

Project overview

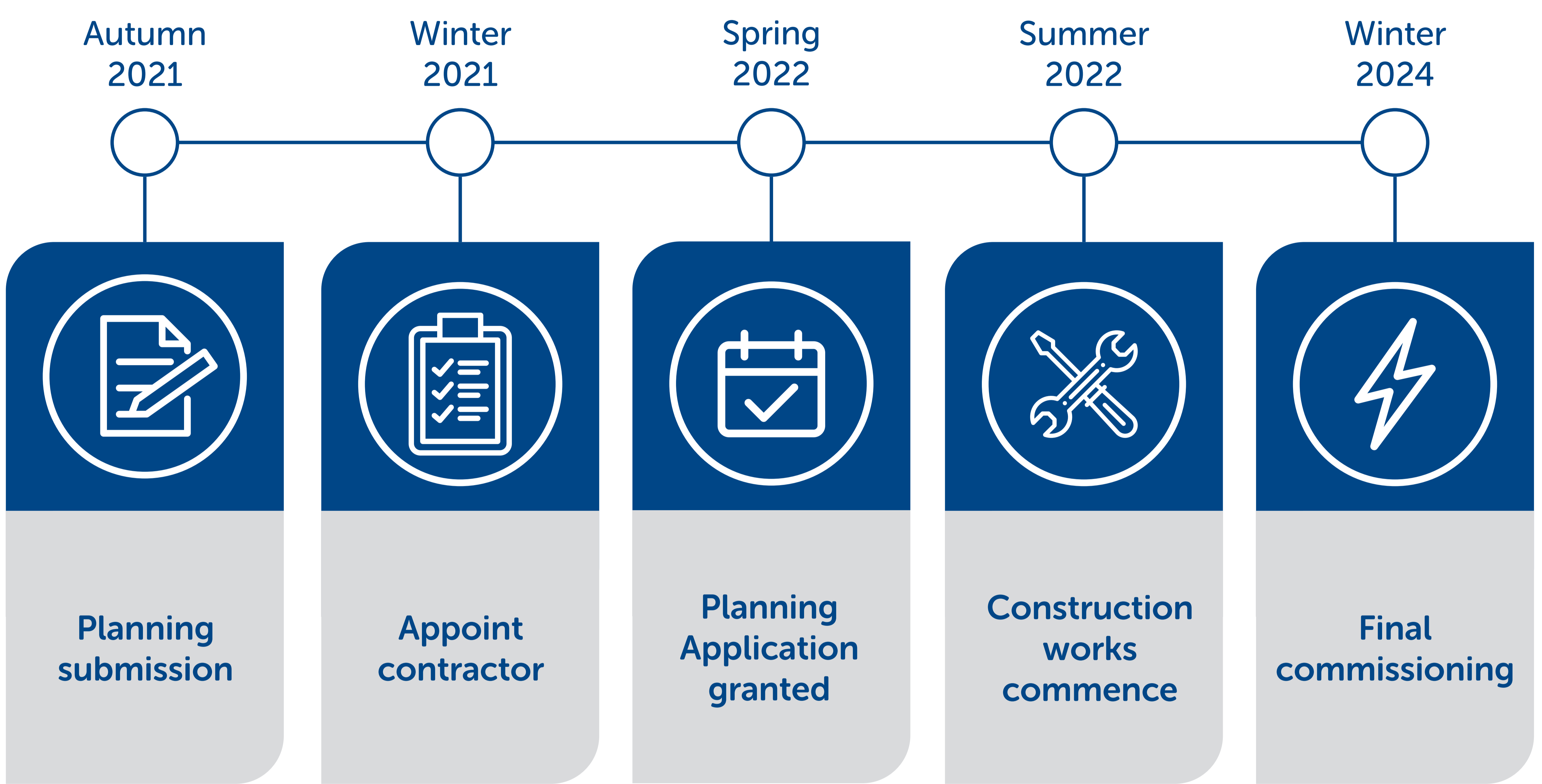
SSEN Transmission has a need for improved materials management and warehousing capabilities. This relates to the need to improve overall electricity network infrastructure performance through reliability, availability and maintainability of asset and spares' inventory.

Existing facilities for the storage of network materials are in unsuitable locations and require updating. The Government's drive to 'net zero' means that there will be expansion of the electricity network and in short there is a greater need for improved reliability and system resilience overall.

