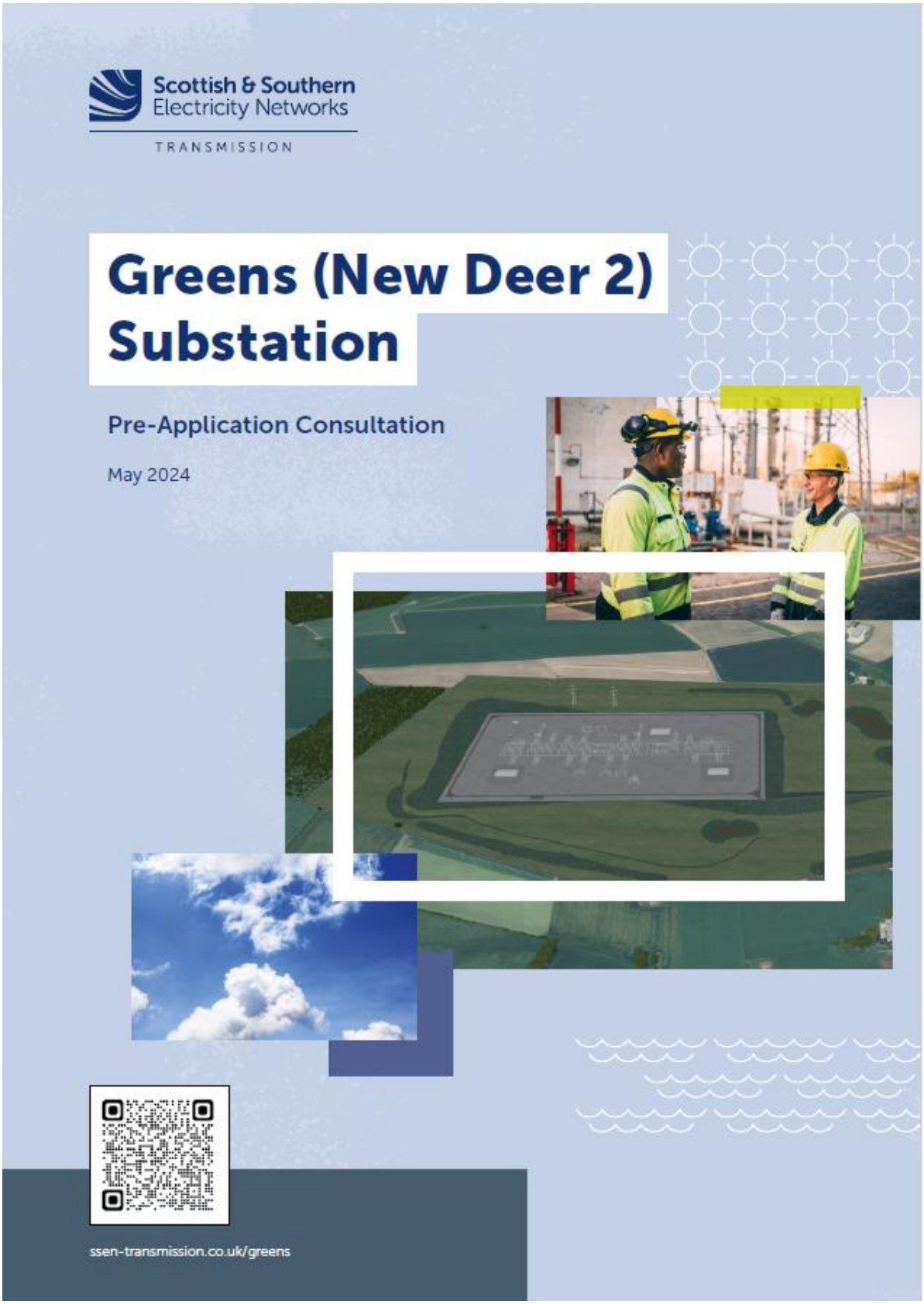
Appendix K: Greens 400kV Substation May 2024 Public Consultation PAC 2 Booklet


Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION
Greens (New Deer 2) Substation
Pre-Application Consultation
May 2024
ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

Contents

The consultation events will be taking place on:

Tuesday 21 May - Cuminestown Community Hall 2pm - 7pm

Thursday 23 May - New Deer Public Hall 2pm - 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 50Giga Watts (GW) 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 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 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 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 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 your area?

The HND confirmed the requirement for an onshore 400kV connection from Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer and on to Peterhead.

This will enable the significant power transfer capability needed to take power from large scale renewable generation connecting from the Western Isles and from connections north of Beauly to the east at Peterhead and then transport this power to where it is required.

