

Banniskirk Hub

(Spittal area 400kV substation
and HVDC converter station)

Pre-application consultation feedback event

June 2024

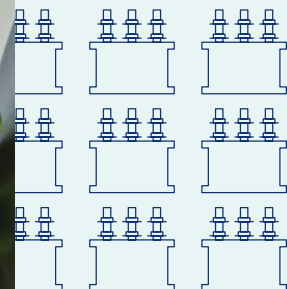


Contents

Powering change together	1	Connections into Banniskirk Hub	16
The Pathway to 2030	2	3D Visualisations	18
Project overview	4	Project timeline	21
The story so far	8	Have your say	22
Feedback	10	Notes	23
The Banniskirk Hub site	15		

The consultation event will be taking place on:

Monday 3 June, 2pm - 7pm, Ross Institute Hall, Halkirk, KW12 6XZ



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.
bit.ly/3SYgNFs

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 landmass, crossing some of the country's most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground subsea cables and overhead lines 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.

What does this mean for the North of Scotland?

The north of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The extensive studies that informed the ESO's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design confirmed the requirement to reinforce the onshore corridor between Spittal and Beaully, and an offshore subsea cable link between Spittal and Peterhead.

Providing a 400kV overhead line and high voltage subsea cable (HVDC) connection between these sites provides the significant capacity required to take power from large-scale onshore and offshore renewable generation (mainly wind farms), connecting into the north of Scotland before transporting power to areas of demand.

As part of these plans, we're proposing to build a new 400kV overhead line (OHL) between Spittal and Beaully via Loch Buidhe.

This requires three new 400kV substations to be constructed at Spittal, Loch Buidhe and Beaully to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

In addition, high voltage converter stations are also required to convert AC electricity to DC (and vice versa), from the offshore subsea connection from between Spittal and Peterhead. These connections will also allow offshore and onshore renewable generation to connect to the reinforced electricity network.

As such, these projects have been highlighted as critical to enable the delivery of the UK and Scottish governments' 2030 net zero targets, with a requirement for accelerated development and delivery.

Future network investment requirements

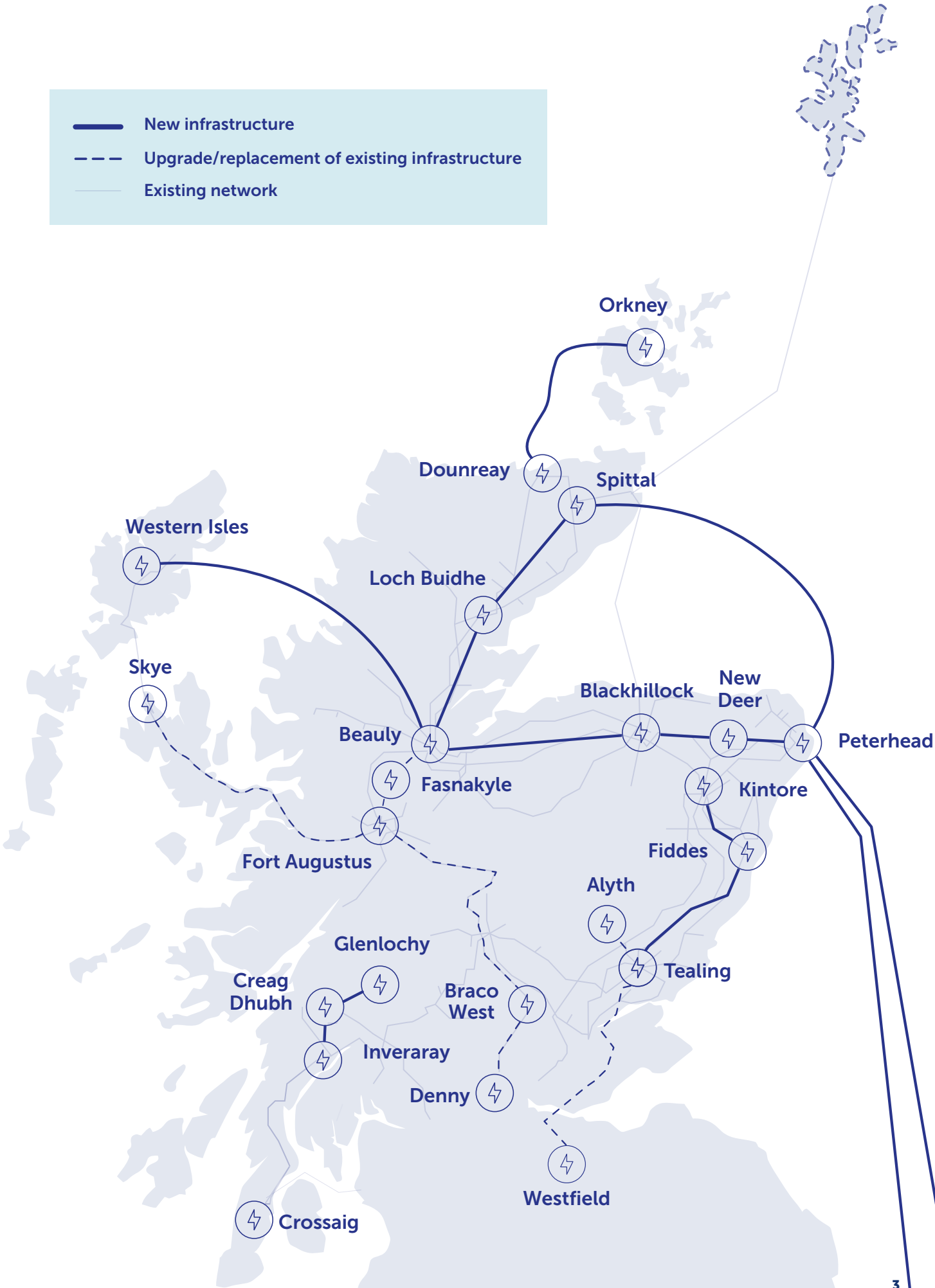
Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