Much of the SSEN transmission network is designed to be highly resilient to asset failures. However, if lead times are significant then this can lead to increased risk to the remainder of the network. It is therefore critical, for SSEN Transmission to obtain, store and manage a certain level of spare materials and allow for dispatch from a key strategic locations. The overall benefits of the strategic spares warehouses can be summarised as follows:

- The provision of modern, safe, secure and efficient working environment with managed and controlled stock.
- Reduced customer restoration times in the event of a network failure.
- Overall system security increased as able to facilitate outages in short order.

Project timeline



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Our proposed solution

Our proposal is to construct a 7500m² strategic spares warehouse at the established Inverness Airport Business Park (IABP) development adjacent to Inverness Airport. This facility will incorporate heavy lifting facilities, bunded areas for oil filled plant, bespoke storage areas and office and welfare areas for staff. In line with SSEN Transmission's core value of net zero, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points will be installed and photovoltaics (PV) installations will be considered if practical.



Proposed location plan

As part of the original Masterplan, planning consent in principle for industrial and storage uses has already been secured at IABP. Given the existing in principle consent, this application will be in relation to approval of matters specified in conditions, covering the detail of the siting, design and means of access for the development.

The development by way of the two proposed buildings will have the form and character of typical warehouse buildings which are standard within the environs of the airport.



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Project details

The strategic spares warehouse in Inverness will be a standard steel framed design with a pitched roof and wall cladding within which the majority of SSEN Transmission's spares will be stored. There will be 2 No. buildings (possibly linked) length of 100m, depth of 40m and an eaves height of 10.2m.

Standard construction methods will be utilised for the project consisting of earthworks to establish the formation platform, foundations and drainage. Structural steel erection will follow on with both roof and wall cladding being installed prior to the casting of the concrete floor slab.

Internal fit out of the building will then take place whilst external parking and landscaping is ongoing.



A welfare compound for the work force will be established within our plot area for the duration of the construction period.

It is envisaged that the largest strategic spare delivered to the site after construction is most likely to be a Super Grid Transformer weighing approx. 200T.

Swept path analysis have been carried out to ensure the existing road infrastructure is capable of coping with these deliveries.



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Environmental impacts



Landscape and visual

A landscape and visual appraisal will be carried out to understand how the project will look within the surrounding area.

A landscape plan will be developed in accordance with the airport masterplan design guidance to integrate the development into its surrounding landscape.

It will be designed with biodiversity net gain principles and be supported by a long-term habitat management plan.



Cultural heritage

No statutorily protected cultural heritage features have been recorded within the site.

The remains of a croft house have been recorded within the felled plantation.

An archaeological evaluation is proposed to be undertaken to support the planning application.



Traffic

A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will include the intended routing of construction-related vehicles and routes for abnormal indivisible loads.

An assessment of operational phase traffic and abnormal load routes for abnormal indivisible loads (such as transformers) will be also be provided.



Habitat and species

Most of the habitats within the site are arable, scrub and neutral grassland. A conifer plantation has been felled with the ground now dominated by gorse and broom scrub with scattered broadleaved trees including cherry and rowan. The felled conifer plantation was mapped as Long-Established Plantation Origin Woodland on the Ancient Woodland Inventory so forms part of a feature of local/ regional importance.

Moray Estates is committed to re-planting woodland in the locality as an offset compensatory planting scheme. The development of the on-site landscaping scheme will consider opportunities for integrating trees and shrubs for screening and biodiversity net gain; however, care will be taken to ensure that the scheme will not attract high numbers of birds towards Inverness Airport.

Ecological surveys are underway and pre-construction surveys will also be undertaken to inform mitigation to minimise the effects on wildlife. The land forms part of the habitat of badgers and it is proposed that a Species Protection Plan will be implemented to minimise the risks to badgers during the construction works.



Noise

Assessments of construction noise and operational noise (relating to plant and equipment at the site) will support the application.