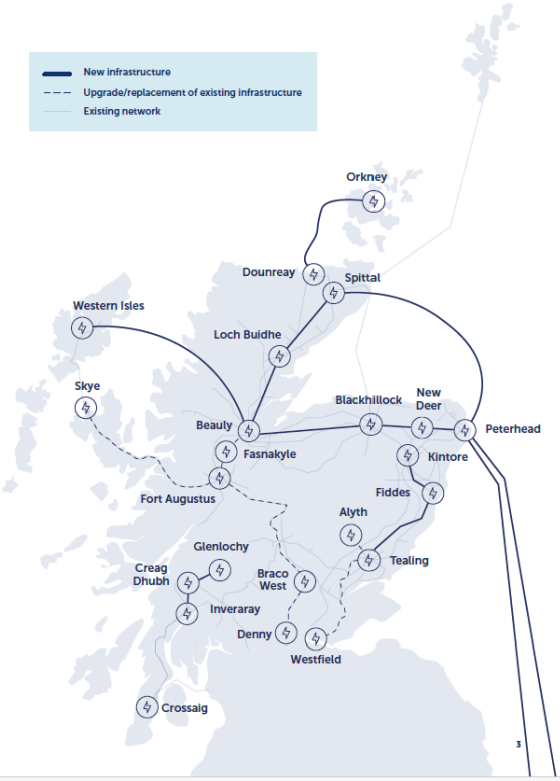
Additional substations are proposed near Blackhillock and New Deer, as connection points along the new overhead line. These are needed to pick up power from additional large scale onshore and offshore low carbon renewable generation for transportation to demand centres.

These projects have been highlighted as critical to delivering the UK and Scottish Government's targets, with the development of them accelerated to meet the target dates of energisation by 2030.

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 confirms the need for several projects to proceed now for delivery by 2035, which combined represent a potential estimated investment of over £5bn for SSEN Transmission.



The story so far

Mar '23 — We introduced this project to the public by consulting on six suitable sites which had been refined from 14 initial locations.

Jun '23 — The consultation feedback period closed on 30 June with over 70 responses.

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 then 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.

Jan '24 — We submitted our Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) on 30 Jan to Aberdeenshire Council.

Feb '24 — The first of two sequential public consultation events trigged by the submission of the PAN were held in Cuminestown and New Deer.

Help shape our plans

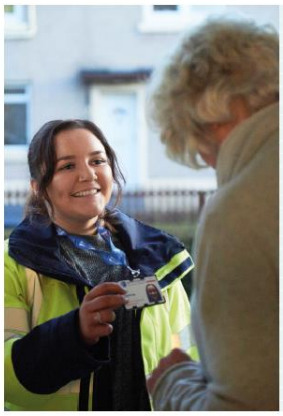
The work we have planned is significant and has the potential to deliver massive benefits in your community, Scotland, and beyond. Yet we know that achieving our goals will require a lot of work that will impact your lives. That's why we want to work with you every step of the way throughout the planning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



What we are seeking views on

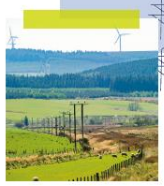
We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of the refinements or changes we've made.

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, and 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.

Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line (OHL)

Extensive studies have confirmed the need for a new 400kV transmission connection between Beauly and Peterhead, connecting into substation sites near Blackhillock and New Deer.

This connection will be provided via an OHL approximately 185km in length and consisting of steel lattice towers (commonly referred to as pylons) likely to average around 57m in height. The proposed 400kV OHL between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead forms part of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) projects.

The new 400kV OHL will connect into the proposed new 400kV substations at Beauly in the Highlands, Blackhillock in Moray, Greens and Netherton, near Peterhead in Aberdeenshire. Each substation will connect to the existing 400kV substations in each of the areas.

Greens 400kV substation

This consultation is related to our proposed Greens substation.

The project will involve construction of a new outdoor 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation located east of Turriff and south of Cuminestown, 3km from the existing New Deer substation.

The current proposed substation footprint is approximately 660m by 330m.

With provision to enable future renewable energy generation to connect to the transmission network, Greens 400kV substation will connect to the Beauly to Peterhead 400kV OHL and to the existing New Deer substation via underground cable (UGC).

Indicative 3D model of Greens 400kV Substation

The substation site

About the site

Following site selection consultation we advised within our Report on Consultation that site 13 had been selected as our proposed site for the substation ahead of our first Pre-Application Consultation event earlier this year.

The site is located south of Cuminestown and west of New Deer and is considered the best on balance of technical, environmental and cost constraints. Site 13 was the only option to have no 'Red' RAG (Red; Amber; Green) ratings against our site selection criterion, with 'Red' representing least preferred.

The Summary RAG Ratings table in our Report on Consultation details RAG ratings for each site.

Having reviewed and considered the stakeholder feedback, in conjunction with the results from our detailed site selection process, there have been no issues raised that we believe would be of such a scale to reconsider the preferred site for the proposed Greens 400kV Substation.

Why the site is considered best on balance:

- Fewer environmental constraints.
- Sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.
- Good access routes.
- Good connectivity for existing and proposed OHL infrastructure and local services.
- Sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure works.
- Supports the construction requirements (including laydown and compound) without the need to extend beyond the boundary.

Search area and proposed site for Greens Substation

What size is the site?

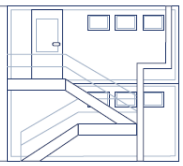
The substation footprint will be approximately 660 x 330m (114 Ha.) and will consist of;

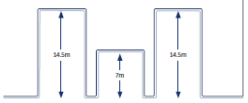
- Construction of a new outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), 400kV substation.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
- Temporary areas will also be required during construction for laydown and welfare.
- Provision for the underground cable connection between existing New Deer substation and proposed Greens substation.

What else will the development consist of?

