

Strategic Spares Warehouses - Inverness

August 2021

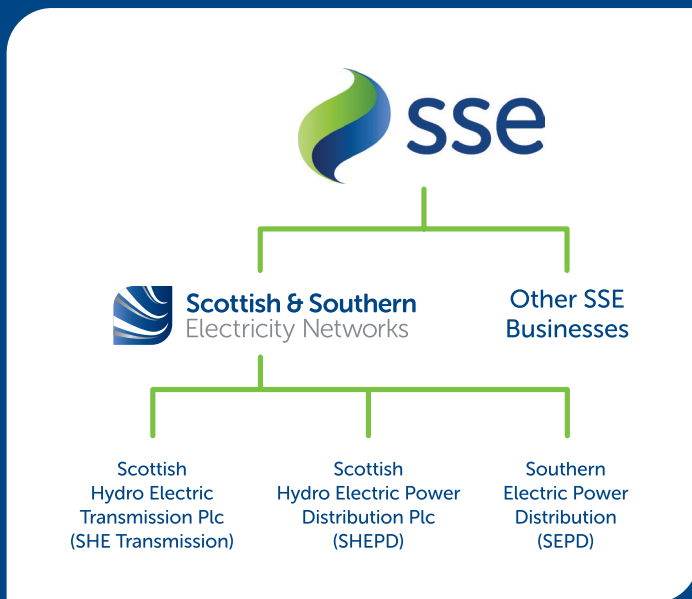


Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Who we are

We are Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc (SHE Transmission) for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland.



What is the difference between Transmission and Distribution?

Electricity Transmission is the transportation of electricity from generating plants to where it is required at centres of demand. The Electricity Transmission network, or grid, transports electricity at very high voltages through overhead lines, underground cables and subsea cables. Our transmission network connects large scale generation, primarily renewables, to central and southern Scotland and the rest of Great Britain. It also helps secure supply by providing reliable connection to the wider network of generation plans.

The Electricity Distribution network is connected into the Transmission network but the voltage is lowered by transformers at electricity substations, and the power is then distributed to homes and businesses through overhead lines or underground cables.

Overview of Transmission Projects

In total we maintain about 5,000km of overhead lines and underground cables – easily enough to stretch across the Atlantic from John O’Groats all the way to Boston in the USA.

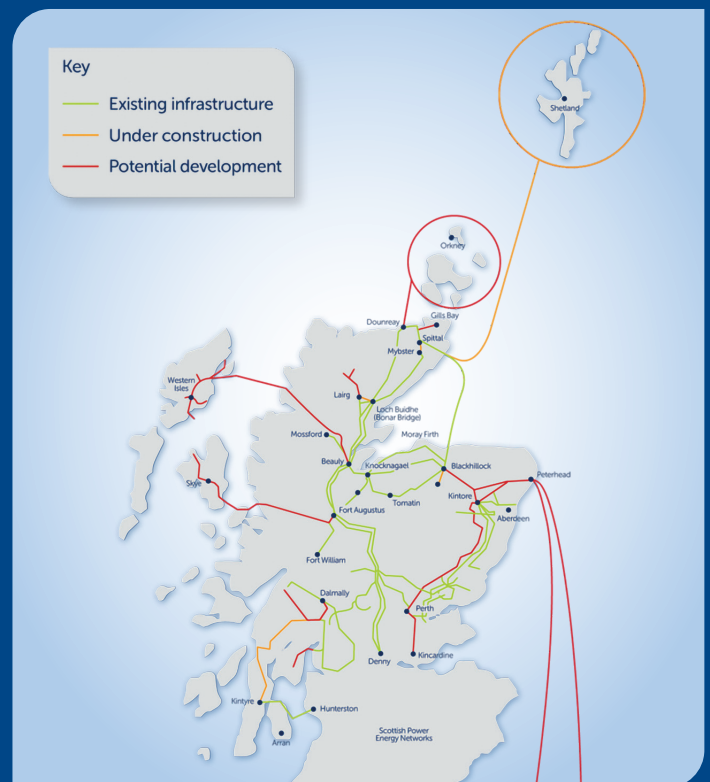
Our network crosses some of the UK’s most challenging terrain – including circuits that are buried under the seabed, are located over 750m above sea level and up to 250km long.