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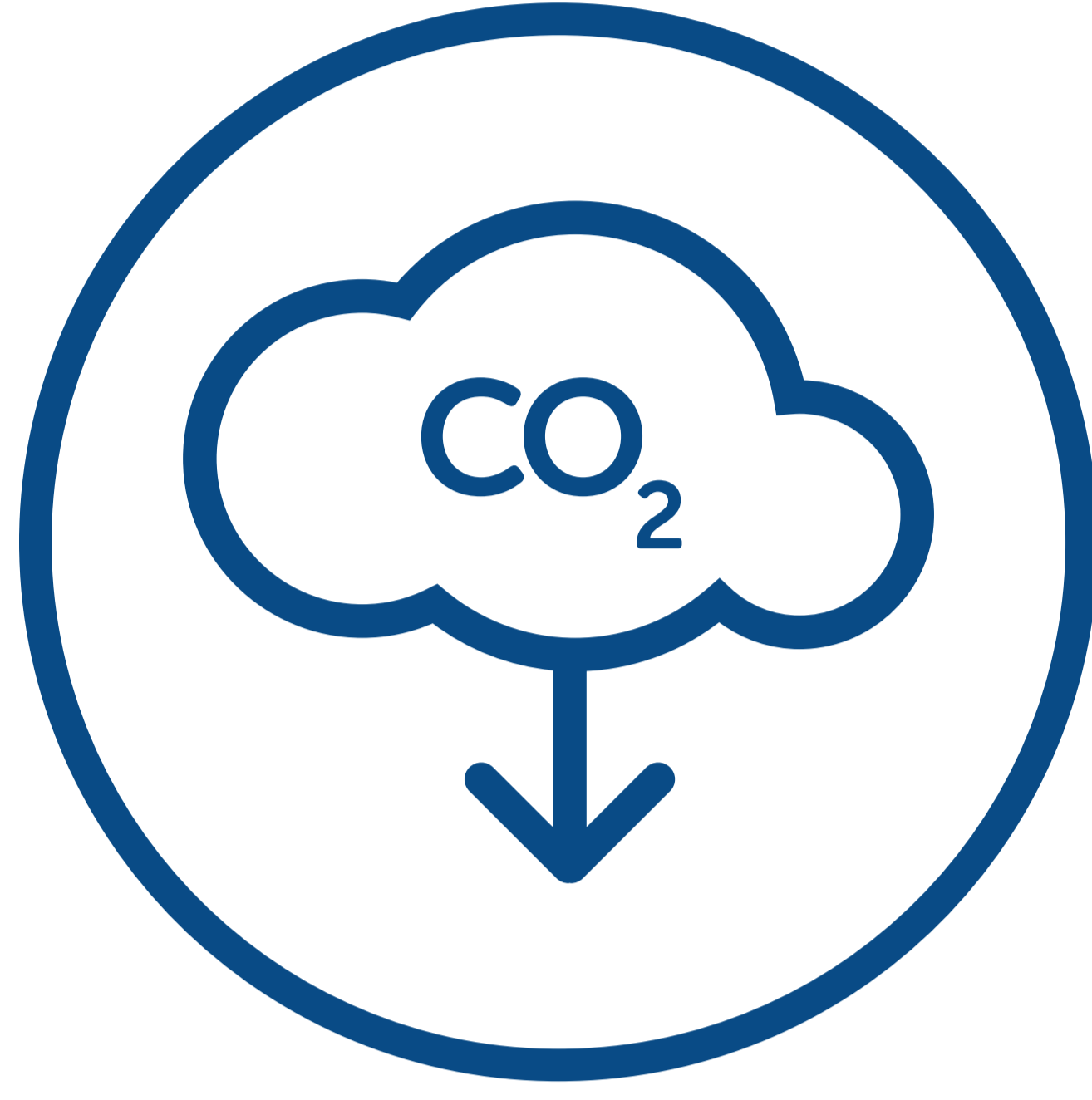
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Striving for Net Zero - one project at a time

SSEN Transmission has set ambitious plans to reduce our own emissions in line with what is required to meet net zero emissions, these carbon reduction commitments have been verified by the Science Based Target initiative, making SSEN Transmission the world's first electricity networks company to receive external accreditation for a science-based target in line with a 1.5°C global warming pathway.



Aligning with the 2016 Paris Agreement, the validation of our ambitious carbon reduction objectives will ensure that our business follows a credible and scientifically verified carbon reduction pathway as we support the journey to net zero emissions. SSEN Transmission is committed to reducing our emissions by one third by 2026 as part of our RIIO-T2 Business Plan, A network for Net Zero.



The strategic stores warehouse in Inverness will play its part in SSEN Transmission's plans for net zero as the locational advantages of the site identified at Inverness is anticipated to lead to benefits with regard to improved repair times, to reduced network and customer risks and will help rationalise spares' holdings and reduce consequences of system failures by way of improved logistics and advantageous strategic access to the network area. The selected location also has excellent transport links being in close proximity to major trunk roads.

We are delighted to be a principal partner to the UK Government at COP26, as we seek to make net zero a reality.



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What happens now and how do I have my say?

We understand and recognise the value of the feedback provided by members of the public during all engagements and consultations. Without this valuable feedback, the project development team would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

We are keen to receive your views and comments in regards to the following questions:

- How would you rate the overall quality of information presented within this consultation brochure?
- How do you feel regarding our proposals to build a strategic spares warehouse at our chosen site in Inverness?
- Has the requirement for the warehouse been adequately explained?
- Do you feel the project team have given enough consideration to environmental impacts associated with the project to ensure a satisfactory development?
- Do you have any further comments you would like the project team to consider?