Drainage
A Drainage Strategy has been prepared that will inform the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment, that will be submitted as part of the planning application for the site. An indicative SuDS strategy has been identified and is illustrated in the drainage layout drawings that support this consultation process. At this stage it is assumed two permanent SuDS ponds will be required within the site boundary.

Temporary compounds
Temporary construction compounds and laydown areas will be located at the South-East of the site to support the construction phase. Discussions have already taken place with our construction contractor to identify the optimal locations for these, along with their size and access requirements. Additional working areas will be utilised at the North of the site, where the terminal towers will be located, enabling access for construction work.



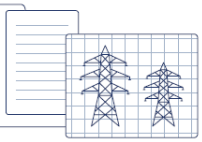


Substation Buildings
Within the substation boundary there will be a total of 3 buildings. A control building of maximum height 7m, will be required on site which contains ancillary equipment required to operate the substation including control panels and low voltage AC and DC systems. Two buildings will also be required for the Synchronous Compensators, with a maximum height of 14.5m.

Connections
The substation will connect into the new Beauly to Peterhead OHL (ssen-transmission.co.uk/bbnp), which will require two terminal towers to be located adjacent to the substation platform, with a dedicated access track leading to them. The towers will be about 62m high and part of a separate Section 37 application. An underground cable (UGC) connection is also required between the new substation and existing substation at New Deer. This UGC connection will be delivered under permitted development rights in consultation with the Planning Authority.

Lighting
During construction lighting will be managed by the construction contractor, by a previously prepared Lighting Management Plan. Once operational it is anticipated that the site will run on a dark site basis. An operational lighting strategy will be prepared during the project refinement phase.

Landscaping and Screening
A Landscape Strategy will be prepared to support the planning application and inform the landscaping and screening for the site. Indicative landscaping and screening are illustrated in drawings that support this consultation process.



Biodiversity Net Gain
The project will also target the delivery of a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across the application site. We are committed to delivering 10% BNG on all sites gaining consent going forward to ensure that we don't just restore our natural habitats, but actively improve them for the benefit of local communities, wildlife, flora and fauna. Existing landscape features lost because of the development, will be replaced in line with our 10% BNG commitment.

Greens feedback

Following submission of the PAN in January 2024, the first of two pre-application consultation events were held at Cuminestown on 27 February and New Deer on 29 February. There were a total of 275 attendees.

During the 6-week feedback period which closed on 11 April 2024, 87 responses were received specific to this project.

Many of the responses posed general questions covered in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page and additional handouts such as project need, why all infrastructure cannot be placed offshore, sustainability considerations and compensation. More information regarding these topics and other FAQs can be accessed at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs

We have included event feedback through the PAN and pre-application process, as well as design feedback, within the following pages. They are:

Find out more
Scan the QR code with your smartphone to access our FAQs.

Event feedback	Response
Lighting Concerns over the extent of lighting required during construction and operation were raised, and the potential for it to disrupt residents.	During construction, lighting will be switched off when not in use and overnight. Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. During winter months when there is reduced daylight, lighting will be required to aid construction activity. A Light Management Plan will be adopted by our contractor to minimise any impacts associated with this. During operation lighting would be installed at the substation but would only be used in the event of a fault during the hours of darkness; during the over-run of planned works; or when sensor activated as security lighting for nighttime access.
Holistic Overview Requests were received for information on all developments connecting into the substation on one map indicating the full extent of developer proposals in the area.	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. We know that residents are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in the area. Applications to connect to the transmission network in our license area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments. 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.

Event feedback	Response
Noise and dust From construction/ road traffic was raised as a concern.	We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents. A Noise Impact Assessment is currently being prepared to support our planning application, which will assess the potential impact from construction and operational noise and, where necessary propose appropriate mitigation measures that will be agreed with the Planning Authority. The Proposed Development would be required to meet noise limits set by the Planning Authority. Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors. Noise emitting equipment such as Synchronous Compensators will be housed to ensure that noise emissions are at a minimum. The environmental impact assessment (which will include details on the background noise monitoring) will be publicly available when the application is submitted to the Planning Authority. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced that will detail the mitigation and management measures required to minimise environmental impact from the construction phase of the development. The CEMP forms a framework within which the measures will be implemented throughout the project.
Traffic impacts to residents Concerns with traffic safety, the robustness of existing roads and maintenance were raised alongside questions regarding our traffic management/ improvement plans.	We understand that with large construction projects, increased construction traffic and road condition will often cause concern. In developing the Greens 400kV substation proposals, traffic and road use is a primary consideration for us and our contractors. An initial construction traffic routing assessment has been undertaken to establish the most appropriate routes for construction traffic travelling to and from the site. To support this, an Abnormal Loads Assessment report will also be undertaken for larger equipment being delivered to the site. A package of Public Road Improvements will also be delivered prior to construction to ensure the local roads are suitable for the construction traffic. Our Contractor will prepare and adopt a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to ensure that appropriate mitigation and management strategies are identified and implemented. This will include the identification of road widening, junction improvements or repairs that will be required. It will also ensure a defined route is agreed with the council. Condition surveys of the public highway will be carried out before works start on site, and again upon completion, with any defects repaired to ensure the public highway is left in no worse state once the works are complete. In addition, we recognise the importance of separating construction traffic from the single-track road which is located at the south of the site. Therefore, a substation specific access road has been proposed for construction traffic and will be constructed prior to the main substation construction works commencing.