The landscape and environment that contribute to the challenges we face also give the area a rich resource for renewable energy generation. There is a high demand to connect from new wind, hydro and marine generators which rely on Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks to provide a physical link between the new sources of power and electricity users. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is delivering a major programme of investment to ensure that the network is ready to meet the needs of our customers in the future.

Our responsibilities

We have a licence for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland and we are closely regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem.

Our licence stipulates that we must develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.



Coronavirus: Covid-19 pandemic

As transmission network operator in the north of Scotland, we play a vital role in powering the country, providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity at local, regional and national level, on which the people and organisations whose work is critical to the Coronavirus response depend.

Our employees are working 24/7 to keep the network running, providing an essential service transporting energy to where it is needed. Working in some of the remotest parts of the UK, our employees and supporting contractors need to be able to move around the UK to ensure this work continues.

The Covid-19 outbreak and the necessary social measures introduced by government are unprecedented in recent times and we know that for the customers and the communities we serve, this may lead to concerns about the essential services we all rely on. Since the outbreak we have been collaborating daily with UK and Scottish Governments and local authorities across our network to ensure the continued safe and reliable supply of electricity.

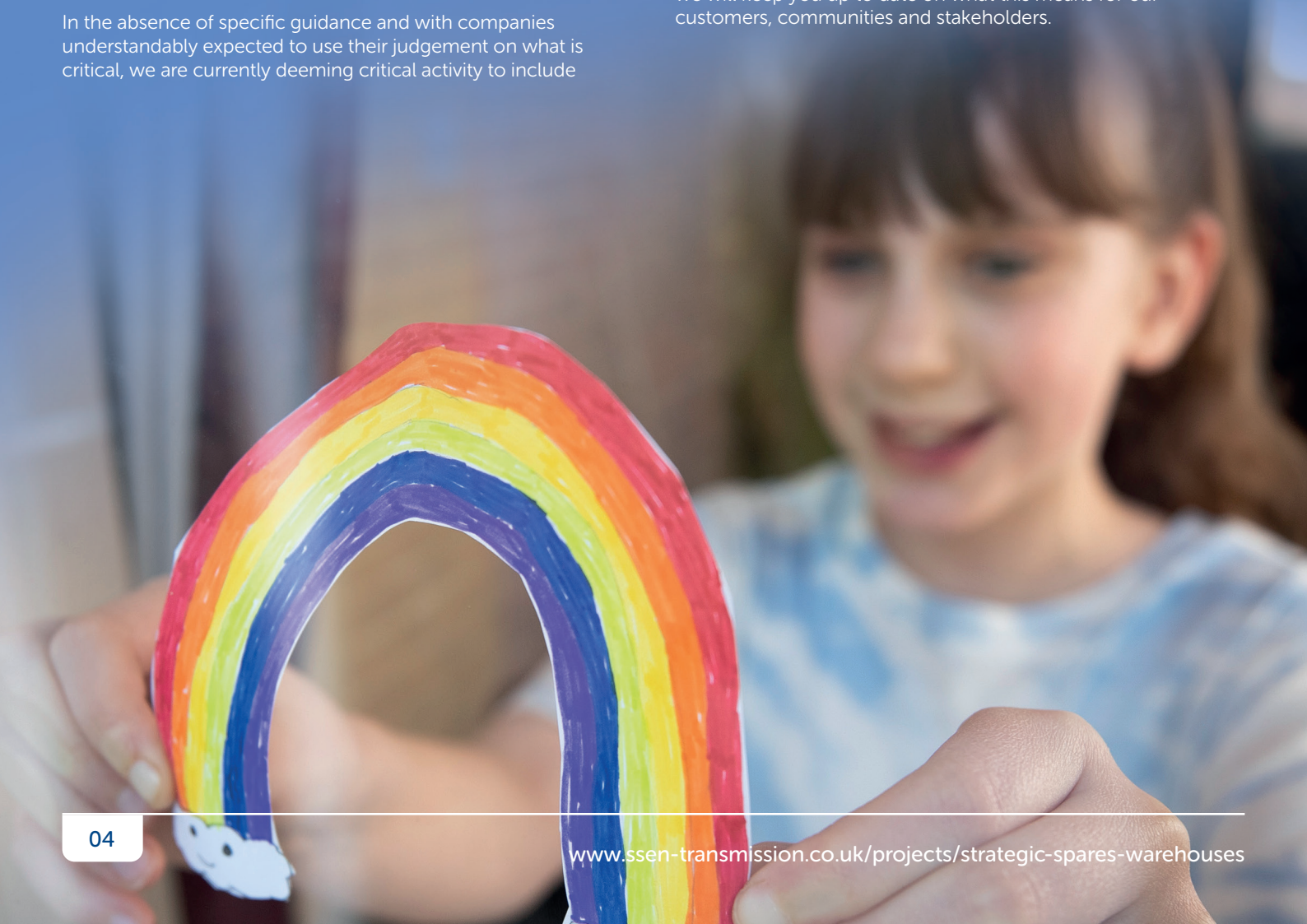
In the absence of specific guidance and with companies understandably expected to use their judgement on what is critical, we are currently deeming critical activity to include