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

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO's, 'Beyond 2030' report, published in March this year. For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets. These projects, which will be subject to extensive public consultation, are at the very early stages of development and further details will be set out in due course.

Banniskirk Hub (Spittal area 400kV substation and HVDC converter station)

- New infrastructure
- Upgrade/replacement of existing infrastructure
- Existing network



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.

We are proposing to construct a new strategic transmission hub approximately 12km to the south of Thurso, near the settlement of Spittal in Caithness. Currently, the majority of the site comprises rough grassland used for cattle/sheep grazing, with a small (approximately 6 ha) area of coniferous woodland present along the western edge, bordering the A9 trunk road.

The hub will allow the proposed new 400kV substation and HVDC converter station to be located on the same site.

The proposed development is being progressed as a separate project from other SSEN Transmission projects such as the proposed new 400kV Spittal to Beaully overhead line and the Spittal to Peterhead HVDC subsea cable link.

We are keen to hear your feedback regarding our strategic hub and if there are further considerations you believe need to be taken into account during the next stage of the development process.

Key components of the Banniskirk Hub

400kV substation

A 400kV substation is required to support offshore and onshore electricity generation. The substation will be based on construction of a new outdoor, Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) design.

HVDC converter station

This converter station and associated high voltage direct current (HVDC) underground and subsea cable will transport renewable energy from generators in the north of Scotland via Spittal in Caithness to the Nethererton Hub near Peterhead and on to demand centres throughout the UK.



Naming the substation

To avoid confusion with the nearby Spittal 275kV substation, the name for this new hub was selected as Banniskirk Hub.

For this consultation and submission of our planning application, the name will be formally changed to Banniskirk Hub.

Aerial view of proposed Hub site



Example of an outdoor AIS substation

Banniskirk 400kV substation

The substation is required to support offshore and onshore electricity generation and transmission, and future generation from third-party developers.

The 400kV substation platform will be a level area of approx. 580m by 350m. The Alternating Current (AC) substation will contain switchgear, transformers and synchronous compensators with control buildings.

The proposed development will also consist of:

- Security fencing;
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for drainage;
- Internal roads for access and maintenance;
- Planting for the purposes of visual screening, landscape improvement and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG);
- Cut and fill earthworks as required to enable the above;
- Temporary construction compounds and material storage areas for the duration of the construction phase.



Super grid transformer

What is a substation?

Substations play an essential role managing electricity flow around the country and improving the reliability of supply. They achieve this by connecting and disconnecting circuits and converting electricity into different voltages using large equipment called supergrid transformers.

A new 400kV overhead line between Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beaully is proposed to connect to the 400kV substation.

Project overview

Spittal to Peterhead HVDC converter station

A High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station is proposed for the Banniskirk Hub. Spittal to Peterhead HVDC converter station and over 200km of HVDC underground and subsea cable will transport renewable energy from generators in the far north of Scotland via Banniskirk in Caithness to the Netheron Hub near Peterhead for onward transmission to demand centres throughout the UK.

You can find more information on this major subsea project here: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/spittal--peterhead-subsea-cable-link/