Greens feedback

Event feedback	Response
Wildlife Migrating birds/loss of habitats	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) survey work is currently underway to establish the full extent of all habitats and protected species present on site. Where sensitive habitats and species are present, we will seek to avoid them wherever possible, but where unavoidable suitable mitigation measures will be identified and agreed in consultation with the Planning Authority and NatureScot. Where mitigation measures are agreed, these will be passed onto the contractor in the form of a Commitments Register, supported by our own Species Protection Plans and General Environmental Protection Plans, to ensure that the measures are implemented as required. These measures will also form part of the CEMP for the project.
Water/Flooding Concerns were raised with level of water runoff from Mains of Greens, concerns regarding flooding and questions raised regarding how Private Water Supplies (PWS) will be protected.	We recognise there is a known issue with the Burn of Greens, which is susceptible to flooding, however the majority of the site does not suffer from flood risk. Full Drainage Impact and Flood Risk Assessments (DIA/FRA) are currently being undertaken and will be supported by a Drainage Strategy for the site, which will ensure that surface water run-off is controlled to a level equivalent to the current run-off rate of the site to ensure no worsening of the current situation. The Drainage Strategy, DIA and FRA will form part of the planning application submission and will be assessed by the Planning Authority and SEPA. A full PWS survey has been undertaken of potentially affected PWS in proximity to site to understand the full impact of the development and any mitigation measures required to preserve residents PWS provision. Residents within proximity of the site will either have already received a survey or will receive a letter in due course regarding water supplies. Anyone with further information on private water supplies should respond to the questionnaires previously issued or email the Community Liaison Manager (rob.whytock@sse.com) with details of their PWS. Please also see our 'Protecting Private Water Supplies' handout for more information, available from our project webpage or at our consultation events.

Event feedback	Response
Construction logistics Questions raised regarded working hours and proposals for the workers who will be living/travelling to site.	Our appointed contractor for the construction of the Greens 400kV Substation is Siemens BAM, who we will be working closely with in the lead up to and throughout anticipated construction. Construction working hours will typically be restricted to 0700 to 1900 Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1300 on Saturday, with only some continuous activities carried out by exception. Siemens BAM will prepare and adopt a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to minimise any potential impacts on the environment during construction. These documents will be approved by the Planning Authority in advance of construction starting and will include contact details for the Construction Site Manager, who alongside the Community Liaison Manager will be the main point of contact with the local community during construction. As part of a wider strategy for worker accommodation that will require approval from the Planning Authority. We are developing standards for worker accommodation that will ensure the wellbeing of workers and ensure that facilities are put in place to cater for their needs and those of our host communities.
Safety A concern was raised regarding risk of fire.	Safety is our number one priority and forms the core of how we operate our electricity network across the north of Scotland. There will be a comprehensive fire risk assessment conducted by our contractor as part of their CEMP. The substation will be made up of established technologies with no lithium batteries on site.
Environmental screening Requests were received for more information regarding how the site will be screened form peoples' views.	The landscape strategy for the development is currently being finalised and will be informed by the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) undertaken as part of the EIA. The current proposals deliver boundary screening in the form of landscape bunds and mature landscape planting that seeks to mitigate the visual impact of the development and soften its appearance within the local environment. In addition, the colour of buildings located within the development has been selected to mitigate visual impact. Our Indicative Landscape Strategy plan is also now available to view which shows the screening plans currently being proposed.

Greens feedback

Event feedback	Response
Community benefit Suggestions included: • Fibre broadband for Cuminestown • Equipment for local schools • Upgrades to Cuminestown Hall and playing fields • Providing more green spaces for community in Cuminestown • Active travel corridors • Cycle lanes Feedback included that there was not enough detail currently available on this and how the funds will be administered.	We would like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area. We will work with the community to further explore the suggestions being made and would seek to work with the Community Council to review suggestions and better understand local needs, identifying initiatives that could be developed during construction We are in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives and help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy. We appreciate that as the fund is being developed the information we've been able to share has been limited. More information will be available later this year. In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, 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 9000 Scottish jobs.

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 Greens (New Deer 2) substation from a range of different perspectives.

To get a better sense of the proposals in full, a visualisation portal including flythrough video is also available to view from the project webpage and 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 with you.

Photomontages
Photomontage visualisations will also be produced as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Once the EIA is completed and submitted as part of our planning application, we'll ensure these photomontages are available to view.

Find out more
Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view our most up to date 3D visualisations on the project website.