work that is essential to the safe and reliable supply of electricity in the medium term, which includes meeting our regulatory obligations until the end of the coming winter. In conducting this critical work, there will be the need to be active on certain construction sites. We will continue to engage constructively with all relevant authorities, adapting our advice in line with what is clearly an evolving situation.

Whilst we are still present at some sites, all staff that can work remotely are now working from home, actively reducing the number of staff onsite. We are mindful of the current environment and our numbers and activities are much reduced as a consequence of this. For those based at site, increased hygiene and social distancing measures are being adhered to as per Scottish Government guidelines.

We also deem it critical to ensure that we continue to submit planning applications for future developments which are deemed essential to operating the transmission network in a safe and secure manner for the future.

We are committed to continuing quality engagement with all our stakeholders as we all respond to the challenges facing us in the weeks and months ahead. You have our commitment that we will keep you up to date on what this means for our customers, communities and stakeholders.



Project overview

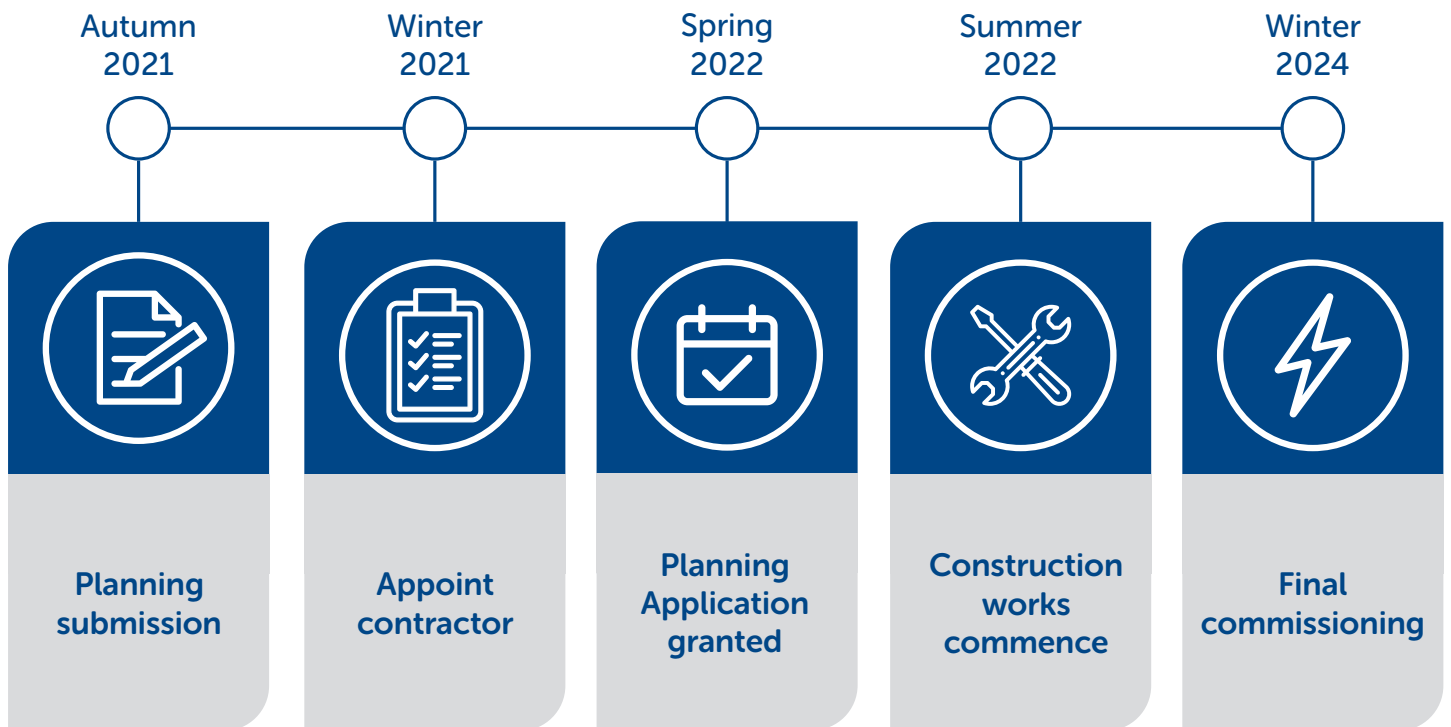
SSEN Transmission has a need for improved materials management and warehousing capabilities. This relates to the need to improve overall electricity network infrastructure performance through reliability, availability and maintainability of asset and spares' inventory.