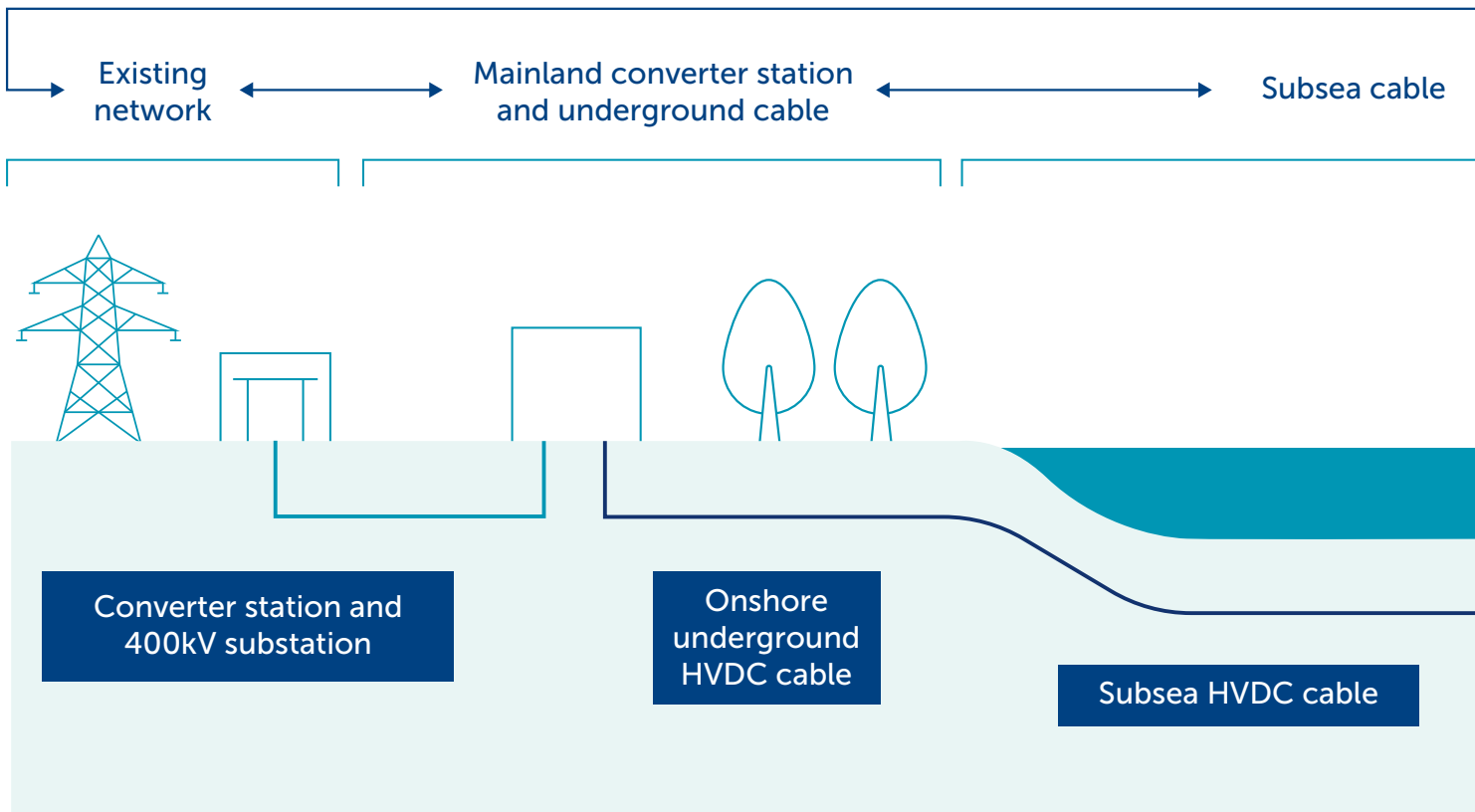
What is a converter station?

Converter stations change electricity from alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC), or vice versa.

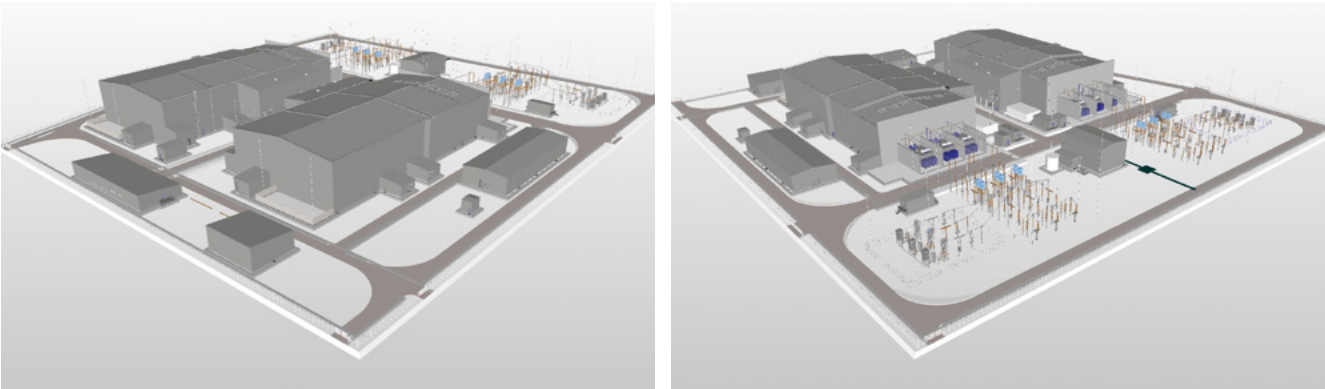
Alternating current is used in households, whereas direct current is used to efficiently transport electricity over long distances, such as via subsea cables, with fewer electrical losses.

Following the PAC1 event in March our technology provider and building designer have developed the proposed converter station design. As a result of this work, the DC platform has reduced in area by 11%. It has also been reorientated compared to what was presented at PAC1. Significant reductions have been made in proposed size of the DC buildings with the plan area of buildings reduced by 37%, with the AC filter buildings removed completely and the height of the main converter building reduced by 2.5m. Dimensions of each of the two converter pole buildings is now 63m by 123m by 26.4m. Each converter building has an attached service building of dimensions 51m by 17m by 23.2m.