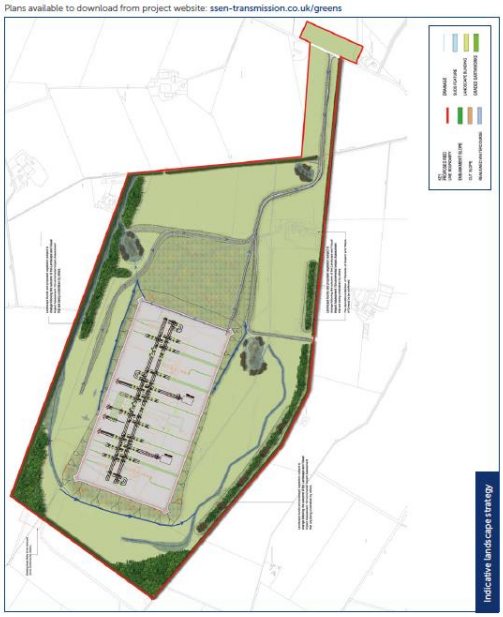

Indicative 3D image of Greens Substation and access road crossing the Burns of Green

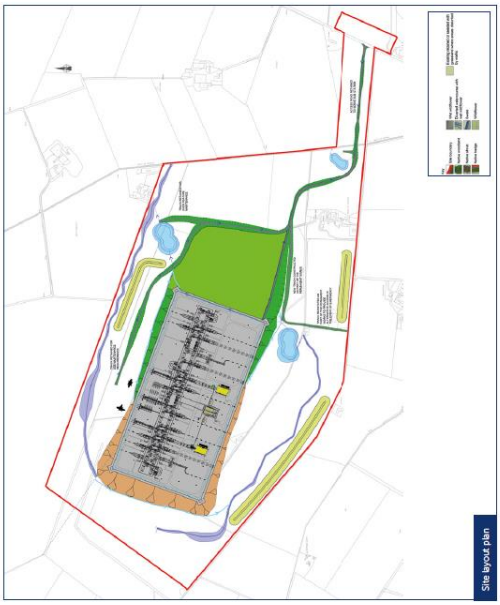

Indicative 3D image looking north east at ground level over Greens Substation


Indicative 3D image of Greens Substation looking southwest from Middlehill

Layout proposals

Plans available to download from project website: ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens





Project timeline

2022
- Substation options assessment: Autumn 2022
- Undertake environmental surveys to inform the site selection report

2023
- Substation options refinement: Early 2023
- Public consultation event: Spring 2023
- Initiate Environmental Impact Assessment

2024 WE ARE HERE
- Public consultation: Spring and summer 2024
- Land negotiations
- Complete Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping
- Town and Country Planning Application submission autumn 2024

2025
- Planning decision(s) received
- If planning consent granted start discharge of planning conditions

2026
- Complete discharge of planning conditions: Spring 2026
- Commence construction

2027
- Construction works ongoing

2028
- Construction works ongoing

2029
- Construction complete: Early 2029
- Commissioning works: Complete Stage 1 and 2

2030
- Complete final OHL commissioning works

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 Autumn 2024. Our formal feedback period will close on 4 July, 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 February, 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 Greens 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.

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.

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

Rob Whytock
Community Liaison Manager

SSEN Transmission,
200 Dunkeld Road,
Perth, PH1 3GH

T: 07721 404576
E: rob.whytock@sse.com

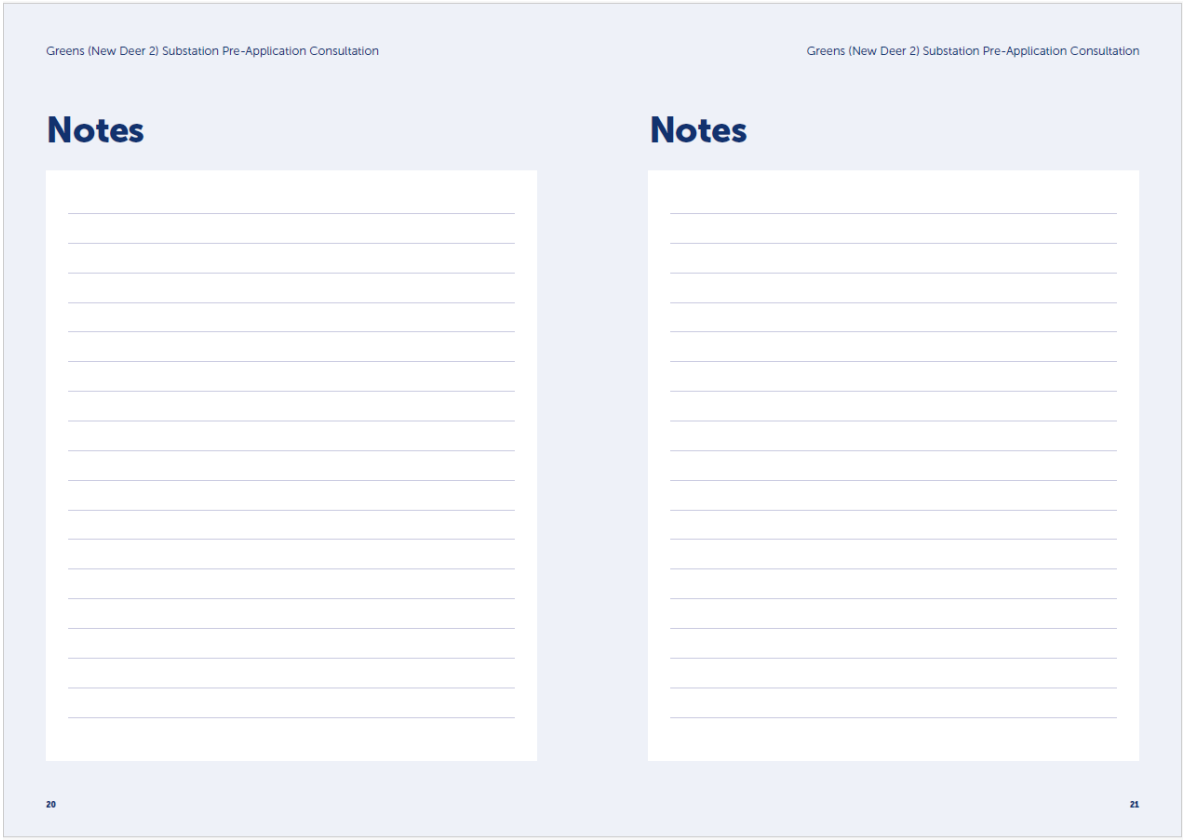
Additional information
The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens**