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:

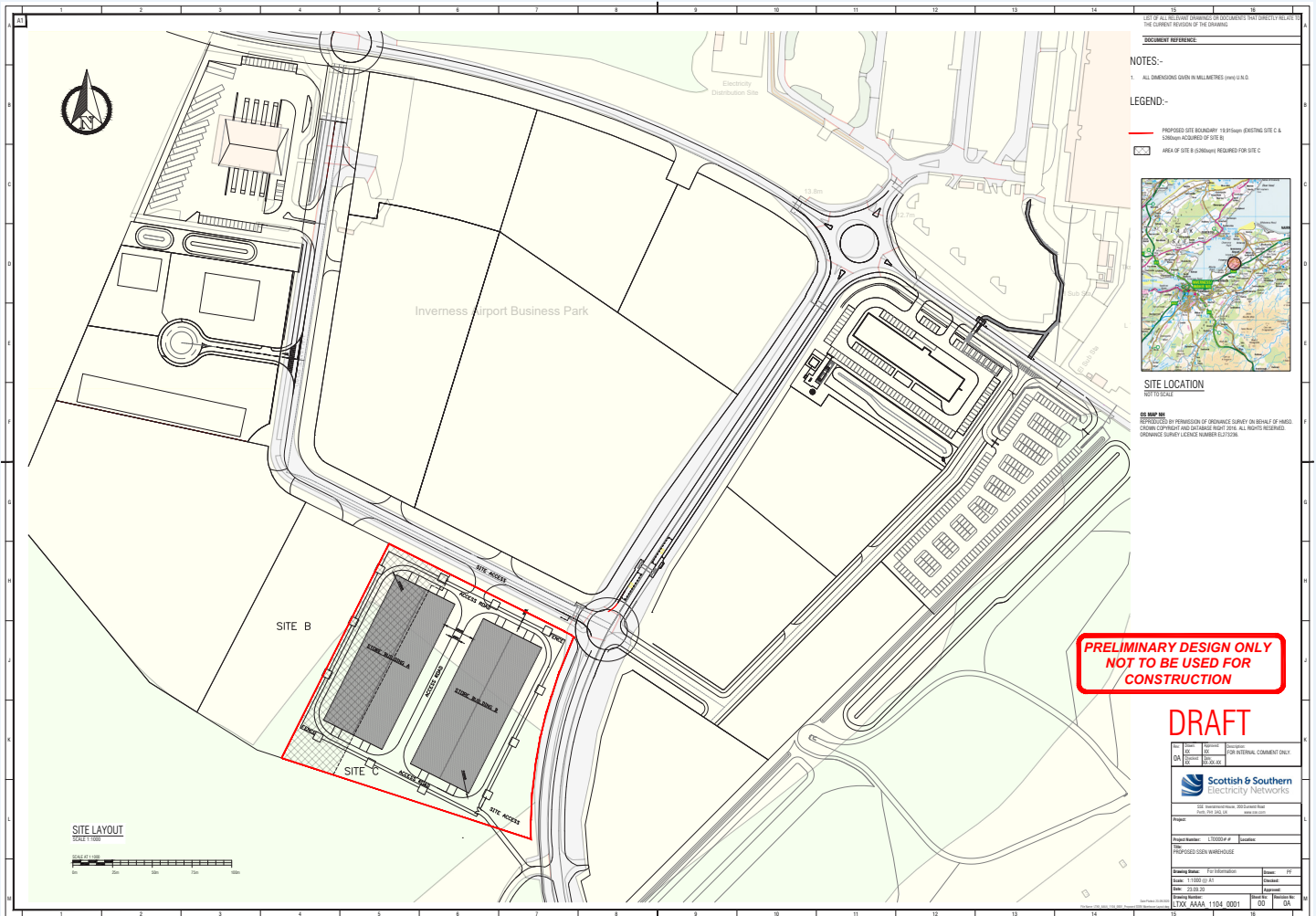
- The provision of modern, safe, secure and efficient working environment with managed and controlled stock.
- Reduced customer restoration times in the event of a network failure.
- Overall system security increased as able to facilitate outages in short order.