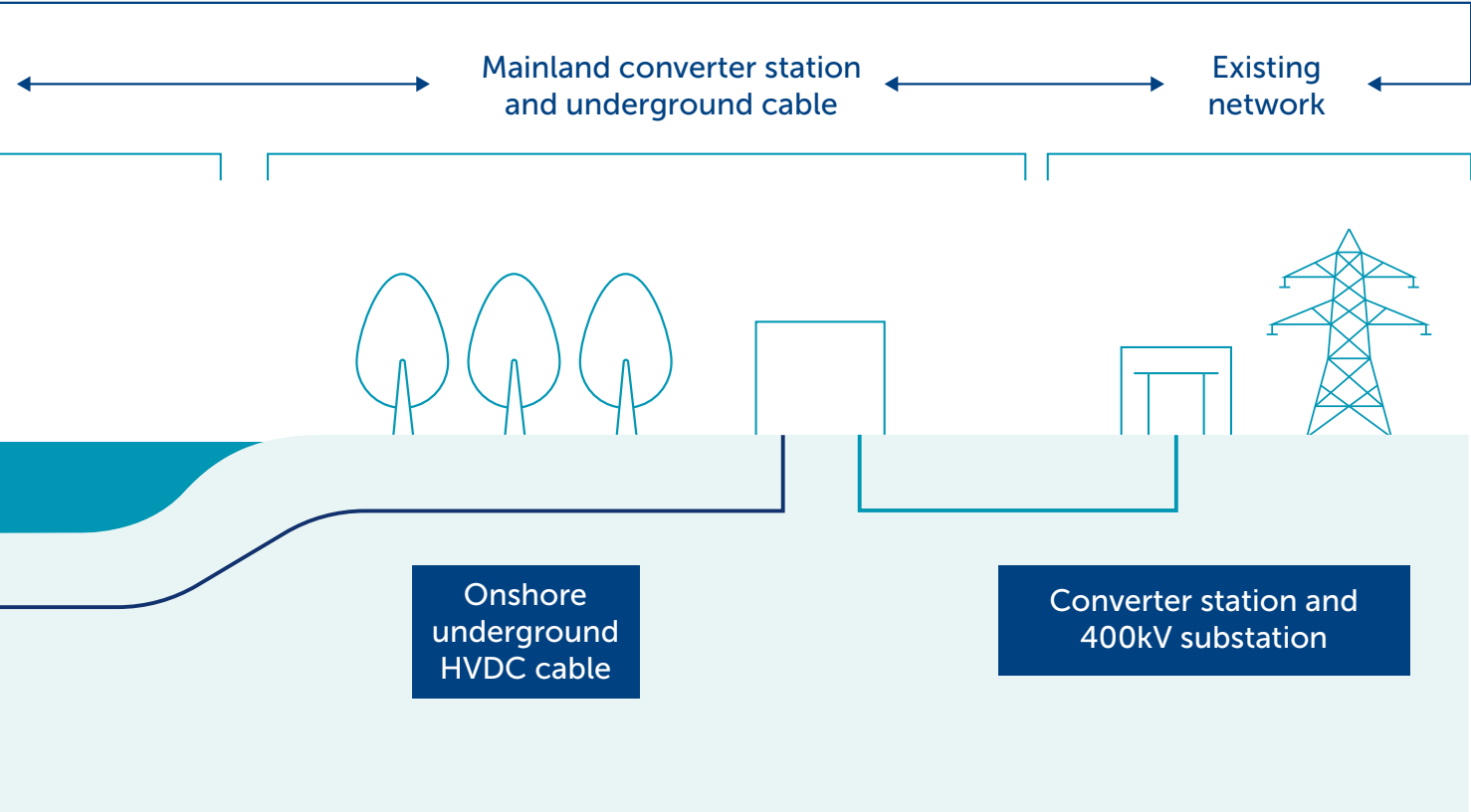
Diagram illustrating HVDC converter station and subsea cable projects



Banniskirk Hub (Spittal area 400kV substation and HVDC converter station)



Indicative conceptual design for 2GW 525kV Bipole converter station.



The story so far

Feb 23



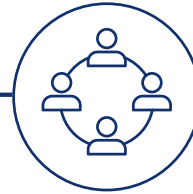
We introduced this project in February 2023, consulting on site selection options, as well as route options for the overhead line from Spittal to Beaully.

Apr 23



The consultation closed on 14 April 2023, with 105 written responses received referring to the Spittal substation and HVDC converter station.

Mid 23



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

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 (SF).



Dec 23



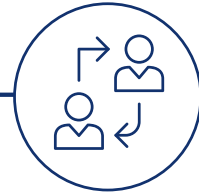
We published a Report on Consultation, confirming our proposed site location and showing how the option taken forward to the next stage has been informed by this process.

Early 24



We submitted our Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) on 26 Jan to Highland Council, with an addendum submitted on 13 Feb.

Mar 24



The first of two sequential public consultation events triggered by the submission of the (PAN) was held in Halkirk.

What we are seeking views on

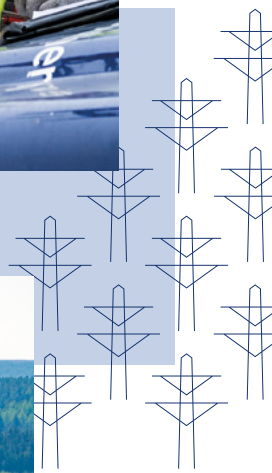
We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of the refinements or changes we've made.

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 extension design, which has been informed by stakeholder feedback, and have set out our responses to feedback received to date.



Feedback

Following submission of the PAN in January 2024, the first of two pre-application consultation event was held at Ross Institute, Halkirk on 11 March 2024. The event had a total of 38 attendees.

During the eight week feedback period which closed on 21 April 2024, nine responses were received specific to this project.

Some 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

Holistic overview

Requests were received for information on all developments indicating the full extent of developer proposals in the area.

Lighting

Concerns over the extent of lighting required during construction and operation were raised, and the potential for it to disrupt residents.