You can also register for updates at our consultation events, just ask our staff at the welcome desk.

You can also follow us on social media:

SSEN-Transmission

SSETransmission



Appendix L: Greens 400kV Substation May 2024 Public Consultation PAC 2 Banners

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require 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 your area?

The HND confirmed the requirement for an onshore 400kV connection from Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer and on to Peterhead.

This will enable the significant power transfer capability needed to take power from large scale renewable generation connecting from the Western Isles and from connections north of Beauly to the east at Peterhead and then transport this power to where it is required.

Additional substations are proposed near Blackhillock and New Deer, as connection points along the new overhead line. These are needed to pick up power from additional large scale onshore and offshore low carbon renewable generation for transportation to demand centres.

These projects have been highlighted as critical to delivering the UK and Scottish Government's targets, with the development of them accelerated to meet the target dates of energisation by 2030.

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 confirms the need for several projects to proceed now for delivery by 2035, which combined represent a potential estimated investment of over £5bn for SSEN Transmission.

ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Project overview

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Extensive studies have confirmed the need for a new 400kV transmission connection between Beauly and Peterhead, connecting into substation sites near Blackhillock and New Deer.

This connection will be provided via an OHL approximately 185km in length and consisting of steel lattice towers (commonly referred to as pylons) likely to average around 57m in height. The proposed 400kV OHL between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead forms part of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) projects.

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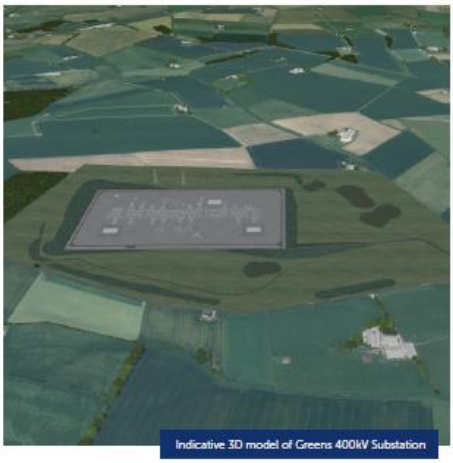

Indicative 3D model of Greens 400kV Substation

ssen-transmission.co.uk/greens

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

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About the site

Following site selection consultation we advised within our Report on Consultation that site 13 had been selected as our proposed site for the substation ahead of our first Pre-Application Consultation event earlier this year.

The site is located south of Cuminestown and west of New Deer and is considered the best on balance of technical, environmental and cost constraints. Site 13 was the only option to have no 'Red' RAG (Red; Amber; Green) ratings against our site selection criterion, with 'Red' representing least preferred.

The Summary RAG Ratings table in our Report on Consultation details RAG ratings for each site.

Having reviewed and considered the stakeholder feedback, in conjunction with the results from our detailed site selection process, there have been no issues raised that we believe would be of such a scale to reconsider the preferred site for the proposed Greens 400kV Substation.

Why the site is considered best on balance:

- Fewer environmental constraints.
- Sufficient size to support landscaping and biodiversity net gain improvements.
- Good access routes.
- Good connectivity for existing and proposed OHL infrastructure and local services.
- Sufficient size to house all proposed infrastructure works.
- Supports the construction requirements (including laydown and compound) without the need to extend beyond the boundary.

Search area and proposed site for Greens Substation

What size is the site?

The substation footprint will be approximately 660 x 330m (114 Ha.) and will consist of;

- Construction of a new outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), 400kV substation.
- Space provision to allow for connection of future renewable energy generation projects.
- Areas for drainage, landscaping/screening and habitat enhancement.
- Temporary areas will also be required during construction for laydown and welfare.
- Provision for the underground cable connection between existing New Deer substation and proposed Greens substation.

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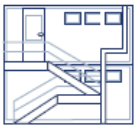
What else will the development consist of?

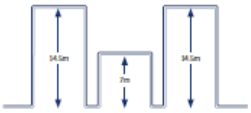
Drainage

A Drainage Strategy has been prepared that will inform the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment, that will be submitted as part of the planning application for the site. An indicative SuDS strategy has been identified and is illustrated in the drainage layout drawings that support this consultation process. At this stage it is assumed two permanent SuDS ponds will be required within the site boundary.