Project timeline



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.

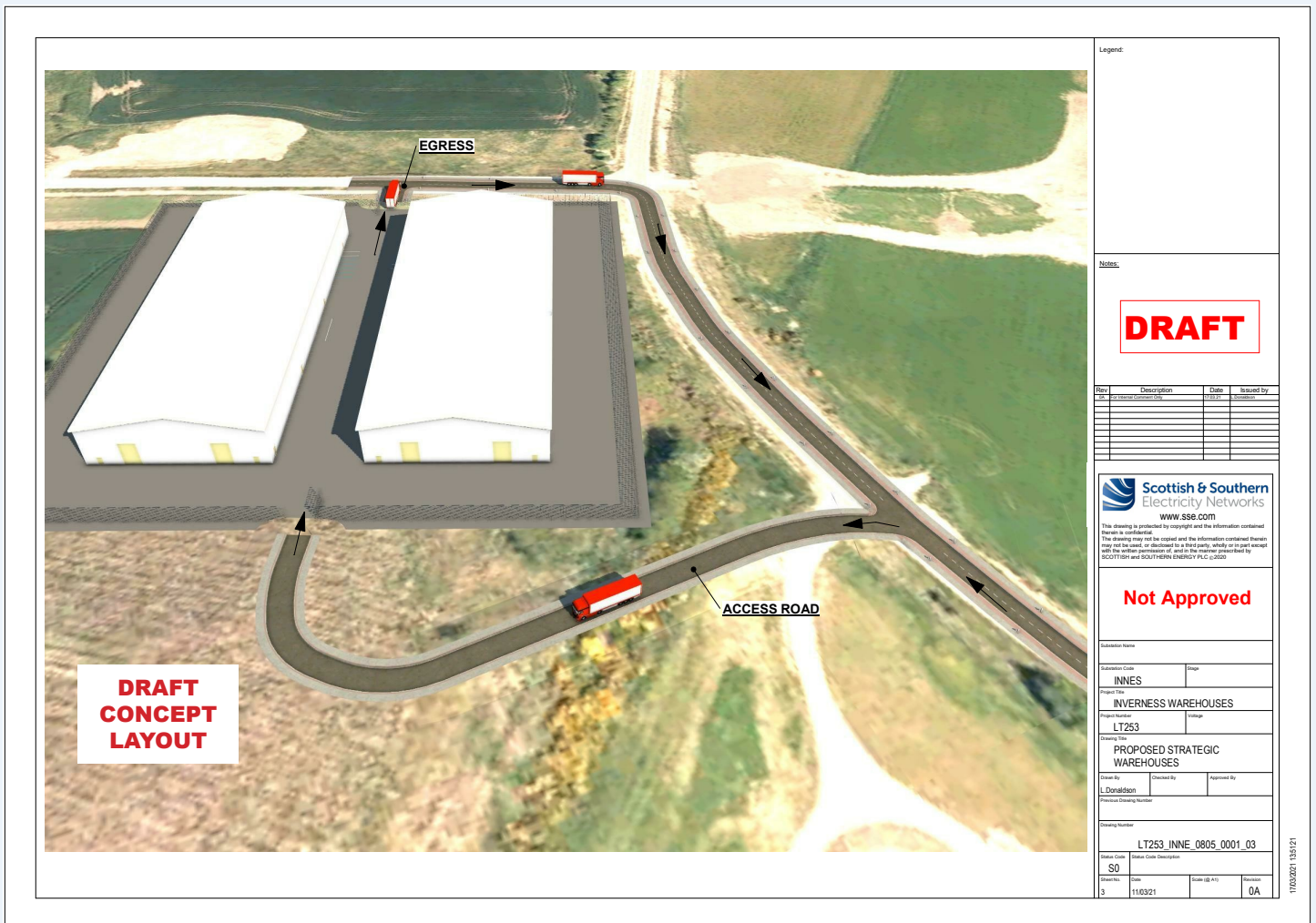
The development by way of the two proposed buildings will have the form and character of typical warehouse buildings which are standard within the environs of the airport.