Response

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.

Construction work is likely to be during daytime periods only. Any out of hours working would be agreed in advance with The Highland Council.

The access roads would not be lit under normal operation. A light would also be provided permanently at access gates.

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.

Event feedback	Response
<p>Noise and dust From construction/ road traffic was raised as a concern.</p>	<p>We recognise that noise impacts during construction and operation of our assets can be a concern to residents.</p> <p>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 Highland Council as the planning authority.</p> <p>The proposed development would be required to meet noise limits set by The Highland Council.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation would be implemented to ensure these limits are met at all noise sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will include details on the background noise monitoring will be publicly available when the application is submitted to The Highland Council.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Concerns about property value and requests for compensation.</p>	<p>We understand that there are concerns about the potential impact of our proposed developments on properties within the vicinity of our proposed overhead line alignments and substations sites.</p> <p>Throughout the development of the Banniskirk Hub we have engaged with property owners and listened to their concerns on this topic.</p> <p>We will look to mitigate impacts on residential properties as far as possible and these impacts will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessments that will accompany our applications for consent. We have conducted extensive surveys at identified receptors, including selected residential properties so that we are able to model potential impacts on the wider area.</p> <p>Concerns in relation to impacts on property are being noted by our team however, as a regulated business, we are obliged to follow a statutory legal framework under the Electricity Act 1989 and Land Compensation Act 1961. If you are entitled to compensation under the legal framework we will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework.</p>

Feedback

Event feedback	Response
<p>Wildlife Migrating birds and loss of habitat.</p>	<p>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 Highland Council and NatureScot.</p> <p>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 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.</p>
<p>Environmental screening Requests were received for more information regarding how the site will be screened from peoples' views.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Impact on internet Potential impact on internet signal.</p>	<p>We will establish new infrastructure required to provide internet connectivity to the hub site for both construction and operational purposes. In terms of existing internet signal for surrounding residents, it is not expected that the proposed development will have any adverse impact. If any local stakeholder has any internet signal or connectivity issues when the construction commences, we will endeavour to do whatever possible to limit any adverse effects.</p>
<p>Roads Concerns raised regarding safety, volume of traffic and improvement planning.</p>	<p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan is currently in development and will be included in the Planning Application. This will detail expected traffic volumes and will be utilised during detailed design to optimise vehicle routes to and from the site.</p> <p>Any deterioration or damage to the existing road network during the construction period would be repaired and maintained by our chosen Principal Contractor for the hub site. We will liaise with The Highland Council as the planning authority to ensure any traffic management and traffic calming measures are implemented for the duration of the works, and all permanent works required are installed. The proposed access to the site is shown on the site layout contained within this booklet, this may be subject to change pending the Planning determination.</p> <p>A construction noise assessment is currently being undertaken by a specialist consultant and will be submitted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This study will define current noise levels and any impacts the development may have on local receptors, and will include options for noise mitigation which will be incorporated into the overall design and construction phase planning for the development.</p>

Event feedback

Site Layout

It was asked why the site layout had changed from our site selection consultation held in March 2023.

Response

In March 2023, we carried out early consultation on the proposed new Spittal area AC substation and DC converter station following the completion of our site selection process. At this time, the location of the site was shown indicatively by the green box in the early consultation event booklet. This represented the area required for the AC substation and DC converter station but excluded the area required for other site infrastructure and landscaping. In this layout, the AC substation was assumed to be positioned to the West near the A9 and the DC converter station was assumed to be positioned to the East within 100m of Banniskirk Quarry.

At the PAC 1 event in March 2024, the revised hub layout was presented. In this arrangement, the DC converter station had moved approximately 500m to the West (towards the A9) and the AC substation had moved from the West of the converter station to the North. The reasons for these changes are as follows:

1. The proximity to Banniskirk Quarry had the potential to create challenges during operation of the AC substation and DC converter station due to vibration and dust generation from blasting and quarrying operations. It was therefore advised by our Operations team that the site should be located a minimum of 600m from the quarry to eliminate any risk to network reliability. This is based on the proximity of other operational assets on our network to operational quarries including Blackhillock and Beauly.
2. Banniskirk Quarry is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the presence of fossils. There was a significant risk that the early consultation layout would directly impact on the SSSI designation due to the proximity to the quarry. Moving the DC converter station to the West eliminates this risk.
3. It was identified there are significant areas of made ground and stockpiled waste material from Banniskirk Quarry within the footprint of the DC converter station in the early consultation layout. There is a high risk of contaminants being found in these types of material which can be difficult to dispose of safely and sustainably. Moving the DC converter station further West reduces the risk of encountering potential contaminants and helps to ensure favourable ground conditions for design and construction.
4. The electrical layout of the AC substation was not confirmed until after the early consultation. Once confirmed, it was identified that the required connection with the DC converter station would cross several other connections to the substation which had the potential to significantly reduce network reliability due to the number of outages required to maintain and operate safely. It was therefore decided to relocate the AC substation to the North of the DC converter station because this eliminated all crossings without increasing the plan area of the substation.