Temporary compounds

Temporary construction compounds and laydown areas will be located at the South-East of the site to support the construction phase. Discussions have already taken place with our construction contractor to identify the optimal locations for these, along with their size and access requirements. Additional working areas will be utilised at the North of the site, where the terminal towers will be located, enabling access for construction work.





Substation Buildings

Within the substation boundary there will be a total of 3 buildings. A control building of maximum height 7m, will be required on site which contains ancillary equipment required to operate the substation including control panels and low voltage AC and DC systems. Two buildings will also be required for the Synchronous Compensators, with a maximum height of 14.5m.

Connections

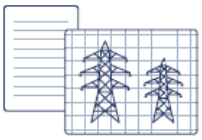
The substation will connect into the new Beauly to Peterhead OHL (ssen-transmission.co.uk/bbnp), which will require two terminal towers to be located adjacent to the substation platform, with a dedicated access track leading to them. The towers will be about 62m high and part of a separate Section 37 application. An underground cable (UGC) connection is also required between the new substation and existing substation at New Deer. This UGC connection will be delivered under permitted development rights in consultation with the Planning Authority.

Lighting

During construction lighting will be managed by the construction contractor, by a previously prepared Lighting Management Plan. Once operational it is anticipated that the site will run on a dark ske basis. An operational lighting strategy will be prepared during the project refinement phase.

Landscaping and Screening

A Landscape Strategy will be prepared to support the planning application and inform the landscaping and screening for the site. Indicative landscaping and screening are illustrated in drawings that support this consultation process.



Biodiversity Net Gain

The project will also target the delivery of a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across the application site. We are committed to delivering 10% BNG on all sites gaining consent going forward to ensure that we don't just restore our natural habitats, but actively improve them for the benefit of local communities, wildlife, flora and fauna. Existing landscape features lost because of the development, will be replaced in line with our 10% BNG commitment.

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Project timeline

2022
- Substation options assessment: Autumn 2022
- Undertake environmental surveys to inform the site selection report

2023
- Substation options refinement: Early 2023
- Public consultation event: Spring 2023
- Initiate Environmental Impact Assessment

2024 WE ARE HERE
- Public consultation: Spring and summer 2024
- Land negotiations
- Complete Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping
- Town and Country Planning Application submission autumn 2024

2025
- Planning decision(s) received
- If planning consent granted start discharge of planning conditions

2026
- Complete discharge of planning conditions: Spring 2026
- Commence construction

2027
- Construction works ongoing

2028
- Construction works ongoing

2029
- Construction complete: Early 2029
- Commissioning works: Complete Stage 1 and 2

2030
- Complete final OHL commissioning works

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Greens feedback

Following submission of the PAN in January 2024, the first of two pre-application consultation events were held at Cuminestown on 27 February and New Deer on 29 February. There were a total of 275 attendees.

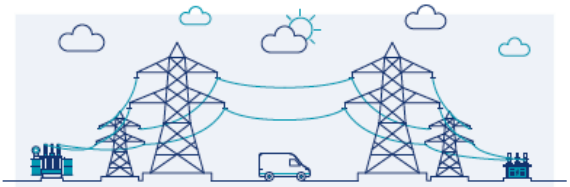
During the 6-week feedback period which closed on 11 April 2024, 87 responses were received specific to this project.

Find out more
Scan the QR code with your smartphone to access our FAQs.

Many of the responses posed general questions covered in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page and additional handouts such as project need, why all infrastructure cannot be placed offshore, sustainability considerations and compensation. More information regarding these topics and other FAQs can be accessed at: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs**

We have included event feedback through the PAN and pre-application process, as well as design feedback, within the following pages. They are:

Event feedback	Response
Lighting Concerns over the extent of lighting required during construction and operation were raised, and the potential for it to disrupt residents.	During construction, lighting will be switched off when not in use and overnight. Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. During winter months when there is reduced daylight, lighting will be required to aid construction activity. A Light Management Plan will be adopted by our contractor to minimise any impacts associated with this. During operation lighting would be installed at the substation but would only be used in the event of a fault during the hours of darkness; during the over-run of planned works; or when sensor activated as security lighting for nighttime access.
Holistic Overview Requests were received for information on all developments connecting into the substation on one map indicating the full extent of developer proposals in the area.	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**. We know that residents are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in the area. Applications to connect to the transmission network in our license area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments. 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.



