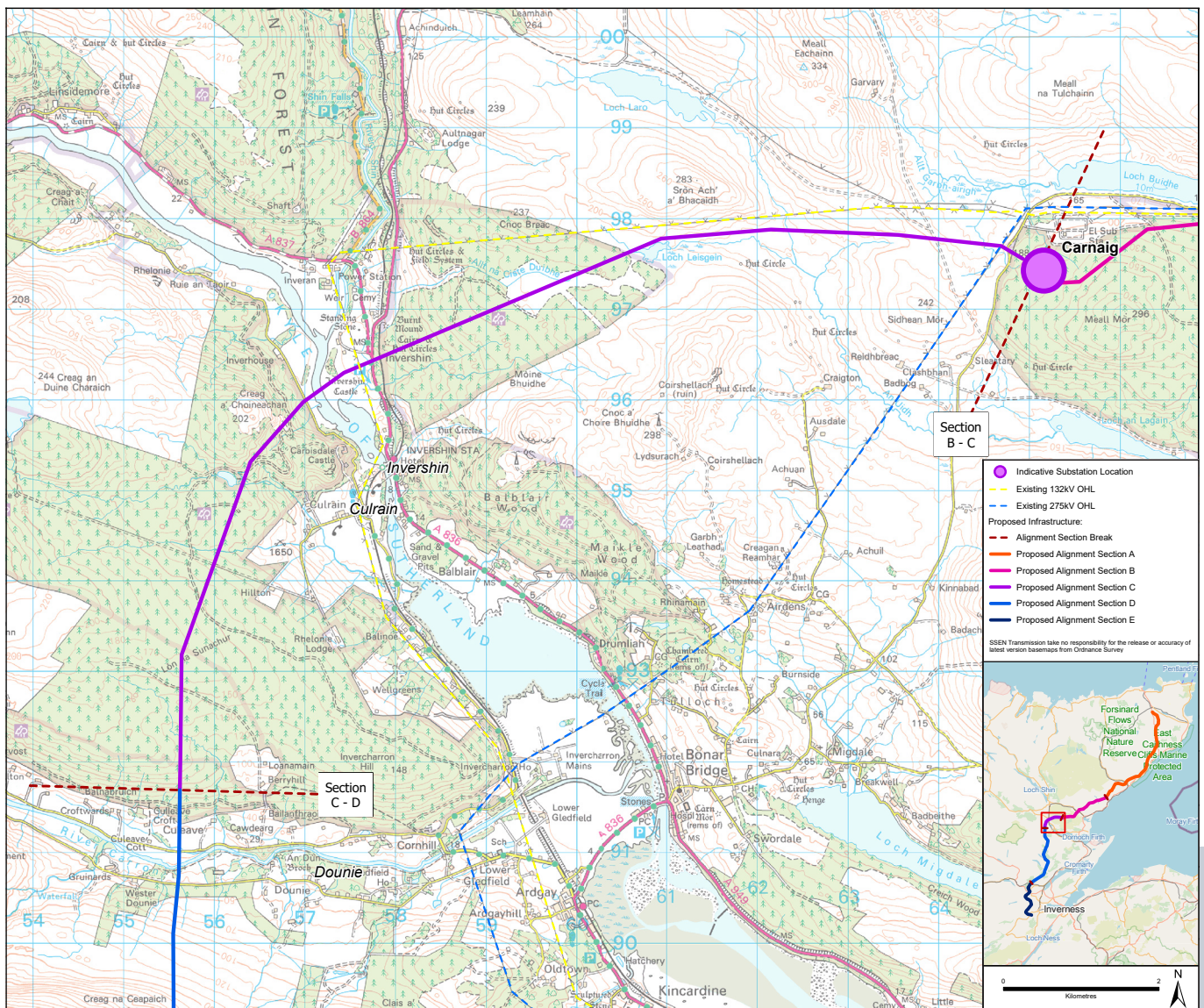


# Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie



## Alignment Options Considered

In June 2024, we presented our Alignment Options for Section C. This section was split into 2 sub-sections for the purpose of alignment development and consultation (C1.1 and C1.2). Within both sections, a Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment option were presented. The Potential Alignment options in these sections had been selected as on balance they are the least constrained option.

The Potential Alignment has now been subject to further review following consultation, to ensure feedback has been considered fully and changes made where required.

### Feedback

Concerns were received from the local community regarding visualisations presented during the consultation, visual amenity, impact on tourism, wildlife and habitat, cultural heritage, access tracks and flood risk.

### Response

From our studies and based on feedback, the Potential Alignment options continue to provide the best balance between environmental protection and engineering requirements for construction and operation.

We recognise key environmental considerations in this section include proximity to local dispersed properties, natural heritage designations such as the Strath Carnaig and Strath Fleet Moors SPA and SSSI, the River Oykel SAC and Kyle of Sutherland Marshes SSSI, scheduled monuments, the Battle of Carbisdale Registered Battlefield and areas of peatland.

The key engineering constraints in the area included crossings of the Kyle of Sutherland, existing 275kV and 132kV overhead line infrastructure, A836 road and a railway crossing. The terrain throughout this section together with the location of the Balblair Windfarm Development limit options.

A full suite of ecology, landscape and cultural heritage surveys and assessments is being undertaken and will be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) accompanying the s37 consent application.

## Construction Access Strategy

We have now determined our proposed access routes for each tower location and established which of these are planned to be upgrades to existing access tracks or new temporary or permanent access tracks. In general, proposed construction site access would make use of existing forest and estate tracks as far as practicable, upgraded as required.

Maps showing our proposed access routes are available from [ssen-transmission.co.uk/SLBB](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/SLBB)

## Conclusion

The Potential Alignment in all sub-sections will be taken forward to consent application as Proposed Alignment Section C, as per the map overleaf. The Potential Alignment has been moved slightly north to minimise impacts on the watercourses in the area between the proposed Carnaig substation and Invershin Forest and slightly southeast due to the topography of the area at the Carbisdale Hillside.

For further details on the consultation process and feedback received you can download our Alignment Report on Consultation and Summary Report on Consultation from our website: [ssen-transmission.co.uk/SLBB](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/SLBB)