Feedback

Event feedback	Response
<p>Health Some respondents stated that the proposal may cause or is causing feelings of stress and anxiety.</p> <p>Concerns over perceived risks from electro magnetic fields emitted from energy infrastructure.</p>	<p>We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible to minimise the duration of uncertainty for affected communities. However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed. We understand that everyone may be impacted in different ways and would be interested in residents' views regarding any additional activities that would help to address their specific concerns.</p> <p>Our responses to these topics can be found at ssen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs</p>
<p>Community Benefit Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and county wide benefits should be made available Support the community with tourist attractions Job opportunities <p>Feedback included that there was not enough detail currently available on this and how the funds will be administered.</p>	<p>We would like to thank residents for providing their feedback suggesting community benefits they would like to see implemented within the local area.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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. You can also visit our dedicated webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/information-centre/Community-Benefit-Fund/</p> <p>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 9,000 Scottish jobs.</p>
<p>Drainage/Flooding Concerns about whether the proposed flood mitigation solutions will be adequate.</p>	<p>A drainage impact assessment and flood risk assessment has been prepared as part of the proposed development and will be submitted as part of the planning application. These reports document our assessment of the flood risk and drainage issues associated with the development and how these are mitigated to ensure flood risk is not increased on-site or elsewhere.</p> <p>The proposed drainage strategy uses the principles of SuDS with detention basins used to store water during design storm events. As the storm event passes the water stored in each basin will be discharged into existing tributaries of the Burn of Halkirk at a controlled rate. Each detention basin on site will only fill during storm events, i.e. they will not store water permanently. Each basin will be located at existing ground level and will have a depth of 1m and shallow slopes.</p>

The Banniskirk Hub site



About the site

Following site selection consultation, in February 2023, we advised within our Report on Consultation that site 12 had been selected as our proposed site for the substation and HVDC converter station ahead of our first Pre-Application Consultation event earlier this year.

The site is located at Banniskirk and is considered best on balance as it is:

- Located 0.6 miles from the existing Spittal 275kV substation minimising the amount of new overhead lines or cabling required to connect to the network
- Large enough to accommodate the proposed joint 400kV substation/HVDC converter station footprints, together with associated landscaping, contractor compounds, access and new connection routes
- Area does not contain environmental designations
- Enable connection routes for the proposed new 400kV overhead lines and HVDC cables
- Good access to the A9.

Connections into Banniskirk Hub

Connections into Banniskirk Hub are in various stages of development and are not part of this consultation process. We are presenting information below to provide an overall picture.

Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly 400kV overhead line

Extensive studies have confirmed the need for a new 400kV transmission connection between Spittal and Beauly, connecting into substation site near Loch Buidhe. This connection will be provided via an overhead line (OHL), approximately 167km in length and consisting of steel lattice towers (commonly referred to as pylons) likely to average around 57m in height.

ssen-transmission.co.uk/SLBB

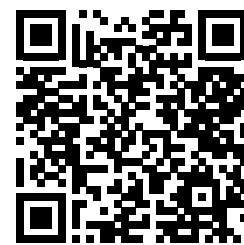
Local renewable developments

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

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

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

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



Find out more

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

ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects

Spittal to Peterhead HVDC connection

At each end of the HVDC link, 400kV AC substations will supply power to (or receive power from) newly constructed high voltage AC/DC converter stations, depending on the directional flow of the power. This project will use the latest technology to provide a 2GW bi-pole, 525kV HVDC link between Banniskirk Hub in Caithness and Netherton Hub near Peterhead. This will enable the efficient transmission of high volumes of power from the north of Scotland to the network at Peterhead.

The preferred underground cable corridor from Sinclairs Bay to Banniskirk Hub has been identified, however, the cable route refinement within that corridor is still in progress, with ground investigation works currently underway.

The underground cable works are classed as 'Permitted Development' and therefore do not require a planning application to the Local Authority. The approximate route corridor into Banniskirk Hub is shown here for information, and discussions with

landowners and other stakeholders will continue while we further refine the alignment. We will update the project's webpage with the latest developments as well as informing statutory stakeholders of any significant developments.

Similar to the underground cables, a marine cable corridor has been selected and surveys of this corridor are underway. The information obtained from these surveys will allow us to determine our preferred route within this corridor.

Marine survey consultations are planned for 2024 following conclusion of the marine surveys and assessment of the data acquired. We will update the project's webpage with the latest developments as well as informing statutory stakeholders of any significant developments.

[nscen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/spittal--peterhead-subsea-cable-link](https://www.nscen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/spittal--peterhead-subsea-cable-link)

Beyond 2030

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO's, 'Beyond 2030' report, published in March this year.

For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets.

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

[nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/beyond-2030](https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/beyond-2030)



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 Banniskirk Hub from a range of different topographies.

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 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 and submitted as part of our planning application, we'll ensure these photomontages are available to view.



Find out more

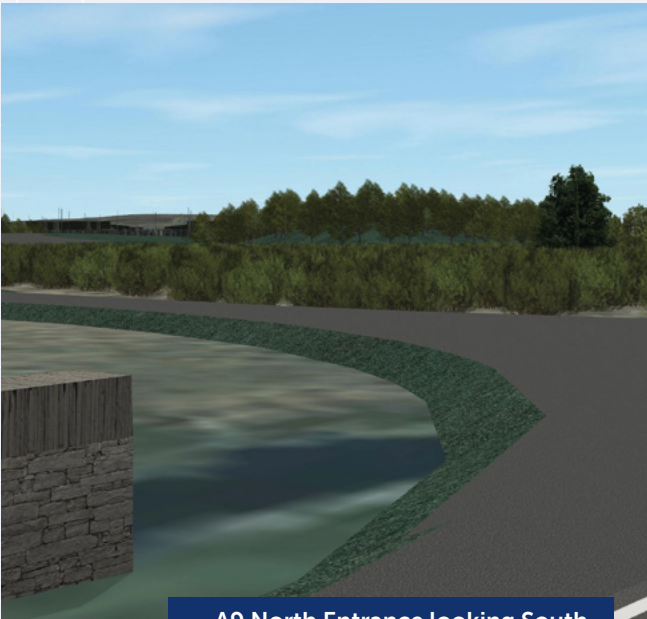
Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view on the project website.