Project details

The strategic spare 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.

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.



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.



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.



Noise

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



Traffic

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

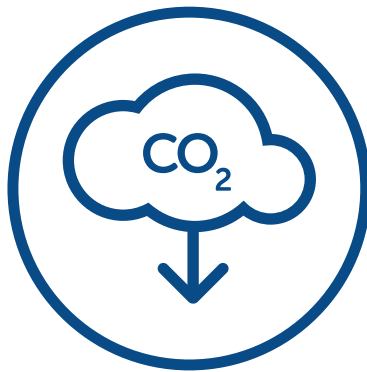
An assessment of operational phase traffic and abnormal load routes for abnormal indivisible loads (such as transformers) will also be provided.

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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UK 2021**
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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



louise.anderson@sse.com



07384 454 233



Louise Anderson
Scottish and Southern
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Additional information

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

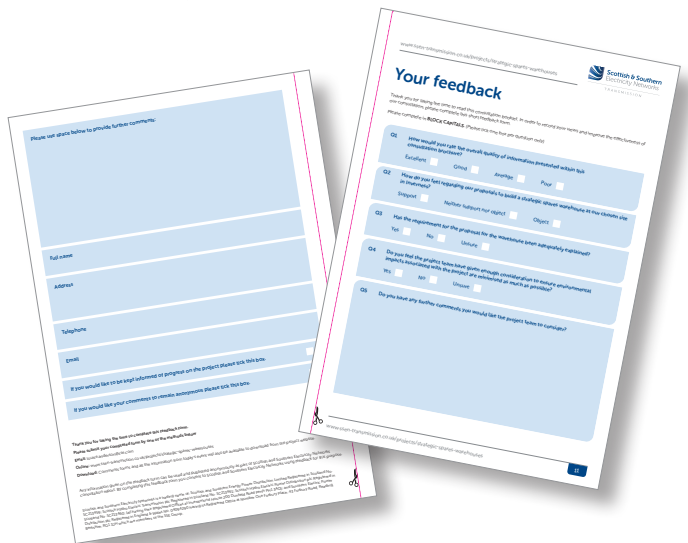
Project Website: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/strategic-spares-warehouses

Follow us on Twitter:

[@ssencommunity](https://twitter.com/ssencommunity)

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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 How would you rate the overall quality of information presented within this consultation brochure?

Excellent Good Average Poor

Q2 How do you feel regarding our proposals to build a strategic spares warehouse at our chosen site in Inverness?

Support Neither support nor object Object

Q3 Has the requirement for the proposal for the warehouse been adequately explained?

Yes No Unsure

Q4 Do you feel the project team have given enough consideration to environmental impacts associated with the project to ensure a satisfactory development?

Yes No Unsure

Q5 Do you have any further comments you would like the project team to consider?

Please use space below to provide further comments:

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the project please tick this box.

If you would like your comments to remain anonymous 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

Email: louise.anderson@sse.com

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

Download: Comments forms and all the information from today's event will also be available to download from the project website.

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.

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