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Greens feedback

Event feedback	Response
Noise and dust From construction/ road traffic was raised as a concern.	We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents. A Noise Impact Assessment is currently being prepared to support our planning application, which will assess the potential impact from construction and operational noise and, where necessary propose appropriate mitigation measures that will be agreed with the Planning Authority. The Proposed Development would be required to meet noise limits set by the Planning Authority. Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors. Noise emitting equipment such as Synchronous Compensators will be housed to ensure that noise emissions are at a minimum. The environmental impact assessment (which will include details on the background noise monitoring) will be publicly available when the application is submitted to the Planning Authority. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced that will detail the mitigation and management measures required to minimise environmental impact from the construction phase of the development. The CEMP forms a framework within which the measures will be implemented throughout the project.
Traffic impacts to residents Concerns with traffic safety, the robustness of existing roads and maintenance were raised alongside questions regarding our traffic management/ improvement plans.	We understand that with large construction projects, increased construction traffic and road condition will often cause concern. In developing the Greens 400kV substation proposals, traffic and road use is a primary consideration for us and our contractors. An initial construction traffic routing assessment has been undertaken to establish the most appropriate routes for construction traffic travelling to and from the site. To support this, an Abnormal Loads Assessment report will also be undertaken for larger equipment being delivered to the site. A package of Public Road Improvements will also be delivered prior to construction to ensure the local roads are suitable for the construction traffic. Our Contractor will prepare and adopt a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to ensure that appropriate mitigation and management strategies are identified and implemented. This will include the identification of road widening, junction improvements or repairs that will be required. It will also ensure a defined route is agreed with the council. Condition surveys of the public highway will be carried out before works start on site, and again upon completion, with any defects repaired to ensure the public highway is left in no worse state once the works are complete. In addition, we recognise the importance of separating construction traffic from the single-track road which is located at the south of the site. Therefore, a substation specific access road has been proposed for construction traffic and will be constructed prior to the main substation construction works commencing.

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Greens feedback

Event feedback	Response
Wildlife Migrating birds/loss of habitats	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) survey work is currently underway to establish the full extent of all habitats and protected species present on site. Where sensitive habitats and species are present, we will seek to avoid them wherever possible, but where unavoidable suitable mitigation measures will be identified and agreed in consultation with the Planning Authority and NatureScot. Where mitigation measures are agreed, these will be passed onto the contractor in the form of a Commitments Register, supported by our own Species Protection Plans and General Environmental Protection Plans, to ensure that the measures are implemented as required. These measures will also form part of the CEMP for the project.
Water/Flooding Concerns were raised with level of water runoff from Mains of Greens, concerns regarding flooding and questions raised regarding how Private Water Supplies (PWS) will be protected.	We recognise there is a known issue with the Burn of Greens, which is susceptible to flooding, however the majority of the site does not suffer from flood risk. Full Drainage Impact and Flood Risk Assessments (DIA/FRA) are currently being undertaken and will be supported by a Drainage Strategy for the site, which will ensure that surface water run-off is controlled to a level equivalent to the current run-off rate of the site to ensure no worsening of the current situation. The Drainage Strategy, DIA and FRA will form part of the planning application submission and will be assessed by the Planning Authority and SEPA. A full PWS survey has been undertaken of potentially affected PWS in proximity to site to understand the full impact of the development and any mitigation measures required to preserve residents PWS provision. Residents within proximity of the site will either have already received a survey or will receive a letter in due course regarding water supplies. Anyone with further information on private water supplies should respond to the questionnaires previously issued or email the Community Liaison Manager (rob.whytock@sse.com) with details of their PWS. Please also see our 'Protecting Private Water Supplies' handout for more information, available from our project webpage or at our consultation events.
Construction logistics Questions raised regarded working hours and proposals for the workers who will be living/travelling to site.	Our appointed contractor for the construction of the Greens 400kV Substation is Siemens BAM, who we will be working closely with in the lead up to and throughout anticipated construction. Construction working hours will typically be restricted to 0700 to 1900 Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1300 on Saturday, with only some continuous activities carried out by exception. Siemens BAM will prepare and adopt a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to minimise any potential impacts on the environment during construction. These documents will be approved by the Planning Authority in advance of construction starting and will include contact details for the Construction Site Manager, who alongside the Community Liaison Manager will be the main point of contact with the local community during construction. As part of a wider strategy for worker accommodation that will require approval from the Planning Authority. We are developing standards for worker accommodation that will ensure the wellbeing of workers and ensure that facilities are put in place to cater for their needs and those of our host communities.

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Greens feedback

Event feedback	Response
Safety A concern was raised regarding risk of fire.	Safety is our number one priority and forms the core of how we operate our electricity network across the north of Scotland. There will be a comprehensive fire risk assessment conducted by our contractor as part of their CEMP. The substation will be made up of established technologies with no lithium batteries on site.
Environmental screening Requests were received for more information regarding how the site will be screened form peoples' views.	The landscape strategy for the development is currently being finalised and will be informed by the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) undertaken as part of the EIA. The current proposals deliver boundary screening in the form of landscape bunds and mature landscape planting that seeks to mitigate the visual impact of the development and soften its appearance within the local environment. In addition, the colour of buildings located within the development has been selected to mitigate visual impact. Our indicative Landscape Strategy plan is also now available to view which shows the screening plans currently being proposed.
Community benefit Suggestions included: • Fibre broadband for Cuminestown • Equipment for local schools • Upgrades to Cuminestown Hall and playing fields • Providing more green spaces for community in Cuminestown • Active travel corridors • Cycle lanes Feedback included that there was not enough detail currently available on this and how the funds will be administered.	We would like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area. We will work with the community to further explore the suggestions being made and would seek to work with the Community Council to review suggestions and better understand local needs, identifying initiatives that could be developed during construction We are in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund which will enable us to work directly with local communities to support initiatives and help fund projects that can leave a lasting, positive legacy. We appreciate that as the fund is being developed the information we've been able to share has been limited. More information will be available later this year. In terms of broader community benefits, our Pathway to 2030 projects will boost the economy, 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 9000 Scottish jobs.

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