Comments

Your views and comments can be provided to the project team by completing a feedback form or by writing to Louise Anderson, Community Liaison Manager.

We will be seeking feedback from the members of the public and Statutory Bodies until 27 August.

All received feedback will be assessed and the proposed options adapted where necessary.

Community Liaison Manager, Louise Anderson



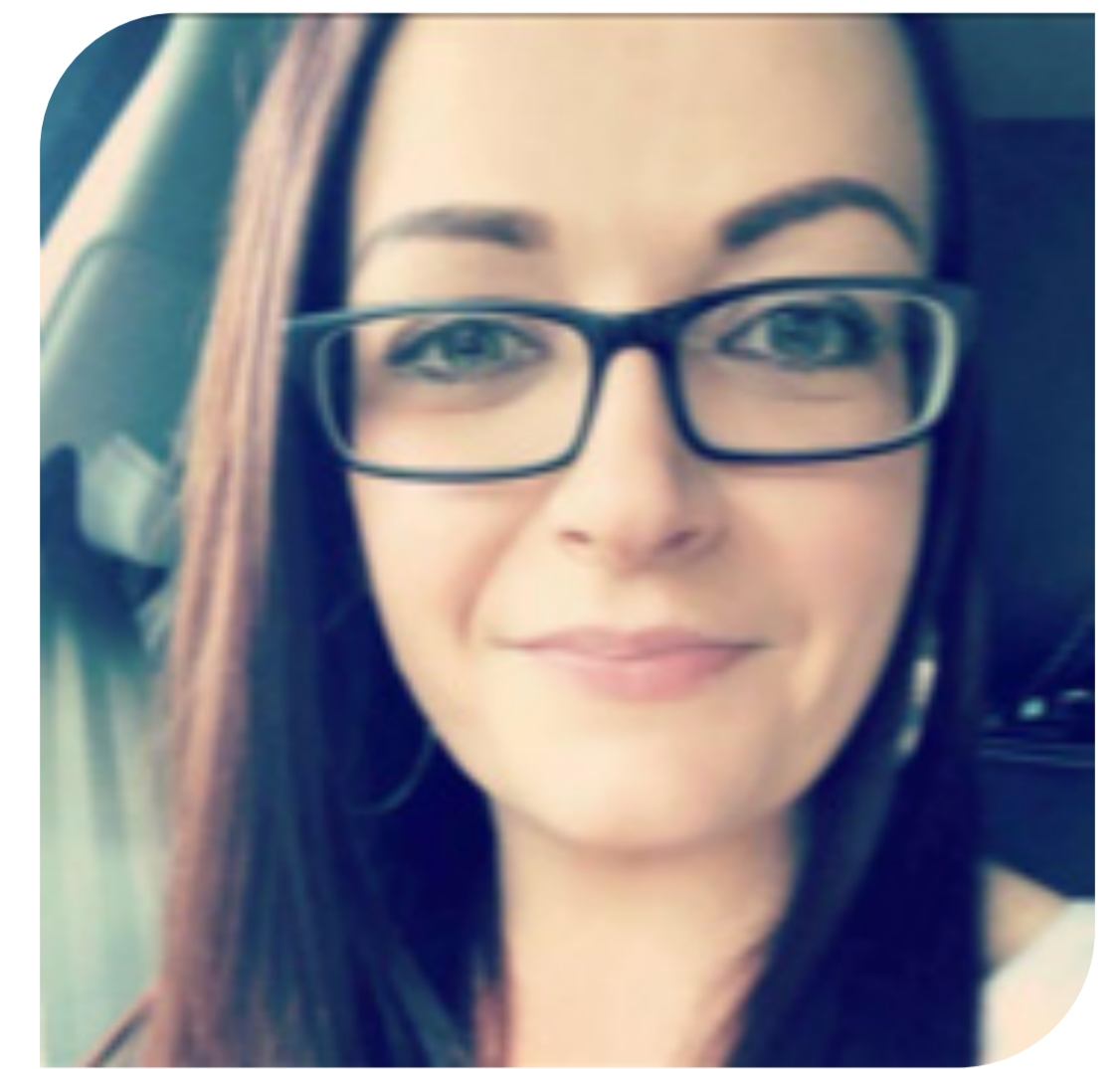
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Additional information

Information will also be made available via the project webpage and social media channels:

Project Website: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/strategic-spares-warehouses

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