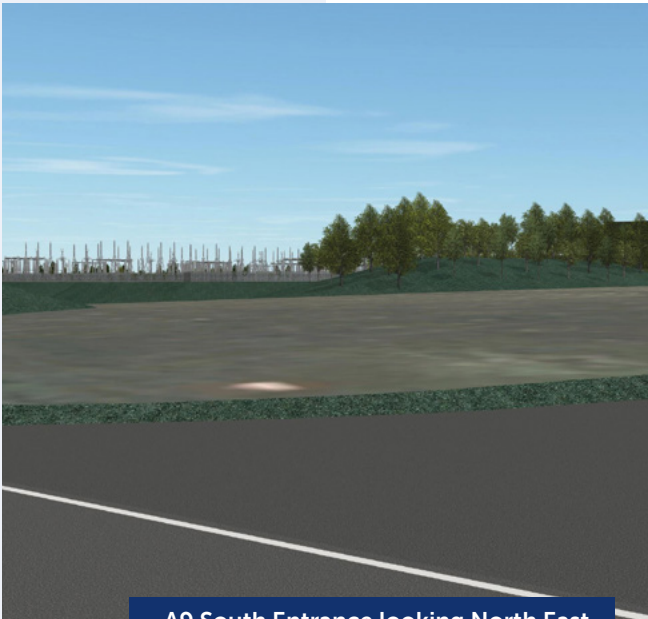
A9 looking North



A9 looking South



A9 North Entrance looking South



A9 South Entrance looking North East

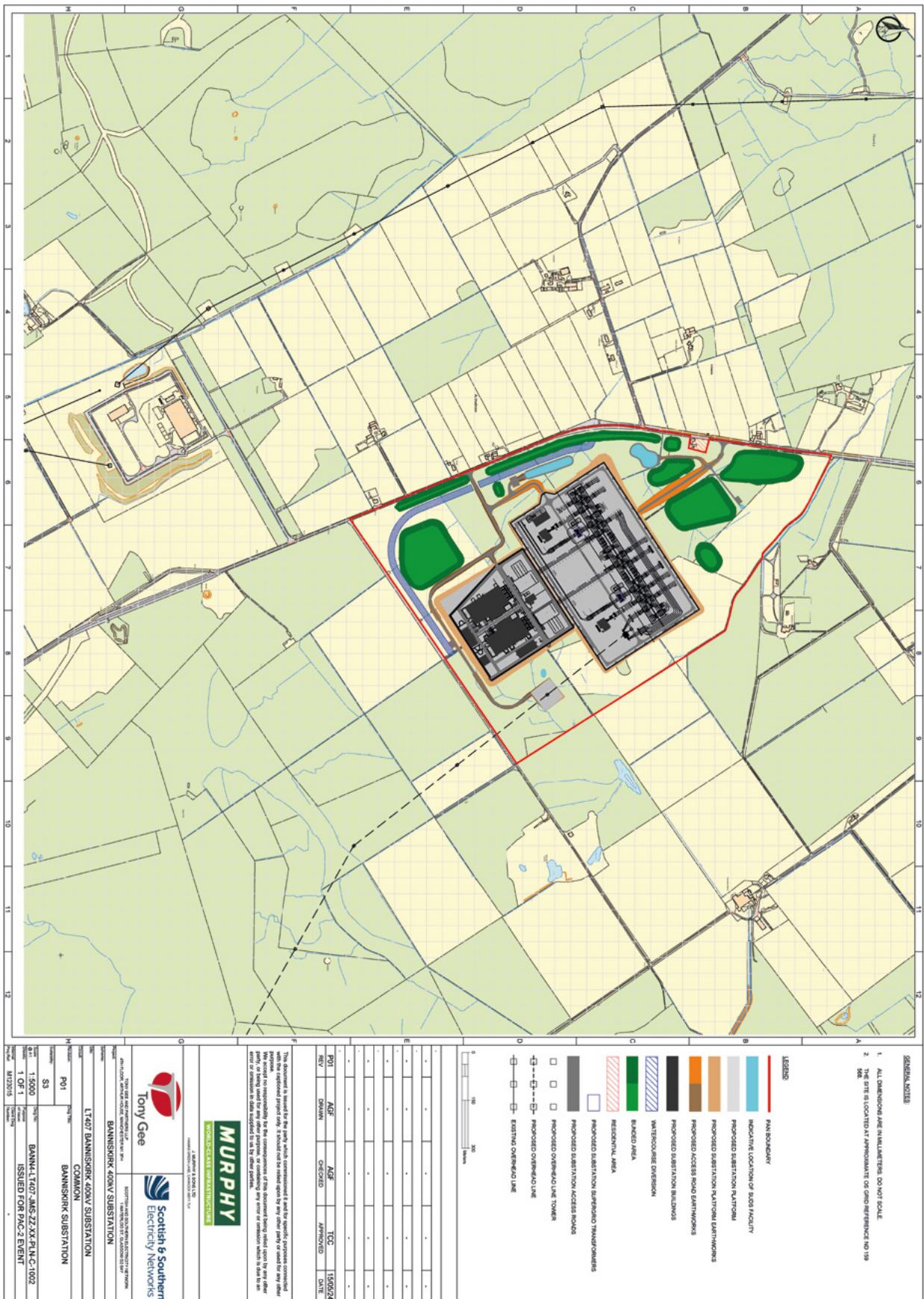


A9 South Entrance looking East

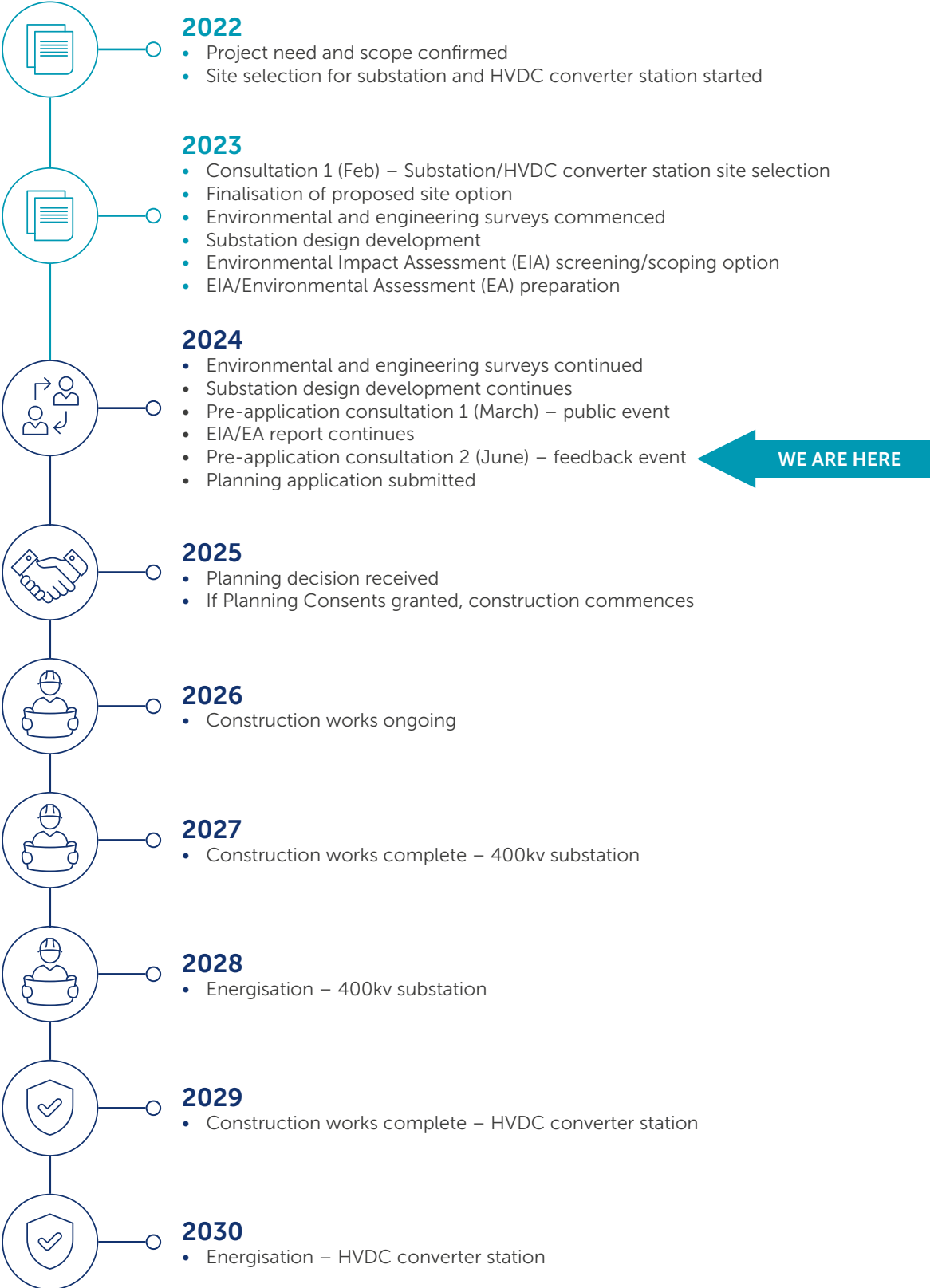


Bridge Street Halkirk at Railway Crossing

Banniskirk Hub (Spittal area 400kV substation and HVDC converter station)



Project timeline



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 Summer.

Our formal feedback period will close on **15 July 2024** however we will welcome final comments from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders regarding our proposals until we submit our planning application.

How to provide feedback

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

What we're seeking views on

During our last public consultation event in March, 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 Banniskirk Hub 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.



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

Martin Godwin
Community Liaison Manager

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

T: 07467 399 592
E: slbb@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/banniskirk



You can also follow us on social media

 [SSEN-Transmission](#)

 [SSETransmission](#)

Notes



TRANSMISSION